



CHAP. xxiii.

An Act to alter the constitution of University College,
London, and for other purposes relating to the said
College.

A.D. 1869.

[24th June 1869.]

WHEREAS an institution, formerly called "The University of London," was established by a deed of settlement dated the eleventh day of February 1826, whereby it was agreed and declared to the effect following: That the object of the institution was the advancement and promotion of literature and science by affording to young men residing in or resorting to the cities of London and Westminster, the borough of Southwark, and counties adjoining, adequate opportunities for obtaining literary and scientific education at a moderate expense; that for effecting the said object a piece of land near Gower Street in the parish of Saint Pancras in the county of Middlesex had been purchased, and suitable halls, schools, lecture rooms, offices, and other buildings were intended to be erected thereon; that the capital of the institution should not amount to more than 300,000*l.* or to less than 150,000*l.*, and should be raised by subscriptions for shares of 100*l.* for each share; that shares should be deemed personal estate, and should be transferable and subject to forfeiture as therein mentioned; that the proprietor of a share or shares should be entitled to present and continue on the institution one student in respect of each share of which he should be proprietor, subject to such regulations as should be declared by the council of the institution; that upon the death, bankruptcy, or insolvency of a proprietor, his executors or administrators, legatees, next of kin, or assignees respectively should not, as such, be proprietors in respect of his share or shares, but should have a qualified right of succeeding to the proprietorship thereof, or of disposing of the share or shares to an approved nominee, or of surrendering or relinquishing the same to the council, and that if they should not avail themselves of such right within six calendar months after the death, bankruptcy, or insolvency of the proprietor

Preamble
recites deed
of settlement,
11th Feb-
ruary 1826.

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his share or shares should be forfeited; that forfeited, surrendered, or relinquished shares should be sold and reissued by the council for the benefit of the institution; that the institution should be under the management of a council consisting of twenty-four persons to be chosen annually from the proprietors as therein mentioned; that the council should be empowered to accept gifts and endowments for promoting particular objects of education, or otherwise in aid of the general purposes of the institution, on such terms and conditions as might be agreed on between the council and the persons bestowing such gift or endowment; that a general meeting of proprietors should be holden yearly on the last Wednesday in February, and at such meetings, thirty proprietors at least being present, elections of members of council and auditors should take place, the accounts of the institution should be laid before the proprietors, and other necessary business transacted, and a dividend not exceeding four pounds per centum on the sums actually paid on each share might be declared; that the surplus income after payment of such dividend should be invested as a sinking fund applicable to the general purposes of the institution; that the proprietors should have such right of voting personally or by proxy as therein mentioned; that a dissolution of the institution might take place with the consent in writing of eighteen or more members of the council and of three fourths of the proprietors voting by ballot at each of two successive general meetings to be convened as therein mentioned, and upon such dissolution the surplus proceeds of the assets of the institution above its liabilities should be divided among the persons who should be proprietors at the period of dissolution in proportion to the amount of their respective shares; that donors of 50*l.* or upwards should be eligible to the council and be on the footing of proprietors for life without participation in profits or power of transfer:

And whereas with few exceptions all the shares issued under the said deed of settlement were paid in full, and a capital amounting to 153,600*l.* was raised pursuant to the herein-before recited deed of settlement, by means whereof the land so purchased was paid for, and a building comprising halls, schools, and lecture rooms, together with museums and libraries, was erected thereon, and the said institution has been since the year 1828 carried on as a place of literary, scientific, and professional education, and in the year 1832 a boys' school was established and has since been carried on within the walls of the institution under the control of the council:

And whereas by royal charter bearing date on the 28th day of November in the 7th year of the reign of King William the Fourth (1836) the then actual and future proprietors and donors for the

Charter of
incorpora-
tion, dated
28th Nov.
1836.
(7th W. 4.)

