

to sell, alien, or transfer the same, unless thereunto authorized by a majority of the votes of the church, society or congregation, whereunto they respectively belong as a body politic or corporate; and in case any body politic or corporate, or their successors, or any of them, shall act contrary to the provisions herein expressed, then, and in every such case, such sales, gifts or grants, shall be null and void, and each and every member who shall have concurred in offending as aforesaid, shall be for ever thereafter incapable of executing the trusts created by this act; and the said church, society or congregation, to which the said trustees or body politic so offending did belong, shall and may proceed at their discretion to appoint and choose, as herein before directed, a sufficient number of persons qualified as aforesaid to act as trustees, or a body politic or corporate, for and on behalf of the said church, society or congregation.

And, whereas it has been represented to this general assembly, that certain property, real, personal and mixed, or the rents and profits thereof, have been heretofore applied to the use, support and maintenance, of the ministers of the Roman catholic religion, although the said property hath been held and possessed by certain individuals as the legal proprietors thereof, but under a confidential or implied trust, that the said property, and the rents and profits thereof, should be faithfully applied to the use, support or maintenance, of the ministers of the Roman catholic religion: And whereas, by the declaration of rights all gifts, sales or devices, for the support, use or benefit, of any minister or preacher of the gospel as such, or of any religious sect or denomination, without the leave of the legislature, are declared to be void: And, whereas it is highly reasonable and just to grant unto the ministers of the Roman catholic religion, who are citizens of this state, that legislative aid without which they will be destitute of that protection and security to their property to which they are entitled equally with every other sect or denomination of christians; *Be it enacted*, That every legal proprietor or possessor of any property, real, personal or mixed, held and possessed by him, on or before the fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, under a confidential trust, that the same, or the rents or profits thereof, should be applied to the use, support or maintenance, of the ministers of the Roman catholic religion, and every legal proprietor or possessor of any property, real, personal or mixed, acquired since the said fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, by exchange for property held under a confidential trust as aforesaid, before the said fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, or purchased with money or other valuable consideration held by such proprietor or possessor in confidential trust as aforesaid, or arising from the rents, issues and profits, of such property, acquired before the period aforesaid, may have full power and authority, at any time hereafter, to execute an instrument of writing, declaring the purposes for which the said property hath been or is held by him, or he may by deed or otherwise convey the same in trust to any one or more of the ministers of the Roman catholic religion, being citizens of this state, and exercising their ministerial functions agreeably to the established rules and discipline of their church, and to the regulations to be agreed upon at the first meeting for choosing trustees pursuant to the directions of this act, and for such pious purposes as the same hath been confidentially held by him, which said declaration or deed to be made, shall be signed by the party making the same in presence of two witnesses, acknowledged as aforesaid, and on the said declaration or deed shall be endorsed the affidavit of the party, that the property comprehended in such declaration or deed was really and bona fide held by him for pious purposes, or acquired as aforesaid in manner and for the purposes aforesaid, and the said affidavit shall be recorded with the said declaration or deed within six months after the execution thereof.

*And be it enacted*, That the said person or persons, and their successors, in whose favour the said declaration or deed shall be made, shall be vested with such estate in fee or lesser estate, according to the true intent and meaning of the said declaration or deed, and true intent of the party or parties making the same.

*And be it enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the ministers of the Roman catholic religion within this state, citizens thereof, and exercising their ministerial functions agreeably to their established rules and discipline, to choose at their discretion certain persons of their order, citizens of the state, not less than five, nor more than seven, to constitute a body politic or corporate; which said body politic or corporate may acquire and hold by deed or otherwise from any one of their own body, any property held in confidential trust before the fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, or acquired since that period by exchange or purchase from funds arising from such property held in confidential trust before the said fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, and which property shall be under their sole control and management, and the said ministers may do every thing by this act appointed for or required of any particular church, society or congregation, in electing, instituting and perpetuating, its respective corporation.

