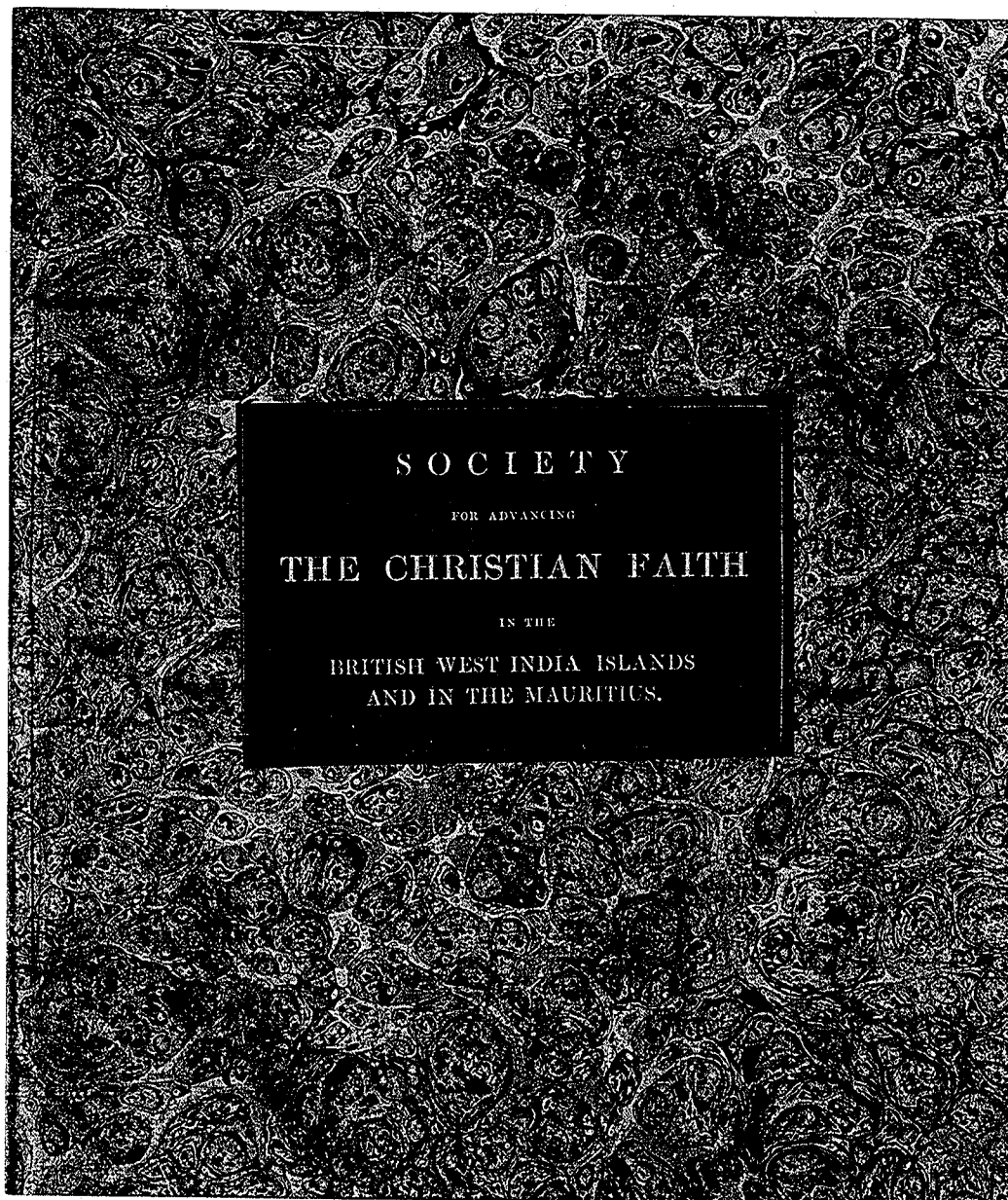


Box 1
Folder 9



SOCIETY

FOR ADVANCING

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

IN THE

BRITISH WEST INDIA ISLANDS
AND IN THE MAURITIUS.

THE
TWO CHARTERS
OF THE
SOCIETY
FOR
ADVANCING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH
IN THE
British West India Islands,
AND ELSEWHERE,
WITHIN THE DIOCESES OF JAMAICA AND OF BARBADOES,
AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS, AND IN THE MAURITIUS;
TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,
A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE
CHARITABLE FUND.

LONDON:

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D.D. 1018' COMMONS.

1836.

SHORT ACCOUNT
OF THE
ORIGIN AND PRESENT STATE
OF THE
CHARITABLE FUND.

THE Honourable Robert Boyle, by his Will, dated the 18th of July, 1691, directed the Residue of his personal Estate to be laid out by his Executors "*for Charitable and other pious and good Uses, at their discretion;*" but recommended to them to lay out the greater part thereof "*for the Advance or Propagation of the Christian Religion amongst Infidels.*"

His Executors accordingly agreed to lay out 5100*l.* (which was the greater part of the Surplus of his personal Estate) in the Purchase of an Estate at Brafferton, in the county of York, with a view to the settling of such Estate, so that the Income might be for ever applied for the Advancement of the CHRISTIAN RELIGION: And for effecting such design, the same Estate was vested in Trustees, and the Rents and Profits (subject to a Rent-charge in perpetuity of 90*l.* per annum, to a SOCIETY

FOR PROPAGATING THE GOSPEL in New England and Parts adjacent in America, to the Receiver's Salary, and other incident Charges) were to be applied for *the Advancement of the Christian Religion amongst Infidels in Virginia*, in such manner as the Earl of Burlington and the Bishop of London for the time being should appoint; who thereupon directed the clear Rents to be remitted to the College of William and Mary in Virginia, to be applied for the Education and Instruction of such Indian Children as should be received into the said College, according to such Rules as were then appointed for that Purpose.

All these Proceedings took place under the orders and sanction of the Court of Chancery.

