CHAPTER 31.

An Act to extend to Suits for Nullity of Marriage the Law with respect to the Intervention of Her Majesty's Proctor and others in Suits in England for dissolving Marriages. [16th June 1873.]

WHEREAS under section seven of the Act of the session of the twenty-third and twenty-fourth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter one hundred and forty-four, intituled "An Act to amend the procedure and powers of the Court for "Divorce and Matrimonial Causes," and under section three of the Act of the session of the twenty-ninth and thirtieth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter thirty-two, intituled "An Act further to amend the procedure and powers of the Court for "Divorce and Matrimonial Causes," a decree for divorce is required in the first instance to be a decree nisi, and not to be made absolute until after the expiration of six months, unless the court otherwise direct, and provision is made for any person showing cause why the decree should not be made absolute by reason of the same having been obtained by collusion, or of material facts not having been brought before the court, and power is given to any person to give information to Her Majesty's proctor, who is thereupon authorised to take such steps as the Attorney General may deem necessary or expedient, and such proctor, if he suspects that any parties to the suit are acting in collusion for the purpose of obtaining a divorce contrary to the justice of the case, is authorised under the direction of the Attorney General and by leave of the court to intervene in the suit, and otherwise proceed as therein mentioned, and provision is made for the payment of his costs in so acting:

And whereas it is expedient to extend such provisions to a suit for nullity of marriage:

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 sect. 7. of 23 & 24 Vict. c. 144. and sect. 3. of 29 & 30 Vict. c. 32. to suits for nullity of marriage.

1. The above-mentioned sections of the said Acts shall extend to decrees and suits for nullity of marriage in like manner as they apply to decrees and suits for divorce, and shall be construed as if they were herein enacted, with the substitution of the words "a decree for nullity of marriage" for the words "decree for a divorce" or "divorce" as the case may require.

Short title.

2. This Act, together with the Acts specified in the schedule to this Act, may be cited as "The Matrimonial Causes Acts, 1857 to 1873," and each Act may be cited as the Matrimonial Causes Act of the year in which it was passed.

SCHEDULE.

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACTS.

Session and Chapter.	Title.
20 & 21 Vict. c. 85. - -	An Act to amend the law relating to Divorce and Matrimonial Causes in England.
21 & 22 Vict. c. 108. - -	An Act to amend the Act of the twentieth and twenty-first Victoria, chapter eighty-five.
22 & 23 Vict. c. 61. - -	An Act to make further provision concerning the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes.
23 & 24 Vict. c. 144. - -	An Act to amend the procedure and powers of the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes.
29 & 30 Vict. c. 32. - -	An Act further to amend the procedure and powers of the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes.
31 & 32 Vict. c. 77. - -	An Act to amend the Law relating to appeals from the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes in England.