Translation of Second Charter, A.D. 1663

Charles the Second, by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c., to all to whom these our Letters Patent shall come, greeting.

We have long and fully resolved with Ourself to extend not only the boundaries of the Empire, but also the very arts and sciences. Therefore we look with favour upon all forms of learning, but with particular grace we encourage philosophical studies, especially those which by actual experiments attempt either to shape out a new philosophy or to perfect the old. In order, therefore, that such studies, which have not hitherto been sufficiently brilliant in any part of the world, may shine conspicuously amongst our people, and that at length the whole world of letters may always recognize us not only as the Defender of the Faith, but also as the universal lover and patron of every kind of truth:

Know ye that we, of our special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, have ordained, established, and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do ordain, establish, and grant, that henceforth for ever there shall be a Society consisting of a President, Council, and Fellows, who shall be called and named The President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society of London for improving Natural Knowledge (of which same Society we by these presents declare Ourself Founder and Patron); And by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors we do make, ordain, create, and
constitute the same Society, by the name of The President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society of London for promoting Natural Knowledge, one body corporate and politic, in fact, deed, and name, really and fully, and that by the same name they may have perpetual succession; And that they and their successors (whose studies are to be applied to further promoting by the authority of experiments the sciences of natural things and of useful arts, to the glory of God the Creator, and the advantage of the human race), by the same name of The President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society of London for promoting Natural Knowledge, may and shall be in all future times persons able and capable in law to have, acquire, receive, and possess lands [and] tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, liberties, privileges, franchises, jurisdictions, and hereditaments whatsoever to them and their successors in fee and perpetuity, or for term of life, lives, or years, or otherwise in whatsoever manner, and also goods and chattels, and all other things, of whatsoever kind, nature, sort, or quality they may be (the Statute concerning alienation in mortmain notwithstanding); and also to give, grant, [demise,] and assign the same lands, tenements, and hereditaments, goods and chattels, and to do and execute all acts and things necessary of and concerning the same, by the name aforesaid; And that by the name of The President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society of London for promoting Natural Knowledge aforesaid, they may henceforth for ever be able and have power to plead and be impleaded, to answer and be answered, to defend and be defended, in whatsoever Courts and places, and before whatsoever Judges, Justices, and other persons and officers of us, our heirs, and successors, in all and singular actions, both real and personal, pleas, suits, plaints, causes, matters, things, and demands whatsoever, of whatsoever kind, nature, or sort they may or shall be, in the same manner and form as any of our lieges within this our Realm of England, being persons able and capable in law, or as any body corporate or politic within this our Realm of England, may be able and have power to have, acquire, receive, possess, give, and grant, to plead and be impleaded, to answer and be answered, to defend or be defended; And that the same President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid and their successors for ever may have a Common Seal, to serve for transacting all causes and affairs whatsoever of them and their successors; and that it may and shall be good and lawful to the same President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, and to
their successors for the time being, to break, change, and make anew that Seal from time to time, as it shall seem most expedient to them.

We give and grant moreover by these presents to the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, and to their successors for ever, in testimony of our royal favour towards them, and of our peculiar esteem for them, to the present and future ages, these following blazons of honour, that is to say: in the dexter corner of a silver shield our three Lions of England, and for Crest a helm adorned with a crown studded with florets, surmounted by an eagle of proper colour holding in one foot a shield charged with our lions: Supporters, two white hounds gorged with crowns; to be borne, exhibited, and possessed for ever by the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows, and their successors, as occasion shall serve.

And that our royal intention may obtain the better effect, and for the good rule and government of the aforesaid Royal Society from time to time, we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do grant to the same President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, and to their successors, that henceforth for ever the Council aforesaid shall be and consist of twenty-one persons (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be always one); And that all and singular other persons who within two months next following after the date of these presents shall be received and admitted into the same Society as Members of the Royal Society aforesaid, by the President and Council, or by any eleven or more of them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be always one), or by two third parts or more of the aforesaid eleven or more, and in all time following by the President, Council, and Fellows, or by any twenty-one or more of them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be always one), or by two third parts or more of the aforesaid twenty-one or more, and shall have been noted in the Register by them to be kept, shall be, be called, and be named Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, as long as they shall live, unless it shall happen that any one of them be amoved for any reasonable cause, according to the Statutes of the Royal Society aforesaid, which are to be drawn up; whom, the more eminently they are distinguished for the study of every kind of learning and good letters, the more ardently they desire to promote the honour, studies, and advantage of this Society, the more they are noted for integrity of life, uprightness of character, and piety, and excel in fidelity and affection of mind.
towards us, our Crown, and dignity, the more we wish them to
be especially deemed fitting and worthy of being admitted into
the number of the Fellows of the same Society.

