

Henry, by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland, greets those whom the present letters reach. Among the range of factors through which the exaltation of kings and kingdoms is secured and the interests and peace of subjects are advanced, this seems, given close consideration, preeminent: that in the regular governance of the kingdoms themselves, power and wisdom, which derive from the fount of liberal knowledge, should share their own duties and provide mutual support. For military power, unless it has been regulated through wisdom of this kind, easily goes astray and, like a ship without steerage, quickly perishes when exposed to storms. And it has been seen to be a common occurrence that, where the study of sciences and wisdom has grown stronger, there the secular armed forces have flourished more eminently, and when study of this kind retreats, the vigour of the armed forces, on exposure to a setback, has followed. For sure since our University of Cambridge, like a well-spring, has sprinkled our kingdom of England most eminently with the dew of liberal knowledge, and like an abundant vine has produced many fruitful shoots in the vineyard of its Master, viz. men of great learning, through whom the kingdom itself as much as its priesthood has been decorated and strengthened in manifold ways. We, directing the gaze of our contemplation towards the most prolific fruit which this very University of ours, mother and nurse of men wonderfully steeped in divine and human law and all the liberal branches of knowledge, has by its own fertility, brought forth in the Church of God, out of the seed of Holy Teaching, and which it has borne for us and our kingdom in councils and in affairs thus far and will bring in the future, and weighing up that the University itself wants to pour forth the fruit of its seed the more eagerly the more it knows that it abounds with sources of nourishment of its own: to honour Almighty God in whose hand are the hearts of kings, and to honour the most blessed and inviolate Virgin Mary, mother of Christ, and also the glorious confessor and priest Nicholas, patron of the College described below, on whose feast we were first delivered into this light of day; and to extirpate heresies and errors which are scattered over almost the whole world, which disturb the peace of solemn kingdoms and universities, and have violated our kingdom of England in the case of some of its subjects, from the fictions of which our aforesaid University has continuously preserved itself immaculate; to enhance the Clergy and the grace of Holy Mother Church, whose services must be entrusted to suitable people, to provide light in their own watch like stars and to instruct the peoples by teaching and example alike. A certain College, in perpetuity, of one Rector and twelve Scholars, or more / fewer depending on how chance turns out, increasing or diminishing in accordance with the abilities and expenses of this very College, in line with the statutes and ordinances, and then through the venerable presiding bishops W., of Lincoln and W., of Salisbury, and William Lyndewood, guardian of our personal seal, and John Somerset, Chancellor of our Exchequer, and John Langton, Chancellors of the aforesaid University, so long as they shall live, or the majority of them, and after the death of one or another of them, through those who have survived, or through the majority of those so surviving, to be founded, settled, created, established by those who will stay in said University of ours, to study and to pray for our state of health so long as we shall live, and for our soul when we have departed from this light, and also for the souls of our illustrious mother and father, and all our ancestors, and all the faithful dead: upon some ground of ours beside the New Schools of Theology and Canon Law, on Schools' St. in our town of Cambridge, upon the parcel or portion of which ground there is in fact a newly built mill, with other associated dwellings, ground which indeed abuts in one parcel towards one end, the eastern, upon a certain empty site extending to the chantry church of Blessed Mary of

Cambridge next to the market square, and in another parcel, likewise towards the east, upon said New Schools, and in another parcel, similarly towards the east, at said Schools' Street, and in another parcel, similarly towards the east, upon the property of Corpus Christi College of said town, and upon the property of the Master and friars of the aforesaid St. John's Hospital, and upon the property of Robert Lincoln of Cambridge; and it abuts toward another end, the western, upon the royal street called Mill St. in the parish of St. John the Baptist opposite Holy Trinity Hall and Clare Hall of Cambridge; and it abuts in one parcel to another end, the northward, upon a certain small lane beneath the garden of the College of St. Mary called Gonville which leads to the Schools, and in another parcel, likewise towards the north, upon some ground belonging to the aforesaid University; and it abuts toward another end, the southern, in one parcel upon the property of Thomas Fordham which was recently John Chaucer's and in another parcel, likewise towards the