

James, by the grace of God King of the Scots, wishes well to all good men of his whole realm, clerics and laics. Be it known to you that we have seen and read, and inspected and carefully examined, a certain foundation and donation made by a reverend father in Christ, who is one of our councillors, our beloved Gavin Dunbar, bishop of Aberdeen. By this charter he founded (or endowed) a hospital near his church of Aberdeen for the maintenance of twelve poor men, and made a gift to them of a hundred pounds of annual income from rents, revenues, and incomes in the burgh of Aberdeen, from lands, waters, and fishings in waters. These originally belonged to the crown, and next to our cousin, John, Lord Erskine, and afterwards to the said reverend father, and now by our command presented to the poor men of the hospital by the reverend father himself. The charter was found to be whole and entire, without erasures or cancellations, and causing no suspicion in any part regarding its integrity. We fully comprehended its meaning and found that it was drawn up, in the following terms :-

" **Gavin Dunbar**, by the mercy of God bishop of the Cathedral church of Aberdeen, wishes to all the sons of the holy mother church, who shall see or hear this present letter, Salvation in Him who is the true weal of all men. It is quite evident that all prelates of the church are not the owners of the patrimony of the cross (or the Christian church), but the guardians and dispensers of it. And whatever is left of the fruits of the church to any prelate after satisfying the necessities of the church and his own life, the prelate is bound to bestow it on the poor, and devote it to pious purposes. And although we have given away in different churches for the augmentation of divine worship some parts of our means, acquired by industry or otherwise, and other parts for the welfare of the state, yet we have contributed to charitable works at great expense. Feeling that when something is left, after supplying the needs of the church and our own life, and remembering the words of almighty God :- 'Give of thy bread to the hungry, and take the poor and the wandering under the shelter of thy house, and clothe the naked.' We, moved by these words; think it is not enough for obtaining blessedness that we should add to the number of ministers, in order to increase divine worship, and to come to the help of the state, but that the work which is of real value is supporting the poor according to the divine command, by giving them food and clothing. We desired therefore, by means of a new charitable institution, to obtain some help towards earning the divine favour by relieving the want of the Christian poor, and supporting them, and we have resolved to make, construct, and found a hospital near the cathedral church, but outside the cemetery, and to form and endow it in the following manner. In the first place we have ordained that the house of the hospital shall be a hundred feet long, and about thirty-two feet wide, and that it shall be divided so as to accommodate twelve poor men in separate rooms, by making in both parts of the house six rooms, each fourteen feet long, and twelve feet broad. There shall be in the wall in some part of the house a fireplace, in which there shall be made and maintained a small fire, and between the rooms there will be a passage eight feet wide. The rest of the house, which will be thirty-six feet long, and thirty-two feet wide, will be so divided, that in the north side there will be a common room sixteen wide, and thirty-six feet long, for all the poor men in which they can have a common fire and other necessary things, and opposite to it, in the south side of the house, there will be an oratory well furnished and of the same size as the common room of the

