

C. H. A. P. XXIV.
No vestry to sell their estates, &c.

XXIX. AND BE IT ENACTED, That 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.

Or apply the principal, &c.

XXX. AND BE IT ENACTED, That 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.

Not to prevent the vestry from buying, &c.

XXXI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That 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.

Vestry may sue, &c.

XXXII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That 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 that 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.

Convention may divide parishes, &c.

XXXIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That 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.

Acts repealed.

XXXIV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That immediately after the election of vestrymen on the next ensuing Easter Monday, as herein before directed, the act, (a) entitled, An act for the establishment of select vestries, and all the supplementary acts thereto, shall be and hereby are repealed.

(a) March, 1779, ch. 9.

C H A P. XXV.

Passed 15th of Jan. 1799.

An ACT for the establishment of a new public road in Somerset county. Lib. JG. No. 3. fol. 58.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, by the petition of sundry inhabitants of Somerset county, that considerable inconvenience is experienced from the want of a new public road, to lead from the main road near Samuel Green's fence until it intersects the public road leading from Little creek towards the mouth of Rewastico, near the plantation of John Killum; therefore,

Commissioners appointed, &c.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That William Ruffum, James Weatherly, Horatio Stayton, Arthur Dashiell, junior, and William Betworth, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners, or any three or more of them are hereby authorized to lay out and open as aforesaid, at the expence of the subscribers to the said road, a public road, in the most convenient direction, not exceeding thirty feet wide, from or near Samuel Green's fence, in Somerset county, to a place near the plantation of John Killum; and the said road, when so laid out and completed at the expence of the said subscribers, and after the valuations herein after directed to be made, or the damages hereby directed to be assessed, shall be paid or secured to be paid to the individuals concerned, shall be recorded among the records of Somerset county court, and be thereafter deemed and taken to be a public road, and shall be kept in repair in the same manner as other public roads are directed to be kept in said county.

III. AND