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# The Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872

Asst. Inspector General of  
Registration Assam  
Guwahati-32

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with SHORT NOTES



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## THE INDIAN CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE ACT, 1872

### INTRODUCTION

The law relating to solemnization in India of marriages of persons professing the Christian religion was spread over in two Acts of English Parliament and three Acts of Indian Legislature. To reduce into a smaller compass and to simplify the then prevalent law on this subject by the consolidation of the different enactments The Indian Christian Marriage Bill was introduced in the Legislature.

### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The law relating to solemnization in India of marriages of persons professing the Christian religion is at present distributed over two English Acts of Parliament and three Acts of the Indian Legislature.

The objects of this Bill is to reduce into a smaller compass and simplify the existing law on this subject by the consolidation of the different enactments referred to, and at the same time to amend the law in those matters in which it has been shown to be defective.

For example, by Act V of 1865 it is provided that marriages between Native Christians shall be valid where the ages of the contracting parties are not less than sixteen and thirteen years, respectively, and where they do not stand in relation to each other within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity or affinity.

It has been very forcibly represented by the President and several members of the Bengal Christian Association that this provision of the law works injuriously by freeing the children of Native Christian parents from the control which all other parents can legally exercise over their sons and daughters are the latter have attained their majority.

The Bill requires the consent of the parents or guardians of Native Christian to a marriage between them, where the age of either of the parties about to contract such marriage is less than eighteen years, except in cases in which the minors have been altogether separated from their parents or natural guardians, and by reason of such separation are not properly subject to their control.

There is also some ambiguity in regard to the provisions of the law respecting the submission of returns, and the disposal of the records of the registration of marriages solemnized between Native Christians.

The Bill lays down distinctly how such marriages are to be recorded in all cases, and provides for the disposal of the record. It also substitutes for the fixed rates of fees in respect of marriages solemnized by or before Marriage Registrars, a power to the Local Government to regulate such fees and their remission; and lastly, extends the Marriage law to all places within the territories of Native Princes in alliance with Her Majesty, in respect of marriages between British subjects professing the Christian religion.

### ACT 15 OF 1872

The Indian Christian Marriage Bill having been passed by the Legislature received its assent on 18th July, 1872. It came on the Statute Book as THE INDIAN CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE ACT, 1872 (15 of 1872).

## LIST OF AMENDING ACTS AND ADAPTATION ORDERS

1. The Repealing Act, 1874 (16 of 1874).
2. The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886 (6 of 1886).
3. The Indian Christian Marriage Act (1872) Amendment Act, 1891 (2 of 1891).
4. The Amending Act, 1891 (12 of 1891).
5. The Repealing and Amending Act, 1903 (1 of 1903).
6. The Indian Christian Marriage (Amendment) Act, 1911 (13 of 1911).
7. The Repealing and Amending Act, 1928 (18 of 1928).
8. The Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937.
9. The Repealing Act, 1938 (1 of 1938).
10. The Indian Independence (Adaptation of Central Acts and Ordinances) Order, 1948.
11. The Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.
12. The Part B States (Laws) Act, 1951 (3 of 1951).
13. The Repealing and Amending Act, 1952 (48 of 1952).
14. The Adaptation of Laws Order, 1956.
15. The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1978 (2 of 1978).
16. The Delegated Legislation Provisions (Amendment) Act, 1983 (20 of 1983).

## THE INDIAN CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE ACT, 1872

(15 of 1872)

[18th July, 1872]

*An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the solemnization in India of the marriages of Christians.*

**Preamble.**—WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate and amend the law relating to the solemnization in India of the marriages of persons professing the Christian religion; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

## PRELIMINARY

**1. Short title.**—This Act may be called the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872.

**Extent.**—<sup>1</sup>[It extends to the whole of India <sup>2</sup>[except <sup>3</sup>[the territories which, immediately before the 1st November, 1956, were comprised in the States] of Travancore-Cochin, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir].<sup>4</sup>

<sup>5</sup>[\*\*\*]

