ANNO DECIMO QUINTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Cap. cxii.

An Act for the Incorporation of the Society for providing Annuities for the Widows and Children of Presbyterian Ministers, under the Style and Title of "The Presbyterian Widows Fund Association." [17th *June* 1852.]

WHEREAS in or about the Year One thousand seven hundred and fifty a Society was formed at *Dungannon* in *Ireland*, consisting of Ministers of the Presbyterian Church, for the Purpose of raising a Fund to provide Annuities for the Widows and Children of deceased Members: And whereas the Ministers in connexion with the General Synod of *Ulster*, the Remonstrant Synod, and the Presbytery of *Antrim* respectively have for several Years passed subscribed to the Funds of the said Society, and the said Funds have been increased from Time to Time by Congregational Collections, Donations, and testamentary Bequests to a very considerable Amount; and the said Society is now called "The Society for providing Annuities for Widows and Children of Presbyterian Ministers," and commonly known as the "Widows Fund," and Rules from Time to Time made for the Regulation thereof have been certified and enrolled in pursuance of the Statutes relating to Friendly

Societies: And whereas the said Society has been productive of very great Benefit, and is now possessed of or entitled to Funds of a large Amount, invested upon Real and other Securities, in the Names of the Trustees thereof, and otherwise: And whereas by an Act passed in the Fourteenth Year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled *An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Friendly Societies*, Friendly Societies are prevented from assuring to any Person any Annuity exceeding Thirty Pounds *per Annum*, and this Restriction as well as other Provisions of the said Statutes to which the said Society is now by Law subject are found to be in many respects unsuited to the Condition and Object of the said Fund, and tend greatly to restrict the Benefits intended to be conferred by the said Society; and the said Society, and the Funds thereof, might be made more extensively useful if such Restrictions were removed, and more effectual Provision made for the Regulation of the said Society, which cannot be done without the Authority of Parliament: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows; (that is to say,)

13 & 14 Vict. c. 115.

Association incorporated.

I. That the Reverend *Henry Cooke* Doctor in Divinity and Doctor of Laws, the Reverend *Henry Montgomery* Doctor of Laws, the Reverend *Henry Jackson Dobbin* Doctor in Divinity, the Reverend *Robert Stewart* Doctor in Divinity, the Reverend *William Dool Killen* Doctor in Divinity, the Reverend *James Gracey Murphy* Doctor of Laws, the Reverend *Fletcher Blakeley*, the Reverend *William Gibson*, the Reverend *William Bruce*, the Reverend *John Porter*, the Reverend *Robert Knox*, the Reverend *Thomas Millar*, the Reverend *William Johnston*, the Reverend *John Meenely*, the Reverend *James Millar Killen*, the Reverend *Samuel Marcus Dill*, and the Reverend *George Bellis* respectively, being Members of the said Society, and all and every other of the Persons who now are Members thereof, and also all and every of the Persons who shall or may, as herein-after provided, become or be Members of the Association hereby incorporated, so long as such Persons shall continue to be Members of the same Association, shall be and are hereby constituted and incorporated One Body Politic and Corporate by the Name and Style of "The Presbyterian Widows Fund Association," and the Members for the Time being of the said Association shall by that Name have perpetual Succession, and shall and may by the said Name sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, petition and be petitioned against, and shall thereby hold Land and enter into Contracts, Agreements, and other Deeds and Writings, and have a Common Seal, with Power to change and make new the same from Time to Time, as shall be thought fit.

II. That

Purposes of the Association.

II. That the Purposes of the Association shall be to provide Annuities and other Benefits for the Widows and Children of such Presbyterian Ministers as have been, are, or may be Members of the said Association, and to raise the Funds necessary for those Purposes by the Rents of Lands and Tenements, Interest on Capital in hand, by the Subscriptions and Premiums of the Members of the said Association, and the Legacies and Donations of such Persons as may make Contributions in furtherance of the Purposes of the Association, Grants from Government, and the Royal Bounty of vacant Congregations, and other Sources.

Members.

III. That every Person who shall be or who shall have been a Minister of the Presbyterian Church in connexion with the General Synod of *Ulster*, the Remonstrant Synod, or the Presbytery of *Antrim*, and who shall have paid and continue to pay to the said Association hereby incorporated such annual or other Subscriptions or Sums as shall in pursuance of the Rules, Byelaws, and Regulations from Time to Time become due or payable by him to the Association for the Purpose of obtaining the Benefits of the Provision made by the said Association for the Widows and Children of deceased Members, and who shall in all things conform to the Provisions of this Act, or of any Rules, Byelaws, and Regulations to be from Time to Time made in conformity with this Act, shall be a Member of the Association so long as he shall continue duly and punctually to pay such Subscriptions or Sums as aforesaid, and shall continue duly to do, observe, perform, fulfil, and keep all Things in the Rules, Byelaws, and Regulations for the Time being of the Association expressed or contained which are or ought to be done, observed, performed, fulfilled, and kept.

Register of Members.