And for the better execution of our will and grant in this
behalf, we have assigned, nominated, constituted, and made,
and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do assign,
nominate, constitute, and make, our very well-beloved and
trusty William, Viscount Brouncker, Chancellor of our very
dear consort Queen Catharine, to be the first and present
President of the Royal Society aforesaid; willing that the
aforesaid William, Viscount Brouncker, shall continue in the
office of President of the Royal Society aforesaid from the date
of these presents until the feast of St Andrew next following
after the date of these presents, and until one other of the
Council of the Royal Society aforesaid for the time being shall
have been elected, appointed, and sworn to that office in due
manner, according to the ordinance and provision below in
these presents expressed and declared (if the aforesaid William,
Viscount Brouncker, shall live so long); having first taken a
corporal oath well and faithfully to execute [his office] in and
by all things touching that office, according to the true intention
of these presents, before our very well-beloved and very trusty
Cousin and Councillor Edward, Earl of Clarendon, our Chan-
cello of England: to which same Edward, Earl of Clarendon,
our Chancellor aforesaid, we give and grant full power and
authority to administer the oath aforesaid in these words
following, that is to say:

I, William, Viscount Brouncker, do promise to deal faithfully The President's Oath.
and honestly in all things belonging to the trust committed to
me, as President of the Royal Society of London for improving
Natural Knowledge, during my employment in that capacity.
So help me God!

We have also assigned, constituted, and made, and by these The first Council
presents for us, our heirs, and successors do make, our beloved
and trusty Robert Moray, Knight, one of our Privy Council
in our Realm of Scotland; Robert Boyle, Esquire; William
Brereton, Esquire, eldest son of the Baron de Brereton; Kenelm
Digby, Knight, Chancellor to our very dear mother, Queen
Maria; Gilbert Talbot, Knight, Treasurer of our Jewels;
Paul Neile, Knight, one of the Ushers of our Privy Chamber;
Henry Slingesby, Esquire, one of the Gentlemen of our afore-
said Privy Chamber; William Petty, Knight; Timothy Clarke,
Doctor in Medicine and one of our Physicians; John Wilkins,
Doctor in Divinity; George Ent, Doctor in Medicine; William
Aerskine, one of our Cup-bearers; Jonathan Goddard, Doctor in Medicine and Professor of Gresham College; William Balle, Esquire; Matthew Wren, Esquire; John Evelyn, Esquire; Thomas Henshaw, Esquire; Dudley Palmer, of Grey’s Inn, in our County of Middlesex, Esquire; Abraham Hill, of London, Esquire; and Henry Oldenburg, Esquire, together with the President aforesaid, to be and become the first and present twenty-one of the Council and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid; to be continued in their offices of the Council aforesaid from the date of these presents until the aforesaid feast of St Andrew the Apostle next following, and thenceforth until other fitting and able and sufficient persons shall have been elected, appointed, and sworn into the offices aforesaid (if they shall live so long, or shall not have been amoved for any just and reasonable cause); first taking corporal oaths before the President for the time being of the aforesaid Royal Society, well and faithfully to execute their offices in and by all things touching those offices, according to the form and effect of the aforesaid oath, mutatis mutandis, to be administered to the President of the Royal Society aforesaid by our Chancellor of England; (to which same President for the time being, for us, our heirs, and successors, we give and grant by these presents full power and authority to administer the oaths aforesaid to the aforesaid persons, and to any others whomsoever hereafter from time to time to be elected into the Council aforesaid); And that the same persons, so as it is aforesaid elected, appointed, and sworn, and hereafter to be elected, appointed, and sworn from time to time, to the Council of the aforesaid Royal Society, shall be and become aiding, counselling, and assistant in all matters, business, and affairs touching or concerning the better regulation, government, and direction of the aforesaid Royal Society, and of every Member of the same.