The clear Rents of this Estate were accordingly remitted to the College, to be so applied, down to the American War; but during that War, the Rents were not remitted to the College, though received by their Agents in England. Some time after the Conclusion of it, the Right Reverend Beilby, then Bishop of London, conceiving that Mr. Boyle's Charity was intended for the Conversion of Infidels in some part of His Majesty's foreign Dominions, and therefore ought not to be remitted to a Country which no longer formed a Part of those Dominions, caused an Information to be filed in the Court of Chancery, to obtain an application of the Charity in some part of His Majesty's foreign Dominions, and to restrain

the College Agents from receiving the Rents in future, or remitting Abroad the Sums in their hands, and for the appointment of a Receiver; and pursuant to several Orders of the Court, 3243*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* in the hands of those Agents, was paid into the Bank of England to the Credit of the Cause, and a Receiver was appointed by the Court.

Very considerable Sums had also, before this Suit, been paid into the Bank, in the former Causes which had arisen from the Sale of Timber on the Estate.

On the 9th of November, 1790, this Cause was heard, and it was decreed that a Scheme should be laid before the Master, for the Disposition of the Produce of the said Estate and Charitable Fund, according to the Intention of Mr. Boyle.

The Bishop thereupon formed such a Scheme, and therein proposed, that the whole of the Charitable Fund (subject to the said Rent-charge and other Out-goings) should be applied for the *Conversion and Religious Instruction and Education* of the Negro Slaves in the British West-India Islands (they being Infidels in His Majesty's Dominions) under the Direction of a Society to be incorporated by a Charter from the Crown, if His Majesty should think fit to grant the same.

This Proposal, approaching as near as possible to the original Intention of Mr. Boyle,

was approved by the Court, with this Addition, that the Pastors, or Ministers, for carrying into effect the said Proposal, should be appointed by the Society intended to be incorporated: and that the said Bishop should be at liberty, at the Expense of the Charity Fund, to apply to His Majesty for, and to obtain (if his Majesty should think fit to grant the same) Letters Patent, creating a Corporation as before mentioned; and, in case such Letters Patent should be obtained, that he should be at liberty to apply to the Court to carry his Proposal into full execution.

His late Majesty King George the Third, on the 30th day of October, in the Thirty-fourth year of his reign, was graciously pleased to grant such Letters Patent, and thereby created the corporate body by the name of "The Society for the Conversion and Religious Instruction and Education of the Negro Slaves in the British West-India Islands;"—and the Bishop of London applied to and obtained from the Court an order for carrying his said Proposal into full execution.

The Fund, which had arisen from the Charitable Donation of Mr. Boyle, and which was to be appropriated for the Furtherance of the Charitable Purposes mentioned in the First Charter, consisted of the following Particulars, when that Charter was granted; viz.—

	£	s.	d.
The gross Rental of the Estate	474	8	8
Out-goings—The Rent-charge	£90		
Land-tax	32		
Receiver's Salary, and other			
Out-goings, about		30	
		152	0 0
		322	8 8
About £22,000 3 per Cent. Consolidated			
Bank Annuities (from Rents, and Timber			
sold), which at 3 per cent. produced per			
Annum	660	0	0
	£982	8	8

And about 750*l.* Cash in the Bank and in the Receiver's hands.

Shortly after the Grant of the first Charter, the Society were duly put into possession of the Estates belonging to the Charity: the sum of 22,000*l.* Stock was transferred into their name, and the Cash Balance of 750*l.* was paid over to their Treasurer, and they have ever since continued to execute their Trust, whereby many thousands of Infidels have been converted to Christianity, and instructed in the precepts of that holy Religion.

At the period of instituting the proceedings in the Court of Chancery hereafter noticed, the annual income of the Society was 2,170*l.*, arising as follows:—viz.

	£	s.	d.
Net yearly produce of the Estates (after			
payment of the Rent charge)	650	0	0
Carried forward.			

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	650	0	0
Annual Dividends of the sum of 39,000 <i>l.</i> 3 per Cent. Consolidated Bank Annu- ities, the excess of which, beyond the 22,000 <i>l.</i> had arisen from the invest- ment from time to time of the Dona- tions and Annual Contributions to the Charity	1,170	0	0
Amount of Annual Contributions	350	0	0
Annual income subject to the Payment) of Salaries and other Outgoings . . .)	2,170	0	0

And there was a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of 596*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*

Towards the end of the year 1834 the Society were advised, that, in consequence of the Act of Parliament which had lately passed for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, they could not continue to use the Title given by the first Charter, and that it would be necessary to apply to the Court of Chancery for authority to change the name of the Corporation, and for directions as to the future application of the funds.

An Information was therefore filed in Chancery at the instance of the Right Reverend Charles James, Bishop of London, the object of which was, either to obtain the Decree of the Court that the Funds of the Society were, under their Charter, still applicable for the benefit of the Negroes in the British West India Islands, or, if it should be considered that the effect of their enfranchisement had been to render the Negroes no longer objects of the Charter, then to obtain the approval by

the Court of some new scheme for the administration of the Charity, and its sanction to an application to the Crown for the confirmation of such scheme.

On the 27th April, 1835, the Cause was heard, when a reference to the Master was decreed, to approve of a new scheme for the administration of the produce of the Estates and charitable Fund, and to state his opinion as to the propriety of any application to the Crown.

In forming their new scheme, the Society considered, that notwithstanding the change, which had been effected in the civil condition of the Negroes by the Emancipation Act, they, as being the persons chiefly contemplated by the Charter, should still be the principal objects of the Corporation—and the more especially from its having been strongly represented, that at this period of their change from slavery to conditional freedom, religious instruction and education were even more needed among the Negroes than at the time when the Charter was obtained.

It was also considered desirable, that the purposes of this Charity should not be confined exclusively to the British West-India Islands, but that its benefits should be extended to the Negroes and Coloured Inhabitants of other parts of our Colonial Possessions, very many of whom were still unconverted to Christianity, and who in all respects stood in

the same need of religious instruction as the people of the British West-India Islands.

