

LETTERS PATENTS GRANTED TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF
MERCHANTS OF LONDON, TRADING INTO THE EAST-INDIES,

Bearing Date the Third of *April*, in the Thirteenth Year of the Reign of
CHARLES II., *Anno Domini*, One Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-one.

Recital of former
Charters.

CHARLES the Second, by the Grace of God, King of *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting. Whereas Our Well-beloved Subjects, The *Governor and Company of Merchants, Trading into the East-Indies*, have been of long Time a Corporation to the Honour and Profit of this Nation, and have enjoyed and do enjoy divers Liberties, Privileges and Immunities, by Force of several Letters Patents and Charters, heretofore granted to them, by Our late Royal Progenitors, Queen *Elizabeth* and King *James*, of blessed Memory: And whereas We are given to understand that of late divers Disorders and Inconveniencies have been committed, as well by Our own Subjects as Foreigners, to the great Prejudice of the said Company, and Interruption of their Trade, whereupon they have humbly besought Us to grant and confirm their said Charters, with some Alterations and Additions, tending to the Benefit and Advancement of their Trade and Traffick.

The Company
request Confirmation
of former Charters.

Know ye, therefore,
that We

have granted and
confirmed

the said Governor
and Company to be
a Body Corporate
and Politick:

And to have per-
petual Succession:

Know ye, therefore, that We taking the Premises in Our Royal Consideration, and well weighing how highly it imports the Honour and Welfare of this Our Realm, and of Our good Subjects thereof, that all Disorders and Inconveniencies befalling the said Corporation should be redressed; to which End, and out of an earnest Desire that such good and decent Orders may be established and practised, in the said Corporation, as may tend to their Encouragement, and the promoting of the general Good, have of Our especial Grace, certain Knowledge and mere Motion, and at the humble Petition of The said *Governor and Company*, given, granted, ratified and confirmed, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do give, grant, ratify and confirm, unto Our said Trusty and well-beloved Subjects, The *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, that they from henceforth for ever be and shall be One Body Corporate and Politick, in Deed and in Name, by the Name of The *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and them, by the Name of The *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, One Body Corporate and Politick, in Deed and in Name, really and fully for ever, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do make, ordain, constitute, establish, confirm and declare, by these Presents: And that by the same Name of *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, they shall have perpetual Succession, and that they and their Successors, by the Name of The *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, be and at all Times hereafter shall be Persons able and capable in Law, and a Body Corporate and Politick, and capable in Law, to have, purchase, receive, possess, enjoy and retain Lands, Rents, Privileges, Liberties, Jurisdictions, Franchises and Hereditaments, of what Kind, Nature, and Quality soever they be to them and

their Successors: And also to give, grant, demise, alien, assign 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 Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, may plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, defend and be defended, in whatsoever Courts and Places, and before whatsoever Judges and Justices, and other Persons and Officers, in all and singular Actions, Pleas, Suits, Quarrels, Causes and Demands whatsoever, of whatsoever Kind, Nature or Sort, in such Manner and Form, as any other Our Liege People of this Our Realm of *England*, being Persons able and capable in Law, may or can have, purchase, receive, possess, enjoy, retain, give, grant, demise, alien, assign, dispose, plead, defend and be defended, release and be released, do permit and execute: And that The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, may have a Common Seal, to serve for all the Causes and Businesses of them and their Successors: And that it shall and may be lawful to The said *Governor and Company*, and their Successors, the same Seal, from Time to Time, at their Will and Pleasure, to break, change, and to make new or alter, as to them shall seem expedient.

and a Common Seal.

AND further We will, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do ordain, that there shall be from henceforth One of the same Company, to be elected and appointed, in such Form as hereafter in these Presents is expressed, which shall be called the Governor of the said Company, and that there shall be from henceforth Twenty-four of the said Company, to be elected and appointed, in such Form, as hereafter in these Presents is expressed, which shall be called the Committees of the said Company, who together with the Governor of the said Company, for the Time being, shall have the Direction of the Voyages of and for the said Company, and the Provision of the Shipping and Merchandizes thereunto belonging; and also the sale of all Merchandizes, Goods and other Things, returned in all or any of the Voyages or Ships, of or for the said Company; and the managing and handling of all other Business, Affairs and Things, belonging to the said Company: And We will, ordain and grant, by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, unto the said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, that they The said *Governor and Company*, and their Successors, shall from henceforth for ever be ruled, ordered and governed, according to such Manner and Form as is hereafter in these Presents expressed, and not otherwise, nor in any other Sort or Form: And that they shall have, hold, retain and enjoy the Grants, Liberties, Privileges, Jurisdictions and Immunities, only hereafter in these Presents granted and expressed, and no other.

Governor and 24
Committees to be
chosen.

AND for the better Execution of Our said Will and Grant, in this Behalf, We have assigned, nominated, constituted and made, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do assign, nominate, constitute and make *Sir Andrew Riccard*, Knight, to be the First and Present Governor of the said Company, and to continue in the said Office, from the Date of these Presents, until the Tenth Day of *April*, then next following, if the said *Sir Andrew Riccard* shall so long live, and so until a new Governor be chosen by the said Company, in Form hereafter expressed: And also We have assigned, nominated and appointed, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors,

Sir Andrew Riccard,
Knight, to be the
First Governor.First Committees
named.