house, and provided with an altar. Moreover, we wish and ordain that above the common room there shall be a common floor for keeping things for the general use, such as fuel, victuals, and other necessaries for the use of the poor men; but there will not be a floor above the oratory, and we intend to prepare and cover the roof of it in a suitable manner. There will also be a wooden bell tower, in some part of the house, in which there will be a bell; the hospital house being thus provided with an oratory, common room, rooms, and bell-tower, as has been already stated. We appoint and depute as director and conservator of the hospital our chaplain and his successors, for whom an endowment has been provided in the south aisle of the church which we have recently erected. When the hospital is erected we shall select twelve poor men to be placed in it, and for their maintenance with the consent and leave of the most illustrious prince and lord, our lord James V., by the grace of God, King of the Scots, we have given, conceded, and assigned, and by this our present charter have confirmed, and we give, concede, assign, and by this our present charter confirm to almighty God the Father, the Son, and the holy Ghost, the most blessed Virgin Mary, mother of our lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, and the twelve poor men residing in our said hospital, and their successors to be placed in the said hospital there to dwell, the hundred pounds of the usual money of the kingdom of Scotland, of annual income from rents and revenues of the burgh of Aberdeen, from lands, and waters, and fishings in waters, due to our lord the King, and annually levied and taken, which we purchased hereditarily from John, Lord Erskine, to be divided and distributed among the poor men by the director and conservator of the hospital, namely to each poor man ten merks, four times in the year, for his maintenance and clothing, namely, at the beginning of spring, summer, autumn, and winter, the fourth part of the said sum of ten merks; and for buying and getting fuel, for the common use of all the poor men, ten merks at Whitsunday; and also to each of the poor men, for the purchase of an upper white robe, one merk at Michaelmas, and for the repair of the hospital house forty shillings annually; and the director and conservator of the hospital will retain for his own trouble five merks annually, in addition to the revenue from the chapel in the south aisle which we constructed and endowed. We wish, moreover, that the poor men shall pray daily for the felicitous and prosperous state of our lord the King, and for his soul, and for the souls of his predecessors and successors, and also for our soul, and the souls of our parents, our brothers and sisters, and all our friends, and also of all the faithful in Christ. Also the occupants of the house shall all be free men and without wives, and not women, and they shall be selected from the tenants and inhabitants of our lands in the bishopric of Aberdeen, if they can be found within it; but if not, they shall be selected from those who have spent their lives, and lived out their time, in the work of constructing the church, our palace, the manses of the canons, and the bridge of Dee, all lately built by us. Failing these, the selection shall be made from other wretched men, not for entreaty or reward, but only by the impulse of charity, who by misfortune, or any other mishap, have fallen into such a state of poverty and want that they have no means of living of their own, or who are blind, dumb, or lame or who have been so mutilated, by some accident in war, in our service, or for the rights of our church, or in the King's wars, that they are not able to work for their living. ' They will all be old men about sixty years of age, unless by some unfortunate events younger men have fallen into like poverty, who on reasonable considerations may be received into the hospital. Also we desire that one of the poor men, who shall be appointed by the director weekly, shall be janitor of the hospital, and shall keep the keys of the doors and gates, except the keys of the private rooms; and he shall observe the following order and usage. At

early dawn he shall open the outer gate, and the door of the common room, and the oratory, at seven o'clock, and he shall at this hour ring the bell for a short time to waken and rouse the poor men, who shall enter the oratory and remain there an hour in prayers for those for whose souls they are bound to pray. After that they may enter the church to hear masses and pray for the souls of the persons above named. Then the janitor, immediately after eleven o'clock, shall ring the bell again for a short time to call the poor men to their meal in their own rooms, or in the common room, if they can manage so to agree among themselves that they can all dine at the same time under the care of one common provider, or two and two, or in greater numbers. After dinner they shall at the sound of the bell again enter the oratory, and there repeat ten times the Lord's prayer, and the Salutation of the angel to the Virgin Mary, everyone making the proper signs, and thereafter they shall go to their useful employments in their own rooms, or to work in the gardens and orchards of the hospital, in the cultivation of herbs and fruits for the common use, till five o'clock. Then at the sound of the bell they shall enter the oratory, and there remain in constant prayers till six o'clock, when they shall go to supper in their usual manner. After supper the janitor shall shut the outer gate before eight o'clock, and between supper time and the closing of the gate, the poor men shall enter the oratory, and everyone in his place in a line shall repeat devoutly the hymn of our Lady on behalf of the souls of those before mentioned. Then if so disposed, they may go away and sleep till three o'clock, when every poor man shall repeat in his own room the hymn of the most blessed Virgin Mary with appropriate signs, modestly and reverently bringing to the Redeemer's remembrance the souls of those before mentioned, and earnestly begging of Him pardon and forgiveness for their sins. We ordain moreover, that the said poor men be respectful, submissive, and obedient to the commands and admonitions of the said director, and that they be proper in their behaviour, and in no way take women into their rooms. If anyone of them be troublesome to his fellows, or commit any faults, or be found disobedient, he shall be punished in his person or be removed from the hospital by the director, who in such a case shall take the advice of the dean and chapter, if the dean be present, and if not, of the president and canons residing at the time at the church. And the dean and chapter, or in the absence of the dean, the president and resident canons, shall have power in the case of a poor man's death or his retirement from the hospital, or removal otherwise on account of some faults, of choosing another poor man, and of putting him in his place as has been prescribed above, with consent of the director and conservator. In case that any one of the poor men shall lie ill the director shall place the sick man in a room near the oratory, so that, by a window, he may be able to see and hear a mass. The conservator shall twice or thrice in a week himself celebrate mass, or shall cause another to celebrate it in the oratory. On the other days he shall enter the church and pray at our tomb, and those of the poor men who are fit to walk shall on all festal days, under the command and guidance of the director, go before general processions of our church, with oracles in their hands, praying, as directed above, for the foresaid souls. And the poor men, and their director and the conservator of the hospital, shall be bound to keep all other statutes and ordinances which may be made by us to them, and their director and the conservator of the hospital, given in writings, under the penalties which are contained in the statutes. The said hundred pounds of annual income, of the usual money of the Kingdom of Scotland, was originally due to our lord the King as rents and returns payable by the burgh of Aberdeen for lands, waters, and fishings in the waters. These moneys with their pertinents are now due to us, and are payable by us and our heirs to the twelve poor men and their successors who may be placed in the