IV. That the Association shall keep a Book, to be called the "Register of Members," and in such Book shall be fairly and distinctly entered from Time to Time the Names and Additions of the several Persons who shall at the Time of such Entry be Members of the said Association and entitled to vote at General Meetings, and the Surnames of the said Members shall be placed in alphabetical Order in a separate List to be entered in the said Book, and the said Lists so entered in the said Book shall be authenticated by the Common Seal of the said Association being affixed thereto, and such authentic Entries shall take place at the General Meeting or adjourned General Meeting next after the Entry thereof (such Meeting causing the same to be corrected if necessary), but nevertheless, in case of any Default in the Authentication of any such List at any such Meeting as last aforesaid, such Authentication may take place at any subsequent General Meeting or adjourned General Meeting, and such Lists as aforesaid shall be entered immediately before any other Business be transacted

transacted at such Meeting, and authenticated as aforesaid at every Annual General Meeting; and if the Association shall think fit, such Lists as aforesaid may also be entered and authenticated as aforesaid at any other Time or Times during every or any Year; and such Lists as aforesaid, authenticated as aforesaid, shall respectively be *primâ facie* Evidence that the several Persons therein named were respectively Members at the Time of the Authentication thereof respectively in manner aforesaid; and every such List entered and authenticated as aforesaid shall, until the Entry and Authentication of some subsequent List of such Members (but no longer,) be sufficient *primâ facie* Evidence of the Right of each of the Members therein named to vote at all Meetings of the Association.

Address of Members.

V. That, in addition to the said Register of Members, the Association shall provide a Book, to be called the "Members and Annuitants Address Book," in which shall be entered from Time to Time and at least once in every Year, in alphabetical Order, a List of Names of the Members and of the several Annuitants of the Association, the principal Office or Place of Business, and proper Address for sending Letters and Notices by Post or otherwise to every Person named in any such List to be therein entered; and every Correction of any Entry in any such List which may be rendered necessary by any Death, Removal, or other Circumstance, shall forthwith be made, so that such List shall at all Times contain the fullest and most correct Information possessed by the Association or any of the Officers or Servants thereof as to all Matters hereby required to be entered therein; and every Member and Annuitant may at all convenient Times inspect and peruse such Book *gratis*, and take Copies of and Extracts from all or any of the Entries therein made.

Votes of Members.

VI. That at all general and all other Meetings of the Association every Member shall be entitled to One Vote and no more: Provided always, that no Member shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting or other Meetings unless he shall have paid all Subscriptions and Sums (if any) due or payable by him to the Association; and provided always, that the Chairman presiding at all such Meetings shall, in addition to his Vote as a Member of the said Association, have a Casting Vote in case of an Equality of Votes on any Subject Matter introduced at any such Meetings.

Quorum at General Meetings.

VII. That the Quorum of every General Meeting of the Association shall be Fifteen Members, or such other larger Number of Members of the Association as shall from Time to Time be prescribed by the Rules, Byelaws, or Regulations for the Time being of the Association: Provided always, that any Five or more Members present at any General Meeting (whether original or adjourned) shall in

in every Case be a sufficient Quorum for the Purpose of adjourning such Meeting to a future Day.

First General Meeting.

VIII. That the First General Meeting of the Members of the Association after the passing of this Act shall be held on such Day within Six Calendar Months after the passing of this Act as the Directors herein-after named may appoint for that Purpose, and in default of such Appointment, on the First Day of *January* next after the passing of this Act; and such Meeting shall be deemed an Extraordinary General Meeting, but shall nevertheless have all the Powers of an Ordinary General Meeting, and shall have Power to confirm, amend, or make all such Byelaws, Rules, and Regulations as may be considered necessary for the Regulation and Management of the said Association.

Ordinary General Meetings.

IX. That One Ordinary General Meeting (to be called the Annual General Meeting) shall be held in the Month of *March* in each and every Year, and such other Ordinary General Meeting or General Meetings shall or may be held in every or any Year as shall or may from Time to Time be prescribed for that Purpose by the said Rules, Byelaws, and Regulations; and all the Powers hereby given to the Annual General Meetings may be exercised by any Ordinary General Meeting, unless the same shall be otherwise provided; and every other Meeting of the Members other than herein-before provided for shall be called "An Extraordinary Meeting," and such Meeting may be convened by the Board of Directors herein-after mentioned at such Times as they shall think fit, or by such Number of the Members of the said Association as herein-after provided.

Business to be transacted at Meetings.

X. That at the said Annual General Meeting to be held in the Month of *March* in each and every Year all Questions relating to the Amount of Annuities and other Benefits respectively derivable out of the Funds or other Properties of the Association, and to the Time and Mode of Payment thereof, to the Purchase of Lands, and the Investment, calling in, proceeding for, or Re-investment of the Capital Funds of the Association, or any Part thereof, or any Accumulation thereof, the changing, varying, or Transfer of any of the Securities in which the same may have been invested, or the Appointment or Removal of any Trustee or Trustees, or of the Secretary or Treasurer of the Association, or as to the Amount of Salary to be paid to the Secretary, Treasurer, or other Officer, shall be discussed and be determined by at least Two Thirds of the Members present at such Meeting; and all Questions relating to the Treasurer's Account, and Report thereon, to the Election and Appointment of President, Vice Presidents, Trustees, Directors, and all other Office Bearers, as herein-after provided for, shall be decided by a simple

Majority of the Members present at such Meeting; provided that if there be not a sufficient Number of Members present to constitute such Meeting, the Treasurer, with the Consent of the Directors, shall and is hereby authorized to pay the Annuities in the same Proportion as they had been paid for the previous Year.

