

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1867.

AUGUSTA:
STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1867.

FORTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 17.

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the petition of the Master and Wardens of Vernon Valley Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons; also the petition of the members of King Solomon Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, both for acts of incorporation, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report that the fifty-fifth chapter of the Revised Statutes of this State provides a mode of incorporating the proprietors of any Library; of Masonic Lodges or Chapters of any order or degree; of lodges of the independent order of Odd Fellows; of divisions of the Sons of Temperance; of tents of Rechabites; of societies to promote the cause of temperance; or for any literary, scientific, musical, charitable or benevolent purpose whatever.

This statute would seem to obviate the necessity of an application to the Legislature for special acts of incorporation for such societies, lodges or chapters, were it not that by the fourth section of said chapter, corporations thus organized are not authorized to take and hold by purchase, gift, devise or bequest, personal or real estate exceeding in value the sum of *five thousand dollars*.

If corporations thus organized were not limited to so small an amount of property, it is believed by the Committee that all such benevolent, literary, scientific and social organizations and societies would avail themselves of the provisions of chapter 55 of the Revised Statutes, instead of applying to the Legislature for a special act in each case.

They therefore ask leave to report an amendment of the fourth section of the 55th chapter of the Revised Statutes in a Bill which is herewith submitted.

Per order,

G. F. SHEPLEY.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SEVEN.

AN ACT to amend chapter fifty-five of the revised statutes of this state.

Be it enacted by the Sena'e and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :

The fourth section of the fifty-fifth chapter of the
2 revised statutes of this state is hereby amended, so
3 that the same when amended, shall read as follows :

SECT. 4. Such corporation may take and hold by
2 purchase, gift, devise or bequest, personal or real
3 estate, in all not exceeding in value twenty-five thou-
4 sand dollars, owned at any one time, and use and
5 dispose thereof only for the purposes for which the
6 corporation was organized.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, {
January 23, 1867. }

Ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

FRANKLIN M. DREW, *Clerk.*