

XVIII. And be it enacted, That the Trustee or Treasurer, or any officer of any Society established under the authority of this Act, shall not be liable to make good any deficiency which may arise in the funds of such Society, unless such persons shall have respectively declared by writing, under their hands, deposited and registered in like manner with the rules of such Society, that they are willing so to be answerable, and it shall be lawful for each of such persons, or for such persons collectively, to limit his, her or their responsibility to such a sum as shall be specified in any such instrument or writing; provided always, that the said Trustee and Trustees, or Treasurer, and every the officer of any such Society, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be personally responsible and liable for all monies actually received by him, her or them, on account of, or to, or for the use of the said Society.

Limitation of
responsibility of
Trustees or Treas-
urer.

XIX. And be it enacted, That whenever the Trustees of any Society established under this Act, at any time after the decease of any member, have paid and divided any sum of money to or amongst any person or persons who shall at the time of such payment appear to such Trustees to be entitled to the effects of any deceased intestate member, the payment of any such sum or sums of money shall be valid and effectual with respect to any demand of any other person or persons as next of kin of such deceased intestate member against the funds of such Society, or against the Trustees thereof, but nevertheless such next of kin or representative shall have remedy for such money so paid as aforesaid, against the person or persons who shall have received the same.

Payment to persons
appearing to be
next of kin declared
valid.

XX. And be it enacted, That in case any member of any Society shall die, who shall be entitled to any sum not exceeding twenty pounds, it shall be lawful for the Trustees or Treasurer of such Society, and they are hereby authorized and permitted, if such Trustees or Treasurer shall be satisfied that no will was made and left by such deceased member, and that no letters of administration will be taken out of the funds, goods and chattels of such depositor, to pay the same at any time after the decease of such member, according to the rules and regulations of the said Society; and in the event of there being no rules and regulations made in that behalf, then the said Trustees or Treasurer are hereby authorized and permitted to pay and divide the same to and amongst the person or persons entitled to the effects of the deceased intestate, and that without administration.

For payment of
sums not exceeding
£20 when members
die intestate.

XXI. And be it enacted, That for the more effectually preventing fraud and imposition on the funds of such Societies, if any officer, member, or any other person, being, or representing himself or herself to be a member of such Society, or the nominee, executor, administrator or assignee of any member of such Society, or any other person whatever, shall in or by any false representation or imposition, fraudulently obtain possession of the monies of such Society, or any part thereof, or having in his or her possession any sum of money belonging to such Society, shall fraudulently withhold the same, and for which offence no especial provision is made in the rules of such Society, it shall be lawful for any one Justice of the Peace residing within the County within which such Society shall be held, upon complaint made on oath by an officer of such Society, to summon such person against whom such complaint shall be made, to appear at a time and place to be named in such summons, and upon his or her appearance, or in default thereof, upon due proof upon oath of the service of such summons, it shall and may be lawful for any two Justices residing within the County aforesaid, to hear and determine the said complaint, according to the rules of the said Society, confirmed as directed by this Act; and upon due proof of such fraud, the said Justices shall convict the said party, and award double the amount of the money so fraudulently obtained or withheld, to be paid to the Treasurer, to be applied by him to the purposes of the Society so proved to have been imposed upon and defrauded, together with such costs as shall be awarded by the said Justices, not exceeding the sum of ten shillings; and in case such person against whom such complaint shall be made, shall not pay the sum of money so awarded to the person, and at the time specified in the said order, such Justices are hereby required by warrant under their hands and seals, to cause the same to be levied by distress and sale of goods of such person on whom such order shall have been made, or by other legal proceeding, together with such costs as shall be awarded by the said Justices, not exceeding the sum of ten shillings, and also the costs and charges attending such distress and sale, or other legal proceeding, returning the overplus (if any) to the owner; and in default of such distress being found, the said Justices of the Peace shall commit such person so proved to have offended to the Provincial Penitentiary, there to be kept to hard labour for such a period not exceeding

Justices may hear
cases of fraud, and
punish by fine or
imprisonment.