



ANNO DECIMO SEXTO & DECIMO SEPTIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Cap. CCXXV.

An Act for the Appointment and Regulation of Vestries in the Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John the Evangelist* in the City of *Westminster*. [20th August 1853.]

WHEREAS the Vestries of the Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John the Evangelist* in the City of *Westminster* are not at the present Time elected by the Ratepayers, and it is expedient that the Ratepayers of the said Parishes should have the Option of electing the Vestries in both or either of the said Parishes, under and subject to the Regulations herein contained: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and 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,

I. That this Act and the several Provisions thereof shall apply to and may be adopted, under and subject to the Regulations herein contained, by both or either of the said Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John the Evangelist*, *Westminster*.

Act may be adopted in Parishes of St. Margaret and St. John the Evangelist.

II. That when in either of the said Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John the Evangelist* Twenty or more of the Ratepayers of [Local.] 46 A either

Requisition to Churchwardens to

*Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster,
Vestries.*

take the
Sense of the
Parish as
to Adoption
of Act.

either of the said Parishes may desire that the Parish of which they are such Ratepayers should come under the Operation of this Act, then and in that Case any Number of the Ratepayers of such Parish, not being less than Twenty, may, on any *Wednesday* between the Twenty-fifth Day of *September* and the Twenty-fifth Day of *October*, deliver a Requisition, in the Form set out in Schedule A. of this Act, to the Churchwardens of such Parish, requiring them to ascertain, in the Manner herein-after provided, whether Three Fifths in Number of the Ratepayers who shall vote as herein-after mentioned do wish and require that this Act and the Provisions thereof should be adopted in such Parish.

Church-
wardens, on
Receipt of
Requisitions,
to call such
Meeting.

III. That the said Churchwardens shall, on the *Sunday* next after the Receipt of such Requisition, affix or cause to be affixed a Notice in the Form in Schedule B. to the principal Doors of every Church and Chapel within such Parish, specifying some Day and Hour, such Day not being earlier than Ten Days and not later than Twenty-one Days after such *Sunday*, and also specifying the Place where the Ratepayers of such Parish shall meet for the Purpose of electing Inspectors of Votes to act as herein-after mentioned, and of fixing the Days for receiving the Votes of the said Ratepayers in the Manner herein provided.

Proceedings
at Meeting,
Inspectors of
Votes to be
appointed,
and their
Duties, &c.

IV. That on the Day and at the Hour named in such Notice so to be affixed on the Church and Chapel Doors within such Parish as aforesaid the Churchwardens shall proceed to the Place of Meeting appointed in the said Notice, and shall then fix Three consecutive Days, the first of such Days not to be earlier than Ten Days nor later than Twenty-one Days after such Meeting, for the Receipt of the Voting Papers of the Ratepayers of such Parish for or against the Adoption of this Act, as herein-after mentioned, and the said Churchwardens and Ratepayers shall also at such Meeting appoint Eight Ratepayers of the said Parish as fit and proper Persons to be Inspectors of Votes, Four of such Eight Inspectors to be appointed by the Churchwardens, and the other Four to be appointed by the Meeting, and the said Eight Inspectors so to be appointed shall immediately send or cause to be sent through the Post Office a Voting Paper in the Form set forth in Schedule C. to every Ratepayer in such Parish, such Voting Paper to be numbered according to the Number of the Ratepayer in the Poor Rate Book of the preceding Year, and to be addressed to the Ratepayer at his Address in the said Rate Book, and every such Voting Paper shall specify the Time and Place when and where such Voting Paper is to be returned to the said Inspectors, and how to be addressed to them, and that the same may be returned to the said Inspectors through the Post Office, or delivered by

*Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster,
Vestries.*

by the said Ratepayers, or by any Person expressly authorized by them for such Purpose.

V. That the said Inspectors, upon the personal Application of any such Ratepayer on any One of such Three consecutive Days so to be appointed for receiving such Voting Papers, stating that he has not received any such Voting Paper, or has mislaid, lost, or accidentally destroyed any such Voting Paper, shall give a Second Voting Paper to such Ratepayer, to be used by him in the same Manner as such original Voting Paper would have been had the same been received by him, or having been received by him had not been mislaid, lost, or destroyed: Provided always, that every such Second Voting Paper shall be marked "Duplicate," and shall be in all other respects in the same Form as such original Voting Paper, and shall be deemed to have cancelled such original Voting Paper.

