ANNO TRICESIMO TERTIO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. CXXVII.

An Act for repealing an Act, made in the Fourth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, *An Act for enlarging the Charitable Uſes, extending the Objects, and regulating the Application, of the Rents and Profits of the Eſtates given by Sir* William Harpur *Knight, and Dame* Alice *his Wife, for the Benefit of the Poor, and other Objects of Charity, of the Town of* Bedford; and for the better Management and Diſpoſition of the ſaid Eſtates, and the Rents and Profits thereof.

[17th *June* 1793.]

Preamble; reciting Letters Patent of King *Edward* VI.

WHEREAS His Majeſty King Edward the Sixth, by His Letters Patent under the Great Seal of England, bearing Date the Fifteenth Day of Auguſt, in the Sixth Year of his Reign, on the Petition of the Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgeſſes, and Commonalty of the Town of Bedford, to him made, for the erecting and eſtabliſhing of a free and perpetual School there, for the Education and

Inſtruction of Children and Youth, did of his ſpecial Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, and by the Advice of his Council, grant and give Licence, for him, his Heirs and Succeſſors, to the ſaid Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgeſſes, and Commonalty of the ſaid Town of Bedford, and their Succeſſors, that they, or their Succeſſors, might and ſhould make, erect, ground, and eſtabliſh a free and perpetual School, in the ſaid Town of Bedford, for the Education, Inſtitution, and Inſtruction of Children and Youth in Grammar and good Manners, to endure for ever after; and the ſame School to be of One Maſter and One Uſher, for ever to continue; and the Wardens and Fellows of New College, in Oxford, were thereby conſtituted Viſitors of the ſaid Grammar School, and Nominators and Admittors of its Maſter and Uſher, with Power to remove them for juſt Cauſes, and to appoint others to act in their Stations: And, to the End that the ſaid Intent of the ſaid Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgeſſes, and Commonalty of the ſaid Town of Bedford, ſhould take the better Effect, his ſaid Majeſty, of his abundant Grace, by the ſaid Letters Patent did grant and give Licence, for him, his Heirs and Succeſſors, to the ſaid Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgeſſes, and Commonalty of the ſaid Town, that they, or their Succeſſors, might have, enjoy, perceive, get, purchaſe, and receive the Lordſhips, Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Reverſions, Revenues, Services, and Hereditaments whatſoever, and other Poſſeſſions whatſoever, to the yearly Value of Forty Pounds, above all Charges and Reprizes, of the Gift, Grant, Legacy, Demiſe, or Aſſignment of any Perſon or Perſons whatſoever, that would give, grant, or aſſign the ſame unto them, though the ſame Lordſhips, Manors, Lands, and Tenements were holden of the ſaid King in Capite, or otherwiſe, mediately or immediately, or of any other Perſon or Perſons, to have and to hold to the ſame Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgeſſes, and Commonalty of the ſaid Town of Bedford, and their Succeſſors, in and to the Suſtentation of the ſaid Maſter and Uſher, and for the Continuance of the ſaid School for ever, for the Marriage of poor Maids of the ſaid Town, and for poor Children there to be nouriſhed and informed, and alſo of the Surpluſage coming or remaining of the Premiſes to diſtribute in Alms to the Poor of the ſaid Town for the Time being: And whereas, by Indenture bearing Date the Twenty-ſecond Day of April, in the Eighth Year of the Reign of her late Majeſty Queen Elizabeth, and made, or mentioned to be made, between the

Grant from Sir *William* and Lady *Harpu.*, 22d *April* 1566.

said Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the said Town of Bedford of the One Part, and Sir William Harpur Knight, and Alderman of the City of London, and Dame Alice his Wife, of the other Part, after reciting the said Letters Patent, it is witnessed, That the said Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, for and towards the Erection of the said School, to be and to have Continuance according to the Form and Effect of the said Letters Patent, did thereby erect, make, found, and establish, a free and perpetual School, within the said Town of Bedford, in a Messuage there commonly called The Free School House, which the said Sir William Harpur of late built, and the same School to be of One Master and One Usher, for ever to continue; and the said Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty did then by Name elect and admit, unto the Place or Office of Master of the said School, Edmond Green, and unto the Place or Office of the Usher of the said School, Robert Elbone: And the said Indenture did further witness, that the said Sir William Harpur and Dame Alice, for and towards the better Maintenance of the said School, did grant, enfeoff, and assure unto the said Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the said Town of Bedford, all that the Messuage of the said Sir William Harpur, commonly called The School House, in the Town of Bedford aforesaid; and all the Houses, Backsides, Gardens, and Rooms of the said Sir William Harpur, to the same Messuage adjoining, and then in the Tenure or Occupation of the said Edmond Green, whereof the said Sir William Harpur stood enfeoffed of any Estate of Inheritance; and also Thirteen Acres and One Rood of Meadow, therein particularly described, with their Appurtenances, lying in divers Parcels in or near the Parish of Saint Andrew, Holborn, in the County of Middlesex, to hold the same to the said Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the said Town of Bedford, and their Successors, for and to the Sustentation of the Master and Usher of the said School, from Time to Time, for ever, for the Continuance of the same School for ever, for the Marriage of poor Maids of the said Town, and for poor Children there to be nourished and informed, according to the Form of the said Letters Patent; and the said Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty aforesaid did covenant and grant, for them and their Successors, to and with the same Sir William and Dame Alice, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, that they the same Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses,

and Commonalty, and their Succeſſors, from Time to Time, for ever thereafter, would employ and beſtow all ſuch Rents, Iſſues, Profits, and Commodities, as by any Means thereafter they ſhould or might lawfully and reaſonably receive, perceive, levy, or raiſe, of, for, upon, or by reaſon of the ſaid Thirteen Acres and One Rood of Meadow, or any Parcel thereof, to the Uſes, Intents, and Purpoſes expreſſed in the ſaid Letters Patent, and therein limited and appointed, and to none other Uſe, Intent, or Purpoſe: And whereas, by an Act of Parliament which was made and paſſed in the Fourth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, An Act for enlarging the charitable Uſes, extending the Objects, and regulating the Application of the Rents and Profits of the Eſtates given by Sir *William Harpur* Knight, and Dame *Alice* his Wife, for the Benefit of the Poor, and other Objects of Charity, of the Town of *Bedford*, after reciting (amongſt other Things) as herein-before is recited, and that after granting the ſaid Thirteen Acres and One Rood of Ground, ſome Part thereof was loſt by Encroachments made thereon, and that other Part thereof was granted to Sir Thomas Fiſher Baronet, under the Authority of the High Court of Chancery, for other Lands belonging to him, ſo that the ſame was reduced to about Twelve Acres One Rood and Thirteen Poles, which was granted upon Leaſe in the Manner mentioned in the ſaid Act, and that in Conſequence of granting ſuch Leaſe as aforeſaid, and other derivative Leaſes, a great Number of Houſes and Buildings were erected on the ſaid Ground and Premiſes ſo granted and demiſed as aforeſaid, and that ſeveral new Streets were formed, deſigned, and made out of Part of the ſaid Premiſes, for the Uſe of the Publick, videlicet; Bedford Street, Bedford Row, Bedford Court, Princes Street, Theobald's Road, North Street, Eaſt Street, Lamb's Conduit Street, Queen Street, Eagle Street, Boſwell Court, and other Streets and Courts thereto adjoining, lying and being in the ſeveral Pariſhes of Saint Andrew Holborn and Saint George Queen Square, and that by Means thereof the yearly Rents and Profits of the ſaid Truſt Premiſes were then increaſed to a conſiderable Amount, and that great Improvements were propoſed to be made in the ſaid Charity Eſtate, by letting Part of the Houſes then occupied by Tenants at Will, and other Houſes unoccupied, upon Building or Repairing Leaſes, in order to be pulled down and rebuilt, or repaired, whereby, according to the beſt Computations, the Whole of the ſaid Charity Eſtate was likely to produce, from the Year One thouſand

The Act in the 4th Year of His preſent Majeſty.

sand seven hundred and sixty-six, a clear yearly Income of Three thousand Pounds, or thereabouts; it is, amongst other Things, enacted, That the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and other Persons in the said Act named or described, should, from and after the Twenty-fifth Day of June One thousand seven hundred and sixty-four, be, and they were thereby from thenceforth declared to be Trustees for the setting, letting, and leasing, regulating, disposing, ordering, and managing the said Charity Estate and Charity, and the yearly and other Rents, Issues, and Profits thereof, and for carrying into Execution all and every the Rules, Orders, and Directions mentioned and set forth in the Schedule thereunto annexed, and for other the Purposes therein-after mentioned; and that all and every the Messuages, Buildings, Houses, Ground, Hereditaments, and Premises so granted by the said Sir William Harpur and Dame Alice his Wife, and which were then vested in the said Persons therein named and described, should, from and after the said Twenty-fifth Day of June, be vested in the Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the said Town and Borough of Bedford, and their Successors, upon Trust that the Trustees therein-before appointed, and to be appointed in the Manner therein directed, should let, set, and demise the said Charity Estate, and every or any Part thereof, and pay, apply, and dispose of the Rents, Issues, and Profits, thereof, together with the Balance of certain Accounts therein mentioned, to and for the several Charitable and other Ends, Intents, and Purposes, and subject to the several Rules, Orders, and Directions, in the Schedule thereunto annexed, mentioned, directed, appointed, and prescribed; and it is thereby further enacted, That the Trustees named and appointed as aforesaid, and to be elected in pursuance of the said Act, should at all Times thereafter be called and stiled by the Name and Title of The Masters, Governors, and Trustees of the Bedford Charity, and should use a Common Seal, round which should be inscribed the following Words, The Seal of the Masters, Governors, and Trustees of the Bedford Charity; and that the said Trustees, by the Name and Description aforesaid, should and might implead and be impleaded before all Manner of Justices, in all Courts, and in all Actions and Suits whatsoever, and should and might be enabled to purchase, to them and their Successors, any Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments for the Purposes in the said Schedule mentioned, and other Buildings proper and necessary for the Use of the said Charity, not exceeding the yearly

