

their successors, in fee, or for any less estate or estates, any lands, tenements, hereditaments, rents or annuities, within this state, by the gift, bargain, sale or devise of any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate, capable of making the same, and such lands, tenements or hereditaments, to rent or lease, in such a manner as they may judge most conducive to the interests of their respective parishes, and also to take and receive any sum or sums of money, and any kind of goods and chattles, which may or shall be given, sold or bequeathed unto them, by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable to make a gift, sale or bequest thereof, and to apply the same for the use of their respective parishes as herein before directed; provided, that the clear yearly value of the estate of any vestry, (exclusive of the rents of pews, collections in churches, funeral charges, and the like,) shall not exceed two thousand dollars. Ibid. § 28.

28. No vestry shall sell, alien or transfer any of their estates or property belonging to their church or churches, without the consent of five at least of their body, (of which number the rector shall always be one,) together with the consent of both the churchwardens, and in case there be no rector in the parish, then it shall be necessary to obtain the consent of the bishop of the protestant episcopal church in this state for the time being, previous to any sale, alienation or transfer, of any of the estates or property aforesaid. Ibid. § 29.

29. No vestry shall apply any of the principal of the money arising from the sales of any of the estates or property aforesaid towards any debt or debts contracted with their minister on account of his official duties. Ibid. § 30.

30. Nothing herein before contained shall be construed to prevent the vestry of any parish from buying at any time a lot of land, not exceeding two acres, for a burial ground, or a site for a church or parsonage-house, or from selling or renting the pews of their churches or chapels, provided in so doing the said vestry shall not interfere with any existing right or title in any person to any pew or pews. Ibid. § 31.

31. The vestry of every parish, 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 other persons whatsoever, in all and singular actions, matters and demands whatsoever; and it shall and may be lawful for them, and their successors, for ever hereafter, to have a common seal for their use, and the same, at the will and pleasure of them, and their successors, to change, alter, break and make anew, from time to time, as they shall think best. Ibid. § 32.

32. It shall be lawful for the convention of the protestant episcopal church in this state to divide or unite parishes, as occasion may require, and to alter their bounds, and to constitute new parishes; and vestrymen and churchwardens of such new parishes shall be chosen as herein before provided, and shall have perpetual succession, and be incorporated, by the name of The Vestry of such new parish, and such vestry and churchwardens shall have all the powers hereby granted in this act to other vestrymen and churchwardens; provided always, that a majority of the members of the protestant episcopal church, qualified to vote for vestrymen, residing in any parish, or part or parts of a parish or parishes, proposed to be added to any new parish or Parishes, or to be constituted into a new parish, shall consent thereto. Ibid. § 33.

33. Immediately after the election of vestrymen on the next ensuing Easter Monday, as herein before directed, the act, entitled, An Act for the establishment of select vestries, and all the supplementary acts thereto, shall be and hereby are repealed Ibid. § 34.

WITNESSES.