It was also thought desirable, with a view to the removal of religious distinctions between the White and the Coloured Inhabitants of the countries intended to be included in the scheme, that the Society should be authorized to exercise all the powers conferred on them by their first Charter for advancing the Christian faith in those countries, without regard to the colour of the persons to be benefited, and that more general powers should be given to them than they then possessed.

A scheme was accordingly submitted to the Court, in which it was proposed that the whole of the charitable fund should (subject to the rent charge of 90% payable to the New England Company) be applied by the Society in such manner as might from time to time appear most desirable, for advancing the Christian religion in the British West-India Islands and elsewhere, within the Dioceses of Jamaica and of Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, and also in the Mauritius, under the same regulations as were prescribed by the first Charter, with regard to the rendering accounts, and the appointment of Ministers to be employed by the Society.

And it was further proposed that the Society should be at liberty, at the costs of the Trust Fund, to apply to his Majesty to grant them the name of "The Society for Advancing the

Christian Faith in the British West-India Islands, and elsewhere, in the Dioceses of Jamaica, and of Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, and in the Mauritius," instead of the name then used by them, and to grant them authority to exercise the powers contained in their first Charter for advancing the Christian faith in the said Islands, and elsewhere in the said Dioceses and the Mauritius, by all such lawful means as from time to time should be desirable, without regard to the colour of the persons to be benefited.

On the 24th July, 1835, the Master made his Report to the Court in favour of this scheme, and such Report was confirmed by the Court, by whom also liberty was given to the Society to apply to the Crown to accept a surrender of their existing Charter, and to grant them a new one conformable to such scheme.

His present Majesty was graciously pleased to comply with this application, and on the 11th day of January, 1836, Letters Patent were granted under the Great Seal accordingly, which constitute the Second Charter.

¶ All persons who are desirous to support and encourage this most useful Charity by Donations, Legacies, or Annual Contributions, are requested to signify their intentions to Christopher Hodgson, Esq., Treasurer to the Society, at the Bounty Office, Great Dean's Yard, Westminster, from whom they will learn further particulars concerning the general objects of the Society.

THE FIRST
CHARTER OF THE SOCIETY,

&c. &c.

George the Third, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland; Defender of the Faith, and so forth; To all to whom these Presents shall come, greeting; Whereas the Right Reverend Father in God, Beilby, by Divine permission, Bishop of London, hath, by his Petition, humbly represented unto Us, That in the British West-India Islands beyond the Seas, belonging to our Kingdom of Great Britain, there is a certain class of people called *Negro Slaves*, whose number is about Five Hundred Thousand; and who are all of them (with a few exceptions) Infidels and Heathens, in the literal sense of those words, That, as they are made to labour there for the benefit of our Subjects, it is, the Petitioner conceives, fit and reasonable that they should in return have communicated to them the Doctrines and the Precepts, the Advantages and the Blessings of the Christian Religion, which were intended for all ranks and conditions of Men; and would render the said Negro Slaves, more virtuous, more comfortable, and more contented here, and open to them (through the Merits of our REDEEMER) a prospect of endless Happiness hereafter: That this would not only be an act of true Christian Charity and Benevolence, but, as the Petitioner conceives, a measure of the soundest Policy, by promoting the Prosperity and the Commercial Interests of those Islands; because the Principles and the Practice of the Chris-

Recital of Petition for the Charter.

tian Religion, diffused among the Negro Slaves, would tend more effectually than any thing else can do, to check and extinguish those pernicious and destructive vices so prevalent among them, which are the great obstructions to Population, and prevent that natural increase which is essential to the proper Cultivation of those Islands.—That it has been found by experience, that those Slaves who have been made real Christians, are much better Servants, more sober, more honest, more industrious, more tractable, more faithful, and more obedient to their Masters, than those who remain Heathens; and of this the Planters themselves are so sensible, that they have of late given the greatest encouragement to the instruction of their Slaves in the Doctrines and Duties of Christianity, and have expressly enjoined it in the Laws lately made for the Regulation of the said Negro Slaves: That it is, however, utterly impossible that this most desirable purpose should ever be accomplished by the sole labours and exertions of the Parochial Clergy settled in our said Islands; who are few in Number, have very extensive Parishes, and are hardly equal to the care even of the White Inhabitants, much less to the additional Superintendance of many thousand Negroes: That it will be highly conducive to the Conversion and Religious Instruction and Education of the Negro Slaves in the said Islands, if a suitable Maintenance be provided for a sufficient Number of Clergymen or other persons of the Church of England, as by Law established, (to be appointed by the Society hereinafter mentioned,) to be resident there as Assistants to the Parochial Clergy of those Islands, and to be solely employed in the Conversion and Religious Instruction of the adult Negroes, and in the Education and Religious Instruction of the young Negroes under the Superintendance of the Parochial Clergy, and subject to the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Petitioner and his Successors, and also to such other Provisions and Regulations as may be necessary for accomplishing those ends and purposes: That, if We would be graciously pleased to erect and establish a Society or Corporation for the receiving, managing,

and disposing of the Charitable Contributions of our Subjects, divers Persons would be induced to extend their Charity to the Uses and Purposes aforesaid. That the Petitioner, for the attainment of those ends and purposes, therefore most humbly prayed Us, by our Royal Charter, to constitute and appoint the Petitioner Beilby, Bishop of London, and the Bishop of London for the time being; the Right Honourable Charles Lord Hawkesbury, President of the Committee of Council, appointed for the Consideration of all matters relating to Trade and Plantations, and the President of the said Committee for the time being; the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, Esquire, our Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, and the Principal Secretary of State for that Department for the time being; the Deans of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, London, and the Collegiate Church of St. Peter in Westminster, now, and for the time being; the Canons Residentiary of the said Cathedral Church of St. Paul, now, and for the time being; the Prebendaries of the said Collegiate Church of St. Peter in Westminster, who shall be resident in their Prebendal Houses, now, and for the time being; Sir James Sanderson, Knight, Mayor of the City of London, and the Mayor of the City of London for the time being; the two senior Aldermen of the said City of London, now, and for the time being; Sir William Scott, Knight, Chancellor of the Diocese of London, and the Chancellor of the Diocese of London for the time being; the Archdeacons of London and Middlesex, now, and for the time being; the Rectors of St. George Hanover-Square, St. James and St. Anne Westminster, St. George Bloomsbury, St. Giles, St. Andrew Holborn, and St. Michael Cornhill, respectively, now, and for the time being; the Vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, now, and for the time being; the Rector of St. Paul Covent-Garden, now, and for the time being; the Heir at Law of the Honorable Robert Boyle, deceased, now, and for the time being; and John Braithwaite, Richard Neave, Beeston Long, and William Manning, Esquires, West-India Merchants or Planters, residing in or near the Cities of London or