Value

Value of Fifty Pounds, the Statute of Mortmain, or any other Law or Statute to the contrary thereof notwithstanding; and that the Trustees should be impowered to erect or cause to be erected, in the Chancel of Saint Paul's Church, in the said Town of Bedford, where the said Sir William Harpur, and Dame Alice his Wife, lie interred, a Monument of Marble, likewise a Statue in Front of the said Grammar School, with proper Inscriptions thereon, in Testimony of that Town's Gratitude and Reverence to the Memory of those munificent Founders of that great Charity; which Monument and Statue have been erected accordingly: And whereas, by Means of the said Estates in and near the said Parish of Saint Andrew, Holborn, having been let upon Building and Repairing Leases, as the former Leases thereof have fallen in and expired, the yearly Rents thereof have been greatly increased since the passing of the said in Part recited Act of Parliament, and do now amount to the Sum of Two thousand nine hundred and seventeen Pounds Seventeen Shillings per Annum; and in as much as Fifty-three Leases of Parts of the same Estate will expire on the Twenty-fourth Day of June One thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, and Twenty-seven Leases of other Parts thereof will expire in the Year One thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, it is estimated that the Rents of the Estates comprised in the same Leases respectively may, by letting the same Premises upon Building or Repairing Leases, be encreased by the yearly Sum of Nine hundred Pounds, or thereabouts, and that the yearly Value of the remaining Part of the said Trust Estates and Premises may be considerably increased upon the Determination of the present Leases thereof, some of which will expire in a few Years: And whereas it is found by Experience, that the Directions given by the said Act, and the said Schedule thereto, for the Application of the Rents and Profits of the said Trust Estates and Premises, are in some Instances very improper, and occasion many Inconveniencies to the Inhabitants of the said Town of Bedford; and that the same Premises might be managed, and the Rents and Profits thereof applied in a Manner much more advantageous for the Objects of the said Charity: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the said in Part recited Act of Parliament, and the

Many Leases of the Estate expire in 1793 and 1794.

The Act of 4th *Geo.* III, repealed.

Schedule thereto annexed, and all the Rules, Orders, and Directions in and by the same Act and Schedule respectively mentioned, made, given, or prescribed, shall, from and after the passing of this Act, be repealed, and the same are hereby accordingly from thenceforth repealed, and declared absolutely null and void to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

New Trustees appointed.

II. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Lord Lieutenant and Representatives in Parliament for the Time being of the County of Bedford, the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, Common Council, Bailiffs, Chamberlains, and Representatives in Parliament for the Time being of the said Town of Bedford, the Master and Usher of the Grammar School for the Time being, and Eighteen Inhabitants of the said Town, who shall be chosen in the Manner herein-after mentioned, and their respective Successors, to be chosen in like Manner, shall, from and after the passing of this Act, be, and they are hereby accordingly declared to be for ever thereafter Trustees of the several Estates and Premises of or belonging to the said Charity, and shall let, demise, and manage the same, and apply the Rents, Issues, and Profits thereof in such Manner as by the Rules, Orders, and Directions contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed is directed and expressed.

The Manner of electing Trustees.

III. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That a Meeting of the respective Inhabitants of the said Town of Bedford, paying Scot and Lot, shall be held at the Town Hall, or some other convenient Place in that Town, on the Second Monday after the passing of this Act, between the Hours of Nine in the Morning and Twelve at Noon, and then and there Eighteen of the Inhabitants of the said Town of Bedford, not being any of the Description of Trustees herein-before appointed, who shall have resided therein for Three Years next preceding that Day, and shall be then respectively seised of or entitled to a Freehold Estate in the Town and County of Bedford, or either of them, of the clear yearly Value of Ten Pounds, or who shall occupy a House in the said Town of the yearly Rent of Fifteen Pounds, shall be elected and chosen Trustees as aforesaid, by a Ballot of such of the Inhabitants of the said Town of Bedford, paying Scot and Lot, as shall be present at such Meeting; and that a like Meeting of the Inhabitants of the said Town, paying Scot and Lot, shall be held at the Town Hall aforesaid, or in some other convenient Place in the said Town, on the First Wednesday in the Month of November, in the Year One thousand seven hundred and ninety-

ninety-four, when Six more of the Inhabitants of the said Town, being respectively qualified as aforesaid, not being any of the Description of Trustees herein-before appointed, shall in like Manner be elected and chosen Trustees of the said Charity; and immediately upon such Election being made Six of the Trustees, who shall have been previously elected as aforesaid, shall cease to be Trustees of the said Charity, and in order to determine which of the old Trustees shall go out of Office, they shall cast Lots for that Purpose; and that a like Meeting of the Inhabitants of the said Town, paying Scot and Lot, shall be held at the Town Hall aforesaid, or in some other convenient Place in the said Town, on the First Wednesday in the Month of November, in the Year One thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, when Six more of such of the Trustees elected and chosen at the First Election, as did not go out of Office at the Second Election, shall cease to be Trustees, and thereupon Six more of the Inhabitants of the said Town, being duly qualified as aforesaid, not being any of the Description of Trustees herein-before appointed, shall in the Manner aforesaid be elected Trustees in the Place and Stead of the Persons who shall cease to be Trustees as last-mentioned, and in order to determine which Six of the Trustees then remaining of those who were chosen at the First Election shall cease to be Trustees, they shall cast Lots for that Purpose; and that, on the First Wednesday in the Month of November, which will be in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, the remaining Six of such of the Trustees who were first elected, as shall then be Trustees of the said Charity, shall cease to be Trustees thereof, and Six more of the Inhabitants of the said Town, being respectively qualified as aforesaid, not being any of the Description of Trustees herein-before appointed, shall be chosen Trustees in their Stead, in the Manner herein-before mentioned; and that upon the First Wednesday in the Month of November, in every succeeding Year, for ever, the several Persons who shall have been elected and chosen Trustees as aforesaid, in the then next preceding Year but Two, shall cease to be Trustees, and thereupon the like Number of Persons, qualified as aforesaid shall be elected and chosen Trustees in their Place and Stead, in the Manner herein-before directed, to the Intent that the Number of Elective Trustees may never be less than Eighteen.

Trustees may be re-elected.

IV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to prevent any Person

Person or Persons, who shall have been elected, and have acted as a Trustee or Trustees as aforesaid, from being immediately re-elected to that Office.

Notice to be given of Election.

V. And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens of the several Parishes in the said Town of Bedford shall, at all Times hereafter, on the Sunday next before the Day hereby appointed for every such Election to be made as aforesaid, cause Publick Notice to be given, in their respective Parish Churches, immediately after Morning and Evening Service, of the Day appointed for such Election, and of the Number of Persons intended to be elected, and shall also, on the same Sunday, cause a Notice in Writing, to the same Effect, to be affixed on the most publick Door of the said Parish Churches; and that the Bellman of the said Town shall give Notice throughout the said Town of every such Election, Two Days previous thereto.

Trustees dying, removing, or resigning, new ones to be elected.

VI. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons, who shall be elected a Trustee or Trustees pursuant to the Directions of this Act, shall reside out of the said Town of Bedford for the Space of Three Calendar Months together, or shall die, or shall hold or enjoy any of the said Offices, in Right of which he or they will become a Trustee or Trustees as aforesaid, or by any other Means, or be desirous of ceasing to be a Trustee or Trustees for the Purposes aforesaid, and shall give Notice in Writing, under his or their Hand, of such Desire or Intention, to the Mayor of the said Town for the Time being, then, and in every such Case, every such Trustee so residing out of the said Town, or who shall hold or enjoy any of the said Offices, in Right of which he or they will become a Trustee or Trustees, or by any other Means, or who shall be desirous of ceasing to be a Trustee, and give such Notice thereof as aforesaid, shall from thenceforth be and considered as discharged from being a Trustee for the Purposes aforesaid; and that whenever any of the said Trustees to be elected in pursuance of this Act shall, by the Means aforesaid, cease to be a Trustee or Trustees, or shall die, the Inhabitants of the said Town for the Time being, paying Scot and Lot, shall, within Fourteen Days next after every such Event, on a Day to be appointed for that Purpose by the Mayor of the said Town of Bedford for the Time being, elect, in the Manner aforesaid, some other Person or Persons, qualified as aforesaid, to be a Trustee or Trustees for the Purposes aforesaid, in the Place and Stead of the Person or Persons so dying or ceasing to be a Trustee or Trustees, and for the same Space or Time as he or they

they would otherwiſe have continued in that Office, to the Intent that the elective Truſtees of the ſaid Charity may always be Eighteen in Number; and ſuch publick Notices ſhall be given of every ſuch laſt mentioned Election as are herein-before directed to be given of every General Election of Truſtees to be made as aforeſaid.

Truſtees to take an Oath.

VII. And be it further enacted, That no Perſon ſhall act as a Truſtee of the ſaid Charity, until he ſhall have taken and ſubſcribed, before the Mayor or ſome One of the Aldermen, for the Time being, of the ſaid Town of Bedford (who are hereby reſpectively authorized and impowered to adminiſter the ſame) ſuch an Oath as hereinafter is preſcribed; (that is to ſay),

Oath.