south, upon a property of William Syngham, the priest, called God's House. This ground in its entirety indeed John Fray, Chief of the aforesaid Exchequer at Salisbury and said John Somerset and John Langton gave us recently. For building and creating a College of this kind on this same ground, to be had and held by us and our heirs in perpetuity, we have drawn up plans for elevations and do now actually, by realised dint of the present letters, erect, found, create and establish, to last through times to come; and we have promoted and ordained Master William Millyngton, Professor of Holy Scripture, as Rector, and as pro-Rector of this College, John Kirkby and William Hatcliffe, the remaining Scholars of this same College elected through us and taken up for this purpose, in accordance with the ordinances and statutes, and then through the aforesaid bishops and William Lyndewood and John Somerset and John Langton, for creating as aforesaid, ruling, correcting, depriving and removing, and do now complete, create and ordain them, through the present letters; willing and granting that these same men, the Rector and Scholars and their successors as Rectors and Scholars of this same College, in line with the ordinances and statutes, proceeding as is promised, shall have power to elect, congregate, and admit to join them more Scholars in accordance with the aforesaid ordinances and statutes for ruling, correcting, depriving, and removing; and these Scholars and their successors, so elected, congregated and admitted, in accordance with ordinances of this kind and statutes for ruling, correcting, depriving, and removing, we will and grant, on behalf of us, our heirs and our successors, in perpetuity through the present letters, to be Scholars of the College itself and to be treated, held and considered in all respects to be Scholars and members of the same College. And that upon the aforesaid Rector withdrawing or dying, or else being removed from there from whatever cause, or deprived of office, the remaining Scholars of this same College in the same place, for the time being, proceeding as aforesaid in accordance with the form and effect of the ordinances and statutes of this kind, shall from time to time elect and have power to elect some other suitable man as Rector and pro-Rector of this same College; this person so elected to be Rector, after his election as Rector and pro-Rector of this same College, we have drawn up by dint of the present letters that he must be admitted and confirmed through the Chancellor of the aforesaid University and his successors for the time being, and not through us, nor our heirs, nor our successors, in accordance with the ordinances and aforesaid statutes for ruling, correcting, depriving, and removing. And that upon the withdrawal or decease of Rectors of this kind, or else in any fashion deprived of office from there, or removed, in future let said remaining Scholars of the aforesaid College hold and have power to hold in line with the ordinances and statutes, proceeding as is promised, a free election of new Rectors of

the aforesaid College; and these men we will and grant, on behalf of us, our heirs and our successors, in the fashion and form aforesaid, to be admitted and confirmed as Rectors of this College, and that once admitted and confirmed as Rectors of this same College, in accordance with the ordinances and aforesaid statutes for ruling, correcting, depriving, and removing, they be Rectors of the same College for perpetuity, without seeking or pursuing permission from us, our heirs or our successors; these, and no others, and in no other fashion, so far as lies in our power, in perpetuity through these present letters. In addition, we will and grant that upon the withdrawal or decease of Scholars of this same College, or else their being deprived of office from there, or removed, or upon the withdrawal or decease of any one of them, or else their being deprived of office from there, or in any fashion removed, in future said Rector and Scholars and their aforesaid successors in perpetuity, in accordance with the ordinances of this kind and the statutes, shall hold a free election and confirmation for putting in their place new Scholars, without seeking or pursuing permission from us, our heirs or our successors; these, and no others, and in no other fashion in future; and these men, so elected, admitted and confirmed, and no others, we will and grant in perpetuity through these letters to be Scholars of the aforesaid College, and to be treated, held and considered to be Scholars and members of the same College, in accordance with the ordinances and those statutes for ruling, correcting, depriving and removing. Willing further and granting that the Rector and aforesaid Scholars in the same place for the time being, and their successors in perpetuity, be called the Rector and Scholars of King's College of Saint Nicholas of Cambridge in perpetuity, we further will and grant that the Rector and Scholars of the aforesaid College together for the time being and their successors through the name or under the name of Rector and Scholars of the aforesaid College shall be suitable persons, capable and always