

to sell, alien, or transfer the same, unless thereunto authorized by a majority of the votes of the church, society or congregation, whereunto they respectively belong as a body politic or corporate; and in case any body politic or corporate, or their successors, or any of them, shall act contrary to the provisions herein expressed, then, and in every such case, such sales, gifts or grants, shall be null and void, and each and every member who shall have concurred in offending as aforesaid, shall be for ever thereafter incapable of executing the trusts created by this act; and the said church, society or congregation, to which the said trustees or body politic to offending did belong, shall and may proceed at their discretion to appoint and choose, as herein before directed, a sufficient number of persons qualified as aforesaid to act as trustees, or a body politic or corporate, for and on behalf of the said church, society or congregation.

And, whereas it has been represented to this general assembly, that certain property, real, personal and mixed, or the rents and profits thereof, have been heretofore applied to the use, support and maintenance, of the ministers of the Roman catholic religion, although the said property hath been held and possessed by certain individuals as the legal proprietors thereof, but under a confidential or implied trust, that the said property, and the rents and profits thereof, should be faithfully applied to the use, support or maintenance, of the ministers of the Roman catholic religion: And whereas, by the declaration of rights all gifts, sales or devices, for the support, use or benefit, of any minister or preacher of the gospel as such, or of any religious sect or denomination, without the leave of the legislature, are declared to be void: And, whereas it is highly reasonable and just to grant unto the ministers of the Roman catholic religion, who are citizens of this state, that legislative aid without which they will be destitute of that protection and security to their property to which they are entitled equally with every other sect or denomination of christians; *Be it enacted*, That every legal proprietor or possessor of any property, real, personal or mixed, held and possessed by him, on or before the fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, under a confidential trust, that the same, or the rents or profits thereof, should be applied to the use, support or maintenance, of the ministers of the Roman catholic religion, and every legal proprietor or possessor of any property, real, personal or mixed, acquired since the said fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, by exchange for property held under a confidential trust as aforesaid, before the said fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, or purchased with money or other valuable consideration held by such proprietor or possessor in confidential trust as aforesaid, or arising from the rents, issues and profits, of such property, acquired before the period aforesaid, may have full power and authority, at any time hereafter, to execute an instrument of writing, declaring the purposes for which the said property hath been or is held by him, or he may by deed or otherwise convey the same in trust to any one or more of the ministers of the Roman catholic religion, being citizens of this state, and exercising their ministerial functions agreeably to the established rules and discipline of their church, and to the regulations to be agreed upon at the first meeting for choosing trustees pursuant to the directions of this act, and for such pious purposes as the same hath been confidentially held by him, which said declaration or deed so to be made, shall be signed by the party making the same in presence of two witnesses, acknowledged as aforesaid, and on the said declaration or deed shall be endorsed the affidavit of the party, that the property comprehended in such declaration or deed was really and bona fide held by him for pious purposes, or acquired as aforesaid in manner and for the purposes aforesaid, and the said affidavit shall be recorded with the said declaration or deed within six months after the execution thereof.

*And be it enacted*, That the said person or persons, and their successors, in whose favour the said declaration or deed shall be made, shall be vested with such estate in fee or lesser estate, according to the true intent and meaning of the said declaration or deed, and true intent of the party or parties making the same.

*And be it enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the ministers of the Roman catholic religion within this state, citizens thereof, and exercising their ministerial functions agreeably to their established rules and discipline, to choose at their discretion certain persons of their order, citizens of the state, not less than five, nor more than seven, to constitute a body politic or corporate; which said body politic or corporate may acquire and hold by deed or otherwise from any one of their own body, any property held in confidential trust before the fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, or acquired since that period by exchange or purchase from funds arising from such property held in confidential trust before the said fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, and which property shall be under their sole control and management, and the said ministers may do every thing by this act appointed for or required of any particular church, society or congregation, in electing, instituting and perpetuating, its respective corporation.

