

Secretary's Office.

February, 1816.

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At the General Assembly of the State of
Rhode-Island and Providence Planta-
tions, begun and holden by adjournment,
at Providence, within and for said State,
on the third Monday of February, in the
year of our Lord One Thousand Eight
Hundred and Sixteen, and in the Fortieth
year of Independence.

P R E S E N T,

HIS EXCELLENCY

WILLIAM JONES, ESQ.

GOVERNOR.

THE HONOURABLE

SIMEON MARTIN, ESQ.

Lieutenant-Governor.

NICHOLAS BROWN, Esq.	}	<i>SENATORS.</i>
JAMES RHODES, Esq.		
GEORGE IRISH, Esq.		
ROBERT HARRIS, Esq.		
WILLIAM STEERE, Esq.		
SYLVESTER CHILD, Esq.		
NICHOLAS C. NORTHUP, Esq.		

THE SECRETARY.

sufficient quitclaim deeds of such parts of said estate as may be set off to the said Sarah and Abigail, in the partition to be made in manner as aforesaid.

J. Stetson, vs.
creditors.

UPON the petition of James Stetson, of Providence, praying, for the reasons therein stated, that the benefit of an act, passed in June, A. D. 1756, entitled, "An act for the relief of insolvent debtors," may be extended to him, *Voted and resolved*, That the prayer of said petition be and the same is hereby granted.



An ACT to incorporate certain persons by the name of the Minister, Church Wardens, Vestry and Parish of St. Paul's Church, at Pawtucket, in North-Providence.

Charter to St.
Paul's Church,
Pawtucket.

WHEREAS the persons herein after named have preferred their petition to this General Assembly, representing that they have formed themselves into a society, for the establishment and promotion of the worship of Almighty God, according to the discipline, rites, usages and ceremonies, of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and praying for an act of incorporation, to enable them with greater convenience to effect their aforesaid purposes, and to manage and secure the property and funds of which they are now, or may hereafter become possessed :

Section 1. *Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted*, That John L. Blake, Samuel Slater, Hezekiah Howe, David Wilkinson, Eliphalet Slack, Elijah Ingraham, Benjamin Hibbard, Samuel Greene, Richard Watterman, David Jenckes, Collins Darling, Eliza N. Davenport, Daniel M'Lean, Daniel Wilkinson, Nathaniel B. Dexter, Richard Pierce, Niles Manchester, Joseph Wheelock, Aretas Sweetland, William Holmes, Josiah B. Sylvester, Barney Merry, John B. Braid, Caleb Drown, and also such others as may hereafter be admitted as members, be and they and their successors forever, are hereby erected a body corporate and politic, with perpetual succession, by the name of *The Minister, Church Wardens, Vestry and Parish of St. Paul's Church, at Pawtucket in North-Providence*; and by that name shall be able and capable in law, to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, to answer and be answered unto, to defend and be defended against, in all Courts and places, and before all proper Judges whomsoever; to take, receive and hold, all monies and other property, real or personal, by voluntary subscription, contribution, donation or otherwise; also all legacies and devices of real and personal estate, and also to have, acquire, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy, land, tenements and hereditaments, goods and chattels, and property of every description, not exceeding in the whole the sum of thirty

thousand dollars; and all and singular the estate and property aforesaid; to lease, grant, convey or dispose of, in such manner as they may judge expedient, at their will and pleasure; to have and use a common seal, and the same to alter or renew at pleasure, and at any of their meetings to enact and establish such rules, regulations and by-laws, for the government of the corporation, and the management of the affairs thereof, as they may deem necessary and proper, provided the same be not repugnant to the laws of this State.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That all the funds and property now owned or possessed by the said society, composed of the said before-named persons, be and the same is hereby transferred to and vested in the corporation hereby erected, by the name aforesaid, in the same full, legal and ample manner, to all intents and purposes, as the same was owned or possessed by said society.

Sec. 3. And whereas said corporation may hereafter become possessed of land, and erect a Church thereon, *Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the Church which shall be so erected, shall be consecrated to the worship of Almighty God, by the name of St. Paul's Church, according to the form of consecration, set forth by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and shall forever thereafter be devoted and appropriated to the public worship of God, according to the canons, rites, ceremonies, usages and liturgy of the Protestant Episcopal Church as aforesaid.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That there shall be an annual meeting of said corporation, on Easter Monday, yearly and every year, at which meeting there shall, and at any other legal meeting there may be, if vacancies should happen, elected two Church Wardens, twelve Vestry men, a Secretary, who shall also be Clerk of the Vestry, and such other officers as may be judged necessary; and that legal meetings of said corporation may be called at any time, by the Minister of the said St. Paul's Church, by either of the Church Wardens, by any five Vestry men, or any nine members of said corporation; and at any of the meetings aforesaid, any of the affairs and business of said corporation may be attended to, transacted and performed. And although the said corporation should not, from any cause or circumstance whatever, hold their annual meeting on Easter Monday yearly, and every year hereafter, yet this act nevertheless shall continue, and be in full force, and officers may be elected, and the affairs and business of said corporation may be transacted and performed, at any subsequent meeting which may or shall be called, in either of the modes herein before stated.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the Church Wardens and Vestry men, elected by said corpora-