We also grant to the President, Council, and Fellows of the aforesaid Society, and to their successors for ever, that they and their successors, or any nine or more of them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be always one), may be able lawfully to make and hold assemblies or meetings of themselves for the examination and investigation of experiments and of natural things, and for other affairs belonging to the Society aforesaid, as often as and whenever it shall be needful, in a College or Hall or other convenient place within our City of London, or in any other convenient place within ten miles of our same City.

And further we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs,
and successors, do grant to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, and to their successors, that the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid for the time being, or any thirty-one or more of them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be one), or the major part of the aforesaid thirty-one or more, may and shall have from time to time in all future times for ever power and authority to nominate and elect, and that they may be able and have power to elect and nominate, every year, on the aforesaid feast of St Andrew, one of the Council of the aforesaid Royal Society for the time being, who may and shall be President of the Royal Society aforesaid until the feast of St Andrew the Apostle thereafter next following (if he shall live so long, or shall not be amoved meanwhile for any just and reasonable cause), and thenceforth until another shall have been elected, appointed, and nominated to the office of President of the Royal Society aforesaid; and that he, after that he shall so have been elected and nominated, as it is aforesaid, to the office of President of the Royal Society aforesaid, before he be admitted to that office, shall take a corporal oath before the Council of the same Royal Society, or any seven or more of them, rightly, well, and faithfully to execute that office in all things touching that office, according to the form and effect of the aforesaid oath, \textit{mutatis mutandis} (to which same Council, or to any seven or more of them, we give and grant by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors full power and authority to administer the oath aforesaid from time to time, as often as it shall be needful to elect a President); and that after having so taken such oath, as it is aforesaid, he may be able and have power to execute the office of President of the Royal Society aforesaid until the feast of St Andrew the Apostle thereafter next following; And if it shall happen that the President of the Royal Society for the time being, at any time, so long as he shall be in the office of President of the same Royal Society, shall die, retire, or be amoved from his office, that then and so often it may and shall be good and lawful to the Council of the Royal Society aforesaid, and to their successors for ever, or to any eleven or more of them, to assemble or meet for the election of one of the aforesaid number of the Council aforesaid as President of the Royal Society aforesaid; and that he who shall have been elected and sworn by the Council aforesaid, or by the aforesaid eleven or more, or by the major part of the aforesaid eleven or more, as it is aforesaid, may have and exercise that office during the residue of the same year, and until another shall have been
in due manner elected and sworn to that office, first taking a
corporal oath in the form above specified; and so as often as
the case shall so happen.

And further we will, that whenever it shall happen that any
one or any of the Council of the Royal Society aforesaid for the
time being shall die, or be amovable from that office, or retire
(which same members of the Council of the Royal Society
aforesaid, and every one of them, we will to be amovable for
misdemeanour or any other reasonable cause, at the good pleasure
of the President and of the rest of the Council aforesaid, of whom
we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be
one, or of the major part of the same), that then and so often it
may and shall be good and lawful to the aforesaid President,
Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, and to their
successors for ever, or to any twenty-one or more of the same
(of whom we will the President of the Royal Society aforesaid
for the time being, or his Deputy, to be one), or to the major
part of the aforesaid twenty-one or more, to nominate, elect,
and appoint one other or several others of the Fellows of the
Royal Society aforesaid, in the place or places of him or them
so dead, retired, or amovable, to fill up the aforesaid number of
twenty-one persons of the Council of the Royal Society aforesaid;
and that he or they so elected and appointed in that
office may have the same office until the feast of St Andrew the
Apostle next following, and thenceforth until one other or
several others shall have been elected, appointed, and
nominated; first taking a corporal oath before the President and
Council of the Royal Society aforesaid, or any seven or more of
them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his
Deputy, to be always one), well and faithfully to execute that
office in and by all things touching that office, according to the
true intention of these presents.

And further we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs,
and successors do grant to the aforesaid President, Council, and
Fellows of the aforesaid Royal Society, and to their successors
(for ever), that they and their successors, or any thirty-one or
more of them (of whom we will the President or his
Deputy always to be one), or the major part of such thirty-
one or more.

On St Andrew's Day
ten of the Council
(and no more) are to
be changed by the
President, Council,
and Fellows, or any
thirty-one or more of
them (of whom the
President or his
Deputy always to be
one), or the major
part of such thirty-
one or more.
be our royal pleasure, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors we do grant, that ten of the aforesaid Council, and no more, shall be annually changed and amovd by the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid.