**2. Enactments repealed.**—[Rep. by the Repealing Act, 1938 (1 of 1938), Sec. 2 and Sch., Pt. I.]

**3. Interpretation-clause.**—In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context,—

“Church of England” and “Anglican” mean and apply to the Church of England as by law established;

“Church of Scotland” means the Church of Scotland as by law established;

“Church of Rome” and “Roman Catholic” mean and apply to the Church which regards the Pope of Rome as its spiritual head;

“Church” includes any chapel or other building generally used for public Christian Worship;

<sup>6</sup>[“India” means the <sup>7</sup>[territories] to which this Act extends;]

“minor” means a person who has not completed the age of twenty-one years and who is not a widower or a widow;

1. Subs. by the A.O. 1950, for the second paragraph as amended by the A.O. 1937 and the A.O. 1948.

**NOTE:**—The act does not extend to the State of Manipur *vide* Act 30 of 1950, sec. 3 (2A) and Sch. as amended by Act 68 of 1956, Sch 2.

The Act has been extended to and brought into force in Dadra and Nagar Haveli (w.e.f 1-7-1965) by Reg. 6 of 1963, sec. 2 and Sch. I.]

2. Subs. by Act 3 of 1951, sec. 3 and Sch., for “except Part B States”.

3. Subs. by the A.O. 1956, for “the States”.

4. In its application to Pondicherry, in sec. I, the following shall be inserted at the end—“Provided that nothing contained in this Act shall apply to the Renoncants of Union territory of Pondicherry” *vide* Act 26 of 1968.

5. The commencement clause Rep. by Act 16 of 1874, sec. 1 and Sch. Pt. I.

6. Ins. by Act 3 of 1951, sec. 3 and Sch.

7. Subs. by the A.O. 1956, for “territory comprised in the States”.

<sup>1</sup>[\*\*\*]

the expression "Christian" means persons professing the Christian religion;

<sup>2</sup>[and the expression "Indian Christians" includes the Christian descendants of natives of India converted to Christianity, as well as such converts;]

✓<sup>3</sup>["Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages" means a Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages appointed under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886 (6 of 1886)].

#### STATE AMENDMENT

**Karnataka:**—In section 3, the definition of "Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages" shall be substituted as follows:

"Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages" means the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages appointed under the Mysore Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act, 1956." [Mysore Act 20 of 1956, sec. I read with Act 31 of 1973, sec. 5.]

#### COMMENTS

The expression Christian means persons professing the Christian religion and Indian Christian includes the Christian descendants of natives of India converted to Christianity, as well as such converts. Marriages between persons at least one of whom is Christian are governed by the Christian Marriage Act, 1872 (15 of 1872). The Act is not only an amending but a consolidating Act and provides a Code in itself. It extends to the whole of India except States of Travancore-Cochin, Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir.

#### PART I

#### THE PERSONS BY WHOM MARRIAGES MAY BE SOLEMNIZED

**4. Marriages to be solemnized according to Act.**—Every marriage between persons, one or both of whom is [or are] a Christian, or Christians, shall be solemnized in accordance with the provisions of the next following section; and any such marriage solemnized otherwise than in accordance with such provisions shall be void.

✓**5. Persons by whom marriages may be solemnized.**—Marriages may be solemnized in <sup>5</sup>[India]—

- (1) by any person who has received episcopal ordination, provided that the marriage be solemnized according to the rules, rites, ceremonies and customs of the Church of which he is a Minister;
- (2) by any Clergyman of the Church of Scotland, provided that such marriage be solemnized according to the rules, rites, ceremonies and customs of the Church of Scotland;

1. The definition of "Native State" Rep. by the A.O. 1937.
2. Subs. by the A.O. 1950, for the original definition.
3. Ins. by Act 6 of 1886, sec. 30.
4. Ins. by Act 12 of 1891, sec. 2 and Sch. II.
5. Subs. by Act 3 of 1951, sec.3 and Sch, for "Part A States and Part C States".

(3) by any Minister of Religion licensed under this Act to solemnize marriages;

(4) by, or in the presence of, a Marriage Registrar appointed under this Act;

(5) by any person licensed under this Act to grant certificates of marriage between <sup>1</sup>[Indian] Christians.

