

may in all cases allege, before said magistrate, such excuse or excuses, as he may think sufficient to relieve him from the payment of the fine as aforesaid.

SEC. 24. *And be it enacted*, That whenever special meetings of the vestry shall be necessary, the rector shall call them, but if there be no rector, or if he shall be absent, or refuse or neglect to call a meeting, then any two of the vestry, agreeing so to do, may summon a special vestry. Rector to call special meetings.

SEC. 25. *And*, the better to secure the attendance of members of the vestry, *Be it enacted*, That no vestryman shall absent himself from any stated meeting, or from special or adjourned meeting, of which he was duly notified, without such excuse as the rest of the vestry will allow, under a penalty not less than two, or exceeding eight dollars. Penalty for not attending, &c.

SEC. 26. *And be it enacted*, That if any person elected a vestryman, agreeably to this act, shall, after convenient notice given him by the register of the parish, who is hereby required to give him such notice under the penalty of twenty dollars, refuse to serve as a vestryman, according to the provisions herein made, without alleging such an excuse as the residue of the vestry will allow, unless he shall have heretofore served two years, or been voted out at a former vestry election, or if any person elected a churchwarden, who has not before served in that office within the last three years, shall, after the same notice, refuse to serve as such, or having been qualified, shall retire from his office without the consent of the vestry, before the time for which he was elected shall have expired, unless he shall have been disqualified for remaining a churchwarden, the former shall forfeit twenty dollars, and the latter ten dollars. And for refusing to serve, &c.

SEC. 27. *And be it enacted*, That all fines and penalties by this act imposed shall be recoverable before any justice of the peace, and applied to the use of the parish in such manner as the vestry may direct. How fines are to be recovered, &c.

SEC. 28. *And be it enacted*, That the vestrymen of every parish in this state for the time being, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, one community, corporation and body politic, for ever, by the name of The Vestry of the parish to which they severally belong, and by the same name they, and their successors, shall and may have perpetual succession, and shall and may, at all times hereafter, be persons able and capable in law to purchase, take and hold, to them and their successors, in fee, or for any less estate or estates, any lands, tenements, hereditaments, rents or annuities, within this state, by the gift, bargain, sale or devise, of any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate, capable of making the same, and such lands, tenements or hereditaments, to rent or lease, in such a Vestrymen incorporated, &c.