Duplicate Voting Paper to be provided when original voting Paper lost or destroyed.

VI. That the said Inspectors of Votes shall, within One Month after the last of such Three Days so to be appointed for receiving the said Voting Papers, examine the Votes to them forwarded as aforesaid, and shall compare them with the Rates made for the Relief of the Poor of such Parish for the preceding and current Year, and all other Parochial Rates, Taxes, and Assessments for the same Period, and shall be empowered to call before them and examine any Parish Officer touching the said Votes, or any Ratepayer so giving his Vote, and after a full and fair Summing-up of the said Votes shall by public Notice, according to the Form and Manner herein-after prescribed, declare whether or not Three Fifths of the Votes given have been given in favour of the Adoption of this Act: Provided always, that the Adoption or Non-adoption of this Act in either of the said Parishes shall be decided by such Number of Votes as aforesaid.

Examinations of Votes by Inspectors, and Notice of Adoption or Non-adoption of Act.

VII. That the said Inspectors shall on the Day on which they give such public Notice of the Adoption or Non-adoption of this Act by such Parish deposit with the Vestry Clerk of such Parish all the Voting Papers and Duplicates of Voting Papers received by them under the Provisions of this Act; and that any Ratepayer of such Parish shall be at liberty to inspect such Voting Papers and Duplicates at any Time within Six Months after the same shall have been so deposited.

Inspectors to deposit voting Papers with Vestry Clerk.

VIII. That no Person shall be deemed a Ratepayer, or entitled to vote, or do any other Act, Matter, or Thing as such, under the Provisions of this Act, unless he shall have been rated to the Relief of the Poor for One whole Year immediately preceding his so voting or acting, and shall have paid all the Parochial Rates, Taxes, and Assessments due from him at the Time of so voting or acting, except such

Qualification of Ratepayers.

as

Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster, Vestries.

as shall have been made or become due within Six Months immediately preceding such voting or acting: Provided always, that no Person shall be entitled to vote as a Ratepayer, or as such to do any Act, Matter, or Thing under the Provisions of this Act, in the said Parish of *Saint Margaret*, unless he shall be so rated to the Relief of the Poor in respect of Property within the said Parish; and that no Person shall be entitled to vote as a Ratepayer, or as such to do any Act, Matter, or Thing under the Provisions of this Act, in the said Parish of *Saint John*, unless he shall be so rated to the Relief of the Poor in respect of Property within the said Parish.

Notice of Adoption or Non-adoption of Act to be given in the London Gazette and One or more daily Newspapers.

IX. That within Six Weeks of the last Day so appointed for receiving Votes as aforesaid Notice of the Adoption or Non-adoption of this Act shall be given by the said Inspectors of Votes in "The *London Gazette*," and in One or more of the *London* daily Newspapers, and by affixing a Notice of the same to the Doors of every Church and Chapel within such Parish in the Form in Schedule D.

No similar Requisition to be made in such Parish within Three Years.

X. That if the Ratepayers shall determine in the Manner aforesaid against the Adoption of this Act, then and in that Case it shall not be lawful to make another Requisition for the same Purpose within Three Years after such Determination.

Act to take immediate Effect in either of said Parishes in which its Adoption has been notified.

XI. That in either of the said Parishes in which public Notice of the Adoption of this Act in the Manner aforesaid shall be so made and given, this Act shall immediately become the Law for electing Vestrymen of such Parish, in manner herein-after mentioned.

Penalties on Churchwardens and others refusing to call Meetings.

XII. That if any Churchwarden shall refuse or neglect to call Meetings according to the Provisions of this Act, or if any Churchwarden, Inspector of Votes, Rate Collector, or other Person shall refuse or neglect to give the Notices, or to do any Act, Matter, or Thing directed by this Act to be given, made, or done, or shall in any Manner fabricate, in whole or in part, or alter, falsify, conceal, or suppress, or destroy, deface, abstract, or purloin, any such Voting Papers or Duplicates as aforesaid, or personate any Person entitled to vote as aforesaid, or falsely assume to act in the Name or on the Behalf of any Person so entitled to vote, or do interrupt the Distribution or Collection of the Voting Papers or Duplicates thereof, or distribute or collect the same not being lawfully authorized in that Behalf, every such Person so offending shall for every such Offence, upon Information laid and Conviction before any Two or more Justices of the Peace, be liable to a Penalty of not less than Ten and not more than Fifty Pounds, and in default of Payment thereof shall be imprisoned for a Term not exceeding Six nor less than Three Months.

