

Earle, Nicholas Valliant, Ennalls Martin, Lambert Reardon, Thomas P. Smith, Samuel Groome, Robert Spencer, John Meredith, George Smith, William Clark, David Nice, William Barlow, James Wainwright, James Wilson, junior, John M. G. Emory, James Neal, Robert Moore, William Moore, John L. Kerr, Peter Denny, William K. Austin, Joseph Haskins and Thomas P. Bennett, be and they are hereby incorporated into a society, the chief object of which shall be to raise a constant fund by donation from the charitable, and from annual subscriptions, for the purpose of relieving such of the citizens of the town of Easton as may, by sickness, or other unavoidable circumstances, be reduced to indigence and distress, and for other laudable purposes.

2. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the aforementioned persons, and others that may hereafter become subscribers and contributors to the said society, and may be admitted into the same agreeably to such rules and by-laws as the said society, and their successors, shall hereafter establish and ordain, are hereby declared to be one community, corporation and body politic, for ever, by the name of The Charitable Society of Easton, and by the same name they, and their successors, shall and may have perpetual succession. and shall and may at all times be persons able and capable in law to purchase, take, have and enjoy, to them and their successors, in fee, or less estate or estates, any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, chattels, bank stock, registered debt or debts, public securities in this state, by the gift, bargain, sale or devise, of any person or persons, bodies politic or corporation, capable to make the same, and the same at their pleasure to alien, sell, transfer or lease, in such manner as they may judge most conducive to the benevolent and charitable uses of said society; *Provided nevertheless,* that the said corporation or body politic shall not at any time hold or possess real, personal, or mixed property, exceeding in total value the sum of twenty thousand dollars.

3. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the members of said corporation, and their successors, may meet together on the first Monday of May and November eighteen hundred and fourteen, and semi-annually thereafter, or as soon after as may be, and then and there elect the officers of said society, and form such rules, by-laws and regulations, as may be necessary for assuring and carrying into effect the benevolent purposes of this act; provided such rules and regulations shall not contravene or be repugnant to the constitution and laws of this state, or of the United States.

4. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said corporation, and their successors, by the name aforesaid, shall be for ever thereafter able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all or any court of justice, and before all or any judges, officers or persons whatsoever, in all and singular actions, matters or demands whatsoever; and that it shall and may be lawful for them, and their successors, for ever thereafter, to have and keep a common seal for their use, and the same at their will, and pleasure of them, and their successors, to change, alter, break and make anew, from time to time, as they shall think best; and shall in general have and exercise all such rights, franchises, privileges and immunities, as by law are incident and necessary to corporations of

Declared one community, corporation and body politic—Privileges

Proviso,

Election of officers—Rules, &c.

Rights, privileges and franchises