This PUBLIC BILL originated in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY for its concurrence.

Legislative Council Chamber, Sydney, 26th October, 1892.

ADOLPHUS P. CLAPIN. Acting Clerk of the Parliaments.

New South Wales.



ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO SEXTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

No.

An Act to amend the Law and Practice in the Matrimonial and Divorce Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, and to validate certain proceedings therein.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law and practice Preamble. in the matrimonial and divorce jurisdiction of the Supreme Court: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council 5 and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament

Act of 1884" is hereby repealed. 2. In any petition by a husband for dissolution of marriage or Limitation of time

10 judicial separation on the ground of the adultery of his wife no for recovery of damages shall be claimed in respect of an act of adultery committed more than three years before the filing of the petition : Provided that nothing herein contained shall affect the right of any petitioner to a decree for dissolution of marriage or judicial separation on the ground

15 of adultery committed more than three years before the filing of the petition.

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3. Where a decree *nisi* has been pronounced for the dissolu-Respondent may tion of a marriage, and the petitioner fails to apply at the expiration apply to make a of the time prescribed in the decree or in any special order to make the decree absolute, the respondent may, on giving notice, or such

- 5 substituted notice as the Court may allow, to the petitioner, apply to the Court to make the decree absolute. And the Court may order accordingly, and may make the order subject to such conditions as to the payment of permanent alimony, the maintenance of children, and the payment of costs as it may think proper.
- 4. Where it is proved to the satisfaction of the Court that any Fraudulent deed to 10 deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement has been executed or be set aside. made by or on behalf of, or by direction of, or in the interest of a respondent husband or wife in order to defeat the claim of the petitioner in respect of costs or alimony, or in respect of money payable for the
- 15 maintenance of children, the deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement may, on the application of the petitioner, and on such notices being given as may be directed, be set aside on such terms as the Court may And, if the Court on the hearing of the application so think proper. order and declare, any money or property, real or personal, dealt with
- 20 by such deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement as aforesaid, may be taken in execution at the suit of the petitioner or charged with the payment of such sums for the maintenance of the petitioner or of the petitioner and children as the Court may direct. And on such hearing as aforesaid, the Court may make such order for the protection
- 25 of a bond fide purchaser as it may think just. And the respondent or any one acting in collusion with the respondent may be ordered to pay the costs of the petitioner and of a bond fide purchaser of and incidental to the execution of the said deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement, and of setting the same aside.
- 5. Where it shall appear to the Court that a sale of real estate sale to defeat 30 is about to be made with intent to defeat a petitioner's claim in respect petitioner's claim may be restrained. of costs, alimony, or the maintenance of children, or damages on the ground of adultery, the Court may by order restrain the sale or order the proceeds of the sale to be paid into Court, to be dealt with as the
- 35 Court shall direct. Any sale made after an order of the Court restraining the sale, as aforesaid, has been served on the person selling, or his auctioneer or agent for sale, shall be null and void; and the Court may consider the claim of any person interested, and may make such order in the premises as may appear just.
- 6. The Court may make such order as to the costs of any person Costs of intervention. 40 who shall intervene or show cause against a decree nisi in any suit or 41 Vic., c. 19, s. 2. proceeding, or of all and every party or parties thereto, occasioned by such intervention or showing cause as aforesaid, as may seem just; and may in all suits and proceedings order costs to be paid as between 45 attorney and client.

7. The Court may exercise the powers vested in it by the Extension of powers provisions of section forty of the "Matrimonial Causes Act," thirty- of Court under 36 Vic. No. 9., s. 40. sixth Victoria number nine, in favour of either party to the marriage, 41 Vic., c. 19, s. 3. notwithstanding that there are no children.

8. In all undefended cases, where the Court is requested under Wife may be given section three of the Act fiftieth Victoria number twelve to make the rule custody of children absolute, the Court may give the wife the custody of the children; and absolute. 50 may also do so in defended cases, on proof that the respondent has had notice of the intention of the petitioner on the hearing of the motion 55 to make the rule absolute to apply for the custody of the children.

9. The parties to any suit or proceeding, and the husbands and Parties admissible 9. The parties to any suit of proceeding, and the husbands and witnesses. wives of the parties, shall be competent to give evidence in such suit witnesses. 32 & 33 Vic., c. 68., or proceeding: Provided that no witness in any suit or proceeding, s. 3. whether a party to the same or not, shall be liable to be asked or

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10. All proceedings in the Matrimonial and Divorce Jurisdiction Testing proceedings. of the Supreme Court shall be tested in the name of the Judge exercising 10 jurisdiction under the "Matrimonial Causes Act."

11. The registrar of the Court shall have power to tax costs Powers of registrar. subject to review by the Court as at Common Law, to settle issues and deeds directed by the Court to be executed by the parties, to extend

the time in undefended suits within which proceedings may be filed, 15 to allow proceedings to be taken or defended in *forma pauperis*, and to examine witnesses in alimony applications and report the result of the said examinations to the Court, which may consider the same in determining alimony applications, and to discharge such other administrative functions in the Divorce Jurisdiction as are discharged by the

20 Prothonotary at Common Law, subject to such rules as the Court may make relative thereto, and subject to the right of appeal to the Court in all cases.

12. From and after the passing of this Act a decree for resti- Periodical payments tution of conjugal rights shall not be enforced by attachment, but ^{in lieu of attachment}. 25 where the application is by the wife the Court may, at the time of ⁴⁷/₈. 48 Vic. c. 68, . 2.

- making such decree, or at any time afterwards, order that in the event of such decree not being complied with within any time in that behalf limited by the Court, the respondent shall make to the petitioner such periodical payments as may be just; and such order may be 30 enforced in the same manner as an order for alimony in a suit for
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- all necessary parties.