Business at General Meetings.

XI. That no Matters or Business, except such as are appointed by this Act, or the Byelaws made in conformity with the Provisions of this Act, to be done or transacted at any Ordinary General Meeting, or Extraordinary Meeting, shall be done or transacted at such Meeting, unless special Notice of such Matters have been given in the Advertisement or Circulars convening such Meeting.

Place for holding General Meetings.

XII. That General Meetings, whether ordinary or extraordinary, shall be held in *Belfast*, in such Place therein as the Directors may from Time to Time appoint, or as shall be provided for by the Rules, Byelaws, or Regulations to be made under the Provisions of this Act.

Notice of Meetings.

XIII. That Seven clear Days Notice at the least shall be given of all Meetings by Advertisement in at least Two Newspapers circulating in the County in which such Meeting is held, or by Circulars addressed to each Member resident in *Ireland* at his registered Residence, which Advertisement or Circular, signed by the Secretary, shall specify the Place, the Day, and the Hour of Meeting, and of any special Business to be transacted thereat.

Chairman at Meetings.

XIV. That at any Meeting of the Association the President, to be appointed as herein-after mentioned, or in his Absence One of the Vice Presidents to be appointed in pursuance of the Provisions of this Act, shall preside thereat, or, in the Absence of the said President or Vice President, some One of the Members of the said Association to be chosen for that Purpose by a Majority of the Members present at such Meeting; and every such Meeting may be adjourned from Time to Time and from Place to Place; and no Business shall be transacted at any Adjourned Meeting other than the Business left unfinished at the Meeting from which such Adjournment took place.

Number of Members who may require an Extraordinary General Meeting.

XV. That the Number of Members on whose Requisition an Extraordinary General Meeting may be required to be convened shall be at least One Eighth of the entire Number of the registered Members; and such Requisition, to be signed by the said Members requiring the same, and fully expressing the Object of the Meeting required to be called, shall be left with the Secretary for the Time being at the Office of the Association, and within Twenty-one Days from the Receipt of such Requisition the said Secretary shall convene a Meeting of the Members; and if for Twenty-one Days after the

Receipt of such Notice the said Secretary shall fail to call such Meeting, the said prescribed Number of Members may call such Meeting, by giving Seven clear Days Notice thereof at least, in the Manner herein provided for calling Meetings of the said Members.

President and Vice Presidents.

XVI. That it shall be lawful for the Association at every or any Annual General Meeting to appoint any Member of the Association to be President thereof for the Year ensuing, and every Person so appointed President shall by virtue of his Office be One of the Directors of the Association, and Chairman of all Meetings hereinbefore provided for, and of all Meetings of the said Board of Directors, in case he is present; and in like Manner the Association shall at the same Time appoint Two other of their Members to be Vice Presidents thereof for the Year ensuing, who shall also by virtue of their Office be Directors of the Association, and One of whom, if present at such Meeting, shall in the Absence of the President act as Chairman of all such Meetings.

Number of Directors.

XVII. That the Number of Directors (exclusive of the President, Vice President, and Secretary, who *ex officio* shall be Directors,) shall be Eighteen, and every Member of the Association shall be qualified to be elected as such Director.

Power to reduce the Number of Directors.

XVIII. That it shall be lawful for any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting from Time to Time to reduce the Number of Directors, provided the reduced Number, including the Three *ex officio* Directors, be not less than Nine; and every Director shall at every Meeting of Directors have One Vote.

First Directors, President, and Vice President.

XIX. That the herein-before named Reverend *Henry Cooke* Doctor in Divinity and Doctor of Laws, the Reverend *Henry Montgomery* Doctor of Laws, the Reverend *Henry Jackson Dobbin* Doctor in Divinity, the Reverend *Robert Stewart* Doctor in Divinity, the Reverend *William Dool Killen* Doctor in Divinity, the Reverend *James Gracey Murphy* Doctor of Laws, the Reverend *Fletcher Blakeley*, the Reverend *William Gibson*, the Reverend *William Bruce*, the Reverend *John Porter*, the Reverend *Robert Knox*, the Reverend *Thomas Millar*, the Reverend *William Johnson*, the Reverend *John Meenely*, the Reverend *James Millar Killen*, the Reverend *Samuel Marcus Dill*, and the Reverend *George Bellis*, together with the Reverend *John Barnett* Doctor in Divinity, the Reverend *William M'Clure*, the Reverend *James Carley*, the Reverend *James Mulligan*, and the Reverend *Henry Henderson*, respectively Members of the said Society, shall be the First Directors of the Association, and the said Directors shall continue in Office until the First Annual General Meeting to be held in the Month of *March* after the passing of this Act, or until they shall respectively

respectively sooner die, or become incompetent, or decline to act; and no Vacancy in the Office of any Director shall at any Time invalidate any of the Acts or Proceedings of any competent Number of the Directors; and the said Reverend *Henry Cooke* Doctor in Divinity and Doctor of Laws shall be the First President thereof, and the said Reverend *Henry Montgomery* Doctor of Laws shall be the First Vice President thereof.