We will also, and for us, our heirs, and successors do grant to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the aforesaid Royal Society, and to their successors for ever, that if it shall happen that the President of the same Royal Society for the time being is detained by sickness or infirmity, or is employed in the service of us, our heirs, or successors, or is otherwise occupied, so that he shall not be able to attend to the necessary affairs of the same Royal Society touching the office of President, that then and so often it may and shall be good and lawful to the same President so detained, employed or occupied, to nominate and appoint one of the Council of the aforesaid Royal Society for the time being to be and become the Deputy of the same President; which same Deputy, so to be made and appointed in the office of Deputy of the President aforesaid, may and shall be the Deputy of the same President from time to time, as often as the aforesaid President happen to be so absent, during the whole time in which the aforesaid President shall continue in the office of President; unless in the meanwhile the aforesaid President of the Royal Society aforesaid for the time being shall have made and appointed one other of the aforesaid Council his Deputy; And that every such Deputy of the aforesaid President so to be made and appointed, as it is aforesaid, may be able and have power to do and execute all and singular things which pertain or ought to pertain to the office of President of the aforesaid Royal Society, or which are limited and appointed to be done and executed by the aforesaid President, by virtue of these our Letters Patent, from time to time, as often as the aforesaid President shall happen to be so absent, during such time as he shall continue the Deputy of the aforesaid President, by force of these our Letters Patent, as fully, freely, and wholly, and in as ample manner and form, as the aforesaid President, if he were present, would be able and have power to do and execute those things; a corporal oath first to be taken by such Deputy upon the holy Gospels of God, in the form and effect above specified, well and faithfully to execute all and singular things which pertain to the office of President, before the aforesaid Council of the aforesaid Royal Society, or any seven or more of them; and so often as the case shall so happen: to which same Council, or to any seven or more of them, for the time being, we do give and grant by these presents, power and
The Society may have a Treasurer, two Secretaries, two or more Curators of Experiments, one Clerk or more, and two Serjeants-at-Mace to attend upon the President. All these are to be chosen and named by the President, Council, and Fellows, or any thirty-one or more of them (of whom the President or his Deputy to be one), or by the major part of such thirty-one or more: and they must be sworn before the President or his Deputy, and the Council, or any seven or more of them.

The first Treasurer named; and also the two first Secretaries.

On every St Andrew's Day (unless it be Sunday, and then on the next day), the President, Council, and Fellows, or any thirty-one or more of them (of whom, etc.), or the major part of such thirty-one or more, may elect proper persons out of the Council to authority to administer the oath aforesaid, as often as the case shall so happen, without procuring or obtaining a writ, commission, or further warrant in that behalf from us, our heirs, or successors.

And further we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do grant to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, and to their successors, that they and their successors henceforth for ever may and shall have one Treasurer, two Secretaries, two or more Curators of Experiments, one Clerk or more, and moreover two Serjeants-at-Mace, who may from time to time attend upon the President; and that the aforesaid Treasurer, Secretaries, Curators, Clerk or Clerks, and Serjeants-at-Mace, to be elected and nominated by the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, or by any thirty-one or more of them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be one), or by the major part of the aforesaid thirty-one or more, before they be admitted to execute their special and respective offices, shall take their corporal oaths in the form and effect above specified, before the President, or his Deputy, and the Council of the same Royal Society, or any seven or more of them, rightly, well, and faithfully to execute their several and respective offices in all things touching the same; and that after having so taken such oaths, as it is aforesaid, they may exercise and use their respective offices; to which same President and Council, or to any seven or more of them, we do give and grant by these presents full power and authority to administer the oaths aforesaid from time to time to the aforesaid several and respective officers and their successors: And we have assigned, nominated, chosen, created, appointed, and made, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do assign, nominate, choose, create, appoint, and make, our beloved subjects the aforesaid William Balle, Esquire, to be and become the first and present Treasurer, and the aforesaid John Wilkins and Henry Oldenburg to be and become the first and present Secretaries, of the aforesaid Royal Society; to be continued in the same offices until the aforesaid feast of St Andrew the Apostle next following after the date of these presents: And that from time to time and at all times on the aforesaid feast of St Andrew the Apostle (unless it shall be Sunday, and if it be Sunday, then on the day next following), the President, Council, and Fellows of the aforesaid Royal Society for the time being, or any thirty-one or more of them (of whom we will the President for the time being,

