ACTS

OF THE

GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL OF LIBERIA,

IN LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLED.

PASSED AT THEIR FIFTH SESSION.

JANUARY, 1848.

(Printed by Authority.)

Printed in Monrovia, at the Herald Office.

L. D. James,—Printer.

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An Act to amend an Act regulating common Schools.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby Enacted by the authority of the same,—That all monies arising from Licenses, Military and Court fines shall constitute a permanent fund to be called the school fund of the counties of Mon-serrado and Grand Bassa.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted,—That all monies arising as aforesaid, be divided among the several towns and villages according to a just ratio of inhabitants.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted,—That the several towns and villages, elect annually a standing committee of five persons, who shall be authorized in their municipal capacity to impose a Tax or Taxes on the male inhabitants over the age of twenty one years, which amount arising from such Tax or Taxes, shall be added to the dividend arising from the permanent fund to be applied to the sole use of schools.
Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted,—That the schools shall be under the entire control and supervision of the several standing committees, and that they be authorized to contract and employ an instructor for each school, and make rules for the government of the same.

Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted,—That the standing committee in the several towns and villages, shall be empowered to draw quarterly their dividend from the permanent fund and apply it, and the monies raised by Tax or Taxes for erecting school houses, or to purchase or hire any buildings suitable to be used as school houses, to pay teachers and purchase such books as may be necessary for the use of the schools.

Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted,—That the Governor be requested to make an appropriation of land in each township of one mile square to be deeded to the standing committee and their successors in office in trust for the benefit of common schools. All laws repugnant to this Act, shall be and are hereby repealed.

An Act supplementary to an Act regulating common Schools.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That, from and after the passage of this Act, it shall be the duty of the Town Clerks to call an election for the standing committee in the several towns and villages, on the first Tuesday in February annually,—the polls to be managed as in other elections, and the same may be allowed the Judges and Clerks, to be paid out of the permanent fund.

An Act to repeal an Act creating an agency in Grand Bassa County.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same,—That, from and after the passage of this Act,—the Act creating an agency in Grand Bassa County passed January 1841, be and the same is hereby repealed.

An Act granting to the inhabitants of Caldwell the sum of Fifty Dollars to assist in the repairing and building of Bridges in said settlement.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That, from and after the passage of this Act,—His Excellency the Governor appropriate the sum of Fifty Dollars out of any monies in the Commonwealth Treasury, not otherwise appropriated for the improvement and rebuilding of bridges in Caldwell.
A Bill for the relief of Harmon Whitfield.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That, from and after the passage of this bill Harmon Whitfield of the town of Monrovia be allowed a pension in the sum of Forty Dollars annually, to be obtained quarterly, on application to the Governor of the Commonwealth, out of the Commonwealth Treasury.

An Act to amend an Act regulating the Revenue of the Commonwealth of Liberia.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That in future it shall be the duty of those who are or may be hereafter engaged in the sale or trade of spirituous liquors, to have their shops distinguished by a sign board on which the name or names of the owners shall be printed in large capitals, underneath which their special business shall be designated thus A. B. sells rum—and on failing thus to distinguish him or themselves, he or they shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars recoverable in any Court of competent jurisdiction, to be collected as often as the offender is admonished by any of the officers of government and fails to comply with the requisition of this law.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted,—That the duty on ardent spirits, wines and cordials be and remain the same as is now collected, with the annexed—that all articles of the above description, shall be landed under the immediate observation of the Collector of customs, and by him be gauged or the quantity otherwise ascertained on the spot, and the amount of duties thereon, be paid before it is removed from the place of landing, and on failure in either of these particulars, the articles aforesaid shall be forfeited to the Commonwealth.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted,—That from & after the passage of this Act, any person wishing to carry on the business of Auctioneer, shall pay annually to the Commonwealth the sum of Five Dollars. The method of obtaining license for the same shall be by his presenting to the County Court during its session the Treasurers receipt,—whereupon the said Court shall order the Clerk of the Court to grant a license to the applicant for the purpose,—and shall further pay to the Clerk the sum of Fifty cents as his Fee for the same. Any former rule, custom or law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted,—That there shall be paid on all auction sales, the sum of one and half per centum to be called auction
duty—said duty shall be collected quarterly by the Sheriff or his Deputy and deposited by him in the Treasury and on which he shall be allowed the same remuneration as for collection of other matters as allowed by law. The Sheriff for the safe collection of said auction duty shall be allowed and empowered to use the means allowed for the collection of other monies. Nevertheless the Tax as above to be collected is not intended to extend to sales of estates made by Executors or administrators.

Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted—That all licenses shall be granted for one year to expire on the 31st day of December. Nevertheless should any person or persons apply for license or licenses after the commencement of the fiscal year, which is understood to commence on the first day of January—said person or persons so applying shall be compelled to pay only in a just ratio of the unexpired term of one year.

An Act restoring Wily Brown to the privileges of Citizenship.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That, from and after the passage of this Act, Wily Brown be and hereby is restored to all the rights and privileges that are granted to other citizens in the Commonwealth of Liberia.

An Act restoring Edmond Curtis to the privileges of Citizenship.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That, from and after the passage of this Act, Edmond Curtis be and hereby is restored to all the rights and privileges as provided for in the Constitution for other citizens in the Commonwealth of Liberia.

An Act restoring Andrew Green to the privileges of citizenship.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That, from and after the passage of this Act, Andrew Green be and hereby is restored to all the rights, that are granted to other citizens of credit in the Commonwealth of Liberia.
An Act establishing the boundaries of the several Townships in the County of Grand Bassa.

Whereas the rights and privileges of corporations being matters of primary importance to the citizens thereof—it is necessary to mark their bounds, so as to define the limits to which their rights extend.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That the limits of the corporation of Edina, shall extend from the ocean shore along the right bank of the St. John's River, as far as the upper end of Factory Island, and from thence a north-west course so far as the jurisdiction of the Colony extends into the Little Bassa country—hence to the ocean wherever it may reach so as not to extend beyond the Little Bassa settlement on the sea beach.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted,—That the limits of the corporation of Bassa Cove shall extend from the ocean shore along the left bank of the St. John's River to the extent of the purchase made of Joe Harris, and the east side of the St. John's River so far eastward as shall be deemed within the jurisdiction of this Commonwealth, embracing so much of the Grand Bassa territory as may be comprehended within the bounds of the limits aforesaid and Tabacconee on the sea shore.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted,—That the Township of Bexley shall extend from the upper end of Factory Island aforesaid, to the creek called Doiv which divides our purchase from the natives' possession of lands called Graccho on the west side of the St. John's River, and run back a north west course on both the upper and lower lines without any fixed limits or boundaries other than those prescribed in the deed of purchase made of the natives.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted,—That the town of Marshall on the west side of the main branch of the Junk River, be and the same is hereby attached to and connected with the county of Monserado. Nevertheless in all cases of judicial matters whether of a civil or criminal nature which have been referred to the courts of Grand Bassa, or transacted under the direction of Magistrates appointed for that county, a decision shall be there made and a final issue had under their direction—but all matters of fiscal or other affairs from henceforth to arise or growing out of the relations at that place, shall be conducted under the authority of the county of Monserado.

Sec. 5 Be it further Enacted,—That the main branch of the River Junk shall be, and is hereby declared to be the dividing line between the counties of Monserado and Grand Bassa.
Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted,—That the Farin settlement now being established on the east bank of the main branch of the River Junk, beginning at lowwater mark on the point of land which lies opposite to the main bar of the aforesaid Junk River, and running along the west bank of the easternmost fork of the Junk, and along the east bank of the said main branch of the Junk, shall constitute the corporation of Farmington which shall be and remain a township separate and distinct from that of Marshall, and attached to, and connected with, the county of Grand Bassa.