We do assign, nominate, constitute and make, *George Lord Berkeley*, *Sir John Lewis*, *Sir William Thomson*, *Sir Richard Ford*, *Sir James Drax*, *Sir John Frederick*, *Sir Theophilus Biddulph*, *Sir William Vincent*, *Sir Thomas Bludworth*, *Sir William Rider*, *Sir Stephen White*, and *Sir George Smith*, Knights; *William Love*, Esq.; *William Williams*, *John Joliffe*, *Peter Middleton*, *Thomas Kendall*, *Maurice Thomson*, *Samuel Moyer*, *Christopher Boone*, *Francis Clerke*, *John Mascall*, *Thomas Perle*, and *Christopher Willoughby*, Gentlemen, to be the Twenty-Four First and present Committees of the said Company, from the Date of these Presents, until the said Tenth Day of *April*, then also next following, and so until new Committees shall be chosen, in Form hereafter expressed.

Deputy Governor to be elected

AND further We will and grant, by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, that it shall and may be lawful, to and for The said *Governor and Company*, for the Time being or the more Part of them, present at any publick Assembly, commonly called the Court General, holden for the said Company, the Governor of the said Company being always One, from Time to Time, to elect, nominate and appoint One of the said Company, to be Deputy to the said Governor, which Deputy shall take a Corporal Oath, before the Governor, and Five or more of the Committees of the said Company, for the Time being, well, faithfully and truly to execute his said Office of Deputy to the Governor of the said Company; and after his Oath, so taken, shall and may, from Time to Time, in the Absence of the said Governor, exercise and execute the Office of Governor of the said Company, in such Sort as the said Governor ought to do.

and sworn.

Company to choose a new Governor annually between the 10th and last Day of April.

AND further We will and grant, by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, that they or the greater Part of them, whereof the Governor for the Time being, or his Deputy, to be One, from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, shall and may have Authority and Power, yearly and every Year, between the Tenth and the last Day of *April*, to assemble and meet together, in some convenient Place, to be appointed from Time to Time by the Governor, or in his Absence by the Deputy of the said Governor for the Time being: And that they being so assembled, it shall and may be lawful, to and for the said Governor, or Deputy of the said Governor, and the said Company, for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, which then shall happen to be present, whereof the Governor of the said Company, or his Deputy for the Time being, to be One, to elect and nominate One of the said Company, which shall be Governor of the same Company, for One whole Year from thence next following, which Person, being so elected and nominated to be Governor of the said Company, as is aforesaid, before he be admitted to the Execution of the said Office, shall take a Corporal Oath before the last Governor, being his Predecessor, or his Deputy, and any Six or more of the Committees of the said Company, for the Time being, that he shall, from Time to Time, well and truly execute the Office of Governor of the said Company, in all Things concerning the same: And that immediately after the said Oath so taken, he shall and may execute and use the said Office of Governor of the said Company, for One whole Year, from thence next following.

Every Member of the said Company to be sworn.

AND in like Sort, We will and grant, that as well every one above-named to be of the said *Company or Fellowship*, as all others hereafter to be admitted,

or free of the said Company, shall take a Corporal Oath, before the Governor of the said Company, or his Deputy, for the Time being, to such Effect, as by The said *Governor and Company*, or the more Part of them, in any publick Court to be held for the said Company, shall be in reasonable Manner set down and devised, before they shall be allowed, or admitted to trade or traffick as a Freeman of the said Company.

AND further We will and grant, by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, that the said Governor, or Deputy of the said Governor, and the Company, and their Successors, for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, whereof the Governor, or the Deputy of the Governor, from Time to Time, to be One, shall and may, from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, have Authority and Power, yearly and Every Year, between the Tenth and the last Day of *April*, to assemble and meet together, in some convenient Place, to be from Time to Time appointed by the said Governor of the said Company, or in his Absence by his Deputy: And that they being so assembled, it shall and may be lawful, to and for the said Governor, or his Deputy, and the Company, for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, which then shall happen to be present, whereof the Governor of the said Company, or his Deputy, for the Time being, to be One, to elect and nominate Twenty-four of the said Company, which shall be Committees of the said Company, for One whole Year from thence next ensuing, which Persons, being so elected and nominated to be Committees of the said Company, as aforesaid, before they be admitted to the Execution of their said Offices, shall take a Corporal Oath, before the Governor or his Deputy, and any Five or more of the said Committees of the said Company, being their last Predecessors, for the Time being; that they, and every of them, shall well and faithfully perform their said Office of Committees, in all Things concerning the same: And that immediately after the said Oath so taken, they shall and may execute, and use their said Offices of Committees of the said Company, for One whole Year from thence next following.

And moreover Our Will and Pleasure is, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, We do grant unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and to their Successors, that when and as often as it shall happen, the Governor of the said Company, for the Time being, at any Time within One Year after that he shall be nominated, elected and sworn to the Office of the Governor of the said Company, as is aforesaid, to die or to be removed from the said Office, which Governor not demeaning himself well in his said Office, We will to be removable at the Pleasure of the said Company, or the greater Part of them, which shall be present at any their publick Assemblies, commonly called their General Court, holden for the said Company: That then and so often, it shall and may be lawful, to and for the Residue of the said Company, for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, within convenient Time after the Death or removing of any such Governor, to assemble themselves in such convenient Place, as they shall think fit, for the Election of the Governor of the said Company: And that the said Company, or the greater Part of them, being 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 Company, to be Governor of

Committees to be elected annually between the 10th and the last Day of April,

and be sworn.

Upon the Death or Removal of the Governor a new One to be chosen.

the same Company, in the Place and Stead of him that so died, or was so removed; which Person, being so elected and nominated to the Office of Governor of the said Company, shall have and exercise the said Office, for and during the Residue of the said Year, 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 so require.