Directors to retire from Office in Rotation.

XX. That the Directors so appointed shall be subject to the Provision herein contained for increasing or reducing their Number, and shall retire from Office at the Times and in the Proportions following; (that is to say,)

At the First Annual General Meeting to be held in the Month of *March* as aforesaid, One Third of such Directors, to be previously determined by Ballot among themselves, unless they shall otherwise agree, shall go out of Office:

At the Second Annual General Meeting to be held as aforesaid, One Half of the remaining Number of such Directors, to be determined in like Manner, shall go out of Office:

At the Third Annual General Meeting to be held as aforesaid the Remainder of the said Directors shall go out of Office; and in each Instance the Place of the retiring Directors shall be supplied by an equal Number of Members; and at all other Annual General Meetings to be held as aforesaid One Third of the Directors, being those who have been longest in Office, shall from Time to Time go out of Office, and their Places shall be supplied in like Manner; nevertheless, every Director so retiring from Office may be re-elected immediately or at any future Time, and after such Re-election shall, with reference to the going out by Rotation, be considered a new Director, so that the whole Number of Directors shall go out of Office in Three Years.

Directors to manage the Affairs of the Association, and exercise its Powers.

XXI. That the Directors shall have the Management and Superintendence of the Affairs of the Association, and they may lawfully exercise all the Powers of the Association (except as to such Matters as are directed by this Act, or the Rules, Byelaws, or Regulations to be made in pursuance of its Provisions, to be transacted by a General Meeting of the Members of the Association); but all the Powers so to be exercised shall be exercised in accordance with and subject to the Provisions of this Act; and the said Rules, Byelaws, and Regulations, and the Exercise of all such Powers, shall be subject also to the Control and Regulation of any General, Ordinary, or Extraordinary Meeting specially convened for the Purpose, but not so as to render invalid any Act done by the Directors prior to any Resolution passed by such General Meeting; and the said Directors shall at all Times be empowered to convene any Extraordinary Meeting of

of the Members of the Association, and make such Disbursements as the current Expenditure of the Association may require.

Meetings of the Directors.

XXII. That the Directors shall hold Meetings at such Times as they shall appoint for the Purpose, and they may meet and adjourn as they think proper from Time to Time and from Place to Place, and at any Time any Three of the Directors may require the Secretary of the Association to call a Meeting of the Directors; and in order to constitute a Meeting of Directors there shall be present at the least the prescribed Quorum, and when no Quorum shall be prescribed there shall be present at least Five of the Directors; and all Questions at any such Meeting shall be determined by the Majority of Votes of the Directors present: Provided always, that the Director presiding at all such Meetings shall, in addition to his Vote as One of the Directors of the Association, have a Casting Vote in case of an Equality of Votes on any Subject Matter introduced at any such Meetings.

Committees of Directors; Powers thereof.

XXIII. That it shall be lawful for the Directors to appoint One or more Committees, consisting of such Number of Directors as they think fit, within the prescribed Limits, if any, and they may grant to such Committees respectively Power on behalf of the Association to do any Acts relating to the Affairs of the Association which the Directors could lawfully do, and which they shall from Time to Time think proper to intrust to them.

Proceedings to be entered in a Book, and to be Evidence.

XXIV. That the Directors shall cause Notes, Minutes, or Copies, as the Case may require, of all Appointments made or Loans or Agreements entered into by the Directors, and of the Orders and Proceedings of all Meetings of the Association, and of the Directors and Committees of Directors, to be duly entered in Books to be from Time to Time provided for the Purpose, which shall be kept under the Superintendence of the Directors; and every such Entry shall be signed by the Chairman of such Meeting or of any adjourned or subsequent Meeting; and such Entry so signed shall be received as Evidence in all Courts, and before all Judges, Justices, and others, without further or other Proof of such respective Meetings having been duly convened or held, or of the Persons making or entering such Orders or Proceedings being Members or Directors, or Members of a Committee of Directors respectively, or of the Signature of the Chairman, or of the Fact of his having been Chairman, all of which last-mentioned Matters shall be presumed until the contrary be proved.

Directors not to be personally liable.

XXV. That no Director, by being party to or executing in his Capacity of Director any Contract or other Instrument on behalf of the Association, or otherwise lawfully executing any of the Powers given to the Directors by this Act, or the Byelaws to be made in pursuance of its Provisions, shall be subject to be sued or prosecuted, either individually or collectively, by any Person whomsoever, and the Bodies or Goods or Lands of the Directors shall not be liable to Execution of any legal Process by reason of any Contract or other Instrument so entered into, signed, or executed by them, or by reason of any other lawful Act done by them in the Execution of any of their Powers as Directors; and the Directors, their Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, shall be indemnified out of the Funds of the Association for all Payments made or Liability incurred in respect of any Acts done by them, and for all Losses, Costs, and Damages which they may incur in the Execution of the Powers granted to them, and the Directors for the Time being of the Association may apply the existing Funds and Capital of the Association for the Purposes of such Indemnity.

