

The CHURCH ACT.

N^o I.

to the Sheriff of such County, to levy such Tax by the Poll on the Taxables of such Parishes, in the same Manner as other public Dues are levied, and shall not deduct above Five *per* Hundred for his Salary, and pay the same to such Vestry for the Use aforesaid. And to the Intent that this Act may answer the End of the Makers, which is, That his Majesty's good Subjects of this Province may be instructed in Religion, and therein of their Duty to God, his Majesty, themselves, and those pious and exemplary Persons that shall labour therein, suitably provided for; **Be it Enacted** by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That no Minister or Incumbent shall, at one Time, hold more than two Parishes, nor Two, unless by the Desire and Agreement of the Vestry of the said adjacent Parish, and Consent of the Vestry where he resides, and Appointment of the Ordinary; and where there are not or shall not be Ministers in any Parish, it shall and may be lawful for the Vestry to provide some sober and discreet Person, as a Reader, and present him to the Ordinary, who may sequest Part of the Forty *per* Poll to pay him for such Service, and the rest to be applied as the Law, in Cases of such Vacancies, directs. And upon such Readers taking the said Oaths appointed by Act of Parliament, subscribing the Test and Association, and procuring Licence from the Ordinary, shall and may read Divine Service, Homilies, and such other good Authors of Practical Divinity as shall be appointed, at the usual Times, in such Church or Chappel, and therein shall demean himself according to the Liturgy of the Church of *England*, as aforesaid.

Ministers not to hold more than two Parishes; nor two, unless, &c.

Where no Minister, the Vestry to provide a Reader.

X. And for the preventing of Delays, and other Inconveniences which might happen if there were a Necessity for the expecting the Attendance and Presence of all the said Vestry-men, and at the same time to prevent the doing any thing of consequence by Surprise, by a small Number of them; **Be it hereby Enacted**, That the first *Tuesday* in every Month shall be and is hereby fixed and ascertained for holding of a Vestry at Eleven of the Clock in the Forenoon, in the usual Place for that Purpose, without any Notice or Warning to be given thereof: At which Time and Place, the major part of the Vestry-men then present (so as such Majority be not under the Number of Three Persons) shall be esteemed as a Vestry, and shall have full Power to order, direct and act, in all Things by this Act appointed to be done, according to this Act, as a Vestry. And that in case any Vestry-man shall remove or withdraw himself from the Parish, or voluntarily frequently neglect to give his Attendance, and absent himself from the Vestry, or otherwise become unfit or incapable to continue to execute such Office or Trust, that in any such Case, the Residue of the said Vestry, or the Majority of them, (so as such Majority be not under three Persons) shall and may have Power (after personal Notice given to such Party, if it conveniently

First Tuesday in every Month, a Vestry without Notice:

Their Power.

Vestryman removing, or unfit.