And in like Manner
for any of the Com-
mittees dying or
being removed;

AND also Our Will and Pleasure is, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do grant unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and to their Successors, that when and as often as it shall happen, any of the Committees of the said Company, for the Time being, at any Time within One Year next after that they or any of them shall be nominated, elected and sworn to the Office of Committees of the said Company, as is aforesaid, to die, or be removed from the said Office, which Committees, not demeaning themselves well in their said Office, We will to be removable at the Pleasure of The said *Governor and Company*, or the greater Part of them, whereof the Governor of the said Company, for the Time being, or his Deputy, to be One, that then and so often, it shall and may be lawful, to and for The said *Governor and Company*, for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, whereof the Governor, for the Time being, or his Deputy, to be One, within convenient Time after the Death or removing of any the said Committees, to assemble themselves in such convenient Place, as is or shall be usual and accustomed for the Election of the Governor of the said Company, or where else the Governor of the said Company, for the Time being, or his Deputy, shall appoint: And that The said *Governor and Company*, or the greater Part of them, whereof the Governor for the Time being, or his Deputy, to be One, being then and there present, shall and may, then and there, before their Departure from the said Place, elect and nominate One or more of the said Company, to be Committee or Committees of the said Company, in the Places and Steads, Place or Stead, of him or them that so died, or were or was so removed; which Person or Persons, so elected and nominated to the Office or Offices of Committee or Committees of the said Company, shall have and exercise the said Office and Offices, for and during the Residue of the said Year, 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.

new ones to be
elected,

who shall be sworn.

Members of the
Company, their Sons
and Factors, may
freely trade to the
East-Indies.

AND further We do, by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, will and grant unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, that they, and all that are or shall be of The said *Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and every of them, and all the Sons of them, and every of them, at their several Ages, of One and Twenty Years, or upwards; and further that all such the Apprentices, Factors and Servants of them, and every of them, which hereafter shall be employed by The said *Governor and Company*, in the said Trade of Merchandize, of or to the *East-Indies*, beyond the Seas, or any other the Places aforesaid, shall and may, from henceforth for ever, from the Day of the Date of these Presents, freely traffick, and use the Trade of Merchandize by Seas, in and by such Ways and Passages, already found out and discovered, or which hereafter shall be found out and discovered, as they shall esteem and take to be fittest, into and from the said *East-Indies*, in the Countries and Parts

of *Asia* and *Africa*, and into and from the Islands, Ports, Havens, Cities, Creeks, Towns and Places of *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*, or any of them, beyond the *Cape of Bona Esperanza*, to the Streights of *Magellan*, where any Trade or Traffick of Merchandize may be used or had, and to and from every of them in such Order, Manner, Form, Liberty and Condition, to all Intents and Purposes, as shall be, from Time to Time, at any publick Assembly or Court, holden by or for The said *Governor and Company*, by or between them of the said *Fellowship or Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, or the more Part of them, for his Time being, present at such Assembly or Court, the Governor, or his Deputy, being always present at such Court or Assembly, limited and agreed, and not otherwise, without any Molestations, Impeachment or Disturbance, any Statute, Usage, Diversity of Religion or Faith, or any other Cause or Matter whatsoever, to the contrary notwithstanding; so always the same Trade be not undertaken, or addressed to any Country, Island, Port, Haven, City, Creek, Town or Place, already in the lawful and actual possession of any such Christian Prince or State, as at this present is, or at any Time hereafter shall be in League or Amity with Us, Our Heirs or Successors, and who doth not or will not accept of such Trade, but doth overtly declare and publish the same to be utterly against his and their Good-Will and Liking.

AND further Our Will and Pleasure is, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do grant unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and to their Successors, that it shall and may be lawful, to and for The said *Governor and Company*, and their Successors, from Time to Time, to assemble themselves, for or about any the Matters, Causes, Affairs or Businesses of the said Trade, in any Place or Places, for the same convenient, within Our Dominions, or elsewhere; and there to hold Court for the said Company, and the Affairs thereof: And that also it shall and may be lawful, to and for them, or the more Part of them, being so assembled, and that shall then and there be present, in any such Place or Places, whereof the Governor, or his Deputy, for the Time being, to be One, to make, ordain, and constitute such and so many reasonable Laws, Constitutions, Orders and Ordinances, as to them, or the greater Part of them, being then and there present, shall seem necessary and convenient, for the good Government of the said Company, and of all Factors, Masters, Mariners and other Officers, employed or to be employed, in any of their Voyages; and for the better Advancement and Continuance of the said Trade or Traffick; and the same Laws, Constitutions, Orders and Ordinances, so made, to put in Use and execute accordingly, and at their Pleasure to revoke, or alter the same, or any of them, as Occasion shall require: And that The said *Governor and Company* so often as they shall make, ordain or establish any such Laws, Constitutions, Orders and Ordinances, in Form aforesaid, shall and may lawfully impose, ordain, limit and provide such Pains, Punishments and Penalties, by Imprisonment of Body, or by Fines and Amerciaments, or by all or any of them, upon or against all Offenders, contrary to such Laws, Constitutions, Orders and Ordinances, or any of them, as to The said *Governor and Company* for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, then and there being present, the said Governor, or his Deputy, being always One, shall seem necessary, requisite and convenient, for the Observation of the same Laws, Constitutions, Orders

Company may hold
General Courts:

And may make By-
Laws;

and may revoke or
alter the same:

May impose Pains
and Penalties for
Disobedience of
By-Laws:

and Ordinances: And the same Fines and Amerciaments shall and may by their Officers and Servants, from Time to Time, to be appointed for that Purpose, levy, take and have, to the Use of The said *Governor and Company*, and their Successors, without the Impediment of Us, Our Heirs or Successors, or of any the Officers or Ministers of Us, Our Heirs or Successors, and without any Account thereof, to Us, Our Heirs or Successors, to be made; all and singular which Laws, Constitutions, Orders and Ordinances, so as aforesaid to be made, We will to be duly observed and kept, under the Pains and Penalties therein to be contained; so always as the said Laws, Constitutions, Orders and Ordinances, Imprisonment, Fines and Amerciaments be reasonable, and not contrary or repugnant to the Laws, Statutes, or Customs of this Our Realm.

