

30 August 1662 13 Car. II THE GOVERNING CHARTER.

CHARLES the SECOND by the grace of God King of England, Scotland France and Ireland defender of the faith et cetera. To all to whom these presents shall come greetings. Whereas we have seen certain Letters Patents of Henry the seventh heretofore King of England made in these words (See No. VIII)

Now know yee that the said recited Letters Patents and all and every the powers priviledges and other things therein contained saveings and excepting so much and such parts thereof as in and by these presents and or or shall be otherwise granted altered added or supplied, wee at the humble petition of the said Master Wardens and Keepers of the Comilality of the Mistery of Cowpers London of our especiall grace certain knowledge and mere motion have ratified confirmed and by the presents for us our heires and successors as much as in us is do ratify and confirme and moreover nothing before in the said recited Letters Patent to the contra notwithstanding for the better order rule and government of the said Master Wardens and Keepers of the Cominalty aforesaid Wee of our more especiall grace certaine knowledge and mere motion do for us our heires and successors will ordiane constitute declare and grant by these presents that John Price the now Master of the said Cominaltie George Moore and Thomas Boyleston the now Wardens of the said Cominalty whome by theise presents wee do confirme to bee the present Master and Wardens of the said Cominaltie and Thomas Gill, Richard Milles, William Giles, Nathaniell Lucas, Richard Young, Henry Partridge, Henry Haycock, and all the other now professing or useing the said art or mistery of Cowpers and that are now Freemen of free persons of the said Society or Corporation within the Cittyes of London and Westminster or either of them and the Libertyies and suburbs of the same and within twoe miles compasse of the same and that all others that now doe or shall hereafter exercise the said art or Mistery of Cowpers within the places aforesaid or any of them or which shall be Freemen or free persons of the same Company or Society shall be from henceforth one body corporate by the name of the Master Wardens or Keepers of the Cominalty of Freemen of the Mistery of Cowpers London and of the suburbs of the same Citty and for the better executeing of this our grant on that behalfe we have thought fitt that there shall or may be at all times hereafter seventeen assistants of the said Company besides the Mater and Wardens for the tie being and to that intent and purpose we have assigned named consistituted made and appointed and by thee presents for us our heires and successors do assigne name and constitute make and appoint Thomas Gill, Richard Milles, William Coultman, Nathaniel Lucas, Richard Young, Henry Haycock, Arthur Bray, Abraham Rowe, THomas Rawlinson, William Willes, William Chisworth, Simon Driver, Edward Palmer, Richard Emmes, Thomas Carter, Thomas Mason, William Cooper to be the first and present Assistants of the said Company of Cowpers of London and to continue i this said office of Assistants during their natural lives or otherwise as is hereinafter limited and expressed they before they be admitted to the exercise of the said office of Assistants taking their corporall oathes before the Master and Wardens of the said Cominalty for the time being or ant two of them for the due and faithfull execution of the said places of Assistants which said

Master and Wardens for the time being or any two of them we do hereby authorise to as minister the said oathes accordingly.

And we will and by these presents for us our heires and successors do grante unto the said Master Wardens and Keepers of the Cominalty aforesaid and their successors that the Master Wardens Assistants and livery of the said Society for the time being of he greater parte of them for the purpose assembled from time to time for ever hereafter shall have full powers and authority yearly and every yeare on the Monday nextbefore the feast of Pentecost otherwise called Whitsontide to nominate and choose one of the wardens or Asssitants for the time being to be Master of all said Company for one whole yeare to commerce immediately after the time that such Master so chosen shall take his oath as hereinafter is expressed and that he which shall be so named and chosen unto the said Office of Master of the said Company before he be admitted to execute his said Office shall on the first Tuesday in the month of June or within eighteen dayes then next after yearly take his Corporall oathe before the Master Wardens and assistants of the said Company for the time being or the greater part of them (to whom we give power by these presents to administer the said oath) well and truely to execute the said Office of Master of the said Company in all things belonging to the said Office and that such person after the said oath so as aforesaid to be taken shall have and exercise the said /office of Master for one whole yeare then next ensuing and from hence untill another be chosen Master and ssworne to said Office in forme aforesaid and according to the true meaning of these presents and likewise that at the same time of electing of the said Master A.S. aforesaid they the said Master Wardens Assistants and Livery or the greater part of them so assembled may also name and choose two persons out of them present Wardens Asssitants or Livery of the said Company which shall be Wardens of the said Company for the whole yeare to commence immediately after the time that such two wardens so chosen shall take their respective oaths as hereinafter followeth and that they which shall be so named and chosen unto said Offices of Wardens of the said Company before they or other of them be admitted to execute their said offices shall on the first Tuesday in June or within eighteen days then next after the yearly take their respective corporall oaths before the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Company or the greater part of them for the time being (to whome we give power by these presents to administer an oath or oaths) well and truely to execute the said office of Wardens in and by all things touching and concerning the said Office and after such oathes so as aforesaid taken such two persons so sworne shall and may execute their said office of Wardens for one whole yeare net ensuring the time takeing of such oath or oaths and from thence untill two others be chosen Wardens and sworne unto the said Office of Wardens of the said Company of the persons and in manner and forme in these presents expressed and declared and according to he true meaning of these presents.