<sup>2</sup>**[6. Grant and revocation of licenses to solemnize marriages.**—The <sup>3</sup>[State] Government, so far as regards the territories under its administration, <sup>4</sup>[\*\*\*] may, by notification in the <sup>5</sup>[Official Gazette] <sup>6</sup>[\*\*\*], grant licences to Ministers of Religion to solemnize marriages within such territories <sup>7</sup>[\*\*\*] and may, by a like notification, revoke such licences.]

✓**7. Marriage Registrars.**—The State Government may appoint one or more Christians, either by name or as holding any office for the time being, to be the Marriage Registrar or Marriage Registrars for any district subject to its administration.

**Senior Marriage Registrar.**—Where there are more Marriage Registrars than one in any district, the State Government shall appoint one of them to be the Senior Marriage Registrar.

**Magistrate when to be Marriage Registrar.**—When there is only one Marriage Registrar in a district, and such Registrar is absent from such district, or ill, or when his office is temporarily vacant, the Magistrate of district shall act as, and be, Marriage Registrar thereof during such absence, illness, or temporary vacancy.

#### STATE AMENDMENT

**Karnataka:**—In section 7, for the words "Magistrate of the District", the words "District Magistrate" shall be substituted. [Mysore Act 13 of 1965, sec. 66 and Sch, read with Act 31 of 1973, sec. 5.]

**8. Marriage Registrars in Indian States.**—[Rep. by A.O. 1950].

✓**9. Licensing of persons to grant certificates of marriage between Indian Christians.**—The <sup>3</sup>[State Government] <sup>4</sup>[\*\*\*] may grant a license to any Christian either by name or as holding any office for the time being, authorizing him to grant certificates of marriage between <sup>1</sup>[Indian] Christians.

Any such license may be revoked by the authority by which it was granted and every such grant or revocation shall be notified in the Official Gazette.

1. Subs. by the A.O. 1950, for "Native".
2. Subs. by the Act 2 of 1891, sec. 1.
3. Subs. by the A.O. 1950, for "Provincial".
4. The words "and the Central Government so far as regards any Indian State" as amended by the A.O. 1937 for the original words, were rep. by the A.O. 1950.
5. Subs. by the A.O. 1937, for "Local Official Gazette".
6. The words "or in the Gazette of India; as the case may be" rep. by the A.O. 1937.
7. The words "and State, respectively", rep. by the A.O. 1950.

## COMMENTS

In this part of the Act certain conditions have been laid down for a marriage to be valid under the Act. The parties to the marriage must be Christian as defined under section 3 of the Act or at least one of them must be a Christian and the marriage must have been solemnised in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Act by a person duly authorised to do so. The State Governments of the area have been authorised to grant and revoke the licences, granted in favour of certain persons, for the solemnization of marriages under the Act. As per the provisions contained in the Act, the marriage must be performed in a particular form duly entered in the Marriage Register, maintained for this purpose. The factum of marriage can be proved by producing the entries from this register. Other evidence can also be produced for this purpose. Versions of the eye witnesses to the marriage, subsequent conduct of the couple living as husband and wife, can also be a good piece of evidence to prove the factum of a Christian marriage, (1964)2 Andhra WR 136. Admission of either spouse is a relevant factor to prove the factum of marriage.

A Christian Marriage can also take place at the house of the bride's mother and in that case the signing of Marriage Register is not essential under the Act; AIR 1960 Ori 164.

In Christian marriage even if one of its parties is a Hindu cannot be dissolved by a decree of divorce under section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act; (1993)MLJ 31.

A marriage performed under the Christian Marriage Act and validly registered under the provisions of Special Marriage Act can be dissolved on the basis of mutual consent under section 28 of the Special Marriage Act if the conditions laid down in that section are fulfilled; (1995) MLJ 492.

