



ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

Cap. 193.

An Act to incorporate and regulate an Institution, to be called *The Belfast Academical Institution*, for affording to Youth a Classcal and Mercantile Education. [15th June 1810.]

WHEREAS very considerable Sums of Money have been subscribed by various Inhabitants of the Town of *Belfast*, in the County of *Antrim*, in that Part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and *Ireland* called *Ireland*, and by other Persons in different Parts of the Kingdom, for the Purpose of establishing and maintaining an Academical Institution, in the said Town of *Belfast*, for affording to Youth a Classcal and Mercantile Education, and for teaching Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, Logic, Metaphysics, Belles Lettres, Moral Philosophy, Chemistry, Botany, Agriculture, and other Branches of Science: And whereas the Purposes of the said Institution would be materially promoted if the Subscribers thereto were incorporated and enabled to have and use a Common Seal and Name by which they may be known and distinguished, sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and also authorized to purchase, take and enjoy Messuages, Lands, or Tenements, for the Purposes of the said Institution: May it therefore please Your Majesty, That it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the King'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, That His Grace the Lord Primate of all *Ireland*, The Most Noble George Augustus Marquis of *Donnegall*, The Most Noble Arthur Blundell Sandys Trumbull Marquis of *Downshire*, The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of *Dawn* and *Connor*, The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of *Dromore*, The Right Honourable Lord Arthur Hill, The Right Honourable Lord Marcus Hill, The Honourable John O'Neill, The Honourable Edward Ward, William Brownlow, Edward May, Francis Whittle, Gilbert M'Ilveen, John Johnson, James Douglas, Cunningham Greg, The Reverend Edward May, William M'Cance,

Proprietors.
incorporated.

[Loc. & Per.]

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William

William Stevenson, Joseph Stevenson, William Tennent, Alexander McKay, John Alexander, Thomas Andrews, James Baillie, Nathaniel Callwell, Robert Callwell, Arthur Chichester, William Clarke, Victor Coates, John Cunningham, Benjamin Edwards, Hugh Edwards, Robert Getty, John Getty, Samuel Gibson, John Gregg, William Gregg, Hill Hamilton, The Reverend Henry Henry, Henry Augustus Seymour Harvey, Samuel Hewitt, William Hunter, Adam Hunter, William Johnston, George Knox, George Lantry, Thomas Lewis, William Magee, John Martin, John McCammon, John McCance, Francis McCracken, Walter Roberts, John Russell, Alexander Scott, John Stewart, John McCance Stoupe, Robert Tennent, John Thompson, Robert Thompson, Samuel Thompson, William Thompson, Thomas Verner, Hugh Wilson, and Hugh Bell, who have severally subscribed any Sum or Sums of Money for the Purposes of the said Institution, together with all such other Persons as shall have at the Time of passing this Act, subscribed to the Purposes of the said Institution, and paid to the Treasurer the Sum so subscribed, and all such other Persons as shall at any Time hereafter respectively subscribe and pay the Sum of Twenty-two Pounds Fifteen Shillings or upwards, for the aforesaid Purposes, shall be and they are hereby made one distinct and separate Body Politic and Corporate in Deed and Name, for the establishing and maintaining an Academical Institution in the said Town of Belfast, and shall have perpetual Succession, and be called and distinguished by the Name of "The Belfast Academical Institution," and that the said Proprietors shall be enabled to implead and sue, and to be impleaded and sued by that Name, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Justice, and shall and may appoint a Common Seal and Seals for the Use of the said Corporation, and that the said Corporation shall have full Power and Authority to receive Subscriptions and Donations to enable them to establish and maintain the said Academical Institution.

Proprietors
may make
Bye-Laws.

