ANNO SEXTO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

C A P. CXXX.

An Act to alter and amend the Law as to Church Rates in *Ireland*, and to regulate the same.

[6th *July* 1825.]

WHEREAS it is expedient that the Law respecting the raising and expending Church Rates in *Ireland* be altered and amended: And whereas His Majesty's Subjects professing the Roman Catholic Religion are by Law prevented from voting at every Vestry held for the building, rebuilding, enlarging, or repair of Churches, or for the Election of Churchwardens, or for determining upon the Salary to be paid to the Parish Clerk, although they are by Law compellable to fill the Office of Churchwarden; be it therefore enacted by the King'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, That whenever any Vestry shall be held in any Parish in *Ireland* respecting or relating to all or any of the following Purposes, namely, the building, rebuilding, enlarging, or repairing of the Church, the Election of the Churchwardens, the settling the Salary of the Parish Clerk, or the making a Rate to defray such Expences, or any of them, or respecting or relating to the letting or demising of any Estate, or the Disposal of the Income of any Estate, or any Part thereof, belonging to or held in Trust for the Church or Parish, no other Matter shall be proceeded upon at such Vestry save and except the Matters aforesaid, or some of them, for the Purpose of which such Vestry shall be held: Provided always, that in all Cases whatever where any Vestry shall be held in any Parish for any Purposes other than

Limiting the Business, in certain Cases, to be done at Vestries.

Allowing every Parishioner to vote

at Parish Vestries, except in certain Cases.

than and save and except the Purposes or Matters aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for every Parishioner, of whatever Religious Persuasion he may be, who shall be chargeable to the Church Rate in such Parish, to vote at such Vestry respecting every Matter or Business therein brought forward.

No Vestry to be held without giving public Notice thereof.

II. And be it further enacted, That no Vestry or Meeting of the Inhabitants in Vestry, of or for any Parish or Union of Parishes, shall be holden for any Purpose whatever, until public Notice shall have been given of such Vestry, and of the Place and Hour of holding the same, and of the special Purpose thereof, Seven Days before the Day to be appointed for holding such Vestry, by the Publication thereof in the Parish Church or Chapel on some *Sunday* during or immediately after Divine Service, and by affixing the same on the principal Door of such Church or Chapel, and also by affixing the same on the Door of the Roman Catholic Chapel, if any, and on the Door of the Meeting House for Religious Worship of the Presbyterian Congregation, if any, within such Parish or Union.

Where there is no Parish Church Notice to be posted in the Market Town.

III. Provided always, and be it enacted, That if it shall happen that there shall not be any Parish Church or Chapel within any such Parish or Union, or any Church or Chapel fit for the Celebration of Divine Worship, the posting up of a Notice of such Vestry on some conspicuous public Place in the Market Town wherein or nearest to the Place where such Vestry shall be intended to be held, and the delivering Three true Copies of such Notice to Three Householders of such Parish or Union respectively, shall be deemed sufficient Notice of every such Vestry.

Churchwarden to give Account of Expenditure to officiating Minister.

IV. And be it further enacted, That no Churchwarden or Churchwardens shall be allowed in his or their Account, or get Credit for any Sum or Sums of Money expended by him or them, unless he or they shall, within the Space of Fourteen Days after another Churchwarden or other Churchwardens shall have been nominated and appointed to succeed him or them, furnish a just and fair Account of such Expenditure to the officiating Minister and Parish Clerk of such Parish or Union, and post Notice of having furnished the same in like Manner and in the same Places as are herein-before provided respecting the holding of such Vestry as aforesaid; and that such Account shall be at all reasonable Hours open to the Inspection of, and to be copied in part or the whole by each and every Parishioner assessed or liable to be assessed as aforesaid.

Roman Catholics not to be elected to fill the Office of Church or Chapelwarden.

V. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall not be lawful for any Vestry in *Ireland* to elect any Person to fill the Office of Church or Chapelwarden who professes the Roman Catholic Religion.

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