The same not being
contrary to Law.

Time allowed for
Payment of Duties:

AND also of Our further especial Grace, certain Knowledge and mere Motion, We do, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant to and with The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, that when and as often as any Custom, Poundage, Subsidy or other Duties, shall be due and payable unto Us, Our Heirs or Successors, for any Goods, Wares or Merchandizes whatsoever, to be returned, out or from any the Islands, Ports, Havens, Cities, Towns, or Places aforesaid, unto Our Port of *London*, or any of the Havens, Creeks, Members or Places, to the same Port belonging, that the Customers, and all other Officers for the Time being, of Us, Our Heirs or Successors, for or concerning the Receipt of Custom, Poundage, Subsidy or other Duties, unto whom it shall or may appertain, shall, upon the Request of The *Governor and Company of the said Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, or any their Agents, Factors or Assigns, give unto The said *Governor and Company*, their Agents, Factors or Assigns, Six Months Time for the Payment of the One Half, and after those Six Months ended, other Six Months Time for the Payment of the other Half of their said Custom, Poundage, or other Subsidies or Duties, receiving good and sufficient Bond, with Surety to the Use of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, for the true Payment of the same accordingly; and upon receipt of the said Bonds, with Surety from Time to Time to give unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, for the Time being, their Agents, Factors or Assigns, their Cockets or other Warrants, to take out and receive on Land the same Goods, Wares and Merchandizes, by Virtue thereof, without any Disturbance: And that also as often as any Goods, Wares or Merchandizes of The said *Governor and Company*, for the Time being, laden from Our Port of *London*, or any of the Creeks, Members or Places to the same Port belonging, to be transported to or towards any the Islands, Ports, Havens, Cities, Towns or Places aforesaid, shall happen to miscarry, or be lost before their safe Arrival, or Discharge in the Ports, for and to which the same shall be sent, that then and so often, so much Custom, Poundage, Subsidy, or other Duties as they answered to Us, for the same, before their going forth of Our said Ports, Havens or Creeks, shall after due Proof made, before the Treasurer of Our Realm of *England*, for the Time being, of the said Loss, and the just Quantity thereof, be by Virtue hereof allowed to The said *Governor and Company*, their Agents or Factors, by Warrant of the said Treasurer to the said Customers, or Officers, in the next Goods, Wares or Merchandizes, that The said *Governor and Company*, or their Successors, shall or may ship for or towards those Parts, according to the true Rates of the Customs, Poundage

Six Months for Half,
and Six Months for
the other Half:

And when any
Goods shall be lost,
Customs to be
returned.

or Subsidies, before paid for the Goods, Wares or Merchandizes, so lost or miscarried, or any Part of them.

AND for that The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, are like to bring into this Our Realm, a much greater Quantity of foreign Commodities, from the Parts of the said *East-Indies*, than can be spent for the necessary Use of the same Our Realm, which of Necessity must be transported into other Countries, and there vended: We for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, of Our especial Grace, certain Knowledge and mere Motion, do grant to and with The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, that at all Times, from Time to Time, during the Space of Thirteen Months, next after the Discharge of any the same foreign Commodities, so to be brought in (the Subsidies, Poundage, Customs, and other Duties for the same, being first paid and compounded for as aforesaid) it shall be lawful for The said *Governor and Company*, and their Successors, or any other the natural Subjects of this Our Realm, which may or shall buy the same of them, to transport the same in *English* Bottoms, freely out of this Realm, without Payment of any further Customs, Poundage, or any further Subsidy, to Us, Our Heirs or Successors, for the same; whereof the Subsidy, Poundage, Customs or other Duties, shall be so formerly paid or compounded for as aforesaid, and so proved: And the said Customer, or other Officer or Officers, to whom it shall in that Behalf appertain, for the Time being by Virtue hereof, shall, upon due and sufficient Proof thereof, made in the Custom-House, of or belonging to the same Port of *London*, give them sufficient Cockets or Certificate, for the safe passing out thereof accordingly: And to the End no Deceit be used herein, to Us, Our Heirs or Successors, Certificate shall be brought from the Collector of the Customs, Subsidy, Poundage, or other Duties inwards, of Us, Our Heirs or Successors, to the Collector of the Customs, Poundage, Subsidy, or other Duties outwards, of Us, Our Heirs or Successors, that the said Goods, Wares or Merchandizes, have within the Time limited answered their due Custom, Poundage, Subsidy, or other Duties for the same inwards.

AND moreover We of Our further especial Grace, certain Knowledge and mere Motion, have granted, and by these Presents, do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, that it shall and may be lawful, to and for The said *Governor and Company*, and their Successors, to ship and transport out of this Our Realm of *England*, or Dominions of the same, in any their Voyages, to or towards any the Parts aforesaid, all such foreign Coin of Silver, *Spanish*, or other foreign Silver, or Bullion of Silver, as they shall bring, or cause to be brought, into this Realm of *England*, from the Parts beyond the Seas, either in the same Kind, Sort, Stamp or Fashion, which it shall have, when they bring it in, or any other Form, Stamp or Fashion, to be coined within Our Mint, within Our *Tower of London*, at their Pleasure, so as the whole Quantities of Coin or Monies, by them to be transported in any their said Voyages, do not exceed the Value or Sum of Fifty Thousand Pounds in any One Voyage.

