

Legislative.

Copy of an Act for the Incorporation of certain Bodies connected with the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

(Passed the 7th day of April, A. D. 1851.)

WHEREAS, a large number of persons in the Province of Nova-Scotia are associated together in Classes, Societies and Congregations, constituting a Religious community, known by the name of the "Wesleyan Methodist Church in Nova-Scotia," under the pastoral care and direction of Ministers of God's Word in connection with the yearly Conference of the People called Methodists, held at London, Leeds, Bristol or elsewhere in England, as known by a certain Deed Poll or Instrument in writing, under the hand and seal of the Reverend John Wesley, (formerly of Lincoln College, Oxford) Clerk, bearing date on or about the Twenty-eighth day of February, One thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, and enrolled in Her Majesty's High Court of Chancery on or about the Ninth day of March in the year last aforesaid, the Ministers and Members of which Church are in connection with and are governed and directed by the Rules and usages made or sanctioned from time to time by the Conference.

And whereas, for the more beneficial and effectual exercise of Pastoral supervision by the Ministers, and for the better and more effectual administration of the discipline of the Church, the Province, or part thereof occupied by such Ministers, is divided into convenient Sections, called Circuits, and the Classes, Societies, and Congregations within each Circuit respectively, are placed from year to year under the pastoral care of one or more of the Ministers appointed to such Circuit by, or by authority of, the Conference, and one of whom so appointed to each Circuit, is called the Superintendent thereof; and in each of such Circuits certain persons are from time to time appointed, according to such rules and usages, to the offices of Circuit Stewards, to assist in managing the Financial affairs of such Circuits; and certain persons are from time to time appointed or recognized, according to such rules and usages, as Trustees of Chapels, or Parsonage Houses, or Burial Grounds, or other Lands or Property required for the use of the Church within the Circuits respectively.

And whereas, for the more convenient regulation of the affairs of the Church, a number of such Circuits are associated together by authority of the Conference, and every such association of Circuits is called a District, and a yearly assembly of the Ministers in every such District is held and called the District Meeting of ———, the business of which is generally presided over by one of the Ministers, who is called the Chairman of the District, and the general Superintendent of Missions therein, and who is appointed to his office by the Conference.

And whereas, it is necessary that greater facilities should be enjoyed by the Church for holding, possessing and using Lands and other Property for the support of Public Worship, and for the propagation of Christian Knowledge, and for the constituting and managing of Funds and Institutions for the several and general religious and benevolent objects of the Church.

And whereas, at sundry times heretofore, Lands and other Property have been conveyed, by Devise, or by Deeds of Gift, or by Deeds of Bargain and Sale, or by other Deeds or Instruments, to the Church Officers, or other parties named or signified in such Deeds or Instruments or Devises, in trust for the use and benefit of the Church, some of which Deeds or Instruments or Devises are defective, as not containing necessary directions for the appointment of Successors for the trusts respectively created, or as being in other respects not accordant with such rules and usages, from which defectiveness inconveniences have arisen, or are liable to arise, which it is necessary to remedy, and in the future to prevent:

Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, as follows:

1. Each Board of Trustees of any Cha-

pel, Parsonage House, Burial Ground, School House, or other Property held in trust for the use and benefit of such Church in connexion with the Conference, and their Successors, and each Board of Trustees to be hereafter appointed according to the rules and usages for such purposes, and their Successors, shall be a Body Corporate, having perpetual succession, by the name of the "Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel," or Burial Ground, or other Property, as the case may be, in the place in which the Trust Property shall be situated, or by such other name as is or shall be mentioned in the Trust Deed, or other Act or Instrument by which the trusts respectively were or shall be created.

II. The Wesleyan Methodist Ministers now constituting any such District Meeting, and their Successors, or who shall be hereafter by authority of the Conference, constituted a District Meeting, and their Successors, shall be a Body Corporate, having perpetual succession, by the name of the Wesleyan District Meeting of the District, as the case may be.

III. Each of the Corporations of Trustees hereby constituted, or to be hereafter constituted by virtue hereof, shall be capable of taking, holding, and possessing Lands, Tenements, Monies, and other Property heretofore conveyed to them, or which shall be hereafter conveyed for the use and benefit of such trusts respectively, and of suing and being sued in any of Her Majesty's Courts of Law, or of Equity, and shall have and exercise all the rights, powers, and privileges incident to a Body Corporate according to the Laws of this Province, any thing in the Statutes commonly called the Statutes of Mortmain, or in any other Act or Statute to the contrary notwithstanding; and lands and other property that have been or shall be granted, given, or devised for the use of the Church, shall be held to be vested in the District Meeting Corporation, or to be vested in special trust under the Corporate authority hereinbefore created, accordingly as by the known and established general rules and usages of the Wesleyan Society, such lands and property ought to be subjected to the management of the one trust or the other.

