the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter ninety-seven, intituled "An "Act to consolidate and amend the statute law of England and Ireland "relating to malicious injuries to property"; and

(3.) To any indictable offence, either under the Post Office Laws or prosecuted by Her Majesty's Postmaster-General; and for the purpose of this provision the expression "Post Office Laws" has the same meaning as it has in the Act of the session of the seventh year of the reign of King William the Fourth and the first year of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter thirty-six, intituled "An Act for "consolidating the laws relative to offences against the Post Office of "the United Kingdom, and for regulating the judicial administration of the Post Office Laws, and for explaining certain terms "and expressions employed in those laws," and the Acts amending the same.

CHAPTER 20.

An Act to remove Doubts as to the Validity of certain Marriages of Members of the Greek Church in England.

[3rd July 1884.]

WHEREAS it is alleged that certain marriages have been from time to time, between the years one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six and one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, solemnized between members of the Greek Church in the Greek Chapel then situate at 9, Finsbury Circus, in the City of London, and afterwards, within the said period, at London Wall, in the said City:

And that similar marriages have been from time to time, within the said period, solemnized at the residences of members of the said Church:

And that such marriages were respectively solemnized in conformity with the rights and ceremonies of the Greek Church by a priest of that Church, and entries of the said respective marriages so solemnized have from time to time been made in the register book kept for that purpose at the said chapels respectively, or otherwise, in the custody of the said priest:

And that the said marriages were respectively solemnized in the belief that the aforesaid conformity to and compliance with the rites and ceremonies of the Greek Church constituted a compliance with the law of England:

And whereas objections may be made to the validity of such marriages, by reason of the same not having been solemnized in any consecrated or licensed church or chapel of the Church of England, or in any registered building, or at the office of the Registrar, and not having been solemnized after due publication of banns, or under licence or special licence, or in the presence of a Clerk in Holy Orders of the Church of England, or a Registrar of marriages, and it is expedient to confirm, in the manner and subject to the proviso herein-after mentioned, any marriage which may have been contracted in the manner and under the circumstances aforesaid, notwithstanding all or any of the aforesaid defects:

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:

Certain marriages at chapels in Finsbury Circus and London Wall, or at residence of members of Greek Church, to be valid.

1. Any party to any such marriage as aforesaid, and any child or grandchild of any such party, and any person interested in the validity of any such marriage, may respectively apply to the Probate and Matrimonial Division of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice by petition, praying the Court for a decree declaring that such marriage was a valid marriage; and the said Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine such application, and shall, if an entry of such marriage shall appear to have been duly made upon the register book aforesaid, and if the Court be satisfied that such marriage was solemnized in the manner and in the belief aforesaid, and was in all other respects good and lawful, declare the same to have been a valid marriage, notwithstanding all or any of the defects aforesaid: Provided always, that this Act shall not extend to render valid any marriage which before the passing thereof has been declared invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction in any proceeding touching such marriage, or any right dependent on the validity or invalidity thereof, or any marriage where either of the parties thereto has afterwards during the life of the other intermarried with any other person.

Any petition under this Act shall be accompanied by such affidavit verifying the same as the said Court may from time to time direct.

In respect of all matters and things by this Act not specially provided for, the provisions of sections five, six, and seven of the Act 21 and 22 Vict. c. 93. shall mutatis mutandis apply, and all proceedings under this Act shall be had and taken in conformity therewith, and with such of the rules for the time being in force with reference to applications to the Court under the said Act as may be applicable, or with such rules as the Judges of the said Court for the time being authorised to make rules may from time to time prescribe.

Saving for status and right to property dependent on invalidity of marriage.

2. Provided always, and be it further enacted, that the status of any person or any right of any person to any real or personal property or any estate or interest of any such person in any real or personal property which may be dependent on the invalidity of any such marriage shall not be altered, taken away, or injuriously affected by any decree made under the provisions of this Act; but shall be and remain as valid and effectual in law to all intents and purposes as if this Act had not been passed.

Certificates of marriages to be transmitted to Probate and Matrimonial Registry.

3. The priest of the Greek Church, or other the person in whose custody the register books relating to such marriages as aforesaid shall be kept, on the passing of this Act, shall forthwith transmit to the Registrar of the Probate and Matrimonial Registry a copy signed by him of the register aforesaid, and the said Registrar shall receive and preserve the same in the said Registry.

Short title.

4. This Act may be cited as the Greek Marriages Act, 1884.