time being according to the said deed of settlement, and also the future proprietors and donors according to any byelaws thereafter to be made, were incorporated by the name of "University College, London," with power of holding real estate, the yearly rackrent value of which at the time of the acquisition thereof should not, together with the site of the college, exceed 10,000*l.*, and the council were thereby empowered (within the limit aforesaid) to accept gifts and endowments for promoting particular objects of education, or otherwise in aid of the general purposes of the college, on such conditions as might be agreed on for the purpose between the council and the persons bestowing such gift or endowment (such terms and conditions not being inconsistent with the charter or contrary to law); and the said charter provided that there should be a council to manage the affairs of the college, consisting of a president, vice-president, treasurer, and not more than 24 nor less than 16 other members, to be elected out of the body corporate; that a general meeting of the members of the said body corporate should be held at least once a year; that such general meeting should choose the president, vice-president, treasurer, and other members of the council, and should have full power to make, alter, or revoke byelaws for the regulation of the body corporate, the admission of members, the management of the corporate property, the manner of electing the president, vice-president, treasurer, and other members of council, and the period of their continuance in office, and the manner of electing and appointing professors, tutors, and other officers and servants; that the regulations and provisions of the said deed of settlement and other existing regulations of the institution made pursuant thereto should be existing byelaws of the body corporate, subject to be altered, varied, or revoked like other byelaws; that the whole property of the body corporate should be vested in the members thereof, and that they should have full power to sell, alienate, charge, or otherwise dispose of the same, but that no sale, mortgage, incumbrance, or other disposition of any messuages, lands, tenements, or hereditaments belonging to the body corporate should be made except with the approbation and concurrence of a general meeting:

And whereas a body of byelaws for the management of the college was adopted at a general meeting of proprietors held on the 7th of May 1842, at which meeting the provisions of the deed of settlement were annulled; and the said byelaws, among other things, provide that upon the death, bankruptcy, or insolvency of a proprietor, his executors or administrators, legatees, next of kin, or assignees respectively should not, as such, become proprietors of the college, but should have such qualified right of transfer or nomina-

Byelaws
adopted 7th
May 1842.

A.D. 1869. tion as therein mentioned, and every share of such proprietor should be forfeited to the college, unless within six years from his death, bankruptcy, or insolvency some qualified person should be procured to be admitted a proprietor in respect thereof, and that the secretary should write the word "forfeited" against such share in the register of shareholders, and every such share should from the time of the forfeiture of the same become vested in the college; that for the purpose of forming a class of members from graduated students of the college it should be lawful for any proprietor to cede a share or shares, either immediately or in reversion, to the college, and that it should be lawful for the council, by a resolution to that effect, at such times as they should think fit, to confer any share so ceded or forfeited as therein-before mentioned on any student of the college who might have taken a degree with honours in the University of London, whereupon such student should, with the title of "fellow," be deemed the holder of such share, and in respect thereof should become a proprietor of the college, but that the shares so conferred should not be capable of transfer or transmission, but should revert to the college on the death of the possessors thereof, to be again conferred on graduated students as before :

Fellows.

And whereas in pursuance of the aforesaid byelaws the council have from time to time conferred shares which had been ceded or had become forfeited on students who had taken degrees with honours in the University of London, and such persons have, under the title of "fellows," for many years past formed part of the general meetings of proprietors, and several fellows have from time to time been elected members of the council :

And whereas the revenues of the college have not been more than sufficient to meet its expenditure, and no dividend has ever been declared on the shares in the college, nor in fact has the college ever been conducted with a view to the individual profit of the proprietors thereof, and during the last seven years the number of shares transferred by sale has been forty-eight, and the average price thereof has been three pounds three shillings, and out of a total of 1,555 registered shares 554 shares have become subject to forfeiture by reason of the death, bankruptcy, or insolvency of the last registered proprietor, and the default in procuring a qualified person to be admitted a proprietor in respect thereof; and it is expedient that the constitution of the college should be altered by divesting it of the character of a proprietary body of shareholders, and by its reconstitution for public objects :

And whereas the right of proprietors of shares to present or nominate students to be admitted on specially advantageous terms

under the provisions for that purpose above referred to has not for many years been exercised or claimed: A.D. 1869.

And whereas, partly before, but to a much greater extent after, the grant of the herein-before recited charter, divers gifts and bequests have been made to the college, either for special purposes or in aid of its general purposes, and have been either applied or are held by the college for such special or general purposes, and further gifts and bequests may in like manner be made to the college, with a view to forward the public and permanent objects thereof: Donations
and bequests.

