

ment or regulation of the Bishop of the Diocese, or right or interest unreserved by him. Such right, rule, custom or reserved right or interest being set forth and recorded, either in a deed of gift or endowment, or by order of the Bishop in the book hereinbefore directed to be provided for the enrolment of the members of the vestry. And which record shall be duly authenticated by the then incumbent of such church, and by the first (not less than three) members of the congregation then enrolling their names.*

This Canon is of the greatest importance, and is intended to place Free Churches in the same favourable position as those in which the sittings are appropriated. The Church of England inculcates the duty set forth by the Holy Apostle, of having all to come within the sanctuary: the poor man, clad in humble attire, as well as the rich, clothed in their fine linen; and there cannot be a more dishonouring act to Almighty God than to shut out the poor from His kingdom. It was the glad tidings of Christ to John that "the poor have the Gospel preached to them;" and unless we provide free sittings, how are God's poor servants to hear and to do his will! In every instance, therefore, in which we encourage free and open sittings in God's House we do His will.

*XVII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in the event of any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, desiring to erect and found a Church or Churches, and to endow the same with a sufficiency for the maintenance of such Church and of Divine Service therein, according to the rites of the said Church of England and Ireland, it shall and may be lawful for him, or them, to do so, upon procuring the license of the Bishop, under his hand and seal, for that purpose; and thereupon, after the erection of a suitable Church, and the appropriation by the founder thereof, of such Church so erected, and of lands and hereditaments, or other property, adequate to the maintenance thereof, and of an Incumbent, and adequate to the usual and ordinary charges attendant upon such Church, such provision being made to the satisfaction of the Bishop, such Founder, his Heir and Assigns, being members of the said Church of England, or such body politic or corporate, as the case may be, shall have the right of presentation to such Church, as an advowson in fee presentative, according to the Rules and Canons of the said United Church of England and Ireland.