

CHAP. CXXXV. — *An Act to continue the Bureau for the Relief of Freedmen and Refugees, and for other Purposes.* July 6, 1868.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the act entitled "An act to establish a bureau for the relief of freedmen and refugees," approved March three, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, and the act entitled "An act to continue in force and to amend 'An act to establish a bureau for the relief of freedmen and refugees,' and for other purposes," passed on the sixteenth of July, anno Domini eighteen hundred and sixty-six, shall continue in force for the term of one year from and after the sixteenth of July, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, excepting so far as the same shall be herein modified. And the Secretary of War is hereby directed to re-establish said bureau where the same has been wholly or in part discontinued: *Provided*, [That] he shall be satisfied that the personal safety of freedmen shall require it.

Bureau for relief of freedmen and refugees continued for one year and re-established where discontinued, if, &c.  
1865, ch. 90.  
Vol. xiii. p. 507.  
1866, ch. 200.  
Vol. xiv. p. 173.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War to discontinue the operations of the bureau in any State whenever such State shall be fully restored in its constitutional relations with the government of the United States, and shall be duly represented in the Congress of the United States, unless, upon advising with the commissioner of the bureau, and upon full consideration of the condition of freedmen's affairs in such State, the Secretary of War shall be of opinion that the further continuance of the bureau shall be necessary: *Provided, however,* That the educational division of said bureau shall not be affected, or in any way interfered with, until such State shall have made suitable provision for the education of the children of freedmen within said State.

Bureau to be discontinued in any State, when, &c.

Educational division not affected until, &c

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That unexpended balances in the hands of the commissioner, not required otherwise for the due execution of the law, may be, in the discretion of the commissioner, applied for the education of freedmen and refugees, subject to the provisions of laws applicable thereto.

Unexpended balances how applied.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That officers of the veteran reserve corps or of the volunteer service, now on duty in the freedmen's bureau as assistant commissioners, agents, medical officers, or in other capacities, who have been or may be mustered out of service, may be retained by the commissioner, when the same shall be required for the proper execution of the laws, as officers of the bureau, upon such duty and with the same pay, compensation, and all allowances, from the date of their appointment, as now provided by law for their respective grades and duties at the dates of their muster-out and discharge; and such officers so retained shall have, respectively, the same authority and jurisdiction as now conferred upon "officers of the bureau" by act of Congress passed on the sixteenth of July, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-six.

Officers of Veteran Reserve Corps and of volunteers now on duty, &c. may be retained, when, &c.

"Authority," &c. of such officers.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the commissioner is hereby empowered to sell for cash, or by instalments with ample security, school buildings and other buildings constructed for refugees and freedmen by the bureau, to the associations, corporate bodies, or trustees who now use them for purposes of education or relief of want, under suitable guarantees that the purposes for which such buildings were constructed shall be observed: *Provided*, That all funds derived therefrom shall be returned to the bureau appropriation and accounted for to the treasury of the United States.

School buildings, &c. may be sold.

Proceeds of sales.

SCHUYLER COLFAX,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*  
B. F. WADE,  
*President of the Senate pro tempore.*

Indorsed by the President: "Received June 24th, 1868."

[NOTE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.— The foregoing act having been presented to the President of the United States for his approval, and not having been returned by him to the House of Congress in which it originated within the time prescribed by the constitution of the United States, has become a law without his approval.]

July 7, 1868. CHAP. CXXXVI. — *An Act to incorporate the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Washington.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Francis H. Smith, N. P. Chipman, Otis C. Wight, A. D. Robinson, Zenas C. Robbins, and their associates, who are now, or may hereafter become members of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Washington, in the District of Columbia, under the rules, regulations, or by-laws of the same, be, and they are hereby, created a body corporate, under the name of "The Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Washington," and as such shall have perpetual succession, may purchase, hold, and convey personal and real estate, make contracts, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and may generally exercise and enjoy all such powers as are usually vested in corporations, and as may be necessary or incident to sustaining religious worship, Sabbath schools, missionary, and charitable enterprises in the District of Columbia, and no others; and said corporation shall be exempt from any taxes to be assessed upon their corporate property under the authority of Congress, or of the city or county of Washington: *Provided,* That the value of all property so exempt shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the title to any lands, buildings, and property heretofore conveyed to said congregation, or to any person or persons for the use and benefit of the same, or of the said First Presbyterian Church, is hereby vested in and confirmed to said corporation.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be lawful for said congregation, at its first meeting subsequent to the passage of this act, to be held at such time and place as the persons named in the first section of this act may designate, by a majority of the members present, to adopt such by-laws as they may deem expedient, regulating the government of said corporation, prescribing the number, character, and duties of their officers, and the manner of their election, defining the terms on which persons may become, or cease to be, members of said corporation, and providing in all things for the holding and disposal and conveyance of its real and personal estate, and for the management of said congregation, which by-laws may be amended or repealed from time to time, under such regulations as said congregation may adopt: *Provided,* That no by-laws shall be adopted or remain in force inconsistent with the government and laws of the United States, or with the constitution and authority of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That Congress reserves the right to alter, amend, or abolish this charter at pleasure.

APPROVED, July 7, 1868.

July 7, 1868. CHAP. CXXXVII. — *An Act to amend section five of an Act entitled "An Act concerning the registering and recording of Ships or Vessels," approved December thirty-one, seventeen hundred and ninety-two.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section five of an act entitled "An act concerning the registering and recording of ships or vessels," approved December thirty-one, seventeen hundred and ninety-two, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

APPROVED, July 7, 1868.

Repeal of law requiring oath of other owners than the applicant for certificate of registry.

The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Washington incorporated.

Powers and duties.

Exemption from taxes.

Proviso.

Title to certain lands and buildings.

By-laws.

Officers and their election. Membership. Holding, &c. of real estate. Amendment and repeal. Proviso.

Act may be altered, &c.