Translation of Third Charter, granting Chelsea College and further Privileges, A.D. 1669

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.

Know ye that we, of our special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do give and grant, to our beloved and trusty the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society of London for promoting Natural Knowledge, and to their successors for ever, All that piece of arable land called Teamshott, containing by estimation twenty acres, lying between our highway leading from Westminster to Chelsey on the north and west side, and a piece of meadow, containing by estimation four acres, parcel of eighteen acres of meadow, late in the tenure of the Earl of Nottingham or his assigns, on the south side, and a close of meadow called Stony Bridge Close on the east side, and a piece of arable land, late in the occupation of Thomas Evans or his assigns, on the west side, by the particular thereof mentioned to be of the yearly rent or value of twenty-three shillings and four pence; And also all that the aforesaid close of meadow called Stony Bridge Close, containing by estimation four acres, late in the occupa-
tion of John Deakes or his assigns, lying between the stream called the Common Sewer on the east side, and the aforesaid piece of land called Teamshott on the west side, and the bridge called Stony Bridge on the north side, by the particular thereof mentioned to be of the yearly rent or value of twenty shillings; And also all that one piece of arable land in the common field called East Field, containing by estimation three acres, late in the occupation of Thomas Frances or his assigns, lying between the aforesaid piece of land called Teamshott on the east side, a piece of arable land, late in the tenure of the Earl of Lincoln or his assigns, on the west side, a parcel of meadow of Earles Court land on the south side, and our highway leading from Westminster to Chelsey aforesaid on the north and west side, by the particular thereof mentioned to be of the yearly rent or value of four shillings; (which same premises are, or formerly were, parcel of our land in Chelsey, being parcel of the Demesne land of the Manor of Chelsey aforesaid, and lately were parcel of the possessions of John, late Duke of Northumberland; and which lately by our very dear grandfather, of blessed memory, King James, by his Letters Patent, bearing date at Westminster, the eighth day of May, in the year of his reign of England the eighth, and of Scotland the forty-third, were granted, or mentioned to be granted, to the Provost and Fellows of the College of King James in Chelsey, near London, of the foundation of the same James, King of England, and to their successors for ever, to hold of the aforesaid King James, as of his Manor of East Greenwich, in the County of Kent, by fealty only, in free and common socage, and not in chief, nor by Knight service;) And also all and singular houses, buildings, structures, woods, underwoods, trees, and all the land, ground, and soil of the same woods, underwoods, and trees, and all other our rights, jurisdictions, franchises, privileges, liberties, profits, commodities, advantages, emoluments, and hereditaments whatsoever, with all their appurtenances, of whatsoever kind, nature, or sort they may be, or by whatsoever names they may be known, deemed, called, or recognized, situate, lying, and being, issuing, growing, renewing, or arising, within the county, towns, fields, places, or hamlets aforesaid, or elsewhere wheresoever, to the aforesaid lands and other the premises, or to any parcel thereof, in any manner belonging; And also the reversion and reversions of all and singular the premises above by these presents before granted, and of every parcel thereof, dependent or expectant of, in, or upon any demise or grant for term or terms of life or lives or years, or otherwise, made of the premises above by these
presents before granted, or of any parcel thereof, in any manner, being of record or not of record; And also all and singular the rents and yearly profits whatsoever, reserved upon whatsoever demises or grants of and upon the premises by these presents before granted, or of and upon any parcel thereof.

We have also 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 of London for promoting Natural Knowledge, and to their successors for ever, that they and their successors henceforth for ever may have, hold, and enjoy, and may be able and have power to have, hold, and enjoy, within the premises above by these presents before granted, and within every parcel thereof, as many, as great, such, the same, like, and similar rights, jurisdictions, liberties, franchises, customs, privileges, profits, commodities, advantages, emoluments, and hereditaments whatsoever, as, such as, and which, and as fully, freely, and wholly, and in as ample manner and form, as the aforesaid John, late Duke of Northumberland, or the aforesaid Provost and Fellows of the College of King James in Chelsey, near London, of the foundation of the same James, King of England, or any other person or persons ever heretofore having or possessing the aforesaid lands, tenements, and other the premises, with their appurtenances, or any parcel thereof, or being seised thereof, ever had, held, used, or enjoyed, or ought to have had, held, used, or enjoyed, in the premises above by these presents before granted or in any parcel thereof, by reason or pretext of any charter of gift, grant, or confirmation by us or by any of our progenitors or ancestors, late Kings or Queens of England, heretofore had, made, or granted, or confirmed, or by reason or pretext of any Act of Parliament or of any Acts of Parliaments, or by reason or pretext of any lawful prescription, use, or custom heretofore had or used, or otherwise, by whatsoever lawful means, right, or title; and as fully, freely, and wholly, and in as ample manner and form, as we or any of our progenitors or ancestors, late Kings or Queens of England, had and enjoyed, or ought to have had and enjoyed, the aforesaid lands, tenements, and other the premises or any parcel thereof.