Westminster, and such other West-India Merchants or Planters residing in or near the said Cities, or one of them, as shall be from time to time appointed, as hereinafter mentioned, to be one Body Politic and Corporate of themselves in Deed and in Name, by the Name of THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONVERSION AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION OF THE NEGRO SLAVES IN THE BRITISH WEST-INDIA ISLANDS, and to grant unto them and their Successors such Powers, Authorities, and Privileges; as in the said Petition are particularly mentioned; or in such other Manner and Form as to Us should seem meet and proper: We, being graciously pleased to encourage so laudable and charitable an Undertaking, are graciously pleased to condescend to the Petitioner's Request: ~~Know We~~ therefore, that We, of our especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, have granted, constituted, declared and appointed, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, do grant, constitute, declare, and appoint the said Beilby, Bishop of London, and the Bishop of London for the time being; the said Charles Lord Hawkesbury, President of the Committee of Council appointed for the Consideration of all Matters relating to Trade and Plantations, and the President of the said Committee for the time being; the said Henry Dundas, our Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, and the Principal Secretary of State for that Department for the time being; the said Deans of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, London, and the Collegiate Church of St. Peter in Westminster, now, and for the time being; the said Canons Residentiary of the said Cathedral Church of St. Paul, now, and for the time being; the said Prebendaries of the said Collegiate Church of St. Peter in Westminster, who shall be resident in their Prebendal Houses, now, and for the time being; the said Sir James Sanderson, Knight, Mayor of the City of London, and the Mayor of the City of London for the time being; the said two senior Aldermen of the said City of London, now, and for the time being; the said Sir William Scott, Knight, Chancellor of the Diocese of London, and the Chancellor of the Diocese

Names of the Members or Governors of the Corporation.

of London for the time being; the said Archdeacons of London and Middlesex, now, and for the time being; the said Rectors of St. George Hanover-Square, St. James, and St. Anne Westminster, St. George Bloomsbury, St. Giles, St. Andrew Holborn, and St. Michael Cornhill, respectively, now, and for the time being; the said Vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, now, and for the time being; the said Rector of St. Paul Covent-Garden, now, and for the time being; the said Heir at Law of the Honourable Robert Boyle, deceased, now, and for the time being; and the said John Braithwaite, Richard Neave, Beeston Long, and William Manning, West-India Merchants or Planters, residing in or near the said Cities of London or Westminster, and such other West-India Merchants or Planters residing in or near the said Cities, or one of them, as shall be from time to time appointed, as hereinafter mentioned, to be one Body Politic and Corporate, in Deed and in Law, by the Name of THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONVERSION AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION OF THE NEGRO SLAVES IN THE BRITISH WEST-INDIA ISLANDS, and them and their Successors, by the Name of *The Society for the Conversion and Religious Instruction and Education of the Negro Slaves in the British West-India Islands*; We do, for the Purposes aforesaid, by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, really and fully make, erect, create, ordain, constitute, establish, confirm, and declare, to be one Body Politic and Corporate, in Deed and in Name: And that they and their Successors, by that Name, shall and may have perpetual Succession; and that they and their Successors, by the name aforesaid, shall and may for ever hereafter be persons able and capable in the Law, and may have power, notwithstanding the Statutes of Mortmain, to purchase, have, take, hold, receive, and enjoy, to them and their Successors, Manors, Messuages, Lands, Rents, Tenements, Annuities, and Hereditaments, of what nature or kind soever, in Fee and in Perpetuity, or for Terms of Lives or years, not exceeding the yearly value of Three Thousand Pounds, in all Issues beyond Reprizes, so far as they are not restrained by Law: And

Style of the Corporation.

Capable of holding Hereditaments of the Annual Value of 3000l.

For the Support of the Clergy and others to be appointed by the Society for the Purposes in the Charter.

With License for Persons and Corporations to convey, &c. to the Society, Hereditaments of that Value.

To prosecute and defend actions, &c. in their corporate Name.

all manner of Goods, Chattels, and Things whatsoever, of what nature or value soever, for the better Support and Maintenance of a sufficient Number of Clergy, or other Persons, to be appointed by the said Society, and employed for the accomplishment of the ends and purposes before-mentioned: And also to sell, grant, demise, exchange, and dispose, of any of the same Manors, Messuages, Lands, Rents, Tenements, and Hereditaments, whereof or wherein they shall have any Estate or Interest as aforesaid. And we do hereby for Us, our Heirs and Successors, give and grant Our special License, full Power, and lawful and absolute Authority, to any Person or Persons, Bodies Politic or Corporate, their Heirs or Successors respectively, to give, grant, sell, alien, assign, devise, bequeath, or dispose of, in Mortmain, in Perpetuity, or otherwise, to, or to the Use and Benefit of, or in trust for, the Society, for the Conversion and Religious Instruction and Education of the Negro Slaves in the British West-India Islands, and their Successors, any Manors, Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Hereditaments, Annuities, Sum and Sums of Money, Goods and Chattels whatsoever, not exceeding the yearly Value of Three Thousand Pounds above all Charges and Reprizes, for the Charitable Purposes above-mentioned, in any manner not repugnant to, or made void by the Statute passed in the ninth year of the reign of Our late Royal Grandfather, King George the Second, intituled, "An Act to restrain the Dispositions of Lands, whereby the same become unalienable." And that the said Society, and their Successors, by the Name aforesaid, shall and may be capable to sue and be sued, plead, and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in whatsoever Courts and Places, and before any Judges, or Justices, or Officers of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, in all and singular Actions, Pleas, Suits, Complaints, Matters, and Demands, of what kinds or quality soever they shall be; and to act and do in all matters and things relating to themselves in as ample manner and form, and as fully and amply as any of our subjects of this our Realm of Great Britain, lawfully