And, whereas by the declaration of rights it was among other things provided, that the churches, chapels, glebes, and all other property belonging to the church of England, now denominated the protestant episcopal church in this state, ought to remain to the said church for ever: And whereas certain laws or acts have been passed for the establishment of bodies politic, by the name of Select Vestries, for the preservation of the said property, and ap-

plying the same towards the support of ministers and readers, clerks and registers, of the said church; *Be it therefore enacted*, That the minister and vestry of every protestant episcopal church or congregation in this state, within their respective bounds or districts, heretofore called parishes, shall, as a body politic, upon the footing of equal liberty, without being obliged to any change of name, or any diminution of their former rights under the said vestry acts, be entitled unto, and have all and singular such other and farther rights, franchises, immunities and enlargement, or extension of their property and estates, as the minister, trustees and body politic, of any other church or congregation are entitled to, or can of right have, claim or enjoy, under this act.

*And be it further enacted*, That if heretofore there has been, or hereafter shall be, any failure or neglect to choose vestrymen according to law, on any Eastern Monday, or otherwise, to the injury of the vestry of any protestant episcopal church or congregation, it shall and may be lawful for the minister of such church or congregation, and in the absence or want of a minister, for any two of the former vestrymen, by advertisements put up at such church, to notify and call a meeting of the persons entitled to vote for vestrymen, on the first Monday of any month succeeding that on which Easter falls, in order to hold a new election for reviving and continuing such vestry according to law, and in the manner in which such election ought to have been held by law on the Easter Monday preceding.

And, whereas the particular churches, societies or congregations, for whose use and benefit the said trustees or bodies politic are intended to be incorporated by this act, may consist of male persons, considerably different in numbers; and it is reasonable and proper that the funds and revenues belonging to such churches, societies and congregations, should be established upon a scale as proportionate to their respective numbers as the circumstances of their situation will admit; *Be it enacted*, That where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation; shall amount to any number not exceeding twenty, it shall be lawful for the trustees, or bodies politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the use and advantage of their said church, society or congregation, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds current money, but not more; and where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, shall amount to any number more than twenty, and not exceeding forty, it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or body politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the uses and advantages aforesaid, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of four hundred and fifty pounds like money, but not more; and where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any church, society or congregation, shall amount to any number more than forty, and not exceeding fifty, it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or body politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the uses and advantages aforesaid, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of six hundred pounds like money, but not more; and where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, shall exceed the number of fifty, then it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or body politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the uses and advantages aforesaid, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of one thousand pounds current money, as herein before limited and appointed.

*And be it further enacted*, That the aforesaid several corporations, bodies politic, or trustees of the same, shall, on or before the first day of June, seventeen hundred and ninety, return a list and schedule, on oath or affirmation, of all property, real, personal and mixed, of every kind, by them respectively held, and the rents, issues, and profits thereof, to the clerk of the county court where the same shall lie, to be entered on record, in the book directed to be provided as aforesaid, and the amount of the same shall be deemed and considered as part of the fund allowed by this act for such society or corporation to acquire; and the said corporations, bodies politic or trustees, shall, at the end of every five years for ever thereafter, make return of such list or schedule, containing the clear yearly value or income of their property respectively, to be entered on record as aforesaid. Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that what is herein before enjoined and directed, shall not be extended to diminish or affect any fund where the same is held in common for the use of more than one minister of such society or congregation, unless the clear yearly value thereof, when divided among the said ministers, shall exceed the said sum of one thousand pounds current money for each respective minister.

*And be it enacted*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed, adjudged or taken, to abridge or affect the rights of conscience or private judgment, or in the least to alter or change the religious constitution or government of any church, congregation or society, so far as respects, or in anywise concerns doctrine, discipline or worship.

LONDON, October 13.

ADVICES are received in the city from the Straits, that the emperor of Morocco's cruizers have

taken every opportunity of having interviews with English bottoms, to manifest his disposition for peace, and in these interviews, they generally presented the captains of our merchant ships with fruits and vegetables.

S A L E M, December 16.