We give further, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society of London for promoting Natural Knowledge, and to their successors, all and singular the premises above by these presents before granted, with all their appurtenances, as fully, freely, and wholly, and in as ample manner
and form, as all and singular those premises or any parcel thereof came or ought to have come to our hands, or to the hands of any of our progenitors or ancestors, late Kings or Queens of England, by reason or pretext of the dissolution or surrender of any late monastery, priory, or hospital, or by reason or pretext of any Act of Parliament or of any Acts of Parliaments, or by reason of any attainder or forfeiture, or by reason of any exchange or purchase, or of any gift or grant, or by reason of escheat, or by whatsoever other lawful means, right, or title, and now are, or ought to be, in our hands.

To have, hold, and enjoy the aforesaid lands, tenements, and hereditaments, and all and singular other the premises above by these presents before granted, with all their appurtenances, to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society of London for promoting Natural Knowledge, and to their successors for ever; To hold of us, our heirs, and successors, as of our Manor of East Greenwich, in our county of Kent, by fealty only, in free and common socage, and not in chief, nor by Knight service; And rendering yearly to us, our heirs, and successors of and for the aforesaid arable land called Rent. Teamshott twenty-three shillings and four pence, and of and for the aforesaid close of meadow called Stony Bridge Close twenty shillings, and of and for the aforesaid piece of arable land in the common field called East Field four shillings, of lawful money of England, at the feasts of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the Receipt of the Exchequer at Westminster for us, our heirs, and successors, or to the hands of the Bailiffs or Receivers of the premises for the time being, by equal portions yearly to be paid for ever.

And further, of our more abundant special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, 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 we, our heirs, and successors henceforth for ever yearly and from time to time will discharge, acquit, and save harmless as well the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid and their successors, as the aforesaid lands, tenements, and other all and singular the premises above expressed and specified, and by these presents before granted, and every parcel thereof, with all their appurtenances, of and from all and all manner of corrodies, rents, fees, services, annuities, pensions, portions, and sums of money, and charges whatsoever from the premises or from any parcel thereof to us, our heirs, or successors issuing
or to be paid, or thereupon towards us, our heirs, or successors charged or to be charged; except from the rents, services, and tenures above in these presents to us, our heirs, and successors reserved, and except from demises and grants of the premises or of any parcel thereof heretofore made, and the covenants and conditions being in the same, and the covenants and charges which any farmer or farmers of the premises by reason of his or their indentures and demises is or are bound to do and discharge.

We will also, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, firmly enjoining, do command as well the Commissioners for our Treasury, the Treasurer, Chamberlain, Under-Treasurer, and Barons of the Exchequer of us, our heirs, and successors for the time being, as all and singular Auditors and other officers and ministers of us, our heirs, and successors whomsoever for the time being, that they and each of them, upon the mere showing of these our Letters Patent, or of the Enrolment of the same, without any other writ or warrant from us, our heirs, or successors in any manner to be sued out or prosecuted, shall make and from time to time shall cause to be made to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid and their successors full, whole, and due allowance and manifest discharge of and from all and all manner of such corrodies, rents, fees, pensions, portions, and sums of money, and charges whatsoever (except from the services, rents, tenures, and arrears of rent and other the premises in these presents reserved, as it is aforesaid, and by the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid and their successors payable, to be done, or to be performed) from the premises by these presents before granted, or from any part or parcel thereof, to us, our heirs, or successors issuing or to be paid, or thereupon towards us, our heirs, or successors charged or to be charged; And these our Letters Patent, or the Enrolment of the same, shall be from time to time, as well to the said Commissioners for our Treasury, the Treasurer, Chancellor,¹ and Barons of the Exchequer of us, our heirs, and successors, for the time being, as to all and singular Auditors and other officers and ministers of us, our heirs, and successors whomsoever for the time being, a sufficient warrant and discharge in this behalf.

