

An Act for the Confirming Titles of Land given to the use of the Churches and several Chappels within this Province, impowering the Commissioners of the respective Counties, and the Vestry's of the respective Parishes to take up certain parcels of Land for the use of the same.

Whereas several Pious and Well-disposed Persons have given and granted unto the respective Parishes whereto they do belong, certain Parcels of Ground for the use and benefit of a Church and Church-Yard, which said Land, through the neglect of the Vestries, who, by an Act of Assembly of this Province, made at a Sessions of Assembly held at the Port of Annapolis the 20th day of July, Anno Domini 1696. entituled, *An Act for the Service of Almighty God, and Establishment of the Protestant Religion*, were Capacitated and Impowered by the Names of the Principal Vestry-man, and the rest of his Brethren, Vestry-men of such Parish, to take and receive any Deed of Gift for the same, notwithstanding the Charges of the respective Parishes in building Churches or Chappels thereon, is like to be lost, or the Title thereunto very Disputable, for want of such Deed of Gift or Conveyance Enrolled and Recorded, as by an Act of Assembly is required, the first Donors or Grantors thereof being dead, and the Heirs of such Donors or Grantors either refusing to make over such Land, as aforesaid, or under Age, not capable of so doing.

Titles of Lands given to Churches confirmed.

Be it therefore Enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of her Majesty's Governour, Council and Assembly, of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That all such Lands as have formerly been given to the Use of any Church or Chappel, and for which the Donors or Grantors thereof, in their Life time, have not made a Deed of Gift for the same, or otherwise refuse so to do, and in Confidence of whose Promise the Parishes have been at the Charge of Erecting and Building their Churches thereon, be and remain to the use of the Parish forever, against all Claims and pretensions of Claims made, or that hereafter shall be made by such Donors or Grantors, or by his or their Heirs, Executors or Assigns, as firmly and absolutely as if the same had been made over by Deed of Gift, Grant, or otherwise Inrolled and Recorded, as aforesaid.

Grand Juries to enquire and inform the Courts.

AND to the End it may be known what Lands have been so given to the use of any Church or Chappel aforesaid, and made over and Confirm'd by Deed of Gift or Grant, as aforesaid, the Grand Jury in each respective County within this Province, next after the publication of this Act, shall have in charge to Enquire, By what Title such Lands whereupon the several Churches or Chappels aforesaid, within their respective Parishes, and in their Precincts, are held, and to render an account thereof to the Court, who are hereby impowered, where any such Lands shall appear to be given, and not confirmed, as aforesaid, in open Court to examine Witnesses *in Perpetuam rei Memoriam*, and the same cause to be Recorded in the County Records, which shall be deemed, adjudged and taken in all Courts of Record within this Province, as sufficient Proof of the Donation or Grant, as also of the quantity of Acres given or granted, as aforesaid. And in case it shall appear upon such Examination that Lands have been given for the use of any Church, Chappel or Church-Yard, as aforesaid, but the Quantity thereof not mentioned by the Donors or Grantors thereof, as aforesaid, that then

Who may examine in perpetual Memory concerning such Titles.

And ascertain the Quantity.

and