

laws and usages thereof, and the clerk to the said trustees shall keep a register of the names of all such persons as shall desire to become stated hearers in the said church or congregation, and shall therein note the time when such request was made, and the said clerk shall attend all such subsequent elections, in order to test the qualifications of such electors, in the case the same should be questioned.

5th. That nothing in this act contained shall be construed or taken to give to any trustee of any church or congregation, the power to fix or ascertain any salary to be paid to any minister thereof, but the same shall be ascertained by a majority of persons entitled to elect trustees, at a meeting to be called for that purpose, and such salaries when fixed, shall be ratified by the said trustees, or a majority of them, by an instrument in writing under their common seal, which salary shall thereupon be paid by the said trustees out of the revenues of said church or congregation.

6th. That whenever any church or congregation incorporated under this act shall deem it necessary and for the interest of such corporation to reduce the number of their trustees, that it shall and may be lawful to do so at any annual meeting: *Provided*, that the reduction shall not be such, as to leave less than three trustees in the corporation aforesaid.

7th. That the treasurer of every church or congregation, incorporated as aforesaid, or the trustees elected as aforesaid, shall once in every three years, and between the first day of January and the first day of April triennially, exhibit upon oath to the Chancellor in the Court of Chancery, or to any one of the Justices in His Majesty's Court of King's Bench, or any of the Judges in the Court of Common Pleas in the District where such church or congregation shall be situated, an account and inventory of all the estate, both real and personal, belonging at the time of making such oath to the church or congregation, for which they respectively are trustees or managers as aforesaid, together with an account of the annual revenue arising therefrom; and if any such trustees or person entrusted as aforesaid, shall neglect to exhibit such account and inventory for the space of six years, after the expiration of every three years as aforesaid, and shall not then exhibit the same, and procure a certificate to be endorsed thereon by the Chancellor or Judge, that he is satisfied that the annual revenue arising from the real and personal estate of such corporation does not, nor has not for

the six preceding years, exceeded the sum which by law it is allowed to receive, then such trustees or persons entrusted as aforesaid, shall cease to be a body corporate: and in every case when it shall appear from such account and inventory, that the annual revenue of any church, exceeds the sum which by virtue of this act, they may or can respectively hold and enjoy, it shall be the duty of the Chancellor or Judge before whom the same shall be so exhibited, to report the same, together with such account and inventory, to the legislature at their next meeting.

8th. That it shall be lawful for the Chancellor of the Court of Chancery within this Province, upon the application of the trustees of any incorporated church, in case he shall deem it proper, to make an order for the sale of any real estate belonging to such incorporation, and to direct the application of the monies arising therefrom by the said corporation to such as the said corporation, with the consent and approbation of the Chancellor, shall conceive to be the most for the interest of the society to which the real estate so sold did belong: *Provided*, that this act shall not extend to any of the lands granted by His Majesty or the Legislature for the support of the said church or congregation.

9th. That whenever any corporation as aforesaid shall be dissolved by means of any non-user or neglect to exercise any of the powers necessary for its preservation, it shall be lawful for the church or congregation which was connected with such corporation to re-incorporate itself in the mode prescribed by this act, and that thereupon all the real and personal property which did belong to such dissolved corporation at the time of its dissolution, shall vest in the new corporation for the said church or congregation.

According to the preceding draft all congregations are empowered to incorporate themselves only if they shall see fit. There are many reasons why it should thus be left optional. It may be a long time in new settlements, where the congregation is widely scattered, imperfectly organized, and without any property, ere it would be necessary to avail themselves of the benefits of such an act. It is enough that they have it in their power when their circumstan-