And further by these presents for us our heires and successors we will and grante unto the said Master Wardens or Keepers of the Cominalty aforesaid and their successors that if the Master and Wardens so elected and chosen as aforesaid or any of them shall refuse to serve and hold such place or places aforesaid whereunto they or any of them shall be elected or if it shall happen the Master and Wardens of the said Company for the time being or any of them

at any time within one yeare after that they or any of them shall be so chosen and sworne in his or their respective office or offices to die or be removed from his or their said office or offices (which said Master and Wardens or just and any reasonable cause we will shall be from time to time removeable by the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Society or the greater part of them for the time being) that then and so often in every cases aforesaid it shall be lawfull to and for the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Company for the time being or the greater part of them being assembled together at the wills and pleasures in convenient time and times aft to choose elect and sweare one or more other or others of the said Wardens Assistants or Livery for the time being respectively to be Master Warden or Wardens of the said Company according to the orders and provisions before in these presents expressed and declared to execute and exercise the office of Master or of Warden or Wardens of the said Company until some other person or persons be chosen and sworne Mater or Warden or Wardens respectively according to the true meaning of those presents he or they first taking his or their corporall oath or oaths in forme as aforesaid and so this to be done as often as the case shall require.

And likewise we will and by these presents for us our heires and successors do grante unto the said Master Wardens and Keepers of the Cominalty aforesaid and their successors that whensoever it shall happen any of the Assistants of the said Company for the time being to die or be removed from his or their office or offices (which Assistants and every or any of them we shall removable and be removed by the greater part of the Master Wardens and Assistants for the time being for evill government misbehaviuors or for any other just and reasonable cause) that then and so often it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Master and Wardens and so many of the said Assistants for the time being which shall then survive and remaine or the greater part of them at their will and pleasure in convenient time and times afterwards from time to time to name and choose one other or more of the said Livery of the said Company for the time being to be an assisitant or assistants of the said Company in his or their place or stead which shall so happen to dye or be removed as aforesaid and that he or they so named and chosen an Assistant or Assistants before he or they or any of them be admitted to the execution of the said office pf Assistant or Assistants shall be convenient time after such choice take his and their corporall oath or oaths before the Master Wardens and Asssistants of said Company or the great part of them for he time being (to whome by these presents we give power to administer the said oath or oaths) well and truely to execute the said Office or offices and so this to be done as often as he case shall require.

And also we do grante for us our heires and successors by these presents until the said Master Warden anf Keepers of the Cominaltie aforesaid that the Master and Wardens of the said Society for the time being at any time or times before the said Thomas Gill and other the persons before in these presents within named assigned and appointed Assistants or to be Assistants as aforesaid have duely taken their oathes as assistants according to the true meaning of these presents and after such oathes so taken by the said Thomas Gill and other the persons aforesaid named with him to be Assistants of the said Company the Master Wardens and assistants of the said Company for the time being or the

