

CHARTER GRANTED BY THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF MERCHANTS,  
TRADING INTO THE EAST-INDIES, TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND  
BURGESSES OF MADRAS,

Bearing Date the Thirtieth of *December*, in the Third Year of the Reign of  
*JAMES II.*, *Anno Domini*, One Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty-seven.

Recital of Charters  
of 3rd April 1661,

9th August 1683,

and 12th April 1686.

Inhabitants of Fort  
St. George and  
Madras made a  
Corporation.

**T**HE *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading to the East-Indies.* To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting. WHEREAS His Majesty King *Charles* the Second of Blessed Memory, by His Royal Charter, bearing Date, at *Westminster*, the Third Day of *April* in the Thirteenth Year of His Reign, did, among other things, grant to Us and Our Successors, that it should be lawfull for Us or the major Part of Us duly assembled, to make, ordain, and constitute such and so many reasonable Laws, Constitutions, Orders and Ordinances as to Us or the greater Part of Us should seem necessary and convenient for the good Government of the said Company. And whereas the late King *Charles* the Second of Blessed Memory by His Royal Charter, bearing Date the Ninth Day of *August* in the Five and Thirtieth Year of His Reign, did grant unto Us The said *Governor and Company* for the Time being, that We or the major Part of Us duly assembled, should have the Ordering, Rule, and Government of all such Forts, Factories, and Plantations as now are or should be hereafter at any Time settled by or under Us The said *Governor and Company.* And whereas likewise His present Majesty *James* the Second by the Grace of God, King of *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland,* Defender of the Faith, &c., by His Royal Charter, bearing Date the Twelfth Day of *April* in the Second Year of His Reign, hath, among other things, granted and confirmed unto Us the said *Governor and Company,* all Our former Privileges, with full Licence, Power, and Authority to exercise and use within all Our Plantations, Forts, Factories, and Places which We now have, or hereafter shall have, within the Limits of the aforesaid Royal Charters the Law commonly called the Martial Law: Now We The said *Governor and Company* having found by Experience, and the Practice of other European Nations in India, that the makeing and establishing of Corporations in Citties and Towns that are grown exceeding populous tends more to the well-governing of such populous Places, and to the Increase of Trade, than the constant Use of the Law Martial in trivial Concerns, We have therefore by and with the Approbation of Our Sovereign Lord the King that now is, declared in His Majesty's Cabinet Council the Eleventh Day of this Instant *December*, and for the speedier Determination of small Controversies of little Moment frequently happening among the unarmed Inhabitants, thought it convenient to make, ordain, and constitute Our Town of *Fort St. George*, commonly called the Christian Town and Citty of *Madrassapatam* upon the Coast of *Choromandel* in the *East-Indies*, and all the Territorys thereunto belonging, not exceeding the Distance of Ten Miles from *Fort St. George*, to be a Corporation under Us by the Name and Title of the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Town of *Fort St. George* and Citty of *Madrassapatam*; And therefore We The said

*Governor and Company* do by these Presents ordain, constitute, and appoint that the Inhabitants of *Fort St. George* and *Madrassapatam* aforesaid, or so many of them as shall be hereby nominated, or that shall hereafter be thereunto elected or admitted in Manner and Form hereafter prescribed, shall be One Body Corporate and Politick in Deed and in Name, by the Name of the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Town of *Fort St. George* and Citty of *Madrassapatam* really and fully for ever: And for Us and Our Successors We declare by these Presents, that by the same Name of Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Town of *Fort St. George* and Citty of *Madrassapatam* they shall have perpetual Succession, and that they and their Successors by the Name of the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Town of *Fort St. George* and Citty of *Madrassapatam* be and at all Times hereafter shall be Persons able and capable in Law as a Body Corporate and Politick to have, purchase, receive, possess, enjoy, and retain Lands, Rents, Privileges, Liberties, Jurisdiccions, Franchises, and Hereditaments, of what Kind, Nature, or Quality soever they be, to them and their Successors, and also to give, grant, devise, alien and dispose Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, and to do and execute all and singular other Things by the same Name that to them shall or may appertain to do: And that they and their Successors by the Name of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Town of *Fort St. George* and Citty of *Madrassapatam* may plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, defend and be defended, release and be released, in any of Our Courts of Judicature established or to be established in *Fort St. George* or in Our *Madrassapatam*, or in any other Place within the Limits of the above-recited Charters granted to Us The *Governor and Company* aforesaid: And that the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses and their Successors, may have a common Seal to serve for all Causes or Businesses of them and their Successors, and that it shall and may be lawfull to the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses and their Successors the same Seal from Time to Time at their Will and Pleasure to break, change, and make new or alter as to them shall seem expedient: And further We will and by these Presents for Us and Our Successors We do ordain that from henceforth One of the Inhabitants of the Town of *Fort St. George* aforesaid or of Our Citty of *Madrassapatam* aforesaid shall be elected and appointed in such Form as is hereafter expressed which shall be called Mayor of the said Corporation; and there shall be from henceforth Twelve of the Inhabitants of the said Town of *Fort St. George* and Citty aforesaid to be elected and appointed in such Form as in these Presents is hereafter expressed which shall be called Aldermen of the said Town of *Fort St. George* and Citty; and that there shall be Sixty or more of the said Inhabitants to be elected and appointed in such Form as hereafter is expressed which shall be called Burgesses; and that they the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses and their Successors shall from henceforth for ever be ruled, ordered, and governed according to such Manner and Form as is hereafter expressed and not otherwise nor in any other Sort or Form; and that they shall have, hold, retain, and enjoy the Grants, Libertys, Privileges, Jurisdiccions, and Immunities only hereafter in these Presents granted and expressed and none other.