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- 40 in receipt of any profits of trade or earnings, the Court may, if it shall think fit, order a settlement to be made to the satisfaction of the Court of such property, or any part thereof, for the benefit of the petitioner and of the children of the marriage, or either or any of them, or may order such part as the Court may think reasonable of such
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- 15. If the respondent shall fail to comply with a decree of the Non-compliance with decree to be deemed for restitution of conjugal rights, such respondent shall there-desertion. 55 upon be deemed to have been guilty of desertion without reasonable 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, cause, and a suit for divorce or for judicial separation may be forth- s. 5. with instituted, and a decree nisi for the dissolution of the marriage

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16. The Court may at any time before final decree on any Custody of children. application for restitution of conjugal rights, or after final decree if 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, the respondent shall fail to comply therewith, upon application for ^{s. 6}.

- 10 that purpose, make from time to time all such orders and provisions with respect to the custody, maintenance, and education of the children of the petitioner and respondent as might have been made by interim orders during the pendency of a trial for judicial separation between the same parties.
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 20 of the "Matrimonial Causes Act."
 - 18. In this Act the word "Court" means the Judge exercising Interpretation. jurisdiction in Matrimonial Causes.

19. This Act shall be read and construed with the "Matrimonial Short title. Causes Act" and the Acts amending the same, and may be cited as 25 the "Matrimonial Causes Procedure Amendment Act."

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56° VICTORIÆ, No.

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WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law and practice Preamble. in the matrimonial and divorce jurisdiction of the Supreme Court: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent

Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council 5 and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :1. Section six of the "Matrimonial Causes Act Amendment Repeal of sec. 6, Act of 1884" is hereby repealed.

2. In any petition by a husband for dissolution of marriage or Limitation of time 10 judicial separation on the ground of the adultery of his wife no for recovery of damages shall be claimed in respect of an act of adultery committed more than three years before the filing of the petition: Provided that nothing herein contained shall affect the right of any petitioner to a decree for dissolution of marriage or judicial separation on the ground

15 of adultery committed more than three years before the filing of the petition.

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56° VICTORIÆ, No.

Matrimonial Causes Procedure Amendment.

3. Where a decree *nisi* has been pronounced for the dissolu-Respondent may tion of a marriage, and the petitioner fails to apply at the expiration apply to make a decree absolute. of the time prescribed in the decree or in any special order to make the decree absolute, the respondent may, on giving notice, or such 5 substituted notice as the Court may allow, to the petitioner, apply to the Court to make the decree absolute. And the Court may order accordingly, and may make the order subject to such conditions as to the payment of permanent alimony, the maintenance of children, and the payment of costs as it may think proper.

- 4. Where it is proved to the satisfaction of the Court that any Fraudulent deed to 10 deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement has been executed or be set aside. made by or on behalf of, or by direction of, or in the interest of a respondent husband or wife in order to defeat the claim of the petitioner
- in respect of costs or alimony, or in respect of money payable for the 15 maintenance of children, the deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement may, on the application of the petitioner, and on such notices being given as may be directed, be set aside on such terms as the Court may think proper. And, if the Court on the hearing of the application so order and declare, any money or property, real or personal, dealt with
- 20 by such deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement as aforesaid, may be taken in execution at the suit of the petitioner or charged with the payment of such sums for the maintenance of the petitioner or of the petitioner and children as the Court may direct. And on such hearing as aforesaid, the Court may make such order for the protection
- 25 of a bond fide purchaser as it may think just. And the respondent or any one acting in collusion with the respondent may be ordered to pay the costs of the petitioner and of a bona fide purchaser of and incidental to the execution of the said deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement, and of setting the same aside.
- 5. Where it shall appear to the Court that a sale of real estate sale to defeat 30 is about to be made with intent to defeat a petitioner's claim in respect petitioner's claim of costs, alimony, or the maintenance of children, or damages on the ground of adultery, the Court may by order restrain the sale or order the proceeds of the sale to be paid into Court, to be dealt with as the
- 35 Court shall direct. Any sale made after an order of the Court restraining the sale, as aforesaid, has been served on the person selling, or his auctioneer or agent for sale, shall be null and void ; and the Court may consider the claim of any person interested, and may make such order in the premises as may appear just.
- 6. The Court may make such order as to the costs of any person Costs of intervention. 40 who shall intervene or show cause against a decree nisi in any suit or 41 Vic., c. 19, s. 2. proceeding, or of all and every party or parties thereto, occasioned by such intervention or showing cause as aforesaid, as may seem just; and may in all suits and proceedings order costs to be paid as between 45 attorney and client.

7. The Court may exercise the powers vested in it by the Extension of powers provisions of section forty of the "Matrimonial Causes Act," thirty- of Court under 36 Vic. No. 9., s. 40. sixth Victoria number nine, in favour of either party to the marriage, 41 Vic., c. 19, s. 3. notwithstanding that there are no children.

- 8. In all undefended cases, where the Court is requested under Wife may be given section three of the Act fiftieth Victoria number twelve to make the rule custody of children absolute, the Court may give the wife the custody of the children; and absolute. 50 may also do so in defended cases, on proof that the respondent has had notice of the intention of the petitioner on the hearing of the motion 55 to make the rule absolute to apply for the custody of the children.
- 9. The parties to any suit or proceeding, and the husbands and Parties admissible wives of the parties, shall be competent to give evidence in such suit witnesses. 32 & 33 Vic., c. 68., or proceeding: Provided that no witness in any suit or proceeding, 3.3. whether a party to the same or not, shall be liable to be asked or

bound

bound to answer any question tending to show that he or she has been guilty of adultery, unless such witness shall have already given evidence in the same suit or proceeding in disproof of his or her alleged adultery. And no proceedings taken, or order or decree made 5 before the passing of this Act, shall be held invalid by reason only of the admission of the evidence of any person who is hereby declared to be a competent witness.

10. All proceedings in the Matrimonial and Divorce Jurisdiction Testing proceedings. of the Supreme Court shall be tested in the name of the Judge exercising 10 jurisdiction under the "Matrimonial Causes Act."

