This Private Bill originated in the Legislative Assembly, and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the Legislative Council for its concurrence.

Legislative Assembly Chamber, Sydney, 11 October, 1881. STEPHEN W. JONES, Clerk of Legislative Assembly.

New South Wales.



ANNO QUADRAGESIMO QUINTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

An Act to make better provision for the Management of the Property of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales and to provide for the Election and Appointment of Trustees in whom such Property may be vested and to make further provisions in reference thereto.

WHEREAS by an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of Preamble.

New South Wales passed in the eighth year of the Reign of His 8 W. IV No. 7.

late Majesty King William the Fourth number seven certain powers privileges and advantages were conferred upon the Presbytery of New 5 South Wales and upon the ministers of the Churches and congregations under its spiritual superintendence And whereas by an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of New South Wales passed in the fourth year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria number 4 Vict. No. 18. eighteen the several powers privileges and advantages conferred upon 10 the Presbytery of New South Wales and the ministers of the congregations under its spiritual superintendence by the said Act eighth William the Fourth number seven were vested in the Synod of Australia in connection with the established Church of Scotland and the ministers of the congregations under its spiritual superintendence 15 as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes as if the said Synod

Synod had been specially named and mentioned therein And whereas the Synod of Eastern Australia and the Synod of New South Wales and certain separate congregations united together in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four and formed another Presbyterian

- 5 Synod known as the General Synod of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales And whereas the said General Synod of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales and the said Synod of Australia and the congregation in Phillip-street in the City of Sydney known as the United Presbyterian Church in Sydney united together
- 10 in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five and formed the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales under a supreme governing body called the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales And whereas by the "Presbyterian Church Act 1865" "Presbyterian

all and every the several powers privileges and advantages vested in Church Act 1865."

15 and belonging to the said Synod of Australia in connection with the Established Church of Scotland and the ministers and congregations under its spiritual superintendence under and by virtue of the hereinbefore recited Act fourth Victoria number eighteen were transferred from the said Synod of Australia to the said General Assembly of the

20 Presbyterian Church of New South Wales to vest in and belong to the said General Assembly with respect to all the ministers and congregations comprehended in the same and under the spiritual superintendence thereof as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes as if the said Presbyterian Church of New South Wales and the General Assembly

25 of the said Church had been named and mentioned in the said recited Act And whereas by the same Presbyterian Church Act it is provided that all properties held by any Trustee for or on behalf of any ministers or congregations under the spiritual superintendence of or in connection with the said Synod of Australia or with the said

30 General Synod of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales or for or on behalf of the United Presbyterian Church in Sydney or the Minister thereof at the time of the passing of the said Act shall continue to be held by the same Trustees or their successors subject to the trusts then affecting the same on behalf of the same ministers and congrega-

35 tions under the spiritual superintendence of or in connection with the said General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales And whereas it is expedient that the aforesaid Acts should be amended and better provision made as hereinafter respectively mentioned for the management of the property of the Presbyterian Church of

40 New South Wales and for the election and appointment of Trustees in whom such property may be vested Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as 45 follows:

1. Every person now seised of or entitled to any real or personal Property now vested property in trust for the use and benefit of any congregation of the intrustees to be held. Presbyterian Church of New South Wales or any body of Presbyterians included in that Church shall hold such real and personal property 50 under the provisions of this Act but nevertheless upon the several trusts now affecting the same anything in the said recited Acts contained

notwithstanding.

2. Every congregation under the spiritual superintendence of Election of Trustees. or in connection with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church 55 of New South Wales may as occasion shall require elect in accordance with the rules and regulations in force for the time being in that behalf made and authorized by the said General Assembly not less than three nor more than five Trustees for the purposes hereinafter mentioned And every Trustee elected under the provisions of this Qualification of Trustees. Act

Act shall be a male above the age of twenty-one years and a communicant or seat-holder of the congregation in respect of which he is elected Trustee.

3. Every such congregation may elect in manner hereinbefore Filling up vacancies. 5 provided a Trustee in the place of any Trustee who shall have died or resigned or shall have been removed from the Trusteeship by the said General Assembly.

4. The said General Assembly may at the suit of the other Removal of Trustees Trustees or of the Kirk Session or of the Deacon's Court or Managing by General Assembly.

10 Committee of any such congregation remove any Trustee or Trustees.

5. In addition to the Trustees elected as aforesaid the Moderator Ex officio Trustees. and clerk of the said General Assembly for the time being respectively and the minister for the time being lawfully appointed and recognized by any presbytery of the said Church and the said General Assembly 15 as the ordained minister of any such congregation shall be ex officio

Trustees of such property.

