

lands, belonging to the said church, society, or congregation; which, if they have been given, granted or devised, directly to the said church, society or congregation, or to any person in trust for them; *Provided*, that the person or persons holding lands, or goods and chattels, in trust for any particular church or society as aforesaid, shall voluntarily make over, by indenture proper for that purpose, to the trustees or body corporate of such particular church or society, such lands or chattels, for the use and benefit of such church, society or congregation.

CHAP. 111.
Proviso.

8. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all and every the said corporation or trustees, established or to be established in virtue of this act, and their successors, shall be capable in law to purchase and hold, in fee-simple, (a) a quantity of land, not exceeding two acres, for the use of any one church, society or congregation, by gift or grant of any person or persons, or bodies politic, capable in law to make the same, provided such gift or grant be made by indenture, duly executed and recorded agreeably to law, and in no other manner whatever; and also that every the said body corporate, and their successors, or a majority of them, severally, by their respective name, may take and receive any sum or sums of money, any kind, manner or portion, of goods and chattels, that shall be sold or given to them as aforesaid by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable in law to make a gift or sale thereof, and employ the same for the benefit and use of the particular church, society or congregation, whereunto they respectively belong, as a body politic or corporate; *Provided*, that all and every gift, grant, bargain, sale, or deed of transfer, made by any person or persons, and not intended to take effect and vest in any religious body or corporation during the life of the giver, grantor or seller, but to become their right and property after his, her or their decease, shall be utterly null, void, and of no effect; *And provided also*, that the clear yearly value of the estates, rents, annuities, or other hereditaments, of any church, society or congregation, thus incorporated, shall not amount to more than the clear yearly value of two thousand dollars, and all gifts, grants, sales and transfers, to any the said corporations, or their successors, after the clear yearly value of their estate shall amount to two thousand dollars, and all bargains and purchases to be made by any of them, which may increase the yearly value of the said estates above and beyond the standard here fixed, shall be utterly null, void, and of no effect.

May purchase land, and receive same).

Proviso.

(a) By 1815, ch. 222, permission is given to hold in fee simple, or for any less estate, any lands, rents or annuities, by gift, bargain, sale or devise, and such lands to rent or lease; also to take and receive any money, goods or chattels, given, sold or bequeathed to them, and to apply the same to the use of their churches as effectually as the same could have been applied by the vestry of the Protestant Episcopal church to their respective parishes; provided the clear yearly value of the estate, (exclusive of the rents of pews, &c.) does not exceed that allowed to any vestry.

9. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the limitations in point of annual value aforesaid shall not be understood to affect the estate, property, interest or inheritance, or the income arising therefrom, which any christian church, congregation or society, may be in possession of at the time of passing this act.

Limitations of annual value not to affect the estate of any church.

By 1814, ch. 58, the Maryland conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to have all the benefits arising from all gifts or grants of property, &c.