

1805.

NOVEMBER,

L A W S O F M A R Y L A N D.

C H A P.  
CXVIII.

the support and uses of ministers of the Roman Catholic religion, it was, among other things, enacted, that every legal proprietor or possessor of any property held under the confidential trust in the said act specified, should have power and authority to execute an instrument of writing, declaring the purposes for which the said property was holden: And whereas it was also by the said act enacted, that it should be lawful for certain ministers of the Roman Catholic religion in the said act specified, to convene at a place to be by them agreed on, within the time limited by the said law, and then and there adopt such regulations for the management of their estates and temporalities as should seem fit and adviseable to a majority of the said ministers, so convened, and that the said ministers, or a majority of them, so met, should then and there choose, from their own body, certain persons, not less than three or more than five, who should assume the style, name and title, by which they were to be designated and known, and certify the same under their hands and seals, within the time limited by the said act, to the clerk of the general court for the western shore, who was thereby directed to record the same in the records of the laws of the state: And whereas the aforesaid ministers of the Roman catholic religion have, agreeably to the authority delegated by the said recited act, convened and assumed to themselves the style, name and title, of The Corporation of the Roman Catholic Clergymen, and certified the same, under their hands and seals, to the clerk of the general court for the western shore, and the same hath been recorded among the records of the laws of the state: And whereas the reverend James Walton, Robert Molyneux and John Ashton, by several instruments in writing, sealed with their seals, each bearing date on the third day of October, seventeen hundred and ninety-three, and recorded among the records of the late general court for the western shore, in Liber J. G. No. 3, folios 285, 286, 287, 288 and 289, by which said several instruments of writing it was, agreeably to the provisions of the said recited act, declared, that all and every the property in the said instruments of writing specified, had been and was held, by the respective persons executing the same, under a confidential or implied trust, for the use, benefit and maintenance, of the ministers of the Roman Catholic church, now exercising their ministerial functions within the United States of America, agreeably to the rules and discipline of their church, and who were formerly members of the religious society heretofore known by the name of The Society of Jesus: And whereas doubts have arisen whether there may have not been some formal inaccuracy in the above recited proceedings, and a memorial having been presented, on behalf of the corporation of the Roman Catholic clergymen, praying that any defects existing may be remedied; and the object of the said memorial appearing reasonable, therefore,

II. BE IT ENACTED, *by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the Corporation of the Roman Catholic Clergymen is hereby confirmed under and by that name, and under the name and style of The Corporation of the Roman Catholic Clergymen, shall have all the estates, rights and authorities, meant to be vested in, or transferred to, the corporation intended and authorised to be established under and by virtue of the above recited act, entitled, An act for securing certain estates and property for the support and uses of ministers of the Roman catholic religion, passed at November session, seventeen hundred and ninety-two.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the corporation of the Roman catholic clergymen shall be seized and possessed in and of all and every the property specified in the several above recited instruments, severally executed by the reverend James Walton, Robert Molyneux and John Ashton, each being dated on the third day of October, seventeen hundred and ninety-three, and recorded among the records of the late general court of the western shore, liber J. G. No. 3, folios 285, 286, 287, 288 and 289, in as full and ample a manner, and of the same estate, title and interest, in law and equity, as the said several persons executing the aforesaid several instruments of writing respectively then held and possessed the same; provided always, that nothing in this act contained shall operate to affect the rights acquired by any person to any property mentioned in the aforesaid several instruments of writing.

C H A P. CXIX.

Passed 28th of  
January, 1806.

A Further additional supplement to the act, entitled, An act to direct descents.

WHEREAS doubts are entertained as to the construction and operation of the act to which this is a supplement, in relation to the right of election therein directed to take the land at the valuation of the commissioners, where, in their judgment, it will not admit of division; therefore,

II. BE IT ENACTED, *by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That in case the eldest male shall not be of age to make his election, agreeable to the provisions of the said act, it shall and may be lawful for the eldest female, if of age, to elect to take the land at the valuation of the commissioners, notwithstanding the existence of any male minor, any thing in the act to which this a supplement to the contrary notwithstanding.