AND for the better Execution of Our Intent and Meaning in this Behalf, We do nominate, constitute, and make *Nathaniel Higginson*, Second of our Council of *Fort St. George*, the First and Modern Mayor of the said Corpora-

By the name of the  
Mayor, &c.

Appointment of First  
Mayor, Aldermen  
and Burgesses.

tion, and to take upon him and continue in the said Office from the Twenty-ninth Day of *September* which shall be in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-eight, and continue in the Exercise of the said Office of Mayor of the said Corporation for one whole Year from the said Twenty-ninth Day of *September* One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-eight, if the said *Nathaniel Higginson* shall so long live and so until a new Mayor be chosen by the said Aldermen and Burgesses in Form hereafter expressed: And also we do assign, nominate, and constitute *John Littleton, Thomas Wavell, and William Fraser*, three of Our Council of *Fort St. George, Daniel Chardin*, French Merchant, *Lucas Lewis de Oliveria*, and *Alvaro Capella de Valle*, Portugal Merchants, *Bartholomew Rodrigues, Jaques de Paiva and Domingos de Porte*, Hebrew Merchants, *China Vencatadre, Mooda Verona, and Allingal Pella*, Gentu Merchants, to be the Twelve First and Modern Aldermen of the said Corporation from the said Twenty-ninth Day of *September* which shall be in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-eight, to continue in the Exercise of the said Offices of Aldermen of the said Corporation during their respective natural Lives or their Residence there. And We do hereby grant, ordain, and constitute *John Nicks, John Staples, Henry Alford, James Johnson, John Hill, Francis Wilcocks, Ambrose Moody, Samuel Walls, Frederick Baywell, John Pitt, John Heathfield, John Harris, Samuel Swinrock, John Tillotson, Francis Bett, Edward Pointall, Benjamin Northy, Ralph Ingram, Christopher Wilson, Grimston Luckin, Isaack Dunn, James Grudgfeild, Richard Breereton, William Shales, George Wingfeild, Samuel Owen, William Roby, Thomas Wright, Charles Foster*, Merchants, to be Burgesses of the said Corporation.

A new Mayor to be elected on the 29th September in every year,

and to take an Oath of Allegiance and of Office.

AND We further will and grant by these Presents for Us and Our Successors unto the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, and their Successors, that they or the greater Part of them, whereof the Mayor for the Time being to be always One, may from Time to Time and at all Times hereafter have Authority and Power Yearly and every Year upon the Twenty-ninth Day of *September*, to assemble and meet together in some convenient Place or Guild Hall to be erected for that Purpose, and that being so assembled, the Mayor being present, the Aldermen and Burgesses may elect and nominate One of the said Aldermen which shall be Mayor of the said Corporation for One whole Year next ensuing, which Person being so elected and nominated as aforesaid, before he be admitted to the Execution of the said Office of Mayor, shall take a Corporal Oath before the last Mayor being his Predecessor, and any Six or more of the said Aldermen for the Time being, that he shall bear true Faith and Allegiance to Our Sovereign Lord the King, His Heirs and Successors, and be faithful to Us The *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and to Our General of *India* for the Time being, and that he shall well and truly execute the said Office of Mayor of the said Corporation in all Things concerning the same, and judge equally in all Causes coming before him between Party and Party to the best of his Skill and Power without Reward, Favour, or Malice from or to any Man, and that immediately after the said Oath so taken he shall and may execute the Office of Mayor of the said Corporation for One whole Year from thence next ensuing: And in this Sort We will and grant, ordain, and constitute that as well every One of the above-named Aldermen and Burgesses, as all

