

And, whereas the particular churches, societies or congregations, for whose use and benefit the said trustees or bodies politic are intended to be incorporated by this act, may consist of male persons, considerably different in numbers; and it is reasonable and proper that the funds and revenues belonging to such churches, societies and congregations, should be established upon a scale as proportionate to their respective numbers as the circumstances of their situation will admit; Be it enacted, That where the male persons above twenty-one years of age, belonging to any such church, society or congregation, shall amount to any number not exceeding twenty, it shall be lawful for the trustees, or bodies politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the use and advantage of their said church, society or congregation, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds current money, but not more; and where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, shall amount to any number more than twenty, and not exceeding forty, it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or body politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the uses and advantages aforesaid, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of four hundred and fifty pounds like money, but not more; and where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any church, society or congregation, shall amount to any number more than forty, and not exceeding fifty, it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or body politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the uses and advantages aforesaid, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of six hundred pounds like money, but not more; and where the male persons above twenty-one years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, shall exceed the number of fifty, then it shall be lawful for the said trustees, or body politic or corporate, of such particular church, society or congregation, to hold and enjoy any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, for the uses and advantages aforesaid, whose clear yearly value or income shall amount to the sum of one thousand pounds current money, as herein before limited and appointed.

And be it further enacted, That the aforesaid several corporations, bodies politic, or trustees of the same, shall, on or before the first day of June, seventeen hundred and ninety, return a list and schedule, on oath or affirmation, of all property, real, personal and mixed, of every kind, by them respectively held, and the rents, issues, and profits thereof, to the clerk of the county court where the same shall lie, to be entered on record, in the book directed to be provided as aforesaid, and the amount of the same shall be deemed and considered as part of the fund allowed by this act for such society or corporation to acquire; and the said corporations, bodies politic or trustees, shall, at the end of every five years for ever thereafter, make return of such list or schedule, containing the clear yearly value or income of their property respectively, to be entered on record as aforesaid. Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that what is herein before enjoined and directed, shall not be extended to diminish or affect any fund where the same is held in common for the use of more than one minister of such society or congregation, unless the clear yearly value thereof, when divided among the said ministers, shall exceed the said sum of one thousand pounds current money for each respective minister.

And be it enacted, That nothing herein contained shall be construed, adjudged or taken, to abridge or affect the rights of conscience or private judgment, or in the least to alter or change the religious constitution or government of any church, congregation or society, so far as respects, or in anywise concerns, doctrine, discipline or worship.

The bill to dispose of the reserved lands westward of Fort Cumberland, in Washington county, and to fulfil the engagements made by this state to the officers and soldiers of the Maryland line in the service of the United States, and the bill to alter such parts of the constitution and form of government as prevent a citizen from taking a seat in the legislature, or being an elector of the senate, without taking an oath to the support of this government, were sent to the senate by Mr. Coulter.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, December 23, 1788.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Dorsey, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to cede to congress a district of ten miles square for the seat of the government of the United States; which was read the first and second time by especial order and passed.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate, with the bill to cede to congress a district of ten miles square, &c. and the resolution respecting the incorporating bill, by Mr. Dorsey.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 23, 1788.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

ANXIOUS to put an end to the present session, we propose to continue sitting this day until the business is finished, which we expect may be by four o'clock.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

William Perry, Esquire, from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the resolution in favour of Samuel Thomas and William Banckes, endorsed; "By the senate, December 22, 1788: Read and dissented to.

"By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

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