tion, shall, for the time being, have the entire and sole controul, management and disposition, of all the property and funds of said corporation, in trust, nevertheless, and for the use of said corporation, for the sole support and promotion of the public worship of God, as expressed in the third section of this act, and for the providing sacred music, and defraying incidental expenses of public worship as aforesaid: That the said Church Wardens and Vestry men, shall on Easter Monday annually, or oftener if it should become necessary for the security of the property and funds aforesaid, elect a Treasurer of said corporation, who shall keep fair and accurate accounts of the property and funds aforesaid, and of the management and disposition of the same, and shall, at every annual meeting, make a written statement and report of the same to said corporation, and shall, when required by a vote of said corporation, or by a vote of said Church Wardens and Vestry men, make further statements and reports of the same, and shall produce the books containing the accounts and statements of the property and funds aforesaid, and the use, management and disposition of the same, which shall be open to their inspection and examination. And the Treasurer, previous to entering on the duties of his office, shall annually give satisfactory bonds to said Church Wardens, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his said office.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That whenever there shall be a vacancy in the Ministerial office, the Church Wardens for the time being, shall cause such vacancy to be filled, and the Minister by them elected shall, as soon as may be, be instituted Rector, according to the office set forth for that purpose by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church as aforesaid.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the Minister, by the said Church Wardens elected as aforesaid, shall be a member of said corporation, ex officio, and Moderator thereof, and of all meetings of said Church Wardens and Vestry men, and in his absence, one of the Church Wardens, or the senior Vestry man present, shall be Moderator. And in all meetings of said Church Wardens and Vestry men, five members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum, and each member shall be entitled to one vote, excepting the Moderator, who shall only be entitled to give the casting vote.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That any person who shall subscribe for a pew, in the Church hereafter to be erected, shall be a member of said corporation; and after the building of said Church is completed, any person who shall become the owner of a pew therein, shall be a member of said corporation: *Provided however,* That a majority of votes, at a regular meeting, shall be necessary to admit any such person a member of said corporation.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That in all meetings of said corporation, seven members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum; that each member who owns one pew, shall be entitled to one vote; each member who owns two pews, shall be entitled to two votes; each member who owns three pews, shall be entitled to three votes; and each member who owns more than three pews, shall be entitled to three votes for the three first, and one vote for each two additional pews; and a majority of votes, thus given, shall determine all questions.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That all donations made to said corporation, shall strictly be used and applied, according to the directions of the donors, and that all deeds and conveyances made by said corporation, shall be made by the Treasurer thereof, for the time being, to which said deeds and conveyances, the seal of said corporation shall be affixed.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the Rev. John L. Blake, the Minister of St. Paul's Church, be Moderator of this corporation, and of all meetings of the Church Wardens and Vestry men as aforesaid; that Samuel Slater and Hezekiah Howe be Church Wardens: that David Wilkinson, Eliphalet Slack, Richard Waterman, Elijah Ingraham, Samuel Greene, David Jenks, Barney Merry, Arnold Jenks, Daniel Wilkinson and Benjamin Hibbard, be Vestry men, and that Collins Darling be Secretary of said corporation, to hold their offices until Easter Monday next, and until other persons shall be elected to said offices, at a legal meeting of said corporation.



UPON the petition of John Esten, guardian of the person and estate of Ballou Buffum, of Smithfield, a minor within the age of twenty-one years, praying, for the reasons therein stated, that the petitioner in his said capacity, may be authorized to sell and dispose of the said minor's interest in and to a small lot of land, situated in said Smithfield, with the buildings thereon, which descended to him from his sister, Sebra Buffum, late of said Smithfield, deceased, *Voted and Resolved*, That said petition be and the same is hereby granted, and that the petitioner be and he hereby is authorized and empowered, to sell and convey the minor's interest in said estate, and to execute good and sufficient deeds thereof, and that the same be done under the advice and direction of the Court of Probate for the town of Smithfield; provided the said guardian give bond, with sureties, to the satisfaction of said Court of Probate, to account with said minor for the proceeds of said sale, when he shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years.

*J. Esten sale read
estate.*

UPON the petition of Moses Brownell, of Providence, in the county of Providence, trader, praying, for reasons therein stated, that the benefit of an act, passed in June, 1756, entitled, "An act for the relief of insolvent debtors," may be extended

*M. Brownell, vs
creditors.*