hospital, to be divided amongst them. . The moneys are to be held and had of our lord the King and his successors in the throne of Scotland, in pure and perpetual alms, and in mortmain for ever. Free power, means and authority, is given to the poor men through the director and conservator of their hospital, or their other servants, factors or procurators, of demanding, seeking, uplifting, and receiving the hundred pounds of annual income from the burgesses and inhabitants of the said town, and other occupants of the waters and fishings pertaining to the said town. In defect of payment, the poor men have power to arrest (or interdict) the burgesses and inhabitants of the said town, and other occupants of the waters and fishings pertaining to the said town, and also their property of every kind, and of laying distraint upon the persons interdicted, and of taking, apprising, and applying to their own private uses the things distrained ; and if it be necessary, of compelling the burgesses, provost, baillies and the whole inhabitants, to make payment of the said sum by means of the common law, or of binding them by ecclesiastical censures, and of asking that payments of it made by them into the treasuries of our lord the King may be allocated to them, and that the allocation may be received annually as by ancient custom it had been wont to be made to Lord Erskine already mentioned. And power is also given of doing, carrying on, and exercising all other things, collectively and singly, which may be necessary or expedient for obtaining receipt and payment of the said annual income. For which payment the said poor men and their successors, residing in the said hospital, shall annually make offerings of devout prayers for our lord the King, and for the souls of the persons before mentioned, and do nothing besides. And because we purchased the said hundred pounds of annual income from the said Lord of Erskine, hereditarily, for ourselves our heirs and assignees, and we have assigned the same hundred pounds to the said poor persons, in case of non-payment of the said sum, we commit to the said poor men and their successors pur assignees, our right of demanding, asking, and uplifting the said annual income, and of distraining for it, and if by any future event it be necessary. of calling the said John, Lord Erskine and his heirs to be guarantees for the said ??? directed our great seal to be affixed to this our present charter of confirmation and admortisement.

Witnesses,

The very reverend father, and reverend fathers in Christ, Gavin, archbishop of Glasgow, our chancellor; George, bishop of Dunkeld; Henry, bishop of Candida Casa, (Whithorn) and of our chapel royal at Stirling; our beloved cousins and our dearest brother, James, earl of Moray; Archibald, earl of Argyle, lord Campbell and Lome, master of our lodging; Malcolm, lord Fleming, our great chamberlain; John, Lord Erskin; the venerable fathers in Christ, Patrick, prior of the metropolitan church at St. Andrews; David, Abbot of our monastery of Abirbrothock, keeper of our secret seal; our beloved familiars, Masters William Stewart, provost of Lincluden, pur treasurer; Sir Thomas Erskin of Haltoun, our secretary; and James Colvile of East Wemys, controller of our accounts and director of our chancery.

At Edinburgh, on the twenty fourth day of the month of February, in the year of the Lord one thousand five hundred and thirty one, and in the nineteenth year of our reign.