may, with such Consent as aforesaid, mortgage, sell, exchange, or let the same or any Part thereof; and the Receipt in Writing of such Trustees shall be a valid and legal Discharge for the Money arising from any such Mortgage, Sale, Exchange, or Lease, and for any other Moneys payable to them by virtue of this Act; and no Purchaser, Mortgagee, Lessee, Assignee, or other Person shall be bound to ascertain or show whether any such Consent shall have been given as aforesaid, or be answerable for the Misapplication or Nonapplication of the Moneys in any such Receipt expressed to be received, or be bound to see to the Application thereof: Provided always, that any Building which now belongs to any such Society may be held and dealt with in the same Manner as if it had been acquired under or by virtue of this Act.

Trustees of Friendly Societies not to invest Funds in Savings Banks, &c.

VIII. It shall not be lawful for the Trustees of any Friendly Society coming under the Provisions of this Act to make any Investment of the Funds of such Society either in a Savings Bank, or with the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt: Provided always, that where the Funds or any Part thereof of any such Friendly Society shall be invested in a Savings Bank or with the said Commissioners, such Funds shall be withdrawn from such Savings Bank or from the said Commissioners by the said Trustees within the Space of Twelve Months after the passing of this Act, if required by the said Commissioners.

Short Title.

IX. In citing this Act in other Acts of Parliament, and in legal Proceedings and Instruments, it shall be sufficient to use the Expression "The Friendly Societies Discharge Act, 1854."

Extent of Act.

X. This Act shall extend to *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and the Islands of *Guernsey*, *Jersey*, and *Man*.

CAP. LVII.

An Act to amend the Law relating to the Appointment of Returning Officers in certain Cases. [31st *July* 1854.]

'WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Session of Parliament holden in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, Chapter Sixty-eight, it is amongst other things enacted, that the Writ for making any Election of a Member to serve in Parliament for any Borough, Town Corporate, Port, or Place returning Members to serve in Parliament in *England* and *Wales* shall thereafter be directed to the Returning Officer of such Borough, Town Corporate, Port, or Place respectively: And whereas by another Act passed in the Session of Parliament holden in the Sixth and Seventh Years of His late Majesty, Chapter One hundred and one, it was amongst other things enacted, that if at any Time during which any Precept ought to be issued or other Act done by or with regard to the Returning Officer for any City, Borough, or Town, the Office of Returning Officer shall happen to be vacant, it shall be lawful for the Sheriff of the County in which such City, Borough, or Town is situate, by Writing under his Hand to appoint some fit Person as his Deputy to perform the Duties of Returning Officer during such Vacancy: And whereas Difficulties and Delay may arise in the Appointment of such sufficient Deputy, in the Case of a Vacancy in the Office of Returning Officer, by reason of the Writ being directed to such Returning Officer, and there being no Person qualified to receive and execute the same:' 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:

Sheriff to be Returning Officer in Boroughs where the Office of Returning Officer shall be vacant.

I. Every Writ for making any Election of a Member to serve in Parliament for any Borough, City, or Town shall be directed to the Returning Officer of the said Borough or his Deputy, and in their Absence to the Sheriff of the County in which the said City, Borough, or Town is situate; and in all Cases whatever, whenever there shall be, either from temporary Vacancy or from some other Cause, no Person duly qualified in any Borough, City, or Town to perform the Duties of a Returning Officer for the same, the Sheriff of the County in which such Borough, City, or Town is situate shall be charged with the Execution of the said Writ, and shall execute the same and in all respects perform the Duties of and incidental

incidental to the Office of Returning Officer: Provided always, that it shall not be lawful for the said Sheriff to receive or execute the Writ except when there shall be no Person within the said Borough, City, or Town legally qualified and competent as Returning Officer to execute the same.

CAP. LVIII.

An Act to continue certain Turnpike Acts in *Great Britain*, and to make further Provisions concerning Turnpike Roads in *England*. [31st *July* 1854.]

'WHEREAS it is expedient to continue for limited Times the Acts herein-after specified, and to make further Provisions concerning Turnpike Roads in *England*:' 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:

All Turnpike Acts which will expire on or before the End of next Session continued to 1st Oct. 1855, &c., with certain Exceptions.

I. Every Act now in force for regulating, making, amending, or repairing any Turnpike Road in *Great Britain* which will expire on or before the End of the next Session of Parliament, shall be continued until the First Day of *October* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and to the End of the then next Session of Parliament, except an Act of the Fifty-fourth of King *George* the Third, Chapter One hundred and eighty, "for repairing the "Road from *Potton* in the County of *Bedford*, and *Gamlingay* in the County of *Cambridge*, "to *Eynesbury* in the County of *Huntingdon*," and an Act of the Third Year of King *George* the Fourth, Chapter Sixty-four, "for amending and maintaining the Road from *Whitchurch* to *Ternhill* in the County of *Salop*," and except as herein-after mentioned.

Acts in Schedule to this Act continued till 1st Nov. 1855.

II. The Acts mentioned in the Schedule to this Act annexed shall continue in force until the First Day of *November* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and no longer, unless Parliament shall in the meantime continue the same respectively.

Any Money applicable to Payment of Turnpike Debts may be applied in manner provided by 12 & 13 Vict. c. 87. with respect to Sinking Funds under that Act.

III. Where any Money arising from any Sinking Fund provided under any Local Turnpike Act, or from the Sale of Surplus Land, or from Compensation payable by any Company, Corporation, or Person, or from any other Source, is or may be applicable to the Payment of the Principal Debts owing on the Security of the Tolls of any Turnpike Road, or of any particular Class of such Debts, it shall be lawful for the Trustees or Commissioners of such Road, if they think fit, from Time to Time (so often as the Money so applicable amounts to the Sum of Two hundred Pounds, or to such other Sum as the said Trustees or Commissioners, with the Consent in Writing of One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, may determine,) to apply the same in or towards the Discharge of such Debts or Class of Debts, in manner provided by the Act of the Session holden in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Years of Her Majesty, Chapter Eighty-seven, with respect to the Application of Monies arising from the Sums set apart as therein mentioned, in or towards the Discharge of Monies borrowed, charged, or secured, after the passing of that Act, and such Money may be so applied as aforesaid, notwithstanding the Provisions of any Local or other Act for the Payment of such Principal Debts rateably, or by Lot, or otherwise.

Power to Executors, &c. to consent.

IV. All Executors, Administrators, Guardians, Trustees, and all Committees of the Estates of Idiots and Lunatics, who as such are for the Time being entitled to any Money charged or secured on the Tolls of any Turnpike Road, may offer to accept and may accept under this Act such Composition in respect of such Money or any Part thereof as they in their Discretion may deem expedient, as if they respectively were so entitled in their own Right, discharged of all Trusts in respect thereof, and all Executors, Administrators, Guardians, Trustees, and Committees so consenting are hereby severally indemnified for so doing.

Tolls not to be charged without Consent of Secretary of State.

V. It shall not be lawful for the Trustees or Commissioners of any Turnpike Road to borrow any Money on the Credit of the Tolls of such Road, or to make any Mortgage, Charge, or Security of or upon such Tolls, without the previous Consent in Writing of One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State: Provided always, that this Enactment shall not be applicable