Officers to be elected annually.

XXVI. That a Treasurer, Secretary, and Two Auditors shall be elected every Year at the Annual General Meeting to be held in *March* as herein-before provided, or in default thereof at some subsequent General Meeting; and the Persons elected to such Offices shall respectively continue in Office until the then next Annual General Meeting, and until some other Persons shall be elected to such Offices respectively, unless such Persons shall respectively sooner die, decline or become incompetent to act, or be removed from Office; and no Person shall by virtue of any such Election continue in Office longer than until the then next Annual General Meeting, or until the Election of some other Person in his Place: Provided always, that every Person so going out of Office may (if qualified) be again elected to fill such Office.

Duty of Auditors.

XXVII. That it shall be the Duty of such Auditors to receive from the Directors the half-yearly or other periodical Accounts and Balance Sheet required to be presented to the Members, and to examine the same, and report thereon, if necessary.

Directors to have Power to employ an Accountant in case Auditors do not attend.

XXVIII. That in case the Auditors fail to discharge the Duties intrusted to them, it shall be lawful for the Directors to employ such Accountants or other Persons as they may think proper, at the Expense of the Association, to discharge the Duties of the said Auditors, and they shall make a special Report on the said Accounts, to enable the Members to audit and examine the same, and such Report shall be read, together with the Report of the Directors, at the Ordinary Meeting.

XXIX. That

Books to be balanced.

XXIX. That the Accounts of the Association shall be balanced up to the Thirty-first Day of *December* in every Year, or to such other Period in every Year (not being less than One Month before the Annual General Meeting) as may from Time to Time be appointed or prescribed for that Purpose by any General Meeting, with a view to their being submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

Inspection of Accounts.

XXX. That the Books so balanced, together with the Balance Sheet, showing the Income and Expenditure of the Association during the preceding Year ending on the Thirty-first Day of *December*, shall for Twenty-one clear Days previous to such Annual General Meeting, and for Twenty-one clear Days thereafter, or for such other Periods (not less than Ten clear Days each) as may from Time to Time be appointed or prescribed for that Purpose by any General Meeting, be open for the Inspection and Perusal of the Members at the principal Office or Place of Business of the Association; and any Member may inspect and peruse the Books of the Association, and take Copies or Extracts therefrom, at any reasonable Time during such Periods as aforesaid; but the Members shall not be entitled at any Time, except during the Periods aforesaid, to demand the Inspection or Perusal of such Books, or the Right to take such Copies or Extracts as aforesaid, unless by virtue of a written Order signed by Three Directors.

Duties of Treasurer and Secretary.

XXXI. That any General Meeting may from Time to Time, by any Resolution, or by any Byelaw, Rule, or Regulation, prescribe what Duties are to be performed by the Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Treasurer or Secretary may be temporarily appointed by Directors.

XXXII. That in every Case in which any Vacancies may occur in the Office of Treasurer or Secretary, it shall be lawful for the Directors to appoint some Person to execute the Duties of such Office until a new Treasurer or Secretary shall be elected to fill such Office by a General Meeting.

Security may be required from Officers and others intrusted with Money, &c.

XXXIII. That any General Meeting may order or require that before every or any Officer or Person to be intrusted with the Custody or Control of any Monies or Property of the Association shall enter upon his Office or Employment, the Directors shall take Security from him for the faithful Execution or Performance of his Office or Duty; and the Directors shall, in every Case in which Security shall be so ordered or required as aforesaid, take such Security as they shall deem to be sufficient, to the Amount and in the Manner in which the same may be ordered or required as aforesaid.

XXXIV. That

Newspaper for Notices.

XXXIV. That the prescribed Newspaper for advertising Notices shall be such Newspaper or Newspapers as shall from Time to Time be appointed or prescribed by the Resolution of any Meeting of the Directors.

Service of Notices, &c. upon Association.

XXXV. That any Summons or Notice, or any Writ or other Proceeding at Law or in Equity, requiring to be served upon the Association, may be served on the Secretary, or be left at the Residence or Office of the Secretary of the Association directed to the said Secretary, or be personally served on Three of the Directors of the Association; and in case such Service is not personal, such Summons, Notice, Writ, or other Proceeding shall be delivered or served at least Six Days previous to such Summons, Notice, Writ, or other Proceeding at Law or in Equity commencing to run.

Service of Notices by the Association upon its Members.

XXXVI. That Notices and Summonses requiring to be served by the Association upon the Members or Widows or Children of deceased Members may, unless expressly required to be served personally, be served by the same being transmitted through the Post, directed according to the registered Address or other known Address of such Member, Widow, or Children of deceased Members, within such Period as to admit of its being delivered in the due Course of Delivery within the Period (if any) prescribed for the giving of such Notice or Summons, and in proving such Service it shall be sufficient to prove that such Notices or Summonses were properly directed, and that they were so put into the Post Office.

