

*And whereas* the fines and penalties annexed to any offences by the laws of this state, or to be incurred by refusing to serve in any office, or do any duty required by law, do not answer the purposes for which they were intended, —

*Be it therefore further enacted by the authority aforesaid,*

[SECT. 4.] That all such fines and penalties annexed to any offences, or to be incurred, as aforesaid, by any laws of this state, whether known by the name of province, colony, or state, laws made and enacted before the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, shall be increased and taken to be sixteen times as much as in said acts they are called, and no more; and all such courts as have now, or might have had before the enacting this law, jurisdiction of any of the said offences, shall continue to have jurisdiction of the same, notwithstanding the augmentation of the fines and penalties; and they are hereby authorized to impose or infl[e][i]ct the same, and directed to give judgment accordingly.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,*

[SECT. 5.] That the act intitled "An Act for augmenting certain fees, allowances and penalties, established by laws of this state," by which the fees, allowances and penalties, then established by law, were ordered to be increased threefold; and also the act for augmenting certain fees, allowances and penalties, by which they were ordered to be increased eightfold, be, and they hereby are, repealed, and shall be taken to be null and void.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,*

[SECT. 6.] That there shall be allowed to the attorney-general, or such other person as he shall especially appoint, for exhibiting to the justices of any inferio[u]r court of common pleas a complaint against any person, claiming in such complaint such person's estate as forfeited to this state agreeable to the act for confiscating the estates of absentees, the sum of twelve pounds for carrying such complaint through the inferio[u]r court, where the claim is not contested; where the cause is contested, twenty pounds: for carrying the same through the superio[u]r court, where an appeal is made and the cause is not argued, fifteen pounds; and where the same is argued, thirty pounds: the said fees to the attorney-general, or such other person as he shall appoint as aforesaid, to be paid out of the treasury of this state.

[SECT. 7.] This act to continue and be in force until the first day of June next, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty, and from thence to the end of the then next s[e][i]tting of the general court, and no longer. [Passed December 7.]

Said act to continue in force until the first day of June next.

## CHAPTER 24.

AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING CERTAIN PERSONS THEREIN MENTIONED, INTO A BODY POLITIC, BY THE NAME OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE SOCIETY.

WHEREAS a considerable number of persons have for several years past associated themselves in the town of Boston for the purpose of mutual aid to themselves and families, who may be distressed by poverty and the adverse accidents of life, and for the comforting and

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relieving of the widows and orphans of their deceased members; and have for that end raised a common stock, out of which they have from time to time, contributed to the purposes aforesaid; and the said persons, so associated, finding themselves under difficulties and discouragements which can only be removed by an incorporation, and having by their committee petitioned this court to be incorporated for the purposes aforesaid; and their intentions appearing to this court laudable, and deserving encouragement, —

*Be it therefore enacted by the Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,*

Certain persons incorporated into a body politic by the name of the Massachusetts Charitable Society.

[SECT. 1.] That William Burbeck, Richard Cranch, Habijah Savage, Samuel Barret[t], William Hoskins, John Simpkins, William Bell, Benjamin Edes, William Hicklin[g] and Ephraim Copeland, be, and they hereby are, incorporated and made a body politic for the aforesaid purposes, by the name of the Massachusetts Charitable Society; and that they, their associates and successors, have perpetual succession by said name, and have power to make by-laws, for the preservation and advancement of said body, which shall not be repugnant to the laws of this state, with penalties — either of disfranchisement from said society, or of a mulct not exceeding sixty shillings — or without penalties, as shall seem most meet.

Empowered to make by-laws, etc.

*And be it further enacted.*

Said society empowered to appoint a common seal, and made liable to be sued:

[SECT. 2.] That the said Massachusetts Charitable Society be, and they hereby are, authorised and [i][e]mpowered to make and appoint a common seal, and are hereby made liable to be sued, and enabled to sue in their said corporate capacity, in any of the courts of law in this state; and are hereby licen[s][e]d and [i][e]mpowered to make purchases and receive donations of real and personal estates for the purposes aforesaid: *provided*, the same shall not exceed the sum of five thousand pounds per annum; and to manage and dispose of such estates as to them shall appear most fit.

— and are empowered to make purchases, etc.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid.*

Investing said society with certain powers.

[SECT. 3.] That the said society be, and they hereby are, invested with full power and authority to assemble on the first Monday of September next, for the purpose of appointing a president, secretary and treasurer, together with such other officers as to them shall seem most suitable, and to appoint their common seal, and to make by-laws within the restrictions aforesaid; and said officers, so appointed, shall continue until[1] the first Monday of September next, on which day the said Massachusetts Charitable Society shall meet, and annually, afterwards, on said first Monday of September, at Boston, convene, to chuse a president, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers, as they shall think proper; and to make, alter or annul their by-laws: and if, by reason of any emergency, the business of this annual assembly cannot be completed on said day, they may adjourn, once, to a short day, to finish it, and no more; and said society may assemble on the first Monday of every month for all other business. And whenever any of the officers of said society shall die, or be disabled, or remove out of this state, the members of said society are hereby authorised and [i][e]mpowered, at their next meeting, to elect and appoint others in the room of the officers so removed. And all instruments which said society shall lawfully make, shall, when in the name of said society, and pursuant to the rules thereof, being signed and delivered by the president, secretary, treasurer, or other officer or person, as the said society shall appoint, and sealed with their common seal, bind said society, and be valid in law.

*Provided, always, —*

*And it is further enacted,*

[SECT. 4.] That the members of the said society shall at no time exceed the number of one hundred. And the major part of the council of the state are hereby authorized and [i][e]mpowered to give a charter of incorporation, under the seal of the state, to the aforementioned persons and their associates, accordingly. [*Passed December 16.*]

The members of said society not to exceed one hundred.

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## CHAPTER 25.

AN ACT FOR THE REPEALING AN ACT OF THE GENERAL COURT, OF PARDON AND INDEMNIFICATION FOR CERTAIN OFFENCES THEREIN MENTIONED; AND FOR HOLDING A SUPERIOR COURT, ETC., IN THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE.

WHEREAS the making the act hath not answered the purposes expected, and it is inconvenient that it should be any longer continued in force, —

Preamble.

*Be it therefore enacted by the Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,*

That so much of the said act, [e][i]ntitled "An Act of pardon and indemnification for certain offences therein mentioned; and for holding a superior court of judicature, court of assize and general goal delivery, in the county of Berkshire," as relates to the holding a superior court of judicature, court of assize and general goal delivery in the county of Berkshire, and all of the said act, excepting what relates to the pardon and indemnification of certain offences therein mentioned, be and hereby is repealed, and every part and paragraph of the same act declared null and void. [*Passed January 3,\* 1780.*]

1778-79, chap. 38.

An act made in the year 1779, repealed.

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## CHAPTER 26.

AN ACT FOR CONTINUING AN ACT INTITLED "AN ACT TO PREVENT THE SALE OF GOODS AT PUBLIC AUCTION."

WHEREAS many advantages have arisen, and may arise, from the act intituled "An Act for continuing an act intituled 'An Act to prevent the sale of goods at public auction,'" made in the present year, —

Preamble.

1778-79, chap. 29.

*Be it therefore enacted by the Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,*

That the before-mentioned act, that is now near expired, be continued, with all and every clause, matter and thing therein contained, and shall be in force until the first day of January, *Anno Domini* one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one. [*Passed December 24.*]

For continuing the vendue act.

Limitation.

\* Passed January 1, according to the printed act.