

ANNO VICESIMO & VICESIMO PRIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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CAP. XXIX.

An Act to render valid certain Marriages in *Christ Church, West Hartlepool,* in the Parish of *Stranton* in the County of *Durham.*

[10th *August* 1857.]

WHEREAS a Church at *West Hartlepool* in the Parish of *Stranton* in the County of *Durham* was erected and built in or before the Year One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and was in that Year duly consecrated for the Performance of Divine Service therein, under the Name of *Christ Church*, and on the Nineteenth Day of *April* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four a District was, by Instrument under the Hand and Seal of the Bishop of *Durham*, expressed to be assigned to the said Church, in exercise of a supposed Authority for that Purpose in an Act of the Session holden in the First and Second Years of King *William* the Fourth, Chapter Thirty-eight: And whereas divers Marriages have been solemnized in the said Church, and Entries of the said Marriages so solemnized have been from Time to Time made in Register Books kept at the said Church: And whereas the sole Jurisdiction of the Bishop under the said Act of the First and Second Years of King *William* the Fourth, to assign a District to a new Church, having been determined by the Act of the Session holden in the Fourteenth

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and Fifteenth Years of Her Majesty, Chapter Ninety-seven, it is apprehended that the Marriages solemnized in the said Church may be deemed invalid: And whereas it is expedient, under the Circumstances aforesaid, to confirm such Marriages: 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 solemnized in Christ Church, West Hartlepool, declared valid.

I. All Marriages heretofore solemnized in the said Church, and the Publication of Banns in such Church previous to any such Marriage, shall be and be deemed to have been as good, valid, and effectual in the Law, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever, as if such Marriages had been solemnized and such Publication of Banns had taken place in the Parish Church of *Stranton*.

Ministers having solemnized Marriages indemnified.

II. No Minister who has solemnized any of the said Marriages shall be liable to any Ecclesiastical Censures, or to any other Proceedings or Penalties whatsoever, by reason of his having so as aforesaid solemnized the same respectively.

Registers to be Evidence.

III. The Registers of the Marriages so solemnized as aforesaid 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.

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