Notices by Advertisements.

XXXVII. That all Notices required by this Act, or any Rules, Byelaws, or Regulations made in pursuance of the Powers granted by this Act, either to be served on or by the Association, shall be advertised in a Newspaper circulating in the County within which the Meetings of the Association as herein-before provided shall be held.

Authentication of Notices.

XXXVIII. That every Summons, Notice, or other such Document requiring legal Authentication by the Association shall be signed by Two Directors, and by the Secretary of the Association, and need not be under the Common Seal of the Association, and the same may be in Writing or in Print, or partly in Writing and partly in Print.

Power to purchase Lands for Purposes of Association.

XXXIX. That it shall and may be lawful for the Association, in case they may hereafter think fit so to do, by and in their Corporate Name, to acquire, purchase, receive, take, and hold, possess, and retain any Quantity not in the whole exceeding Twenty Statute Acres of Land in any Part of *Ireland* that they may select as most suitable for the Purpose of erecting thereon an Almshouse or Almshouses and Schoolhouses, with all suitable and necessary Appurtenances for the

Accommodation and Support of such of the Widows and Children of its deceased Members as the Association may consider fitting Objects to receive the Benefits thereby to be conferred, and under and subject to such Regulations as they may from Time to Time adopt for that Purpose.

Power to lend Money on Mortgage of Land.

XL. That it shall be lawful for the Association from Time to Time to lend and invest their Funds, consisting of Money, upon the Security of any Land, either by way of Mortgage, Lien, or otherwise, and to take and hold any Land granted, released, assigned, or conveyed to the Association by way of Mortgage, or for securing the Payment of any Principal or Interest of Money, or for securing or indemnifying the Association in any Manner against any Payment, Loss, or Damage whatsoever, and that the Association shall not occasion or incur any Forfeiture or Penalty whatsoever by taking and holding such Lands, or accepting of any Grant, Release, Assignment, or Conveyance thereof, for any such Purpose as aforesaid, any Law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Power to purchase Land mortgaged to the Society, but to be sold within Twenty-one Years.

XLI. And whereas certain Lands in *Ireland* have been conveyed by way of Mortgage to and are now vested in the Trustees of the said Society so incorporated as aforesaid, to secure the Payment of Money belonging to the said Society, and the Value of Landed Property in *Ireland* is at present much depressed, and may continue for some Time to be so depressed, and it is believed that such Lands, if sold, would not produce Purchase Money sufficient to pay the whole of the Money so secured to the said Society; but if the Association were enabled to purchase and hold such Land, the same may eventually be sold for the full Amount secured to the Trustees of the said Society by way of Mortgage thereon: Be it enacted, That in every Case in which any Land which before the passing of this Act has been or become charged or made subject by way of Mortgage, Lien, or otherwise, at Law or in Equity, for securing the Payment of any Money due or belonging to or claimed by the said Society or any Trustees or Members thereof, shall be sold under the Provisions of the *Irish* Encumbered Estates Acts, or by virtue or in pursuance of any Order, Authority, or Permission of the Court of Chancery, it shall be lawful for the Association to purchase, and to acquire, take, and hold, such Land, in addition to any other Land which the Association may for the Time being be authorized to take or hold by virtue of this Act or otherwise; and it shall be lawful for the Association so to purchase, acquire, and take such Land, and hold the same, until the same can or may be sold for such Consideration and in such Manner as the Association shall think most advantageous for the Purposes thereof, without being subject or liable to any of the Penalties or Forfeitures in the Statutes of Mortmain respectively expressed or contained, or

any other Penalties or Forfeitures: Provided always, that the Association shall sell or dispose of such Land within Twenty-one Years next after the passing of this Act, or within Five Years next after the Time when the Association shall become actually and absolutely seised of or entitled unto such Land, freed and discharged of and from every Equity and Right of Redemption whatsoever.

Power to purchase Land hereafter mortgaged to the Association, but to be sold within Five Years.

XLII. That in every Case in which any Land which shall at any Time hereafter be or become charged or made subject by way of Mortgage, Lien, or otherwise, at Law or in Equity, for securing the Payment of any Money due or to become due or belonging to or claimed by the Association, shall be sold under the Provisions of the *Irish* Encumbered Estates Acts, or by virtue or in pursuance of any Order, Authority, or Permission of the Court of Chancery, it shall be lawful for the Association to purchase, and to acquire, take, and hold, such Land, in addition to any other Land which the Association may for the Time being be authorized to take or hold by virtue of this Act or otherwise; and it shall be lawful for the Association so to purchase, acquire, and take such Land, and hold the same, until the same can or may be sold for such Consideration and in such Manner as the Association shall think most advantageous for the Purposes thereof, without being subject or liable to any of the Penalties or Forfeitures in the Statutes of Mortmain respectively expressed or contained, or any other Penalties or Forfeitures: Provided always, that the Association shall sell or dispose of such Land within Five Years next after the Time when the Association shall have become actually and absolutely seised of or entitled unto such Land, freed and discharged of and from every Equity and Right of Redemption whatsoever.