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Proprietors for the Time being, or any Twenty-one or more of them, to make Bye-Laws, Rules, Regulations and Statutes for the Government of the said Academical Institution, and for the Education and Government of all such Persons to be educated therein, and for the Election and Elections of a President, Vice-President, Managers, Visitors, Treasurer, Secretary, and Auditors of the aforesaid Academical Institution, as to the said Proprietors or the major Part of them convened at any General Meeting shall seem meet, provided the same be not contrary to the Laws of that Part of the United Kingdom called *Ireland*, or to the Provisions of this Act: Nevertheless, The Most Noble the Marquis of *Donegall* shall be the First President; The Most Noble the Marquis of *Downshire*, The Honourable *Edward Ward*, The Honourable *John O'Neill*, and the Reverend *Edward May*, the First Vice-Presidents; *Robert Callwell*, the First Treasurer; *Joseph Stevenson*, the First Secretary; *Edward May*, *William Tennent*, *Edward Jones Agnew*, *Hugh Kennedy*, *James Douglas*, *John McCammon*, *Robert Getty*, *James McCleery*, *Robert Bradshaw*, *John Gregg*, *William Magee*, *John Crauston*, *Samuel Gibson*, *Robert Tennent*, *John Stoupe*, *William Simms*, *James M'Adam*, *Andrew M'Lean*, *James Bailie*, and *William Clarke*, the First Managers; *Henry Augustus Seymour Harvey*, *Andrew O'Beirne*, *William Drennan*, Doctor of Medicine, *Samuel Stephenson*, Doctor of Medicine, The Reverend *William Holmes*, *John Templeton*, The Reverend *Henry Henry*, and the Reverend *Edward*

Edward Groves, the First Visitors; *John McCracken*, *Robert Simms*, and *Robert Knox*, the First Auditors; and that the said First President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, Secretary, Managers, Visitors, and Auditors, and all subsequent Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, Managers, Visitors, and Auditors, shall continue in their respective Offices for such Time as shall be fixed at the First Meeting of the Proprietors as hereinafter mentioned, and in case of Death or Removal, to be supplied as hereinafter prescribed.

III. And be it further enacted, That the said Proprietors shall and may assemble within Three Months after the passing of this Act, at or in the Exchange, within the Town of *Belfast*, at such Time as shall by the President and any Five or more of the said Proprietors be appointed, by writing under their Hands, Notice of such Time of assembling having been previously advertised in the Newspapers, or in one of the Newspapers published in the said Town of *Belfast*, seven Days before the appointed Day for the said Proprietors so assembling, and shall make such Rules and Regulations for their assembling in future as to them shall seem expedient, and that the Acts of the Proprietors so assembling at their said first Meeting, or the major Part of them, and of the Proprietors to be duly assembled at any future Meeting, or the major Part of them, shall be binding on and deemed the Acts of the said Corporation, provided that at any such Meeting Twenty-one or more of the said Proprietors be present.

Meetings of
the Proprietors.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the Election and Elections of the future President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Managers, Visitors and Auditors, shall be made according to the Manner and Form which shall be appointed by the said Proprietors, under the Power hereinbefore given to the said Proprietors to make Rules and Regulations respecting such Elections; and that the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Managers, Visitors, and Auditors shall not continue in Office for a longer Time than the said Proprietors shall, by any Bye-Law made for that Purpose, determine; and that the Number of Vice-Presidents, Managers, Visitors and Auditors so to be elected shall not exceed the following Numbers; *videlicet*, Four Vice-Presidents, Twenty Managers, Eight Visitors, and Three Auditors.

Election of
the President
and other
Officers.

V. And be it further enacted, That if any President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Manager, Visitor or Auditor, during the Time of his being in Office shall be desirous of being discharged of or from the same, he may send his Resignation thereof in Writing, addressed to the said Corporation by its Corporate Name, to be delivered at the Place at which the Managers shall most usually meet upon the Affairs of the said Corporation, and thereupon his Office shall become vacant.

President and
other Officers
may resign.

VI. And be it further enacted, That if, in consequence of Absence, Impropriety of Conduct, or any other Circumstance, any General Meeting of Proprietors to be held conformable to the Regulations hereinbefore contained, shall come to a Resolution that any President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Manager, Visitor or Auditor should cease to hold or be removed from Office, the Place he may then hold therein shall thereupon become vacant.

President and
other Officers
may be dis-
placed.

VII. And

For filling up
Vacancies.

VII. And be it further enacted, That all Vacancies, from whatever Cause occasioned, shall be filled up according to the Manner and Form to be appointed by the Proprietors under the Power hereinbefore given to make Rules and Regulations respecting Elections of Officers.

