

various church bodies or religious societies establish them, the ultimate result in far too many cases is, after the lapse of a generation or two, we have decaying, ill-kept and neglected sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, A short walk of inspection out of Baltimore City or in any of the towns or cities of the Counties, or along the county roads in nearly every direction discloses unsightly burial plots overgrown with weeds and brush, exhibiting broken bottles, overthrown grave-stones, tottering monuments and rutted driveways, and this, despite the fact that all sorts of money has been paid for what is called, by a legal phrase, "perpetual care"; and

WHEREAS, In answer to the question put to any competent legal authority the answer invariably received is that the words mean virtually nothing. There are no means of enforcing such care after a generation or two have passed, and we find as a result many burial spots left without care open to the incursions of heartless vandals; and

WHEREAS, Many cemeteries give way in the course of time to the encroachments of a rapidly growing city, streets will be laid out and paved and houses for the living will rise upon areas once held sacred by loving heirs as the resting place of generations that have gone before; and

WHEREAS, There are many men now living who have as boys seen coffins protruding with their ghastly remains out of the hillsides of a once beautiful cemetery on Jefferson Street in the City of Baltimore, a few blocks east of Broadway, where are now public streets and avenues and solid blocks of residences; while some of those boys have played with skulls that came from the ground close to Broadway itself, that is now occupied as the site of the great Johns Hopkins Hospital. These same sights have prevailed, as probably, many persons now living can attest, in all sections of the City of Baltimore as well as in every county of our State; and

WHEREAS, It is proper that respect for our ancestors should be encouraged in its laudable designs and that the asylums of the dead should be held sacred and not disturbed and be interfered with; and, therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That an unpaid commission of twelve citizens, as follows: