

Law of the Territory of Michigan.

BY AUTHORITY.

An Act to protect Missionary Societies in the Territory of Michigan, for the Education of Indians and other persons of Indian habits.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan, That the Agents and Teachers of Missionary Societies in the Territory of Michigan, for the education of Indians, and other persons of Indian habits, located in and being wholly or in part supported in said Territory, by any Corporation, or body politic incorporated in any state or territory of the United States, for the purpose of instructing Indians or other persons of Indian habits in the knowledge of the christian religion, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered as such Agents and Teachers, to employ in their respective societies aforesaid in this Territory, all the means and instruments authorized and appointed by the respective corporations or bodies politic whose Agents or Teachers they are or may be, as fully, amply and perfectly, as the said Agents or Teachers could or might do, if authorized and appointed by any corporation or bodies politic, created for similar purposes by the Legislative authority of this Territory: Provided, That said Agents and Teachers shall not, under colour of any authority of their respective corporations or bodies politic by whom they are or may be appointed, do any act, contrary to the Constitution and Laws of the United States or of the Laws of this Territory.

Sec. 2. That the present Agents and Teachers in said Missionary Societies appointed and employed by any corporation or body politic of any state or Territory with the United States incorporated for the purposes aforesaid, and the successors of such Agents and Teachers, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered in the name of such corporation or body politic to take into their respective Missionary Societies in this Territory, by contract or indenture with the consent of the parents or guardians, as many children and youth (being of the description and habits aforesaid) as they may think proper, to be there educated and brought up according to the purposes and plans of said Missionary Society, and the corporations and body politic who may have located them. And the said children and youth admitted into said Missionary Society by contract as aforesaid, or otherwise, shall be governed by such laws and rules of government as are or shall be authorized and established by the said corporation or body politic, by whom the said Agents and Teachers are respectively appointed and employed.

Sec. 3. That in case any of the said children and youth, admitted as scholars and apprentices into said Missionary Society as aforesaid, shall abscond or absent themselves from said Society without leave of some person duly authorized to permit them so to absent themselves, then it shall and may be lawful for the said Agents and Teachers of said Society to pursue after, take and bring back such child or youth, and him, her or them, again to place in said Society, and any person or persons who shall by any means whatever, take, or entice away, or when enticed or taken away from any of said Societies, shall harbour or employ any scholar or apprentice thereof, upon conviction before any Justice of the Peace, or any Court of record within the county, where the offence may be committed, shall be fined by said Justice or Court, not exceeding one hundred dollars and costs, and against such persons or persons, so enticing, taking or harbouring as aforesaid, the said Agents or Teachers, or either of them in behalf of their respective corporations or bodies politic shall be entitled in the first instance to a warrant as a writ

of right, and the offender or offenders shall be held in custody upon said warrant, until six days after conviction or until taken in execution; that all suits for a violation of the provisions of this act, shall be commenced and prosecuted in the name of the corporation that located the said Missionary Society and against which the said offence may be committed.

Sec. 4. That the by laws and rules of government aforesaid in said Missionary Societies, shall be competent evidence in any case where the aforesaid corporations may be a party, and the oaths of any Agent or Teacher therein shall be conclusive to prove that such by laws and rules of government are genuine and in force; Provided, The book containing the record thereof, be produced to the court of Justice before whom the cause may be depending.

A. EDWARDS,
President of the Legislative Council.

Approved: April 12, 1827.
LEW. GARR.