And, whereas by the declaration of rights it was among other things provided, that the churches, chapels, glebes, and all other property belonging to the church of England, now denominated the protestant episcopal church in this state, ought to remain to the said church for ever: And whereas certain laws or acts have been passed for the establishment of bodies politic, by the name of Select Vestries, for the preservation of the said property, and ap-

plying the same towards the support of ministers and readers, clerks and registers, of the said church; *Be it therefore enacted*, That the minister and vestry of every protestant episcopal church or congregation in this state, within their respective bounds or districts, heretofore called parishes, shall, as a body politic, upon the footing of equal liberty, without being obliged to any change of name, or any diminution of their former rights under the said vestry acts, be entitled unto, and have all and singular such other and farther rights, franchises, immunities and enlargement, or extension of their property and estates, as the minister, trustees and body politic, of any other church or congregation are entitled to, or can of right have, claim or enjoy, under this act.

*And be it further enacted*, That if heretofore there has been, or hereafter shall be, any failure or neglect to choose vestrymen according to law, on any Eastern Monday, or otherwise, to the injury of the vestry of any protestant episcopal church or congregation, it shall and may be lawful for the minister of such church or congregation, and in the absence or want of a minister, for any two of the former vestrymen, by advertisements put up at such church, to notify and call a meeting of the persons entitled to vote for vestrymen, on the first Monday of any month succeeding that on which Easter falls, in order to hold a new election for reviving and continuing such vestry according to law, and in the manner in which such election ought to have been held by law on the Eastern Monday preceding.

And, whereas the particular churches, societies or congregations, for whose use and benefit the said trustees or bodies politic are intended to be incorporated by this act, may consist of male persons, considerably different in numbers; and it is reasonable and proper that the funds and revenues belonging to such churches, societies and congregations, should be established upon a scale as proportionate to their respective numbers as the circumstances of their situation will admit; *Be it enacted*, That where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, shall amount to any number not exceeding twenty, it shall be lawful for the trustees, or bodies politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the use and advantage of their said church, society or congregation, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds current money, but not more; and where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, shall amount to any number more than twenty, and not exceeding forty, it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or body politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the uses and advantages aforesaid, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of four hundred and fifty pounds like money, but not more; and where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any church, society or congregation, shall amount to any number more than forty, and not exceeding fifty, it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or body politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the uses and advantages aforesaid, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of six hundred pounds like money, but not more; and where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, shall exceed the number of fifty, then it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or body politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the uses and advantages aforesaid, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of one thousand pounds current money, as herein before limited and appointed.

*And be it further enacted*, That the aforesaid several corporations, bodies politic, or trustees of the same, shall, on or before the first day of June, seventeen hundred and ninety, return a list and schedule, on oath or affirmation, of all property, real, personal and mixed, of every kind, by them respectively held, and the rents, issues, and profits thereof, to the clerk of the county court where the same shall lie, to be entered on record, in the book directed to be provided as aforesaid, and the amount of the same shall be deemed and considered as part of the fund allowed by this act for such society or corporation to acquire; and the said corporations, bodies politic or trustees, shall, at the end of every five years for ever thereafter, make return of such list or schedule, containing the clear yearly value or income of their property respectively, to be entered on record as aforesaid. Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that what is herein before enjoined and directed, shall not be extended to diminish or affect any fund where the same is held in common for the use of more than one minister of such society or congregation, unless the clear yearly value thereof, when divided among the said ministers, shall exceed the said sum of one thousand pounds current money for each respective minister.

*And be it enacted*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed, adjudged or taken, to abridge or affect the rights of conscience or private judgment, or in the least to alter or change the religious constitution or government of any church, congregation or society, so far as respects, or in anywise concerns doctrine, discipline or worship.

L O N D O N, October 12.

**S**HOULD the state of Sweden negotiate with the empress, and acknowledge, as it is said they are

ready to do, the impolicy of the war the king entered into, this will amount to such a revolution as will reverse all that was done in 1773, when they limited their republican form, and made the king almost absolute—reserving, indeed, only the power which they now seem disposed to employ.