may or can act or do, sue or be sued, plead or be impleaded, answer or be answered unto, defend or be defended: And that the said Body Politic, and their Successors, shall and may for ever hereafter have and use a *Common Seal*, for the Business and Affairs of the said Corporation: And that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Corporation and their Successors, the same Seal from time to time, at their will and pleasure to break, change, alter, or make new, as to them shall seem expedient. And Our further Will and Pleasure is, that the said Corporation and their Successors shall and may have Power for ever hereafter, to extend the charitable designs and purposes aforesaid to the *Caribbs*, or native Inhabitants of the said Islands, and to the People of *Colour*, or *Mulattoes* there, as they shall from time to time think fit. And, for the better execution of the Purposes aforesaid, and the more regular Government of the said Corporation, We do declare and grant, that the said Corporation, or as many of them as can, shall, as soon as conveniently may be after the passing of these Presents, meet and assemble together at such Place and at such Time as shall be appointed by any five or more of them, to treat and consult concerning the Business and Affairs of the said Society, and the good Rule, Order, and Government thereof: And that they, or the major Part of such of them as shall then be present, shall choose *one President, and one or more Vice-President or Vice-Presidents*, out of the Members or Governors of the said Corporation for the time being; and also one or more *Treasurer or Treasurers*, and *one Secretary*, and such other Officers, Ministers, and Servants as shall be thought fit and convenient for carrying on and executing the charitable ends and purposes aforesaid, each of them respectively to continue in their several and respective Offices until the first Tuesday in the month of March next ensuing, and from thenceforwards until other fit Persons shall be duly chosen in their respective rooms in manner hereinafter mentioned. And We will, that the President and Vice-President or Vice-Presidents, and the rest of the Members or Governors of the said Corpo-

And to use a common Seal.

And to extend the Charity to the Caribbs and Mulattoes.

First Meeting.

To choose a President and Vice-Presidents, and Officers.

ration for the time being, or as many of them the said President, Vice-President or Vice-Presidents, and Members or Governors, as conveniently can, do meet and assemble together at some convenient place, to be appointed by them or the major part of them, on the first Tuesday in the several months of March, June, and December, in every Year for ever, (which said three Meetings or Assemblies shall be called *General Courts*;) and also on such other Days and at such other Times, as to the President or any of the Vice-Presidents of the said Corporation for the time being shall seem meet, or as the major Part of any Committee of the said Corporation to be hereafter appointed, or any five of the other Members or Governors thereof for the time being, shall demand of the said President and Vice-Presidents or any of them, in Writing under their Hands respectively. And that the said General Courts shall and may direct the Custody and Application of the Common Seal of the said Corporation, and have power to do and dispatch any Business relating to the Government and Affairs of the said Corporation; And also to make, constitute, ordain and establish such and so many reasonable By-Laws, Rules, Orders, and Ordinances, from time to time, as they shall think fit and useful for the good Government of the said Corporation, and of all the Officers, Ministers, Assistants, and Servants, employed by the said Corporation; and for the Application of the Revenues, and carrying into effect all the Purposes of the said Corporation: And also all or any of the same By-Laws, Rules, Orders and Ordinances, at their pleasure to repeal, annul, or alter: Which several By-Laws, Rules, Orders and Ordinances so to be made, not being contrary or repugnant to the Laws and Statutes of this Our Realm, shall be duly observed and kept. Provided nevertheless, and Our Will is, that no such By-Law, Rule, Order, or Ordinance so to be made by this Corporation, shall be binding or have any force or effect until the same shall be agreed to and confirmed by the next succeeding General Court, whether appointed as hereinbefore mentioned, or extraordinary;

Three Ordinary General Courts in March, June, and December, and at such other times as the President, &c. shall appoint.

For the dispatch of the Business of the Corporation.

And make By-Laws, Rules, &c.

And repeal the same.

But no By-Laws, &c. to be binding till confirmed at a subsequent Court.

and that the same method be observed in the altering or repealing any such By-Laws, Rules, Orders or Ordinances, after they shall have been so confirmed. Our further Will is, that all succeeding Presidents and Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, and other Officers of the said Corporation, shall be annually elected and appointed at the said General Court to be holden on the first Tuesday in the month of March, to continue in their respective Offices until the first Tuesday in the month of March then next following, and until others shall be chosen and appointed in their respective rooms; and that the said President and Vice-Presidents shall be elected and appointed out of the Members or Governors of the said Corporation for the time being. Provided always, and our further Will is, that in all cases of Vacancy by the Death, Resignation, or Removal of any of the said Officers, it shall and may be lawful to and for the surviving or continuing President, or any one of the Vice-Presidents, to issue Summonses to the several Members or Governors of the said Corporation to meet at the usual Place of Meeting of the said Corporation, at such Time as shall be specified in the said Summonses; and that such Members or Governors who shall meet upon such Summonses, or the major Part of them, shall and may elect and appoint an Officer or Officers in the room or place of such Person or Persons so dead, or who shall have resigned or been removed from their respective Offices, as to the said Members or Governors, or the major Part of them, present at such Meeting shall seem meet, such Officer or Officers to continue in their respective Office until the first Tuesday in the month of March then next following, and until others shall be chosen and appointed in their respective Rooms. Provided also, that all Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and all other Officers who shall be elected into any Office or Offices belonging to the said Corporation, shall, before they act in such their respective Office or Offices, take an Oath to be to them severally administered by any one or more of the Members or Governors at any Meeting of the said Corporation, for the faithful and due execution of their respective Offices

The President, Vice-Presidents, and Officers to be annually elected in March.

On the Death, &c. of Officers, others to be elected.