others hereafter to be elected and admitted to be Aldermen and Burgesses in the Form and Manner hereafter mentioned, shall take a Corporal Oath before the Mayor and Six of the Aldermen of the said Corporation as by Our General of *India* and his Council, or Our President of *Fort St. George* and his Council, shall be in reasonable Manner set down and devised, before they shall be allowed and admitted as free Burgesses of the said Corporation. And in regard Our Mind and Will is, for the Encouragement of the People of all Nations and all the Sects of Religion conversant in Merchandizing and Trade in *India*, that Our said Corporation and Burgesses should consist of a Mixture of the most discreet, best, and honestest of all Sorts of People residing within the Limits of Our said Corporation, and that the Court of Aldermen of the said Corporation especially should be made up of the Heads and Chiefs of all the respective Casts, We do ordain and appoint, for the greater Solemnity, Tye, and Obligation upon the Conscience of every One of the Aldermen and Burgesses aforesaid that are not of the Christian Religion, and such as shall hereafter be elected to be Aldermen and Burgesses, the Oaths before appointed to be taken by each of them respectively as aforesaid shall be made and done in such Manner and Form as by each of their respective Religions in which they have been born and educated may be most obligatory and cogent upon their respective Consciences, any Law formerly made by Us, Usage, Diversity of Religion or Faith, or any other Cause or Matter to the contrary notwithstanding.

Aldermen and Burgesses to take an Oath,

in the form most obligatory upon their consciences.

AND moreover Our Mind and Will is, and by these Presents for Us and Our Successors, We do grant unto the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses and their Successors, that when and as often as it shall happen the Mayor for the Time being within One Year after his being sworn to the said Office shall dye or be removed from the said Office of Mayor (which Mayor not demeaning himself well in the said Office We will to be removeable at the Pleasure of the Aldermen and Burgesses aforesaid, or the greater Part of them which shall be present at any publick Assembly of the said Aldermen and Burgesses) that then and so often it shall and may be lawfull for the said Aldermen and Burgesses for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, within convenient Time after the Death or Removal of any such Mayor, to assemble themselves at their Guild Hall or other general Place of Meeting, and the said Aldermen and Burgesses, or the greater Part of them, then and there present shall and may then and there before their Departure from the said Place elect and nominate One other of the said Aldermen to be Mayor of the said Corporation in the Place or Stead of him that so died or was removed, which Person being so elected and nominated to the Office of Mayor of the said Corporation shall have and exercise the said Office for and during the Residue of the said Year takeing first a Corporal Oath for the due Execution thereof: And this to be done from Time to Time so often as the Case shall so require.

In case of the Mayor dying or being removed from office within a year, an Alderman to be elected in his stead.

AND Our further Will and Mind is, and by these Presents for Us and Our Successors, we do grant unto the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses and their Successors when and as often as shall happen any of the Aldermen of the said Corporation to die or be removed from the said Office (which Aldermen not demeaning themselves well in their said Offices We will to be removeable at the Pleasure of the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses, or the greater Part of them, whereof the Mayor for the Time being to be always One), and the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses being assembled

In case of an Alderman dying or being removed from office a Burgess to be elected in his stead.

for that Purpose, or the greater Part of them, the Mayor for the Time being being always One, may then and there before their Departure from the said Place elect and nominate One or more of the said Burgesses of the said Corporation in the Places and Steads, Place or Stead of him or them that so dyes or were or was so removed, which Person or Persons so elected or nominated to the Office or Offices of Alderman or Aldermen shall have and exercise the said Office or Offices for or during his or their natural Life or Lives, taking first a Corporal Oath as is aforesaid for the due Execution thereof: And this to be done from Time to Time so often as the Case shall require.

Mayor and Aldermen to be a Court of Record, and the Mayor and Three Senior Aldermen to be Justices of the Peace.

AND further for Us and Our Successors, We grant, ordain, constitute, and appoint that the Mayor and Aldermen so elected, nominated, and sworn as aforesaid, shall be then and for ever hereafter a Court of Record within Our Town of *Fort St. George* and Citty of *Madrassapatam* and the Precincts thereof aforesaid, and that the Mayor of the said Corporation for the Time being shall be always One of the Justices of the Peace within the Precincts of the said Corporation and without the Walls of Our said Fort commonly called *Fort St. George*, and that Three of the first-named, or the eldest Three Aldermen that shall hereafter be, shall always likewise be, by Virtue of this Our Grant and Charter, Justices of the Peace, and as Justices of the Peace, according to Equity and good Conscience and to such Laws and Constitutions as have been or shall hereafter be made by Us, or such temporary Laws or By-laws which shall hereafter be made by Our General and Council or in Our General's Absence by our President and Council of *Fort St. George*, have and exercise the Jurisdiction and Authority of Justices of the Peace within the Bounds, Limits, and Precincts of the said Corporation but without the Walls of *Fort St. George* aforesaid.

The Mayor and Aldermen to have power to impose and levy a tax for building a Guild Hall, &c.