Oct. 15. A Turkish man and boy were loading a waggon with hay, when they were surprised by a raging party of Austrians.—The boy, though only 12 years of age, defended himself by two pistols on the top of the waggon with great bravery. When his powder and ball were expended, he made a noble resistance with a scythe, and wounded two hussars very dangerously; but the horses in the waggon taking fright, it was overthrown, and the man and boy much bruised. Both of them had bones broken, which, when examined by the surgeon, made the man cry with pain; but the boy bore all with the patience of an ancient Roman, and reproved his companion for his betraying his uncleanness before the Christian dogs.

Abstract of an article in the last "Philosophical Transactions," viz. Abstract of an account of a mass of native iron, found in South-America. By Don Michael Rubin de Celis.

On the fourth side of the river Vermejo, and west of the great river Parana, is an immense plain, where there are no mountains, nor even the smallest stone, within a circumference of one hundred leagues, inhabited only by a few roving Indians, whose only employment is to gather the honey and wax with which the woods abound. In the middle of this plain was discovered the mass of iron in question, and Don Michael was sent by the viceroy of the river Plata to examine it. The latitude of the spot was found to be 27 deg. 28 sec. south. The mass was almost buried in pure clay and ashes, its exterior appearance was that of perfectly compact iron; but on cutting off pieces of it with chisels, the internal part was found full of cavities, as if the whole had been formerly in a fluid state; on clearing away the earth from it, its length was found to be three yards, the breadth two yards and a half, and the thickness one third of a yard. The author ascribes its production, with great probability, to a volcano; and he adds, that "it is an undoubted fact, that in these immense forests there exists a mass of pure iron, in the shape of a tree with its branches," to which he assigns the same origin.

P I T T S B U R G H, December 6.

A letter from Fort Harmar, at the Mouth of Muskingum, received a few days ago, says, "Mr. Wilson has been here, but is now gone up to the falls to bring down captain Brant and a number of Indians that are there. They are expected in here in a few days, when no doubt the business of the treaty will go on."

P H I L A D E L P H I A, December 18.

It appears, on the close of the election, that the honourable Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, of Montgomery; Henry Wynkoop, of Bucks; Thomas Hartley, of York; George Clymer and Thomas Fitzsimons, of Philadelphia; Peter Muhlenberg, of Montgomery; Daniel Heister, of Berks; and Thomas Scott, of Washington, Esquires, are duly elected representatives of the people of Pennsylvania, in the congress of the United States. Two of these gentlemen were members of the federal convention, six of them were adopting members of the state convention, all of them have been elected before to public employments by the voice of the people, and all are friends of the new constitution.

R I C H M O N D, December 18.

Extract of a letter, dated Montgomery, November 24, 1788.

"A curious encounter lately happened near the head of Sandy river. Three hunters of the name of Harrison, the father and two sons, were attacked by seven Indians, all of whom, except one, was only armed with bows and arrows. Two Indians were shot down at the first fire, and one of the white men was soon after wounded with an arrow: The Indians then advanced with their tomahawks, another was wounded to appearance mortally, with a rifle ball, and a fourth stabbed frequently with a scalping knife, when in close quarters with young Harrison. The remaining three immediately retreated, leaving our two young heroes masters of the field, and to take care of their wounded father, which they faithfully did, by bringing him safe into the settlement.

Annapolis, January 1.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND.

**Y**OU are at length called upon to perform the last thing on your part, for giving life, motion and vigour, to the new system of government. It has hitherto triumphed over all opposition—Its enemies are now "in the last ditch." But despair will perhaps redouble their efforts, and the strength of the whole will be directed to a point. Let their conduct in this one particular be imitated. Unite, and the work is complete.—

For the sake of yourselves and posterity, for the honour of human nature, and the general good of mankind; let not your behaviour on this critical occasion defeat all you have done. Dash not those elevated hopes, from the beginning, conceived by almost every good and wise man, that the fairest experiment, the world ever saw, would ultimately be crowned with success.

It has been asserted, and with a confidence which generally marks the assertors, that a majority of the people of Maryland are disposed for amendments. The position is so far true, that the people with ardent desire for the best possible form of government. They suppose the new constitution, as it is the work of man, must somewhere be defective. But it is not true, that