I *A. B.* do ſwear, [*or, being One of the People called Quakers*], do ſolemnly affirm, That [*if the Oath is taken by an elected Truſtee*], I have been reſident in the Town of *Bedford* during Three ſucceſſive Years now laſt paſt, and [*if the Oath is taken by a Truſtee qualified in reſpect of a Freehold Eſtate*] I am truly and *bona fide* ſeiſed of or entitled in my own Right, [*or*] in the Right of my Wife, [*if the Caſe ſhall ſo be*] to a Freehold Eſtate, in [*or*] ariſing within [*as the Caſe may be*] the Town [*or*] County of *Bedford*, [*or in both, as the Caſe may happen to be*] of the clear yearly Value of Ten Pounds, after all Reprizes for Taxes, and every or any Incumbrance; and [*if the Oath is taken by a Perſon qualified to become a Truſtee in reſpect of his Occupation of a Houſe, then, inſtead of the latter Part of the Oath*] that I do truly and *bona fide* pay the yearly Rent of Fifteen Pounds for the Houſe in *Bedford* aforeſaid, in which I now reſide; and [*if the Oath is taken by a Perſon not being an elected Truſtee, then only*] that I will, without Favour or Affection, truly, impartially, and honeſtly, according to the beſt of my Skill and Knowledge, execute and perform the Truſts, Powers, and Authorities veſted or to become veſted in me, by an Act, made in the Thirty-third Year of the Reign of His Majeſty King *George* the Third, intituled, *An Act for repealing an Act, made in the Fourth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, "An Act for enlarging the Charitable Uſes, extending the Objects, and regulating the Application of the Rents and Profits of the Eſtates given by Sir* William Harpur *Knight, and Dame* Alice *his Wife, for the Benefit of the Poor, and other Objects of Charity of the Town of* Bedford;" *and for the better Management and Diſpoſition of the ſaid Eſtates, and the Rents and Profits thereof.*

Unqualified Perſons acting to forfeit 50 *l.*

And if any Perſon hereby made incapable to act as a Truſtee, ſhall nevertheleſs act in the Execution of the

Powers hereby given, or any of them, every such Person shall, for every such Offence, forfeit the Sum of Fifty Pounds, and shall pay the same to the Receiver, for the Time being, of the Rents and Profits of the said Estates, to be applied as Part thereof, and which Sum so to be forfeited shall or may be recovered, with full Costs of Suit, by Action at Law, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster; and every Person to be sued for the Recovery of such Forfeiture, shall prove that he is qualified as aforesaid, or otherwise shall pay the same, without any other Proof or Evidence, on the Part of the Plaintiff, than that such Person acted as a Trustee of the said Charity in pursuance of the Powers given by this Act.

Trustees to reside, &c.

VIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council Men, Bailiffs, and Chamberlains, for the Time being, of the said Town of Bedford, shall act as Trustees of the said Charity, during so long Time only as they respectively shall actually reside in the said Town, and that the Trustees who shall be elected as aforesaid shall act as Trustees of the said Charity during so long Time only as they respectively shall actually reside in the said Town, and continue seised of or entitled to a Freehold Estate of such clear yearly Value as aforesaid, or occupy a House of the yearly Rent aforesaid.

The Mayor to preside at the Election of Trustees.

IX. And be it further enacted, That the Mayor for the Time being of the said Town of Bedford shall always preside and take the Ballots at all Elections of Trustees to be made in pursuance of this Act; and that no Trustee of the said Charity shall ballot at any such Election.

No Trustee to be a Partaker of the Charity.

X. And be it further enacted, That no Person shall be capable of acting as a Trustee, for the Purposes aforesaid, who shall be in anywise a Partaker of the said Charity, or who shall be appointed by the Trustees to any Place or Office of Profit under the said Charity, or whose Child or Children shall hereafter be bound an Apprentice or Apprentices in pursuance or by virtue of the Sixteenth Rule or Order contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed; but nothing in this Act contained shall extend to render any Person incapable of being a Trustee merely on Account of his having a Child or Children educated in the Schools belonging to the said Charity, or sent from thence to either of the Universities, with such Exhibition or Exhibitions as is or are mentioned in the Schedule hereunto annexed, or of his having a Daughter or Daughters who shall have any Marriage or

said Servants Portion or Portions in pursuance or by virtue of the Rules or Orders contained in the said Schedule for that Purpose.

That no Trustee shall be a Lessee.

XI. And be it further enacted, That no Person shall be capable of acting as a Trustee for the Purposes aforesaid, who is or shall be a Lessee of any Part of the said Charity Estate; and that every Lease, Demise, Assignment, or Grant of any Kind whatsoever of any Part or Parcel of the Charity Estate to, or in Trust for, or for the Benefit of any Person or Persons being a Trustee or Trustees of the Charity, at the Time of contracting for, making, or executing any such Lease, Demise, Assignment, or Grant of any Kind, and every Contract for such Lease, Demise, Assignment, or Grant, shall be null and void to all Intents and Purposes.

Stile of the Trustees, who are enabled to purchase Lands in *Mortmain*.

XII. And be it further enacted, That the Trustees of the said Charity for the Time being shall be for ever hereafter stiled and called by the Name of The Masters, Governors, and Trustees of the *Bedford* Charity; and shall use a Common Seal, round which shall be inscribed the following Words, The Seal of the Masters, Governors, and Trustees of the *Bedford* Charity; and that the said Trustees for the Time being, by the Name and Description aforesaid, shall and may sue and be sued in all Courts and Places within this Realm, and shall and may implead and be impleaded before all Manner of Justices, in all Courts and in all Actions and Suits whatsoever; and shall and may purchase, take, hold, and enjoy any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments which shall be wanted for erecting thereon any Houses, or other Buildings, proper and necessary for the Use of the said Charity, without any Licence or Writ of ad quod damnum, and the Statute of Mortmain, or any other Statute or Law to the contrary notwithstanding.

All Messuages, &c. to be vested in the Masters, Governors, and Trustees.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That all and singular the Messuages, Tenements, Buildings, Lands, and Hereditaments whatsoever, which have at any Time or Times heretofore been given, granted, or conveyed to, or vested in, any Person or Persons whomsoever, in Trust for or for the Use or Benefit of the said Charity, and which are now in anywise belonging thereto, with their and every of their Rights, Members, and Appurtenances, and the Reversion and Reversions, Remainder and Remainders, Rents, Issues, and Profits thereof, shall, from and immediately after the passing of this Act, be divested out of all and every such Person and Persons, his and their Heirs, and the same shall be, and they are hereby accordingly, from thenceforth, settled upon and

vested in the said Masters, Governors, and Trustees of the said Charity, and their Successors, for ever, upon Trust that they do and shall set, let, and demise the same, and every Part thereof, and pay, apply, and dispose of the Rents, Issues, and Profits thereof, together with the Monies now belonging to the said Charity, in the Hands of any Person or Persons whomsoever, to and for the several Charitable and other Ends, Intents, and Purposes, and subject to the several Rules, Orders, and Directions, in the Schedule hereunto annexed, mentioned, directed, appointed, prescribed, and contained, any Law, Statute, Decree, Usage, or other Matter or Thing to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Restriction on the Length of Leases.

XIV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Lease or Leases of any Part or Parts of the Estate belonging to the said Charity shall be granted for any longer Term than Forty Years from the Time of granting the same, except for the Purpose of erecting any new Building or Buildings upon the said Estate, or any Part or Parts thereof, and which Lease or Leases to be granted for such Purpose may be granted for any Term or Terms of Years not exceeding Ninety-nine Years; and that all future Leases of the said Charity Estate, or any Part thereof, shall be granted in Possession, and not in Reversion, or by Way of future Interest; and that by every such Lease there shall be reserved and made payable, during the Continuance thereof respectively, the best and most improved yearly Rent that can be gotten or obtained for the Premises to be demised by such Leases respectively, without taking any Fine or Foregift in respect thereof.

Trustees, on Doubts or Difficulties, may apply by Petition to the Court of Chancery.

XV. And be it further enacted, That if any of the Provisions, Regulations, or Constitutions of this Act, or in and by the Schedule hereto annexed, prescribed, shall at any Time hereafter prove inconvenient, or impracticable to be carried into Execution, or if any Doubts, Disputes, or Difficulties shall arise touching the Application of the Rents, Issues, and Profits of the said Charity Estate, or touching the Construction of any of the Rules, Orders, and Directions prescribed, specified, and contained in the said Schedule hereunto annexed, or to be made by the Trustees of the said Charity, assembled at any General Meeting, or the major Part of them, in pursuance thereof, then, and in any of the said Cases, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Trustees for the Time being, or any Eight or more of them, to prefer a Petition or Petitions from Time to Time, as Occasion

Occasion may require, to the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, or the Lord Keeper, or the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of Great Britain, in that Behalf appointed; who is and are hereby authorized and directed to cause the same to be heard in a summary Way, and such Order or Orders as the Court of Chancery shall think fit to make therein, or upon the Hearing thereof, shall be observed and obeyed by, and be final and conclusive to, all Persons whomsoever; and the Costs and Expences to be incurred by every such Petition, shall be paid out of the Rents and Profits of the said Charity Estate.

The Attorney General, &c. in case of Misconduct in any of the Trustees, may apply to the Court of Chancery.

XVI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That in case any Trustee or Trustees shall, either whilst he or they continue to be, or after he or they shall have ceased to be, a Trustee or Trustees, misconduct himself or themselves in the Application of the Rents, Issues, and Profits of the said Charity Estates, or any Part thereof, or in the Management of the same, or in the not duly accounting for what shall come to his or their Hands, or in the Execution of any of the Trusts, Powers, and Authorities vested or to become vested in him or them by virtue of this Act, or shall misdemean himself or themselves in any Manner whatsoever relating to the said Charity, or the Estate thereof, then, and in any of the said Cases, it shall and may be lawful to and for His Majesty's Attorney General, and also any Person or Persons whomsoever, with the Consent of His Majesty's Attorney General, to prefer a Petition or Petitions from Time to Time as Occasion may require, to the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, or the Lord Keeper, or the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of Great Britain, in that Behalf appointed, against any such Trustee or Trustees, either whilst he or they shall continue to be, or after he or they shall have ceased to be, such Trustee or Trustees, and with or without making all or any other of the Trustees for the Time being, or any other Person or Persons who had been a Trustee or Trustees, Parties thereto, if the said Attorney General, or such Person or Persons, shall so think fit; and the said Lord Chancellor, or Lord Keeper, or Lords Commissioners, is and are hereby authorized and directed to cause the same to be heard in a summary Way, and shall have full Power to direct such Person or Persons, against whom such Petition or Petitions shall be preferred, to be examined in such Manner as shall be thought fit for the Discovery of the Truth of the Matter alledged against such Trustee or Trustees in such

Petition

Petition or Petitions; and such Order or Orders as the Court of Chancery shall think fit to make therein, or upon the Hearing thereof, shall be observed and obeyed by such Person or Persons against whom such Petition or Petitions shall be preferred, and be final and conclusive to all Persons whomsoever, and the same shall and may be enforced by such Process as any other Order or Orders of the said Court; and the Costs and Expences to be incurred by every such Petition or Application shall be paid in such Manner, by such Party or Parties, and out of such Fund as the said Court shall direct: Provided that (any Thing herein contained notwithstanding) the Trustees appointed or to be appointed under this Act, their Heirs, Executors, or Administrators, shall also be liable to be sued by Action, Bill, Information, and otherwise, as any other Trustee or Trustees for charitable Purposes are liable to be sued in Law or Equity.