XIII. That

Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster, Vestries.

XIII. That on some *Sunday* at least Twenty-one Days previously to the annual Election of Vestrymen for each or either of the said Parishes, as the Case may be, Notices of Election, pursuant to this Act, signed by the Churchwardens or One of the Churchwardens of each or either of the said Parishes, as the Case may be, shall be affixed to the principal Doors of every Church and Chapel in each of the said Parishes, and at other usual Places, in the following Terms :

Notices of Election to be given.

“ Parish of Saint Margaret, Westminster, or Parish of Saint John
“ the Evangelist, Westminster, (as the Case may be.)

“ The Parishioners rated within the Parish or District of Saint
“ Margaret, or the Parish or District of Saint John, (*as the Case
“ may be,*) duly qualified according to the Provisions of the Act
“ of the Years of the Reign of Queen Victoria,
“ c. are hereby required to meet at on the
“ Day of conformably to the Provisions of
“ the said Act, and then and there to consider of and elect fit
“ and proper Persons to be Vestrymen of the said Parish of
“ Saint Margaret, or the Parish of Saint John the Evangelist,
“ Westminster, (*as the Case may be,*) for the ensuing Year ; (that
“ is to say,)

“ Members of the Vestry for the Parish of Saint
“ Margaret.

[or]

“ Members of the Vestry for the Parish of Saint John
“ the Evangelist.

XIV. That the Churchwardens of each of the said Parishes may summon the Rate Collectors of the Parish to which such Churchwardens respectively belong to attend them on the said Days of annual Election, in order to assist them in ascertaining that the Persons voting in manner herein-after directed are rated to the Relief of the Poor of the said Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John the Evangelist*, and within the Parish or District for which the Election is to take place, and are otherwise duly qualified to vote at the said Election.

Rate Collectors, &c. may be summoned to assist at Election.

XV. That on the Day of annual Election of Vestrymen in either of the said Parishes adopting this Act each Ratepayer desirous of voting do meet at the Place appointed for such Election, then and there to appoint Eight Ratepayers of such Parish as fit and proper Persons to be Inspectors of Votes, Four of such Eight to be appointed by the Churchwardens, and the other Four to be appointed by the Meeting; and after such Appointments* the said Ratepayers shall elect such Ratepayers duly qualified as may be then proposed or

Form of Proceeding at annual Elections.

[Local.]

46 B

nominated

*Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster,
Vestries.*

nominated for Election as Vestrymen; and the Chairman shall at such Meeting declare the Names of the Ratepayers who have been elected by a Majority of Votes at such Meeting; and the Rector of such Parish, if he be present at such Meeting, shall be the Chairman, or in his Absence One of the Churchwardens of such Parish, but if neither should be present the Chairman shall be elected by the Meeting.

A Poll may be demanded, which shall be conducted in the Manner provided.

XVI. That at any such Meeting for the Election of Vestrymen for either of the said Parishes adopting this Act any Five Ratepayers may then and there, in Writing, demand a Poll, which shall be taken in the Manner next herein-after provided; (that is to say,) the Chairman of the said Meeting shall then fix Three consecutive Days, the First of such Days not to be later than Fourteen Days after such Meeting, for the Receipt of the Voting Papers of the Ratepayers of such Parish, as herein-after mentioned; and the said Eight Inspectors so to be appointed as aforesaid shall immediately upon the Appointment of such Days for receiving the said Voting Papers send or cause to be sent through the Post Office a Voting Paper in the Form in Schedule E. to every Ratepayer in such Parish, such Voting Paper to be numbered according to the Number of the Ratepayer in the Rate Book of the preceding Year, and to be addressed to the Ratepayer at his Address in the said Rate Book; and every such Voting Paper shall specify the Names of all the Persons nominated for Election as Vestrymen, and the Time and Place when and where such Voting Paper is to be returned to the said Inspectors, and how to be addressed to them, and that the same may be returned to the said Inspectors through the Post Office, or delivered by the said Ratepayers, or by any Person authorized by them for such Purpose.