11. The registrar of the Court shall have power to tax costs Powers of registrar. subject to review by the Court as at Common Law, to settle issues and deeds directed by the Court to be executed by the parties, to extend the time in undefended suits within which proceedings may be filed,

- 15 to allow proceedings to be taken or defended in forma pauperis, and to examine witnesses in alimony applications and report the result of the said examinations to the Court, which may consider the same in determining alimony applications, and to discharge such other administrative functions in the Divorce Jurisdiction as are discharged by the
- 20 Prothonotary at Common Law, subject to such rules as the Court may make relative thereto, and subject to the right of appeal to the Court in all cases.

12. From and after the passing of this Act a decree for resti-Periodical payments tution of conjugal rights shall not be enforced by attachment, but in lieu of attachment. 25 where the application is by the wife the Court may, at the time of s. 2. making such decree, or at any time afterwards, order that in the event of such decree not being complied with within any time in that behalf limited by the Court, the respondent shall make to the petitioner such periodical payments as may be just; and such order may be 30 enforced in the same manner as an order for alimony in a suit for judicial separation. The Court may, if it shall think fit, order that

the husband shall, to the satisfaction of the Court, secure to the wife such periodical payment, and for that purpose may refer it to the registrar or some conveyancing counsel or attorney of the Court to 35 settle and approve of a proper deed or instrument to be executed by

all necessary parties. 13. Where the application for restitution of conjugal rights is Settlement of wife's

by the husband, if it shall be made to appear to the Court that the ^{property.} wife is entitled to any property, either in possession or reversion, or is s. 3.

- 40 in receipt of any profits of trade or earnings, the Court may, if it shall think fit, order a settlement to be made to the satisfaction of the Court of such property, or any part thereof, for the benefit of the petitioner and of the children of the marriage, or either or any of them, or may order such part as the Court may think reasonable of such
- 45 profits of trade or earnings to be periodically paid by the respondent to the petitioner for his own benefit, or to the petitioner or any other person for the benefit of the children of the marriage, or either or any of them.
- 14. The Court may from time to time vary or modify any order Power to vary orders. 50 for the periodical payment of money, either by altering the times of 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, payment or by increasing or diminishing the amount, or may ^{8.4.} temporarily suspend the same as to the whole or any part of the money so ordered to be paid, and again revive the same wholly or in part, as the Court may think just. 15. If the respondent shall fail to comply with a decree of the Non-compliance with
- 55 decree to be deemed Court for restitution of conjugal rights, such respondent shall there- desertion. upon be deemed to have been guilty of desertion without reasonable 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, cause, and a suit for divorce or for judicial separation may be forth- s. 5. with instituted, and a decree nisi for the dissolution of the marriage or

56° VICTORIÆ, No.

Matrimonial Causes Procedure Amendment.

or a sentence of judicial separation may be pronounced on the ground of desertion, although the period of three years may not have elapsed since the failure to comply with the decree for restitution of conjugal rights. Such decree *nisi* shall not be made absolute until after the 5 expiration of six calendar months from the pronouncing thereof, unless the Court shall fix a shorter time.

16. The Court may at any time before final decree on any custody of children. application for restitution of conjugal rights, or after final decree if 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, the respondent shall fail to comply therewith, upon application for ^{5.6}.

- 10 that purpose, make from time to time all such orders and provisions with respect to the custody, maintenance, and education of the children of the petitioner and respondent as might have been made by interim orders during the pendency of a trial for judicial separation between the same parties.
- 15 17. It shall be lawful for the Court, if it thinks fit, to refer Power to refer to the any matter of law for the decision of the Supreme Court sitting in Court in Banco. Banco, and for the Court in Banco, if it thinks fit, to direct all necessary papers in the matter to be sent to the Crown Solicitor for the purpose and under the conditions prescribed by section twenty-five

20 of the "Matrimonial Causes Act."

18. In this Act the word "Court" means the Judge exercising Interpretation. jurisdiction in Matrimonial Causes.

19. This Act shall be read and construed with the "Matrimonial Short title. Causes Act" and the Acts amending the same, and may be cited as

25 the "Matrimonial Causes Procedure Amendment Act."

Legislatibe Council.

56° VICTORIÆ, 1892.

A BILL

To amend the Law and Practice in the Matrimonial and Divorce Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, and to validate certain proceedings therein.

[MR. R. E. O'CONNOR; -6 October, 1892.]

(As amended in Committee of the Whole.)

THEREAS it is expedient to amend the law and practice Preamble. in the matrimonial and divorce jurisdiction of the Supreme Court: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council 5 and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :-

2. In any petition by a husband for dissolution of marriage or Limitation of time 10 judicial separation on the ground of the adultery of his wife no damages. damages shall be claimed in respect of an act of adultery committed more than two three years before the filing of the petition : Provided that nothing herein contained shall affect the right of any petitioner 15 to a decree for dissolution of marriage or judicial separation on the

ground of adultery committed more than two three years before the filing of the petition. c 18-3.

Nore. - The words to be omitted are ruled through; those to be inserted are printed in black letter.

Respondent may apply to make a decree absolute.

Fraudulent deed to be set aside.

Sale to defeat petitioner's claim may be restrained.

Costs of intervention. 41 Vic., c. 19, s. 2.

Extension of powers 41 Vic., c. 19, s. 3.

Wife may be given custody of children on rule being made absolute.

3. Where a decree nisi has been pronounced for the dissolution of a marriage, and the petitioner fails to apply at the expiration of the time prescribed in the decree or in any special order to make the decree absolute, the respondent may forthwith, on giving notice, or such substituted notice as the Court may allow, to the petitioner, 5 apply to the Court to make the decree absolute. And the Court may order accordingly, and where the wife is the petitioner, the Court may make the order subject to such conditions as to the payment of permanent alimony, the maintenance of children, and the payment of 10 costs as it may think proper.

