CHAP. 34.

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, United States stock, bank stock, registered debt, or other public securities within this state, by the gift, purchase or devise, of or from any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, 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 charitable uses of the said society; *Provided nevertheless*, that the said corporation or body politic shall not any time hold or possess property, real, personal or mixed, exceeding in total value the sum of fifty thousand dollars.

Proviso

Times of meeting officers

4. *And be it enacted*, That the members of the said corporation, and their successors, may meet together on the second Tuesday of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty, at some convenient place in the city of Baltimore, and on the same day for ever thereafter, and then and there elect the officers of the said society, form such rules and regulations, and enact such by-laws, as may be necessary for assuring and carrying into effect the benevolent purposes of this act; *Provided*, such rules, regulations and by-laws, be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, of the state of Maryland, or of the corporation of the city of Baltimore.

Proviso

Appointments heretofore made to continue, &c.

5. *And be it enacted*, That all appointments of officers for the said society, heretofore made by the members thereof in their private capacities, shall respectively continue and be in full force until the time specified by this act for the first election of officers of the said corporation.

Made capable to sue and be sued, &c

6. *And be it enacted*, That the said corporation, and their successors, by the name aforesaid, shall be for ever hereafter 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 courts of justice, and before all or any judges, officers or persons whatsoever, in all and singular actions, matters and demands whatsoever, and that all legal process that may be hereafter instituted by the said corporation shall be in the name of the president and acting committee of the Franklin Beneficial Society, and that all process that may be hereafter instituted against the said society shall be served on the president on behalf of the same.

Rights, privileges, &c

7. *And be it enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the said corporation, and their successors, for ever hereafter, to have a common seal for their use, and the same at their will and at the 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 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 corporation, for the benevolent succour, relief, and good order of its members, and the widows and orphans of deceased members of the said society, agreeably to the constitution and such rules and by-laws as may be established by the said society.