Duplicate Voting Papers to be provided, where original Voting Paper lost or destroyed.

XVII. That the said Inspectors, upon the personal Application of any such Ratepayer, at any Time after Commencement and before the Close of the Poll, stating that he has not received any such Voting Paper, or has mislaid, lost, or accidentally destroyed any such Voting Paper, shall give a Second Voting Paper to such Ratepayer, to be used by him for the Purposes of such Election in the same Manner as such original Voting Paper would have been had the same been received by him, or, having been received by him, had not been mislaid, lost, or destroyed: Provided always, that every such Second Voting Paper shall be marked "Duplicate," and shall be in all other respects in the same Form as such original Voting Paper, and shall be deemed to have cancelled such original Voting Paper.

Mode of voting.

XVIII. That every Ratepayer of such Parish desirous of voting shall on the Receipt of such Voting Paper write his Initials opposite to

*Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster,
Vestries.*

to the Names of such and so many of the Persons nominated for Election as Vestrymen, not exceeding the Number of Vestrymen to be chosen, and shall subscribe the said Voting Paper with his Christian and Surname, and his Place of Residence, Profession, Trade, or Rank, at full Length, and shall return the same so filled up and subscribed according to the Requisitions in the said Voting Paper to the said Inspectors, addressed to them in the Manner directed in such Voting Paper, and either by sending the same through the Post Office, or by delivering the same personally, or by forwarding the same to the said Inspectors at the Place named in the Voting Paper, by any Person authorized by such Ratepayer for such Purpose.

XIX. That the said Poll shall close at Nine o'Clock in the Afternoon of the Third Day during which such Votes are to be received, and the said Inspectors shall on the Day following the Close of the said Poll proceed to examine the said Votes to them delivered or forwarded as aforesaid, and shall compare them with the Rates made for the Relief of the Poor of such Parish for the preceding and current Year, and all other Parochial Rates, Taxes, and Assessments for the same Period, and shall be empowered to call before them and examine any Parish Officer touching the said Votes, or any Ratepayer so giving his Vote, and, if necessary, shall continue the said Examination by Adjournments from Day to Day not exceeding Twenty-one Days (*Sundays* excepted), until they shall have decided upon the Persons duly qualified according to the Provisions of this Act, who may have been chosen to be Vestrymen.

Duty of
Inspectors
on Receipt
of such
Votes.

XX. That if an Equality of Votes should appear to the Inspectors to be given for any Two or more Persons to act as Vestrymen, in that Case the Inspectors shall decide by Lot upon the Person or Persons so to be chosen.

In case of
Equality
of Votes.

XXI. That if any Person do forge or in any way falsify any Name or Writing in any such Voting Paper or Duplicate Voting Paper, or any List purporting to contain the Vote or Votes of any Ratepayer as aforesaid so voting for Vestrymen, or do fabricate, in whole or in part, or conceal, suppress, or alter, deface, destroy, abstract, or purloin, any such Voting Paper or Duplicate Voting Paper, or personate any Person entitled to vote at such Election, or falsely assume to act in the Name or on the Behalf of any Person so entitled to vote, or do interrupt the Distribution or Collection of the Voting Papers or Duplicates thereof, or do distribute or collect the same not being lawfully authorized in that Behalf, every such Person so offending shall for every such Offence, upon Information laid, and Conviction before any Two or more Justices of the Peace, be liable to a Penalty of not less than

Penalty for
forging or
falsifying
any Voting
List or ob-
structing the
Election.

*Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster,
Vestries.*

than Ten and not more than Fifty Pounds, and in default of Payment thereof shall be imprisoned for a Term not exceeding Six nor less than Three Months.

Public Notice to be given of Vestrymen chosen by Parishioners.

XXII. That the Inspectors shall, within Two Days after they shall have decided upon whom the aforesaid Elections have fallen, deliver to the Churchwardens of the Parish for which such Election shall have taken place, or to One of them, a List of the Persons so chosen by the Ratepayers to act as Vestrymen, and the List, or a Copy thereof, of the Persons so chosen, shall be affixed to the Doors of the Churches and Chapels or other Places chosen for the Purposes of public Notice in the said Parish, and shall, on the same Day on which they shall deliver such List as aforesaid, deposit with the Vestry Clerk of the said Parish all Voting Papers and Duplicates of Voting Papers which they shall have received under the Provisions of this Act, and any Ratepayer of the said Parish shall be entitled, at any Time within Six Months, to inspect the said Voting Papers and Duplicates of Voting Papers.