AND further We of Our more ample and abundant Grace, mere Motion and certain Knowledge, have granted, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do grant unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of*

And shall have 13 Months to transport any Goods brought in by them, without further Customs.

May transport all such foreign Silver as they shall cause to be brought in, so as it doth not exceed £50,000 in one Voyage.

The said Company shall enjoy the whole Trade to the East-Indies.

London, Trading into the East-Indies, and to their Successors, that they and their Successors, and their Factors, Servants and Assigns, in the Trade of Merchandize, for them and on their Behalf, and not otherwise, shall for ever hereafter have, use, and enjoy, the whole entire and only Trade and Traffick, and the whole entire and only Liberty, Use and Privilege of trading and trafficking, and using the Feat and Trade of Merchandize, to and from the said *East-Indies*, and to and from all the Islands, Ports, Havens, Cities, Towns and Places aforesaid, in such Manner and Form as is above-mentioned: And that they The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and every particular and several Person, that now is, or that hereafter shall be of that Company, or Incorporation, shall have full and free Authority, Liberty, Faculty, Licence and Power, in Form aforesaid, to trade and traffick to and from the said *East-Indies*, and all and every the Parts thereof, in Form aforesaid, according to the Orders, Ordinances and Agreements, hereafter to be made and agreed upon, by The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, or the more Part of them, present at any Court or publick Assembly, of or for the said Company, the Governor of the said Company, or his Deputy for the Time being, being always present at such Court or Assembly and not otherwise.

AND for that the Ships sailing into the *East-Indies*, must take their due and proper Times to proceed in their Voyages, which otherwise, as we well perceive, cannot be performed in the Rest of the Year following: Therefore We of Our especial Grace, certain Knowledge and mere Motion, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do grant to and with The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, that in any Time of Restraint, Six good Ships and Six good Pinnaces, well furnished with Ordnance, and other Munition for their Defence, and Five Hundred of Mariners, Englishmen, to guide and sail in the said Six Ships and Six Pinnaces, at all Times, shall be quietly permitted, and suffered to depart and go in the said Voyages, according to the Purport of these Presents, without any Stay or Contradiction, by Us, Our Heirs or Successors, or by the Lord High Admiral, or any other Officer or Subject of Us, Our Heirs or Successors, for the Time being, in any wise, any Restraint, Law, Statute, Usage or Matter whatsoever, to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided nevertheless, that if We shall at any Time have just Cause to Arm Our Navy in warlike Manner, in Defence of Our Realm, or for Offence of Our Enemies, or that it shall be found needful to join to the Navy of Us, Our Heirs or Successors, the Ships of Our Subjects, to be also armed for the Wars, to such a Number as cannot be supplied, if the said Six Ships and Six Pinnaces should be permitted to depart as above is mentioned, then upon Knowledge given, by Us, Our Heirs or Successors, or by Our Admiral, to The said *Governor and Company*, about the Twentieth Day of the Month of *July*, or Three Months before The said *Governor and Company* shall begin to make ready the same Six Ships and Six Pinnaces, that We may not spare the said Six Ships and Six Pinnaces, and the Mariners requisite for them, to be out of Our Realm, during the Time that Our Navy shall be upon the Seas, that then The said *Governor and Company* shall forbear to send such Six Ships and Six Pinnaces, for their Trade of Merchandize, until that we shall revoke or withdraw Our said Navy from the said Service.

And in Time of Restraint may send 6 Ships and 6 Pinnaces:

But in case the same cannot be spared, then the Governor and Company to forbear sending them.

AND We of Our further Royal Favour, and of Our more especial Grace, certain Knowledge and mere Motion, have granted, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do grant to The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and to their Successors, that the said *East-Indies*, or the Islands, Havens, Ports, Cities, Towns or Places thereof, or any Part thereof, shall not be visited, frequented or haunted, by any of the Subjects of Us, Our Heirs or Successors, during the Time that these Our Letters Patents shall be or remain in Force, and not revoked or repealed, contrary to the true Meaning of these Presents: And by Virtue of Our Prerogative Royal, which We will not in that Behalf have argued, or brought in Question, We straitly charge, command and prohibit, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, all the Subjects of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, of what Degree or Quality soever they be, that none of them, directly or indirectly, do visit, haunt, frequent or trade, traffick or adventure, by way of Merchandize, into or from any of the said *East-Indies*, or into and from any of the Islands, Ports, Havens, Cities, Towns or Places aforesaid, other than The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and such particular Persons, as now be or hereafter shall be of that Company, their Agents, Factors and Assigns, during the Time that these Our Letters Patents shall be or remain in Force, as aforesaid, unless it be by and with the Licence and Agreement of The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, in writing first had and obtained, under their Common Seal, to be granted, upon Pain that every such Person or Persons, that shall trade or traffick into or from any of The said *East-Indies*, other than The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, shall incur our Indignation, and the Forfeiture and the Loss of the Goods, Merchandizes, and other Things whatsoever, which so shall be brought into this Realm of *England*, or any the Dominions of the same, contrary to Our said Prohibition, or the Purport or true Meaning of these Presents, or which The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, shall find, take and seize, in other Places out of Our Dominions, where the said Company, their Servants, Factors or Ministers, shall trade and traffick, by Virtue of these Our Letters Patents, as also the Ship and Ships, with the Furniture thereof, wherein such Goods, Merchandizes and other Things shall be brought, or shall be found, the One Half of all the said Forfeitures to be to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and the other Half of all and every the said Forfeitures, We do, by these Presents, of Our especial Grace, certain Knowledge and mere Motion, clearly and wholly, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, give and grant unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors: And further, all and every the said Offenders, for their said Contempt, to suffer Imprisonment, during Our Pleasure, and such other Punishment, as to Us, Our Heirs or Successors, for so high a Contempt, shall seem meet and convenient, and not to be in any wise delivered, until they, and every of them, shall become bound unto the said Governor, for the Time being, in the Sum of One Thousand Pounds at the least, at no Time then after to sail, trade or traffick into any of the said *East-Indies*, contrary unto Our express Commandment, in that Behalf herein set down and published.