## PART II

## TIME AND PLACE AT WHICH MARRIAGES MAY BE SOLEMNIZED

**10. Time for solemnizing marriage.**—Every marriage under this Act shall be solemnized between the hours of six in the morning and seven in the evening:

*Exceptions.*—Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to—

- (1) a Clergyman of the Church of England solemnizing a marriage under a special license permitting him to do so at any hour other than between six in the morning and seven in the evening, under the hand and seal of the Anglican Bishop of the Diocese or his Commissary, or
- (2) a Clergyman of the Church of Rome solemnizing a marriage between the hours of seven in the evening and six in the morning, when he has received a general or special license in that behalf from the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese or Vicariate in which such marriage is so solemnized, or from such person as the same Bishop has authorised to grant such license, '[or
- (3) a Clergyman of the Church of the Scotland solemnizing a marriage according to the rule, rites, ceremonies and customs of the Church of Scotland.]

3. Ins. by Act 2 of 1891, sec.2.

**11. Place for solemnizing marriage.**—No Clergyman of the Church of England shall solemnize a marriage in any place other than a Church '[where worship is generally held according to the norms of the Church of England,]

unless there is no <sup>1</sup> [such] church within five miles distance by the shortest road from such place, or

unless he has received a special license authorizing him to do so under the hand and seal of the Anglican Bishop of the Diocese or his Commissary.

**Fee for special license.**—For such special license, the Registrar of the Diocese may charge such additional fee as said Bishop from time to time authorizes.

## COMMENTS

As a general rule every marriage under this Act shall be solemnised between the hours of six in the morning and seven in the evening and the place of marriage is a Church. Exceptions are, however, made in case where a special licence permitting a clergyman of the Church is granted. The Act of a person who solemnises a marriage beyond these hours and outside the Church in the absence of the witnesses without any special licence, has been made punishable under section 69 of the Act. The punishment provided is upto three years imprisonment.

## PART III

## MARRIAGES SOLEMNIZED BY MINISTERS OF RELIGION LICENSED UNDER THIS ACT

**12. Notice of intended marriage.**—Whenever a marriage is intended to be solemnized by a Minister of Religion licensed to solemnize marriages under this Act—

one of the persons intending marriage shall give notice in writing, according to the form contained in the First Schedule hereto annexed, or to the like effect, to the Minister of Religion whom he or she desires to solemnize the marriage, and shall state therein—

- (a) the name and surname, and the profession or condition, of each of the persons intending marriage;
- (b) the dwelling-place of each of them;
- (c) the time during which each has dwelt there; and
- (d) the church or private dwelling in which the marriage is to be solemnized:

Provided that, if either of such persons has dwelt in the place mentioned in the notice during more than one month, it may be stated therein that he or she has dwelt there one month and upwards.

**13. Publication of such notice.**—If the persons intending marriage desire it to be solemnized in a particular church, and if the Minister of Religion to whom such notice has been delivered be entitled to officiate therein, he shall cause the notice to be affixed in some conspicuous part of such church.

1. Ins. by Act 2 of 1891, sec.3.



**Return or transfer of notice.**—But if he is not entitled to officiate as a Minister in such church, he shall, at his option, either return the notice to the person who delivered it to him, or deliver it to some other Minister entitled to officiate therein, who shall thereupon cause the notice to be affixed as aforesaid.

**14. Notice of intended marriage in private dwelling.**—If it be intended that the marriage shall be solemnized in a private dwelling, the Minister of Religion, on receiving the notice prescribed in section 12, shall forward it to the Marriage Registrar of the district, who shall affix the same to some conspicuous place in his own office.

**15. Sending copy of notice to Marriage Registrar when one party is a minor.**—When one of the persons intending marriage is a minor, every Minister receiving such notice shall, unless within twenty-four hours after its receipt he returns the same under the provisions of section 13, send by the post or otherwise a copy of such notice to the Marriage Registrar of the district, or, if there be more than one Registrar of such district, to the Senior Marriage Registrar.

**16. Procedure in receipt of notice.**—The Marriage Registrar or Senior Marriage Registrar, as the case may be, on receiving any such notice, shall affix it to some conspicuous place in his own office, and the latter shall further cause a copy of the said notice to be sent to each of the other Marriage Registrars in the same district who shall likewise publish the same in the manner above directed.

