

C H A P. I. “ well and faithfully to execute that Office for the ensuing Year, according  
 to the Laws and Usages of the said Province, to the best of his Skill and  
 Power, and until he shall be thereof duly discharged.”  
 The Oath of a Church-Warden. And any such Person or Persons, so chosen Church-Warden or Wardens,  
 Penalty for refusing to serve, &c. that shall wilfully refuse to serve in the said Office, and take the Oaths afore-  
 said, shall be fined \* One Thousand Pounds of Tobacco to our Sovereign  
 Lord the King.

† To be recovered before a single Magistrate. See the Note on §. 10.

\* To be recovered in his Lordship's Name in the County Court, and applied to the Use of the Parish, by 1730, *ch.* 23.

Payment of Parochial Charges, Repairs of Churches, &c.

|| And the Payment of with Parochial Charges in the Record.

XV. And the Church-Wardens and Vestry are authorized and required, to take constant Care to satisfy and pay the Parochial Charges, and all necessary Repairs and Amendments of their respective Churches, Chapels or Church Yards, and cause the same at all Times to be repaired and amended as Need shall require, out of such Gifts, Goods or Chattels as shall come to their Hands for the Church or Parish Use: || And towards the Payment of which Parochial Charges, all the Fines, Forfeitures and Mulcts by this Law incurred, shall be levied by the Church-Wardens in each respective Parish, and by them accordingly applied. And in Case they shall not have sufficient Effects to pay Parochial Charges as aforesaid, or to make such necessary Repairs as are required, then, and not otherwise, it shall be lawful for the Justices of the County Courts upon Application of such Parish, Vestry and Church-Wardens, to assess the respective Parishes by a certain Sum of Tobacco, not exceeding ten Pounds of Tobacco by the Poll in any one Year: Which Assessment made by such County Court, and a Certificate thereof under the County Seal, shall be sufficient to the Sheriff of such County to levy such Tax by the Poll, on the Taxables of such Parishes, in the same Manner as other Public Dues are levied; and shall not deduct above Five per Hundred for his Salary, and pay the same to such Vestry for the Use aforesaid.

N. B. For the present Regulation for Payment of Parochial Charges, see 1704, *ch.* 34, §. 4. and 1729, *ch.* 7.

Pluralities not admitted.

Exception.

XVI. And to the Intent that this Act may answer the End of the Makers, which is, that his Majesty's good Subjects of this Province may be instructed in Religion, and therein of their Duty to GOD, his Majesty, and themselves, and those pious and exemplary Persons that shall labour therein suitably provided for; **Be it Enacted** by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That no Minister or Incumbent shall at one Time hold more than two Parishes; nor two, unless by the Desire or Agreement of the Vestry of the said adjacent Parish, and Consent of the Vestries where he resides, and Appointment of the Ordinary.

Lay-Readers in what Cases to be appointed.

Their Duty.

XVII. And where there are not, or shall not be, Ministers in any Parish, it shall and may be lawful to the Vestry to provide some sober and discreet Person, as a Reader, and to present him to the Ordinary; who may sequester Part of the Forty per Poll, to pay him for such Service, and the rest to be † applied as the Law in Cases of such Vacancies directs. And upon such Reader's taking the aforesaid Oaths appointed by Act of Parliament, subscribing the Test and Association, and procuring Licence from the Ordinary, shall and may read Divine Service, Homilies, and such other good Authors of practical Divinity, as shall be appointed, at the usual Times, in such Churches or Chapels, and therein shall demean himself according to the Liturgy of the Church of *England*, as aforesaid.

† For the Application of the 40 per Poll during such Vacancy, see 1715, *ch.* 24.

The first Tuesday in every Month to be a Vestry Day without Notice.

XVIII. And for the preventing of Delays and other Inconveniences, which might happen if there were a Necessity for the expecting the Attendance and Presence of all the said Vestry-men, and at the same Time to prevent the doing of any Thing of Consequence, by Surprize, by a small Number of them, **be it hereby Enacted**, That the first Tuesday in every Month, shall be, and