CHAPTER lxxii.

An Act to render valid Marriages heretofore solemnized in the Chapel of Ease called Saint Peter's Church, in the Parish of Almondsbury, in the County of Gloucester. A.D. 1877.

[28th June 1877.]

WHEREAS the church or chapel known as Saint Peter's, in the parish of Almondsbury, in the county of Gloucester and diocese of Gloucester and Bristol, was, on the eighth day of August one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, duly consecrated for the performance of Divine Service, but no authority has ever been given by the Bishop of the said diocese, or otherwise, for the publication of banns and solemnization of marriages therein:

And whereas divers marriages have nevertheless been solemnized in the said church or chapel, under an erroneous impression on the part of the ministers thereof, that by virtue of the consecration of the said church or chapel, or otherwise, marriages might be lawfully solemnized therein; and entries of the said marriages so solemnized have from time to time been made in the register books kept at the said church or chapel:

And whereas it is expedient under the circumstances aforesaid to remove all doubts touching the validity of the marriages so solemnized in the said church or chapel:

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:

Marriages heretofore solemnized in St. Peter's, Almondsbury, to be valid.

1. All banns of matrimony and marriages published or solemnized before the passing of this Act in the church or chapel known as Saint Peter's, in the parish of Almondsbury, in the county of Gloucester, shall be as valid as if the same had been published or solemnized in a church duly consecrated and licensed for marriages.

Minister officiating not liable to censure.

2. No minister who has solemnized any of the said marriages shall be liable to any ecclesiastical censures, or to any other pro-

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ceedings or penalties whatsoever, by reason of his having so solemnized the same respectively.

Registers of such marriages to be evidence.

3. The registers of the marriages so solemnized, or copies of such registers, shall be received in all courts of law and equity as evidence of such marriages respectively, in the same manner as registers of marriages in parish churches, or copies thereof, are by law receivable in evidence.

Short title.

4. This Act may be cited as The Marriages Legalization, Saint Peter's, Almondsbury, Act, 1877.

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