IV. The District Meeting hereby incorporated, and such District Meetings as shall hereafter be constituted, shall be capable of taking, holding, and possessing lands, tenements, monies, and other property, for the use and benefit of such Church in connexion with the Conference, or of any portion thereof, or for the establishment of any Funds or Institutions which are now or may be hereafter required for the purposes of the Church, or of any portion thereof, or for the purposes of the Conference, and shall have authority respectively, and from time to time, to make laws and regulations for the due management of such Funds and Institutions not at variance with the Laws of this Province; and of suing and being sued in any of Her Majesty's Courts of Law, or of Equity, and shall have and exercise all the rights, powers, and privileges, incident to a Body Corporate according to the Laws of this Province, anything in the Statutes of Mortmain, or any other Acts or Statutes to the contrary notwithstanding.

V. Where in any case any lands, tenements, monies, or other property, or any right or interest therein, or use thereof, shall have been given or conveyed, or intended to be conveyed, or shall hereafter be given or conveyed, or intended to be given or conveyed, by Grant or Devise, or otherwise, in trust for the use and benefit of such Church, or of any portion thereof, and no proper provisions have been or be made for the appointment of Trustees, or of successors in the Trust, or such provisions have been or shall be made as are not in accordance with such rules and usages, or a vacancy or vacancies in the Trust shall have been or shall be occasioned by death or otherwise, which vacancy or vacancies shall not have been or be duly filled by the appointment of a successor or successors before the passing of this Act, in any such case now existing the Superintendent of the Circuit in which such Trust existed, or if the property be in a place where no Circuit extends, then the Chairman of the District, shall, within twelve months after the passing of this Act, and in

any such case hereafter arising, shall, as soon as convenient, cause the requisite number of Trustees, or of successors to the former Trustees, to be duly appointed according to such rules and usages, and the Trustees and their successors so duly appointed, and their successors from time to time thereafter so duly appointed, shall be the proper and lawful Trustees of the Trusts respectively, and shall have and exercise all the rights and powers and privileges pertaining to such Trustees, according to the rules and usages, and with the corporate privileges and authority which are conferred, or are intended to be conferred, on Trustees by this Act.

VI. The Trustees and District Meetings hereby incorporated, or authorised to be hereafter incorporated, and their successors, shall hold and exercise the rights, powers, and privileges connected with their respective Trusts, in accordance with the rules and usages from time to time passed or established by, or by authority of, the Conference.

VII. The Trustees of any Land held, or to be hereafter held, for a Chapel, or for a Parsonage House, or Burial Ground, or School House, or other Building for the use of such Church, or any portion thereof, shall keep a Book of Records, in which shall be duly entered, according to the rules and usages, the appointment of any successor or successors in the Trust, and the person or persons so appointed shall be entitled, in conjunction with the then surviving or remaining Trustees, to hold and possess the Lands, and all the Appurtenances thereof, without any Deed of Conveyance or Assignment being made to them, and the production of such entry in the Book of Record, or a duly authenticated copy thereof, shall be sufficient evidence of the appointment of such successor or successors in any of Her Majesty's Courts of Law or of Equity, and of his or their possession of co-ordinate rights and privileges with the other Trustees, from the time of the appointment of such successor or successors respectively.

And whereas, by the last Will and Testament of Elijah Forsyth, late of Horton, in this Province, Yeoman, the sum of Three hundred pounds was given and bequeathed to the Stewards of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, and their Successors, to be by them invested on good security, and the interest to be paid annually towards the support of the Wesleyan Methodist Preacher who shall be stationed in the said Horton Circuit in all time to come, which Will and Testament bears date the Eighteenth day of March, One thousand eight hundred and fifty.

VIII. James N. Craue, and William C. Denison, both of Horton aforesaid, being the duly appointed Stewards of the Wesleyan Methodist Society in Horton, and their successors in office as such Stewards, are hereby authorised to receive such sum of Three hundred pounds in trust for the purpose of such Will and Testament, and to invest the same with the concurrence and under the direction of the District Meeting, and to cause the interest thereof to be applied to the support of the Wesleyan Methodist Minister appointed from time to time to such Circuit, according to such rules and usages.