AND our further Mind and Will is, that the said Mayor and Aldermen have, and for ever hereafter shall have, Power and Authority with the Consent and Approbation of Our General and Council of *India* aforesaid, or Our President and Council of *Fort St. George* in the Absence of Our General but not otherwise, to lay any equal and indifferent Tax upon all the Inhabitants of our Town *Fort St. George* or *Madrassapatam*, and of or within the Bounds and Precincts thereof aforesaid, not being Our Covenant Servants, and the same equal and indifferent Tax so layed and assessed as aforesaid to levy and recover from all Persons assessed, and to enforce the Payment thereof by Distress of the Refusers' Goods or Imprisonment of their Persons till Payment be made by such Refusers of what shall be so rated and assessed upon them respectively: And Our Mind and Will is, that no such Rate or Assessment shall be made or levied upon the Inhabitants of Our Citty of *Madrassapatam* and Precincts thereof aforesaid on any Pretence whatsoever but for the Uses, Intents, and Purposes hereafter mentioned, that is to say: for the building of a convenient Town House or Guild Hall for the solemn Assemblies of the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses; and for the building of a publick Goal for the detaining in Prison such Criminals or Debtors as shall be committed to the Custody of some Goaler to be appointed for that Purpose by the said Mayor and Aldermen, or the greatest Part of them, or by some One or more of the Justices of Peace of the said Corporation aforesaid; and for the building and erecting of a convenient School House or House for the teaching of the Gentues or Native Children to speak,

read, and write the English Tongue, and to understand Arithmetick and Merchants' Accompts; and for such further Ornaments and Edifices as shall, with Consent as aforesaid, be thought convenient for the Honour, Interest, Ornament, Security, and Defence of the said Corporation, and of all the Inhabitants of our Town of *Fort St. George* and City of *Madras*, and for the Payment of the Salaries of necessary Officers attending the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses, and School Master appointed by the said Mayor and Aldermen for teaching the Inhabitants' Children as aforesaid.

AND Our further Mind and Will is, and We do grant and ordain for Us and Our Successors to the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses and their Successors, that the said Mayor and Aldermen being a Court of Record as aforesaid shall for ever have Power and Authority to try and adjudge all Causes whatsoever Criminal and Civil between Party and Party whoever they be that shall be brought before them in a summary Way according to Equity and good Conscience, and according to such Laws, Orders, and Constitutions that we have already made or shall hereafter make and constitute for the good Government of all our Inhabitants within our Town of *Fort St. George* and City of *Madras* aforesaid, according to what shall be alledged and proved before them, and to give Sentence and award Judgment and Execution accordingly, all Sentences and Judgments to pass according to the Opinion of the major Part of the Aldermen that shall be present at the hearing of any such Cause (the Mayor for the Time being, being always One), which Power and Authority last mentioned of judging, sentenceing, and causing Execution to be done in all Causes as aforesaid, We will shall be used, exercised, and enjoyed by the said Court of Record, the Mayor and Aldermen of the Corporation aforesaid, under the Provisoos and Limitations hereafter mentioned, that is to say: in all Causes Civil wherein the Value of the Damages adjudged for the Defendant to pay any Sum of Money not exceeding Three Pagodas the Opinion and Sentence of the said Mayor and Aldermen, or the greater Part of them, present at the hearing or determining any such Cause, shall be final, but in case the Value of what is awarded to be paid by the major Part of the said Court of Aldermen (the Mayor for the Time being, being always One) shall exceed the Value of Three Pagodas the Party litigant which finds or thinks himself aggrieved by any such Judgment or Sentence may within Three Days after such Sentence pronounced, Appeal for Redress to our *Supreme Court of Judicature, commonly called our Court of Admiralty*, and upon such Appeal brought by the Party aggrieved as aforesaid, Execution of the Sentence of the said Court of Aldermen shall be respited until the same Cause be reheard in Our Supreme Court aforesaid, which Court We do require for the Ease of Our Inhabitants to hear and determine any such Cause coming before them by Appeal within Two Court Days next ensuing such Appeal brought; and such Judgment and Determination of Our said Supreme Court shall be final in all such Cases, and Execution awarded and performed accordingly. Our further Will, Mind, and Limitation of Our said Court of Record is, that in all Criminal Causes which shall be brought before them, the Mayor and Aldermen aforesaid, upon which Sentence shall be awarded for the taking away the Life or Limb of any Offender, the Offender or Prisoner so sentenced to loose his Life or any Member of his Body for any Offence committed or suggested to be committed by him, shall have the Liberty within Three Days

Mayor's Court to have power to try all Causes, Civil or Criminal.

Appeal in Civil Causes when the value of what is awarded exceeds Three Pagodas.

Appeal in Criminal Causes.

after such Sentence passed upon him to appeal to Our Supreme Court of Judicature aforesaid where his Accusation shall be reheard and determined by Our said Judicature, whose Sentence in such Case shall be final and Execution accordingly awarded and done within Three Days next after such Sentence pronounced by Our said Court of Judicature, except our General and Council or Our General of *India*, or Our President and Council of *Fort St. George* for the Time being, shall by Reprieve order Execution to be respited or pardon the Offender, which Reprieves or Pardons in Criminal Cases of Our said General and Council, or Our President and Council, We will always have duly obeyed by the said Court of Aldermen and Our Supreme Court of Judicature and all other Persons whatsoever within the Precincts of our Town of *Fort St. George* and City of *Madrasahapatam*. And Our further Mind, Will, and Limitation is, that if any Englishman, Seaman, or other, shall be attached or arrested by any Sargeant or Officer belonging to the said Court of Aldermen, or by Warrant from any Justice of Peace of the said Corporation, for Drunkenness or any other Criminal Misdemeanour, such Arrest or Attachment of any Sargeant or Officer of or belonging to the said Court of Aldermen shall always be submitted to and duly obeyed by the Party accused, arrested, or attached, though he be an Englishman ; but no Englishman shall for such Criminal Matter done, or suggested to be done, be carried before or committed to Prison by the Warrant of any Justice of Peace, Native of *India*, nor by any other Warrant but by our General and Council of *India*, or Our President and Council, or of Our Supreme Court of Judicature, or of some other English Justice of the Peace.

Reprieves and Pardons.

No Englishman to be committed to Prison by the Warrant of a Native of *India*.

Maces to be carried before the Mayor.

Gowns to be worn by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses.

Sargeants and Mace Bearers.

OUR further Will and Mind is, and We do hereby grant and ordain for Us and Our Successors, to the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses and their Successors, that for the greater Solemnity and to attract respect and reverence from the common People, that the Mayor for the Time being shall always have carried before him when he goes to the Guild Hall or other Place of Assembly, and upon all other solemn Occasions, two silver Maces gilt not exceeding Three Feet and a Half in Length, and that the said Mayor and Aldermen may always upon such solemn Occasions wear Scarlet Serge Gowns all made after one Form or Fashion, such as shall be thought most convenient for that hot Country by the said Mayor and Aldermen, or the greater Part of them which shall be present at any Meeting for that Purpose ; and that all the Burgesses now nominated, or hereafter to be nominated, or elected in Manner and Form hereafter mentioned, shall and may upon such solemn Occasions wear White Pelong or other White Silk Gowns after one Form and Fashion, to be agreed as aforesaid by the said Mayor and Aldermen, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any such Meeting, with the Approbation of Our General of *India*, or of Our President of *Fort St. George*. And Our further Mind and Will is, that the said Mayor and Aldermen, or the major Part of them (whereof the Mayor for the Time being to be One), may elect Two Sargeants which always shall be attendant on the Mayor, and shall always be Englishmen born, which Sargeants are to be ye Mace Bearers, and to give always the same Respect to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses aforesaid as is paid and given by the Sargeants of *London* to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Liverymen of the City of *London* ; and in case of the Death or Removal of either of the said

Sergeants (which Removal We will shall always be at the Pleasure of the said Mayor and Aldermen, or the major Part of them) a new One is always to be elected by the said Mayor and Aldermen of the Corporation of our Town of *Fort St. George* and *Madrassapatam* aforesaid; and the said Sergeants are hereby empowered and required duly to execute all such Orders and Warrants as they shall from Time to Time receive from the said Mayor and Aldermen, or the greater Part of them (the Mayor for the Time being, being always One), within the Limitations and Provisoos before herein mentioned. The said Mayor and Aldermen may likewise appoint one other Officer to be Goaler or Keeper of the common Prison belonging to the said Corporation and him to change and alter at their Pleasure, who is from Time to Time to follow and obey all such Orders as he shall receive from the said Court of Aldermen; and they the said Mayor and Aldermen may appoint, raise pay and allow such moderate and convenient Salaries and Fees to the said inferior Officers, the Sergeants and Gaoler, as to the said Court of Aldermen shall seem meet and convenient; but none of the said inferior Officers are to take upon them the exercise of the said Offices until they have first made Oath before the Mayor and Two Aldermen of the said Corporation, that they will have and bear true Faith and Allegiance to Our Sovereign Lord the King, His Heirs and Successors, and that they will be true and faithfull to Us and Our General of *India* for the Time being, and that they will duly and truly execute their respective Offices without taking any other or greater Fee or Fees or Reward than what shall be established or appointed for them by the said Mayor and Court of Aldermen, or the major Part of them (the Mayor for the Time being being One).

AND Our further Mind and Will is, and We do hereby grant and ordain for Us and Our Successors to the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses and their Successors, that the said Mayor and Aldermen may elect and nominate from Time to Time one discreet Person skilfull in the Laws and Constitutions made by Us or hereafter to be made by Us for the good Government of Our Town of *Fort St. George* and *Citty of Madrassapatam* and all the Inhabitants thereof, to be Recorder of the said Corporation, who is always to be an Englishman born and Our Covenant Servant at the Time and during all the Time of his being Recorder of the said Corporation, and is to have Place and Session next after the Mayor for the Time being, and to be Assistant to the Mayor in trying, judging, and sentenceing all Causes of any considerable Value or Intricacy when he can be present from other more weighty Affairs; and he is always to have, when he can be present, Vote and Suffrage in the said Court of Aldermen as if he were actually nominated by Us or elected according to the Form aforesaid to be One of the Aldermen of the said Corporation; and he is before he enters upon the Exercise of his said Office of Recorder to take the same Oath of Allegiance to His Majesty Our Sovereign, and Fidelity to Us, and that he will truly execute the Office of Recorder as other Officers aforesaid have respectively or ought to do.