4. Where it is proved to the satisfaction of the Court that any deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement has been executed or made by a respondent husband in order to defeat the claim of his wife Postponed. in respect of costs or alimony, or in respect of money payable for the maintenance of children, the deed, conveyance, instrument, or agree- 15 ment may, on the application of the wife, and on such notices being given as may be directed, be set aside on such terms as the Court may think proper. And, if the Court on the hearing of the application so order and declare, any money or property, real or personal, dealt with by such deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement, as aforesaid, 20 may be taken in execution at the suit of the petitioning wife or charged with the payment of such sums for the maintenance of the wife and children as the Court may direct. And on such hearing, as aforesaid, the Court may make such order for the protection of a *bond fide* purchaser as it may think just. And the respondent or any one 25 acting in collusion with him may be ordered to pay the costs of the petitioner and of a bond fide purchaser of and incidental to the execution of the said deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement, and of setting the same aside.

5. Where it shall appear to the Court is satisfied that a sale of 30 real estate is about to be made with intent to defeat a petitioner's claim in respect of costs, alimony, or the maintenance of children, or damages on the ground of adultery, the Court may by order restrain the sale or order the proceeds of the sale to be paid into Court, to be dealt with as the Court shall direct. Any sale made after the an order 35 of the Court restraining the sale as aforesaid has been served on the person selling, or his auctioneer or agent for sale, shall be null and void ; and the Court may direct the proceeds of the sale to be paid into Court to meet the claim of the petitioner in any pending suit. and the Court may consider the claim of any person interested in such 40 proceeds, and may make such order in respect of the disposal thereof as may appear just.

6. The Court may make such order as to the costs of any person who shall intervene or show cause against a decree nisi in any suit or proceeding, or of all and every party or parties thereto, occasioned by 45 such intervention or showing cause as aforesaid, as may seem just; and may in all suits and proceedings order costs to be paid as between attorney and client.

7. The Court may exercise the powers vested in it by the of Court under 36 Vic. No. 9., s. 40. provisions of section forty of the "Matrimonial Causes Act," thirty- 50 sixth Victoria number nine, notwithstanding that there are no children of the marriage.

8. In all undefended cases, where the Court is requested under section three of the Act fiftieth Victoria number twelve to make the rule absolute, the Court may give the wife the custody of the children; and 55 may also do so in defended cases, on proof that the respondent has had notice of the intention of the petitioner on the hearing of the motion to make the rule absolute to apply for the custody of the children.

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9. The parties to any suit or proceeding, and the husbands and Parties admissible wives of the parties, shall be competent to give evidence in such suit 32 & 33 Vic., c. 68., or proceeding : Provided that no witness in any suit or proceeding, s. 3. whether a party to the same or not, shall be liable to be asked or 5 bound to answer any question tending to show that he or she has been guilty of adultery, unless such witness shall have already given evidence in the same suit or proceeding in disproof of his or her alleged adultery. And no proceedings taken, or order or decree made

before the passing of this Act, shall be held invalid by reason only of 10 the admission of the evidence of any person who is hereby declared to be a competent witness.

10. All proceedings in the Matrimonial and Divorce Jurisdiction Testing proceedings. of the Supreme Court shall be tested in the name of the Judge exercising Postponed. jurisdiction under the "Matrimonial Causes Act."

- 15 11. The registrar of the Court shall have power to tax costs Powers of registrar. subject to review by the Court as at Common Law, to settle issues and deeds directed by the Court to be executed by the parties, to extend the time in undefended suits within which proceedings may be filed, to allow proceedings to be taken or defended in forma pauperis, and to
- 20 examine witnesses in alimony applications and report the result of the said examinations to the Court, which may consider the same in determining alimony applications, and to discharge such other administrative functions in the Divorce Jurisdiction as are discharged by the Prothonotary at Common Law, subject to such rules as the Court may
- 25 make relative thereto, and subject to the right of appeal to the Court in all cases.

12. From and after the passing of this Act a decree for restitution of conjugal rights shall not be enforced by attachment, but 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, where the application is by the wife the Court may, at the time of s. 2.

- 30 making such decree, or at any time afterwards, order that in the event of such decree not being complied with within any time in that behalf limited by the Court, the respondent shall make to the petitioner such periodical payments as may be just; and such order may be enforced in the same manner as an order for alimony in a suit for
- 35 judicial separation. The Court may, if it shall think fit, order that the husband shall, to the satisfaction of the Court, secure to the wife such periodical payment, and for that purpose may refer it to the registrar or some conveyancing counsel or attorney of the Court to settle and approve of a proper deed or instrument to be executed by

40 all necessary parties. 13. Where the application for restitution of conjugal rights is Settlement of wife's property. by the husband, if it shall be made to appear to the Court that the 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, wife is entitled to any property, either in possession or reversion, or is s. 3. in receipt of any profits of trade or earnings, the Court may, if it shall

- 45 think fit, order a settlement to be made to the satisfaction of the Court of such property, or any part thereof, for the benefit of the petitioner and of the children of the marriage, or either or any of them, or may order such part as the Court may think reasonable of such profits of trade or earnings to be periodically paid by the respondent 50 to the petitioner for his own benefit, or to the petitioner or any other
- person for the benefit of the children of the marriage, or either or any of them.

14. The Court may from time to time vary or modify any order Power to vary orders. for the periodical payment of money, either by altering the times of 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, 55 payment or by increasing or diminishing the amount, or may ^{s. 4}. temporarily suspend the same as to the whole or any part of the money so ordered to be paid, and again revive the same wholly or in

part, as the Court may think just.

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Non-compliance with decree to be deemed desertion. 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, 8. 5.

15. If the respondent shall fail to comply with a decree of the Court for restitution of conjugal rights, such respondent shall thereupon be deemed to have been guilty of desertion without reasonable cause, and a suit for divorce or for judicial separation may be forthwith instituted, and a decree *nisi* for the dissolution of the marriage 5 or a sentence of judicial separation may be pronounced on the ground of desertion, although the period of three years may not have elapsed since the failure to comply with the decree for restitution of conjugal rights. Such decree *nisi* shall not be made absolute until after the expiration of six calendar months from the pronouncing thereof, **10** unless the Court shall fix a shorter time.