1 So in the original; qu. several.
or his Deputy, to be one), or the major part of the aforesaid thirty-one or more, may be able and have power to elect, nominate, and appoint upright and discreet men, who are and shall be of the number of the Council of the Royal Society aforesaid, as Treasurer and Secretaries, from time to time; and that those who shall so have been elected, appointed, and sworn to the aforesaid several and respective offices, as it is aforesaid, may be able and have power to exercise and enjoy those respective offices until the aforesaid feast of St Andrew then next following, their aforesaid oaths, as it is aforesaid, first to be taken; and so as often as the case shall so happen. And if it shall happen that the aforesaid elections of President, Council, Treasurer, and Secretaries, or of any one or any of them, cannot conveniently be made or finished on the aforesaid feast of St Andrew, we give and grant to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows, and to their successors for ever, that they or any thirty-one or more of them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be one), or the major part of the said thirty-one or more, may lawfully name and assign one other day, as near to the feast of St Andrew aforesaid as can conveniently be done, for making or finishing the aforesaid elections; and so from day to day, until the aforesaid elections be finished: And if it shall happen that any one or any of the aforesaid officers of the same Royal Society shall die, retire, or be amoved from their respective offices, that then and so often it may and shall be good and lawful to the President, Council, and Fellows of the aforesaid Royal Society, and to their successors for ever, or to any twenty-one or more of them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be one), or to the major part of the aforesaid twenty-one or more, to elect and appoint another or others to the office or offices of those persons so deceased, retired, or amoved; and that he or they so elected and appointed may have and exercise the respective offices aforesaid during the residue of the same year, and until another or others shall have been in due manner elected and sworn to those respective offices; and so as often as the case shall so happen.

And moreover we will, and of our special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion do grant to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, and to their successors for ever, that the President and Council of the aforesaid Royal Society for the time being (due or lawful summons or citation being always first made of all the Members of the Council aforesaid to extraordinary meetings), or any nine

The President and Council (every Member of the Council being always duly summoned to extraordinary Meetings), or any nine or more of them (of whom the President or his Deputy to be one), may meet in London
or within ten miles of London; and they, or the major part of them, may make Laws, Statutes, and Ordinances, and transact all matters relating to the management of the Society and its affairs; and all their acts shall be valid: But their Statutes must be reasonable, and not contrary to Law.

The President, Council, and Fellows, or any twenty-one or more of them (of whom the President or his Deputy to be always one), or the major part of such twenty-one or more, may appoint one Printer or more, and one Engraver or more, and authorize them, by writing under the Common Seal, and signed by the President, to print such things (touching or concerning the Royal Society) as shall be given them in charge by the President and Council, or any seven or more of them (of whom the President or his Deputy to be one), or the major part of such seven or more. They must be first sworn before the President and Coun-

or more of them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be one), may be able and have power both to meet together and assemble in a College or Hall or other convenient place within our City of London, or in any other convenient place within ten miles of our same City; and that they so met together and assembled, or the major part of them, shall and may have full authority, power, and faculty from time to time to draw up, constitute, ordain, make, and establish such laws, statutes, acts, ordinances, and constitutions as shall seem to them, or to the major part of them, to be good, wholesome, useful, honourable, and necessary, according to their sound discretions, for the better government, regulation, and direction of the Royal Society aforesaid, and of every Member of the same, and to do and perform all things belonging to the government, matters, goods, faculties, rents, lands, tenements, hereditaments, and affairs of the Royal Society aforesaid; all and singular which laws, statutes, acts, ordinances, and constitutions so to be made as it is aforesaid, we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, firmly enjoining, do order and command, that they shall be inviolably observed from time to time, according to the tenor and effect of the same: so nevertheless, that the aforesaid laws, statutes, acts, ordinances, and constitutions so to be made as it is aforesaid, and every one of them, be reasonable, and not repugnant or contrary to the laws, customs, acts, or statutes of this our Realm of England.