AND further, for the better Encouragement of Merchants, Strangers, and others to bring in Commodities into Our Realm, We, for Us, Our Heirs and

No persons to trade to the East-Indies, without the Company's Licence:

Penalty for trading without Licence:

One Half to the Crown, and the other Half to the Company:

And to be imprisoned during Pleasure.

Company to grant Licences to trade into the East-Indies.

Successors, do grant unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, that they and their Successors may, from Time to Time, for any Consideration or Benefit, to be taken to their own Use, grant or give Licence, to any Person or Persons, to sail, trade or traffick, into or from any the said *East-Indies*, so as such Licence be granted or given, before such Goods, Wares and Merchandizes be laid on Land, and so as such Licence be made by 'The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, for the Time being, under their Common Seal.

No Licence to be granted by the Crown to trade, without the Company's Consent.

AND further of Our more especial Grace, certain Knowledge and mere Motion, We have condescended and granted, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do condescend and grant unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, that We, Our Heirs and Successors, during all the Time that these Our Letters Patents shall be and remain in Force as aforesaid, will not grant Liberty, Licence or Power, to any Person or Persons whatsoever, contrary to the Tenor of these Our Letters Patents, to sail, pass, trade or traffick to the said *East-Indies*, or into or from any the Islands, Ports, Havens, Cities, Towns or Places aforesaid, or any of them, contrary to the true Meaning of these Presents, without the Consent of The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, or the most Part of them.

Persons not making good their Subscriptions to be disfranchised.

AND of Our more abundant Grace and Favour to The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, We do hereby declare, that Our Will and Pleasure is, that if it shall so happen, that any of the Persons free, or to be free of The said *Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, who shall, before the going forth of any Ship or Fleet appointed for a Voyage, or otherwise, promise or agree, by writing under his or their Hands, to adventure any Sum or Sums of Money, towards the furnishing Provision or Maintenance of any Voyage or Voyages, set forth or to be set forth, or intended or meant to be set forth, by The said *Governor and Company*, or the more Part of them, present at any publick Assembly, commonly called their General Court, shall not, within the Space of Twenty Days next after Warning given to him or them, by The said *Governor and Company*, or their known Officer or Minister, bring in and deliver to the Treasurer or Treasurers, appointed for the Company, such Sums of Money as shall have been expressed and set down in writing, by the said Person or Persons, subscribed with the Name of the said Adventurer or Adventurers; that then and at all Times after, it shall and may be lawful, to and for The said *Governor and Company*, or the more Part of them present, whereof the said Governor, or his Deputy, to be One, at any of their General Courts, or General Assemblies, to remove and disfranchise him or them, and every such Person or Persons, at their Wills and Pleasures: And he or they, so removed and disfranchised, not to be permitted to trade into the said *East-Indies*, or any the Parts thereof, nor to have any Adventure or Stock, going or remaining with or amongst the said Company, without the especial Licence of The said *Governor and Company*, or the more Part of them present, at any General Court, first had and obtained, in that Behalf, any Thing before, in these Presents, to the contrary thereof, in any wise notwithstanding.

Apprentices, Factors and Servants, may be admitted into the Company.

AND Our Will and Pleasure is, and hereby We do also ordain, that it shall and may be lawful, to and for The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, or the more Part of them,

whereof the Governor for the Time being, or his Deputy, to be One, to admit into and to be of the said Company, all such Apprentices to any of The said *Fellowship or Company*, and all Servants or Factors, of or for the said Company, and all such others, as to them, or the most Part of them, present at any Court, held for the said Company, the Governor, or his Deputy, being One, shall be thought fit and agreeable, with the Orders and Ordinances made and to be made for the Government of the said Company.