The Monument and Statue of Sir *William* and Lady *Hartut* to be kept in Repair.

XVII. And be it further enacted, That the Monument and Statue herein-before mentioned, shall from Time to Time, for ever hereafter, be upheld, supported, maintained, and kept in good and sufficient Order and Repair, by and out of the Rents, Issues, and Profits of the said Charity Estate, in such Manner as to the Trustees of the said Charity for the Time being assembled, at a General Meeting, or the major Part of them, shall seem meet, proper, and expedient.

This Act not to vacate any Agreement heretofore made.

XVIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That this present Act, or any Clause, Article, Matter, or Thing herein contained, shall not extend to vacate, annul, or make void any Lease, Agreement, Contract, Payment, or any other Act, Deed, Matter, or Thing whatsoever, already made, executed, done, or performed, or any Lease, Agreement, Contract, Payment, or any other Act, Deed, Matter, or Thing whatsoever, which before the passing of this Act shall have been made, executed, done, or performed, in pursuance of, and Conformity to the Directions of the said Act of the Fourth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty.

This Act not to operate as an Indemnity.

XIX. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That this present Act, or any Clause, Article Matter, or Thing herein contained, shall not extend, or be construed to extend, to be an Indemnity to the Trustees appointed or constituted under or by virtue of the said recited Act, for any Act, Matter, or Thing done by such Trustees previous to the passing of this Act.

Publick Act.

XX. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be deemed, adjudged, and taken to be a publick Act, and

shall be judicially taken Notice of as such, by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons whomsoever, without specially pleading the same.

Saving. XXI. Saving always to the King's most Excellent Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, all such Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Claim, and Demand, of, in, to, or out of the Messuages, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments by this Act vested in the Trustees of the said Charity as aforesaid, or any Part thereof, as he or they had before the passing of this Act, or could or might have had in case this Act had not been made.

The

The SCHEDULE,

TO WHICH THE FOREGOING ACT REFERS:

Containing RULES, ORDERS, and DIRECTIONS; for the Government and Management of the Charity, founded in the Town and Borough of *Bedford*, in the County of *Bedford*, purſuant to Letters Patent granted by His late Majeſty King *Edward* the Sixth, and the Grant of Sir *William Harpur*, and Dame *Alice*, his Wife, and of the Diſpoſition and Application of the Fund, given and provided by the ſame Grant, for the Charitable Purpoſes therein and herein-after mentioned.

FIRST.

First Meeting of the Truſtees.

That a General Meeting of the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity ſhall be held on the Second Day next after the Election of the ſaid Eighteen Truſtees, as in the ſaid Act mentioned, and a like General Meeting of the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, for the Time being, ſhall be held on the Firſt *Wedneſday* in the Four ſeveral Months of *July*, *October*, *January*, and *April*, in every Year for ever thereafter; and that like General Meetings ſhall be held oftener, if Occaſion ſhall require, upon Notice thereof being given, by the Order of any Six or more of the ſaid Truſtees, by cauſing ſuch Notice to be publiſhed on a *Sunday*, immediately after the Morning Service, in each of the Pariſh Churches in the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, Fourteen Days at the leaſt before the Time appointed for every ſuch Meeting; and that any Thirteen or more of the ſaid Truſtees for the Time being, aſſembled at any ſuch Meeting as aforeſaid, but not leſs, ſhall be competent to proceed to any Buſineſs relating to the ſaid Charity; and at the Firſt Meeting to be called as aforeſaid, the Truſtees then preſent, or the Majority of them, ſhall chooſe an Honorary Preſident, who ſhall be One of the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, and ſhall continue in that Office during his Life, or during ſo long Time thereof as he ſhall think proper; and after

after the Death of ſuch Preſident, or his Refuſal to continue in that Office, another Preſident ſhall in like Manner be choſen in his Place, at the Meeting of the ſaid Truſtees to be held next after his Death, or Refuſal to act as Preſident as aforeſaid; and in like Manner a new Preſident ſhall be choſen on every ſimilar Event; and each ſuch Preſident ſhall Annually appoint a Vice Preſident, who ſhall be an Inhabitant of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, and One of the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity.

SECOND.

Arrears of Salaries, and other Debts, to be firſt paid by the Truſtees.

That the Arrears of the Salaries, and other reaſonable Demands of the ſeveral Maſters and Uſhers of the ſaid Grammar School and Writing School, the Receiver of the Rents of the ſaid Truſt Eſtate and Premiſes, and all other Perſons, who have been, or ſhall be employed in and about the ſaid Charity, and all other Debts due and owing from or on Account of the ſaid Charity, ſhall be paid and ſatisfied out of the Money now in the Hands of the ſaid Receiver, or any other Perſon belonging to the ſaid Charity, or out of the future Rents and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate; and the Truſtees aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting or Meetings as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them ſo aſſembled, are hereby authorized to make Orders for the Payment thereof, as they ſhall judge proper.

THIRD.

Schoolmaſter to reſide in the School Houſe, and inſtruct the Children of the Town of *Bedford*.

That the Meſſuage or Tenement, built by the ſaid Sir *William Harpur*, called *The Schoolmaſter's Houſe*, in the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, ſhall be the Place of Reſidence of the Maſter of the ſaid Grammar School, for the Time being; and that the ſaid School ſhall be the Place in which all the Children of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, or ſo many of them as ſhall reſort thereto for their Education, ſhall from Time to Time be educated and inſtructed in Grammar, Reading, Writing, and other uſeful Learning, and good Manners, in ſuch Manner as the Warden and Fellows of *New College* in *Oxford*, the Viſitors of the ſaid Grammar School, appointed by the aforeſaid Letters Patent, and the Truſtees for the Time being of the ſaid Charity, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them ſo aſſembled, ſhall order and direct.

FOURTH.

That the ſeveral Houſes and Buildings which have been erected, and are now appropriated for the Habitation of the Maſter, Uſher, and Writing Maſter of the ſaid Free School, and their reſpective Families, ſhall, from Time to Time, for ever hereafter, be ſupported, upheld, maintained, rebuilt, and kept in good and ſufficient Order and Repair, by and out of the Rents and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, in ſuch Manner as to the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, ſhall ſeem meet, proper, and expedient, and as they ſhall from Time to Time order and direct; and that the ſaid Maſter, Uſher, and Writing Maſter, be reſpectively provided, out of the ſaid Rents and Profits, with Coals and Candles, ſufficient for the Uſe of themſelves and their reſpective Families.

The School Houſe and Buildings to be kept in Repair.

FIFTH.

That the preſent Maſter and Uſher of the ſaid Grammar School, and alſo the preſent Writing Maſter and his Aſſiſtant, ſhall be continued in their reſpective Offices until they ſhall reſpectively die, or reſign, or be removed; and that the Maſter and Uſher of the ſaid Grammar School, for the Time being, ſhall always be Fellows of *New College* aforeſaid, or Clergymen of the Church of *England*, properly qualified to teach the *Latin* and *Greek* Languages, and ſhall ſeverally be enabled to hold any Eccleſiaſtical Benefice or Benefices, during ſo long Time as they reſpectively ſhall continue Maſter or Uſher of the ſaid School, and reſide at the Houſes appointed for their reſpective Reſidencies as aforeſaid, and attend the ſaid School; and that they ſhall be reſpectively nominated and appointed, from Time to Time, upon every Vacancy, by the Warden and Fellows of *New College* aforeſaid, within the Space of Three Calendar Months next after Notice in Writing ſhall have been given to them of ſuch Vacancy by the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, or their Clerk for the Time being; and in caſe the Maſter and Uſher ſo to be nominated, or either of them, ſhall neglect or refuſe to take upon them or him, and execute, the Office or Employment to which they or he ſhall be ſo appointed as aforeſaid, within the Space of Three Weeks next after ſuch Appointment, then, and in ſuch Caſe, the Party ſo nominated and appointed ſhall and may be removed by the ſaid Truſtees, aſſembled

Qualification of Maſters, and how to be appointed.

aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them; and the Warden and Fellows of *New College* aforeſaid, on Notice being given to them as aforeſaid, ſhall, within Three Calendar Months after ſuch Notice, nominate ſome other Perſon or Perſons, qualified as aforeſaid, to be Maſter or Uſher of the ſaid School; and that if the ſaid Warden and Fellows ſhall at any Time hereafter refuſe or neglect to nominate and appoint a Maſter or Uſher of the ſaid School, within the Space of Three Calendar Months next after ſuch Notice ſhall have been given to them of any ſuch Vacancy or Removal as aforeſaid, then, and in every ſuch Caſe, the ſaid Truſtees, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, ſhall and may nominate and appoint a proper Maſter or Uſher, in ſuch and the ſame Manner as the ſaid Warden and Fellows might have done, and every ſuch Nomination and Appointment ſhall be binding and concluſive for each ſuch Time and Turn only; and that the ſaid Wardens and Fellows of *New College*, ſhall at all Times hereafter have the Power of removing the preſent Maſter and Uſher, or any future Maſter and Uſher of the ſaid School, or either of them, for juſt and reaſonable Cauſes, and of appointing another or others in his or their Stead; and that a Writing Maſter, properly qualified to teach Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, as well as One or more Aſſiſtant or Aſſiſtants to ſuch Writing Maſter, ſhall from Time to Time, as often as Occaſion ſhall require, be appointed by the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, and the Truſtees ſo aſſembled, or the major Part of them, ſhall at all Times be at Liberty to diſmiſs or remove any ſuch Writing Maſter or Aſſiſtant for juſt and reaſonable Cauſes.

SIXTH.

Salary to Maſters, Uſher, and Aſſiſtants.

