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CHAP. 44.—An act to provide for the appointment of an Acting Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. May 13, 1884.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Chancellor of the Smithsonian Institution may, by an instrument in writing filed in the office of the Secretary thereof, designate and appoint a suitable person to act as Secretary of the Institution when there shall be a vacancy in said office, and whenever the Secretary shall be unable from illness, absence, or other cause to perform the duties of his office; and in such case the person so appointed may perform all the duties imposed on the Secretary by law until the vacancy shall be filled or such inability shall cease. The said Chancellor may change such designation and appointment from time to time as the interests of the Institution may in his judgment require.

Acting Secretary of Smithsonian Institution; appointment of, authorized.

Duties.

Approved, May 13, 1884.

CHAP. 45.—An act to release the American Baptist Home Mission Society from the conditions of the sale of the Marine hospital building and grounds at Natchez Mississippi. May 13, 1884.

Whereas, the Marine hospital building and grounds at Natchez, Mississippi were sold under and in pursuance of law, at public auction, on the fifteenth of February, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, to the American Baptist Home Mission Society for the sum of five thousand dollars it being the highest bidder at said sale: and

Preamble.

Whereas, pursuant to act of Congress approved August fifteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, said sale was authorized and confirmed and by deed dated January fourth eighteen hundred and seventy-seven, said building and grounds were conveyed by the Secretary of the Treasury to said society, for and in consideration of the sum of five thousand dollars, upon the express condition and covenant nevertheless in said deed contained that the building on said grounds should be reconstructed and devoted, under responsible auspices, to purposes of instruction for the benefit of the colored people of the United States in accordance with said act authorizing and confirming said conveyance; and

19 Stat., 202.

Whereas the said society has faithfully fulfilled the conditions and covenants in said deed contained, and now desires to sell said buildings and grounds to the city of Natchez for the purposes of a city hospital, and to devote the proceeds of such sale to the construction of a school-building at Jackson, Mississippi, to be used for the purposes of education for the benefit of the colored people Therefore.

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 is hereby authorized and directed to quit-claim and release the said Marine-hospital building and grounds to the said American Baptist Home Mission Society, free and clear of the aforesaid conditions and covenants in said deed contained. *Provided*, That by proper covenant, to be approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, such society secures the appropriation of the proceeds of such sale to the construction of a school building at Jackson, Mississippi, to be used for the purposes of education for the benefit of the colored people.

American Baptist Home Society released from conditions of sale of Marine hospital building at Natchez, Miss.

Proviso.

Approved, May 13, 1884.

CHAP. 46.—An act amending the Revised Statutes of the United States in respect of official oaths, and for other purposes. May 13, 1884.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section twelve hundred and eighteen of the Revised Statutes of the United States be, and is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

R. S. 1218, 215. Amended.