for necessaries, to be void.

supplied (other than contracts for necessaries), and all accounts stated with infants, shall be absolutely void: Provided always, that this enactment shall not invalidate any contract into which an infant may, by any existing or future statute, or by the rules of common law or equity, enter, except such as now by law are voidable.

No action to be brought on ratification of infant's contract.

2. No action shall be brought whereby to charge any person upon any promise made after full age to pay any debt contracted during infancy, or upon any ratification made after full age of any promise or contract made during infancy, whether there shall or shall not be any new consideration for such promise or ratification after full age.

Short title.

3. This Act may be cited as The Infants Relief Act, 1874.

CHAPTER 63.

An Act to facilitate the re-arrangement of the Boundaries of Archdeaconries and Rural Deaneries. [7th August 1874.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the session of Parliament holden in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, chapter seventy-seven, it was enacted that the limits of archdeaconries and rural deaneries might, by the authority thereby provided, be newly arranged, so that every parish and extra-parochial place be within a rural deanery, and every deanery within an archdeaconry, and that no archdeaconry extend beyond the limits of one diocese:

And whereas by an Act passed in the session of Parliament holden in the third and fourth years of Her present Majesty, chapter one hundred and thirteen, section thirty-two, it was enacted that any archdeaconry or rural deanery might, by the authority thereby provided, be divided into two or more portions, and each of such portions might be constituted a separate archdeaconry or rural deanery, as the case might be:

And whereas it is expedient to explain the said power of newly arranging the limits of archdeaconries and rural deaneries:

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Extension of powers of re-arranging archdeaconries, &c. under 6 & 7 Will. 4. c. 77. and 3 & 4 Vict. c. 113.

1. The provisions contained in the first section of the Act of the sixth and seventh years of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, chapter seventy-seven, and in the thirty-second section of the Act of the third and fourth years of Her present Majesty, chapter one hundred and thirteen, shall be construed and extended so as to authorise and always to have authorised the Ecclesiastical Commissioners by any scheme or schemes made and approved in manner provided by any Act for the time being in force relating to such schemes, to do, from time to time and as often as may be deemed expedient, all or any of the following things in any diocese; that is to say,

(1.) To alter the area or areas of any archdeaconry or archdeaconries for the time being, or of any rural deanery or rural deaneries for the time being; and

(2.) To diminish the number of archdeaconries and of rural deaneries for the time being; and

(3.) To constitute any new area or new areas a rural deanery or rural deaneries; and

(4.) To alter the name or names of any archdeaconry or archdeaconries, or of any rural deanery or rural deaneries, for the time being; and to give a name or names to any newly constituted archdeaconry or archdeaconries, or any newly constituted rural deanery or rural deaneries.

Provided,

(*a.*) That in the case of any such scheme as aforesaid made since the date of the passing of the last-mentioned Act, the consent of the bishop of the diocese affected by such scheme must have been given under his hand and seal; and

(*b.*) That in the case of any such scheme, every parish must in its entirety be within a rural deanery, and every rural deanery must in its entirety be within an archdeaconry, and an archdeaconry must not extend beyond the limits of one diocese.

Schedule of rural deaneries to be deposited in diocesan registry.

2. As soon as may be after the passing of this Act, a schedule under the hand and seal of the bishop shall be deposited in the registry of each diocese, setting forth the portions or divisions of the diocese which at the time of the passing of the Act were accounted and held to be rural deaneries; and such portions or divisions of the diocese shall be regarded and held to be rural deaneries as if they had been constituted such under the provisions of this Act.

CHAPTER 64.

An Act to further alter and amend the Law of Evidence in Scotland, and to provide for the recording, by means of Short-hand Writing, of Evidence in Civil Causes in Sheriff Courts in Scotland. [7th August 1874.]

BE it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Sect. 4. of 16 & 17 Vict. c. 20. repealed.

1. The fourth section of the Act of the sixteenth and seventeenth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter twenty, intituled "An Act to alter and amend an Act of the "fifteenth year of Her present Majesty for amending the law of evidence in Scotland," is hereby repealed.

Parties and their husbands and wives to be witnesses in proceedings on account of adultery.

2. The parties to any proceeding instituted in consequence of adultery, and the husbands and wives of such parties, shall be competent to give evidence in such proceeding; provided that no witness in any proceeding, whether a party to the suit or not, shall be liable to be asked or bound to answer any question tending to show that he or she has been guilty of adultery, unless such witness shall have already given evidence in the same proceeding in disproof of his or her alleged adultery.

Law as to proof of promise of marriage in declarator of marriage founded thereon, cum copula subsequente, not to be altered.

3. Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to alter or affect the law of Scotland in force at and prior to the passing of this Act relating to the proof of a promise of marriage in any action of declarator of marriage founded upon promise of marriage, cum copula subsequente.

Short-hand writers may be employed to record evidence in sheriff courts.

4. In every case of a proof in a civil cause or proceeding in a sheriff court in Scotland, and in every case of evidence being taken in any such cause or proceeding to lie in retentis, the following provisions shall have effect:

(1.) It shall be competent to the sheriff, on the motion of any party to the cause or proceeding and if he sees fit, to cause the evidence to be taken down and recorded in short-hand by a writer skilled in short-hand writing, to whom the oath de fideli administratione shall be administered, provided that the sheriff shall himself dictate to the short-hand writer the evidence which he is to record, and a note of the documents adduced and any admissions made by the parties:

(2.) When a short-hand writer is so employed he shall be appointed by the sheriff and paid by the parties in the first instance equally, and the extended notes of such short-hand writer, certified by him as correct, shall be the record of the oral evidence in the case; provided that, should the correctness of the said record of evidence be questioned it shall be competent to the sheriff to satisfy himself in regard thereto, by the examination of witnesses or otherwise, and, if necessary, to amend the said record.