

powered to administer the same, and upon elections afterwards, either by a justice of peace as aforesaid, or the first vestryman, who is hereby likewise required and empowered to administer the same, and each person so elected, chosen and qualified, shall be and not before, deemed and taken as one of the vestry, to all intents and purposes.

C H A P.  
IX.

III. And be it enacted, That the first election for vestrymen shall be on the first Monday in June next, in each parish, by the persons entitled to vote as aforesaid, who shall repair to their respective parish churches for that purpose.

When the first election is to be held.

IV. And be it further enacted, That two vestrymen shall be annually chosen thereafter, in the room of two of the vestrymen, who shall be left out by ballot, unless rechosen with their own consent and agreement, to which purpose all the inhabitants of every parish, being entitled to vote as aforesaid, and contributing to the charges thereof, or such of them as shall attend, shall repair to their respective parish churches every Easter Monday, and there, by their free choice, make the election aforesaid; which vestrymen, thus elected, shall take the oaths and qualify themselves in manner and form aforesaid.

Two vestrymen to be annually chosen, &c.

V. And, for keeping a fair register of all such vestries proceedings, and for registering of all births, marriages and burials, in each respective parish, **Be it enacted**, That each vestry shall and is hereby obliged to provide a fit person for a register, who shall at all times keep a true and fair registry of the several proceedings of such vestry, from time to time, in executing their trust and authority, and making just and true entries thereof; which person, so to be appointed for keeping such registry, shall take and subscribe the oath to the government required by law as aforesaid, and take an oath of office, to be administered by any one of the vestrymen aforesaid, which oath any such vestryman is hereby empowered to administer accordingly, for the due and faithful executing his said office, before he shall be admitted into the said office, and shall make due entry of all vestry proceedings, and of all births, marriages and burials, (negroes and mulattoes excepted) that is to say, the christian and surname, with the day, month and year, of every such birth, marriage or burial, where the same shall be made known to such register, and desired to be recorded, under the penalty of three pounds currency, to be forfeited by such register refusing or neglecting to enter it, having received his fee for the same; and such register shall have the custody of all former parish registers, and is hereby obliged to shew any person or persons, reasonably desiring it, any such register, or give a certificate of any births, marriages or burials, that shall be reasonably required of him, and shall have for his fees from such person two shillings and six-pence for any search, and two shillings and six-pence for any copy or certificate given as aforesaid, and no more; which said certificates, under the hands of such register, shall be received in evidence in all courts of justice within this state.

Each vestry to provide a register, &c.

VI. And, for the preventing of delays and other inconveniencies which might happen, if there was a necessity for the attendance and presence of all the said vestrymen, and at the same time to prevent the doing of any thing of consequence by surprise by a small number of them; **Be it enacted**, That the first Monday in every month shall be and is hereby fixed and ascertained for holding a vestry, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, in the usual place for that purpose, without any notice or warning to be given thereof; at which time and place, or any other meeting on due notice, the major part of the vestrymen then present (so as such majority be not under the number of three persons) shall be esteemed a vestry, and shall have full power to order, direct and act, as a vestry, in all things by this act appointed to be done.

Day for holding a vestry, &c.

VII. And, that the register of each parish may be enabled to perform the charge hereby required of him, **Be it enacted**, That the vestries of the respective parishes shall provide good and substantial writing books, well bound, sufficient for registering such proceedings in, according to the directions aforesaid, under the penalty of ten pounds currency: And, that there may be no neglect in the ves-

Vestries to provide books, &c.