

vided, That no person shall have any share or part of any estate which shall be escheated by attainder for discovering the same to the president or vice-president in council, unless the president or vice-president in council by proclamation think fit to offer [a reward] for such discovery, which reward shall not exceed one-half of the moneys arising from the same after all charges and costs be deducted nor unless the person discovering the same procure the necessary evidence to substantiate the title of the commonwealth thereto, and prosecute the right of the commonwealth to the same with effect.

[Section XIII.] (Section XVIII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the escheator-general or his deputies shall at all reasonable times have access to the public papers in the land office and other public records free from any cost, charge or fee.

Passed September 29, 1787. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 294, etc.
See the Act of Assembly passed February 23, 1791, Chapter 1528.

CHAPTER MCCCXVII.

AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING THE GERMAN REFORMED CONGREGATION OF FRANKFORD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas the congregation of the German Reformed church of Frankford in the township of Oxford and county of Philadelphia have prayed that their said congregation may be incorporated and by law enabled as a body corporate and politic to receive and hold such charitable donations and bequests as have been or that hereafter may be made to their said society and vested with such powers and privileges as are enjoyed by other religious societies, who are incorporated within this state:

And whereas this house is disposed to exercise the powers vested in the legislature of this commonwealth for the encouragement of pious and charitable purposes:

Therefore:

[Section I.] (Section II. P. L.) Be it enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met and by the authority of the same, That Philip Paule, the present minister of the said congregation, Rudolph Neff, Jacob Neff, George Castor, senior, and Frederick Castor, the present trustees, Jacob Meyers, Rudolph Mower, Jacob Sibley and Joseph Dearman, the present elders, John Rohrer, Adam Baker, George Rohrer and Jacob Castor, the present deacons, and their successors duly elected and appointed in such manner as hereinafter is directed, be and they are hereby declared to be made and constituted a corporation and body politic and corporate in law and in fact to have continuance forever by the name, style and title of "The Minister, Trustees, Elders and Deacons of the German Reformed Congregation of Frankford in the township of Oxford and county of Philadelphia."

[Section II.] (Section III. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said minister, trustees, elders and deacons and their successors by the name, style and title aforesaid shall forever hereafter be persons able and capable in law as well to take, receive and hold all and all manner of lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchises and other hereditaments which at any time or times heretofore have been granted, bargained, sold, enfeoffed, released, devised or otherwise conveyed to the said congregation and church of the township and county aforesaid now under the pastoral care of the aforesaid Reverend Philip Paule, or to any other person or persons to their use or in trust for them, and the same lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises and other hereditaments are hereby vested and established in the said minister, trustees, elders and deacons and their successors forever, according to the original use and intent for which such devises, gifts and grants were respectively made, and the said corporation and their successors are hereby declared to be seized and possessed of such estate and estates therein as in and by the respective grants, bargains, sales, enfeoffments, releases, devises or other conveyances thereof is or are declared, limited or

expressed, and also that the said corporation at all times here, after shall be able and capable to purchase, have, receive, take, hold and enjoy in fee simple or less estate or estates any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises and other hereditaments by the gift, grant, bargain, sale, alienation, enfeoffment, release, confirmation or devise of any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate capable and able to make the same and further that the said corporation and their successors may take and receive any sum or sums of money and any portion of goods and chattels that have been or hereafter shall be given or bequeathed to them or to the said church by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate able and capable to make a gift or bequest thereof, such money, goods or chattels to be laid out and disposed of for the use and benefit of the said congregation agreeably to the intention of the donor.

[Section III.] (Section IV. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no misnomer of the said minister, trustees, elders and deacons and their successors shall defeat or annul any gift, grant, devise or bequest to or from the said corporation, provided the intent of the party or parties shall sufficiently appear upon the face of the gift, grant, will or other writing whereby any estate or interest was intended to pass to or from the said corporation, nor shall any disuser or nonuser of the rights, liberties and privileges, jurisdictions and authorities hereby granted to the said corporation and their successors or any of them, create or cause a forfeiture thereof.

