

adjudged to be good and valid to all intents and purposes, any thing in the aforesaid act first in this proviso mentioned, or in the present act, to the contrary notwithstanding ; saving and excepting however all civil actions wherein final judgment has been rendered by the Supreme Judicial Court.

[Approved by the Governor, November 25, 1816.]

CHAP. LVI.

An Act to incorporate the Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society.

SEC. 1. **BE** it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That Jacob Catlin, Alvan Hyde, Samuel Shepard, Henry Brown, Ebenezer Jennings, Joseph Woodbridge, Jonathan Nash, and James W. Robbins, with those who have, or may hereafter associate with them and their successors, be, and they hereby are incorporated and made a body politic, for the purpose of furnishing the means of christian knowledge and improvement, by the distribution of pious and religious books and tracts, and by sending Missionaries among the inhabitants of our own land, who are destitute of religious knowledge and instruction, or where such means are but partially provided ; and also to aid, as their funds will permit, in spreading the light of the Gospel among the heathen, by the name of the Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society : and the Society aforesaid shall have perpetual succession, and may have a common seal, which they may change, break, alter and make new at their pleasure ; and may purchase and receive by gift or devise, lands, tenements and real estate of any kind, and the same hold in fee simple or less estate ; and also subscriptions, donations and bequests of money, or any other personal estate, the annual income of which shall not exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars ; and all grants, donations, subscriptions, devises,

Persons incor-
porated.

Objects of the
Society.

and bequests, made to said Society, shall be improved in such manner, as the Trustees of said Society shall judge most conducive to the designs of the institution.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That the said Society may annually elect, by ballot, by a majority of the Members present, a President, Vice-President, a Treasurer, Secretary, Clerk, and such number of Trustees as they may judge proper, (not less than eleven) and such other officers, as they may determine to be necessary; and may, at their first meeting under this act, by vote of a majority of the Members present at said meeting, adopt and establish such constitution, or system of rules and bye-laws as they may think necessary for conducting and executing the business of said Society, and for more effectually securing the objects of their institution; which constitution or system of bye-laws shall be for the government of said Society, and shall not be altered at any subsequent meeting, but in the manner therein pointed out: *Provided*, such rules and bye-laws be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth.

Powers and Duties.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That the Society aforesaid, shall at all times have power to sue and may be sued, and may defend, and shall be held to answer by the name, style and title aforesaid; and if it shall so happen that the said Society shall become seized of lands and tenements, it shall be lawful by deed under the hand and seal of their President, for the time being, to sell and convey the same: *Provided* such sale shall be made by order and under the direction of the Trustees.

May sue and be sued.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That a particular account of all the funds of said Society, and the disposition thereof shall be exhibited by the Treasurer, at the stated annual meeting of said Society, a Committee of said Society having first examined and certified the same to be true; and fair entries shall be made in books provided for that purpose, of all donations made to said Society, and of all the estate, both real and personal, belonging to the same; and said books shall be brought to the annual meetings, and be there open to the inspection of the Members.

Records.

Meeting. SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That Joseph Woodbridge Esquire, be, and he hereby is empowered to call the first meeting of said Society in their corporate capacity, by publishing a notification in both the newspapers printed in the county of Berkshire, three weeks in succession ; the first publication to be thirty days at least before the time of said meeting.

[Approved by the Governor, November 27, 1816.]

CHAP. LVII.

An Act to incorporate the Second Baptist Society in Woolwich.

Persons incor-
porated. SEC. 1. **BE** it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That Abner Wade, John Shaw, James Williams, Daniel Walker, Barzilla Walker, James Bailey, junior, Francis Cushman, Simeon Williams, Asa Beals, George Bayley, William Gray, James Blin, Timothy Williams, Stephen Blackman, Isaiah H. Hedge, Alexander McKenney, Benjamin Beals, Jesse Bayley, Joseph L. Savage, Charles McKenney, Peter Berry, John Williams, John Shaw, junior, John Bayley, John Wright, junior, Abner H. Wade, Joseph Wright, James McKenney, Turner Wade, Aaron Hilton, Samuel Soule, Archibald McMurphy, Charles Wade, Richard Mitchel, John Card, Nathaniel Day, Members of a Religious Society, together with their polls and estates, be, and they hereby are incorporated, by the name of the Second Baptist Society in Woolwich, with all the privileges, powers and immunities to which parishes in this Commonwealth are entitled.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That any and every person in the towns of Woolwich and Wiscasset, in the county of Lincoln, being of the Baptist denomination, who may at any time hereafter actually become a Member of, and unite in religious worship with said Society in Woolwich, and give in his or