President and Vice-Presidents and Officers to be sworn in the faithful Execution of their Office.

When any of the four West-India Merchants who are Members of the Corporation die or resign, others to be chosen in their room.

The Corporation may appoint Committees;

And admit Members;

Officers not to act as Members.

The Business of the Corporation to be decided by Vote.

and Trusts; to which one or more Members or Governors, We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, give full Power and Authority to administer such Oath accordingly. And We further will, that whenever any or either of them the said John Braithwaite, Richard Neave, Beeston Long, and William Manning, or any other or others to be appointed in their room, shall happen to die or resign, it shall and may be lawful to and for the President of the said Corporation for the time being from time to time at the next General Court, or as soon as conveniently may be after such Death or Resignation, to nominate and appoint some other West-India Merchant or Merchants, Planter or Planters, residing in or near the said Cities of London or Westminster, to be a Member or Governor, Members or Governors, of the said Corporation, in the room and place of such Person or Persons so dying or resigning, as aforesaid. And also, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Members or Governor of the said Corporation and their Successors, at any General Court, to elect, from and amongst the said Members or Governors, such and so many Committees for transacting any particular Affairs and Business of the said Corporation, and to be vested with such delegated Powers, and limited by such Instructions, as to the said General Court shall seem meet: And to elect and admit from time to time such and so many Persons to be Members or Governors of the said Corporation, and upon such Terms and Conditions as such General Courts shall think proper. Provided always, that no Person or Persons who shall be elected into the Place or Office of Treasurer or Secretary of the said Corporation, or into any other inferior Offices thereunto belonging, shall at any time or times after such his or their Election respectively, act as a Member or Governor of the said Corporation at any Court or Committee, or otherwise; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. And Our further Will is, that all Elections of Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, and other Officers or Servants of the said Corporation, and all other Affairs and Businesses of the said Corpo-

ration, to be transacted at any General Court or other Meeting; and all Questions to arise thereupon, shall be decided by Vote; and in all such cases, the Act or Opinion of the Majority of the Members or Governors so voting, shall be conclusive and binding upon all the rest of the Members or Governors of the said Corporation. And Our further Will is, that in every General Court of the said Members or Governors, the President for the time being, or in case of his absence, the Vice-President, first named in the List of Vice-Presidents for the time being, then present, or any of the other Vice-Presidents, in their order for the time being; or, in case of the absence of such President and all the said Vice-Presidents, then such one of the said Members or Governors as the major Part of them, then present, shall choose or appoint for that purpose, shall take the Chair and preside: And that, in all cases of an Equality of Votes, such President, Vice-President, or other Member or Governor of the said Corporation, as for the time being shall be entitled to take the Chair, and preside at any such General Court, shall have a double or casting Vote: Provided nevertheless, and Our Will is, that no General Court shall have power to proceed upon or transact any Affair or Business of the said Corporation, unless there should be Five or more of the Members or Governors thereof present at such Court: We will moreover, that the said Corporation and their Successors shall have power to solicit, ask for, and receive, from such of our Subjects as shall be inclined to contribute towards the Charitable Purposes aforesaid, such Gifts or Subscriptions of any Sum or Sums of Money as any Person or Persons, Bodies Politic or Corporate, Companies, or other Societies, shall be willing to give or bestow for such Charitable Purposes: And to authorize and appoint such Person or Persons as they shall think fit to take Subscriptions, and to ask of all or any of Our good Subjects, and gather and collect such Monies as shall by any Person or Persons, Bodies Politic or Corporate, Companies, or other Societies, be contributed and given for the Purposes aforesaid; and may revoke and make void such Authorities and Appointments as

The President to take the Chair and preside; or in his Absence the Vice-President, &c.

The Chairman to have a casting Vote.

Five Members to constitute a General Court.

To solicit Gifts, &c.

And appoint a Collector.

To keep Accounts.

To be audited.

And Duplicates to be delivered to the Lord Chancellor and Chief Justices of the King's Bench and Common Pleas.

The Charter to be construed to the best advantage of the Charity.

often as they may see cause so to do. And Our further Will and Pleasure is, that the said Corporation and their Successors shall and may cause fair and just Accounts in Writing to be kept of all Receipts, Payments, and Doings, by them, their Officers, and Agents, respectively, in relation to the Premises, which shall be liable to the view and inspection of any Subscriber or Subscribers, Benefactor or Benefactors, upon occasion; which said Accounts shall, at the first General Court, in every year, or within ten Days after, be examined, audited, adjusted, and subscribed, by the Members present at such General Court, or the major Part of them; And that such Accounts, or Duplicates thereof, shall yearly and every year, be given or delivered to the Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper or Commissioners for the Custody of the Great Seal of Great Britain, for the time being; the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, or any two of them: And lastly, We do by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, grant unto the said Corporation hereby established, and their Successors, that these Our Letters Patent, or the Inrollment or Exemplification thereof, shall and may be, in and by all things, good, firm, valid, sufficient and effectual in the Law, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and shall be taken, construed, and adjudged in the most favourable and beneficial sense, for the best advantage of the said Corporation and their Successors, as well in all our Courts of Record, or elsewhere, by all and singular Judges, Justices, Officers, Ministers, and other Subjects whatsoever of Us, our Heirs and Successors; any nonrecital, misrecital, or any other omission, imperfection, defect, matter, cause or thing whatsoever, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding; without Fine in our Hanaper, &c. In Witness whereof, We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourselves, at Westminster, this thirtieth Day of October, in the thirty-fourth year of our Reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,
WILMOT.

THE SECOND
CHARTER OF THE SOCIETY,

Sc. Sc.

