

C H A P.
IX.Vestries, &c.
to chuse
churchwar-
dens, &c.

XII. And be it enacted, That the several vestries, together with such other of the inhabitants qualified as aforesaid, as shall think proper to attend, once every year on Easter Monday meet at their respective parish churches, and there make choice of two sober and discreet persons of their parishes, and residing therein, to be churchwardens for that year.

When church-
wardens are to
be chosen, &c.

XIII. And be it enacted, That the first choice of churchwardens shall be on the first Monday in June next, by the inhabitants of each parish qualified as aforesaid; which churchwardens, so chosen, shall take and subscribe the oath to the government required by law as aforesaid, and also take the following oath to be administered unto him by the vestry, to whom power is hereby given to administer the same accordingly, "well and faithfully to execute that office for the ensuing year, according to the best of his skill and power, and until he shall be thereof duly discharged." And every such person, so chosen churchwarden; that shall wilfully refuse to serve in the said office and take the oaths aforesaid, shall be fined ten pounds currency.

How fines, &c.
are to be ap-
plied.

XIV. And be it enacted, That all fines and penalties by this act imposed, shall be applied, one half to the use of the parish, the other half to the use of the informer, and when no informer, then the whole to be applied to the use of the parish.

Penalty on
vestrymen re-
fusing to at-
tend, &c.

XV. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall be chosen and elected a vestryman in any parish of this state, and being so chosen or elected, shall (after convenient notice thereof to him or them given by the register of the respective parish or parishes, where he or they shall be chosen and elected as aforesaid) refuse or neglect to repair to, and be present at, the next meeting of such vestry or vestries, and there qualify him or themselves as such vestryman or vestrymen, without a reasonable excuse, after such notice given to them as aforesaid, and notice of such meeting to be given to him or them by the said register, who is hereby directed and required to give such notice, under the penalty and forfeiture of ten pounds currency, that then every vestryman, so refusing or neglecting as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay twenty pounds currency.

In case of re-
fusal, &c. ves-
try to chuse
others, &c.

XVI. And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the vestry or vestries, and they are hereby empowered and directed, to proceed to the choice and election of some other person or persons to be vestryman or vestrymen, in the place or stead of such person or persons so chosen vestryman or vestrymen, and refusing or neglecting as aforesaid; and the former choice of such person or persons as vestryman or vestrymen, refusing or neglecting, shall be void and of no effect.

Proviso.

XVII. Provided always, That the power and authority by this present act given to the vestry or vestries, for the election of a vestryman or vestrymen, churchwarden or churchwardens, and the fines and penalties by this act imposed on the vestryman or vestrymen, register or registers, churchwarden or churchwardens, refusing or neglecting the office and duty required of them by this act, shall not be construed or understood to make any person or persons liable to such choice or penalties,