That there ſhall be allowed and paid, out of the Rents and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, unto the ſaid Maſter, Uſher, Writing Maſter, and Aſſiſtants for the Time being, ſuch yearly Salaries as herein-after are mentioned; (that is to ſay), To the Maſter of the ſaid Grammar School the yearly Sum of Two hundred Pounds, and as many additional yearly Sums of Three Pounds as will be equal to the Number of Boys who ſhall be educated at the ſaid School in each Year, provided ſuch additional Sums do not amount to more than the Sum of Sixty Pounds in any

any One Year: To the Uſher for the Time being of the ſaid School, the yearly Sum of One hundred Pounds, and ſuch additional yearly Sum as will be equal to the additional yearly Sum to be paid to the Maſter of the ſaid School as aforeſaid: To the Writing Maſter of the ſaid School, the yearly Sum of Eighty Pounds; and to each Aſſiſtant to be employed in the ſaid School, any yearly Sum not exceeding the Sum of Forty Pounds: Which ſaid ſeveral yearly Sums ſhall be paid by half-yearly Payments, on the Twenty-fifth Day of *March* and the Twenty-ninth Day of *September* in every Year, for ever hereafter, clear of Deductions; and a proportionable Part of ſuch Salaries reſpectively ſhall be paid to the Executors, Adminiſtrators, or Aſſigns of ſuch Maſters, Uſher, and Aſſiſtants reſpectively, up to the Days of their reſpective Deaths, for and in reſpect of the incurring Half Year wherein they may reſpectively happen to die; but their preſent Salaries only ſhall be payable up to the Twenty-fifth Day of *March* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-three, from which Time their Salaries hereby provided ſhall become payable.

SEVENTH.

The Duty of Maſters, Uſher, and Aſſiſtants.

That all the Children of Inhabitants of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, who ſhall have been born and reſident in the ſaid Town, or the Precincts thereof, and who ſhall come to the ſaid School to be educated, ſhall be taught and inſtructed by the ſaid Maſter and Uſher, Writing Maſter, and Aſſiſtants, for the Time being, in ſuch Manner as the ſaid Maſter and Uſher, Writing Maſter, and Aſſiſtants, reſpectively, with the Approbation of the Truſtees, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them ſo aſſembled, ſhall think proper, without any Fee, Reward, or Gratuity whatſoever; and alſo that the Children of all Perſons being Pariſhioners of, or whoſe Place of Settlement ſhall be in either of the Pariſhes in the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, ſhall in like Manner be taught and inſtructed, during the Time that ſuch Perſons ſhall reſpectively occupy an Houſe or Houſes in the ſaid Town, notwithſtanding their Children were not born in the ſaid Town; and that the ſaid Maſter and Uſher, Writing Maſter, and Aſſiſtants, ſhall at all Times reſide and live in the Houſes provided for them reſpectively; but no Boy ſhall be admitted into the ſaid School, for the Firſt Time, who ſhall have attained the Age of Fourteen Years.

EIGHTH.

EIGHTH.

Books, Pens, Paper, &c. to be provided.

That all printed and other Books, Pens, Papers, Slates, Coals, Candles, and other Conveniences proper and neceſſary to be provided for the Uſe of the ſaid School Rooms, and the Boys to be therein educated and inſtructed, ſhall from Time to Time be found and provided by the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, and the Coſts, Charges, and Expences of providing the ſame ſhall be yearly or oftener paid and diſcharged out of the Rents, Iſſues, and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, at ſuch Times and in ſuch Manner as the ſaid Truſtees aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, ſhall order and direct: And the Room to be appropriated for teaching *Engliſh*, Writing, and Arithmetic, ſhall be ſeparate and apart from the other Room or Rooms, wherein the learned Languages ſhall be taught.

NINTH.

New College, Oxford, to appoint Viſitors.

That the Warden and Fellows of *New College*, in *Oxford*, who are appointed Viſitors of the ſaid Free Grammar School by the aforeſaid Letters Patent, ſhall, on the Firſt *Thurſday* in the Month of *May*, which will be in the Year of our Lord One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-four, and on the Firſt *Thurſday* in the Month of *May* in every ſucceeding Year, for ever, depute and ſend Two ſufficient Viſitors to the ſaid Grammar School, who ſhall then and there, in a publick Manner, examine the Boys in their Learning, and who ſhall as Viſitors examine into the Conduct of the Maſter and Uſher of the ſaid School, and alſo into all Faults and Neglects reſpecting the ſame School, and make a Report thereof to the ſaid Warden and Fellows; and that each ſuch Viſitor ſhall be paid, out of the Rents and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, the Expences of his Journey, which ſhall be allowed by the Truſtees for the Time being of the ſaid Charity who ſhall be preſent at their General Meeting next after every ſuch Viſitation, or by a Majority of them.

TENTH.

Exhibitions granted.

That, from and after the Twenty-fifth Day of *April* in the ſaid Year One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-four, the

the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity for the Time being ſhall, from Time to Time, for ever, grant Exhibitions of Forty Pounds *per Annum* to each of ſuch of the Scholars going from the ſaid Grammar School to either of the Univerſities of *Oxford* or *Cambridge*, as the Viſitors to be ſent by the Warden and Fellows of *New College* aforeſaid, and the Head Maſter for the Time being of the ſaid School, or the Majority of them, ſhall, after due Examination by ſuch Viſitors, deem moſt worthy of Preference, but ſo as that there ſhall not be more than Three Scholars receiving Exhibitions at any One Time; and that no Scholar ſhall hold ſuch Exhibition more than Once, or for a longer Term than Six Years; and only ſuch Scholars ſhall hold or receive ſuch Exhibitions, who ſhall have been at the ſaid School during Four Years in the Whole; and each ſuch Exhibitioner ſhall reſide in the Univerſity to which he ſhall belong Seven Months in every Year during the Time he ſhall hold his Exhibition, ſuch Reſidence being to commence on the Day of his becoming a Member of the Univerſity to which he ſhall be ſent; and ſhall Once in every ſuch Year procure and cauſe to be ſhewn to the ſaid Truſtees for the Time being, at One of their General Meetings, a Certificate from the Principal and One of the Tutors of his College, that he has ſo reſided as aforeſaid, and that he has been attentive to his Studies, and moral and exemplary in his Conduct; and if any ſuch Scholar ſhall refuſe or neglect to preſent, or ſhall not be able, from his Miſconduct, to procure ſuch Certificate as aforeſaid, his Exhibition ſhall ceaſe and be diſcontinued from the Time of the laſt preceding Payment thereof, in ſuch and the ſame Manner as if he had then held or received it for the Term of Six Years; but this Clauſe ſhall not, before the Twenty-fifth Day of *April*, which will be in the Year of our Lord One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-ſix, prevent any ſuch Exhibition or Exhibitions being given in the mean Time to any Boy or Boys who may have been admitted into the ſaid School before the Age of Fourteen Years, and ſince removed to any other School or Schools, if, after ſuch Examination as aforeſaid, he or they ſhall be deemed by the ſaid Viſitors and Head Maſter, or a Majority of them, ſufficiently qualified to be ſent to either of the ſaid Univerſities, although ſuch Boy or Boys ſhall not have been Four Years at the ſaid School.

ELEVENTH.

That there ſhall be applied and diſtributed, yearly and every Year, out of the Rents, Iſſues, and Profits of the ſaid

800 *l.* to be diſtributed for the Marriage Portions of poor Maids.

ſaid Charity Eſtate, the Sum of Eight hundred Pounds for the Marriage Portions of Forty poor Maids of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, of good Fame and Reputation, in equal Shares, at the Times and in the Manner herein-after directed; and for that Purpoſe the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, for the Time being, ſhall, Four Times in every Year, give Three Weeks publick Notice in the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, that they propoſe and intend to meet in the Town Hall aforeſaid, to conſider of poor Maidens to whom Portions ſhall be given on their reſpective Marriages; and all poor Maidens, reſident in the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, and being of the Age of Sixteen Years, or upwards, and under the Age of Fifty Years, and deſirous of being Candidates for ſuch Portions, (whoſe Fathers, not being certificated Perſons from Pariſhes out of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, ſhall either have been Occupiers of One or more Houſe or Houſes in the ſaid Town, for the Space of Ten Years next preceding their becoming Candidates for ſuch Portions, or ſhall have been born in the ſaid Town, and ſhall have been Occupiers of One or more Houſe or Houſes therein for the Space of Three Years next preceding their becoming Candidates) ſhall and may be at Liberty to ſend to the Mayor of the ſaid Town, or to the Churchwardens of the Pariſh wherein they ſhall then reſpectively reſide, an Account in Writing of their Chriſtian and Surnames, their Ages, the Places of their Births, and the Names of their Parents; and that all ſuch poor Maidens, not being of bad Fame and Reputation, who ſhall have given in ſuch Account as aforeſaid, One Week at the leaſt before the ſeveral Times after mentioned, ſhall be permitted to draw Lots, on the *Monday* next after *Eaſter Day*, on the Second *Monday* after *Midſummer Day*, on the Second *Monday* after *Michaelmas Day*, and on the *Monday* next after *Chriſtmas Day*, in every Year, for Ten Sums of Twenty Pounds each, on every of the ſame Days; the Firſt Drawing of ſuch Lots to be on the Second *Monday* after *Michaelmas Day*, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-three: And that each of the Ten poor Maidens ſo qualified as aforeſaid, who ſhall draw the Ten beneficial Lots, on each of the ſaid ſeveral Days, ſhall be entitled to receive, upon the Day of her Marriage, the Sum of Twenty Pounds for her Portion, provided ſhe ſhall marry within the Space of Two Calendar Months from the Time of drawing ſuch beneficial Lot, and provided ſhe ſhall not marry a Vagrant, or other Perſon of bad Fame or Reputation, but not otherwiſe.

TWELFTH.

TWELFTH.

That poor Maidens of the Age mentioned in the preceding Order, and being Daughters of Perſons of the Deſcriptions mentioned in the ſame Order, who ſhall have gone Apprentices or to Service out of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, and thereby gained Settlements in their own Rights, ſhall be at Liberty and have a Right to become Candidates for ſuch Marriage Portions as aforeſaid, in the ſame Manner as if they had been reſident in the ſaid Town; and that all ſuch poor Maidens as ſhall not draw beneficial Lots at one Time, ſhall (if not married in the Interim) be admitted to draw Lots again at any future Time.

Poor Maidens apprenticed out of the Town, &c. may be Candidates for the Marriage Portions.