[Section IV.] (Section V. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the rents, interests and profits of the said real and personal estate of the said church and corporation shall by the said minister, trustees, elders and deacons and their successors from time to time be applied and laid out for the maintenance and support of the gospel ministry in the said congregation, for repairing and maintaining their church or place of public worship, lots of land, burial ground, parsonage house or other houses and buildings which now do or hereafter shall belong to the said church and corporation, and such pious and charitable uses as shall be thought proper by the

said minister, trustees, elders and deacons and their successors or by a quorum of them.

[Section V.] (Section VI. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said minister, trustees, elders and deacons and their successors shall not by deed or any otherwise grant, alien, convey or otherwise dispose of any part or parcel of the estate, real or personal in the said corporation vested or to be vested nor charge nor encumber the same, to any person or persons whatsoever except by and with the consent of two-thirds of the regular members of the said congregation. Provided always, That no deed or other conveyance made by the said corporation bona fide and for a valuable consideration for any part of the real estate of the said church and congregation in case the possession thereof pass immediately to the purchaser or purchasers and continue in him, her or them, his, her or their heirs or assigns, shall be called in question for want of the consent of the majority of the regular members of the said congregation unless the same be questioned within seven years from and after the sale and delivery of possession of such real estate to the purchaser or purchasers thereof.

[Section VI.] (Section VII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall have full power and authority to make, have and use one common seal with such device and inscription as they shall think proper and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure.

[Section VII.] (Section VIII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said ministers, trustees, elders and deacons and their successors by the name of "The Minister, Trustees, Elders and Deacons of the German Reformed Congregation of Frankford in the township of Oxford and county of Philadelphia," shall be able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any court or before any judge or justice, in all and all manner of suits, pleas, complaints, matters and demands of whatever kind, nature or form they may be and all and every matter and thing therein to do in as full and effectual a manner as any other person, bodies politic or corporate within this commonwealth may or can do.

[Section VIII.] (Section IX. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall at all times forever hereafter consist of the minister of the said congregation duly chosen from time to time, and of four trustees, four elders and four deacons and that the above mentioned trustees, elders and deacons shall be and continue members of the said corporation until they be removed in manner following, that is to say, one-fourth part in number of the trustees, elders and deacons [aforesaid] shall be and continue members of the said corporation until they be removed in manner following, that is to say, one-fourth part in number of the trustees, elders and deacons aforesaid being the fourth part first herein named shall cease, discontinue and their appointment determine on the first Monday in the month of January which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, upon which day a new election shall be had and held of so many others in their place and stead by a majority of the members of the corporation and congregation met and qualified to vote and elect, according to the true intent and meaning of this act and that such election shall be held in such manner and at such place as the said corporation and their successors shall from time to time direct and appoint; and on the first Monday in the month of January, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine the second fourth part in number of the said trustees, elders and deacons shall in like manner cease, discontinue and their appointments determine and a new election to be had and held in like manner of an equal number in their place and stead, and on the first Monday in the month of January which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety the said fourth part in number of the said trustees, elders and deacons shall cease, discontinue and their appointment determine and a new election to be had and held in like manner of an equal number in their place and stead, and on the first Monday in the month of January which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, the last fourth part in number of the said trustees, elders and deacons shall discontinue and their appointment determine and a new

election to be had and held in like manner of any equal number in their place and stead, and that in the same manner and by the like mode of rotation one-third part in number of the trustees, elders and deacons shall cease, discontinue and their appointment determine and a new election of the said [third] part be had and held in manner aforesaid on the first Monday in the month of January in every year forever thereafter so that no person or persons shall continue a trustee, elder or deacon for any longer time than four years without being re-elected, but that the electors qualified to vote as aforesaid shall and may be at liberty to re-elect the same trustees, elders [and] deacons or any one or more of them whose times shall expire on the day of the said annual election whenever and so often as they shall think fit: Provided always, nevertheless, That whenever any circumstance or occurrence or circumstances shall happen to prevent the holding an election at the periods aforementioned for trustees, elders and deacons in stead and place of those whose appointment shall have ceased and determined, an election shall be held as soon as conveniently can be done in the manner before directed, and that the remaining members of the said corporation have power to call a meeting of the electors of the said congregation for that purpose.