6. Within thirty days after every election of Trustees as Memorandum of aforesaid a memorandum in writing signed by the Moderator for the names of Trustees to be published in time being of the said General Assembly and setting forth the names Gazette. 20 in full of every person so elected as aforesaid shall be published in the New South Wales Government Gazette and the production of a copy

of such Gazette shall be conclusive evidence that the persons named in such memorandum together with the ex officio Trustees as aforesaid are for the time being the duly constituted Trustees of the Church or

25 congregation named therein.

7. Upon the publication of every such memorandum as afore- vesting of property said all the real and personal estate belonging to or held in trust for in the Trustees. the church or congregation therein mentioned shall from time to time be vested in the Trustees named in such memorandum together with 30 the ex officio Trustees as aforesaid for the purposes of this Act without any conveyance assignment or other assurance whatever and shall be held by the said Trustees subject to any express trusts affecting the

same upon trust for the use and benefit of the Church or congregation entitled thereto as the said General Assembly may from time to time 35 direct.

8. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Power to rent pews said recited Act eighth William the Fourth number seven the Deacon's and sittings and application of rents Court or Managing Committee of any such church or congregation of rents is hereby authorized to fix the annual or other rent of each pew or 40 sitting in such church and to collect all rents and moneys which may be or become due and revealed in recovery of the contract of the contract

be or become due and payable in respect of such pews and sittings and to sue for and recover the same from all persons refusing or neglecting to pay the same and to receive and hold all moneys raised or received on behalf of such congregation and apply the same according to the 45 rules and regulations in that behalf made from time to time by the

said General Assembly.

shall have free access and admission to and into the church of which of officiat minister. he is the officiating minister and the burial-ground belonging thereto 50 and every part thereof respectively at all times as he shall think fit and freely exercise his spiritual functions therein respectively without interruption or disturbance by his co-trustees or any person whomsoever and shall while he shall continue to be such minister as aforesaid freely use possess and enjoy the minister's dwelling-house

55 garden and appurtenances belonging to the said church and shall be entitled to receive for his own use and benefit out of the rents issues and profits of any glebe or other lands belonging thereto a sum not exceeding one hundred and fifty pounds a year exclusive of stipend from other sources Provided that no such liberty of access admission

9. The minister lawfully appointed and recognised as aforesaid Rights and privileges

or possession as aforesaid for any length of time whatever shall confer any right of possession or property in such minister after he shall have ceased to be such officiating minister as aforesaid or after he shall have been removed from his office by the decision of the Presbytery or the 5 said General Assembly nor shall be set up in defence in any action of ejectment which may be brought by the Trustees for the time being of such church or congregation as aforesaid for recovering possession of such dwelling-house garden glebe and appurtenances or any part thereof.

10. Where any land has been or may hereafter be granted or Election of Trustees 10 demised either by the Crown or any private person to any person or where a congregation persons upon trust for a church minister's dwelling school burialground or any other purpose for or on behalf of the said Synod of Australia or for any body of Presbyterians now included in or which

15 may hereafter join and be included in the said Presbyterian Church of New South Wales in any place where a congregation has not been formed the Presbytery of the bounds within which such land is situate shall at any ordinary meeting thereof of which not less than three calendar months notice shall have been given elect by majority of

20 votes of the members present at such meeting not less than three nor more than five Trustees qualified as hereinbefore provided And such Application of rents land shall be vested in the Moderator and Clerk of the said General & Assembly for the time being respectively and the Trustees so elected as aforesaid and held by them in trust and managed until a congrega-25 tion shall be formed and the rents issues and profits thereof shall be

applied as the said Presbytery shall direct.

11. The Trustees in whom any land is or may be vested in trust Trustees may grant for the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales or for any congrega-leases.

tion thereof may from time to time by any deed lease for any term 30 not exceeding fifty years from the time of making the same such lands as by the said recited Act eighth William the Fourth number seven are authorized to be let upon leases for any term not exceeding twentyeight years reserving in every such lease the best rent that can be reasonably obtained for the same notwithstanding anything to the 35 contrary contained in the said Act.