AND The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, for them and their Successors, do by these Presents covenant, promise and grant, to and with Us, Our Heirs and Successors, that they The said *Governor and Company*, and their Successors, in all and every such Voyages, as they at any Time or Times hereafter shall make out of this Realm, by Virtue of this Our Grant and Letters Patents, the First Voyage only excepted, shall and will, upon every Return which shall be made back again into this Realm, or any of Our Dominions, or within Six Months next after every such Return, bring into this Our Realm of *England*, from the said *East-Indies*, or from some other Parts beyond the Seas, out of Our Dominions, as great or greater Value, in Bullion of Gold or Silver respectively, for every Voyage, the First Voyage only excepted, as shall be, by Force of these Presents, transported and carried out of this Realm, by them or any of them, in any Kind of Silver abovesaid whatsoever, in any the said Voyages; and that all such Silver as, by Virtue of this Our Grant and Letters Patents, shall be shipped or laden, by The said *Governor and Company*, or their Successors, to be transported out of this Realm, in any of the said Voyages, shall from Time to Time, at the setting forth of every such particular Voyage, be shipped and laden, at the Ports or Havens of *London, Dartmouth, or Plymouth*, or at some of the said Ports or Havens, and at no other Port or Haven whatsoever, within this Our Realm, or the Dominions thereof; and that all and every such Silver, as, from Time to Time, shall be shipped and laden in the said Ports of *London, Dartmouth, or Plymouth*, or any of them, to be, by Force of these Presents, transported out of this Our Realm, as is aforesaid, shall, from Time to Time, be duly entered by the Customer, Comptroller, Collector, or other Officer, to whom it shall appertain, of every such Port or Haven, where the same shall happen to be shipped or laden, in the Custom-Book belonging to the said Port or Haven, before such Time as the same shall be shipped or laden, to be transported as aforesaid, without any Custom or Subsidy to be paid for the same; and that in like Manner, all and all Manner of Gold and Silver whatsoever, which shall be brought into this Our Realm, or any of Our Dominions, by The said *Governor and Company*, or any of them, according to the true Meaning of these Presents, shall likewise be, from Time to Time, duly entered by the Customer, Comptroller, or other Officer of every such Port, Creek or Place, where the same Gold or Silver shall happen to be unshipped, or brought to Land, before such Time as the same Gold or Silver, or any Part thereof, shall be unshipped and brought to Land, as aforesaid, according to such Order, as by Our Treasurer of *England*, for the Time being, shall be taken for the entering of the same.

AND for the preventing of secret and clandestine Trading, contrary to Our Intentions herein before expressed, Our further Will and Pleasure is, and We do, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant unto The said *Governor and*

And the said Company are to bring in as great a Value, in Gold or Silver, as they carried out in each Voyage, the first excepted:

All Silver to be shipped from *London, Dartmouth, or Plymouth*, to be duly entered.

No Entry of any Goods to be admitted, unless licensed by the Company.

Company, and their Successors, that no Commissioners or other Officers, that are or shall be appointed to manage the Affairs of the Customs, payable to Us, Our Heirs or Successors, shall permit any Entries to be made of any Goods or Merchandizes, of the Growth, Production, or Manufacture of the Parts or Places aforesaid, in *Asia, Africa, and America*, above limited, or appropriated to the Trade of The said *Governor and Company*, other than such as, from Time to Time, shall be allowed of, by The said *Governor and Company*, or their Successors, under their Common Seal, or the Hand of the Officer, to be by them appointed, to sit in the Custom-House for that Purpose.

An Adventurer to vote according to his Stock.

AND further Our Will and Pleasure is, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do grant unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and to their Successors, that it shall and may be lawful, in all Elections and By-Laws to be made by the General Court of the Adventurers of the said *Company*, that every Person shall have a Number of Votes, according to his Stock, that is to say, for every Five Hundred Pounds by him subscribed, or brought into the present Stock, One Vote; and that any of those, that have subscribed or brought less than Five Hundred Pounds, may join their respective Sums to make up Five Hundred Pounds, and have One Vote jointly for the same, and not otherwise.

All Plantations, &c., to be under the Company's Control;

AND further of Our especial Grace, certain Knowledge and mere Motion, We do, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant to and with The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, that all Plantations, Forts, Fortifications, Factories or Colonies, where the said *Company's* Factories and Trade are or shall be in the said *East-Indies*, shall be immediately and from henceforth under the Power and Command of The said *Governor and Company*, their Successors and Assigns; and that The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, shall have Liberty, full Power and Authority to appoint and establish Governors, and all other Officers to govern them: And that the Governor and his Council, of the several and respective Places where the said *Company* have, or shall have any Factories or Places of Trade, within the said *East-Indies*, may have Power to judge all Persons, belonging to The said *Governor and Company*, or that shall live under them, in all Causes, whether civil or criminal, according to the Laws of this Kingdom, and to execute Judgment accordingly: And in case any Crime or Misdemeanor shall be committed, in any of the said *Company's* Factories, in the said *East-Indies*, where Judicature cannot be executed as aforesaid, for Want of a Governor and Council there, then in such case, it shall and may be lawful for the Chief Factor of that Place, and his Council, to transmit the Party, together with the Offence, to such other Plantation, Factory or Fort, where there is a Governor and Council, where Justice may be executed, or into this Kingdom of *England*, as shall be thought most convenient, there to receive such Punishment as the Justice of his Offence shall deserve.

Company may appoint Governors and Officers:

Governor and Council may judge all persons living under them.

Provision for places where no Governor and Council.

Company may send out Ships of War, &c.

AND moreover Our Will and Pleasure is, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do give and grant unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and their Successors, free Liberty and Licence for The said *Governor and Company*, in case they conceive it necessary to send either Ships of War, Men or Ammunition, into any their Factories or other Places of their Trade, in the said *East-Indies*, for