Penalty on Inspector for making incorrect Return.

XXIII. That if any Inspector as aforesaid shall wilfully make or cause to be made an incorrect Return of the said Votes, every such Offender shall, upon Information laid by any Person before Two or more Justices of the Peace having Jurisdiction in the said Parish, and upon Conviction for such Offence, be liable to a Penalty of not less than Twenty-five Pounds and not exceeding Fifty Pounds.

Elections to be annual.

XXIV. That in either of the said Parishes so adopting this Act as aforesaid a Meeting of the Ratepayers for the Election of Vestrymen shall take place in the Month of *May* in every Year: Provided always, that when a Poll is demanded at such Election the same shall be taken according to the aforesaid Mode of Election in some convenient Place or Places to be appointed by and at the Discretion of the Churchwardens of such Parish.

Number of Vestrymen to be elected in each Parish.

XXV. That the Number of Vestrymen to be elected under this Act for the Parish of *Saint Margaret* shall be Sixty-six, and that the Rector and Churchwardens of the said Parish shall be *ex officio* Vestrymen of the said Parish; and that the Number of Vestrymen to be elected for the Parish of *Saint John the Evangelist* shall be Forty-five, and that the Rector and Churchwardens of the said Parish of *Saint John the Evangelist* shall be *ex officio* Vestrymen of the said Parish.

Proportion of existing Vestry to go

XXVI. That at the First Election for Vestrymen after the Adoption of this Act in either of the said Parishes One Third of the then existing

Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster, Vestries.

existing Vestry, or the nearest Number thereto, but not exceeding the same, shall retire from Office (such Portions to be determined by Lot), and the Ratepayers of such Parish shall elect a Number of Vestrymen for such Parish, equal to One Third of the Vestry of such Parish, to be chosen according to the Provisions of this Act; and that on the next ensuing annual Election for Vestrymen One Half or as nearly as may be One Half of the remaining Part of the first aforesaid Vestry shall retire from Office (such Portion to be determined by Lot), and the Ratepayers of such Parish shall again elect a Number of Vestrymen for such Parish equal to One Third of the Vestry of such Parish, to be chosen according to the Provisions of this Act; and that on the next, (that is to say) the Third annual Election for Vestrymen, the last remaining Portion of the Vestry as aforesaid in such Parish shall retire from Office, and the Ratepayers of such Parish shall elect Vestrymen for such Parish in like Manner and Number as at the Two preceding Elections, so as to fill up the Vestry in such Parish to the exact Number of Vestrymen prescribed by this Act.

out of Office at each of the First Three Elections under this Act.

XXVII. That at every subsequent annual Election those Vestrymen who have been Three Years in Office shall go out of Office, and the Ratepayers shall elect, according to the Provisions of this Act, other Vestrymen to the Number of One Third of the total Number of which such Vestry shall consist, as also fill up any Vacancies which may have occurred from Death or other Causes: Provided always, that any or all of the Vestrymen so going out by Rotation may be immediately eligible for Re-election.

Vestrymen to quit Office after Three Years, and One Third of the whole Number to be elected annually.

XXVIII. That the Vestry to be elected under this Act, in either of the said Parishes so adopting this Act as aforesaid, shall consist of resident Householders rated or assessed to the Relief of the Poor of such Parish in respect of the House in which he resides, and of any Premises held therewith and appurtenant thereto, at a Rental of not less than Thirty Pounds *per Annum*, and that the Vestrymen to be elected for the Parish of *Saint Margaret* shall be resident Householders of the said Parish so rated as aforesaid, and that the Vestrymen to be elected for the Parish of *Saint John the Evangelist* shall be resident Householders of the said Parish of *Saint John the Evangelist* so rated as aforesaid.

Qualification of Vestrymen.

XXIX. That from and after the Adoption of this Act the Vestry elected for either of the said Parishes so adopting the same shall exercise the Powers and Privileges held by any Vestry now existing in such Parish, and the Authority of such Vestry may be pleaded before any Justice or Justices of the Peace, or in any Court of Law,

Vestries appointed after the Adoption of this Act to exercise the Authority of former Vestries.

*Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster,
Vestries.*

in regard to all Parochial Property, or Monies due, or Holdings, or Contracts, or other Documents of the like Nature, formerly under the Control or in the keeping of the said Vestry of such Parish, and all Parish Officers or Boards shall account to them in like Manner as they have accounted to the said Vestry.

Not to affect Local Acts regarding Vestries, Divine Worship, &c., except as herein-after expressed.

XXX. Provided always, That nothing in this Act shall be deemed, construed, or taken to repeal, alter, or invalidate any Local Act for the Government of the said Parishes or of either of them by Vestries, or for the Management of the Poor by any Board of Governors and Directors, or for the due Provision for Divine Worship within the said Parishes, and the Maintenance of the Clergy officiating therein, otherwise than is by this Act expressly enacted regarding the Election of Vestrymen, or to abridge, control, or otherwise interfere with the Powers and Authorities of the Poor Law Board and their Inspectors in the said Parishes.

The Acts of a Quorum of the Vestry at any Meeting to be considered as the Acts of the Vestry.

XXXI. That all Powers or Duties to be performed by a Vestry elected under this Act of the said Parish of *Saint Margaret, Westminster*, may be exercised and performed respectively by the major Part of such Vestry assembled at any Meeting, there not being less than Eleven Vestrymen present at the Meeting of such Vestry, and that all Powers or Duties to be performed by a Vestry elected under this Act of the said Parish of *Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster*, may be exercised and performed by the major Part of such Vestry assembled at any Meeting, there not being less than Nine Vestrymen present at the Meeting of such Vestry, and all Orders and Directions given and all Contracts and Engagements entered into by the Vestrymen present at any such Meeting, or the major Part of them then assembled, shall be as valid and effectual as if the same were done by all the said Vestrymen for the Time being, and shall be binding and conclusive on all such Vestrymen.

Meetings not to be held in the Church.

XXXII. And whereas it is not intended by this Act to confer upon the said Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John the Evangelist*, or either of them, any Power or Authority to adopt the Act Thirteenth and Fourteenth *Victoria*, Chapter Fifty-seven, or any Part thereof: Be it enacted, That in any Case in which the Vestry Rooms of the said Parishes of *Saint Margaret* or *Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster*, respectively, shall not be sufficiently large and commodious for any Vestry Meeting, or for any Meeting to be holden under this Act, such Meeting shall be held elsewhere within the said Parishes respectively, but not in the Churches or Chapels thereof.

Meeting to elect a Chairman, in Ab-

XXXIII. That at every Meeting of any Vestry to be elected under this Act the Members present, in the Absence of Persons authorized by

Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster, Vestries.

by Law or Custom to take the Chair, shall elect a Chairman for the Occasion, before proceeding to other Business : Provided always, that after the Adoption of this Act by either of the said Parishes at all joint Vestry Meetings of the said Parishes the Rector of the Parish of *Saint Margaret* shall be *ex officio* Chairman, and in his Absence the Rector of the Parish of *Saint John* shall be such *ex officio* Chairman, and in the Absence of both the said Rectors the said Meeting shall elect a Chairman.

sence of Persons taking the Chair according to Law.

XXXIV. That the Vestry or Vestries to be elected under this Act shall respectively cause to be provided and kept a proper Book or Books, and cause proper Entries to be made therein of the Names of the several Vestrymen who shall attend the respective Meetings of each Vestry, and of all Orders and Proceedings made or taken at such Meetings ; and all such Books shall at all reasonable Times be open to the Inspection of the said Vestrymen, and of any Person rated or assessed to the Relief of the Poor of the said Parishes, and of any Creditor on the Rates of the said Parishes, without Fee or Reward ; and the said Vestrymen, Persons, and Creditors, or any of them, shall and may take Copies of or Extracts from such Books respectively, without paying anything for the same ; and in case the Clerk to either of the said Vestries or other Person having the Care of the said Books shall refuse to permit or shall not permit the said Vestrymen, or such Persons or Creditors, to inspect the same, or to take such Copies or Extracts as aforesaid, such Clerk or other Person shall forfeit and pay any Sum of Money not exceeding Ten Pounds for every such Offence.

