

9388X

THE  
**REVISED STATUTES**

OF THE

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts,**

**PASSED NOVEMBER 4, 1835;**

TO WHICH ARE SUBJOINED,

AN ACT IN AMENDMENT THEREOF, AND AN ACT EXPRESSLY TO  
REPEAL THE ACTS WHICH ARE CONSOLIDATED THEREIN,

**BOTH PASSED IN FEBRUARY 1836;**

AND TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,

**THE CONSTITUTIONS**

OF THE

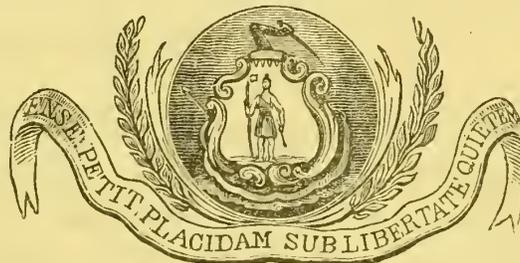
**United States and of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**

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PRINTED AND PUBLISHED, BY VIRTUE OF A RESOLVE OF NOV. 3, 1835;

UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION OF

**THERON METCALF AND HORACE MANN.**



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.....  
1836.

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Parishes, to be bodies corporate.

SECTION 1. Every parish or religious society heretofore established is declared to be a body corporate, with all the powers given to cor-

porations by the forty-fourth chapter; and with the other powers, privileges, liabilities and duties, expressed in this chapter.

SECT. 2. All parishes or religious societies, whether corporate or unincorporate, shall continue to have and enjoy their existing rights, privileges, and immunities, except so far as the same may be limited or modified by the provisions of this chapter, and the eleventh article of the amendments of the constitution.

SECT. 3. The respective churches, connected and associated in public worship with such parishes and religious societies, shall continue to have, exercise and enjoy all their accustomed privileges and liberties respecting divine worship, church order and discipline, and shall be encouraged in the peaceable and regular enjoyment and practice thereof.

SECT. 4. All persons, belonging to any religious society, shall be taken and held to be members, until they shall file, with the clerk of such society, a written notice declaring the dissolution of their membership, and thenceforth shall not be liable for any grant or contract, which may be thereafter made or entered into by such society; and no person shall hereafter be made a member of any parish or religious society, without his consent in writing.

SECT. 5. Every parish and religious society may make by-laws, prescribing the manner in which persons may become members thereof; provided such by-laws be not repugnant to the laws of the Commonwealth.

SECT. 6. No person shall have a right to vote in the affairs of any parish or religious society, unless he is a member thereof.

SECT. 7. The qualified voters of every parish and incorporated religious society, and of every religious society organized according to the provisions of this chapter, shall meet in the month of March or April annually, at such time and place as shall be appointed by their assessors or standing committee, and shall choose a clerk, and two or more assessors, a treasurer, collector, who shall be sworn, and such other officers as they shall think necessary; all of whom shall continue in office for one year, and until others are chosen and qualified in their stead.

SECT. 8. All meetings shall be warned in such manner, as the parish or society shall by any by-law or vote provide; and when they shall make no such order, the meetings shall be warned in such manner, as their assessors or standing committee shall, in their warrant for such meeting, direct.

SECT. 9. At all such meetings, the clerk shall preside in the choice of a moderator; and, if there is no clerk, or if he is absent, the assessors or the standing committee, or any one of them, shall preside in the choice of a moderator; and a clerk may then be chosen, either pro tempore, or to fill the vacancy, as the case may require.

SECT. 10. The moderator may administer the oath of office to the clerk; and the clerk may administer the oath to the assessors and collector; or the said oaths may be administered by any justice of the peace; and they shall all be substantially the same, as are required to be taken by the clerk, assessors, and collectors of towns.

SECT. 11. The moderator shall have the same power, in govern-

1786, 10, § 3.  
1833, 83.

Rights, &c. of  
all parishes.  
1834, 183, § 1.

Churches to  
have accustomed  
privileges,  
&c.  
16 Mass. 488.  
10 Pick. 172.  
1834, 183, § 1.

Membership of  
every religious  
society to be  
voluntary.  
13 Pick. 111.  
17 Mass. 347.  
5 Pick. 498.  
1834, 183, § 2.

Parishes may  
regulate admis-  
sions by by-  
laws.  
1835, 183, § 3.

Members alone  
may vote.  
1817, 77; 1834,  
183, §§ 3, 7.

Annual meet-  
ing for choice of  
officers.  
1786, 10, § 1.

Parish meet-  
ings, how  
warned.  
7 Greenl. 426.  
1807, 63.

Who to preside  
when moderator  
is chosen.

Choice of clerk.  
1817, 184.  
1831, 50.  
6 Greenl. 448.

Officers, how  
sworn.  
5 Mass. 427.  
1786, 10, §§ 1,  
2.

Moderator's