

UNDER THE ENDOWED INSTITUTIONS
(SCOTLAND) ACT, 1878.

Unto the Right Honourable Richard Assheton Cross, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Petition of the Trustees and Governors of DONALDSON'S CHARITY or FREE SCHOOL, Stonehaven, in the County of Kincardine, Scotland,

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT the now deceased William Donaldson of Quoxies, who resided at Arduthie, by Deed of Mortification, dated the 10th day of February 1829 (of which Deed a copy is herewith produced), gave, granted, disposed, and mortified to and in favour of the Reverend George Thomson, then Minister of the Parish of Fetteresso, and the Reverend Alexander Irvine, then Minister of the Parish of Dunnottar, and their successors in the said Ministry for the time, and to and in favour of George Watson, Esquire, the principal Sheriff-Substitute of Kincardineshire, and his successors in the said office of principal Sheriff-Substitute foresaid, and to any two of them who should accept and act as Trustees for the purposes mentioned in the Deed, perpetually, All and Whole certain lands, therein particularly described, situated in the Parish of Fetteresso and County of Kincardine, which lands consist of the Farm of Belterraigs, at present possessed by Charles Hunter as tenant thereof, and a small part of the (now divided) Commonly of Cowie, at present possessed by Alexander Taylor as tenant thereof.

That by the said Deed of Mortification it is expressly provided and declared that the same was granted by the said William Donaldson, and should be accepted of by his said Trustees, with and under the burdens, provisions, conditions, and reservations therein specified, and for the uses and purposes therein directed and partly hereinafter set forth; the primary purpose being that the said Trustees, along with two persons to be elected annually in manner therein mentioned, should apply the rents and profits of the said lands, together with any other sum or sums which the said William Donaldson might leave or bequeath to them for the purposes therein mentioned, after payment of the feu-duties and other burdens affecting the said lands, and the necessary expense of management, to and for the purpose of Endowing a Charity or Free School within the Town of Stonehaven, or in the immediate vicinity thereof, for the education of fifty poor children, under the conditions and regulations in the said Deed and partly herein set forth, the first being that the School should be under the perpetual care and direction of the Ministers of the foresaid two Parishes, of the principal Sheriff-Substitute of Kincardineshire, and of two persons to be elected annually, one by the Kirk Session of Fetteresso and the other by the Kirk Session of Dunnottar, such persons being inhabitants of the said Parishes respectively, but not members of the Kirk Sessions thereof, nor should they remain in office more than two years following, which five persons should be Governors of the said School, and have the sole management and superintendence of the same, and of the funds destined for the support and maintenance thereof, any two of the said Governors being a quorum for executing all the purposes of the Trust thereby reposed in them, with power to the said Trustees and Governors to name factors and agents under

them, with reasonable allowances for trouble, not exceeding five pounds of factor fee yearly. The second condition was that the branches of education to be taught at the said School should be English reading and grammar, writing and arithmetic, and such other branches as the Governors should from time to time think requisite or advantageous, and suitable to the station, circumstances, and prospects of the scholars. The third condition was that the teacher should be appointed by the Governors, and relates to the character, qualifications, and duties of the person to be appointed as teacher, and provides that he should be allowed in name of salary forty pounds a year, payable half-yearly, and that the Governors should have power, if they should see cause, to remove the master, upon giving him three months' previous notice. The fourth condition was that the scholars should be admitted in the proportion of thirty from the Parish of Fetteresso and twenty from the Parish of Dunnottar, both boys and girls being admissible and to be chosen from the poorest families of the said respective Parishes, giving the preference to those of the name of Donaldson, and preferring, in the first place, the said William Donaldson's own relations of that name, and after the name of Donaldson preferring those of the name of Silver, and of that name preferring the relations of his wife, Une Silver; that no scholar should be admitted under the age of six years nor above the age of twelve; that those admitted should be entitled to remain for four years; and that no boy or girl affected by any contagious distemper should be admitted. Directions are given as to the times of election of scholars; and it is provided that, as far as possible, the said total number of fifty should always be kept up at the said school, and that the master should not, whatever the number might be, receive scholars for the purpose of increasing his own income or emolument. The fifth condition or regulation gives directions as to the keeping of a register of the scholars, as to public examinations being held, and confers on the Governors power of dismissal of scholars from the school. The sixth condition provides for the renting of a house or apartment until there should be sufficient funds for building or purchasing a school-house, for the furnishing of such house or apartment, and for the supplying of books, &c., for the scholars, and gives directions with regard to the letting of the lands conveyed to the Trustees by the Deed of Mortification. The last condition is founded on the anticipation of the Truster that at a future period a surplus fund would be left, after answering the purposes before stated and referred to, and provided for the accumulation of that fund at interest, and for the application thereof—(1) in building or purchasing a suitable school-house, with reasonable accommodation for the schoolmaster; (2) in buying up, if possible, and thereby disburdening the said lands of the feu-duty affecting the same; and (3) in increasing the establishment of the school by admitting an additional number of scholars, and by raising the salary of the master and appointing such assistants as might appear necessary;—the whole rules and regulations laid down by the said Deed of Mortification being still attended to and enforced, as far as they might be applicable to the altered circumstances of the enlarged establishment.

That by a Supplementary Deed of Mortification, dated the 14th day of October 1830 (of which Supplementary Deed a copy is herewith produced), the said William Donaldson, on the narrative that