Sec. 7. Be it further Enacted,—That all corporation laws made and ordained by the people in the annual meeting held in October, shall be and remain in full force until the next annual meeting of the citizens in their corporate capacity. And it shall be the duty of the same commissioners who are now appointed to maintain the regulations of the police until the next annual election in October.

Sec. 8. Be it further Enacted,—That in order to have a clear understanding in the matter, it is only intended that the fiscal and judicial affairs in the settlement of Marshall, shall be at the present affected by this transfer, and those reserves already expressed make complete and explain fully the intention of this Act.

An Act providing a Treasurer for the Town of Marshall.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That there shall be appointed by the Governor and Council a Treasurer for the port of Marshall.

An Act to incorporate the Ladies' Benevolent Society of Monrovia.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That, from and after the passage of this Act, that Colonel Johnson, Susannah E. Lewis, Melinda Crawford, Frances Teage, Willy-Ann Yates, and all persons who now are or who hereafter may become associated with them, are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of the Ladies' Benevolent Society of Monrovia, & by that name and style be capable of purchasing, holding, and conveying such real estate as the purposes of the corporation shall require—but the annual income of the real estate to be held by them shall not exceed three thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted,—That the object of this Society shall be to relieve the distressed, and to administer to the necessities of those whose circumstances render them proper objects of benevolence—to encourage recommend and diffuse by precept and example virtuous and honorable sentiments and feeling.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted,—That the management and disposition of the
affairs of the said corporation shall be vested in a Board of Managers to be elected annually in the town of Monrovia, on the second Wednesday in November.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted,—That the persons named in the first section of this Act, shall be the first Board of Managers of such corporation, and shall hold their office until the next annual election, or until others shall be elected in their place.

Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted,—That the said corporation shall possess the general powers, and be subject to the liabilities imposed on, similar institutions in the United States.

Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted,—That the Legislature may at any time alter or repeal this Act.

An Act to incorporate the Ladies' Dorcas Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That, from and after the passage of this Act, Sarah Grijon, Mary Benedict, Rebecca Moore, Malinda Crawford, Mary Prout, Sarah Brown, Cherry Anderson, Amelia Burns, and all persons who now are, or who hereafter may become associated with them are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of the Dorcas Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and by that name and style be capable of purchasing, holding and conveying such real estate as the purposes of the corporation shall require—but the annual income of the real estate to be held by them shall not exceed the sum of three thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted,—That the object of this Society shall be to relieve the poor in Monrovia and elsewhere, as far as means can be obtained by soliciting subscriptions and donations in money, clothing or any other useful article, and to clothe converted natives in the neighboring towns.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted,—That the management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation shall be vested in a standing Committee and an agent to be elected annually on the second Thursday in January in the town of Monrovia.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted,—That the persons named in the first section of this Act, shall be the first Board of Managers of said corporation and shall hold their office until the next annual election or until others shall be elected in their place.

Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted,—That the said corporation shall possess the general powers and be subject to the liabilities imposed on similar institutions in the United States.

Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted,—That the Legislature may at any time alter or repeal this Act.
An Act to incorporate the Ladies Union Sisters of Charity Society of Monrovia.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That Mary L. Johnston, Rebecca M. Harris, Elizabeth Ciples, Marinda Cooper, Rachael Eden, Harriet Eden, Mary Hunter, and all persons who now are or who hereafter may become associated with them are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of the Union Sisters of Charity, and by that name and style be capable of purchasing, holding and conveying such real estate as the purposes of the corporation shall require. But the annual income of the real estate to be held by them shall not exceed the sum of three thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted.—That the object of the said corporation shall be to assist to the utmost of their ability, all subjects of charity, by helping the widow and relieving the orphan and needy, clothe, feed, educate and otherwise provide for such as the corporation may from time to time be enabled to take under its patronage.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted.—That the management and disposition of the affairs of the said corporation shall be vested in a standing Committee, and an agent to be elected annually on the third day of November in the town of Monrovia.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted.—That the persons named in the first section of this Act shall be the first Board of managers of such corporation and shall hold their office until the next annual election or until others shall be elected in their place.

Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted.—That said corporation shall possess the general powers and be subject to the liabilities imposed on similar institutions in the United States.

Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted.—That the Legislature may at any time alter or repeal this Act.

An Act establishing Committees of Finance.

Whereas a considerable degree of needless excitement is occasioned by persons indulging themselves in querulous discontent and exciting others to a clamorous outcry in regard of the expenditure of money arising from imports and other sources of Revenue in this Commonwealth for remedy whereof—

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby Enacted by the authority of the same, That there shall be three persons in each county who shall be appointed yearly at the first session of the county court, to act as a committee of Finance, of whose names a record shall be made with the other business of the said session, and who for their services shall be entitled to the same rate of pay as other commissioners when actually employed in the service of the Commonwealth.
Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted.—That it shall be the duty of said committee of Finance to assemble at the court house in each county, at least ten days before the meeting of the Legislative Council, and continue their sitting from day to day until their object is accomplished, and they shall summon by a notice to be served by the Sheriffs in each county, the attendance before them of all the officers of the Commonwealth, (excepting the Governor,) through whose Agency the fiscal affairs of the government are conducted, at which call the said officers shall be bound to attend and render a comprehensive statement of such matters and things, as are connected with the several trusts committed to them, and a statement of the financial affairs of each county, being thus ascertained, publication thereof by advertisement shall be made in each of the townships in this Commonwealth, so as that the condition of the money affairs of the Colony, shall be thereby made known to the people generally.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted.—That should any officer on being cited as aforesaid fail to attend and render the accounts required of him, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars, to be recovered in any court of law having competent jurisdiction of such offences.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted.—That the report of the committees aforesaid shall be evidence in all cases of settlements with the officers of the Commonwealth, and in case of their failing to make one within the time prescribed by law they shall be found in a sum not exceeding fifty dollars.

An Act to amend an Act passed 1839, to regulate the Fees of the Sheriffs and County Court Clerks.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That it shall be the duty of the Clerks of the said courts, to grant jurors a certificate of attendance clear of charge.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted.—That in all Commonwealth cases the Clerks, Sheriffs, and Constables, shall be entitled to half the amount of Fees as in civil cases.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted.—That the Clerks shall receive for every certificate of license the sum of fifty cents.

An Act for the Relief of Farmers.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby Enacted by the authority of the same,—That the provisions of a law passed in the year 1839 purporting to have for its object the relief of Farmers in these Colonies, shall be carried out in the following manner viz:—

On application of any person whose business is exclusively that of Farming, made either to the Governor or to any agent by him appointed—on the production of a certificate to that effect from the agricultural committee of this Commonwealth, and also on such personal security on bond being given as shall be
Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted.—That the repayment of the aforesaid sums shall be made in the following manner—viz: the interest on the whole sum due to be paid annually—one fourth of the principal at the end of one year—one fourth at the end of two years—one fourth at the end of three years and the last and remaining fourth at the end of four years.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted.—That the funds to meet the loan as aforesaid shall be supplied out of any monies in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted.—That notice by public advertisement of the provision of the law shall be given by the Colonial Secretary in every town in the counties of Monserado and Grand Bassa, immediately on the rise of the present Session of the Council, and inviting such persons as are within the purview of this Act to make application accordingly.