12. Any body of Trustees as aforesaid may with the consent of Trustees may sell a majority of the congregation obtained at a meeting held according and convey lands &c. to the rules and regulations of the General Assembly and with the concurrence of such General Assembly sell any real or personal

40 property vested in them by public auction or private contract and either in one lot or several lots as they shall deem most expedient for such price or prices as can be reasonably obtained for the same and when sold convey the same or any part or parts thereof and thereupon the same shall vest respectively in the purchaser or purchasers thereof his

45 or their heirs executors administrators or assigns according to the estate or interest of the said Trustees therein absolutely freed and discharged from the trusts affecting the same and the receipt in writing of the said Trustees for the purchase money of any property sold under this Act shall absolutely discharge the purchaser or purchasers thereof

50 from the purchase money payable by him or them respectively and shall exonerate him or them from seeing to the application of the said purchase money and from all liability as to the misapplication or nonapplication thereof and shall be conclusive evidence that such consent and concurrence to sell and convey as aforesaid has been given by the 55 said congregation and General Assembly respectively.

13. The proceeds of any property sold under the provisions of Application of this Act shall subject to the approval of the said General Assembly proceeds of sale. be applied by the Trustees selling the same in the purchase of other lands as a site for a church or a minister's dwelling-house or a school-

house for the use of the congregation for which the land so sold had been held in trust and in and towards the erection and maintaining a church or a minister's dwelling-house or a school-house upon the said site and the receipt of any person or persons to whom any money 5 shall be paid under the provisions of this section shall be a valid and complete discharge to the person or persons paying the same for such moneys.

14. Except as herein otherwise provided the several powers Powers &c. of authorities privileges and rights vested in and conferred upon the Act of 10 Trustees elected or appointed by virtue and in pursuance of the William 4 No. 7 Act of 1865" several Acts of Council eighth William the Fourth number seven fourth Victoria number eighteen and the "Presbyterian Church Act of 1865" shall be vested in and enjoyed by the several bodies of the Act of 1865" Trustees respectively constituted under the provisions of this Act.

15 Provided always that the several powers privileges and advantages conferred upon the said General Assembly by the "Presbyterian Church Act of 1865" and appointed upon the said General Assembly by the "Presbyterian Church Act of 1865" and appointed upon the said General Assembly by the "Presbyterian Church Act of 1865" and appointed upon the said General Assembly by the "Presbyterian Church Act of 1865" and appointed upon the said General Assembly by the "Presbyterian Church Act of 1865" and appointed upon the said General Assembly by the "Presbyterian Church Act of 1865" and appointed upon the said General Assembly by the "Presbyterian Church Act of 1865" and appointed under this Act.

15 Provided always that the several powers privileges and advantages conferred upon the said General Assembly by the "Presbyterian Church Act of 1865" and confirmed by this Act shall cease and determine unless the said General Assembly shall continue its adherence to the doctrines of the Westminster Confession of Faith and to the 20 constitution government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church.

15. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the "Presbyterian short title. Church Property Management Act of 1881."

Sydney: Thomas Richards, Government Printer.—1881.

[6d.]

New Zouth Wales.



ANNO QUADRAGESIMO QUINTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

An Act to make better provision for the Management of the Property of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales and to provide for the Election and Appointment of Trustees in whom such Property may be vested and to make further provisions in reference thereto. [Assented to, 8th November, 1881.]

WHEREAS by an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of Preamble.

New South Wales passed in the eighth year of the Reign of His 8 W. IV No. 7. late Majesty King William the Fourth number seven certain powers privileges and advantages were conferred upon the Presbytery of New South Wales and upon the ministers of the Churches and congregations under its spiritual superintendence And whereas by an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of New South Wales passed in the fourth year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria number 4 Vict. No. 18. eighteen the several powers privileges and advantages conferred upon the Presbytery of New South Wales and the ministers of the congregations under its spiritual superintendence by the said Act eighth William the Fourth number seven were vested in the Synod of Australia in connection with the established Church of Scotland and the ministers of the congregations under its spiritual superintendence as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes as if the said Synod

"Presbyterian Church Act 1865."

Presbyterian Church Property Management.

