

HOUSE....No. 25.

[Reported by the Committee on the Judiciary.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty.

AN ACT

Relating to Divorce.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

1 SECT. 1. Any husband or wife, separating him or
2 herself from the other, and joining and uniting him
3 or herself with any religious sect or society that be-
4 lieves, or professes to believe, the relation between
5 husband and wife void or unlawful, and such hus-
6 band or wife continuing to live so united, with such
7 sect or society, for the space of three years, and re-
8 fusing, during that time, to cohabit with the other,
9 who shall not have joined and continued united with

10 any such sect or society, shall be deemed and taken
11 to be a sufficient cause of divorce from the bonds of
12 matrimony.

1 SECT. 2. In cases where such husband or wife
2 has, before the passing of this act, so separated from
3 the other and joined and united with such sect or
4 society, and so refused to cohabit with the other
5 party, the other party not having joined and con-
6 tinued united with any such sect or society, and shall
7 continue so separated from the other, and united
8 with such sect or society, for the space of three years
9 from the commencement of such separation, the same
10 shall be deemed and taken to be a sufficient cause of
11 divorce from the bonds of matrimony.

1 SECT. 3. In all cases where a divorce shall be
2 granted to the wife by virtue of this act, the same
3 proceedings shall be had, touching the estate of the
4 wife, or the alimony to be allowed her, as in the case
5 of divorce, on account of five years' consecutive de-
6 sertion on the part of the husband.

1 SECT. 4. This act shall take effect from and after
2 the first day of September next.