ANNO TRICESIMO & TRICESIMO PRIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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C A P. LXXV.

An Act to remove certain Religious Disabilities affecting some of Her Majesty's Subjects, and to amend the Law relating to Oaths of Office.

[12th *August* 1867.]

WHEREAS certain of Her Majesty's Subjects are now, on the Ground of their Religious Belief, subject to Civil Disabilities, and are required to take Oaths for the Enjoyment of Offices and Franchises which other Subjects of Her Majesty are not required to take:

And whereas it is expedient to remove such Disabilities, and to substitute One uniform Oath for the several Oaths now required to be taken by different Classes of Her Majesty's Subjects as a Qualification for the Exercise and Enjoyment of Offices, Franchises, and Civil Rights:

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:

1. Every Subject of Her Majesty shall after the passing of this Act be eligible to hold and enjoy the Office of Lord Chancellor of *Ireland*, All the Queen's Subjects,

without reference to their Religious Belief, shall be eligible to hold the Office of Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

or Lord Keeper or Lord Commissioner of the Great Seal in *Ireland*, without reference to his Religious Belief, on taking and subscribing the Oath herein-after substituted for the Oath now required to be taken instead of the Oaths of Allegiance, Abjuration, and Supremacy, and also any other Oath or Declaration of Office not involving any Religious Test which now is or from Time to Time may be required to be taken by the Holder of the said Office.

When such Office shall be held by a Person not a Member of the Established Church, how Rights of Presentation to Benefices shall be exercised.

2. In case the said Office shall be held by any Person not being a Member of the United Church of *England* and *Ireland*, any Right of Presentation to any Ecclesiastical Benefice belonging to such Office shall, while the Office shall be so held as aforesaid, devolve upon and be exercised by such Person as Her Majesty by Sign Manual may appoint to exercise the same, and in default of such Appointment the Right of such Presentation shall devolve upon and be exercised by the Archbishop of *Armagh*.

When the Chancellorship shall be held by a Person not a Member of the Established Church, the Jurisdiction of nominating Delegates to hear Appeals from Ecclesiastical Courts shall be exercised by such other of the Judges as the Crown shall appoint, &c.

3. In case the Office of Lord Chancellor of *Ireland*, or Lord Keeper or Lord Commissioner or One of the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal in *Ireland*, shall at any Time after the passing of this Act be held by a Person not a Member of the United Church of *England* and *Ireland*, the Jurisdiction of nominating Delegates to hear Appeals from the Ecclesiastical Courts in *Ireland*, and of hearing Applications for and issuing Commissions of Review to reconsider the Decisions of such Courts of Delegates, shall, while the Office shall be so held as aforesaid, be exercised by such One of the Chief Judges of the Courts of Chancery or Common Law in *Ireland*, being a Member of the United Church of *England* and *Ireland*, as Her Majesty or Her Successors shall by Sign Manual from Time to Time appoint to exercise the same; and such Chief Judge shall also, while the Office shall be so held as aforesaid, act in place of the Lord Chancellor as Trustee or Member of any Charity or of any Board or Institution of which the Lord Chancellor is now an *ex officio* Trustee or Member, and which has for its Object the exclusive Benefit of, or the Administration of Endowments or Funds for the exclusive Benefit of, Members of the United Church of *England* and *Ireland*, or of which it is now required by Law that such Trustee or Member shall belong to the United Church of *England* and *Ireland*.

Every Judicial or Corporate Officer may attend his Place of Worship in his Robes.

4. Every Person holding any Judicial or Civil or Corporate Office may attend and be present at any Place of public Meeting for Religious Worship in *England*, *Ireland*, or *Scotland* in the Robe, Gown, or other peculiar Habit of his Office, or with the Ensign

Ensign or Insignia of or belonging to the same, without incurring any Forfeiture of Office or Penalty for such Attendance.

5. In all Cases in which any Oath which has been substituted for the Oaths of Allegiance, Supremacy, and Abjuration is now required to be taken, or taken and subscribed, as a Qualification for the Exercise or Enjoyment of any Office, Franchise, or Civil Right, the following Oath shall be taken, or taken and subscribed, as the Case may be, in lieu and instead of such substituted Oath:

The Oath herein named shall be substituted in all Cases for the Oaths now required to be taken by Officeholders and others in lieu of the Oaths of Allegiance, Supremacy, and Abjuration.

'I *A.B.* do swear, That I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria; and I do faithfully promise to maintain and support the Succession to the Crown, as the same stands limited and settled by virtue of the Act passed in the Reign of King William the Third, intituled "An Act for "the further Limitation of the Crown, and better securing the "Rights and Liberties of the Subject," and of the subsequent Acts of Union with Scotland and Ireland. So help me GOD.'

6. Where in the Oath hereby appointed the Name of Her present Majesty is expressed, the Name of the Sovereign of this Kingdom for the Time being, by virtue of the Act "for the further Limitation "of the Crown, and better securing the Rights and Liberties of the "Subject," shall be substituted from Time to Time, with proper Words of Reference thereto.

The Name of the Sovereign for the Time being shall be used in the Oath.

7. Every Person of the Persuasion of the People called Quakers, and every other Person for the Time being by Law permitted to make a solemn Affirmation or Declaration instead of taking an Oath, may, instead of taking and subscribing the Oath hereby appointed, make and subscribe a solemn Affirmation in the Form of the Oath hereby appointed, substituting the Words "solemnly, sincerely, and truly "declare and affirm," for the Word "swear," and omitting the Words "So help me God;" and the making and subscribing such Affirmation with such Substitution as aforesaid by a Person hereby authorized to make and subscribe the same shall have the same Effect as the making and subscribing by other Persons of the Oath hereby appointed.

Provision in favour of Quakers, &c.

8. This Act may be cited for all Purposes as "The Office and Oath Act, 1867."

Short Title.

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