And whereas the number of proprietors (other than fellows) attending the general meetings of the college is very small, and, but for the attendance of fellows, it would be difficult to obtain a quorum of members at the general meetings; and it is expedient that provision should be made for permanently increasing the number of members of the college:

And whereas it is expedient that the objects of the college should be extended to the advancement and promotion of the fine arts as well as of literature and science:

And whereas in the year 1832 the college appropriated a certain portion of its land for the erection thereon of a hospital in connexion with the medical school of the college, and the council obtained subscriptions from the proprietors of the college and others, whereby the North London or University College Hospital was erected on the said land, and the said hospital has since been supported by annual subscriptions and by donations and bequests, and also by means of the fees of students of the college attending the hospital, which fees have for that purpose been relinquished by the medical officers of the hospital appointed by the council; and the government of the hospital and of its funds since its foundation has been in the hands of the council, who have from time to time made and altered the rules for the management thereof; and the college is now possessed of considerable investments for the benefit of the hospital: Hospital.

And whereas doubts are entertained whether the property of the college, including the site and buildings thereof, and including also the hospital so built upon the freehold land of the college, might not, under the provisions of the said charter and subject to the restrictions therein mentioned, be alienated, charged, or otherwise disposed of by the members defined in the said charter, or their successors, for the individual benefit of such members; and it is fitting that any such power of alienation should cease, and that the provisions

A.D. 1869. — herein-after contained should be made to secure the perpetual use by the college of the said property, together with any additions which have been or may be made thereto for the purposes for which the said college was incorporated, and for other purposes connected with education, and also for the purposes of the said hospital, but subject to the powers of sale, lease, exchange, and disposition herein-after contained :

And whereas doubts have also arisen as to the validity of the said byelaws of the 7th May 1842 with respect to the forfeiture of shares, and as to the admission of fellows by virtue of such byelaws, and with respect therefore also to the validity of proceedings of general meetings and of meetings of the council in which fellows have taken part ; and it is expedient that such doubts should be removed, and that the provisions herein-after contained should be made with respect to all the matters aforesaid, and that the said charter should be repealed, and that the said college should be re-incorporated :

And whereas notice of the intention to apply for this Act was published in six several advertisements in the month of November 1868, and in the month of December 1868 a summary of the contents of the Act was sent to every proprietor whose address was known, and before the 16th day of February 1869 a circular was also sent to every such proprietor, convening a special meeting of the proprietors to consider the bill which had then been introduced into Parliament, and the said meeting was also advertised four several times in the said month of February ; and at the special meeting of proprietors which was held accordingly on the 24th day of February 1869 the bill was submitted to the proprietors then present, and was unanimously adopted by them :

And whereas the purposes of this Act cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament :

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted ; and be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows ; (that is to say,)

Short title. **1.** This Act may for all purposes be cited as "The University
Commence- College (London) Act, 1869," and it shall come into operation from
ment of Act. the day of the passing thereof.

Revoking deed of settlement and charter. **2.** The said deed of settlement of the 11th day of February 1826 and all the matters therein contained are hereby annulled, and the said charter is hereby annulled.

3. Notwithstanding the annulling of the said charter and deed of settlement, and subject to and so far as not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act,—

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Saving
rights, &c.

- (1.) All byelaws, rules, and regulations, resolutions of council or senate or committees, in force at the time of the passing of this Act, with relation to the college or hospital, shall, until altered or revoked, remain in force :
- (2.) The members of the council, auditors, professors, officers, and servants shall retain their offices on the same terms and conditions as before the passing of this Act they held the same :
- (3.) All books and documents which but for the annulling of the charter would have been evidence for and against the college shall be admitted as evidence :
- (4.) All debts due to or from the college at the time of the passing of this Act, and all deeds, conveyances, obligations, and liabilities, causes and rights of action, shall apply to the college hereby re-incorporated as fully and effectually as they did apply for and against the college before the passing of this Act :
- (5.) No action or other proceeding by or against the college shall abate or be discontinued by reason of the repeal of the said charter, but every such action or other proceeding may be continued by or against the college as effectually as it might have been continued if this Act had not been passed.

4. The persons or classes of persons herein-after described shall be and they are hereby constituted one body politic and corporate by the name of "University College, London," for the purpose of affording at a moderate expense the means of education in literature, science, and the fine arts, and in the knowledge required for admission to the medical and legal professions, and in particular for so affording the means of obtaining the education required for the purpose of taking the degrees now or hereafter granted by the University of London, and shall by their aforesaid name have perpetual succession and a common seal, and power to sue and be sued, and to purchase, receive, hold, and enjoy to them and their successors, notwithstanding the statutes of mortmain, any lands, tenements, and hereditaments of any tenure, the yearly value of which, exclusive of the site of the college and of the said hospital, shall not exceed in the whole the sum of ten thousand pounds, computing the same at the rackrent which might have been gotten for the same at the time of the acquisition thereof by the college.

