

name and on behalf of Our Royal Grandfather King George the Third, Sovereign of this Most Honorable Order, was, on the second day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, graciously pleased to declare, that being desirous of commemorating the triumphant termination of those protracted and arduous contests in which this Our realm had then recently been engaged, and of manifesting in an especial manner His high sense of the devotion, perseverance, and valour evinced by the officers of His Majesty's forces by sea and land, it was His Royal will and pleasure to advance the splendour and extend the limits of the said Order, by the formation therein of three classes, differing in their ranks and degrees.

And whereas, by the said recited Letters Patent of the tenth year of Our reign, certain material changes have been made in the constitution of the said Order, so as to accommodate the same to the present and future exigencies of this Our realm, and to the due distribution of appropriate rewards amongst such of our faithful subjects as are now or shall hereafter become pre-eminently distinguished by their loyalty and merit in the military or civil service of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, or shall otherwise have merited Our favor.

And whereas several of the Statutes of the said Most Honorable Order enjoined certain practices, ceremonies, and observances which, being unsuitable to modern times, have been virtually suspended under the authority of successive Warrants of dispensation, the said several Statutes therefore have proved inconvenient, the said practices, ceremonies, and observances have become obsolete, and the continued issue of such Warrants of dispensation is inexpedient.

Now We, exercising the power vested in Us, as Sovereign of the said Most Honorable Order, do hereby, with certain exceptions hereinafter specified, annul, abrogate, and repeal all and every the said Statutes and Ordinances bearing date the twenty-third day of May, in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-five, together with all subsequent Statutes and Ordinances heretofore made by Us, or any of Our Royal Predecessors, for the purpose and with the intention of making, ordaining, and establishing the following Statutes and Ordinances, as well as of confirming such portions of the Statutes of this Order as may concern the vested rights of any person or persons, and of renewing such other portions thereof as may be specially set forth or referred to in the following Statutes.

And further know all ye to whom these presents shall come, that We have made, ordained, and established, and by these presents sealed with the seal of the said Order, do make, ordain, and establish the following Statutes and Ordinances, which shall from henceforth be inviolably observed and kept within the said Order.

First.—It is ordained, that this Order of Knighthood shall henceforth be styled and designated in all acts, proceedings, and pleadings, as "The Most Honorable Order of the Bath," as in the said recited Letters Patent of the tenth year of Our reign mentioned, and by no other.

Second.—It is ordained, that the said Most Honorable Order shall consist of the Sovereign, a Great Master, and three several classes of Knights Grand Cross, Knights Commanders, and Companions, as in the said last-recited Letters Patent mentioned.

Third.—It is ordained, that, in pursuance of the said last-recited Letters Patent, We, Our Heirs and Successors, Kings and Queens Regnant of this United Kingdom, are and for ever shall be Sovereigns of this Most Honorable Order, to whom doth and shall belong all power of annulling, interpreting, explaining, or augmenting these and every part of these Statutes.

Fourth.—It is ordained, that a Prince of the Blood Royal, being a descendant of the body of His late Majesty King George the First, or such other exalted personage as We, our Heirs and Successors, may hereafter appoint, shall hold and enjoy the dignified office of Great Master of this Most Honorable Order, who shall be the First or Principal Knight Grand Cross of the same; and We are now pleased to constitute and appoint, and by these presents to declare and nominate Our most dearly beloved Consort, His Royal Highness Francis Albert Augustus Charles Emanuel Duke of Saxony, Prince of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, to be Great Master of this Most Honorable Order, to enjoy all privileges, exercise all rights, and perform all duties belonging to that high office; that to His custody shall be confided the Great Seal of the Order, which He shall affix to all Statutes, Ordinances, and other instruments, according to the regulations which are in the said recited Letters Patent of the tenth year of Our reign, and hereinafter prescribed, touching the issue of every of the said instruments. And it is further ordained, that it shall be His especial duty to enforce the due observance of the Statutes and Ordinances of this Order. And that He shall likewise direct the issue of all letters of summons, whensoever the Sovereign shall be pleased to command an investiture of the said Most Honorable Order.

Fifth.—It is ordained, that this Most Honorable Order shall contain three classes as in the said last-recited Letters Patent mentioned, styled respectively, "Knights Grand Cross," "Knights Commanders," and "Companions." And it is further ordained, that each and every of these three classes shall likewise contain two subdivisions, whereof the first shall be styled "Military," and the second "Civil," each of which subdivisions shall be composed partly of Ordinary and partly of Honorary Members.