CAP. LVI.

An Act to continue the Act for exempting certain Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes from the Operation of the Usury Laws.

[5th *August* 1850.]

'WHEREAS an Act was passed in the Third Year of the Reign of Her Majesty, intituled 'An Act to amend, and extend until the First Day of January One thousand eight 'hundred and forty-two, the Provisions of an Act of the First Year of Her present Majesty, 'for exempting certain Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes from the Operation of the 'Laws relating to Usury, which by sundry Acts has been since continued until the First 'Day of *January* in the Year One thousand eight hundred and fifty-one; and it is expedient 'that the same should be further continued:' 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, That the said recited Act shall be continued until the First Day of *January* in the Year One thousand eight hundred and fifty-six. 2 & 3 Vict. c. 37. Continuance of Act.

II. And be it enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this Session of Parliament. Act may be amended, &c.

CAP. LVII.

An Act to prevent the holding of Vestry or other Meetings in Churches, and for regulating the Appointment of Vestry Clerks. [5th *August* 1850.]

'WHEREAS the holding of Vestry or other Parochial Meetings in the Parish Church 'or Chapel, or in the Vestry Room attached to such Church or Chapel, is productive 'of Scandal to Religion and other great Inconveniences:' For Remedy thereof 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, That it shall be lawful for the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in *England*, at any Time or Times after the passing of this Act, upon Application in Writing of the Churchwardens, or, where there are no Churchwardens, of the Overseers of any Parish in *England* the Population whereof exceeds Two thousand Persons according to the then last preceding Census, such Application being made pursuant to a Resolution of the Vestry of such Parish, to make an Order under their Seal of Office that this Act or any Part thereof shall be applied to and be put in force within such Parish; and a Copy of such Order shall be published in such Newspaper or Gazette, or both, as the said Commissioners may direct, and shall be deposited with the Churchwardens or Overseers (where there are no Churchwardens) of any such Parish. Poor Law Commissioners, upon Appplication of Churchwardens, &c., of any Parish where Population exceeds 2,000, may make an Order to put this Act in force.

II. And be it enacted, That from and after the Expiration of Twelve Calendar Months from the making and publishing of any such Order no Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Parish for the Purpose of holding a Vestry, or for any other Purpose than that of Divine Worship, or some ecclesiastical or charitable Object, or some other Purpose approved by the Bishop of the Diocese, shall be holden in any Parish Church or Chapel, or other consecrated Church or Chapel, nor in the Chancel thereof, nor, except in case of Urgency, and with the previous Approval of the said Commissioners, in the Vestry Room attached to such Church or Chapel, in any Parish or Place named in such Order, any public or private Act of Parliament to the contrary notwithstanding. On Expiration of 12 Months from the publishing of any such Order certain Meetings prohibited from being held in Churches and Chapels.

III. And be it enacted, That where any Vestry or other Meeting, by virtue of any Statute, Law, or Custom, has heretofore been holden in the Church or Chapel of any Parish or Place named in any such Order as aforesaid, or in the Vestry Room of such Church or Chapel, any such Vestry or other Meeting shall from and after the making and publishing of Power to provide other Places of Meeting.