

**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.

Approved, May 13, 1884.

Acting Secretary of Smithsonian Institution; appointment of, authorized.

Duties.

**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

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

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.

Approved, May 13, 1884.

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

Preamble.

19 Stat., 202.

**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.

Officers, etc., disqualified for appointment in Army or Navy.

R. S. 1756, 312.  
Repealed.  
Official oaths.

Not to affect existing rights, etc.

R. S. 820, 152.  
R. S. 821, 153.  
Repealed.

“SEC. 1218. No person who held a commission in the Army or Navy of the United States at the beginning of the late rebellion, and afterward served in any capacity in the military, naval, or civil service of the so-called Confederate States, or of either of the States in insurrection during the late rebellion, shall be appointed to any position in the Army or Navy of the United States.”

SEC. 2. That section seventeen hundred and fifty-six of the Revised Statutes be, and the same is hereby, repealed; and hereafter the oath to be taken by any person elected or appointed to any office of honor or profit either in the civil, military, or naval service, except the President of the United States, shall be as prescribed in section seventeen hundred and fifty-seven of the Revised Statutes. But this repeal shall not affect the oaths prescribed by existing statutes in relation to the performance of duties in special or particular sub-ordinate offices and employments.

SEC. 3. That the provisions of this act shall in no manner affect any right, duty, claim, obligation, or penalty now existing or already incurred; and all and every such right, duty, claim, obligation, and penalty shall be heard, tried, and determined, and effect shall be given thereto, in the same manner as if this act had not been passed.

SEC. 4. That section eight hundred and twenty of the Revised Statutes, imposing certain disqualifications on grand and petit jurors in the courts of the United States, and section eight hundred and twenty one of the Revised Statutes, prescribing an oath for grand and petit jurors in the courts of the United States, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Approved, May 13, 1884.

May 14, 1884.

**CHAP. 50.**—An act to repeal section eight of an act entitled “An act to accept and ratify the agreement submitted by the confederated bands of Ute Indians in Colorado for the sale of their reservation in said State, and for other purposes, and to make the necessary appropriations for carrying out the same,” approved June fifteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty.

21 Stat., 204.  
Restoration of lands, etc., on Ute Indian reservation, Colorado, to public domain.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section eight of an act entitled “An act to accept and ratify the agreement submitted by the confederated bands of Ute Indians in Colorado for the sale of their reservation in said State, and for other purposes, and to make the necessary appropriations for carrying out the same,” approved June fifteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty, be, and the same is hereby, repealed; and that the lands referred to in said section are hereby restored to the public domain.

Approved, May 14, 1884.

May 16, 1884.

**CHAP. 52.**—An act to prevent and punish the counterfeiting within the United States of notes, bonds, or other securities of foreign Governments.

Forging or counterfeiting within the U. S., notes, bonds or other securities of foreign Governments.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That every person who, within the United States or any Territory thereof, with intent to defraud, falsely makes, alters, forges, or counterfeits any bond, certificate, obligation, or other security in imitation of, or purporting to be an imitation of, any bond, certificate, obligation, or other security of any foreign Government, issued or put forth under the authority of such foreign Government, or any treasury note, bill, or promise to pay issued by such foreign Government, and intended to circulate as money, either by law, order, or decree of such foreign Government, and any person who causes or procures to be so falsely made, altered, forged, or counterfeited, or who knowingly aids or assists in making, altering, forging,