Recorder.

AND Our further Mind and Will is, that always Three or more of the Aldermen for the Time being shall be Our Covenant Servants, and hold and exercise their Office of Aldermen no longer than during such Time only as they shall be and remain in Our Service; and if we shall see any Cause at any Time hereafter to remove them or any of them, Three Aldermen being

Three of the Aldermen to be Covenant Servants.



Englishmen, from Our Service, they shall from the Time of such Removal from Our Service *ipso facto* cease to be Aldermen, and from having any further Vote or Suffrage in the Court of Aldermen aforesaid, notwithstanding anything aforesaid in this Charter to the contrary; and in case of such Removal of any of Our Servants (being Aldermen) from Our Service, the Residue of the Court of Aldermen and Burgesses as aforesaid at some general Assembly for that Purpose in convenient Time after may proceed to elect such other Englishmen being in Our Service to be Aldermen in the Room or Stead of those displaced by Ourselves as to the major Part of the said Aldermen and Burgesses shall seem most meet and convenient, which new elected Aldermen before they enter upon the Exercise of the Office of Aldermen are to take the customary Oath before prescribed.

Mayor's Court may punish offenders by Fine, &c.

AND We do further grant and ordain for Us and Our Successors to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses aforesaid and their Successors, that the said Mayor and Aldermen, or the major Part of them that shall be present at the hearing of any such Cause, may, in all Cases of Misdemeanour, Breach of the Peace, Battery, Assault, Trespass or other Criminal Offence, punish the Offender or Offenders by Fine, Amerciament, Imprisonment, or corporal Punishment, at the Discretion of them the said Mayor and Aldermen, or the major Part of them that shall be present as aforesaid, and that all such Fines and Amerciaments shall for ever be One Half to ye Use of the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses, and the other Half to the Use of Us and Our Successors, Our Half Part whereof shall be annually accompted for and paid to Our General, or in his Absence to Our President of *Fort St. George* for Our Use as aforesaid.

Election of Burgesses.

AND We do further grant and ordain for Us and Our Successors to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses aforesaid and their Successors, that the said Mayor and Aldermen, or the major Part of them which shall be present at any Court of Aldermen, may from Time to Time and at all Times hereafter elect and choose so many other honest and discreet Persons as they shall think fit to be made Burgesses of the said Corporation, and such Persons so nominated and elected by the Mayor and Aldermen or the major Part of them (the Mayor being One) shall from the Time of such Election be and shall be esteemed and taken for good or lawfull Burgesses of the Corporation aforesaid, they so elected taking the Oath or Oaths before appointed for that Purpose before they enter upon the Office or Employment of a Burgess, or have Vote or Suffrage in any general Assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses.

Penalty on persons refusing to accept Office as Aldermen or Burgesses.

AND furthermore We grant and ordain for Us and Our Successors to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses and their Successors, that if any Person or Persons nominated in this Our Charter to be Aldermen or Burgesses in the Corporation aforesaid, or any other Person or Persons that shall hereafter be nominated or elected to be Aldermen or Burgesses in the said Corporation in the Manner aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse to accept of the said Office unto which he is appointed or shall hereafter be elected, every Person so refusing shall forfeit Five Pagodas, to be paid by each Refuser or levied by Distress upon their Goods and Chattels, one Moity of which Fines is to be for the Use of Us and Our Successors, and the Moity to the Use of the said Corporation.

Deputy Mayor to be appointed during Mayor's sickness or absence.

AND We do further grant and ordain for Us and Our Successors to the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses and their Successors, that if it shall

happen that the Mayor of the said Corporation for the Time being shall be sick or to go out of Town upon some necessary Occasion that he cannot attend the Business of the Corporation, in such Case and as often as Need shall require, it shall be lawfull for the Mayor of the Corporation aforesaid to make and constitute One good and discreet Man of the Aldermen to be Deputy Mayor for and during the Sickness or Absence of the Mayor of the Corporation aforesaid, which Alderman being so made Deputy Mayor may do all and singular Things which the Mayor of the Corporation by virtue of this Charter might do if he were in Health and present, first taking an Oath before the Mayor and Two Aldermen for the Time being to do all Things faithfully and rightly according to his best Skill and Power which belongs to the Duty of Deputy Mayor, and this may be done so often as there shall be cause for it.

AND we do hereby concede and appoint that Sir *John Biggs*, Knight, Judge of Our Supreme Court of Judicature aforesaid, shall be the First and Modern Recorder of the Corporation aforesaid, and shall and hath hereby Power to do and execute all Things that belong to the Duty of a Recorder.