THIRTEENTH.

That the ſeveral poor Maidens qualified in the Manner mentioned in the Two preceding Orders, who ſhall have been admitted to draw Lots for Marriage Portions as aforeſaid, and ſhall not have drawn beneficial Lots, ſhall at the next Meeting of the Truſtees, for the Purpoſe of giving Portions to poor Maidens, be entitled, if then married, to the like Sums of Twenty Pounds each for their reſpective Portions, in Preference to any other poor Maidens who ſhall then be Candidates for ſuch Portions, provided they ſhall not have married Vagrants, or other Perſons of bad Fame or Reputation.

700 *l.* to be applied yearly for apprenticing poor Children.

FOURTEENTH.

That if any Part of the ſaid yearly Sum of Eight hundred Pounds, for the Marriage of poor Maidens as aforeſaid, ſhall, upon the Second *Monday* after *Michaelmas Day* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-three, or on the Second *Monday* after *Michaelmas Day*, which will be in the Year of our Lord One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-four, remain unapplied for that Purpoſe, then ſuch Reſidue ſhall, on the Firſt *Monday* in the Month of *December* in the ſame Years, be paid and diſtributed equally unto and amongſt ſuch poor Maid Servants (if any) not being of bad Fame or Reputation, then reſident in the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, as ſhall have been in Service in the ſaid Town for the Space of Five ſucceſſive Years, and ſhall have been married within One Year before ſuch Diſtribution ſhall be made, and ſhall produce Certificates from their reſpective Maſters or Miſtreſſes of their Service and good Behaviour;

Poor Maidens, not portioned on the Firſt Election, to have the Preference on the Second.

Behaviour; ſo as the Sum to be paid to each poor Maid Servant do not exceed the Sum of Twenty Pounds.

FIFTEENTH.

The Hoſpital to be kept in Repair, and poor Boys and Girls to be nouriſhed, clothed, &c. till of Age to be placed out Apprentice.

That the Houſe or Hoſpital which hath been already erected and built for the Habitation of poor Boys and Girls, born and reſident within the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, who are proper Objects of Charity, together with the Offices and Outbuildings thereto belonging, ſhall from Time to Time, for ever hereafter, be upheld, maintained, ſupported, and kept in good and ſufficient Order and Repair, and that ſo many of ſuch poor Boys and Girls ſhall be taken into the ſaid Houſe, Monthly or oftener, as the ſaid Truſtees of the ſaid Charity for the Time being, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them ſo aſſembled, ſhall from Time to Time think proper; which ſaid Boys and Girls ſhall be provided with ſuch proper and ſuitable Nouriſhment, Bedding, Clothes, Linen, and other Neceſſaries, and with proper Nurſes and other Aſſiſtants to take care of them, until they are of a proper Age to be placed or put out to Trade, Agriculture, or other Buſineſs, in the Manner herein-after mentioned, and in the mean Time ſhall be employed and kept to Work, in framing, knitting, and ſpinning Wool, or in any other Branch of Manufacture, in ſuch Manner as the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, ſhall from Time to Time order, direct, and appoint; and that the Expences of keeping the ſaid Houſe, with the Offices and Outbuildings thereto belonging, in Repair, and the Wages of Nurſes and other Perſons neceſſary and proper to be employed for the Purpoſes mentioned in this Order, and alſo the Expences of laying in Proviſions, Furniture, Clothes, Linen, and other Neceſſaries, and of finding and providing Wool and other Commodities for keeping the ſaid Boys and Girls to work as aforeſaid, ſhall be regulated and paid, and ſatisfied by and out of the Rents, Iſſues, and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, in ſuch Manner as the Truſtees aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, ſhall from Time to Time order and direct, ſo as the ſame do not exceed the yearly Sum of Three hundred Pounds, excluſive of Taxes and Expences of Repairs; and that there ſhall be at leaſt Twenty-ſix Children in the Hoſpital.

SIX-

SIXTEENTH.

That the Sum of Seven hundred Pounds, further Part of the Rents, Iſſues, and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, ſhall yearly and every Year, for ever, by Two half-yearly Sums of Three hundred and fifty Pounds, be applied and diſpoſed of in and for the placing out Twenty poor Children Apprentices every Half Year, *viz.* Fifteen Boys, not being under the Age of Thirteen, nor above the Age of Fifteen Years, and Five Girls, not being under the Age of Twelve, nor above the Age of Fifteen Years, whoſe reſpective Fathers, not being certificated Perſons from Pariſhes out of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, ſhall either have actually been Occupiers of One or more Houſe or Houſes in the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, for the Space of Ten Years next preceding their Children being ſo apprenticed, or have been born in the ſaid Town, and been Occupiers of One or more Houſe or Houſes therein, for the Space of Three Years then next preceding; and that all ſuch poor Boys and Girls, reſpectively qualified as aforeſaid, whoſe Names ſhall have been given in, either to the Mayor of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, or to the Churchwardens for the Time being of the Pariſh in which their Fathers ſhall reſpectively reſide, One Calendar Month before the reſpective Times of drawing Lots after mentioned, ſhall be permitted to draw Lots on the Second *Tueſday* after *Michaelmas Day*, and the Second *Tueſday* after *Lady Day*, in every Year, the Firſt Drawing of ſuch Lots to be on the Second *Tueſday* after *Michaelmas Day* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-three; and that the Sum of Twenty Pounds ſhall be paid as the Apprentice Fee with each of the Fifteen Boys, and that Ten Pounds ſhall be paid as the Apprentice Fee with each of the Five Girls who ſhall, on the ſeveral Days aforeſaid, draw the beneficial Lots, upon their being reſpectively put or placed out Apprentices, within the Space of Two Calendar Months after they ſhall have drawn ſuch beneficial Lots, to Maſters and Miſtreſſes of good Character and Reſponſibility, to be approved of by the ſaid Truſtees aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them; and that the Boys ſhall be bound for the Space of Seven Years, and the Girls for the Space of Five Years; and that the Girls ſhall be apprenticed to ſuch Trades or Occupations only as Women uſually follow, (Lacemaking excepted); and if, upon any of the aforeſaid Days appointed for drawing Lots, the full Number of Fifteen Boys qualified as aforeſaid, ſhall not become Candidates, then, and ſo often as the ſame ſhall happen, an additional Number of beneficial

Lots ſhall be drawn for by the Girls who ſhall offer themſelves as Candidates, ſo that Twenty beneficial Lots may be drawn for every Half Year; and that the ſeveral Indentures by which ſuch Children as aforeſaid ſhall be bound Apprentices, ſhall be freed from the Stamp Duty, in the ſame Manner as all Indentures of Apprenticeſhip now are, by the Laws already in being, where Apprentices are put out by Charity.

SEVENTEENTH.

If Children die, or are not put out in Six Months, Money to be applied for others.

That in caſe any of the poor Children who ſhall draw ſuch beneficial Lots as aforeſaid, ſhall die, or ſhall be otherwiſe diſpoſed of, or ſhall not be put out Apprentice within the Space of Six Calendar Months from the Time of his, her, or their drawing ſuch beneficial Lots reſpectively, (unleſs the ſame ſhall happen by Default of the Truſtees, or be prevented by ſome inevitable Accident), the Money intended for ſuch Child or Children reſpectively ſhall be drawn for again, at ſome One or other of the ſubſequent Days appointed for drawing Lots, and be applied for the Benefit of ſuch Child or Children as ſhall become entitled thereto by drawing a beneficial Lot.

EIGHTEENTH.

Thoſe Children, who have not drawn beneficial Lots, to have the Preference at next Meeting.

That ſuch of the poor Boys qualified as aforeſaid, who ſhall, upon any of the ſaid Days mentioned in the Sixteenth Order, have drawn the unſucceſsful Lots, ſhall have the Preference at the next ſucceeding Day or Days appointed for drawing Lots for the apprenticing Money, and ſhall be entitled to the Sum of Twenty Pounds, to be paid upon their being reſpectively put out Apprentice, in Preference to thoſe Boys who ſhall afterwards apply.

NINETEENTH.

Children, when out of their Apprenticeſhip, to receive a Benefaction.

That every Boy and Girl ſo put out Apprentice as aforeſaid, who ſhall actually ſerve the full Term of his and her Apprenticeſhip, and in all Reſpects comply with the Tenor of his and her reſpective Indentures of Apprenticeſhip, ſhall, on producing to the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, within Three Calendar Months after the Expiration of their reſpective Apprenticeſhip, a Certificate, ſigned by their reſpective Maſters or Miſtreſſes, and by the Miniſter and Churchwardens of the

Pariſh

Pariſh where they ſhall have reſpectively ſerved their Apprenticeſhip, teſtifying ſuch actual Service and Compliance with the Tenor of their Indentures, as well as their good Morals and Behaviour reſpectively, or on producing ſuch other Proof thereof as the ſaid Truſtees ſo aſſembled, or the major Part of them, ſhall require, but not otherwiſe, be entitled to receive ſuch Sum of Money, not exceeding Twenty Pounds, nor leſs than Ten Pounds, each, as the ſaid Truſtees ſo aſſembled, or the major Part of them, ſhall judge proper and expedient, and ſuch Truſtees, or the major Part of them, ſhall and may direct the Payment thereof accordingly.

TWENTIETH.

A Month's Notice to be given before Contracts made.

That no Contract or Agreement ſhall be made or entered into by the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, aſſembled at any Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, with any Perſon or Perſons whomſoever, for the erecting, making, or repairing any Buildings, or for any Materials, Furniture, or other Things neceſſary for compleating and finiſhing the ſame, unleſs One Calendar Month's Notice ſhall have been previouſly given, in each of the Pariſh Churches in the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, upon a *Sunday*, immediately after Morning Service, of the Intention of the Truſtees to enter into ſuch Contract or Agreement; and that no ſuch Contract ſhall be entered into with any Perſon being a Truſtee of the ſaid Charity; but this Order ſhall not extend to ſuch Perſons as ſhall ſupply or have ſupplied the ſaid Charity with Articles of Food or Raiment in the uſual Manner, nor to Expences or Bills for ordinary Repairs.

TWENTY-FIRST.