[Section IX.] (Section X. P. L.) And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whenever any vacancy shall happen by death, refusal to serve or removal from office of any one or more of the said trustees, elders or deacons, the said corporation shall have full power at their discretion to appoint the time and place for electing others in their stead, and that the person or persons so elected shall be, remain and continue in office so long as the person or persons in whose place or stead he or they shall have been so elected would or might have continued, but before any of the aforesaid elections is held, public notice shall be given to the congregation on the preceeding Sunday after divine service and before the congregation is dismissed or in any other convenient manner as the said congregation and their successors shall think fit.

Section X. (Section XI. P. L.) And be it futher enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no person or persons shall be en-

titled to vote at elections who is not a regular member of the said congregation and that no person or persons shall or may be eligible as a member of the said corporation who is not a regular member of the said congregation qualified to vote as aforesaid, excepting the minister, who may from time to time be chosen or elected by a majority of the trustees, elders and deacons and regular members of the said congregation to officiate in the said congregation.

[Section XI.] (Section XII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the members of the said corporation shall and may elect by vote or ballot from among their own number a president, who is to continue in said office for one year and that then another may be elected or the former re-elected, and that in the absence of the president any other member of the said corporation may be elected president during the absence of the president, and that they may elect by vote or ballot a treasurer and secretary, and may remove them at their pleasure, that the minister or president for the time being or any three members of the said corporation when and so often as he or they shall deem it necessary or shall be requested so to do by any six regular members of the said congregation that the said corporation and their successors or a majority of seven in number of them met and convened upon due notice given either in the church on the preceding Sunday after divine service and before the congregation is dismissed or in any other convenient manner (which seven shall be a quorum) shall be authorized and empowered [and they are hereby authorized and empowered] to make by-laws, rules and ordinances, and to do everything needful for the support and government of the said congregation: Provided always, That the said by-laws, rules and ordinances or any of them be not repugnant to the laws of this commonwealth, and also that all their by-laws and proceedings be fairly and regularly entered in the books of record of the said congregation.

[Section XII.] (Section XIII. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the clear yearly value, interest and income of the lands, tenements, rents, annuities or other hereditaments and real estate of the said corporation

shall not exceed the sum of five hundred pounds gold or silver money of the present value thereof within this commonwealth exclusive of the money arising from the letting of the pews of said church or for opening the grounds for burial in the church yard belonging to the said congregation, and also exclusive of the voluntary contributions of the members for the support of the ministers duly officiating in the said congregation and also exclusive of other free contributions belonging to the aforesaid congregation, which said money shall be received by the said corporation and disposed of by them for the purposes hereinbefore described and directed.

Passed September 29, 1787. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 263, etc.

CHAPTER MCCCXVIII.

AN ACT FOR REGULATING CHIMNEY SWEEPERS WITHIN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, THE DISTRICT OF SOUTHWARK AND TOWNSHIP OF THE NORTHERN LIBERTIES IN THE COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas the houses and estates of the inhabitants of the city of Philadelphia and of the district of Southwark, and the township of the Northern Liberties in the county of Philadelphia are frequently endangered by chimneys taking fire and blazing out at the top, and it is necessary that such abuses should be [remedied] by law and a proper regulation made among those who undertake the sweeping of chimneys.

[Section I.] (Section II. P. L.) Be it therefore enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met and by the authority of the same, That no person or persons from and after the passing of this act shall follow the business or occupation of a chimney sweeper either by himself, his servants, negroes and others within the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark or the township of the Northern Liberties aforesaid, without first having made application to the officer