Proceedings to be entered in Books, to be open for Inspection.

XXXV. That such Vestry or Vestries shall cause a Book or Books to be provided and kept, and true and regular Accounts to be entered therein of all Sums of Money received and disbursed for or on account of Parochial Purposes, and of the several Articles, Matters, and Things for which such Sums of Money shall have been so received and disbursed, which Book or Books shall at all reasonable Times be open to the Inspection of the said Vestrymen, and of any Person or Persons rated to the Relief of the Poor of the said Parishes, and of any Creditor or Creditors of the same, without Fee or Reward ; and the said Vestrymen and Persons and Creditors as aforesaid, or any of them, shall and may take Copies of or Extracts from the said Book or Books, or any Part or Parts thereof, without paying anything for the same ; and in case the Clerk to the said Vestrymen or other Person with whom such Books shall remain shall, on any reasonable Demand, refuse to permit or shall not permit the said Vestrymen, Persons, or Creditors, or any of them, to inspect the said Book or Books, or to take such Copies or Extracts as aforesaid, such Clerk or other Person

Account Books to be kept, and be open to Inspection.

*Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster,
Vestries.*

Person as aforesaid shall forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds for every such Offence.

Vestry to make out and publish yearly a List of Estates, Charities, and Bequests, and with the Application thereof.

XXXVI. That such Vestry or Vestries shall cause to be made out, once at least in every Year, a List of the several Freehold, Copyhold, and Leasehold Estates, and of all Charitable Foundations and Bequests, if any, belonging to such Parish, and under the Control of such Vestry or Vestries, the said List to contain a true and detailed Account of the Place where such Estate or Charitable Foundation may be situate, or in what Mode and Security such Bequest may be invested, specifying also the yearly Rental of each, and the particular Appropriation thereof, together with the Names of the Persons partaking of their Benefit (except where such Benefit shall be allotted to the Poor of the Parish generally), and to what Amount in each Case, and also stating the Name and Description of the Persons in whom such Estates are vested, and the Names and Description of the Trustees for each Charity: Provided always, that the aforesaid Lists shall be open for the Inspection of the Ratepayers at the Office of the Vestry Clerk at all seasonable Times, without Fee or Reward.

As to the Appointment of Churchwardens.

XXXVII. That upon the Adoption of this Act by either of the said Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John*, in the Manner herein provided, the Churchwardens of such Parish so adopting this Act shall be appointed in manner following; that is to say, a Vestry Meeting for such Parish shall be holden every Year on the usual Day of the annual Election of Churchwardens for such Parish for the Purpose of appointing Churchwardens, at which Meeting the Rector and Vestrymen present shall nominate and appoint the Churchwardens of such Parish, if they agree, but if they shall disagree as to the Persons to be so nominated and appointed, the Rector of such Parish shall nominate and appoint One of the Churchwardens, and a Majority of the Vestrymen present shall then and there elect the other Churchwarden for the ensuing Year; and the Churchwardens so appointed shall possess and exercise, in addition to the Powers and Duties conferred on and required from them under this Act, all the Powers at present vested in the Churchwardens of such Parish.

Expenses of Act, how to be paid.

XXXVIII. That the Costs, Charges, and Expenses of the Promoters in preparing, applying for, and obtaining this Act, or otherwise incidental thereto, as well as of the Opposition thereto by the present Vestries, shall be paid out of the Poor's Rates of the said Parishes, such Costs, Charges, and Expenses to be taxed by the Taxing Officers appointed under the Act of Twelfth and Thirteenth *Victoria*, Chapter Seventy-eight: Provided always, that the reasonable and necessary Expenses to be incurred by the said Churchwardens

Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster, Vestries.

wardens and Inspectors incident to the Proceedings relating to the Adoption or Non-adoption of this Act in either of the said Parishes in manner herein-before provided, and also the necessary and reasonable Expenses to be incurred by the Churchwardens and Inspectors from Time to Time in carrying this Act into effect in the said Parishes or either of them, shall be paid out of the said Poor's Rates

XXXIX. That this Act, or anything herein contained, shall not extend or be construed to extend to invalidate or avoid any Ecclesiastical Law or Constitution of the Church of *England*, save and except so far as concerns the Appointment of Vestries in the said Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John*, or to destroy any of the Rights or Powers belonging to the Archbishops, Bishops, Deans, or other of the Clergy of the said Established Church, either as Individuals or as Corporate Bodies, or in anywise to abridge or control their ordinary Jurisdiction over or relating to any Matter or Thing respecting the Ministers thereof.

