

immunities, as by law are incident and necessary to corporations of this kind, and which may be necessary to the corporation herein and hereby constituted and erected, to enable them duly and fully, in the law, to execute all things touching and concerning the design and intent of their said incorporation, for the benefit, succour and relief, of the widows of such clergymen in the orders and communion of the protestant episcopal church aforesaid, as may or shall become contributors to the funds of the said corporation, agreeable to such rules and bye-laws as may be established for the management and payment of annuities to the said widows, and for the education of their children, and settling them in some useful business or profession.

C H A P.  
LXXVIII.

C H A P. LXXIX.

An ACT respecting the commerce of this state, to prevent frauds in the customs, and to direct the duty of naval officers, and to regulate the conduct of masters and mariners of merchant vessels.

**W**HEREAS the laws respecting commerce, the duty of naval officers, the registering of ships and other vessels, and the exportation and importation of goods, wares and merchandise, into this state, do not in many instances apply to the circumstances thereof, since the establishment of its independence, and different and suitable provisions and regulations are requisite,

Preamble.

II. Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That no ship or other vessel shall be deemed belonging to this state, and entitled to any privileges as such, unless one half thereof, at least, is actually and *bonâ fide* the property of one or more citizen or citizens of this state, and registered agreeably to this act, such property to be proved by oath or affirmation of one or more credible witness or witnesses before a naval officer of this state, and a certificate thereof granted by such naval officer on the back of the register.

What vessels are deemed to belong to this state, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That every ship or vessel above forty feet keel, one sixth part whereof belongs to any citizen of this state, shall be registered in manner and form herein after directed.

Vessels above 40 feet keel to be registered.

IV. And be it enacted, That if any owner of any vessel of or under forty feet keel shall desire to have a register for such vessel, the same may be granted in like manner and form.

Registers may be granted for smaller vessels.

V. And be it enacted, That any naval officer of this state may and shall, upon application of any owner of any ship or vessel, one sixth part whereof is the property of a citizen of this state, grant a register for such ship or vessel in the following form, viz. " State of Maryland, to wit: I ——— naval officer of the ——— district, hereby certify all whom it may concern, that in pursuance of an act of the general assembly of this state, A. B. made oath (or affirmation) before me, that the ship or vessel called ——— whereof ——— is at present master, being a ——— sterned vessel, of ——— feet keel, and of the burthen of ——— tuns, was built at ——— in the year ——— and that the said ——— and ——— are at present actually and *bonâ fide* owners thereof, and that no subject of any state at war or enmity with this state, or the United States, or any of them, hath, directly or indirectly, any part, share, or interest therein, to the best of his knowledge and belief. Given under my hand and seal, this ——— day of ——— in the ——— year of the independence of this state, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ———." Which said register shall be signed and sealed by the governor of this state, and countersigned by the clerk of the council for the time being.

Form of a register, &c.

VI. And be it enacted, That the several naval officers shall make due entries of every register granted by them, and transmit true lists thereof to the governor and council for the time being, in the months of June and December annually.

Naval officers to make entries, &c.