

ecclesiastical affairs; and whereas it is expedient that the Bishop of any diocese of the United Church of England and Ireland within her Majesty's foreign or colonial possessions, together with the clergy and laity of the same, and that the metropolitan of any province now lawfully constituted, or hereafter to be constituted within the same, with the Bishops, clergy, and laity of the same, should be permitted, under certain restrictions, to make regulations for the management of their ecclesiastical affairs:—Be it enacted, by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the consent and advice of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

*The laws of the United Kingdom not to prevent Meetings of Clergy and Laity in Colonial Dioceses.*

I. No law, usage, rule, or other authority, in force in the United Kingdom, or in England and Ireland, or either of them, shall be construed or shall extend to prevent the Bishop of any diocese or the Metropolitan of any province in any of the foreign and colonial possessions of her Majesty, and his clergy, and the lay persons of such diocese, or the Bishops, clergy, and lay persons of such province respectively, being in communion with the United Church of England and Ireland, from meeting together from time to time to make or from making at such meeting, by common consent, or by a majority of voices of the said clergy and laity severally and respectively, with the assent, in the case of any diocese, of the said Bishop, any such regulations as circumstances shall, in their judgment, render necessary for the management of the affairs of the said United Church within such diocese, or for the holding of meetings for the said purpose thereafter, for one such diocese only, or for the dioceses which may constitute the province of any such Metropolitan, now constituted or hereafter to be constituted in such possessions. Provided always, that no such meeting shall be lawful unless in accordance with and subject to the provisions and restrictions hereinafter contained—that is to say:—

*The Bishop or his Commissary to Preside; Manner of Voting.*

II. Provided, that where any such assembly shall be holden for any diocese, the Bishop, or in his absence a commissary appointed for the purpose by the Bishop, by writing under his hand and seal, shall preside in such assembly; and upon all questions arising in such assembly the votes of the clergy and the lay representatives shall be separately taken; and no act or resolution of such assembly shall be valid unless with the concurrence of the majority both of the clergy and the lay representatives, or of such of them respectively as may be present and vote in such assembly; nor shall any regulation made by such assembly be valid under this act without the consent of the Bishop, whether he shall or shall not be present in the assembly at the making thereof.

*Regulations only to bind Ministers and Members of the Church in respect of their Ministry and Membership.*

III. And provided, that no regulation, act, or resolution of any such assembly shall be binding on any person or persons, other than the Bishop of the diocese and his successors, and the clergy and lay members of the United Church of England and Ireland residing within such diocese; nor upon such Bishop, clergy, and lay members, except so far as such regulation, act, or resolution may concern the position, rights, duties, and liabilities of any minister or member of the said United Church in regard of his ministry or membership; and it shall not be lawful, by any such regulation, act, or resolution of any assembly, to impose any temporal or pecuniary penalty or disability other than such as may be consequent upon suspension from or deprivation of an ecclesiastical office or benefice, or to deprive any person of any civil right to which he is by law entitled.

*Regulations to have no legal validity against the acts of the Colonial Legislatures.*

IV. And provided, that no regulations of any such assembly shall have legal force or validity as against the acts or ordinances for the time being in force of the local Legislature of the foreign or colonial possession in which such assembly shall be holden.

*Regulations not to alter Standards of Faith, &c., nor Book of Common Prayer, Articles of Religion, or Oaths on Ordination.*

V. And provided, that no such regulation shall alter the standards of faith and doctrine, or alter or be at variance with the book of Common Prayer or the Thirty-nine Articles of religion, or alter the oaths, declarations, and subscriptions by law required to be taken, made, and subscribed by persons to be consecrated, ordained, collated, instituted, or licensed within the said Church.

*Restriction on Regulations affecting Right of Appeal or Subordination to See of Canterbury.*

VI. And provided, that no such regulation which shall affect any right of appeal to her Majesty in Council or to the Archbishop of Canterbury, or the subordination of the said Bishops, clergy, and laity of the See of Canterbury, shall be valid unless the consent of the Archbishop of the said see thereto be previously or thereafter signified by him under his hand and seal, nor unless such regulation be confirmed by an order of her Majesty in Council.

*Provisions for convening the First Assembly.*

VII. And provided, that where the Bishop of any diocese in any of the foreign or colonial possessions of her Majesty shall see fit to convene any such assembly as aforesaid, such Bishop shall, at such time as to him may seem meet, previous to the first such assembly in his diocese, by such notice as to him may seem convenient, summon thereto all the clergy being incumbents or licensed by the Bishop within such diocese, and the lay representatives of the diocese elected as hereinafter provided, and for electing such representatives shall require each clergyman instituted or licensed to a separate cure of souls to summon a meeting of the laymen, members of the Church, of the age of twenty-one years or upwards, resident within his parish or district, at such time (within limits which may be prescribed by such Bishop) and at such place within the parish or district as to such clergyman may seem convenient, and every such lay member as aforesaid shall be entitled to vote at such election.

*Meeting for electing lay Representatives.*

VIII. And provided, that the said meeting, so soon as five persons at the least are assembled, shall proceed to elect a chairman by a majority of those present, and the clergyman may be present, and shall be qualified to act as such chairman; and the chairman shall make or cause to be made a list of those who shall then be present, and add thereto the names of any who shall subsequently attend before the proceedings are closed, and shall claim to vote thereat; and every such lay member present shall before taking part in or voting at such meeting, sign the following declaration:—

“I, A. B., whose name is hereto subscribed, do declare, that I am a member of the United Church of England and Ireland, and belong to no other religious denomination.”

*Meeting to choose as Lay Representatives Persons who have been Communicants for Twelve Months.*

IX. And provided, that every such meeting shall choose as a representative or representatives one person or (in any case where they think fit) two persons who shall have been communicant or communicants in the said Church for at least the term of twelve months preceding the day of such meeting; provided always, that if one hundred and fifty persons or more shall attend and vote at such meeting, it shall be lawful for such