Synod had been specially named and mentioned therein And whereas the Synod of Eastern Australia and the Synod of New South Wales and certain separate congregations united together in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four and formed another Presbyterian Synod known as the General Synod of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales And whereas the said General Synod of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales and the said Synod of Australia and the congregation in Phillip-street in the City of Sydney known as the United Presbyterian Church in Sydney united together in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five and formed the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales under a supreme governing body called the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New And whereas by the "Presbyterian Church Act 1865" South Wales all and every the several powers privileges and advantages vested in and belonging to the said Synod of Australia in connection with the Established Church of Scotland and the ministers and congregations under its spiritual superintendence under and by virtue of the hereinbefore recited Act fourth Victoria number eighteen were transferred from the said Synod of Australia to the said General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales to vest in and belong to the said General Assembly with respect to all the ministers and congregations comprehended in the same and under the spiritual superintendence thereof as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes as if the said Presbyterian Church of New South Wales and the General Assembly of the said Church had been named and mentioned in the said recited Act And whereas by the same Presbyterian Church Act it is provided that all properties held by any Trustee for or on behalf of any ministers or congregations under the spiritual superintendence of or in connection with the said Synod of Australia or with the said General Synod of the Presbyterian Churchin New South Wales or for or on behalf of the United Presbyterian Church in Sydney or the Minister thereof at the time of the passing of the said Act shall continue to be held by the same Trustees or their successors subject to the trusts then affecting the same on behalf of the same ministers and congregations under the spiritual superintendence of or in connection with the said General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South And whereas it is expedient that the aforesaid Acts should be amended and better provision made as hereinafter respectively mentioned for the management of the property of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales and for the election and appointment of Trustees in whom such property may be vested Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:-

Property now vested in trustees to be held.

1. Every person now seised of or entitled to any real or personal property in trust for the use and benefit of any congregation of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales or any body of Presbyterians included in that Church shall hold such real and personal property under the provisions of this Act but nevertheless upon the several trusts now affecting the same anything in the said recited Acts contained notwithstanding.

Election of Trustees.

2. Every congregation under the spiritual superintendence of or in connection with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales may as occasion shall require elect in accordance with the rules and regulations in force for the time being in that behalf made and authorized by the said General Assembly not less than three nor more than five Trustees for the purposes hereinafter mentioned And every Trustee elected under the provisions of this

Qualification of Trustees.

Act

Act shall be a male above the age of twenty-one years and a communicant or seat-holder of the congregation in respect of which he is elected Trustee.

3. Every such congregation may elect in manner hereinbefore Filling up vacancies. provided a Trustee in the place of any Trustee who shall have died or resigned or shall have been removed from the Trusteeship by the said General Assembly.

4. The said General Assembly may at the suit of the other Removal of Trustees Trustees or of the Kirk Session or of the Deacon's Court or Managing by General Assembly.

Committee of any such congregation remove any Trustee or Trustees.

5. In addition to the Trustees elected as aforesaid the Moderator Ex officio Trustees. and clerk of the said General Assembly for the time being respectively and the minister for the time being lawfully appointed and recognized by any presbytery of the said Church and the said General Assembly as the ordained minister of any such congregation shall be ex officio Trustees of such property.

6. Within thirty days after every election of Trustees as Memorandum of aforesaid a memorandum in writing signed by the Moderator for the names of Trustees to be published in time being of the said General Assembly and setting forth the names Gazette. in full of every person so elected as aforesaid shall be published in the New South Wales Government Gazette and the production of a copy of such Gazette shall be conclusive evidence that the persons named in such memorandum together with the ex officio Trustees as aforesaid are for the time being the duly constituted Trustees of the Church or

congregation named therein.

7. Upon the publication of every such memorandum as afore-vesting of property said all the real and personal estate belonging to or held in trust for in the Trustees the church or congregation therein mentioned shall from time to time be vested in the Trustees named in such memorandum together with the ex officio Trustees as aforesaid for the purposes of this Act without any conveyance assignment or other assurance whatever and shall be held by the said Trustees subject to any express trusts affecting the same upon trust for the use and benefit of the Church or congregation entitled thereto as the said General Assembly may from time to time direct.

8. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Power to rent pews said recited Act eighth William the Fourth number seven the Deacon's and sittings and court or Managing Committee of any such church or congregation &c. of same. is hereby authorized to fix the annual or other rent of each pew or sitting in such church and to collect all rents and moneys which may be or become due and payable in respect of such pews and sittings and to sue for and recover the same from all persons refusing or neglecting to pay the same and to receive and hold all moneys raised or received on behalf of such congregation and apply the same according to the rules and regulations in that behalf made from time to time by the said General Assembly.

