

ing the holy bonds of matrimony. It was also desirable to impose some greater restraint than was at present interposed, in the way of boys and girls who—fired with romantic visions of the bliss of matrimonial life—rushed to the first minister of religion they could find, or went before the registrar, and forthwith, swearing eternal friendship to each other, became man and wife. The object of the present Bill was to put some decent check upon such hasty and precipitate conduct, by interposing some slight obstacles in the way of carrying out any rash intentions. The Bill provided that no marriage shall be celebrated until one of the parties shall have given notice of their intention to enter the bonds of matrimony, to the District Registrar, stating the name, and profession or condition of each of the parties intending marriage, the dwelling place of each of them, and the time during which each had resided there. Such notice must be given at least seven days before the date fixed for the marriage. The District Registrar, on receiving this notice, would be forthwith required to post a copy thereof in a conspicuous place in his office, and also to enter a true copy thereof in a book to be called "The Marriage Notice Book." This book, it was proposed, should be open at all reasonable times, without fee, to all persons desirous of inspecting the same, and any person whose consent to a marriage is required by law would be empowered to forbid the celebration thereof, by writing the word "forbidden" opposite to the entry of the notice of such marriage in the book referred to. In the event of no one doing this, the Registrar would, on payment of a shilling, be required to issue a certificate to the parties intending marriage, and no marriage could be lawfully celebrated until such certificate was produced to the minister or the District Registrar celebrating the marriage. It was also provided that these certificates, once obtained, would be void unless the marriage were celebrated within three months from the date thereof. He begged to move the second reading of the Bill.

MR. S. H. PARKER moved, as an amendment, that the second reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for Wednesday, as members had only that

moment had a copy of it placed in their hands.

This was agreed to.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to nine o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 26th August, 1879.

The business transacted was of a mere formal character, and elicited no discussion. [*Vide* "Votes and Proceedings," p. 81.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 27th August, 1879.

Personal Explanation—Importation of goods by the lessees of Lapepede Islands, free of duty—Discrepancies in Expenditure Statement—Privileges granted to Pastoral Leaseholders—New Bills—Confirmation of Expenditure Bill—Secret Bills of Sale Bill—Message (No. 5): Volunteers—Scab-in-Sheep Bill: recommitted—Celebration of Marriage Bill: second reading—Transfer of Land Act, 1874, Amendment Bill, 1879: second reading—Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Bill: second reading; third reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

MR. BROWN: I rise to take a course which I think is somewhat objectionable,—to move the adjournment of the House; but I trust that the reasons I shall give for doing so will be considered