



CHAPTER cx.

An Act to render valid certain Marriages at Saint John, A.D. 1885.
Cowley. [22nd July 1885.]

WHEREAS by an instrument of consecration signed and published on the sixth day of November one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three the Bishop of Oxford purported to consecrate and set apart a building (which building is described in the said instrument, and situate in the parish of Cowley, in the county of Oxford) as the church of the parish of Saint John, Cowley:

And whereas divers marriages have been solemnized in the said building under an erroneous impression that by virtue of the said consecration or otherwise marriages might be lawfully solemnized therein, and entries of the said marriages so solemnized have from time to time been made in certain register books kept at the said building:

And whereas it is apprehended that the marriages so solemnized were illegal by reason of certain formalities required by law at or before the consecration of the said building, or in relation thereto, not having been observed:

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; (that is to say,)

1. This Act may be cited for all purposes as "The District of Saint John Cowley Act, 1885." Short title.

2. All marriages solemnized before the passing of this Act in the said building so purporting to be consecrated as aforesaid as the church of the parish of Saint John, Cowley, by any clergyman being a duly ordained minister of the Church of England, and the publication of banns in such building by any such clergyman previous to any such marriages, shall be and be deemed to have

Validity of marriages heretofore solemnized in the building so consecrated as aforesaid.

A.D. 1885. — been as valid and effectual in law to all intents as if such marriages had been solemnized and the publication of such banns had taken place in a church in which a minister of the Church of England was for the time being duly authorised by law to solemnize and publish the same.

Ministers
officiating
not liable to
penalty.

3. A minister who has solemnized any of the said marriages shall not be liable to any ecclesiastical censures, or to any other proceeding or penalty whatsoever, by reason of his having so solemnized the same respectively.

Register
of such
marriages
to be
evidence.

4. The register of the marriages so solemnized, or copies of such register, shall be received in all legal proceedings as evidence of such marriages respectively in the same manner in which registers of marriages in parish churches, or copies thereof, are by law receivable in evidence.