Appointment of First Recorder.

AND We do further grant, and Our Successors, to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses aforesaid and their Successors, that the Mayor of the said Corporation for the Time being shall always be One of the Cofferers or Cash Keepers for the Corporation aforesaid, and shall always have the Custody of One Key of the Cash Chest belonging to the said Corporation, which Cash Chest shall be kept in the Inner Council Chamber of the Town Hall, and shall be secured by Three Locks and Keys, whereof Two of the Aldermen shall be likewise Cofferers or Keepers of the other Two Keys, and shall for that Purpose be nominated and elected thereunto by the major Suffrage of any General Court of Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses that shall be duly assembled for that Purpose; and the said Cofferers so to be elected shall, each of them, before they enter upon that Trust, take an Oath to discharge it truly and faithfully, according to such Form as shall be devised by the Court of Aldermen or the major Part of them.

Cash Chest.

AND We do further give and grant for Us and Our Successors to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses aforesaid and their Successors, that the said Mayor and Aldermen at their Discretion, or the major Part of them, may choose and elect One able and discreet Person to be their Town Clerk and Clerk of the Peace, who is always to be an Englishman born, but well skilled in the Languages of *East-India*, and is to be Assistant to the Mayor and Aldermen in all such Businesses and Employments as they shall require of him, and is to keep all the Records of the said Court that shall be committed to him by the said Mayor and Aldermen, and to keep a Register of all Proceedings, Judgements, and Sentences passed by the said Court, and to have and receive for his Pains and Care in that Business such Salary and such moderate Fees (and no other) as the Court of Aldermen shall appoint; and We do hereby declare that the Person so elected for that important Employment shall be always esteemed a Notary Publick, and is hereby qualified to do any Act or Thing, or make any Testimonials that are proper and do appertain to the Duty of a Notary Publick, unto which Acts and Testimonials the Mayor of the said Corporation for the Time being may affix the Publick Seal of the said Corporation, for which the said Mayor, or whoever he shall appoint, may receive and demand the Duty of Six Fanams for every Time the Publick Seal of the Corporation shall be affixed to any Testimonial.

Town Clerk to be elected,

and to be esteemed a Notary.

Mayor's Court and  
Justices authorized  
to administer Oaths.

AND further We grant, ordain, and constitute for Us and Our Successors to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses aforesaid and their Successors, with the Consent and Approbation of Our Sovereign Lord the King testified by His Most Excellent Majesty prefixing His Royal Sign Manual to this Charter, that the Mayor and Aldermen being hereby constituted a Court of Record within our Town of *Fort St. George* and City of *Madrassapatam*, shall at all Times hereafter and from Time to Time have Authority to administer assertory Oaths to Witnesses in all Cases that shall be brought before them, and that the Mayor or any of the Justices of the said Corporation may likewise administer assertory Oaths or any other lawfull Oath or Oaths.

Power reserved to  
remove and replace  
Mayor, &c.

PROVIDED always, and We do hereby reserve full Power and Authority to Us and Our Successors from Time to Time and for all Times hereafter, and the like Power and Authority We do reserve to Our General and Council of *India* for the Time being, and in the Absence of Our General of *India*, to Our President and Council of *Fort St. George*, and at all Times hereafter under our Common Seal, or under the Hands and Seals of Our said General and Three of Our Council of *India*, or in Our General's Absence under the Hands and Seals of Our President and any Three of Our Council of *Fort St. George*, to remove and put out of Office any Mayor, Recorder, Justice or Justices, Alderman or Aldermen, Burgess or Burgesses of the Corporation aforesaid, or the Town Clerks or Sargeants of the said Corporation, as often as We or Our Successors, or Our General and Three of Our Council of *India*, or Our President and Three of Our Council of *Fort St. George*, shall think fitt, and in the Room or Stead of them or any of them so removed to place such others as they shall think fitt, by such Order as We or they shall think fitt, by such Order as aforesaid under Our Common Seal, or under the Hands and Seals of Our General of *India* and any other Three of Our Council of *India*, or under the Hands and Seals of Our President and any Three of Our Council of *Fort St. George*; and all such Persons removed by Order as aforesaid shall be and be taken to be actually removed *ipso facto* to all Intents and Purposes, anything in this Our Charter aforesaid to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding: and all Persons as shall by Order under Our Common Seal, or other Orders as aforesaid of Our General and Council of *India*, or Our President and Council of *Fort St. George*, be placed in the Rooms or Steads of others removed, shall be to all Intents and Purposes as rightly and truly Mayor, Recorder, Justice or Justices, Alderman or Aldermen, Burgess or Burgesses, Town Clerk, Sargeant or Sargeants as if they had been particularly nominated by their proper Names and Surnames in this Our present Charter.

Freemen of the  
Corporation.