Powers of
President,
&c.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That the President, Vice-Presidents, Managers, Visitors, and Auditors shall have and may exercise such Power, Authority and Jurisdiction as shall be given to them by such Bye-Laws, Rules, Regulations and Statutes, as shall be hereafter made by the said Proprietors, according to the Power hereinbefore given to the said Proprietors, of making Bye-Laws, Rules, Regulations and Statutes, for the Government of the said Academical Institution; and the said President, Vice-Presidents, Managers, Visitors, and Auditors shall not have nor exercise any other Power, Authority and Jurisdiction, than such as shall be so given to them; and that the Duties of the Treasurer, Secretary, and Auditors shall be such as the said Proprietors, by any Bye-Law by them made, shall prescribe; and that the said Proprietors shall have full Power to prescribe the Manner and Form according to which Bye-Laws, Rules, Regulations and Statutes are to be enacted, altered or repealed.

Qualification
of President,
&c.

IX. And be it further enacted, That the President, Vice-Presidents, Managers, the aforesaid Eight Visitors, the Treasurer, Secretary and Auditors, shall be elected from and be elected by the aforesaid Corporate Body; but that no Member of the said Corporate Body, unless a Member who shall have subscribed and paid the Sum of Fifty Guineas or upwards, shall be eligible to the Offices of President and Vice-President; and no Member of the said Corporate Body shall be eligible to the Office of Manager, unless such Member shall have subscribed and paid the Sum of Twenty Guineas or upwards; and that every Member of the said Corporate Body shall have free Admission to the Library and Museum of the said Academical Institution, subject to such Regulations as the Managers may ordain.

Visitors.

X. And be it further enacted, That in addition to the aforesaid Eight elective Visitors, the Primate of all *Ireland* for the Time being, the Marquis of *Donegall*, and the Marquesses of *Donegall* in Succession, the Bishop of *Dromore* and his Successors, and the Bishop of *Down* and *Connor* and his Successors, the Provost of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity near *Dublin*, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Synod of *Ulster*, the Representatives in Parliament of the Town of *Belfast*, the Representatives in Parliament for the Counties of *Down* and *Antrim*, and the Sovereign of the said Town of *Belfast*, all for the Time being, shall be Visitors of the said Academical Institution, with the same Powers, Authority and Jurisdiction, that shall or may hereafter be given to the Eight Visitors so to be elected as aforesaid.

Subscribers
of a certain
Sum to have
one Boy
educated.

XI. And be it further enacted, That for the Encouragement of Genius in the lower Ranks of the People, every Member of the said Corporate Body who shall have subscribed and paid into the Hands of the Treasurer the Sum of One hundred Guineas or upwards, shall have the Privilege of appointing one Boy to be educated as a Day-Scholar or Extra-Student in the said Academical Institution, free of all Expence.

XII. And

XII. And be it further enacted, That every Member of the said Corporate Body shall have the Power during his Life of transferring all the Rights and Privileges which he may hold and enjoy as a Member of the said Body Corporate, to any Person, by a Notification in Writing under his Hand to the Managers of the said Academical Institution, to be laid before the said Managers at any Meeting of them duly assembled, containing the Name, Place of Residence, and Situation in Life of the Person to whom such Transfer is intended to be made, for their Approbation; and should the Managers disapprove of the Person so notified, then the Member may proceed to nominate in the Manner aforesaid until some Person so notified shall be approved of by the Managers; and on the Person so notified being approved of the Managers, they shall order the Name of the Person so notified and approved of to be entered together with a Memorandum of such Transfer by the Secretary, in a Book to be kept for that Purpose, to be called the Book of "Transfers"; and on such Entry being so made, the Person so nominated shall be a Member of the said Corporate Body, and shall use, exercise and enjoy all the Rights and Privileges of a Member of the said Corporate Body, in the Place of the Person so making such Transfer.

Subscribers
may trans-
fer their
Rights
during Life.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That if any Bye-Law, Rule, Regulation or Statute to be made by the said Proprietors under the Power hereinbefore given to them of making the same, shall contain any Thing contrary to the several Matters and Things by this Act enacted, then such Bye-Law, Rule, Regulation and Statute shall be null and void.