Matrons, &c. to be elected by the Truſtees, who have Power to ſettle their Salaries, &c. and to remove them for their Miſbehaviour.

That all Matrons, Servants, and other Officers, Perſons, and Attendants, proper and neceſſary to be employed in and about the ſaid Houſe or Hoſpital ſo already erected, for the Care and Nouriſhment of poor Children as aforeſaid, ſhall from Time to Time be nominated, elected, and appointed by the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, when and as often, and with ſuch Fees yearly or other Salaries and Allowances, as to them the ſame Truſtees, or the major Part of them, ſhall ſeem proper and expedient; and ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo to be nominated and appointed, ſhall be liable to be removed and diſcharged from their reſpective Offices

Offices or Employments, by the Truſtees ſo aſſembled, or the major Part of them, for any ill Conduct or Miſbehaviour.

TWENTY-SECOND.

If too much expended in One Year, the Expence to be leſſened the next.

That if at any Time hereafter it ſhall appear, on the making up and ſettling the Annual Accounts of the ſaid Charity Eſtate and Charity, that the Monies iſſued and applied, or directed to be iſſued and applied, ſhall in any One Year have exceeded the clear Profits and Produce of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, then, and ſo often as the ſame ſhall happen, ſuch Exceſs ſhall be reimburſed, paid, and ſatisfied out of the Firſt Monies which ſhall be received from the ſaid Charity Eſtate; and the ſaid Truſtees for the Time being ſhall leſſen, decreaſe, vary, and alter the next ſucceeding yearly Payments and Expenditure, ſo and in ſuch Manner as that the ſame ſhall not exceed the yearly Income and Produce of the ſaid Charity Eſtate.

TWENTY-THIRD.

The preſent Receiver and Clerk continued till they die, reſign, or are removed, &c.

That *John Heaven*, the preſent Receiver of the Rents and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, and *Edward Chapman*, the preſent Clerk to the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, ſhall continue to be ſuch Receiver and Clerk reſpectively, with their reſpective preſent Salaries or Allowances, until they ſhall reſpectively die or reſign; and that they or either of them ſhall not be removed from their reſpective Offices, but for ill Conduct or Miſbehaviour; and that after the Death or Removal of ſuch Receiver or Clerk reſpectively, or of any future Receiver or Clerk to be appointed as herein-after is mentioned, the ſaid Truſtees aſſembled at any ſuch Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, ſhall and may, from Time to Time, nominate and appoint ſome other fit and proper Perſon or Perſons to be Receiver or Clerk, with the like Salary or Salaries; and that every future Receiver and Clerk ſhall be appointed for Life, and ſhall not be removed but for ill Conduct and Miſbehaviour; and that the Truſtees aſſembled at any ſuch Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, ſhall and may, at any Time or Times hereafter, nominate and appoint any fit and proper Perſon and Perſons to be Surveyor or Surveyors of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, with ſuch Salary or Salaries or other Allowance for his or their Trouble and Care therein, as to the ſaid Truſtees ſo aſſembled, or the major Part of them, ſhall ſeem proper and neceſſary; and ſhall and

may remove and displace the Person or Persons so to be appointed Surveyor or Surveyors, and appoint others in their respective Places and Stead, from Time to Time, as often as Occasion shall require; and that every future Receiver shall give Security, by Recognizance or Statute Staple, with Two Sureties, (by which they shall be respectively bound in the Penalty of Five thousand Pounds; and every such Receiver and Surety shall severally swear themselves to be worth that Sum), for his and their due accounting for the Rents and Profits of the said Charity Estate.

TWENTY-FOURTH.

The Receiver to reside within Two Miles of the Charity Estate, and deliver his Accounts regularly to the Trustees, whose Settlement shall be final.

That, in order that the said *John Heaven*, and all future Receivers of the Rents and Profits of the said Charity Estate hereafter to be nominated and appointed as aforesaid, may the better attend to and look after the Repairs necessary to be done to the said Charity Estate, and receive the Rents and Profits thereof, he the said *John Heaven*, and such future Receivers respectively, shall live and reside on some Part of the said Charity Estate, or within the Distance of Two Miles from the same; and the present and future Receivers shall attend the Business of the said Charity, at the Town of *Bedford*, from Time to Time, and at such Times as the Trustees for the Time being, assembled at any such General Meeting as aforesaid, or the major Part of them, shall from Time to Time direct or appoint; and shall, on the First Day of *November* One thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, and on the First Day of *November* in every succeeding Year, for ever, unless the same shall happen on a *Sunday*, and in that Case on the following Day, make up and deliver in all Accounts of Receipts, Payments, and Applications of the Rents and Profits of the said Charity Estate, and of the Nature, Circumstances, and Situation thereof, down to the *Midsummer Day* then next preceding, which Accounts shall be laid before the Trustees of the said Charity, at their several Meetings, for their Inspection; and the same Accounts shall Once in every Year, or oftener, if there shall be Occasion, be settled, approved, allowed of, and signed by the Trustees assembled at some such General Meeting as aforesaid, or the major Part of them, in such Manner as they shall think proper, and the same, when so allowed and signed, shall be binding and conclusive to all Trustees of the said Charity, and their Successors, and the said Accountant or Receiver, and all Persons whomsoever, and shall be a sufficient Discharge to the Persons making up

up and delivering in ſuch Accounts from Time to Time accordingly; and ſuch Accounts ſhall not be liable to be opened, or afterwards ſet aſide, on any Pretence whatſoever, unleſs it can plainly be made appear, that there is an Error in ſuch Accounts to the Amount of One hundred Pounds or upwards.

TWENTY-FIFTH.

Accounts and Proceedings to be publiſhed yearly.

That all Accounts of the Receipts, Payments, and Application of the Rents, Iſſues, and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, ſhall Once in every Year be printed and publiſhed, at the Expence of the ſaid Charity, One Calendar Month at leaſt before the Time appointed for paſſing the Receiver's Accounts, and be delivered to all the Inhabitants for the Time being of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, paying Scot and Lot, who ſhall apply for the ſame to the Clerk to the ſaid Truſtees for the Time being; and that One Calendar Month's previous Notice ſhall be given, in each of the Pariſh Churches in the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, of the Day on which the Receiver's Accounts ſhall be intended to be paſſed.

TWENTY-SIXTH.

All publick Meetings ſhall be had, and all Books and Papers kept, in One of the Buildings belonging to the Charity.

That all publick Meetings of the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity ſhall be held in One of the Rooms to be appropriated and kept for that Purpoſe in One of the Buildings belonging to the ſaid Charity, where proper Conveniencies ſhall be made for keeping and depoſiting the Common Seal of the ſaid Truſtees, and all Books of Accounts, and other Papers of or in anywiſe belonging to the ſaid Charity; and the ſame ſhall be depoſited under Three proper Locks and Keys; One Key whereof ſhall be kept by the Mayor of the ſaid Town of *Bedford* for the Time being, another by the Churchwardens of the Pariſh of *Saint Paul*, in the ſaid Town, for the Time being, and the other by a proper Perſon to be nominated and appointed by the Truſtees aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, or by the Clerk to the ſaid Truſtees for the Time being; and no Perſon or Perſons (except the Truſtees and their Clerk) ſhall be permitted to peruſe and inſpect the ſame Books, Accounts, and Papers, or any of them, without an Order in Writing under the Hand of ſome One or more of the ſaid Truſtees for that Purpoſe firſt had and obtained.

TWENTY-

TWENTY-SEVENTH.

That whenever there ſhall be Occaſion to let any of the Houſes or Lands belonging to the ſaid Charity, ſituate in the County of *Middleſex*, either to Tenants at Will, or upon any Leaſe or Leaſes, a ſkilful Surveyor, to be nominated by the ſaid Truſtees for the Time being, at any Meeting to be held as aforeſaid, or a Majority of them, ſhall be employed at the Expence of the ſaid Charity, to ſurvey the Premiſes ſo to be let as aforeſaid, who ſhall make a proper Eſtimate in Writing of the Value thereof, and every ſuch Eſtimate or Valuation ſhall be delivered to the Truſtees at their General Meeting next after every ſuch Eſtimate or Valuation ſhall have been made; and immediately afterwards proper Advertiſements ſhall be publiſhed in Five Daily and Five Evening *London* Newſpapers, Once in Four ſucceſſive Weeks at leaſt, for letting ſuch Premiſes reſpectively; by which Advertiſements reſpectively it ſhall be directed or made known that each Houſe will be let ſeparately, and that ſuch Perſons as may be minded to become Tenants of the Premiſes ſo to be let as aforeſaid, or any Part thereof, ſhall, on or before a certain Day to be appointed and mentioned in ſuch Advertiſements reſpectively for that Purpoſe, ſend to the Receiver for the Time being of the Rents and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtates, Propoſals in Writing of the Terms on which they are minded to take or become Tenants of the Premiſes ſo to be let as aforeſaid, which Propoſals ſo to be ſent ſhall be delivered to the Truſtees for the Time being of the ſaid Charity, at their General Meeting to be held next after the Receipt of ſuch Propoſals; and, as ſoon as conveniently may be after the Day to be appointed or mentioned in ſuch Advertiſements reſpectively, a Meeting of the ſaid Truſtees ſhall be called, for the Purpoſe of taking into Conſideration the Propoſals to be ſent in as aforeſaid, of which Meeting, and the Purport thereof, proper Notice ſhall be given in all the ſaid Pariſh Churches, and in One of the *London* Newſpapers, at leaſt Ten Days before every ſuch Meeting ſhall be held; and at all ſuch Meetings the Propoſals to be then taken into Conſideration, and proper Abſtracts of them, ſhall be laid before the Truſtees then preſent; and ſuch Truſtees, or the major Part of them, ſhall agree to the higheſt, or ſuch of the ſaid Propoſals as they or ſuch major Part ſhall approve of; and if the higheſt Propoſal ſhall not be accepted, then the Truſtees ſhall enter a Minute of the Reaſon thereof, and ſign it; and ſuch Truſtees, or the Majority of them, ſhall then nominate a Committee, not exceeding Seven, nor leſs

The Method of letting the Charity Eſtate.

leſs than Five of the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, for the Time being, of whom there ſhall be Three of the elected Truſtees for the Time being; and every ſuch Committee ſhall meet in *London*, within Sixteen Days after it ſhall have been nominated as aforeſaid, in order to carry into Effect the Propoſals to be approved of as aforeſaid; and of every ſuch Meeting, and the Purport thereof, proper Notice ſhall be given in all the ſaid Pariſh Churches, and by Advertiſements in One or more of the *London* Newſpapers, at leaſt Ten Days before every ſuch Meeting ſhall be held; and that all Contracts and Agreements to be ſigned by the ſaid Truſtees ſo to be nominated and appointed for the Purpoſes aforeſaid, ſhall be binding and concluſive to all the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, and ſuch Leaſes as ſhall be agreed to be made of the ſaid Charity Eſtate ſhall, (ſo ſoon as the ſame can conveniently be done), with the Approbation and Conſent of the ſaid Truſtees, or the major Part of them, be ſealed with the ſaid Common Seal of the ſaid Truſtees, which Leaſes, being ſealed at a publick Meeting of the ſaid Truſtees at *Bedford*, and ſigned by the Clerk, by the Order of the Truſtees then preſent, ſhall be binding and concluſive to the ſaid Truſtees and their Succeſſors, as effectually as if the ſame Leaſes were duly executed under their own Hands and Seals; provided that a Counterpart of the ſame Leaſe is executed by the Leſſee or Leſſees of ſuch Leaſe or Leaſes, and delivered to the Clerk of the ſaid Truſtees, to be kept for their Uſe.