AND further We The said *Governor and Company* for Us and Our Successors do give, grant and concede to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses aforesaid and their Successors, that they and every of them and their Children for ever of what Nation, Religion, or Cast soever they be or shall be, and all their Servants bred up in merchandizing of what Nation, Religion, or Cast soever they be or shall be, shall for ever have and enjoy the free Exercise of their respective Religions within the aforesaid Precincts of the said Corporation in which they have been born and educated, and shall always have and enjoy the same Liberty and Freedom of Trade from and to *Fort St. George* and *Madrassapatam* aforesaid to any Ports or Places in *India* in any Commodity or Commodities whatsoever which We have or shall not hereafter reserve to the General Joint Stock of this Company, and in the same Manner may Trade and

Traffick from *India to England*, and from *England to India*, with the same Liberty, Freedom and Indulgence which We have or shall grant to any natural born Englishmen which are or are not the Company's Servants, or which any English Merchant or Merchants being Freeman or Freemen of this Company may lawfully claim, have, or enjoy, they paying to Us and Our Successors no other or greater Custom or Duty or Dutys at any Time hereafter on any Pretence whatsoever than the natural born Subjects of our Sovereign Lord the King and the Freemen of this Company do and shall pay, they the said Freemen to be hereafter made or admitted, and every of them, at their Admission to the Priviledges of being a Freeman of the said Corporation which intitles them to the same Immunities and Priviledges of the English Freemen of this Company although they be not or shall not hereafter be made or chosen Burgesses, taking the same Oath that the Freemen of this Company take at their Admission and giving a small Sum of Money to the Poor's Box of the said Corporation towards the Relief of the poor Freemen that are or hereafter shall be of the said Corporation, at the Discretion of and according to the Ability of the Party that desires to be made free.

AND We The said *Governor and Company* for Us and Our Successors do give, grant, and concede to the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses and their Successors, that the said Mayor and Aldermen shall have and for ever enjoy the Honour and Priviledge of wearing Rundelloes and Kettysols born over them when they or any of them walk or ride abroad on their necessary Occasions at all Times within the Limits of the said Corporation, and that when the said Mayor and Aldermen go to their Guild Hall and Court House, or upon any other solemn Occasion they may ride on Horseback in the same Order as is used by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of *London*, having their Horses decently furnished with Saddles, Bridles, and other Trimmings after one Form and Manner as shall be devised and directed by Our President and Council of *Fort St. George*. And Our further Will and Mind is, and We hereby grant for Us and Our Successors to the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses and their Successors, that the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses, and likewise all other Persons as aforesaid that shall hereafter be admitted and sworn by the said Mayor and Aldermen to be Freemen of the said Corporation, (which Power of Admission of Persons to be Freemen of the said Corporation We hereby grant and concede to the said Mayor and Court of Aldermen, or the major Part of them, the Mayor being One), may build and employ for their own Account any Ships or Vessels for their own Use or Uses, or purchase Parts of English or other Ships at their Discretion, and may enjoy all other Rights and Priviledges whatsoever which any Englishman born or any Freeman of this Company can have or may enjoy.

AND further We grant and concede for Us and Our Successors to the Mayor, Aldermen, or the major Part of them (the Mayor being One), that the said Mayor and Aldermen (which Our Mind and Will is shall be called the Court of Aldermen) may as aforesaid, and in Manner aforesaid, make what Number of Freemen they think fitt without Stint or Limitation of the Number; but We will and do always provide that the said Freemen so to be hereafter elected and made shall have no Vote or Suffrage in the electing of Officers of the said Corporation, anything aforesaid to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided likewise, and We do hereby ordain, limit, and appoint, that the

Mayor and Aldermen may have Rundelloes and Kettysols born over them,

and may ride on horseback.

Mayor, Aldermen, Burgesses and Freemen may build and employ ships on their own account.

Court of Aldermen may make what number of Freemen they may think fit, without votes.

But number of  
Burgesses not to  
exceed 120,

and only Mayor,  
Aldermen and  
Burgesses to have  
votes.

In Witness, &c.

Number of Burgesses now herein nominated by Ourselves, together with those to be hereafter on any Pretence whatsoever, in the whole make above or exceed the Number of One Hundred and Twenty Burgesses at One Time. And Our Mind and plain Meaning is, that no Freeman of the said Corporation, but only the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses for the Time being, shall at any Time have Vote or Suffrage in the choosing of any Officer or Officers belonging or hereafter to belong to the said Corporation.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused our larger Seal to be hereunto affixed at the *East-India House* in *London* this Thirtieth Day of *December*, *Anno Domini*, One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-seven, and in the Third Year of the Reign of Our said Sovereign Lord *James* the Second by the Grace of God, King of *England, Scotland, France* and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c.

(*Vera Copia.*)

Transcribed.

(Signed) THOMAS WRIGHT.

(Signed) CORNELIUS MOLL.

„ CORNELIUS MOLL.