

And for the removal of the said recited doubts, as to the validity of the Statutes which have been so made as aforesaid, for increasing the number of the Companions of the said Order, and for the division of them into three classes, differing each from the other in rank and privileges, We do further ordain, direct, and appoint, that all such Statutes as aforesaid, and especially certain Statutes made in the name and on the behalf of His late Majesty King George the Third, by His Royal Highness George Augustus Frederick, then Prince of Wales, and Prince Regent of this United Kingdom, bearing date on the second day of January in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, and all acts, deeds, matters, and things hitherto done under and in pursuance of any such Statutes, and especially under and in pursuance of the said recited Statutes of the second day of January one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, shall be of such and the same force, virtue, and effect, in every respect, as if the said Statutes had been duly made, and the said acts, deeds, matters, and things had been duly done in accordance with and under the authority of the said recited Letters Patent of the eighteenth day of May one thousand seven hundred and twenty-five. In witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourselves, at Westminster, the fourteenth day of April, in the tenth year of Our reign.

By writ of Privy Seal.

WHEREAS by Letters Patent, under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, bearing date at Westminster, on the fourteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, and in the tenth year of Our Reign, We have ordained, directed, and appointed, that the Military Order of Knighthood, instituted by Our Royal Predecessor, King George the First, by Letters Patent, bearing date the eighteenth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-five, and therein designated as the Order of the Bath, shall henceforth be known and described by the style and designation of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath.

And We have thereby further ordained, directed, and appointed, that the said Order shall consist of the Sovereign and a Great Master, and of nine hundred and fifty-two Companions or Members, to be divided into three classes as hereinafter mentioned.

And We have thereby ordained, directed, and appointed, that We, Our Heirs and Successors, Kings or Queens Regnant of the United Kingdom aforesaid, shall be Sovereigns of the said Order.

And We have further ordained, directed, and appointed, that a Prince of the Blood Royal, or such other exalted personage as We, Our Heirs

and Successors, shall hereafter appoint, shall be Great Master of the said Order, and shall, in virtue thereof, be the First or Principal Knight Grand Cross of the said Order.

And We have further ordained, directed, and appointed, that the said nine hundred and fifty-two Members shall be divided into three classes, and that of the said three classes, the first or highest class shall consist of seventy-five Members, to be styled or designated Knights Grand Cross of the said Order; and that the second class shall consist of one hundred and fifty-two Members, to be styled and designated Knights Commanders of the said Order; and that the third or lowest class, shall consist of seven hundred and twenty-five Members, to be styled and designated Companions of the said Order.

Provided, nevertheless, and We have further ordained, directed, and appointed, that, if at any time hereafter any occasion should arise rendering expedient any increase to the number of the Members comprised in all or any of the classes of the said Order, it shall be competent to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, by any Statute or Statutes to be hereafter made, in the manner and form for that purpose prescribed in and by the said recited Letters Patent, of the tenth year of Our Reign, to authorize any such increase of the number of Members of any such class or classes, any inconsistency of any such Statute or Statutes with these presents to the contrary notwithstanding.

And We have further ordained, directed, and appointed, that such persons only shall be competent to be Members of any of the said three classes, as shall possess the qualifications to be for that purpose defined in any Statute or Statutes to be hereafter made, in the manner and form for that purpose prescribed in and by the said recited Letters Patent of the tenth year of Our reign.

And whereas, in conformity with the said Letters Patent, of the eighteenth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-five, His said Majesty did enact and issue certain Statutes and Ordinances to be observed within the said Order, bearing date the twenty-third day of the said month of May, in the eleventh year of His reign, that is to say, in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-five, wherein a power was reserved to His said Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, of adding thereto and of explaining any real or supposed ambiguity therein, as well as of determining all disputes which might thereafter arise concerning the interpretation of the said Statutes, provided such additions, alterations, and explanations were given under the Royal Sign Manual, and sealed with the seal of the Order.

And whereas, in the exercise of the power so reserved, Our Royal Uncle George Augustus Frederick, then Prince of Wales, and Prince Regent of this United Kingdom, acting in the