16. The Court may at any time before final decree on any application for restitution of conjugal rights, or after final decree if the respondent shall fail to comply therewith, upon application for that purpose, make from time to time all such orders and provisions 15 with respect to the custody, maintenance, and education of the children of the petitioner and respondent as might have been made by interim orders during the pendency of a trial for judicial separation between the same parties.

17. It shall be lawful for the Court, if it thinks fit, to refer 20 any matter of law for the decision of the Supreme Court sitting in Banco, and for the Court in Banco, if it thinks fit, to direct all necessary papers in the matter to be sent to the Crown Solicitor for the purpose and under the conditions prescribed by section twenty-five of the "Matrimonial Causes Act." 25

18. In this Act the word "Court" means the Judge exercising jurisdiction in Matrimonial Causes.

19. This Act shall be read and construed with the "Matrimonial Causes Act" and the Acts amending the same, and may be cited as the "Matrimonial Causes Procedure Amendment Act of 1892." 30

[3d.]

Sydney : Charles Potter, Government Printer.-1892.

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Custody of children. 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68,

Power to refer to the Court in Banco.

Interpretation.

Short title.

Legislative Council.

56° VICTORIÆ, 1892.

A BILL

To amend the Law and Practice in the Matrimonial and Divorce Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, and to validate certain proceedings therein.

[MR. R. E. O'CONNOR; -6 October, 1892.]

(As amended in Committee of the Whole.)

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law and practice Preamble. in the matrimonial and divorce jurisdiction of the Supreme Court: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council 5 and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament

assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :--

2. In any petition by a husband for dissolution of marriage or Limitation of time 10 judicial separation on the ground of the adultery of his wife no for recovery of damages shall be claimed in respect of an act of adultery committed more than two three years before the filing of the petition : Provided that nothing herein contained shall affect the right of any petitioner

15 to a decree for dissolution of marriage or judicial separation on the ground of adultery committed more than two three years before the filing of the petition. c 18—

3.

Note.-The words to be omitted are ruled through ; those to be inserted are printed in black letter.

Respondent may apply to make a decree absolute.

Fraudulent deed to be set aside.

Sale to defeat petitioner's claim may be restrained.

Costs of intervention. 41 Vic., c. 19, s. 2.

Extension of powers 41 Vic., c. 19, s. 3.

Wife may be given custody of children on rule being made absolute.

3. Where a decree nisi has been pronounced for the dissolution of a marriage, and the petitioner fails to apply at the expiration of the time prescribed in the decree or in any special order to make the decree absolute, the respondent may forthwith, on giving notice, or such substituted notice as the Court may allow, to the petitioner, 5 apply to the Court to make the decree absolute. And the Court may order accordingly, and where the wife is the petitioner, the Court may make the order subject to such conditions as to the payment of permanent alimony, the maintenance of children, and the payment of costs as it may think proper.

4. Where it is proved to the satisfaction of the Court that any deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement has been executed or made by a respondent husband in order to defeat the claim of his wife Postponed. in respect of costs or alimony, or in respect of money payable for the maintenance of children, the deed, conveyance, instrument, or agree- 15

ment may, on the application of the wife, and on such notices being given as may be directed, be set aside on such terms as the Court may think proper. And, if the Court on the hearing of the application so order and declare, any money or property, real or personal, dealt with by such deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement, as aforesaid, 20 may be taken in execution at the suit of the petitioning wife or charged with the payment of such sums for the maintenance of the wife and children as the Court may direct. And on such hearing, as aforesaid, the Court may make such order for the protection of a *bond fide* purchaser as it may think just. And the respondent or any one 25 acting in collusion with him may be ordered to pay the costs of the petitioner and of a bona fide purchaser of and incidental to the execution of the said deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement, and of setting the same aside.

5. Where it shall appear to the Court is satisfied that a sale of 30 real estate is about to be made with intent to defeat a petitioner's claim in respect of costs, alimony, or the maintenance of children, or damages on the ground of adultery, the Court may by order restrain the sale or order the proceeds of the sale to be paid into Court, to be dealt with as the Court shall direct. Any sale made after the an order 35 of the Court restraining the sale as aforesaid has been served on the person selling, or his auctioneer or agent for sale, shall be null and void : and-the-Court-may-direct-the-proceeds-of-the-sale-to-be-paid-into Court to meet the claim of the petitioner in any pending suit. and the Court may consider the claim of any person interested in such 40 proceeds, and may make such order in respect of the disposal thereof as may appear just.

6. The Court may make such order as to the costs of any person who shall intervene or show cause against a decree *nisi* in any suit or proceeding, or of all and every party or parties thereto, occasioned by 45 such intervention or showing cause as aforesaid, as may seem just; and may in all suits and proceedings order costs to be paid as between attorney and client.

7. The Court may exercise the powers vested in it by the of Court under 36 Vic. No. 9., s. 40. provisions of section forty of the "Matrimonial Causes Act," thirty- 50 sixth Victoria number nine, notwithstanding that there are no children of the marriage.

8. In all undefended cases, where the Court is requested under section three of the Act fiftieth Victoria number twelve to make the rule absolute, the Court may give the wife the custody of the children; and 55 may also do so in defended cases, on proof that the respondent has had notice of the intention of the petitioner on the hearing of the motion to make the rule absolute to apply for the custody of the children. 9

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9. The parties to any suit or proceeding, and the husbands and Parties admissible wives of the parties, shall be competent to give evidence in such suit 32 & 33 Vic., c. 68., or proceeding: Provided that no witness in any suit or proceeding, s. 3. whether a party to the same or not, shall be liable to be asked or

5 bound to answer any question tending to show that he or she has been guilty of adultery, unless such witness shall have already given evidence in the same suit or proceeding in disproof of his or her alleged adultery. And no proceedings taken, or order or decree made before the passing of this Act, shall be held invalid by reason only of

10 the admission of the evidence of any person who is hereby declared to be a competent witness.

10. All proceedings in the Matrimonial and Divorce Jurisdiction Testing proceedings. of the Supreme Court shall be tested in the name of the Judge exercising Postponed. jurisdiction under the "Matrimonial Causes Act."