William the Fourth, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith: To all to whom these Presents shall come, greeting. Whereas by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain, bearing date at Westminster, the Thirtieth day of October, in the Thirty-fourth year of the reign of His late Majesty King George the Third, after thereby reciting, that the Right Reverend Beilby, then Bishop of London, had, by his Petition, humbly represented unto His said late Majesty, that in the British West-India Islands, beyond the Seas, belonging to the Kingdom of Great Britain, there was a certain class of people called Negro Slaves, whose number was about Five Hundred Thousand, and who were all of them, (with a few exceptions) Infidels and Heathens in the literal sense of those words: That as they were made to labour there for the benefit of His Majesty's Subjects, it was, the Petitioner conceived, fit and reasonable that they should have in return communicated to them the Doctrines and the Precepts, the advantages, and the blessings of the Christian Religion, which were intended for all ranks and conditions of Men; and would render the said Negro Slaves more virtuous, more comfortable, and more contented here, and open to them (through the Merits of our REDEEMER) a prospect of endless Happiness hereafter: That this would not only be an act of true Christian Charity and Benevolence,

Recital of the Charter.

but, as the Petitioner conceived, a measure of the soundest Policy, by promoting the Prosperity and Commercial Interests of those Islands; because the Principles and the Practice of the Christian Religion, diffused among the Negro Slaves, would tend more effectually than any thing else could do to check and extinguish those pernicious and destructive vices so prevalent among them, which were the great obstructions to Population, and prevented that natural Increase which was essential to the proper Cultivation of those Islands: That it had been found by experience, that those Slaves who had been made real Christians, were much better Servants, more sober, more honest, more industrious, more tractable, more faithful, and more obedient to their Masters, than those who remained Heathens; and of this the Planters themselves were so sensible that they had of late given the greatest encouragement to the instruction of their Slaves in the Doctrines and Duties of Christianity, and had expressly enjoined it in the Laws then lately made for the Regulation of the said Negro Slaves: That it was, however, utterly impossible that the same most desirable purpose should ever be accomplished by the sole labours and exertions of the Parochial Clergy settled in the said Islands; who were few in number, had very extensive Parishes, and were hardly equal to the care even of the White Inhabitants, much less to the additional Superintendence of many Thousand Negroes. That it would be highly conducive to the Conversion and Religious Instruction and Education of the Negro Slaves, in the said Islands, if a suitable Maintenance were provided for a sufficient number of Clergymen, or other persons of the Church of England as by Law established (to be appointed by the Society thereafter mentioned) to be resident there as Assistants to the Parochial Clergy of those Islands, and to be solely employed in the Conversion and Religious Instruction of the adult Negroes, and in the Education and Religious Instruction of the young Negroes, under the Superintendence of the Parochial Clergy, and subject to the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Petitioner and his Successors, and also to such other provisions and

regulations as might be necessary for accomplishing those ends and purposes. That if his said Majesty would be graciously pleased to erect and establish a Society or Corporation, for the receiving, managing, and disposing of the Charitable Contributions of His Majesty's Subjects, divers persons would be induced to extend their Charity to the uses and purposes aforesaid. His said late Majesty did thereby grant, constitute, declare, and appoint the said Beilby, then Lord Bishop of London, and the Bishop of London for the time being; the Right Honourable Charles Lord Hawkesbury, then President of the Committee of Council, appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to Trade and Plantations, and the President of the said Committee for the time being; the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, His Majesty's then principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, and the principal Secretary of State for that Department for the time being; the Deans of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, London, and the Collegiate Church of St. Peter, in Westminster, then and for the time being; the Canons Residentiary of the said Cathedral Church of St. Paul, then and for the time being; the Prebendaries of the said Collegiate Church of St. Peter in Westminster, who should be resident in their Prebendal Houses, then and for the time being; Sir James Sanderson, Knight, then Mayor of the City of London, and the Mayor of the City of London for the time being; the two senior Aldermen of the said City of London, then and for the time being; Sir William Scott, Knight, then Chancellor of the Diocese of London, and the Chancellor of the Diocese of London for the time being; the Archdeacons of London and Middlesex, then and for the time being; the Rectors of St. George Hanoversquare, St. James and St. Anne Westminster, St. George Bloomsbury, St. Giles, St. Andrew Holborn, and St. Michael Cornhill, respectively, then and for the time being; the Vicar of St. Martin in the Fields, then and for the time being; the Rector of St. Paul's Covent Garden, then and for the time being; the Heir at Law of the Honourable Robert Boyle, deceased, then

and for the time being; and John Braithwaite, Richard Neave, Beeston Long, and William Manning, Esquires, West-India Merchants or Planters, residing in or near the Cities of London or Westminster, and such other West-India Merchants or Planters residing in or near the said Cities, or one of them, as should be from time to time appointed as thereafter mentioned, to be one Body Politic and Corporate in Deed and in Law by the name of THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONVERSION AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION OF THE NEGRO SLAVES IN THE BRITISH WEST-INDIA ISLANDS, and them and their Successors, by the name of *The Society for the Conversion and Religious Instruction and Education of the Negro Slaves in the British West-India Islands*: His said late Majesty did thereby, for the purposes aforesaid, for himself, his Heirs, and Successors, really and fully make, erect, create, ordain, constitute, establish, confirm, and declare, to be one Body Politic and Corporate, in Deed and in name: And that they and their Successors by that name should and might have perpetual succession, and that they and their Successors by the name aforesaid should and might for ever thereafter be persons able and capable in the Law, and might have power, notwithstanding the Statutes of Mortmain, to purchase, have, hold, receive, and enjoy, to them and their Successors, Manors, Messuages, Lands, Rents, Tenements, Annuities, and Hereditaments, of what nature or kind soever, in Fee and in Perpetuity, or for terms for lives, or years, not exceeding the yearly value of Three Thousand Pounds, in all issues beyond reprises, so far as they were not restrained by Law; and all manner of goods, chattels, and things whatsoever, of what nature or value soever, for the better support and maintenance of a sufficient number of Clergy, or other persons to be appointed by the said Society, and employed for the accomplishment of the ends and purposes before-mentioned: And also to sell, grant, demise, exchange, and dispose, of any of the same Manors, Messuages, Lands, Rents, Tenements, and Hereditaments, whereof or wherein they should have any estate or interest as aforesaid: And

