

corded by the Clerk of said Proprietors, in a Book to be kept for the purpose, and shall entitle such purchaser his heirs and assigns, to all the interest and benefit, which the original Proprietor had therein, and shall subject him and them to all the rules and regulations of the Corporation.

Shares trans-
ferable.

Be it enacted that the right and share of any Proprietor in the said Locks and Canals may be transferred by deed acknowledged, and recorded by the Clerk of the Proprietors in the Book aforesaid: And the Clerk shall be sworn faithfully to execute all the duties of his office.

Clerk to be
sworn.

Corporation
impowered,
with a

Be it further enacted that the said Corporation be, and they are hereby impowered to establish such rules, regulations and bye laws, as they shall deem necessary and convenient for the good Government of said Corporation; and to annex such fines for a breach thereof as they shall judge proper, not exceeding three pounds for any one offence. *Provided* such rules, regulations and bye laws, shall not be repugnant to the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth.

Proviso.

May have a
Common Seal.

Be it further Enacted, that the said Corporation be, and they are hereby impowered to have & use a Common Seal, and the same at pleasure to break, alter or renew.

Shares to be
deemed per-
sonal estate.

Be it further Enacted that, the right, title and property of the said Corporation, and of each individual thereof, in said Locks and Canals, and their appurtenances be, and the same is hereby declared to be personal estate to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

Approved February 25, 1793.

1792. — Chapter 40.

[January Session, ch. 10.]

AN ACT TO SET OFF CALEB WOODS AND OTHERS FROM GROTON,
AND TO ANNEX THEM TO DUNSTABLE.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that Caleb Woods, Silas Blood, Amaziah Swallow, Nathaniel Cummings, Ebenezer Procter, Silas Blood junr. Silas Marshall, Levi Parker, Amos Woods, Isaac Lawrence, Peter Blood, Caleb Blood junr. Henry Blood, Caleb Woods junr. and Silas Marshall junr. together with their families and estates, and also the estates of Doctor Jonas Marshall, the heirs of Captain Solomon Woods deceased, and Joseph Parkhurst which they now own in said

Persons set off
from Groton,

Groton be, and they are hereby set off from the town of Groton in the County of Middlesex, & annexed to Dunstable in said County, and shall hereafter be considered a part of the same, there to do duty and receive priviledges as the other inhabitants of said Dunstable. *Provided* nevertheless that the persons abovementioned shall pay all taxes that have been legally assessed on them by said Groton, in the same manner as if this Act had never been passed.

and annexed
to Dunstable.

Proviso.

Approved February 25, 1793.

1792. — Chapter 41.

[January Session, ch. 11.]

AN ACT FOR GIVING LIBERTY TO PLEAD THE GENERAL ISSUE AND GIVE THE SPECIAL MATTER IN EVIDENCE IN CERTAIN CASES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that in all actions now depending, or that may be hereafter depending in any Court within this Commonwealth, wherein the Defence intended to be set up by the Defendant, is, or may be, that he was a Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff or Coroner, or a Town, District, Precinct or Parish Officer, or some other Officer civil or military, and that the act or thing for which he is, or may be sued, is or may be any act or thing done by him, by virtue, or in the execution of his office, the Defendant may plead the general issue, and give the special matter in evidence, upon filing in the cause a brief statement of such special matter of defence, within such time as the Court shall order, of which statement the Plaintiff shall be entitled to a copy, or he may plead specially at his election.

General Issue
may be pleaded
in certain cases.

Approved February 25, 1793.

1792. — Chapter 42.

[January Session, ch. 14.]

AN ACT FOR ALTERING THE TIME OF HOLDING THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE AND THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS WITHIN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER, FROM THE TUESDAY NEXT PRECEEDING THE LAST TUESDAY OF MARCH TO THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF MARCH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of