

ANNO VICESIMO QUARTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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CAP. XVI.

An Act to render valid Marriages heretofore solemnized in *Trinity Church, Rainow*, and in other Churches and Chapels. [17th *May* 1861.]

WHEREAS the Church or Chapel known as *Trinity Church* in the Township of *Rainow* in the Parish of *Prestbury* in the County and Diocese of *Chester* was duly consecrated in the Year One thousand eight hundred and forty-six for the Performance of Divine Service therein, but no Authority hath 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 Minister 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 as aforesaid: 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; That,

Marriages heretofore solemnized

1. All Marriages heretofore solemnized in the said Church or Chapel by the Officiating Minister thereof or by any other Clergyman respectively

in Trinity Church, Rainow, declared valid.

respectively being duly ordained Ministers of the Church of *England*, and the Publication of Banns in such Church or Chapel by such Minister or Clergyman previous to any such Marriages, 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 *Prestbury*.

Ministers having solemnized such Marriages indemnified.

2. 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 solemnized the same respectively.

Registers of such Marriages or Copies thereof 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.

The Validity of such Marriages in certain other Churches and Chapels not to be questioned.

4. And whereas by Error Banns have been published and Marriages have been solemnized in Churches and Chapels duly consecrated, but in which Churches or Chapels Banns cannot be legally published nor Marriages by Law be solemnized, and it is expedient to remove all Doubt arising from the Circumstances aforesaid touching the Publication of such Banns and the Validity of such Marriages: Be it therefore enacted, That all Banns already published and all Marriages already solemnized in such Churches and Chapels as aforesaid shall not hereafter be questioned on account of the said Banns having been published or the said Marriages solemnized in a Church or Chapel not legally authorized for the Publication of Banns and Solemnization of Marriages, and the Minister or Ministers who solemnized the same shall not be liable to any Ecclesiastical Censures or to any Proceedings or Penalties by reason thereof, provided he or they be rightly ordained; and the Registers of all 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: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to authorize the Publication of Banns or Solemnization of Marriages in any of such Churches or Chapels, or in the said Church or Chapel called *Trinity Church, Rainow*, hereafter.

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Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1861.