Re-incor-
poration of
college.

Defining
members of
college.

5. The members of the college shall consist of the following persons :

Governors.

(1.) Every person who on the day before the passing of this Act was the registered proprietor of a share or shares in the college, otherwise than as a fellow of the college, or who shall be nominated and approved pursuant to this Act in the place of a proprietor having died or become bankrupt within six years immediately before the passing of this Act, and the successors of such persons pursuant to this Act; and all such persons and their successors shall be called "governors" of the college :

Fellows.

(2.) Every person to whom in pursuance or in supposed pursuance of the byelaws of the 7th May 1842 a share has been transferred by the council, and who has been designated a fellow, and also every person who shall hereafter become a fellow pursuant to this Act; and all such persons shall be called "fellows" of the college :

Life gover-
nors.

(3.) Every registered donor living on the day before the passing of this Act, and every person who pursuant to this Act shall become a "life governor;" and all such persons shall be called "life governors" of the college.

College may
hold lands
notwith-
standing
statutes of
mortmain or
for charitable
uses.

6. All persons, bodies politic and corporate, otherwise competent, may grant, sell, alien, and convey, devise, and bequeath to the use of or in trust for the said college any messuages, lands, tenements, or hereditaments of any tenure, or any estate or interest therein, (subject to the above-mentioned limitations as to the total value of the messuages, lands, tenements, or hereditaments which the said college is hereby empowered to hold,) or any money subject to be laid out in land, or other personal estate savouring of the realty, any law or statute prohibiting the conveyance or devise of lands or other property in mortmain or for charitable uses notwithstanding.

Property
transferred.

7. The whole property, both real and personal, held by or in trust for the college at the passing of this Act, shall be held by or in trust for the said college as hereby constituted, for such or the like uses, estates, and interests, and upon and for such and the like trusts and purposes, and subject to such and the like powers of revocation or alteration (if any), as immediately before the passing of this Act existed or were in force for the benefit of or in reference to or were exercisable by the said college under its former constitution, and in particular the college as hereby constituted shall (except so far as qualified by any special provision in this Act) succeed to all the rights and duties of the college under its former

constitution in relation to University College Hospital, and the investments held for the benefit thereof or in reference thereto, and any bequest in favour of the college contained in the will of any person living at the passing of this Act shall, if not revoked and according to its tenor, take effect in favour of the college as hereby constituted.

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8. The college shall have full power and authority to lease, sell, exchange, alienate, charge, or otherwise dispose of its property or any part thereof (subject, nevertheless, to any special trusts affecting the same,) as the said college shall think proper, but no sale, exchange, mortgage, incumbrance, or other disposition of any messuages, lands, tenements, or hereditaments belonging to the college, nor any lease other than a lease for a term not exceeding twenty-one years at a rackrent, shall be made, except with the approbation and concurrence of a general meeting of the members of the college: Provided always, that no sale, exchange, mortgage, or incumbrance or other disposition shall be made of or affecting the building or site of the said hospital, or any lands held in trust for the same, otherwise than with the authority of a court or judge of competent jurisdiction, or with the approval of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales given pursuant to the Charitable Trusts Acts.

College may alien lands, and charge same.

9. The present and future members of the college, whether governors, fellows, or life governors, shall not be entitled to any share or shares in the possessions, property, or capital or income of the college, or any right to participation in the receipts or profits thereof, or any proprietary or individual or transferable or transmissible estate, right, or interest whatsoever (whether actual, contingent, or otherwise), in or to such possessions, property, or capital, income, receipts, or profits, or any part thereof, or any preferential or special right of presenting or nominating students; and the said possessions, property, and capital, income, receipts, and profits, (subject as to the hospital, and as to endowments or other property impressed with any trusts or special purposes, to the due performance and observance thereof,) shall belong wholly to the college in its corporate character, and shall be wholly appropriated to and available for the promotion of the objects for which the college is hereby incorporated.