- 11. The registrar of the Court shall have power to tax costs Powers of registrar. 15 subject to review by the Court as at Common Law, to settle issues and deeds directed by the Court to be executed by the parties, to extend the time in undefended suits within which proceedings may be filed, to allow proceedings to be taken or defended in forma pauperis, and to
- 20 examine witnesses in alimony applications and report the result of the said examinations to the Court, which may consider the same in determining alimony applications, and to discharge such other administrative functions in the Divorce Jurisdiction as are discharged by the Prothonotary at Common Law, subject to such rules as the Court may
- 25 make relative thereto, and subject to the right of appeal to the Court in all cases.

12. From and after the passing of this Act a decree for resti-tution of conjugal rights shall not be enforced by attachment, but 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, where the application is by the wife the Court may, at the time of s. 2.

- 30 making such decree, or at any time afterwards, order that in the event of such decree not being complied with within any time in that behalf limited by the Court, the respondent shall make to the petitioner such periodical payments as may be just; and such order may be enforced in the same manner as an order for alimony in a suit for
- 35 judicial separation. The Court may, if it shall think fit, order that the husband shall, to the satisfaction of the Court, secure to the wife such periodical payment, and for that purpose may refer it to the registrar or some conveyancing counsel or attorney of the Court to settle and approve of a proper deed or instrument to be executed by 40 all necessary parties.

13. Where the application for restitution of conjugal rights is Settlement of wife's by the husband, if it shall be made to appear to the Court that the 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, wife is entitled to any property, either in possession or reversion, or is s. 3. in receipt of any profits of trade or earnings, the Court may, if it shall 45 think fit, order a settlement to be made to the satisfaction of the

Court of such property, or any part thereof, for the benefit of the petitioner and of the children of the marriage, or either or any of them, or may order such part as the Court may think reasonable of such profits of trade or earnings to be periodically paid by the respondent

50 to the petitioner for his own benefit, or to the petitioner or any other person for the benefit of the children of the marriage, or either or any of them.

14. The Court may from time to time vary or modify any order Power to vary orders. for the periodical payment of money, either by altering the times of 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68,

55 payment or by increasing or diminishing the amount, or may s. 4. temporarily suspend the same as to the whole or any part of the money so ordered to be paid, and again revive the same wholly or in part, as the Court may think just.

property

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Non-compliance with decree to be deemed desertion. 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, 8. 5.

15. If the respondent shall fail to comply with a decree of the Court for restitution of conjugal rights, such respondent shall thereupon be deemed to have been guilty of desertion without reasonable cause, and a suit for divorce or for judicial separation may be forthwith instituted, and a decree nisi for the dissolution of the marriage or a sentence of judicial separation may be pronounced on the ground of desertion, although the period of three years may not have elapsed since the failure to comply with the decree for restitution of conjugal rights. Such decree nisi shall not be made absolute until after the expiration of six calendar months from the pronouncing thereof, 10 unless the Court shall fix a shorter time.

16. The Court may at any time before final decree on any application for restitution of conjugal rights, or after final decree if the respondent shall fail to comply therewith, upon application for that purpose, make from time to time all such orders and provisions 15 with respect to the custody, maintenance, and education of the children of the petitioner and respondent as might have been made by interim orders during the pendency of a trial for judicial separation between the same parties.

17. It shall be lawful for the Court, if it thinks fit, to refer 20 any matter of law for the decision of the Supreme Court sitting in Banco, and for the Court in Banco, if it thinks fit, to direct all necessary papers in the matter to be sent to the Crown Solicitor for the purpose and under the conditions prescribed by section twenty-five 25 of the "Matrimonial Causes Act." 18. In this Act the word "Court" means the Judge exercising

jurisdiction in Matrimonial Causes.

19. This Act shall be read and construed with the "Matrimonial Causes Act" and the Acts amending the same, and may be cited as 30 the "Matrimonial Causes Procedure Amendment Act of-1892."

[3d.]

Sydney : Charles Potter, Government Printer.-1892.

Custody of children.

47 & 48 Vic. c. 68,

8. 6.

Power to refer to the Court in Banco.

Interpretation.

Short title.

Legislative Council.

56° VICTORIÆ, 1892.

A BILL

To amend the Law and Practice in the Matrimonial and Divorce Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, and to validate certain proceedings therein.

[MR. R. E. O'CONNOR;-6 October, 1892.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law and practice Preamble. in the matrimonial and divorce jurisdiction of the Supreme Court: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent

Amendment Act of 1884," as requires consent to be given before a fourths may be taken verdict of three-fourths can be taken, is hereby repealed.

10 2. In any petition by a husband for dissolution of marriage or Limitation of time judicial separation on the ground of the adultery of his wife no for recovery of damages, shall be also advised in ground of the adultery of his wife no damages. damages shall be claimed in respect of an act of adultery committed more than two years before the filing of the petition : Provided that

nothing herein contained shall affect the right of any petitioner to a 15 decree for dissolution of marriage or judicial separation on the ground of adultery committed more than two years before the filing of the petition.

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Respondent may apply to make a decree absolute.

Fraudulent deed to be set aside.

Sale to defeat petitioner's claim may be restrained.

Costs of intervention. 41 Vic., c. 19, s. 2.

Extension of powers of Court under 41 Vic., c. 19, s. 3.

Wife may be given custody of children on rule being made absolute.

Parties admissible witnesses. 32 & 33 Vic., c. 68., s. 3.

3. Where a decree nisi has been pronounced for the dissolution of a marriage, and the petitioner fails to apply at the expiration of the time prescribed in the decree or in any special order to make the decree absolute, the respondent may forthwith, on giving notice to the petitioner, apply to the Court to make the decree absolute. And 5 the Court may order accordingly, and where the wife is the petitioner, the Court may make the order subject to such conditions as to the payment of permanent alimony, the maintenance of children, and the payment of costs as it may think proper.