An Act to amend an Act entitled an Act regulating Towns and Villages, passed August and September 1809.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same.—That from and after the passage of this Act—the overseers of streets shall receive for their services when actually engaged one dollar per day, out of any monies arising from fines or Taxes in their corporate capacity.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted.—That each town and village in their corporate capacity shall be authorized to appoint a Treasurer to be under the immediate control of the overseers.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted.—That any person or persons accepting the appointment of overseers, either from the Governor or people, failing to do their duty, shall be fined in a sum of not less than one dollar nor more than five recoverable on complaint before any Justice Court.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted.—That all male inhabitants from the age of sixteen to sixty, shall be compelled to work on the public streets or shall be subject to the fine as provided for in the 4th section of an Act regulating towns and villages.

An Act to amend an Act regulating the Treasurer's and Collector's Fees

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same.—That, from and
after the passage of this Act, the Fee of the Collector of customs for the port of Monrovia, shall be ten per centum—nothing in this Act however is to effect the Fee of the Collector of Grand Bassa County.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted,—That the Treasurer’s commission shall be four per centum—any law contrary to this Act, notwithstanding.


An Act to carry into effect the provisions of the Act of 1839 concerning internal improvements and for other purposes connected therewith.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That there shall be appointed at the present session of this Legislature three commissioners whose duty it shall be to make a survey of the route from Kaghos, at the head of the Messurado, to the head waters of the Junk River in order thereby to ascertain the most fit and convenient route for a canal or other boat communication to either place, and that the same commissioners fix upon the most eligible site to begin a like communication from the Junk to a lake at the foot of the Junk mountain, and from thence to another below Little Bassa which empties itself in the Mechlin River.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted,—That the distances of the spaces between these points shall be ascertained by them as nearly as can be, and an estimate made of the probable expenses of opening such communication, a report whereof shall be made to His Excellency the Governor who will take such action thereupon as he may deem most proper.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted,—That His Excellency the Governor be solicited to grant from the funds of the American Colonization Society, the loan of such sums as may be necessary to prosecute and complete this work with the least possible delay.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted,—That the Governor be authorized to draw on the Treasury of this Commonwealth for the amount of the expense of the commissioners appointed under this Act, and that such work be undertaken as contemplated and authorized—the Legislature shall from time to time devise ways and means by which the amount so expended by the American Colonization Society in opening said communication be refunded.

An unpublished Act passed January 1841.

An Act to amend the Law regulating the Post Office department.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,—That from and after this date the Lieutenant Governor may receive and send all his official letters by the mail, free of postage.

An Act to amend and repeal certain Laws therein mentioned.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature assemb
ded, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same.—That instead of
the words five shillings used in the statute laws of this Commonwealth, to de
fine the crime of Petit Larceny—the words one dollar shall be substituted.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted.—That the words whipping and banishment
suggested in the definition of the offence of Grand Larceny, be and the same
are hereby repealed and made void.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted, That the law forbidding trespass on lands,
shall be so altered as to embrace the unappropriated, as well as the appropria
ted lands.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted.—That all applications for marriage licenses,
shall be made to the Clerk of the court of quarter sessions, instead of to the
agent of the Colony, and those persons requiring licenses, shall give bond and
security in the sum of two hundred dollars, that there will be no illegality
in their forming that connection.

Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted.—That the law regulating the intercourse and
trade of Foreigners, be so changed, as to make it the duty of the Collector,
instead of introducing them to the Agent—to report to the Governor their
arrival.

Sec 6. Be it further Enacted.—That the recognition of marriages required
to be made in the Court of monthly session, shall be made in the Court of
Quarter sessions.

Sec. 7. Be it further Enacted.—That the law fixing a limitation in bar of
the recovery of claims in this Commonwealth be, and the same is hereby re
pealed and that no such law, statute or ordinance shall be in force previously
to the year 1850.

Sec. 8. Be it further Enacted,—That the name of the Commonwealth attor
ney—be erased and left out of the law appointing that office.

Sec. 9. Be it further Enacted,—That so much of the law respecting bast
tardy as refers to the exemption of servants from the same penalties as
others be stricken out, erased and made null and void.


JOHN N. LEWIS,
Colonial Secretary.