And whereas we, by our Letters Patent bearing date at Westminster, the twenty-second day of April, in the fifteenth year of our reign, made to the President, Council, and Fellows

¹ 'Chamberlain,' etc., above.
of the Royal Society aforesaid, among other things, granted 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 cannot 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 being 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 should be the Deputy of the same President from time to time, as often as it shall happen that the aforesaid President is 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 those our Letters Patent, from time to time, as often as it shall happen that the aforesaid President is so absent, during such time as the Deputy of the aforesaid President shall continue, by force of those our Letters Patent, as fully, freely, and wholly, and in as ample manner and form, as the President aforesaid, if he were present, may be able and have power to do and execute the same; a corporal oath first to be taken upon the holy Gospels of God, in the form and effect in our same Letters Patent specified, by such Deputy, 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 as often as the case shall so happen; to which same Council, or to any seven or more of them, for the time being, we gave and granted, by our same Letters Patent, power and 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,
and successors; And 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 lawfully be able to make and have assemblies and 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 from our same City: And whereas divers and various matters, powers, liberties, and privileges granted in our same Letters Patent to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, by virtue of those our Letters Patent, are not to be exercised, done, performed, or executed, unless by the aforesaid President and Council, or any seven or more of them: And whereas further, by our aforesaid Letters Patent, for us, our heirs, and successors we gave and granted to the aforesaid President and Council 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 Chalcographs 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 be 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 to be first 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; to which same President and Council, or to any seven or more of them for the time being, we gave and granted by our aforesaid Letters Patent full power and authority to administer the oaths aforesaid; as in our same Letters Patent, reference being had thereto, it is more fully shown and appears: We, of our more abundant special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, 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 from henceforth for ever 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 cannot 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 being 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 it shall happen that the aforesaid President is so absent, during the whole time in which the aforesaid President shall continue in the office of President, even though in the meanwhile the President of the Royal Society aforesaid for the time being shall have made and appointed one other or several others of the aforesaid Council his Deputy and Deputies; to which same President for the time being we give and grant by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors power and authority to make and appoint two or more of the aforesaid Council his Deputies, at one and the same time, as often as it shall please him: And that every such Deputy and Deputies of the aforesaid President, so as it is aforesaid to be made and appointed, 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 our aforesaid Letters Patent or of these presents, from time to time, as often as it shall happen that the aforesaid President is so absent, during such time as the Deputy and Deputies of the aforesaid President shall continue, by force of these our Letters Patent, as fully, freely, and wholly, and in as ample manner and form, as the President aforesaid, if he were present, would be able and have power to do and execute the same; a corporal oath to be first taken upon the holy Gospels of God, in the form and effect in our same Letters Patent specified, by such Deputy and Deputies, 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 five or more of them; and so as often as

And it gives him express power to appoint two or more Deputies, out of the Council, at one and the same time; who may, each of them, do the same acts in his absence, as he himself could do if present.

But they must first be sworn before the Council, or five or more of them.
the case shall so happen: to which same Council, or to any five or more of them for the time being, we give and grant by these presents power and 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, and successors:

And further, that henceforth for ever 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 have assemblies or meetings of themselves for the examination and investigation of experiments and of natural things, and 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 Realm of England:

And further, that all and singular things, powers, liberties, and privileges in our aforesaid Letters Patent granted to the aforesaid President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society aforesaid, by virtue of those our Letters Patent, which are not to be exercised, done, performed, or executed save by the aforesaid President and Council, or any seven or more of them; henceforth for ever may and shall be able to be exercised, done, performed, or executed by the aforesaid President and Council, or any five or more of them.

