

therein, and deeds executed or certificates issued to purchasers thereof, and it shall be considered desirable to dispose of said burial ground for other purposes, upon a bill being filed in any of the circuit courts of the State, in equity, in the city or county in which said burial ground is situated, setting forth the foregoing facts, and containing the names of the lot owners or their assignees so far as known, the court shall order notice by publication in one or more newspapers published in the county or city where such burial ground is situated, warning all the lot holders or other persons in interest, residents or non-residents, adults or infants, to appear in court on or before the day fixed in said notice, to show cause why the relief prayed for should not be granted; and said notice shall be such as the court may direct, not less, however, than once a week for four successive weeks two months before the day fixed by such order for the appearance of the parties; and upon a failure of appearance by any of said lot owners, or any party in interest by the time limited in said notice, the court may order testimony to be taken *ex parte*, according to the usual course in equity in cases of default for non-appearance; and upon testimony taken in the cause *ex parte*, or otherwise, if it is made to appear to the satisfaction of the court that it is expedient or would be to the interest and advantage of the parties concerned that the said burial ground should be sold, the court may forthwith pass a decree for the sale of said ground upon such terms and notice as it shall deem proper, and shall distribute the proceeds of sale among the parties interested according to their several interests, as the same shall be shown to the court; and before making said distribution the court may order and direct that so much and such part of said proceeds of sale, as shall be necessary for the purpose, shall be set aside and applied to the removal and burial of any dead that may lie in said burial ground, in the purchase of a lot in any cemetery, graveyard, or other appropriate place of sepulture, and in the expense of disinterment and re-interment of said dead; and any decree passed in a proceeding for a sale of a burial ground, as hereinbefore provided for, shall be valid to pass to the purchaser or purchasers of said burial ground the title of the same free, clear and discharged of, and from the claims of the corporation or trustees who may hold the same, their successors or assigns, and of all persons in interest as lot holders in such ground, whether they are entitled as original lot holders, and whether they be residents or non-residents, adults or infants.

Brendel v. Zion Church, 71 Md. 83.