within the law for obtaining, receiving and acquiring lands, properties, rents, services, church advowsons, rights, possessions, profits, commodities, whatever emoluments, both spiritual and temporal, both from us, our heirs and our successors, and from any others, although those things are directly held from us or our heirs through military service or in whatever fashion, to be had and be held by the Rector and Scholars of the aforesaid College and their successors in perpetuity, the published statute on not assigning lands and properties to a dead hand [*mortmain*] notwithstanding. And that the same Rector and Scholars and their successors shall have in perpetuity one common seal, to serve for business, legal cases, and their own affairs. And furthermore, that they themselves and their aforesaid successors through the aforesaid name have power to plead and implead and prosecute and defend cases of all kinds, pleas, and actions real, personal. and mixed, of whatever kind or nature they might be, and are empowered to respond to them and be responded to in the same matters, under the aforesaid name, in our and our heirs' presence and also in the presence of the Justiciars and any judges whatever, secular and ecclesiastical. And further, we shall have given and granted and also we give and grant on behalf of us, our heirs and our aforesaid successors, through the present letters, to the aforesaid Rector and Scholars and their successors, the aforesaid ground, both for dwellings and buildings required for the College described above, and for their residences or lodgings and their other requirements, to be constructed and created in and upon this same ground, to be had and held by the same Rector and Scholars and their successors, for free, pure and everlasting alms in perpetuity, the aforesaid statute notwithstanding. Moreover we shall have granted and given permission to the aforesaid bishops, William Lyndewood, John Somerset and John Langton that these very five men, so long as they shall live, or the greater part of

them, and those who have survived after the death of one or some others of them, or the greater part of those so surviving, will have or may have power to correct, emend, reshape, or completely change the ordinances and aforesaid statutes and dispense with them, and to make new ordinances and statutes for the good and healthy government of the aforesaid College, in line with which the Rectors and Scholars of the aforementioned College, future and present in aforesaid College, from this point should be ruled and governed and be removable and deprivable in the fashion and form aforesaid for removing and depriving. And since also our beloved Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the aforesaid University, to whom recently we granted by our letters patent, that the Manor of Ruislip in the County of Middlesex together with a place called Northwood, and also with all lands, properties, rents, services, copses, meadows, pasturage, grazing charges, forest priority perks, charges, fines, penalties, payment for feeding pigs on mast, the rent called palfrey silver, the customary annual sale of copses, and together with the other profitable commodities and pertinences relating to said Manor; this Manor indeed together with the place and the other premises specified in the same letters, Master John Somerset held right up to the end of his life, from our grant made earlier to the same John up to the same end, and this Manor indeed, together with the same premises, should revert to us and our heirs after the death of the same John Somerset; after the death of the same John should remain, to be had and held by the aforesaid Chancellor, Masters and Scholars, for themselves and their successors, for free, pure and everlasting alms in perpetuity; to these Chancellor, Masters and Scholars through other letters patent of ours we have granted that the Manors of Great and Little Ogbourne in the County of Wiltshire, also known as the Great and Little Ogbourne Manors, parcels of the Priory of Ogbourne, also known as the Manors either of the Priory of Ogbourne of St. George and St. Andrew or whatever other names the same Manors and Priory be listed by in any records taken from there; these Manors indeed or Priory, with franchises, privileges, warrens, escheats, fines, charges for lumber, reliefs, lands, properties, rents, services, the customary annual sale of copses, and with all other pertinences relating to the Manors and the aforesaid Priory, in whatever way, John Saintlo, beloved by us, one of the armour-bearers for our body, held right up to the end of his life from our grant made then to the same John Saintlo up to the same end, and which, through and after the death of the same John Saintlo, or from any other cause in the lifetime of the same John Saintlo, could and should revert and devolve or in whatever fashion pertain to us and our heirs; and which, after the death of the same John, or otherwise in his own life, when they could in any fashion revert, devolve or pertain to us, should remain with the aforesaid Chancellor, Masters and Scholars and their successors as Chancellors, Masters and Scholars of the aforesaid University, together