On the day of our late annual thanksgiving, a man in Middleton, took from a neighbour a hne fat sheep, and dressed it, that he might be enabled to join in the great religious festival. He was suspected, and challenged by the owner with the commission of the deed—which he confessed; and the injured party, considering it rather an unwarrantable liberty, proposed that the matter should be submitted to three reputable neighbours, who should judge the delinquent's punishment; this was agreed to—and it was determined, that he should stand at Mr. Easty's sign post; from sunrise till three o'clock in the afternoon, with a leg of the mutton in his hand, and inform every passenger of his crime—return the fleece to the owner, and cut fourteen cords of wood for him. But thinking the first part of the sentence too severe, it was commuted for his sitting one hour upon the sign post, which is nearly twenty feet high, with the leg of mutton as before; which was duly performed last Saturday week, and the performance of the labour will be strictly required. The sentence of this court of neighbours was highly applauded, and had a more salutary effect, perhaps, than whipping and imprisonment.

B O S T O N, December 15.

Yesterday arrived here the brig Agnes, captain Dennie, in 19 days from Martinique.—Captain Dennie informs, that two days before he left Martinique, the prohibition upon American flour was taken off for 3 months.

SPRINGFIELD, (Massachusetts) Dec. 17.

The public are hereby cautioned against taking in future, a certain kind of COB GOLD, which is now in circulation, but which has been refused by the banks of New-York and Boston, in consequence of its having been proved by the hydrostatic balance to be one third alloy. This valuable metal in its present impure state, is said to have been palmed on the public by a resident in Boston. These pieces, each of which weighs 17 pennyweights, may be easily distinguished from the true ones by their roughness, which is caused by the sand in which they are cast.

P R O V I D E N C E, December 13.

At a town meeting of the freemen of the town of Providence, legally assembled at the state house in said town, on the sixth day of December, 1788.

RESOLVED, That the deputies appointed to represent this town in the honourable general assembly of this state, be and they are hereby instructed to use their influence in the said general assembly, to be holden on the last Monday in December inst. that a state convention be held in this state as soon as may be, agreeably to the recommendation of the convention of the United States, passed on the 17th day of September, A. D. 1787, transmitted to the legislature of this state by a resolution of congress of the 28th day of the same September, for the purpose of considering and adopting the new constitution, and also of proposing such amendments as they may think necessary.

ORDERED, That the clerk furnish the said deputies with a copy of this resolution, as their instructions.

A true copy,

Witness, DANIEL COOKE, T. clerk.

Similar instructions, we hear, have been given by some other towns—but a large majority are for appointing delegates to attend the convention of revision, whenever and wherever it shall meet.

N E W - Y O R K, December 26.

A curious production has been submitted to the academy of sciences at Göttingen, entitled—*Decouverte interessante, Bureau Chirographique*, in which is the following description of the Bureau. It is about 15 inches in length, 12 in breadth and 4 in height. It is perfectly secret in all its parts, and no person can open it, who has not been first instructed in the means.

This mechanical invention has six different effects. I. A person may write his thoughts without the spectator being able to read the characters; the same thing may be done by blind men. Those who see may use it in the night time, with or without candles, and have no fear of committing an error in the writing. They may, at will, leave off where they began, and at the same time abandon it to the public curiosity without entertaining any apprehension that what they have written will be known. II. We may write the wrong way, so as to read what we have written by reflection. III. All characters may be imitated, the hand-writing formed after the best models, and plans and designs copied with the greatest exactness. IV. Music may be copied with perfect correctness and celerity. V. We may throw on paper our thoughts by night as well as by day; we may efface and change them at pleasure, and write with the greatest quickness a discourse rapidly pronounced. VI. This machine has still another effect, which the artist reserves for the knowledge of sovereigns and ministers, whenever the secret shall be necessary.

On Tuesday arrived the ship St. James, captain Collins, in 44 days from Cadiz; on her passage she spoke a vessel, who a few days before fell in with a Scotch brig from Gottenburgh, in Sweden, who informed him that the Danes had joined the Russians, and laid siege to Gottenburgh, with an army of 18,000 men; we also learn by the above vessel, that the Algerines had declared war against France, and seized all the French vessels in their ports. They also spoke three English men of war off Madeira, who were waiting to protect some Neapolitan ships from being made prize.