greater parte of them at any time or times respectively shall or may have full power and authority by virtue of these presents to make ordaine constitute appoint and set downe such reasonable orders and ordinances in writing as to them the said Master and Wardens for the time being before the said Thomas Gill and other persons aforesaid before named to be Assistants with him shall have taken their oathes as aforesaid and after such oathes so taken as to them the said Master Wardens or asssistants or the greater part of them for the time being shall seeme meet and necessary according to their good discretion respectively as well for and concerning the oaths that shall be administered to the Master Wardens Assistants and Freemen of the said Company and the necessary Officers of and concerning the same and also for the good order rule and government of the Master Wardens Assistants and Cominalty aforesaid and all other members of the said Society or thereunto belonging in and touching all necessary matters and things concerning the same and that whensoever the said Master Wardens for the time being before the said Thomas Gill and other herein named with him Asssitants or to be Assistants shall have taken their oathes as aforesaid and after such oathes so taken the Master Wardens and Asssistants for the time being or the greater part of them shall make ordaine and establish such orders acts and ordinances as aforesaid they respectively shall have power therein to provide and limit such reasonable pains penaltyes and punishments either by fines or amerciaments or by any other lawfull ways or meanes whatsoever upon all offenders breakers neglecters or not observers of the same or any of them as to them the Master and Wardens for the time being or after such oathes taken by the persons hereinfore named for assistants as aforesaid the Master wardens or assistants of the said Company or the major part of them for time being respectively are to be assembled shall think fitt necessary and convenient and that thereupon or at any time after the said Master Wardens or Keepers of the Cominlty of the Freemen of the mistery of Gowpers London and the suburbs of the same Citty aforesaid or such of them whome it doth concerne shall or may by virtue hereof have levy recover and take the said fines or amerciaments by actions of debt or distress of the goods and chatells of such offender of offenders according to the laws and statutes of this realme and the same fines and amerciaments so levied and taken shall and may reteine convert and enjoy to and for the common use benefit and supportation of the said Cominalty all which acts orders and ordinances so as aforesaid to be made we will shall be observed and kept under the paines and penaltyes therein to be contained so as always such orders ordinances fines and amerciaments be reasonable and not repugnant or contrary to the lawes and statutes of this our realme of England nor contrary to the due custome of our Citty of London.

And moreover we do by these presents for us our heires and successors grante unto the said Master Wardens and Keepers and their successors that the Master Wardens and Assistants for the time being shall and may from time to time and all times thereafter fully freely and absolutely do performe and execute as well within the said Citty and the Libertyes and Suburbs thereof and within two miles compass of the same Libertyes or Suburbs all and every the grants powers libertyes and privileges in and by the said recited Letters Pattents given and granted or mentioned to be given and granted and every of them anything in the said former letters Pattent contained to the contrary not

withstanding And we do further will and by these presents for us our heires and successors streightly charge and command all and singular Mayors Sheriffes Justices of the Peace Constables Bailiffes headboroughs and other officers and Ministers of us our heires and successors whatsoever whome it may concerne in all and every place and places whatever as well priviledged as not priviledged within our said Cittys of London and Westminster and their suburbs and libertyes and within two miles compass of the same that they and every of them at all and every time and times hereafter and from time to time upon reasonable request to them to be made in that behalf to be furthering helping aiding and assisting to the said Master Wardens and assistants of the said Company for the time being and every of them for the doing executing and performing of all and singular the premises according to the tenor and effect of these presents.

And our further will and pleasure is and we do by these our letters Pattents limit and appoint the place where the said Master Wardens and assistants and Cominaltie shall assemble together and hold the courts for the Corporation and make such elections as aforesaid shall be their Common Hall called Cowpers Hall scituate in the Parish of Saint Michael Bassishaw in the City of London or in such other place or places the said Company or Society for the time being shall have their common hall or meeting place for manageing their public business and occasions.

And lastly our will and pleasure is that all and every the new additions and alterations in these Letters Pattents made varying and differing from any the matters and things in the said former recited Letters Pattents incerted or contained shall stand and be good and effectuell the said former Letters Pattents or any clause matter or thing therein contained to be contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding WITNESS ourselfe at Westminster the thirtieth day of August in the thirteenth year of our reign.

By writ of privy Seal

HOWARD