

property, or estate, or interest, to such Trustee so duly nominated as aforesaid; and every such conveyance, release, surrender, assignment, or assurance, shall be as valid and effectual to all intents and purposes as if the person being out of the jurisdiction or not amenable to the process of the said Court, or not known to be alive, or having refused, or as if the person being idiot, lunatic, or of unsound mind, had been at the time of the execution thereof of sane mind, memory and understanding, and had by himself or herself executed the same.

No fee to be taken
for any proceeding
in such Court, &c.

XV. And be it enacted, That no fee, reward, emolument, or gratuity whatsoever, shall be demanded, taken or received by any officer of such Court for any matter or thing done in such Court in pursuance of this Act, and that upon the presenting of any such petition, it shall be lawful for the Judges of the said Court to assign Counsel learned in the Law, on behalf of such Society, who are hereby respectively required to do their duties therein without fee or reward.

Executors, &c. of
officers to pay
money due to the
Society, before any
other debts.

XVI. And be it enacted, That if any person who may hereafter be appointed to any office in any such Society, and being intrusted with the keeping of the accounts, or having in his hands or possession, by virtue of his said office or employment, any monies or effects belonging to such Society, or any deeds or securities relating to the same, shall die or become bankrupt, or insolvent, or have any execution or attachment or other process issued against his lands, goods, chattels, or effects, or property or estate, heritable or moveable, or make any disposition, assignment, or other conveyance thereof, for the benefit of his creditors, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, or other person having legal right, or the Sheriff or other officer executing such process, shall within forty days after demand made in writing, by the order of any such Society or Committee thereof, or the major part of them assembled at any meeting thereof, deliver and pay over all monies and other things belonging to such Society, to such person as such Society or Committee shall appoint, and shall pay out of the estates, assets, or effects, heritable or moveable, of such persons, all sums of money remaining due, which such person received by virtue of his said office or employment, before any other of his debts are paid or satisfied, or before the money directed to be levied by such process as aforesaid, or which may be recovered or recoverable under the same, is paid over to the party issuing such process, and all such assets, lands, goods, chattels, property, estates, and effects, shall be bound to the payment and discharge thereof accordingly.

Effects of Societies
to be vested in
Trustees or Treasurers
for the time being,
who may defend and
bring actions.

XVII. And be it enacted, That all real and heritable property, monies, goods, chattels and effects whatever, and all titles, securities for money, or other obligatory instruments and evidences or muniments, and all other effects whatever, and all rights or claims belonging to or had by such Society, shall be vested in the Trustees or Treasurer of such Society for the time being, for the use and benefit of such Society, and the respective members thereof, their respective executors or administrators, according to their respective claims and interests; and after the death or removal of any Trustee or Treasurer, shall vest in the succeeding Trustee or Treasurer for the same estate or interest as the former Trustee or Treasurer had therein, and subject to the same trusts, without any assignment or conveyance whatever, and also shall for all purposes of action or suit, as well criminal as civil, in law or in equity, in any wise touching or concerning the same, be deemed and taken to be, and shall in every such proceeding, (where necessary,) be stated to be the property of the person appointed to the office of Trustee or Treasurer of such Society for the time being, in his or her proper name, without further description; and such person shall, and he or she is hereby respectively authorized to bring or defend, or cause to be brought or defended, any action, suit or prosecution, criminal as well as civil, in law or in equity, touching or concerning the property, right or claim aforesaid, of, or belonging to, or had by such Society; provided that such person shall have been thereunto duly authorized by the consent of the majority of members present at any meeting of the Society or Committee thereof; and such person so appointed shall and may in all cases concerning the property, right or claim aforesaid of such Society, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in his or her proper name, as Trustee or Treasurer of such Society, without other description; and no such suit, action or prosecution shall be discontinued or abate by the death of such person, or his or her removal from the office of Trustee or Treasurer, but the same shall and may be proceeded in by the succeeding Trustee or Treasurer, in the proper name of the person commencing the same, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding; and such succeeding Trustee or Treasurer shall pay or receive like costs as if the action or suit had been commenced in his or her name, for the benefit of or to be reimbursed from the funds of such Society.