with the franchises and other premises specified in the same letters, to be had and held by the same Chancellor, Masters and Scholars and their aforesaid successors, from us and our aforesaid heirs, for free, pure and everlasting alms in perpetuity; when, having taken freehold possession by seisin of the same reversions by virtue of our aforesaid grants to the same Chancellor, Masters and Scholars, made as is promised, they had afterwards granted these same reversions through a certain deed of theirs to us and our heirs, with the intention that we would graciously deign to grant these same reversions, to be had and held by the aforesaid Rector and Scholars of the aforementioned College and their aforesaid successors, from us and our aforesaid heirs, for free, pure and everlasting alms in perpetuity. You should know that we, duly weighing the promises, by our special grace and to the effect that the same Rector and Scholars and their successors be empowered to be better maintained and sustained in

their learning and their pious prayers, grant to the aforesaid Rector and Scholars of the aforesaid College that said Manor of Ruislip together with said place called Northwood and with all the other premises in our letters patent, to the aforesaid John Somerset, completed as is promised, specified by whatever names, said Manor and place and other premises, or any premises in any records, be held there or listed in any fashion, that the same John Somerset, by virtue of our aforesaid grant, effected by him there as is promised, holds right up to the end of his life, and that to us and our heirs, through the death of this same John, by virtue of our said grant, effected by us as is promised, must revert to and remain with the aforesaid Rector and Scholars of the aforesaid College and their successors after the death of the same John, or from whatever other cause, could or should devolve or pertain to us and our heirs in the lifetime of this very John, to be had and held by him and his aforesaid successors, from us and our aforesaid heirs, for free, pure and everlasting alms. And also we have granted to the same Rector and Scholars that said Manors of Great Ogbourne and Little Ogbourne, or the Priory of Ogbourne, under whatever names those Manors or that Priory, as is promised, be listed (singular or plural), together with the franchises and other premises in our said letters patent, to the aforesaid John Saintlo, completed as is promised, and specified, which the aforesaid John Saintlo, as is promised, holds to the end of his life, and which after the death of the same John Saintlo, should revert to us and our heirs after the death of this same John Saintlo, or otherwise in his lifetime, when these things in any fashion will be able to or should revert, devolve and pertain to us, in the same fashion and form shall remain with the aforesaid Rector and Scholars of said College and their successors, to be had and held by him and his aforesaid successors, from us and our aforesaid heirs, for free, pure and everlasting alms, in perpetuity, without then rendering any aforesaid statute to us or our heirs or any other statute or ordinance made to the contrary, whether on the ground that express mention of the true annual value of the aforesaid Manors or aforesaid Priory and the other premises made in the present letters, does not exist, or on the ground that the Manors and aforesaid Priory are tenanted in chief from us, or on the ground that some misprision, defect or omission, or invalid or less than true reading out of any of our [graces] or aforesaid grants, made in the aforesaid reading out, or by any right or title that falls or can fall to us [by virtue of] some right of our Crown or any other right, or on the ground that some misprision, defect or omission of any substance or words so that [it does not exist for delivering us] unmistakable and precise intelligibility in an affidavit of this kind, in line with the form of the statutes published in this part, to be created, or created in the present letter, notwithstanding. And furthermore, so that the same Rector and Scholars of the aforesaid College, and their successors, in their sustenance and clothing, and their other requirements, may be better sustained, and they be more competently empowered to support the burdens which in all likelihood must of necessity weigh down on them therein, of our more generous grace we shall have granted and given permission, on behalf of ourself, our heirs, and our successors, as far as was in our power, to the same Rector and Scholars and their aforesaid successors, that they themselves may be able to acquire land and properties, and church advowsons, to the value of two hundred pounds per annum, from lands and properties tenanted both in chief from us and from others, over and above certain manors, lands, and properties, and priories, and other things specified in the aforesaid letters, and to appropriate those churches for them and their aforesaid successors, and to have for their own purposes, to be had and held by those same Rector and Scholars and their aforesaid successors in perpetuity, without hassle, interference with title, or impediment from us, or our heirs, or whoever else, the