And further, of our more abundant grace, 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 henceforth for ever it may and shall be good and lawful to the President of the Royal Society aforesaid for the time being, from time to time, to elect, nominate, and appoint any Typographer or Printer, Typographers or Printers, and Chalcographer or Engraver, Chalcographers or Engravers, and to grant to him or them faculty to print such things, matters, and affairs touching or concerning the aforesaid Royal Society as shall be 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 five 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 five or more; their corporal oaths to be first taken, before they be admitted to exercise their offices, before the President and Council for the time being, or any five or more of them; and so as often as the case shall so happen: to which
same President and Council for the time being, or to any five or more of them, we give and grant by these presents full power and authority to administer the oaths aforesaid.

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 these our Letters Patent, or the Enrolment of the same, shall stand and be in and by all things good, firm, valid, sufficient, and effectual in law, to all respects, purposes, constructions, and intents, towards and against us, our heirs, and successors, as well in all our Courts as elsewhere within our realm of England, without any confirmations, licences, or tolerations from us, our heirs, or successors in any manner hereafter to be procured or obtained:

Notwithstanding the badly naming or badly reciting, or not reciting, the aforesaid lands, tenements, and other the premises or any parcel thereof; And notwithstanding the not finding an office or inquisition of the premises or of any parcel thereof, whereby our title ought to have been found before the making of these our Letters Patent; And notwithstanding the badly reciting, or not reciting, any demise or grant made of the premises or of any parcel thereof, being of record or not of record; And notwithstanding the badly naming or not naming any town, hamlet, parish, place, or county in which the premises or any parcel thereof are or is; And notwithstanding that full, true, and certain mention is not made of the names of the tenants, farmers, or occupiers of the premises or of any parcel thereof; And notwithstanding any defects of the certainty, or computation, or declaration of the true yearly value of the premises or of any parcel thereof, or of the yearly rent reserved of and upon the premises, or of and upon any parcel thereof, in these our Letters Patent expressed and contained; And notwithstanding the Statute made and enacted in the Parliament of the Lord Henry the Sixth, late King of England, our progenitor, in the eighteenth year of his reign; And notwithstanding any other defects in not certainly naming the nature, kind, sort, quantity, or quality of the premises or of any parcel thereof; And notwithstanding the Statute concerning the not putting of lands and tenements to mortmain, or any statute, act, ordinance, proclamation, provision, or restriction to the contrary thereof heretofore had, made, enacted, ordained, or provided, in anywise notwithstanding: SAVING, nevertheless, to Andrew Cole, Esquire, and to all other persons whomsoever, other than us, our heirs, and successors, such right, claim,
The President and Deputy-Presidents are enjoined to take the Oath of Obedience and the Oath of Supremacy, before the Council, or seven or more of them, previously to their acting.

interest, and demand whatsoever, as he or they or any one of them has or may have, or of right ought to have, of and in the premises or any part or parcel thereof.

And further we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors do ordain, and firmly enjoining do command, that the President of the Society aforesaid for the time being, and his Deputies, before he or any of them be admitted to the execution of that office, shall take, and each of them shall take, as well the corporal oath, commonly called the Oath of Allegiance, as the corporal oath, commonly called the Oath of Supremacy, upon the holy Gospels of God, before the Council of the same Society, or any seven or more of them: to which same Council, or to any seven or more of them, we give and grant and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, full power and authority to administer the oaths aforesaid from time to time, wh ensever it shall be needful.

Provided always, and our Royal will and intention is, that the lands and premises aforesaid granted by these presents, as it is aforesaid, or any of them, shall not be alienated or sold to any person or persons whomsoever; anything in these presents contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

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 of London, and to their successors, 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 anywise notwithstanding.

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

By writ of Privy Seal.

Pigott.

NOTE

An enrolment at the Record Office, of which the following is an abstract, reconnos King Charles II the three Closes granted by the third Charter.

Close Roll, 33 Chas. II, Part 3, No. 3.

(In English.)

Indenture, 8 Feb., 34 Chas. II, 1681[-2], between the King's most excellent Majesty of the one part, and the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society (&c.) of the other part; whereby (for 1,300l.) the latter bargain and
sell to the former 'All that piece of arable land called Teamshott,' &c., 'all that aforesaid Close of meadow called Stonebridge Close,' &c., 'and also all that one piece of arable land in a common field called Eastfield,' &c., which were granted by the King to the Society by letters patent 8 April, 21 Chas. II.