his said late Majesty did thereby, for himself, his Heirs, and Successors, give and grant his especial license, full power, and lawful and absolute authority to any person or persons, Bodies Politic or Corporate, their Heirs and Successors respectively, to give, grant, sell, alien, assign, devise, bequeath, or dispose of, in Mortmain, in perpetuity, or otherwise, to or to the use and benefit of or in trust for The Society for the Conversion and Religious Instruction and Education of the Negro Slaves in the British West India Islands and their Successors, any Manors, Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Hereditaments, Annuities, sum and sums of money, goods and chattels whatsoever, not exceeding the yearly value of Three Thousand Pounds, above all charges and reprises for the charitable purposes above-mentioned in any manner not repugnant to, or made void, by the Statute passed in the ninth year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Second, intituled, "An Act to restrain the Disposition of Lands whereby the same become unalienable;" and that the said Society and their Successors by the name aforesaid, should and might be capable to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in whatsoever Courts and Places, and before any Judges or Justices or Officers of His Majesty, his Heirs, and Successors, in all and singular Actions, Pleas, Suits, Plaints, Matters, and Demands of what kind or quality soever they should be, and to act and do in all matters and things relating to themselves, in as ample manner and form, and as fully and amply as any of His Majesty's Subjects of the Realm of Great Britain lawfully might, or could act or do, sue or be sued, plead or be impleaded, answer or be answered unto, defend or be defended; And that the said Body Politic and their Successors, should and might for ever thereafter have and use a Common Seal for the business and affairs of the said Corporation: And that it should and might be lawful to and for the said Corporation and their Successors, the same Seal from time to time, at their will and pleasure, to break, change, alter, or make new, as to them should seem

expedient. And his said late Majesty's further Will was that the said Corporation and their Successors, should and might have power for ever thereafter to extend the charitable designs and purposes aforesaid, to the Caribbs or Native Inhabitants of the said Islands, and to the people of colour or Mulattoes there, as they should from time to time think fit. And his said Majesty thereby made and gave certain other declarations and directions relative to the Government, Regulation, and Administration, of the said Society, and the construction of the said Letters Patent. And whereas by an Act passed in the fourth year of Our Reign, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for Promoting the Industry of the Manumitted Slaves, and for Compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Service of such Slaves," Slavery was, from the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, utterly and for ever abolished and declared unlawful throughout the British Colonies, Plantations, and Possessions abroad: And whereas the said Corporation have by their Petition humbly represented unto Us, that many of the Negroes and other people of colour, not only in the British West-India Islands, but also elsewhere, within the Dioceses of Jamaica and of Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, and also in the Mauritius, are still unconverted to Christianity, and there is still the same need of Religious Instruction and Education in the said Islands and elsewhere within the said Dioceses and the Mauritius, as there was at the time of the Grant of the said Letters Patent: That since the abolition of Slavery by the said Act of Parliament, the good effects which might otherwise be produced by the said Corporation will be likely to be diminished or prevented if the said Corporation were to continue the use of a name implying the existence of Slavery in any part of Our Dominions, and the said Corporation are therefore desirous of being authorized to take and use some suitable name in the stead of the name at present used by them: That with a view to the removal of Religious distinctions between the White Inhabitants and Coloured Inhabitants of

Recital of Act
4 William IV.
for the Abolition of
Slavery.

Petition of the
Society to His
Majesty.

the said Islands and elsewhere within the said Dioceses and the Mauritius, it is desirable that the said Corporation should be authorized to exercise the powers, liberties, and privileges, contained in the said Letters Patent of his said late Majesty in and for advancing the Christian Faith in the said Islands and elsewhere within the before-mentioned Dioceses and the Mauritius, without regard to the colour of the persons to be benefited by the exercise thereof: And that the only means expressly mentioned in the said Letters Patent of his said late Majesty of carrying into effect the charitable designs and purposes of the same, is the support and employment of Clergymen, and other persons in the said Islands and elsewhere, within the before-mentioned Dioceses and the Mauritius, and the said Corporation are desirous of being expressly authorized to use any other lawful means for the purposes aforesaid, which from time to time may be desirable. We do by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, give and grant unto the said Corporation and their Successors that they and their Successors shall and may for ever hereafter have and take and use the name of THE SOCIETY FOR ADVANCING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN THE BRITISH WEST-INDIA ISLANDS AND ELSEWHERE WITHIN THE DIOCESES OF JAMAICA AND OF BARBADOES AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS, AND IN THE MAURITIUS, in the place and stead of the name of "The Society for the Conversion and Religious Instruction and Education of the Negro Slaves in the British West-India Islands," and shall and may by the name of *The Society for Advancing the Christian Faith in the British West-India Islands and elsewhere within the Dioceses of Jamaica and of Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, and in the Mauritius*, exercise and enjoy all the powers, liberties, and privileges, granted to them by the said Letters Patent of his said late Majesty. And Our further Will and Pleasure is, that the said Corporation and their Successors shall and may have full liberty and power for ever hereafter to exercise all the powers, liberties, and privileges, contained in the said Letters Patent of his said late Majesty in and for advancing the Christian Faith in

New name of
the Corporation.

Society may ex-
ercise powers
given by the
first Charter for
the purposes of
this Charter.

the said Islands and elsewhere within the said Dioceses of Jamaica and of Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, and in the Mauritius, by all such lawful means as from time to time shall be desirable, without regard to the colour of the persons to be benefited thereby.

This Charter to be construed to the best advantage of the Corporation.

And lastly, We do by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, grant unto the said Corporation and their Successors that these our Letters Patent, or the Enrolment or Exemplification thereof, shall and may be in all things sufficient and effectual in the law, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and shall be taken, construed, and adjudged in the most favourable and beneficial sense, for the best advantage of the said Corporation and their Successors, as well in all Our Courts of Record as elsewhere, any nonrecital, misrecital, omission, imperfection, defect, matter, cause, or thing to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding; without Fine in the Exchequer, &c. In Witness whereof, We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourselves, at Our Palace at Westminster, the eleventh Day of January, in the sixth year of Our Reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,

EDMUNDS.

THE END.