Bye-Laws
not to be
contrary to
the Act.

XIV. And be it enacted, That no Order, Rule, Regulation or Bye-Law which shall be hereafter made by the Proprietors, according to the Provisions for making the same hereinbefore mentioned, shall be good, valid or effectual, nor shall any Rule, Regulation or Bye-Law be amended, altered or repealed, unless such Order, Rule, Regulation or Bye-Law, or any Amendment, Alteration or Repeal of such Order, Rule, Regulation or Bye-Law, shall have been submitted to and allowed and approved of by the Lord Lieutenant or Chief Governor or Governors and Privy-Council of *Ireland* for the Time being, who are hereby empowered and required, on Request from Time to Time made by or on Behalf of any Eight of the Managers for the Time being, to peruse and examine all such Orders, Rules, Regulations or Bye-Laws, as shall from Time to Time be made, amended, altered or repealed by the Proprietors, in pursuance of this Act, and laid before them the said Lord Lieutenant or Chief Governor, or Governors and Privy-Council of *Ireland*, for the Time being, and to allow and approve of, or to disallow or disapprove of the same or any Part thereof, or to allow and approve of, or to disallow and disapprove of the whole or any Part thereof, as to them shall from Time to Time seem proper and expedient; and for doing thereof no Fee or Reward shall be paid or taken: Provided always, That if within Thirty Days after such said Request in Writing, together with the Draft of such Order or Orders, Rule or Rules, Regulation or Regulations, Bye-Law or Bye-Laws, or any Amendment, Alteration or Repeal of the same, shall have been lodged with the Clerk of the Privy-Council of *Ireland*, and with the Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant or Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland* for the Time being, the same shall not be returned to the Secretary of the said Academical Institution with the Dis-

Bye-Laws to
be approved
by Lord
Lieutenant
and Privy
Council of
Ireland.

[Loc. & Per.]

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approbation

approbation of such Order, Rule, Regulation or Bye-Law, or any Amendment, Alteration or Repeal of any such Order, Regulation, Rule or Bye-Law, that then the same so made by the Proprietors according to the Provisions hereinbefore set forth shall be good and valid to all Intents and Purposes, provided it contains nothing contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Realm, any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Proprietors
may Purchase
Lands.

XV. And be it further enacted, That the said Corporation shall be able and capable in Law to purchase, take and enjoy Messuages, Lands or Tenements not exceeding the Value of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pounds *per annum*, and by Indenture under their Common Seal, to demise or lease the Messuages, Lands or Tenements vested or to be vested in them in pursuance of this Act, or any Part or Parcel thereof, for any Number of Years not exceeding the Term of Thirty-one Years, so as upon every such Demise or Lease there be reserved and made payable Half-yearly to the said Proprietors and their Successors, during the said Term, as much Rent as at the Time of making such Lease or Demise can be really had for the same from a solvent Tenant, and so as no Fine, Income, or other Reservation be taken for the same, than such Rents reserved to the said Trustees and their Successors, and so as every such Lease or Demise be made in Possession and not in Reversion.

Corporation
may plead
generally.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That in all Actions to be sued or commenced against the said Corporation, upon any Deed, Contract, or Engagement, under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, it shall and may be lawful for the said Corporation in such Action to plead generally, that they owe nothing to the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs in such Action, and that in all Actions of Covenant which shall be sued or commenced against the said Corporation, it shall and may be lawful for the said Corporation in such Action to plead generally, that they have not broken the Covenants in such Deed, Contract or Engagement contained, or any of them, and if thereupon Issue shall be joined, it shall and may be lawful for the Jury, if they see Cause upon the Trial of such Issue, to find a Verdict for the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs in such Action, and to give so much or such Part only of the Sum demanded, if it be an Action of Debt, or so much in Damage if it be an Action of Covenant, as it shall appear to them upon the Evidence given upon such Trial, such Plaintiff or Plaintiffs ought in Justice to have, or is or are entitled to, any Law, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Public Act.

XVII. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a Public Act, and all Judges, Justices, and others are hereby required to take Notice thereof as such, without the same being specially pleaded.

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Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1810.