9. The minister lawfully appointed and recognised as aforesaid Rights and privileges shall have free access and admission to and into the church of which of officiating minister. he is the officiating minister and the burial-ground belonging thereto and every part thereof respectively at all times as he shall think fit and freely exercise his spiritual functions therein respectively without interruption or disturbance by his co-trustees or any person whomsoever and shall while he shall continue to be such minister as aforesaid freely use possess and enjoy the minister's dwelling-house garden and appurtenances belonging to the said church and shall be entitled to receive for his own use and benefit out of the rents issues and profits of any glebe or other lands belonging thereto a sum not exceeding one hundred and fifty pounds a year exclusive of stipend from other sources Provided that no such liberty of access admission

or possession as aforesaid for any length of time whatever shall confer any right of possession or property in such minister after he shall have ceased to be such officiating minister as aforesaid or after he shall have been removed from his office by the decision of the Presbytery or the said General Assembly nor shall be set up in defence in any action of ejectment which may be brought by the Trustees for the time being of such church or congregation as aforesaid for recovering possession of such dwelling-house garden glebe and appurtenances or any part thereof.

Election of Trustees where a congregation has not been formed.

10. Where any land has been or may hereafter be granted or demised either by the Crown or any private person to any person or persons upon trust for a church minister's dwelling school burialground or any other purpose for or on behalf of the said Synod of Australia or for any body of Presbyterians now included in or which may hereafter join and be included in the said Presbyterian Church of New South Wales in any place where a congregation has not been formed the Presbytery of the bounds within which such land is situate shall at any ordinary meeting thereof of which not less than three calendar months notice shall have been given elect by majority of votes of the members present at such meeting not less than three nor more than five Trustees qualified as hereinbefore provided And such land shall be vested in the Moderator and Clerk of the said General Assembly for the time being respectively and the Trustees so elected as aforesaid and held by them in trust and managed until a congregation shall be formed and the rents issues and profits thereof shall be applied as the said Presbytery shall direct.

Application of rents &c.

Trustees may grant leases.

11. The Trustees in whom any land is or may be vested in trust for the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales or for any congregation thereof may from time to time by any deed lease for any term not exceeding fifty years from the time of making the same such lands as by the said recited Act eighth William the Fourth number seven are authorized to be let upon leases for any term not exceeding twenty-eight years reserving in every such lease the best rent that can be reasonably obtained for the same notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the said Act.

Trustees may sell and convey lands &c

12. Any body of Trustees as aforesaid may with the consent of a majority of the congregation obtained at a meeting held according to the rules and regulations of the General Assembly and with the concurrence of such General Assembly sell any real or personal property vested in them by public auction or private contract and either in one lot or several lots as they shall deem most expedient for such price or prices as can be reasonably obtained for the same and when sold convey the same or any part or parts thereof and thereupon the same shall vest respectively in the purchaser or purchasers thereof his or their heirs executors administrators or assigns according to the estate or interest of the said Trustees therein absolutely freed and discharged from the trusts affecting the same and the receipt in writing of the said Trustees for the purchase money of any property sold under this Act shall absolutely discharge the purchaser or purchasers thereof from the purchase money payable by him or them respectively and shall exonerate him or them from seeing to the application of the said purchase money and from all liability as to the misapplication or nonapplication thereof and shall be conclusive evidence that such consent and concurrence to sell and convey as aforesaid has been given by the said congregation and General Assembly respectively.

Application of proceeds of sale.

13. The proceeds of any property sold under the provisions of this Act shall subject to the approval of the said General Assembly be applied by the Trustees selling the same in the purchase of other lands as a site for a church or a minister's dwelling-house or a school-

house

house for the use of the congregation for which the land so sold had been held in trust and in and towards the erection and maintaining a church or a minister's dwelling-house or a school-house upon the said site and the receipt of any person or persons to whom any money shall be paid under the provisions of this section shall be a valid and complete discharge to the person or persons paying the same for such

moneys.

14. Except as herein otherwise provided the several powers Powers &c. of authorities privileges and rights vested in and conferred upon the Trustees under 8 William 4 No. 7

Trustees elected or appointed by virtue and in pursuance of the William 4 No. 7

several Acts of Council eighth William the Fourth number seven Church Act of 1865" fourth Victoria number eighteen and the "Presbyterian Church Act of 1865" shall be vested in and enjoyed by the several bodies of under this Act.

Trustees respectively constituted under the provisions of this Act

Provided always that the several powers privileges and advantages conferred upon the said General Assembly by the "Presbyterian Church Act of 1865" and confirmed by this Act shall cease and determine unless the said General Assembly shall continue its adherence to the doctrines of the Westminster Confession of Faith and to the constitution government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church.

15. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the "Presbyterian Short title.

Church Property Management Act of 1881.

By Authority: Thomas Richards, Government Printer, Sydney, 1881.