IX. If at any time after the passing of this Act, a Conference of Wesleyan Ministers shall be by the authority of the Conference hereinbefore mentioned, organized in the Province, then all the rights, powers, and privileges, by this act granted to the District Meeting or District Meetings, shall be thenceforward vested in the Conference which shall be so organized, and the lands, tenements, monies, or other property at such time held by the District Meeting or District Meetings, shall become the property of the Conference in this Province, for the same use and benefit for which they shall have been previously received and held by the District Meeting or District Meetings, under the authority and provisions of this Act.

X. After the organization of a Conference in this Province, the words "Rules and Usages" in this Act, shall be held to refer to such rules and usages as shall thenceforward be made or sanctioned by the Conference in this Province.

XI. The annual value of lands held by any Board of Trustees incorporated hereun-

der shall not exceed at any time the sum of Sixty pounds, exclusive of lands and premises held for Chapels, Parsonage Grounds, and Burial Grounds.

XII. The annual value of lands held by any District Meetings shall not exceed the sum of One thousand pounds.

XIII. Chapter Eighty-seven of the Revised Laws, passed during the present Session, shall not refer to this Act.

Correspondence.

JUDGE MARSHALL'S LETTERS.

(Continued from *Advocate* of the 7th inst.)

While penning these lines, the thought is suggested, that with regard to these sanguinary strifes, among professedly Christian nations, the delegated heralds of peace and salvation, have, in general, acted a very inconsistent and unfaithful part. Instead of uniting, and exerting their energies and influence, to allay and remove the rising animosities, and the tendencies to open hostility; and to prevent their actual occurrence, they have, as a body, and with but very few exceptions, on all occasions, entirely neglected that imperative part of their duty. Not only so, but on the contrary, they have as required, in not a few instances, dedicated, or consecrated, as it is blasphemously called, the ensigns of battle; and in the midst of opposing hosts, impelled by malignant passions, and just about to enter upon the bloody conflict, in which thousands would be hurried into an eternity of anguish, they have, on each side of the embattled legions, dared to call upon a God of love, and peace, and of good will to all, to grant the desolating victory. It is to be hoped that the dawn of at least a more peaceful day, among Christian nations, so called, is actually appearing. The movement for avoiding and preventing the fatal scourge, and for implanting and cherishing peaceful sentiments among nations, as far as in any way possible, has, for several recent years, through the divine assistance and favour, been carried rapidly and successfully forward, under the guidance, and superintendence of, comparatively, a few enlightened and benevolent spirits. It has already accomplished some encouraging and excellent effects, in enlightening the millions of the most civilized and professedly Christian nations, as to the sinfulness of war, and the varied forms, and the extent of its afflictions and evils. By the great public conventions which have been held, and by the wide spread dissemination, in various forms, of the great and benevolent truths on the subject, it has further operated to allay or remove national animosities, and to form in the minds of multitudes, among some of the more powerful nations, an aversion to war, and even to influence and incline political rulers, more generally, and apparently more sincerely, to counsels and measures for the avoidance of war, than such characters had been in any previous age. But, notwithstanding the good effects which have already been accomplished, and the well founded prospects of incalculably greater, the very great majority, comparatively, nearly the whole in the professing Christian community, in every nation, even including those most solemnly set apart to be public teachers of love, benevolence, and peace, stand aloof from the movement, and do not in any way appear to sympathize with it; but, on the contrary, many even ridicule and denounce it, as visionary and vain, if not even worse. The conductor of one of the English Journals, and the understood organ of a large evangelical denomination, has been so indiscreet and uncharitable, and regardless of efforts for good, as, in sneering or sarcastic terms, to ridicule and reject this movement for peace, as the dream of humane but merely visionary philanthropists, and as an utterly impracticable scheme. That the object is a good one, and that the means employed for its accomplishment are reasonable and peaceful, and injurious to none, even the profane and the vicious will admit. It might, therefore, have been supposed, that these circumstances alone, and the bare possibility that the efforts put forth would, in the slightest degree, allay or prevent any irritation or hostility among the same common family of man; or in any measure, or on any occasion, would influence political rulers, to the maintenance or restoration of national peace; it

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