TWENTY-EIGHTH.

Truſtees Expences on Letting, &c. to be paid out of the Charity, &c.

That the Expences of the Truſtees attending in *London*, for the Purpoſes mentioned in the preceding Order, or to do any other neceſſary Buſineſs concerning or in anywiſe relating to the ſaid Charity Eſtate, ſhall be allowed and paid out of the Rents and Profits thereof, ſo as ſuch Expences, for each Perſon's Coach Hire to and from *London*, do not exceed One Guinea *per* Day, and that his Expences there do not exceed Ten Shillings and Sixpence *per* Day, for ſo many Days as the Truſtees, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, ſhall think proper and requiſite in that Behalf.

TWENTY-NINTH.

No more than Five Guineas to be paid for

That the Expences to be paid to the Clerk of the Truſtees, by each Leſſee, for a Pair of Leaſes, ſhall not exceed

Five Guineas, and if any Diſpute ſhall ariſe concerning the ſame, it ſhall be referred to and ſettled by the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, aſſembled at a General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them; and that no other Fee, Reward, or Gratuity whatſoever ſhall be paid to, or received by, the Clerk to the ſaid Truſtees for the Time being, for any Buſineſs done by him in relation to the ſaid Charity Eſtate, upon any Pretence whatſoever, other than and except the yearly Salary or other Allowance which ſhall be ordered and allowed him by the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, aſſembled at a General Meeting, or the major Part of them as aforeſaid, on Pain of forfeiting his Office; and that they, or ſuch major Part, ſhall have Power to encreaſe ſuch Salary to any Sum not exceeding Sixty-five Pounds *per Annum*; and that every future Clerk ſhall give Security by a Bond with Two Sureties, by which they ſhall be reſpectively bound in the penal Sum of Five hundred Pounds, for his and their honeſtly and faithfully accounting for all Monies received, and executing the ſaid Office of Clerk.

a Pair of Leaſes, and the Clerk to receive no other Fee, but his Salary.

THIRTIETH.

That in the mean Time, and until all the Debts now due and owing from the ſaid Charity Eſtate, and the Expences of erecting and building the ſeveral Alms Houſes, directed to be built by the following Order, ſhall have been fully paid and diſcharged, there ſhall be diſtributed yearly, out of the Rents and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, for the Relief and Support of poor decayed Houſekeepers, and other proper Objects, who ſhall have lived and reſided within the ſaid Town of *Bedford* Ten Years at leaſt preceding the Time of ſuch Diſtribution, any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding Two hundred Pounds in the Whole, at ſuch Parts of the Winter Seaſon, in ſuch Proportions, and in ſuch Manner, as the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, ſhall think proper.

Till all the Debts and Expences of building the Alms Houſes are paid, 200*l.* *per Ann.* to be diſtributed to poor Houſekeepers.

THIRTY-FIRST.

That, as ſoon as conveniently may be after the Expiration of ſuch of the preſent Leaſes of the ſaid Charity Eſtate as will expire at *Midſummer Day* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-three, and after the Payment and Diſcharge of all Debts then due and owing from the ſaid Charity Eſtate, there ſhall be erected and built, and kept in

Alms Houſe to be built.

in Repair for ever, in ſome Part of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, proper and ſuitable Alms Houſes, for the Reception and Habitation of Ten poor old Men, and Ten poor old Women, being poor and deſerving Houſekeepers of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*; and that the Expences of erecting and building the ſame, and of keeping the ſame in Repair for ever, ſhall be paid out of the Rents and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, in ſuch Manner as the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, for the Time being, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, ſhall from Time to Time order and direct; and that immediately after the ſaid Alms Houſes ſhall be erected and built, ſuch Ten poor old Men, and Ten poor old Women, being decayed Houſekeepers of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, as the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, ſhall think proper Objects of Charity, ſhall be accordingly placed therein, and that to each of ſuch poor old Men and Women ſhall be allowed and paid, out of the ſaid Rents and Profits, weekly, for and towards their reſpective Subſiſtence, a Sum not exceeding Three Shillings, and yearly, for and towards their reſpective Cloathing, a Sum not exceeding Forty Shillings; but if a poor Man and his Wife ſhall be placed together in any of the ſaid Alms Houſes, they ſhall be allowed and paid, out of the ſaid Rents and Profits, weekly, for and towards their Subſiſtence, a Sum not exceeding Five Shillings for both; and that all the ſaid poor old Men and Women, inhabiting the ſaid Alms Houſes, ſhall, if able, go every *Sunday* to ſome Place of publick Worſhip in the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, and ſhall be liable to be removed, by the Order of the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, for neglecting ſo to do, or for other Miſbehaviour; and all Vacancies in the ſaid Alms Houſes which may happen by Means of any ſuch Removals as aforeſaid, or by Death, ſhall from Time to Time be filled with proper Objects of the Deſcription aforeſaid, by the ſaid Truſtees aſſembled as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them.

THIRTY-SECOND.

After all the Debts, and the Expences of building the Alms Houſes, are paid, 100 *l.* to be diſtributed amongſt 20

That, after all the Debts due and owing from the ſaid Charity Eſtate, and the Expences of erecting and building the aforeſaid Alms Houſes, ſhall have been paid and diſcharged, there ſhall be diſtributed Annually, for ever, out of the Rents and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, to Twenty poor Girls, who ſhall have been Candidates for the

the apprenticing Money provided by the Sixteenth Order, and ſhall not have drawn the beneficial Lots, the Sum of Three Pounds each, for cloathing them, upon their reſpectively going out to Service; and if more than Twenty ſuch Girls ſhall apply for this Donation, they ſhall draw Lots for the ſame; and that the further Sum of Two Pounds ſhall be given to the ſeveral Girls who ſhall have received the Donation of Three Pounds, upon their having reſpectively been at Service for the Space of One Year, if ſuch Service ſhall have been with One Maſter or Miſtreſs, provided they ſhall reſpectively produce a Certificate of ſuch Service, ſigned by their reſpective Maſters or Miſtreſſes, and by the Miniſter and Churchwardens for the Time being of the Pariſh where they ſhall reſpectively have lived; and that none of ſuch poor Girls ſhall, by going out to Service as aforeſaid, and receiving the ſaid Donations of Three Pounds and Two Pounds, be prevented from becoming Candidates for the Marriage Portions provided for poor Maidens by the Eleventh Order. poor Girls going to Service.

THIRTY-THIRD.

That, after the Debts due and owing from the ſaid Charity Eſtate, and the Expences of erecting and building the aforeſaid Alms Houſes, ſhall have been paid and diſcharged, the yearly Sum of Five hundred Pounds, if the Reſidue and Surplus of the Rents and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate, which ſhall remain after paying, diſtributing, or providing for the ſeveral Salaries, Expences, and Donations, by the preceding Orders directed to be paid or diſtributed, ſhall amount to ſo much, and if not, then the Whole of ſuch Reſidue and Surplus, whatever it may be, ſhall be applied and diſtributed for the Relief and Support of poor decayed Houſekeepers, and other proper Objects, who ſhall have lived and reſided within the ſaid Town of *Bedford* Ten Years at leaſt preceding ſuch Diſtribution, at ſuch Parts of the Winter Seaſon, in every Year, in ſuch Proportions, and in ſuch Manner, as the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, aſſembled at any ſuch General Meeting as aforeſaid, or the major Part of them, ſhall from Time to Time judge proper and expedient. And 500 *l.* *per Annum* (if the Surplus ſhall amount to ſo much) amongſt poor Houſe-keepers.

THIRTY-FOURTH.

That if, after the Payment and Diſtribution of the ſeveral Salaries, Expences, and Donations which are directed If any Surplus then remains, to be applied in

building Alms Houſes.

rected to be paid and diſtributed by the ſeveral preceding Orders, there ſhall in any Year ſtill remain any Part of the Rents and Profits of the ſaid Charity Eſtate unapplied, then all ſuch Reſidue and Surplus ſhall from Time to Time be applied and diſpoſed of in and for the erecting and building, and keeping in Repair, for ever, any other Alms Houſe or Alms Houſes, for the Reception and Habitation of more Poor Old Men and Women, being decayed Houſekeepers of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, and for endowing the ſame, in the Manner preſcribed by the Thirty-firſt Order, with reſpect to the Alms Houſes thereby ordered to be erected and built, or in building or purchaſing and keeping in Repair, Cottages or other Buildings, to be let at low Rents to the indigent and induſtrious Poor of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*.

AND LASTLY.

The Preſident to have the caſting Vote.

That all Queſtions upon the Proceedings of the Truſtees of the ſaid Charity, at any ſuch Meeting as aforeſaid, ſhall be decided by Vote, and in caſe of any Equality of Voices, the Preſident or Chairman ſhall have the caſting Vote.

FINIS.