Divesting members of personal interest.

10. All the right and interest whatsoever in the college or its property, or otherwise, heretofore conferred by any shares registered in the names of persons who died or became disqualified by bankruptcy or insolvency upwards of six years ago, and in respect of which no qualified person has since been admitted a proprietor, and which have not since been reissued, whether the said shares have or have not been entered as "forfeited" in the register of share-

Certain shares extinguished.

A.D. 1869. holders, shall wholly cease and determine, and all such shares shall be considered as having ceased to exist.

Suspending
extinction of
certain other
shares.

11. The executors or administrators or assignees respectively of any proprietor of a share who may within six years immediately preceding the passing of this Act have died or become bankrupt shall have the option (to be exercisable within six months after the passing of this Act, and to be signified in writing addressed to the secretary of the college at the office thereof,) of nominating a person, subject to the approval of the council, to be a governor of the college, and if such person shall be approved he shall thereupon as from the date of such approval become a governor of the college, and every such person shall be deemed to be approved unless disapproved by the council (such disapproval to be signified in writing within six months after his nomination); and if the executors or administrators or assignees respectively of the last proprietor of any such shares do not within six months after the passing of this Act propose some person, who shall be approved by the council, to fill the place of such proprietor as aforesaid, all right or interest in respect of such shares shall cease and determine at the expiration of such six months, or from the date of the disapproval by the council of the person nominated in respect thereof (whichever shall last happen), and the said shares shall thenceforth cease to exist: Provided that notice of this provision shall be given by the insertion of an advertisement at least three times, at intervals of not less than fourteen days between the successive advertisements, in a morning daily newspaper circulating in London, and the first of such advertisements shall be inserted within one month after the passing of this Act.

Governors
may transmit
their powers.

12. It shall be lawful for every governor (other than a life governor) to nominate by writing under his hand some person, subject to the approval of the council, to replace him in his lifetime or to succeed him after his death as governor; and the person so nominated, if he claims the benefit of such nomination within twelve months after the time at which it purports to take effect, shall, unless disapproved of by the council, (such disapproval to be signified in writing within six months after the claim is made,) enjoy all the rights, powers, and privileges of a governor of the college, and among those rights the power of transmitting the same to any person to be nominated by him in the manner and upon the conditions aforesaid.

As to ap-
pointment of
fellows.

13. The council may nominate any former or actual student of the college to be a fellow of the college, subject to such conditions as shall from time to time be prescribed by the byelaws of the

college, and the name of every person who shall be hereafter nominated by the council as a fellow of the college shall be submitted to a general meeting, and upon his being admitted by the general meeting such person shall become a member and fellow of the college, and shall so continue during his life, but without power of nominating a successor.

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14. The council may from time to time nominate as life governors of the college any persons coming under any of the following descriptions ; (namely,)

As to life governors.

(a.) Former students of the college, whether qualified for admission as fellows or not, who have obtained distinction in any university (either English or foreign) or have become distinguished in after life :

(b.) Persons holding the rank of Emeritus professor of the college:

(c.) Persons having special claims in consequence of benefits conferred upon or services rendered to the college :

(d.) Persons distinguished in literature, science, or art :

(e.) Persons distinguished in public life or for their services in the cause of education :

(f.) Persons who in respect of their descent from or connexion with deceased benefactors or other persons having rendered services to the college may be considered to represent any such deceased benefactor or other person or his family :

(g.) Persons whom on any other special ground the council may think fit to nominate as life governors :

Provided that every nomination by the council of a life governor under the above powers shall specify the ground on which the same is made by them.

15. Twenty or more members of the college may by writing under their hands nominate any person as a life governor of the college, specifying in such writing the ground on which such nomination is made.

Life governors may be nominated by members.

16. The nomination of life governors of the college, whether by the council or by members of the college under the above powers, shall be subject to such regulations as to the number of nominations in any year, and in other respects, as shall from time to time be prescribed by the byelaws of the college.

Subject to byelaws;

17. The name of every person nominated as a life governor of the college, whether by the council or by members of the college as aforesaid, shall be submitted to a general meeting, and upon his being admitted by the general meeting such person shall become a life governor of the college, but without the power of nominating a successor.

And subject to general meeting.

A.D. 1869.

General meetings.