Rents may be purchased by the Association.

XLIII. That it shall also be lawful for the Association, at any Time or Times within Three Years from the passing of this Act, but not afterwards, to purchase, take, and hold any Rent reserved or issuing out of any Land in the Borough of *Belfast*, or leased in Fee Simple, or for any Term renewable for ever: Provided always, that the total Sum or Sums expended by the Association in any Purchase or Purchases under this Provision shall not exceed the Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds.

Power of leasing.

XLIV. That it shall be lawful for the Association, by Indenture or Indentures under their Common Seal, to lease or demise all or any Part or Parts of the Lands, Grounds, Tenements, Hereditaments, Houses, and Buildings which now are in their Possession, or which hereafter may come into their Possession, either by Surrender or by Expiration of any existing Lease, or by Bequest or otherwise, to any Person or Persons whomsoever, for any Term not exceeding Ninety-nine Years, to be computed from the Date of such Lease, so

that

that there be thereby reserved and made payable by Two equal half-yearly Payments to the Association the best and most improved yearly Rent or Rents that can be reasonably gotten for the same, without taking any Fine, Foregift, Premium, Sum of Money, or other Consideration for granting any such Lease, and so that no such Lessee by any such Lease or Demise be made dispunishable for Waste by any express Words to be therein contained, and so that there be inserted in every such Lease Power of Re-entry on Nonpayment of the Rent or Rents to be thereby reserved within a reasonable Time to be therein limited after the same shall become due, and so that a Counterpart of such Lease shall be duly executed by the Lessee or Lessees to whom such Lease shall be made as aforesaid, and every such Lease shall be valid and effectual, any Law or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Existing Rules to continue until First General Meeting.

XLV. That, notwithstanding the Incorporation of the said Members of the said Society aforesaid, the Byelaws, Rules, and Regulations of the said Society now in force, so far as the same are not inconsistent with the Provisions of this Act, shall continue in force, and, so far as the same may be applicable, apply to the Association, until the Time of the holding of the First General Meeting next after the passing of this Act, or such other subsequent General Meeting of the said Association as the said Association may appoint for the Purpose of making such Byelaws, Rules, and Regulations as next herein provided for.

Byelaws.

XLVI. That it shall be lawful for General Meetings from Time to Time to make such Byelaws, Rules, and Regulations as may be deemed expedient respecting the Election or Admission or Removal of Members, the Management and Disposition of the Property, Estates, and Effects of the Association, the Investment of the Monies or Funds of the Company in or upon any Security, and the Transfer of any Monies or Funds so invested in or upon any other Security, the Amount of Annuity or annual periodical Payment or other Provision to be from Time to Time paid, allowed, or given to any Widows and Children of any deceased Member, and the Time during which any Annuity, annual, periodical, or other Provision shall be paid or allowed, or continue to be paid or allowed, the Conditions or Circumstances under which any Widows or Children shall or may be deemed to be entitled to obtain or receive, or continue to obtain and receive, the Benefit of any Annuity, annual, periodical, or other Provision, the Objects and Purposes of the Association, the Management or Control of the Officers, Business, Affairs, and Proceedings of the Association; and it shall be lawful for any General Meeting, as herein-before provided, to revoke, repeal, or alter, wholly or in part, all or any Part of every or any such Byelaw, Rule, or Regulation as aforesaid, and to substitute or make any other Byelaw, Rule, or Regulation in lieu thereof,

thereof, or not, as such General Meeting shall think fit; and any Instrument in Writing which shall purport to be a Byelaw, Rule, or Regulation of the Association, and which shall be sealed with the Common Seal of the said Association, shall be received as *primâ facie* Evidence of the same being such Byelaw, Rule, or Regulation, in all Courts, and before all Judges, Justices, Officers, and Persons whomsoever: Provided always, that the Byelaws or Rules of the Association shall not at any Time be altered or repealed, nor any new ones be added thereto, without Notice of such intended Alteration, Repeal, or Addition having been given in the printed Minutes of the Proceedings of the General Annual Meeting of the Association, of which each Member shall be entitled to receive a Copy from the Secretary, in case he apply for the same; and also that such Alteration, Repeal, or Addition shall be read and approved of at the next Annual Meeting of the Association; nor shall such Alteration, Repeal, or Addition be made without the Approbation of Three Fourths of the Members present at such Meeting.

Declaration in support of Application for Annuities.

XLVII. That in every Case in which any Person may apply to have any Annuity or Sum of Money or Benefit to be granted or paid by the Association to her or him, as being the Widow or Child or the Executor or Administrator of any deceased Member of the said Association, or in which any Person may apply to obtain, or have given or allowed to her or him by the Association, any pecuniary or other Benefit or Advantage, and in which Proof shall be required by or on behalf of the Association, or of the Directors or Secretary, of any Matters or Facts in support of such Application, it shall be lawful for the Person making such Application for the Purpose of supplying such Proof, to make a solemn Declaration of or respecting such Matters or Facts, or such of them as may be within his Knowledge, and also to cause a solemn Declaration of or respecting such Matters or Facts, or any of them, to be made by any Person having a competent Knowledge thereof; and every solemn Declaration made in pursuance of this Act shall be made in the Form or to the Effect expressed or mentioned in the Schedule to this Act annexed; and every or any such Declaration shall be made or taken by or before any Judge of a Superior Court, or any Master or Master Extraordinary in Chancery, or any Justice of the Peace, Commissioner, Officer, or Person by Law authorized to administer any Oath or take any solemn Declaration, in the Place where such Declaration shall be made, and every solemn Declaration so made as aforesaid shall be left at the principal Office of the Association.