And further, of our more ample special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, we have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do give and grant to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the aforesaid Royal Society, and to their successors for ever, or to any twenty-one or more of them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be always one), or to the major part of the aforesaid twenty-one or more, full power and authority from time to time to elect, nominate, and appoint one or more Typographers or Printers, and Chalcographers or Engravers, and to grant to him or them, by a writing sealed with the Common Seal of the aforesaid Royal Society, and signed by the hand of the President for the time being, faculty to print such things, matters, and affairs touching or concerning the aforesaid Royal Society, as shall have been committed to the aforesaid Typographer or Printer, Chalcographer or Engraver, or Typographers or Printers, Chalcographers or Engravers, from time to time, by the President and Council of the aforesaid Royal Society, or any seven or more
of them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be one), or by the major part of the aforesaid seven or more; their corporal oaths first to be taken, before they be admitted to exercise their offices, before the President and Council for the time being, or any seven or more of them, in the form and effect last specified; to which same President and Council, or to any seven or more of them, we do give and grant by these presents full power and authority to administer the oaths aforesaid.

And further, in order that the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the aforesaid Royal Society may obtain the better success in their philosophical studies, of our more ample special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, we have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do give and grant, to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the aforesaid Royal Society, and to their successors for ever, that they and their successors, or any nine or more of them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his deputy, to be one), or the major part of the aforesaid nine or more, may and shall have from time to time full power and authority to require, take, and receive from time to time, and at such seasonable times, according to their discretion, by their assign or assigns the bodies of such persons as have suffered death by the hand of the executioner, and to anatomize them, in as ample manner and form, and to all intents and purposes, as the President of the College of Physicians and the Company of Surgeons of our City of London (by whatsoever names the two aforesaid corporations shall have been distinguished) have used or enjoyed, or may be able and have power to use and enjoy, the same bodies.

And further, for the improvement of the experiments, arts, and sciences of the aforesaid Royal Society, of our more abundant special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, we have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do give and grant, to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the aforesaid Royal Society, and to their successors for ever, that they and their successors, or any nine or more of them (of whom we will the President for the time being, or his Deputy, to be one), or the major part of the aforesaid nine or more, may and shall have from time to time full power and authority, by letters or epistles under the hand of the aforesaid President or his Deputy, in the presence of the Council, or of any seven or more of them, and in the name of the Royal Society, to enjoy mutual intelligence and affairs with
all and all manner of strangers and foreigners, whether private or collegiate, corporate or politic, without any molestation, interruption, or disturbance whatsoever: Provided nevertheless, that this our indulgence, so granted as it is aforesaid, be not extended to further use than the particular benefit and interest of the aforesaid Royal Society in matters or things philosophical, mathematical, or mechanical.

And further we have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do give and grant to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, and to their successors for ever, or to the President and Council of the Royal Society aforesaid, or the major part of them, full power and authority to erect, build, and construct, or to make or cause to be erected, built, or constructed, within our City of London, or ten miles of the same, one or more College or Colleges, of whatsoever kind or quality, for the habitation, assembly, and meeting of the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the aforesaid Royal Society, and of their successors, for the ordering and arranging of their affairs and other matters concerning the same Royal Society.

And further we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do ordain, constitute, and appoint, that if any abuses or differences hereafter shall arise and happen concerning the government or other matters or affairs of the aforesaid Royal Society, whereby any injury or hindrance may be done to the constitution, stability, and progress of the studies, or to the matters and affairs, of the same; then that and so often, by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, we do authorize, nominate, assign, and appoint our aforesaid very well-beloved and very trusty Cousin and Councillor Edward, Earl of Clarendon, our Chancellor of our Realm of England, by himself during his life, and, and, after his death, then the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chancellor or Keeper of the Great Seal of England, the Treasurer of England, the Keeper of the Privy Seal, the Bishop of London, and the two Principal Secretaries for the time being, or any four or more of them, to reconcile, compose, and adjust the same differences and abuses.

And further we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, firmly enjoining, do order and command all and singular the Justices, Mayors, Aldermen, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Constables, and other officers, ministers, and subjects whomsoever of us, our heirs, and successors, that they be from time to time aiding and assistant to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, and to their suc-
cessors for ever, in and by all things, according to the true intention of these our Letters Patent.

Although express mention of the true yearly value or of the certainty of the premises, or of any of them, or of other gifts or grants before these times made by us or by any of our progenitors or predecessors to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, is not made in these presents; or any statute, act, ordinance, provision, proclamation, or restriction to the contrary thereof heretofore had, made, enacted, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever, in any wise notwithstanding.

In witness whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourself, at Westminster, the twenty-second day of April, in the fifteenth year of our reign.

By writ of Privy Seal.

HOWARD.