

CHAPTER MCCCLIII.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE MEMBERS OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF ROMAN CATHOLICS BELONGING TO THE CONGREGATION OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the members of the religious society of Roman Catholics inhabiting the city and vicinity of Philadelphia and belonging to the congregation worshipping at the church of Saint Mary in Fourth street between Spruce and Walnut streets in the said city have requested this house to pass a law to incorporate them and to enable them to manage the temporalities of their church as other religious societies within this state have been enabled to do, and it is reasonable to grant their request:

[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 the members of the religious society of Roman Catholics inhabiting the city and vicinity of Philadelphia and belonging to the congregation worshipping at the church of Saint Mary aforesaid are and from and immediately after the passing this act shall be and they are hereby erected into and declared to be one body politic and corporate in deed and in law by the name, style and title of "The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Society worshipping at the church of Saint Mary in the City of Philadelphia," and that they the said trustees by the name aforesaid and their successors to be elected as hereinafter mentioned shall have perpetual succession and shall be able and capable in law to purchase, take, have, hold, receive and enjoy to them and their successors in fee simple or for any lesser estate any lands, tenements, rents, hereditaments or real estate, whose yearly value in the whole shall not exceed the sum of five hundred pounds, by grant, gift, bargain and sale, will, devise or otherwise, and

also to purchase, take, hold, possess and enjoy any moneys, goods and chattels or personal estate whatsoever by gift, grant, will, legacy or bequest and the same lands, tenements, rents, hereditaments and real and personal estate (excepting always the said church called Saint Mary's, and the lot of ground grave yard and appurtenances thereto belonging or therewith now used and occupied containing in breadth on Fourth and Fifth Streets, sixty-three feet and in depth three hundred and ninety-six feet) to give, grant, demise or otherwise dispose of as to them shall seem meet, for the use of the said religious society, and also that the said trustees by the name aforesaid shall be able and capable in law to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in any suits or actions and in all or any courts or jurisdictions whatsoever, and that it shall and may be lawful for the said trustees by the name aforesaid to devise, make, have and use one common seal to authenticate all and every the acts deeds and instruments touching their business and the same at pleasure to break, alter and renew, and generally that the said trustees by the name aforesaid, shall have, hold and enjoy, all and singular the rights, privileges, liberties and franchises incident and belonging to a private or religious corporation or body politic as fully and effectually as any other private or religious corporation or body politic within this state has right to have, hold and enjoy the same.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the first trustees of the said corporation shall be and consist of the following persons, viz: the Reverend Robert Molyneaux, the Reverend Francis Beeston, the Reverend Lawrence Graesal, the present pastors of the said church, and George Meade, Thomas Fitzsimons, James Byrne, Paul Esling, John Cottringer, Joseph Eck, Mark Wilcox and John Carrol, members of the congregation worshipping in the said church, and the future trustees of the said corporation shall be and consist of the pastors of the said church for the time being, duly appointed, not exceeding three

in number, and of eight lay members of the congregation worshipping in the said church, to be appointed and elected in the manner hereinafter mentioned.

[Section III.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every the members of the said congregation (holding a pew or part of a pew in the said church and paying for the same not less than fifteen shillings by the year and not being in arrear for the said contribution more than six months), shall meet on the Tuesday of Easter week in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine and so in every year forever thereafter at such place in the said city as shall be appointed by the said trustees, whereof notice shall be given in the said church at the close of divine worship on the morning of the preceding Sunday and then and there shall choose by ballot the said eight lay trustees in manner aforesaid by a majority of those members so qualified who shall so meet between the hours of eleven before noon and one in the afternoon of every such day and the trustees so chosen shall continue to be trustees of the said corporation until the next election and if the pastors of the said church duly appointed shall on any day of such election exceed the number of three they shall among themselves agree which three of them the said pastors shall be trustees for the ensuing year and shall openly declare in the presence of all the electors so met at the time of concluding the said election the names of all the said pastors and members who shall be so appointed and chosen trustees of the said corporation and their names shall be entered in the books of the said corporation for that purpose to be kept and the said pastors so appointed and members so chosen trustees as aforesaid shall be and continue trustees of the said corporation until the close of the next election.

[Section IV.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said trustees and their successors from time to time as occasion shall require to meet together for the purpose of transacting the business of the society under their care, of the time and place of which meetings due notice shall be given to all the

said trustees at least one day before, at which meetings the eldest pastor present shall be president and if seven of the said trustees shall attend they shall form a quorum or board and shall have power by a majority of voices present to make, ordain and establish such rules, orders and regulations for the management of the temporal business, the government of their shools, [and] disposing of the estate of the said corporation as to them shall seem proper. Provided that such rules, orders and regulations be reasonable in themselves and not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this state.

Passed September 13, 1788. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 378.

CHAPTER MCCCLIV.

AN ACT TO ALTER AND AMEND SO MUCH OF THE SEVERAL IMPOST LAWS OF THIS STATE AS CONFINES THE ALLOWING OF DRAWBACKS ON GOODS EXPORTED TO THE ORIGINAL IMPORTERS THEREOF AND OBLIGES THE EXPORTER TO PRODUCE CERTIFICATES OF THE LANDING OF SUCH GOODS.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the drawing back the duties and imposts laid by the several laws of this commonwealth on the importation of goods, wares and merchandise when the same shall be bona fide exported for sale and consumption in other states or foreign countries tends to the increase of the commerce of this state and the said drawbacks are by the said laws confined to the original importers of such goods:

[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 from and after the passing of this act all the duties and imposts which have been or shall be paid or secured to be paid upon the importation of any goods, wares, or merchandise into this state shall be drawn back, allowed or remitted to any person exporting the same in the manner and form prescribed and directed in the acts for