

VI. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That as soon as three clergymen, ministers or priests, resident of Baltimore-town, and belonging to different religious sects, orders or denominations, as aforesaid, shall have signified their intention to undertake the trusts of the said incorporation, and the same be recorded as aforesaid, they are hereby vested with all its said powers, faculties and privileges, and directed and enjoined to inform the public that they are ready to receive donations, agreeably to the intention of the said corporation.

C H A P. LIV. Three vested with powers, &c.

VII. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That in case a sect, order or denomination, shall have two or more churches or houses of worship, with two or more officiating clergymen, pastors or priests, the eldest thereof shall be held and considered as the person entitled to be a member of their incorporation, and in case of his refusal, death or resignation, the next eldest; but no sect, order or denomination, shall be allowed or entitled to more than one member in the said corporation.

The eldest entitled, &c.

VIII. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That a majority of the members of the said corporation shall be and are hereby declared a quorum, and may meet together on the first Monday in December, every year, and at such other time or times, and upon such public notice given, as may be fixed and agreed upon, for the purposes of forming such rules and regulations as may be necessary for answering and carrying into effect the charitable purposes of this act.

A majority a quorum, &c.

IX. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the said corporation shall cause to be laid before the congregations of the respective clergymen, ministers, pastors or priests, constituting the said corporation, and before the special commissioners of Baltimore-town, an annual statement of the donations received, and the money expended, with the balance carried on from year to year.

Shall cause an annual statement, &c.

X. BE IT FURTHER 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 other persons whatsoever, in all and singular actions, matters and demands whatsoever; and that it shall and may be lawful for them, and their successors, for ever hereafter, to have a common seal for their use, and in their affairs and business, 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, 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 incorporation, for the benefit, succour and relief, of the poor, indigent and helpless.

And may be sued, &c.

XI. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That should any sect, or religious denomination, having a church or house of worship within the said town or precincts, be without a preacher, pastor, priest or minister, resident within the said town, or the precincts thereof, then and in that case the said sect, order or denomination, may choose from their own body a layman, who, upon complying with the provisions and regulations of this incorporation, entitling a minister, preacher or priest, to admission as members thereof, shall be held and considered as a member of this incorporation.

A layman may ad, &c.

C H A P. LV.

An ACT for securing certain estates and property for the support and uses of ministers of the Roman catholic religion. Lib. JG.

Passed 23d of Dec. 1792.

No. I. fol. 634.

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 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 ministers of the Roman catholic religion: And whereas by the declaration of rights, all gifts, sales or devises, 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 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;

Preamble:

E e e

II. Br