False Declaration a Misdemeanor.

XLVIII. That any Person who shall make any solemn Declaration in pursuance of this Act, or shall make any solemn Declaration intending the same to be made in pursuance of this Act, and shall therein

therein or thereby wilfully declare anything which shall be false or untrue in any material Particular, knowing the same to be false or untrue, shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor.

Property of the Society vested in the Association.

XLIX. That all Property, Chattels, Estates, and Effects, of what Nature or Kind soever, which the said Society called "The Society for providing Annuities for Widows and Children of Presbyterian Ministers, or the Members of the said Society," (as Members thereof,) are now, at the Time of the passing of this Act, seised or possessed of or entitled unto, and also all Property, Chattels, Estates, and Effects, of what Nature or Kind soever, which any Person is now, at the Time of the passing of this Act, seised or possessed of or entitled unto, in trust for the said Society or the Members thereof, be and the same are hereby vested in the Association hereby incorporated, for all the Estate, Term, and Interest therein respectively of the said Society, Members, and Trustees respectively, to and for the several Uses and Purposes by this Act directed, but subject nevertheless to all the Charges and Liabilities (if any) which such Property, Chattels, Estates, and Effects respectively are now subject and liable to; and the Association hereby incorporated shall, from and after the passing of this Act, have, possess, and be entitled unto all and every of the Rights, Credits, Debts, Remedies, Claims, and Demands which the said Society, Members, and Trustees respectively would have had or been possessed of or entitled unto if this Act had not been passed.

Receipts of Directors, &c. for Purchase Money &c. to be sufficient.

L. That the Receipt under the Hands of Two Directors, or under the Hand of the Treasurer for the Time being of the Association, or of any Person authorized by the Association to receive any Purchase or other Monies or Property for or on behalf of the Association, given to any Purchaser or other Person or Corporation paying or delivering such Purchase or other Monies or Property to the Association, or paying or delivering such Monies or Property to such Directors, Treasurer, or other Person on behalf of the Association, shall be a sufficient Discharge to the Person or Corporation who shall have so paid or delivered such Money or Property, or who shall in such Receipt be mentioned to have so paid or delivered such Money or Property, for so much Money or Property as in such Receipt shall be expressed or mentioned to be received, and shall wholly exonerate the Person or Corporation paying or delivering the same from every Liability or Responsibility to the Association in respect of such Money or Property; provided that such Directors, Treasurer, or any Person authorized as aforesaid shall be so authorized to receive the same by a Resolution of the Board of Directors previously entered into for that Purpose.

Construction of Words in this Act.

LI. That in the Construction of this Act, and the said Clauses and Provisions incorporated therewith, the Expression "General Meeting" shall be construed to mean a General Meeting of the Members of the Association, and the Word "prescribed" and in reference to any Matter shall be construed to refer to such Matter as the same shall be prescribed or provided for by this Act, or by the Byelaws, Rules, or Regulations for the Time being of the Association, and the Sentence in which such Word occurs shall be construed as if instead of the Word "prescribed" the Expression "prescribed for that Purpose by this Act, or by the Byelaws, Rules, or Regulations for the Time being of the Association" had been used, and that the Word "Member" shall mean a Contributor to the Fund under the Rules and Regulations herein-before mentioned; the Expression "the Association" shall mean the said Association hereby incorporated; and that every Word or Expression signifying or importing a Person or Individual shall include a Female as well as a Male, and shall also include and extend to as well a Corporation sole as also a Corporation aggregate of any Description whatsoever; and the Word "Lands" shall extend to and include Manors, Messuages, Tenements, and Hereditaments of every Tenure or Description: Provided always, that no such Expression, Names, or Words shall have or bear such Meaning or Construction when it is otherwise provided by this Act, or in any Case in which there shall be anything, whether in the Subject Matter or Context or otherwise, inconsistent with or repugnant to such Meaning or Construction as aforesaid.

Short Title.

LII. That in citing or mentioning this Act in other Acts of Parliament, and in legal Instruments and in legal Proceedings, it shall be sufficient to use the Expression "The Presbyterian Widows Fund Association Act, 1852."

Expenses of Act.

LIII. That the Costs, Charges, and Expenses incident to and attending the obtaining and passing of this Act, and for carrying the same into effect and execution, shall be paid by the Association out of the Monies of the said Society, or any other Monies which may come to the Hands of the Association under the Provisions of this Act.

The

The SCHEDULE referred to in the foregoing Act.

Form in which solemn Declarations may be made.

I of do solemnly and sincerely declare, That [*here insert the Matters to be declared*], and I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1852.