4. Where it is proved to the satisfaction of the Court that any 10 deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement has been executed or made by a respondent husband in order to defeat the claim of his wife in respect of costs or alimony, or in respect of money payable for the maintenance of children, the deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement may, on the application of the wife, and on such notices being 15 given as may be directed, be set aside on such terms as the Court may think proper. And, if the Court on the hearing of the application so order and declare, any money or property, real or personal, dealt with by such deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement, as aforesaid, may be taken in execution at the suit of the petitioning wife or charged 20 with the payment of such sums for the maintenance of the wife and children as the Court may direct. And on such hearing, as aforesaid, the Court may make such order for the protection of a bond fide purchaser as it may think just. And the respondent or any one acting in collusion with him may be ordered to pay the costs of the 25 petitioner and of a *bond fide* purchaser of and incidental to the execution of the said deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement, and of setting the same aside.

5. Where the Court is satisfied that a sale of real estate is about to be made with intent to defeat a petitioner's claim in respect 30 of costs, alimony, or the maintenance of children, or damages on the ground of adultery, the Court may by order restrain the sale. Any sale made after the order of the Court as aforesaid has been served on the person selling, or his auctioneer or agent for sale, shall be null and void; and the Court may direct the proceeds of the sale to be 35 paid into Court to meet the claim of the petitioner in any pending suit.

6. The Court may make such order as to the costs of any person who shall intervene or show cause against a decree nisi in any suit or proceeding, or of all and every party or parties thereto, occasioned by such intervention or showing cause as aforesaid, as may seem just; 40 and may in all suits and proceedings order costs to be paid as between attorney and client.

7. The Court may exercise the powers vested in it by the of Court under 36 Vic. No. 9., s. 40. provisions of section forty of the "Matrimonial Causes Act," thirtysixth Victoria number nine, notwithstanding that there are no children 45 of the marriage.

8. In all undefended cases, where the Court is requested under section three of the Act fiftieth Victoria number twelve to make the rule absolute, the Court may give the wife the custody of the children; and may also do so in defended cases, on proof that the respondent has had 50 notice of the intention of the petitioner on the hearing of the motion to make the rule absolute to apply for the custody of the children.

9. The parties to any suit or proceeding, and the husbands and wives of the parties, shall be competent to give evidence in such suit or proceeding : Provided that no witness in any suit or proceeding, 55 whether a party to the same or not, shall be liable to be asked or bound to answer any question tending to show that he or she has been guilty of adultery, unless such witness shall have already given evidence in the same suit or proceeding in disproof of his or her alleged

alleged adultery. And no proceedings taken, or order or decree made before the passing of this Act, shall be held invalid by reason only of the admission of the evidence of any person who is hereby declared to be a competent witness.

5 10. All proceedings in the Matrimonial and Divorce Jurisdiction Testing proceedings. of the Supreme Court shall be tested in the name of the Judge exercising jurisdiction under the "Matrimonial Causes Act."

11. The registrar of the Court shall have power to tax costs Powers of registrar. subject to review by the Court as at Common Law, to settle issues and

- 10 deeds directed by the Court to be executed by the parties, to extend the time in undefended suits within which proceedings may be filed, to allow proceedings to be taken or defended in forma pauperis, and to examine witnesses in alimony applications and report the result of the said examinations to the Court, which may consider the same in
- 15 determining alimony applications, and to discharge such other administrative functions in the Divorce Jurisdiction as are discharged by the Prothonotary at Common Law, subject to such rules as the Court may make relative thereto, and subject to the right of appeal to the Court in all cases.
- 12. From and after the passing of this Act a decree for resti- Periodical payments tution of conjugal rights shall not be enforced by attachment, but ^{in lieu of attachment}. 20 where the application is by the wife the Court may, at the time of s. 2. making such decree, or at any time afterwards, order that in the event of such decree not being complied with within any time in that behalf
- 25 limited by the Court, the respondent shall make to the petitioner such periodical payments as may be just; and such order may be enforced in the same manner as an order for alimony in a suit for judicial separation. The Court may, if it shall think fit, order that the husband shall, to the satisfaction of the Court, secure to the wife
- 30 such periodical payment, and for that purpose may refer it to the registrar or some conveyancing counsel or attorney of the Court to settle and approve of a proper deed or instrument to be executed by
- all necessary parties. 13. Where the application for restitution of conjugal rights is Settlement of wife's **35** by the husband, if it shall be made to appear to the Court that the property. wife is entitled to any property, either in possession or reversion on the 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, wife is entitled to any property, either in possession or reversion, or is . 3. in receipt of any profits of trade or earnings, the Court may, if it shall think fit, order a settlement to be made to the satisfaction of the Court of such property, or any part thereof, for the benefit of the
- 40 petitioner and of the children of the marriage, or either or any of them, or may order such part as the Court may think reasonable of such profits of trade or earnings to be periodically paid by the respondent to the petitioner for his own benefit, or to the petitioner or any other person for the benefit of the children of the marriage, or either or any 45 of them.

14. The Court may from time to time vary or modify any order Power to vary orders. for the periodical payment of money, either by altering the times of 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68, payment or by increasing or diminishing the amount, or may ^{5.4}. temporarily suspend the same as to the whole or any part of the

50 money so ordered to be paid, and again revive the same wholly or in part, as the Court may think just.

15. If the respondent shall fail to comply with a decree of the Non-compliance with Court for restitution of conjugal rights, such respondent shall there- decree to be deemed upon be deemed to have been guilty of desertion without reasonable 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68,

55 cause, and a suit for divorce or for judicial separation may be forth-s.5. with instituted, and a decree nisi for the dissolution of the marriage or a sentence of judicial separation may be pronounced on the ground of desertion, although the period of three years may not have elapsed since the failure to comply with the decree for restitution of conjugal rights.

rights. Such decree *nisi* shall not be made absolute until after the expiration of six calendar months from the pronouncing thereof, unless the Court shall fix a shorter time.