18. A general meeting of the members of the college shall be held annually in the month of February, and the first general meeting after the passing of this Act shall be held on the last Wednesday in February in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy, and all such meetings shall be convened by circular sent by post to each member of the college residing within the United Kingdom at the address appearing on the register of members.

As to extraordinary general meetings.

19. The council may at their discretion in like manner convene an extraordinary general meeting of members of the college for any specific purpose to be mentioned in the circular convening the meeting, and at every such extraordinary meeting the special matter on which it is convened shall be alone discussed.

As to votes at meetings.

20. The following provisions shall apply to all general meetings, whether ordinary or extraordinary :

- (1.) The president of the college, or in his absence the vice-president, or in the absence of both a member of the council, or in case no member of the council be present a member of the college (such member of the council or of the college, as the case may be, to be chosen by the meeting), shall be the chairman of the meeting :
- (2.) No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless thirty or more members of the college be present, except the business be the choice of the president, vice-president, treasurer, or other member or members of the council, or of any auditor or auditors, or the admission of fellows or life governors, or the reading of the annual report of the council or of the annual account of the auditors :
- (3.) All questions shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present, and in case of equality of votes the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

Powers of general meetings.

Byelaws.

21. The college shall at a general meeting choose the president, vice-president, treasurer, and other members of the council, and shall have full power at any general meeting to make, alter, or revoke byelaws for the regulation of the college, for the admission of members, for the management of the estates, goods, and concerns of the college, and for fixing and determining the manner of electing the president, vice-president, treasurer, and other members of the said council, and the period of their continuance in office, as also of electing and appointing, suspending and dismissing professors, lecturers, teachers, officers, attendants, and servants : Provided that no such byelaws are repugnant to this Act or to the laws and statutes of this realm.

22. There shall be a council consisting of a president, vice-president, treasurer, and not more than twenty-one or less than sixteen other members, to be elected out of the members of the college; and the council shall have the sole and entire management and superintendence of the said college, as well relating to the income and funds thereof, as to the teaching of the various branches of literature, science, and art therein, and the appointment, suspension, and dismissal of professors, lecturers, and teachers, and all other the affairs and concerns thereof, and shall also have the government of the said hospital and of its funds, and shall or may, but not inconsistently with or contrary to the provisions of this Act or any byelaws for the time being in force, or the laws and statutes of the realm, do all such acts as shall appear to them necessary or proper to be done for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects of the college, and they may delegate to any committee appointed by them, or as regards the hospital otherwise appointed pursuant to the rules for the time being in force in relation thereto, such of their powers as they think fit, subject nevertheless to such restrictions as the council may from time to time prescribe.

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As to council.

Committees.

23. The council may accept gifts or endowments in aid of the purposes of the college or of the hospital, or of any special purposes connected with the college or hospital, or otherwise for promoting education, on such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with this Act or the laws and statutes of the realm, as may be approved by the council.

Council may accept endowments, &c.

24. Six members of the council shall go out of office annually at the ordinary general meeting in February, and their places shall be supplied out of members of the college. The members of the council going out of office shall be re-eligible, and the method of nominating persons as members of the council, and the mode of vacating seats in the council for the purposes of such annual election, shall be determined by byelaw.

Rotation of council.

25. There shall be two or more auditors of the college, to be elected by the general meeting under and subject to such conditions and provisions as shall from time to time be prescribed by byelaw.

As to auditors.

26. Every grant of any ceded or forfeited share in the college, as constituted before the passing of this Act, to a former or actual student of the college with the title of "fellow," and every transfer, approved by the council, of a share or shares which had become liable to forfeiture by reason of a vacancy in the proprietorship thereof for the period of six years, shall for all purposes, and with reference to all matters in anywise dependent on the validity thereof, be held to have been valid; and the fellows on whom any such

Confirming grant of ceded and forfeited shares.

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A.D. 1869. — shares as aforesaid were conferred shall be held to have become by means thereof members of the body politic and corporate constituted by the herein-before recited charter, and to have been eligible as members of the council. And the validity of the acts and proceedings of any general meeting of the college, or of the council, or any officers thereof, shall not be impaired by any defect in title of any of the persons who at any time before the passing of this Act were the registered proprietors of any shares in the said college.

As to validity of past Acts and proceedings.

Expenses of Act.

27. All the costs and expenses of and incidental to the passing of this Act shall be paid by the college.

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