Saving of Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

XL. That the Word "Person" when used in this Act shall be construed to include Bodies Politic, Corporate, Collegiate, Corporation or Corporations Aggregate or Sole, as well as Individuals, unless it be otherwise specially directed or provided for; and the Words "Parish of *Saint John*" shall mean the Parish of *Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster*, the Boundary of which is described in an Instrument enrolled in the High Court of Chancery, the Eighth of *January* One thousand seven hundred and twenty-four, and which for the Purposes of this Act shall be deemed a Parish; and the Words "Parish of *Saint Margaret*" shall be deemed to comprise the whole of the Parish of *Saint Margaret, Westminster*, with the Exception of the aforesaid Parish or District of *Saint John*.

Construction of certain Terms.

XLI. That the Words "Church or Chapel," insomuch as regards the affixing of Notices as by this Act directed, shall be deemed to include all Places of Religious Worship according to the Forms of the Established Church.

As to affixing Notices.

*Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster,
Vestries.*

SCHEDULE A.

To the Churchwardens of the Parish of [*insert here the Name of
the Parish.*]

WE, whose Names are hereunto subscribed, Ratepayers resident in the said Parish, and respectively rated and assessed to the Relief of the Poor thereof, do hereby require you, the said Churchwardens, to ascertain and determine according to the Provisions of the and Vic. c. [*insert Year of the Reign and Chapter of Act*] the Adoption or Non-adoption of the said Act by the said Parish.

Dated this Day of in the Year of our
Lord [*insert Day of Month and Year when Notice signed.*]
[*John Stiles, 20, Tufton Street, Tailor.*]

[*Here the Requisitionists must write their Names, Addresses, and Additions at full Length.*]

SCHEDULE B.

THE Churchwardens of this Parish [*insert here the
Name of the Parish*] having received a Requisition duly signed, according to the Provisions of the and Vic. c. [*insert Year of Reign and Chapter of Act*], the Ratepayers of this Parish are hereby required, all and each of them, on the Day of next, at o'Clock in the Forenoon, to meet at [*insert here Place of Meeting*], and then and there to elect Inspectors of Votes, and to fix Three Days for receiving the Votes of the Ratepayers of this Parish for or against the Adoption of the aforesaid Act for the Regulation of Vestries by the Ratepayers of this Parish.

Signed

Churchwardens.

SCHE-

*Saint Margaret and Saint John the Evangelist, Westminster,
Vestries.*

SCHEDULE C.

The Parish of _____ [*here insert St. Margaret, or St. John,
as the Case may be*].

Rate No.

[*Here insert Number of Ratepayers in Rate Book.*]

I A.B. of, &c. [*here insert Name of Ratepayer, his Address, and
Addition at full Length*], being a Ratepayer of this Parish, vote
[for, or against, as the Case may be] the Adoption in this Parish of
the Act _____ and Vic. c. _____ for the Regulation of Vestries
in the Parishes of St. Margaret and St. John the Evangelist,
Westminster.

N.B. This Voting Paper is to be filled up and returned to "The
Inspectors of Votes for the Parish of _____" [*here insert
Name of Parish and Place where Voting Paper to be sent*], and may
be forwarded, addressed as above, through the Post Office, or may
be delivered by yourself, or by any Person authorized by you for that
Purpose, before 4 o'Clock on either of the Three following Days [*here
insert the Three Days for collecting the Voting Papers*].

SCHEDULE D.

Parish of _____ [*here insert Name of Parish*].

NOTICE is hereby given, That the above-named Parish has [adopted,
or rejected, as the Case may be] the Act _____ and Vict. c. _____
for the Appointment and Regulation of Vestries in the Parish of
St. Margaret and St. John the Evangelist, Westminster, and that the
Numbers of the Majority and Minority of Votes given for and against
the Adoption of the said Act are as follows; that is to say,
Votes for the Adoption thereof, and _____ Votes against the
Adoption thereof.

Dated this _____ Day of _____ in the Year of our
Lord _____

Signed _____

Inspectors of Votes.

SCHE-