**17. Issue of certificate of notice given and declaration made.**—Any Minister of Religion consenting or intending to solemnize any such marriage as aforesaid, shall, on being required so to do by or on behalf of the person by whom the notice was given, and upon one of the persons intending marriage making the declaration hereinafter required, issue under his hand a certificate of such notice having been given and of such declaration having been made:

**Proviso.**—Provided—

- (1) that no such certificates shall be issued until the expiration of four days after the date of the receipt of the notice by such Minister;
- (2) that no lawful impediment be shown to his satisfaction why such certificate should not issue; and
- (3) that the issue of such certificate has not been forbidden, in manner hereinafter mentioned, by any person authorized in that behalf.

**18. Declaration before issue of certificate.**—The certificate mentioned in section 17 shall not be issued until one of the persons intending marriage has appeared personally before the Minister and made a solemn declaration—

- (a) that he or she believes that there is not any impediment of kindred or affinity, or other lawful hindrance, to the said marriage,  
and, when either or both of the parties is or are a minor or minors—
- (b) that the consent or consents required by law has or have been obtained thereto, or that there is no person resident in India having authority to give such consent, as the case may be.

**19. Consent of father, or guardian or mother.**—The father, if living, of any minor, or, if the father be dead, the guardian of the person of such minor, and, in case there be no such guardian, then the mother of such minor, may give consent to the minor's marriage, and such consent is hereby required for the same marriage, unless no person authorised to give such consent be resident in India.

**20. Power to prohibit by notice issue of certificate.**—Every person whose consent to a marriage is required under section 19, is hereby authorized to prohibit the issue of the certificate by any Minister, at any time before the issue of the same, by notice in writing to such Minister, subscribed by the person so authorized with his or her name and place of abode and position with respect to either of the persons intending marriage, by reason of which he or she is so authorized as aforesaid.

**21. Procedure on receipt of notice.**—If any such notice be received by such Minister, he shall not issue his certificate and shall not solemnize the said marriage until he has examined into the matter of the said prohibition, and is satisfied that the person prohibiting the marriage has no lawful authority for such prohibition,

or until the said notice is withdrawn by the person who gave it.

**22. Issue of certificate in case of minority.**—When either of the persons intending marriage is a minor, and the Minister is not satisfied that the consent of the person whose consent to such marriage is required by section 19 has been obtained, such Minister shall not issue such certificate until the expiration of fourteen days after the receipt by him of the notice of marriage.

✓ **23. Issue of certificate to [Indian] Christians.**—When any [Indian] Christian about to be married takes a notice of marriage to a Minister of Religion, or applies for a certificate from such Minister under section 17, such Minister shall, before issuing the certificate, ascertain whether such [Indian] Christian is cognizant of the purport and effect of the said notice or certificate, as the case may be, and, if not, shall translate or cause to be, translated the notice or certificate to such [Indian] Christian into some language which he understands.

**24. Form of certificate.**—The certificate to be issued by such Minister shall be in the form contained in the Second Schedule hereto annexed, or to the like effect.

**25. Solemnization of marriage.**—After the issue of the certificate by the Minister, marriage may be solemnized between the persons therein described according to such form or ceremony as the Minister thinks fit to adopt:

Provided that the marriage be solemnized in the presence of at least two witnesses besides the Minister.

**26. Certificate void if marriage not solemnized within two months.**—Whenever a marriage is not solemnized within two months after the date of the certificate issued by such Minister as aforesaid, such certificate and all proceedings (if any) thereon shall be void,

and no person shall proceed to solemnize the said marriage until new notice has been given, and a certificate thereof issued in manner aforesaid.

## COMMENTS

This part of the Act deals with the notice of intended marriage and its publication before the actual marriage ceremony. It lays down that one of the persons intending marriage shall give a notice in writing as per the form contained in First Schedule to the Act, to the Minister of Religion whom he or she desires to solemnise the marriage.

If the marriage is intended to be in a particular Church and the Minister of Religion, who has received the notice, has no jurisdiction to officiate as a Minister in that Church, he shall either return the notice back or send it to the concerned Minister of Religion who shall affix the same at some conspicuous part of such Church. If the marriage is intended to be in a private dwelling, the Minister of Religion shall forward the notice to the Marriage Registrar of the district, who shall affix the same at some conspicuous place in his own office.

