ton, C. H. Dickson, T. D. Winter, H. V. Cole, T. H. Donahue, Thomas H. Graham, M. A. Watson, W. D. Chase, Thomas Dowling, R. B. Tompkins, James O. Lee, Charles H. Kern, and Robert Ball, and their successors, to be elected in the manner hereinafter declared, be, and they are hereby, incorporated and made a body politic and corporate by the name of "The Masonic Mutual Relief Association of the District of Columbia," and by that name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any court of law or equity of competent jurisdiction, and may have and use a common seal, and be entitled to use and exercise all the powers, rights, and privileges incident to such corporation.

Objects of the corporation.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the particular business and objects of such society or corporation shall be to provide and maintain a fund for the benefit of the widow, orphans, heir, assignee, or legatee of a deceased member immediately upon proof of such death.

Number, election, and term of office of directors.

Annual meeting.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the number of directors or managers to manage the same shall be twenty-two, who shall be elected by the members of said society or corporation, at their annual meeting on the second Tuesday of November in each year, from among themselves, who shall hold their office for one year and until others are duly elected and qualified to take their places as directors; and the said directors shall elect one of their number to be president of the board, who shall also be president of the corporation or society, and shall elect one of their number as vice-president and one of their number as secretary, who shall also be secretary of the association, and one of their number as treasurer, who shall give bonds with surety to said corporation in such sum as the said board of directors may require for the faithful discharge of his trust. A majority of the directors shall form a quorum for the transaction of business; and in case of a vacancy in the board of directors, by death, resignation, or otherwise, of any director, the vacancy occasioned thereby shall be filled by the remaining directors from among the members of said society, who shall serve until the next annual election.

President, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

Bonds.

Quorum of directors.

Vacancies.

By-laws, &c.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the directors shall have full power to make and prescribe such by-laws, rules, and regulations, as they shall deem needful and proper for the disposition and management of the funds, property, and effects of the society or corporation, not contrary to this charter or to the laws of the United States; and they shall have power to alter or amend the same, as the interests of the corporation, in their opinion, may require.

Authority of directors.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the said board of directors shall be capable of taking and holding the funds, property, and effects of said corporation, which funds, property, or effects shall never be divided among the members of the said society or corporation, but shall descend to their successors, duly elected in the manner heretofore specified, for the promotion of the principles of the said corporation and the benevolent purposes of the society which they represent. But this provision shall not prevent the said board of directors from carrying out the principles of the society or corporation, viz: the immediate payment to the widow, orphans, heir, assignee, or legatee of a deceased member as many dollars as there are members in good standing on the books of the corporation.

Act may be altered, &c.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That this act may be altered, amended, or repealed at the pleasure of the Congress of the United States of America.

Approved, March 3, 1869.

March 3, 1869.

CHAP. CXXXV.—*An Act in Reference to certifying Checks by National Banks.*

Officers, &c. of national banks not to certify checks on such banks, unless, &c.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be unlawful for any officer, clerk, or agent of any national bank to certify any check drawn upon said bank unless the person or company drawing said check shall

have on deposit in said bank at the time such check is certified an amount of money equal to the amount specified in such check; and any check so certified by duly authorized officers shall be a good and valid obligation against such bank; and any officer, clerk, or agent of any national bank violating the provisions of this act shall subject such bank to the liabilities and proceedings on the part of the comptroller as provided for in section fifty of the national banking law, approved June third, eighteen hundred and sixty-four.

Certain certified checks to be good.

Penalty for unlawfully certifying checks. 1864, ch. 106, § 50. Vol. xiii. p. 114.

Approved, March 3, 1869.

March 3, 1869.

1868, ch. 41, § 2. *Ante*, p. 59.

CHAP. CXXXVI. — *An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to exempt certain Manufacturers from Internal Tax, and for other Purposes," approved March thirty-first, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight.*

Certain internal taxes upon naval machinery remitted.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act to exempt certain manufacturers from internal tax, and for other purposes, approved March thirty-one, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, be, and hereby is, amended in the second section thereof so as to remit all taxes upon naval machinery which had not accrued prior to the first day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight.

Approved, March 3, 1869.

March 3, 1869.

CHAP. CXXXVII. — *An Act relating to Captures made by Admiral Farragut's Fleet in the Mississippi River in May,* (1862,) *eighteen hundred and sixty-*eight, [*two.*]

Vessels belonging to Admiral Farragut's fleet in the Mississippi River, in May, 1862, to be entitled to the benefits of the prize laws.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the vessels attached to or connected with Admiral Farragut's fleet in the river Mississippi which participated in the opening of that river and which resulted in the capture of New Orleans in the month of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and which by law would have been entitled to prize-money in the captures made by said vessels, shall be now entitled to the benefits of the prize laws in the same manner as they would have been had the district court for the eastern district of Louisiana been then open and the captures made by said vessels had been libelled therein; and any court of the United States having admiralty jurisdiction may take and have cognizance of all cases arising out of said captures, and the same proceedings shall be had therein as in other cases of prize.

What courts to have jurisdiction.

Shares awarded, to be paid out of the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the shares in such captures awarded to the officers and men entitled to prize shall be paid out of the treasury of the United States.

Approved, March 3, 1869.

March 3, 1869.

1858, ch. 84. Vol. xi. p. 308.

CHAP. CXXXVIII. — *An Act explanatory of the Act entitled "An Act declaring the Title to Land Warrants in certain Cases."*

Legal representatives of deceased claimants of land warrants may perfect claims filed prior to decease of claimant.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act entitled "An act declaring the title to land warrants in certain cases," approved June third, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, be so construed and applied as to authorize the legal representatives of deceased claimants whose claims were filed prior to their decease to file the proof necessary to perfect the same.

Approved, March 3, 1869.

March 3, 1869.

CHAP. CXXXIX. — *An Act to establish a Bridge across the East River, between the Cities of Brooklyn and New York, in the State of New York, a Post-Road.*

The bridge authorized across the East

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the bridge across the East River, between the cities of New York and Brooklyn, in the State of