aforesaid statute notwithstanding. Provided, that is, that it be ascertained through enquiries, to be duly conducted at that point, and appropriately returned to our Chancellory or our heirs', that this can be done without loss for or prejudice to us or our heirs, or anyone else. Without delivering, paying, or making any seal fee, great or small, or any fine to us or our heirs, whether for our work or that of the same heirs of ours, in return for the premises or any of the premises, or for any execution of the premises or of any of them, any act, ordinance, statute, restriction, or provision, whether made or to be made, notwithstanding. And further, of our special grace, we shall have granted on behalf of us, or our heirs and successors, to the aforesaid Rector and Scholars and their successors, that they themselves and their successors may in perpetuity rest free and unburdened in regard to us, our heirs, and our successors, and the Rector and Scholars and their successors themselves in this way, actually and indeed, we shall unburden and free from all kinds of provision for maintenance and pensions and annuities, and any other such payments to any person or persons, at the request and command of us or our heirs or successors, by in any way granting, paying off, or delivering rent on what they themselves, upon a request of this kind or command of this kind, would be bound to grant, pay off or deliver in rent to the person or persons, if our present grant to the Rector and Scholars and their successors, made in this way, had not existed. And in addition, of our more generous grace, we grant, on behalf of ourself and our heirs, to the same Rector and Scholars and their successors, in perpetuity, that, however often and whenever that College, from then for all times to come, should chance to lack a Rector, through death, withdrawal, deprivation, removal, or resignation or in any other way, the Scholars of the aforesaid College, for the time being, should fully hold and receive all forms of outcomes, revenues, proceeds, fruits, donations, contributions, tithes, profits, and whatever emoluments, both from the aforesaid manors, priories, settlements, lands, and properties, and other premises, as much as from other lands and properties, rents and services, rectories, and from whatever other possessions, spiritual or temporal, to be granted to the aforesaid College from this point, that are forthcoming while the vacancy of this kind lasts, to be disposed of in accordance with the ordinances and aforesaid statutes, which pertain to us and our heirs by reason of the vacancy of this kind, or could in any fashion pertain from this point, if our said grant made to them had not existed, without hassle, interference with title, or impediment from us, or our heirs, or anyone else, and without rendering account or anything else to us or our heirs or our successors. So forever that we, our heirs, and our successors, shall have been excluded in perpetuity from all custody, guarding, occupation by seisin, or possession, either by right of the same College, or of the manors, priories, households, lands, and properties, rents, and other possessions of this College, whatever they be, pertaining and relating to the aforesaid Rector and Scholars and their successors, as in the right of the aforesaid College, while the vacancy of this kind lasts, in perpetuity through the present letters. And further, from our more generous grace, we have granted that, although our or our heirs' Chancellor of England, for the time being in the Chapels and Colleges of royal foundation, or [in a private capacity], has been used to exercising ordinary jurisdiction and visitation in said Chapels or Colleges both in their persons and otherwise in line with custom, we will and grant that no English Chancellor, whoever he was at the time, nor anyone else in our name or in that of any of our heirs or of the Chancellor of England, should have power in future in whatever fashion to uphold, hold, administer or exercise any jurisdiction of this kind or visitation on said College, Rector and Scholars, or other staff of the same College. But the Rector and Scholars of said College and whatever other persons of this same

College we have willed to be free and immune in perpetual times to come from all jurisdiction and visitation of this kind, proceeding, upholding or [providing], through the persons above mentioned and their successors, in whatever fashion; and that the aforesaid jurisdiction and visitation of the same College and of the individual persons of same, shall pertain completely in future to the Chancellor of our aforesaid University, whoever he shall be at the time, in line with the ordinances and aforesaid statutes, by proceeding as is promised, any custom in use and offered as a plea to the contrary, or any statute or ordinance created or to be created to the contrary notwithstanding. To bear witness of this matter, we have had these letters made patent, with myself as witness at Westminster on the 12th day of February in the 19th year of our reign.

Kirkby. In brief, with the private seal, by the gift of the above mentioned authority of Parliament.