Before the solemnization of marriage, a certificate by the Minister of Religion is essential. Such certificate shall not be issued before the expiry of four days from the date of the receipt of the notice. It should also be shown that there is no impediment in the issuance of the certificate and the issue of the same has not been forbidden. If the marriage is not solemnised within two months from the date of the issue of the certificate becomes void and fresh notice is to be served.

If a party to a marriage is a minor, the consent of father if living, or if the father is dead, the consent of the guardian of the person of such minor or if there is no guardian, then that of the mother, is essential before marriage. A marriage of minor without such consent is not valid; AIR 1952 Punj 277.

## PART IV

REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES SOLEMNIZED BY  
MINISTER OF RELIGION

**27. Marriages when to be registered.**—All marriages hereafter solemnized in <sup>1</sup>[India] between persons one or both of whom professes or profess the Christian religion, except marriages solemnized under Part V or Part VI of this Act, shall be registered<sup>2</sup> in manner hereinafter prescribed.

**28. Registration of marriages solemnized by Clergymen of Church of England.**—Every Clergyman of the Church of England shall keep a register of marriages and shall register therein, according to the tabular form set forth in the Third Schedule hereto annexed, every marriage which he solemnizes under this Act.

**29. Quarterly returns to Archdeaconry.**—Every Clergyman of the Church of England shall send four times in every year returns in duplicate, authenticated by his signature, of the entries in the register of marriages solemnized at any place where he has any spiritual charge, to the Registrar of the Archdeaconry to which he is subject, or within the limits of which such place is situate.

1. Subs. by Act 3 of 1951, sec. 3 and Sch., for "a Part A State or a Part B State,".

2. As to the establishment of general registry offices of births, deaths and marriages, see the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886 (6 of 1886), Chapter II.

**Contents of returns.**—Such quarterly returns shall contain all the entries of marriages contained in the said register from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of March, from the first day of April to the thirtieth day of June, from the first day of July to the thirtieth day of September and from the first day of October to the thirty-first day of December, of each year, respectively, and shall be sent by such Clergyman within two weeks from the expiration of each of the quarters above specified.

The said Registrar upon receiving the said returns shall send one copy thereof to the <sup>1</sup>[Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages].

**30. Registration and returns of marriages solemnized by Clergymen of Church of Rome.**—Every marriage solemnized by a Clergyman of the Church of Rome shall be registered by the person and according to the form directed in that behalf by the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese or Vicariate in which such marriage is solemnized,

and such person shall forward quarterly to the <sup>1</sup>[Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages] returns of the entries of all marriages registered by him during the three months next preceding.

**31. Registration and returns of marriages solemnized by Clergymen of Church of Scotland.**—Every Clergyman of the Church of Scotland shall keep a register of marriages,

and shall register therein, according to the tabular form set forth in the Third Schedule hereto annexed, every marriage which he solemnizes under this Act,

and shall forward quarterly to the <sup>1</sup>[Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages], through the Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland, returns, similar to those prescribed in section 29, of all such marriages.

**32. Certain marriages to be registered in duplicate.**—Every marriage solemnized by any person who has received episcopal ordination, but who is not a Clergyman of the Church of England, or of the Church of Rome, or by any Minister of Religion licensed under this Act to solemnize marriages, shall immediately after the solemnization thereof, be registered, in duplicate by the person solemnizing the same; (that is to say) in a marriage register-book to be kept by him for that purpose, according to the form contained in the Fourth Schedule hereto annexed, and also in a certificate attached to the marriage-register-book as a counterfoil.

**33. Entries of such marriages to be signed and attested.**—The entry of such marriage in both the certificate and marriage-register-book shall be signed by the person solemnizing the marriage, and also by the persons married, and shall be attested by two credible witnesses, other than the person solemnizing the marriage, present at its solemnization.

Every such entry shall be made in order from the beginning to the end of the book, and the number of the certificate shall correspond with that of the entry in the marriage-register-book.

1. Subs. by Act 6 of 1886, sec. 30, for "Secretary to the Local Government".