16. The Court may at any time before final decree on any application for restitution of conjugal rights, or after final decree if 5 the respondent shall fail to comply therewith, upon application for that purpose, make from time to time all such orders and provisions with respect to the custody, maintenance, and education of the children of the petitioner and respondent as might have been made by interim orders during the pendency of a trial for judicial separation 10 between the same parties.

17. It shall be lawful for the Court, if it thinks fit, to refer any matter of law for the decision of the Supreme Court sitting in Banco, and for the Court in Banco, if it thinks fit, to direct all necessary papers in the matter to be sent to the Crown Solicitor for 15 the purpose and under the conditions prescribed by section twenty-five of the "Matrimonial Causes Act."

18. In this Act the word "Court" means the Judge exercising jurisdiction in Matrimonial Causes.

19. This Act shall be read and construed with the "Matrimonial 20 Causes Act" and the Acts amending the same, and may be cited as the "Matrimonial Causes Procedure Amendment Act of 1892."

[3d.]

Sydney : Charles Fotter, Government Printer.-1892.

8. 6.

Power to refer to the Court in Banco.

Custody of children. 47 & 48 Vic. c. 68,

Interpretation.

Short title.

Legislative Council.

56° VICTORIÆ, 1892.

A BILL

To amend the Law and Practice in the Matrimonial and Divorce Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, and to validate certain proceedings therein.

[MR. R. E. O'CONNOR;—6 October, 1892.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law and practice Preamble. in the matrimonial and divorce jurisdiction of the Supreme Court: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council 5 and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :— 1. So much of section six of the "Matrimonial Causes Act Verdict of three-Amendment Act of 1884," as requires consent to be given before a fourths may be taken verdict of three-fourths can be taken, is hereby repealed.

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2. In any petition by a husband for dissolution of marriage or Limitation of time judicial separation on the ground of the adultery of his wife no damages. damages shall be claimed in respect of an act of adultery committed more than two years before the filing of the petition: Provided that

nothing herein contained shall affect the right of any petitioner to a 15 decree for dissolution of marriage or judicial separation on the ground of adultery committed more than two years before the filing of the petition.

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Respondent may apply to make a decree absolute.

Fraudulent deed to be set aside.

Sale to defeat petitioner's claim may be restrained.

Costs of intervention 41 Vic., c. 19, s. 2.

Extension of powers 41 Vic., c. 19, s. 3.

Wife may be given custody of children on rule being made absolute.

Parties admissible witnesses. 32 & 33 Vic., c. 68., 8. 3.

3. Where a decree nisi has been pronounced for the dissolution of a marriage, and the petitioner fails to apply at the expiration of the time prescribed in the decree or in any special order to make the decree absolute, the respondent may forthwith, on giving notice to the petitioner, apply to the Court to make the decree absolute. And 5 the Court may order accordingly, and where the wife is the petitioner, the Court may make the order subject to such conditions as to the payment of permanent alimony, the maintenance of children, and the payment of costs as it may think proper.

4. Where it is proved to the satisfaction of the Court that any 10 deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement has been executed or made by a respondent husband in order to defeat the claim of his wife in respect of costs or alimony, or in respect of money payable for the maintenance of children, the deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement may, on the application of the wife, and on such notices being 15 given as may be directed, be set aside on such terms as the Court may think proper. And, if the Court on the hearing of the application so order and declare, any money or property, real or personal, dealt with by such deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement, as aforesaid, may be taken in execution at the suit of the petitioning wife or charged 20 with the payment of such sums for the maintenance of the wife and children as the Court may direct. And on such hearing, as aforesaid, the Court may make such order for the protection of a bond fide purchaser as it may think just. And the respondent or any one acting in collusion with him may be ordered to pay the costs of the 25 petitioner and of a bond fide purchaser of and incidental to the execution of the said deed, conveyance, instrument, or agreement, and of setting the same aside.

5. Where the Court is satisfied that a sale of real estate is about to be made with intent to defeat a petitioner's claim in respect 30 of costs, alimony, or the maintenance of children, or damages on the ground of adultery, the Court may by order restrain the sale. Any sale made after the order of the Court as aforesaid has been served on the person selling, or his auctioneer or agent for sale, shall be null and void; and the Court may direct the proceeds of the sale to be 35 paid into Court to meet the claim of the petitioner in any pending suit.

6. The Court may make such order as to the costs of any person who shall intervene or show cause against a decree nisi in any suit or proceeding, or of all and every party or parties thereto, occasioned by such intervention or showing cause as aforesaid, as may seem just; 40 and may in all suits and proceedings order costs to be paid as between attorney and client.

7. The Court may exercise the powers vested in it by the of Court under 36 Vic. No. 9., s. 40. provisions of section forty of the "Matrimonial Causes Act," thirtysixth Victoria number nine, notwithstanding that there are no children 45 of the marriage.

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alleged adultery. And no proceedings taken, or order or decree made before the passing of this Act, shall be held invalid by reason only of the admission of the evidence of any person who is hereby declared to be a competent witness.

10. All proceedings in the Matrimonial and Divorce Jurisdiction Testing proceedings. 5 of the Supreme Court shall be tested in the name of the Judge exercising jurisdiction under the "Matrimonial Causes Act."

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- subject to review by the Court as at Common Law, to settle issues and 10 deeds directed by the Court to be executed by the parties, to extend the time in undefended suits within which proceedings may be filed, to allow proceedings to be taken or defended in forma pauperis, and to examine witnesses in alimony applications and report the result of the said examinations to the Court, which may consider the same in
- 15 determining alimony applications, and to discharge such other administrative functions in the Divorce Jurisdiction as are discharged by the Prothonotary at Common Law, subject to such rules as the Court may make relative thereto, and subject to the right of appeal to the Court in all cases.
- 12. From and after the passing of this Act a decree for resti- Periodical payments tution of conjugal rights shall not be enforced by attachment, but $\frac{47 & 48}{47 & 48}$ Vic. c. 68, where the application is by the wife the Court may, at the time of s. 2. 20 making such decree, or at any time afterwards, order that in the event of such decree not being complied with within any time in that behalf
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