

XXII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the register of every parish shall have the custody of all registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, belonging to his parish, and he is hereby obliged, to shew any person or persons reasonably desiring it any such register, or give a certificate of the entry of any birth, marriage or burial, entered therein, which may be desired of him, and such certificate, under the hand of such register, and with the common seal of such vestry annexed thereto, shall be received in evidence in all courts of justice within this state; and for every search which may be required, he shall be entitled to twenty-five cents, and for every certificate as aforesaid, he shall be entitled to twenty-five cents, nor shall he be obliged to make a search, or give a certificate, until he shall have been paid the reward before allowed.

C. H. A. P.
XXIV.
Register to have custody of all baptisms, &c.

XXIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any vestry shall neglect or refuse to appoint a register for their parish, or to provide him with such good and substantial books as the execution of the duties herein committed to him may require, the individual vestrymen who shall vote against going into the appointment of a person to fill the office of a register, or shall refuse to vote on the question of said appointment, or against the provision of good substantial books as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five dollars each for every time he shall offend, or vote as aforesaid, the said fine to be recovered before a single magistrate; provided always, that the vestrymen, so offending, may in all cases allege, before said magistrate, such excuse or excuses as he may think sufficient to relieve him from the payment of the fine as aforesaid.

Penalty on vestry for neglect, &c.

XXIV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That whenever special meetings of the vestry shall be necessary, the rector shall call them, but if there be no rector, or if he shall be absent, or refuse or neglect to call a meeting, then any two of the vestry, agreeing so to do, may summon a special vestry.

Rector to call special meetings.

XXV. AND, the better to secure the attendance of members of the vestry, BE IT ENACTED, That no vestryman shall absent himself from any stated meeting, or from special or adjourned meeting, of which he was duly notified, without such excuse as the rest of the vestry will allow, under a penalty not less than two or exceeding eight dollars.

Penalty for not attending, &c.

XXVI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any person elected a vestryman, agreeably to this act, shall, after convenient notice given him by the register of the parish, who is hereby required to give him such notice under the penalty of twenty dollars, refuse to serve as a vestryman, according to the provisions herein made, without alleging such an excuse as the residue of the vestry will allow, unless he shall have heretofore served two years, or been voted out at a former vestry election, or if any person elected a churchwarden, who has not before served in that office within the last three years, shall, after the same notice, refuse to serve as such, or having been qualified, shall retire from his office without the consent of the vestry, before the time for which he was elected shall have expired, unless he shall have been disqualified for remaining a churchwarden, the former shall forfeit twenty dollars, and the latter ten dollars.

And for refusing to serve, &c.

XXVII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all fines and penalties by this act imposed shall be recoverable before any justice of the peace, and applied to the use of the parish in such manner as the vestry may direct.

How fines are to be recovered, &c.

XXVIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the vestrymen of every parish in this state for the time being, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, one community, corporation and body politic, for ever, by the name of The Vestry of the parish to which they severally belong, and by the same name they, and their successors, shall and may have perpetual succession, and shall and may, at all times hereafter, be persons able and capable in law to purchase, take and hold, to them and 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 chattels, 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.

Vestrymen incorporated, &c.

XXIX. AND