the Security and Defence of the same: And to choose Commanders and Officers over them, and to give them Power and Authority, by Commissions under their Common Seal or otherwise, to continue or make Peace or War with any Prince or People, that are not Christians, in any Places of their Trade, as shall be most for the Advantage and Benefit of The said *Governor and Company*, and of their Trade: And also to right and recompence themselves, upon the Goods, Estate or People of those Parts, by whom The said *Governor and Company*, shall sustain any Injury, Loss or Damage, or upon any other People whatsoever, that shall any ways interrupt, wrong or injure them, in their said Trade, within the said Places, Territories and Limits, granted unto The said *Governor and Company*, or their Successors, by this Charter: And that it shall and may be lawful, to and for The said *Governor and Company*, and their Successors, from Time to Time, and at all Times from henceforth, to erect and build such Castles, Fortifications, Forts, Garrisons, Colonies or Plantations, at *St. Helena*, as also elsewhere, within the Limits and Bounds of Trade, granted unto The said *Governor and Company*, as aforesaid, as they in their Discretions shall think fit and requisite: And for the supplying of such as shall be requisite to keep and be in the same, to send out of this Kingdom to the said Castles, Fortifications, Forts, Garrisons, Colonies or Plantations, all Kind of Cloathing, Provision of Victuals, Ammunition and Implements, necessary for such Purpose, without paying of any Custom, Subsidy or other Duty for the same; as also to transport and carry over such Number of Men, being willing thereunto, as they shall think fit; and also to govern them in such legal and reasonable Manner as The said *Governor and Company*, shall think fit; and to inflict Punishment for Misdemeanors, or impose such Fines upon them, for Breach of their Orders, as in these Presents are formerly expressed.

AND further Our Will and Pleasure is, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, We do grant unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, and to their Successors, full Power and Lawful Authority, to seize upon the Persons of all such *English*, or any other Our Subjects, in the said *East-Indies*, which shall sail in any *Indian* or *English* Vessel, or inhabit in those Parts, without the Leave and Licence of The said *Governor and Company*, in that Behalf first had and obtained, or that shall contemn or disobey their Orders, and send them to *England*; and that all and every Person or Persons, being Our Subjects, any ways employed by The said *Governor and Company*, in the said *East-Indies*, or any other Place, within the Parts, Places and Limits, before by these Presents granted unto The said *Governor and Company*, shall be liable unto and suffer such Punishment, for any Offences, by them committed in the said *East-Indies*, and Parts before granted, as the President and Council for The said *Governor and Company* there shall think fit, and the Merit of the Offence shall require: And in case any Person or Persons, being convicted and sentenced by the President and Council of the said *Governor and Company*, in the said *East-Indies*, their Factors or Agents there, for any Offence by them done, shall appeal from the same, that then, and in every such case, it shall and may be lawful, to and for the said President and Council, Factors or Agents, to seize upon him or them, and to carry him or them home Prisoners into *England*, to The said *Governor and Company*, there to receive such condign Punishment as the Merits of his Cause shall require, and the Laws of this Nation allow of: And for the better Discovery of Abuses and

And may make Peace or War with any Prince or People that are not Christians:

And may recompence themselves for any Damage:

May erect Fortifications, &c., at *St. Helena*, or elsewhere; and send thither Provisions and Ammunitions Duty free:

Also such Numbers of Men as they shall think fit; and may punish them for Misdemeanors.

May seize unlicensed Persons:

and send them to *England*:

May punish Offenders:

Injuries to be done unto The said *Governor and Company*, or their Successors, by any their Servants by them employed, in the said *East-Indies*, or Voyages thither, it shall and may be lawful, to and for The said *Governor and Company*, and their respective Presidents, Chief Agent, or Governor in the said *East-Indies*, to examine upon Oath all Factors, Masters, Pursers, Supra-Cargoes, Commanders of Castles, Forts, Fortifications, Plantations or Colonies, or other Persons, touching or concerning any Matter or Thing, which by Law and Usage an Oath may be administered, so as the said Oath, and the Matter therein contained, be not repugnant to the Laws of this Our Realm.

And may examine Witnesses on Oath.

Not to undertake any Trade, in the Countries of Princes in Amity with Us, without their Consent.

PROVIDED always nevertheless, and Our Will and Pleasure is, that these Our Letters Patents, or any Thing therein contained, shall not, in any Sort, extend to give or grant any Licence, Power or Authority, unto The said *Governor and Company of Merchants of London, Trading into the East-Indies*, or to any of them, to undertake or address any Trade, unto any Country, Port, Island, Haven, City, Creek, Town or Place, already in the lawful and actual Possession of any such Christian Prince or State, as at this present, or at any Time hereafter shall be in League or Amity with Us, Our Heirs or Successors, and which doth not or will not accept of such Trade, but doth overtly declare, and publish the same, to be utterly against his or their Good-Will and Liking, any Thing before, in these Presents contained, to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

This Grant may be revoked, if not profitable to the Realm on 3 Years Notice.

PROVIDED also, that if it shall hereafter appear to Us, Our Heirs or Successors, that this Grant, or the Continuance thereof, in the whole, or in any Part thereof, shall not be profitable to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, or to this Our Realm, that then, and from henceforth, upon and after Three Years Warning, to be given to the said Company, by Us, Our Heirs or Successors, under Our or their Privy Seal, or Sign Manual, this present Grant shall cease, be void and determined, to all Intents, Constructions and Purposes.

All Officers, &c. to be assisting to the Company.

WILLING hereby, and straitly charging and commanding all and singular Our Admirals, Vice-Admirals, Justices, Mayors, Sheriffs, Escheators, Constables, Bailiffs, and all and singular other Our Officers, Ministers, Liegemen and Subjects whatsoever, to be aiding, favouring, helping and assisting to The said *Governor and Company*, and to their Successors, and to their Deputies, Officers, Factors, Servants, Assigns and Ministers, and every of them, in executing and enjoying the Premises, as well on Land as on Sea, from Time to Time, when you or any of you shall thereunto be required, any Statute, Act, Ordinance, Proviso, Proclamation or Restraint, heretofore had, made, set forth, ordained or provided, or any other Matter, Cause or Thing whatsoever, to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

In Witness, &c.

IN WITNESS whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patents. Witness Ourself, at *Westminster*, the Third Day of *April*, in the Thirteenth Year of Our Reign.

By the KING,

HOWARD.