charity and education, and by that name may sue and be sued, prosecute and defend, may have and use a common seal, and the same alter and renew at pleasure, may adopt and establish rules, regulations, and by-laws not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, for properly conducting the affairs of said corporation; may take, receive, purchase, and hold estate, real, personal, and mixed, not exceeding in value the sum of five hundred thousand dollars at any one time, and may manage and dispose of the same at pleasure, and apply the same, or the proceeds of the sales thereof, to the uses and purposes of the said corporation, according to the rules and regulations which now are or may hereafter be established; and the said corporators shall and may, from time to time, as the necessities of the said corporation shall or may require, increase their number, but so as not to exceed, at any time, ten persons, to be corporators in the same.

Power to confer degrees.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation shall have and enjoy the power and faculty to confer and confirm upon such pupils in the institution, or others, who, by their proficiency in learning or other meritorious distinctions, they shall think entitled to them, such degrees in the liberal arts and sciences as are usually granted in colleges.

This act not to authorize issue of currency.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to authorize the said corporation to issue any note, token, device, scrip, or other evidence of debt, to be used as a currency.

Individual liability of members.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That each of the corporators in said corporation shall be held liable, in his individual capacity, for all the debts and liabilities of the said corporation, however contracted or incurred, to be recovered by suit, as other debts or liabilities, before any court of competent jurisdiction.

Act subject to repeal.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That Congress may at any time hereafter alter, amend, or repeal the foregoing act.

APPROVED, June 2, 1856.

CHAP. XXXVII.—*An Act for the Benefit of the Hebrew Congregation in the City of Washington.*

June 2, 1856.

Rights of Christian churches in Washington extended to the Hebrew congregation.

1844, ch. 101.

Vol. v. p. 679.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all the rights, privileges, and immunities heretofore granted by law to the Christian churches in the city of Washington, be, and the same are hereby extended to the Hebrew congregation of said city, and that the third section of the act approved the seventeenth of June, eighteen hundred and forty-four, entitled "An act concerning conveyances or devises of places of public worship in the District of Columbia," shall be so construed as to allow the members of the Hebrew congregation from time to time, by a vote of two thirds, to elect their own trustees, and the same, by a like vote, to displace at pleasure; which said trustees shall, during their continuance in office, have the same title in and power over any lot or tract of land as if held by them under the act aforesaid for a Christian church, or as if they were appointed under said act trustees of any Christian church: *Provided*, That any and all legal and equitable rights, demands, or liabilities of the said Hebrew congregation, acquired or assumed by or through said trustees, shall be limited to the trust property of said congregation held by said trustees.

APPROVED, June 2, 1856.

CHAP. XXXVIII.—*An Act for the Relief of John S. Pendleton.*

June 2, 1856.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to pay, out of any moneys in the

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