CAP. XCV.

An Act to make better Provision for the Administration of the Laws relating to the Public Health. [10th *August* 1854.]

'WHEREAS by the Act of the Session holden in the Eleventh and Twelfth Years of Her Majesty, Chapter Sixty-three, "for promoting the Public Health," a Board was constituted for superintending the Execution of that Act, to be called "The General Board of Health," and it was thereby provided that the said Board should be continued only for Five Years next after the passing of that Act, and thenceforth until the End of the then next Session of Parliament; and by the said Act the said Board were authorized, with the Approval of the Commissioners of the Treasury, to appoint a Secretary and such Clerks and Servants and so many Superintending Inspectors as they might deem necessary for the Purposes of the said Act, every Person so appointed to be removable at the Pleasure of the said Board: And whereas under the Metropolitan Interments Act, 1850, an additional Member of the said Board was appointed, and by an Act of the Session holden in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Years of Her Majesty, Chapter Eighty-five, Her Majesty was authorized to continue the Appointment of the said additional Member during the Continuance of the said Board: And whereas by certain other Acts certain Powers and Duties are vested in the General Board of Health: And whereas it is expedient that the General Board of Health should be reconstituted:' 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:

11 & 12 Vict. c. 63.

13 & 14 Vict. c. 52.

15 & 16 Vict. c. 85.

General Board of Health and Appointment of Officers determined.

I. On the passing of this Act so much of the said Act for promoting the Public Health as provides what Persons shall constitute the General Board of Health, and limits the Duration of such Board, and so much of the same Act as relates to Appointments by such Board, and so much of any other Act as authorizes the Appointment of an additional Member of such Board, shall be repealed, and the General Board of Health, as constituted by the said Act for promoting the Public Health, and all Appointments of Members thereof, and all Appointments made by such Board under the Authority of the said Act, shall, save as herein-after otherwise provided, cease and determine.

Constitution of General Board of Health.

II. It shall be lawful for Her Majesty from Time to Time, by Warrant under the Royal Sign Manual, to appoint a Person to be, during Her Majesty's Pleasure, President of the General Board of Health under this Act, and such President and Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for the Time being, and the President and Vice President for the Time being of the Committee of Council appointed for the Consideration of Matters relating to Trade and Foreign Plantations, shall constitute and be the General Board of Health, and during any Vacancy in the said Board the continuing Members thereof may act as if no Vacancy had occurred; provided, that the said Board of Health shall be continued only for One Year next after the Day of the passing of this Act, and thenceforth until the End of the then next Session of Parliament, and no longer.

Salary of President.

President may sit in House of Commons.

III. There shall be paid to the President of the General Board of Health under this Act such Salary, not exceeding Two thousand Pounds *per Annum*, as shall be from Time to Time appointed by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, but no Salary shall be paid to any other Member of the said Board; and such President shall be capable of being elected, and of sitting and voting as a Member of the House of Commons.

Board to appoint Officers.

IV. It shall be lawful for the said General Board of Health to appoint from Time to Time a Secretary and Assistant Secretary, and such Clerks and Officers of the said Board, and also so many Superintending Inspectors under such Board, as the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may think fit; and any such Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Clerk, or Officer, and any such Superintending Inspector, may be removed by the said Board.

Treasury to fix Salaries of Officers and Allowances to

V. There shall be paid to the said Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Clerks, Officers, and Superintending Inspectors such Salaries as shall from Time to Time be appointed by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury: Provided always, that the Commissioners of Her

Superintending Inspectors.

Her Majesty's Treasury may allow to any Superintending Inspector such reasonable Travelling and other Expenses as may be incurred by him in the Performance of the Duties of his Office, in addition to his Salary.

All Powers, &c. vested in Board may be exercised by the President or any Two Members.

VI. All Powers and Duties by this Act vested in the General Board of Health constituted under this Act, or which may be hereafter vested in such Board, may be exercised and performed by the President for the Time being of such Board alone or by any Two or more Members thereof; and all Documents or Copies of Documents purporting to proceed from such Board, and to be signed by the President or any Two or more of the Members of such Board, and to be sealed or stamped with the Seal of the General Board of Health, shall be received as *primâ facie* Evidence in all Courts or Places whatsoever.

Transfer of Powers and Duties of Board of Health to such Board as constituted by this Act.

VII. All the Powers and Duties vested in the General Board of Health under the said Act for promoting the Public Health, or any other Act, shall on the passing of this Act become transferred to and vested in the General Board of Health as constituted under this Act; and every Superintending Inspector appointed under this Act shall have all the Powers, Duties, and Liabilities vested in or imposed upon any Superintending Inspector under the said Act for promoting the Public Health; and all Provisions in any Act of Parliament and in any Order of the General Board of Health, and all Instruments whatever in which the General Board of Health, or the Secretary, or a Superintending Inspector, or any other Officer of such Board is mentioned or referred to, shall, so far as may not be inconsistent with the Provisions of this Act, be construed as referring to the General Board of Health as constituted under this Act, or to the Secretary, or a Superintending Inspector, or such other Officer of such Board.

All pending Inquiries, &c. may be completed under this Act.

VIII. All Inquiries and Proceedings, Matters and Things, commenced by or under the Authority of the Board hereby determined, may be completed by and under the Authority of the Board constituted by this Act.

Treasury may grant a Retiring Allowance.

IX. It shall be lawful for the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to grant to One of the Members of the General Board of Health constituted by the said Act for promoting the Public Health such Compensation or Superannuation or Retiring Allowance, not exceeding One thousand Pounds *per Annum*, as the said Commissioners may deem just and proper to be awarded.

Salaries, &c. to be paid out of Monies to be provided by Parliament.

X. All Salaries payable under this Act, and all incidental Expenses of the said Board constituted by this Act, and all Compensations and Allowances granted under this Act, shall be paid out of such Monies as shall be provided by Parliament.

CAP. XCVI.

An Act for allowing Gold Wares to be manufactured at a lower Standard than that now allowed by Law, and to amend the Law relating to the assaying of Gold and Silver Wares. [10th *August* 1854.]

'WHEREAS it is expedient that Gold of Standards inferior to those now allowed by Law should be permitted to be used in Manufactures of Gold, and that Provision should be made for authorizing such lower Standards:' Be it therefore 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:

Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, allow any Standard for Gold Wares not less than One Third

I. It shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by any Order or Orders to be from Time to Time made by and with the Advice of Her Privy Council, to order that any Gold Vessel, Plate, or Manufacture of Gold may be wrought of any Standard not being less than One Third Part in the whole of Fine Gold, to be declared in any such Order, and also to approve thereby of the Instrument with which Gold Vessels, Plate, and Manufactures of Gold shall be marked or stamped, setting forth in Figures the actual Fineness thereof according to the