

Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the marriage contract entered into by and between John Erb and Catharine his wife, late Catharine Blaser, both of the county of Adams, be, and the same is hereby annulled and made void, and the parties released and discharged from the said contract, and from all the legal duties and obligations arising therefrom, as fully, effectually and absolutely as if they had never been joined in marriage.

JOHN GILMORE, *Speaker*
of the *House of Representatives*.

WILLIAM MARKS, Junior,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—February the eighth, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one.

JOSEPH HIESTER.

CHAPTER XXV.

AN ACT

To incorporate and endow the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

WHEREAS a number of citizens desirous to reclaim the deaf and dumb, of whom there are many in this commonwealth, to the rank of their species, and render them useful members of society, have associated for these benevolent purposes, and have opened and supported by their voluntary contributions an asylum and school in the city of Philadelphia, where the children of the rich for a moderate compensation, and of the poor gratuitously, laboring under the privation of the faculty of speech are maintained and educated. And whereas the persons so associated, have prayed to be incorporated and to receive from the legislature such pecuniary aid, as with the fund already raised and the further donations that may be expected from the charitable, will be sufficient to continue and enlarge an institution so salutary to the afflicted, so beneficial to the community, and so honorable to the state.

SECT. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the members of "The Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb," and all who according to the con-*

stitution and by-laws shall become members thereof, be, and Members in- they are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate corporated. by the said name and style, to have perpetual succession, and be capable to take, hold and enjoy lands, tenements and here- Their pow- ditaments, to use a common seal, and to break, alter or renew ers. the same at pleasure: *Provided*, That the clear yearly value of the real and personal estate by them held, shall not ex- Proviso. ceed thirty thousand dollars.

SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority afore- said*, That the fundamental laws and constitution by which Fundamental laws, &c. the said institution shall be governed, shall be as follows:

Constitution and fundamental laws of "The Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb."

Article. I. The institution shall be located in Philadelphia, and supported by the annual and life subscriptions of its mem- How suppor- bers, by the donations and legacies of the charitable, by such ted. aid as the legislature may be pleased to afford, and by the money to be received for the education of children whose pa- rents, guardians or friends are of ability to pay.

Art. II. The officers of the institution shall be a president, Officers. four vice presidents, a treasurer and recording secretary, they shall be ex-officio members of the board of directors, and their duties shall be such as are implied in their titles, or shall be prescribed by the by-laws; and said officers shall not receive any fee or compensation for their services, in per- forming their several duties either directly or indirectly, ex- cepting the treasurer and secretary.

Art. III. There shall be a board of twenty-four directors, Board of di- members of the institution, who shall annually at the meet- rectors. ing next succeeding their election, appoint one of their number to act as corresponding secretary, their duties shall be such as shall be defined by the by-laws; there shall also be a committee of twelve ladies, selected annually by the board of directors at their first meeting, to aid in the management of the asylum, under such provisions as may from time to time be prescribed by the by-laws.

Art. IV. Any person shall be entitled to become a mem- Admission of ber by paying annually, or in gross, the sum which shall members. be required by the by-laws for an annual or life subscription.

Art. V. The members of the institution shall meet annual- Election of ly on the first Wednesday in May, in the city of Philadel- officers. phia, (at such hour as the directors may prescribe,) for the election of officers and directors, and the transaction of other business, and to receive the annual report of the direc- tors. Adjourned and special meetings may be held as shall be provided by the by-laws.

Art. VI. The right of membership may be relinquished, Member ship and the resignation addressed in writing to the board of di- how relin- rectors shall be accepted by them: *Provided*. The member quish'd.

shall have discharged all demands due by him or her to the institution.

Funds at the disposal of the board of directors.

Art. VII. The funds of the institution shall be at the disposal and under the management of the board of directors, subject however, so far as relates to that part derived from the life subscriptions, to such restrictions as may be imposed by the by-laws, and subject also to such restrictions as may accompany the grant of aid by the legislature; and it shall be the duty of the directors for the time being, to present to the Speaker of the Senate and of the House of Representatives respectively, in the month of December annually, a statement of the funds and expenses of the institution, and of the number of children received and educated therein during the year immediately preceding, and of the parts of the state whence they have come, distinguishing ~~between~~ those who have been supported and educated gratuitously, and ~~others~~.

Statement, &c. to be made annually to the legislature.

Indigent children to be maintained gratuitously.

Art. VIII. Indigent children resident any where within the state shall be received into the school and asylum, maintained and educated gratuitously, so far as the funds of the institution will admit: *Provided*, That where more children shall be offered for the benefit of this institution than can be received at any one time, the president and directors shall so apportion their number among the several counties of this commonwealth according to their representation, (when application shall be made,) that every county may equally receive the benefits of the same.

Proviso.

When the number of officers and directors may be increased or diminished.

Art. IX. The number of officers and directors may be increased or diminished, as convenience shall require, at any annual meeting of the members of the institution, notice of the intended alteration being previously given, and twenty members being a majority of the members present consenting; and any general meeting shall be competent to make, alter or repeal by-laws, rules and regulations, twenty-one members being present at the same.

If an election be not held at the time appointed, corporation not to be dissolved.

SECT. 3. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if an election of the officers of the institution be not held at the time herein appointed, the corporation shall not for that cause be dissolved; but an election shall be held as soon after as may be, public notice thereof being given, and until such election the officers in place shall continue to act, and the officers now elected, viz. The Right Reverend William White, D. D. President. Vice Presidents, Robert Patterson, Horace Binney, Roberts Vaux. Dr. N. Chapman. Secretary, Henry J. Williams. Treasurer, John Bacon. Directors, William Meredith, Paul Beck, junior, Samuel B. Morris, John Vaughan, Robert Walsh, junior, William W. Fisher, Clement C. Biddle, Alexander Henry, Benjamin Tilghman, Jacob Gratz, Philip F. Mayer. Caleb Cresson. James N. Barker, Dr. William Price, William McIlvaine. Thomas Cadwallader, Callender, Irvine, Joseph Gratz, Wil-

Present officers to continue until others are appointed.

liam J. Duane, Reuben Haines, Samuel Canby, junior, Samuel Archer, Dr. Franklin Bache, Samuel R. Wood, shall hold and exercise their respective offices until the election in May next, and until others are appointed.

SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That in order to aid the funds of the said asylum, the Governor is hereby authorised and required to draw his warrant on the State Treasurer, in favor of the president of said institution, for the sum of eight thousand dollars immediately, and moreover shall draw his warrant on the State Treasurer in favor of the said president, for the further sum of one hundred and sixty dollars for every indigent pupil taught in said school, one half to be paid at the expiration of the term of six months, and the remainder at the end of the year: *And \$160 for each indigent pupil.* *Provided,* That no one scholar shall be taught at the expense of the commonwealth more than three years: *And provided also,* That the sum so to be drawn from the treasury for such tuition, shall in no one year exceed the sum of eight thousand dollars. *Proviso.* *2d Proviso.*

SECT. 5. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the fourth section of this act, so far as relates to the annuity from the commonwealth, shall be and continue in force for the term of four years from and after the first day of April next, and no longer. *Annuity to continue for four years.*

JOHN GILMORE, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

WILLIAM MARKS, Junior,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—February the eighth, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one.

JOSEPH HIESTER.

CHAPTER XXVI.

AN ACT

To authorise the Governor to contract with John Bioren for printing the sixth volume of the laws of this commonwealth.

SECT. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the Governor be, and he is hereby authorised and