

dignities and honors, and the precedency belonging thereto, in as full and ample a manner as they possessed the same antecedently to the enactment of these present Statutes; and nothing herein contained shall have the effect of destroying, injuring, or abating any rights, emoluments, privileges, or advantages belonging to any such Members or Officers of this Most Honorable Order, as may have been nominated or appointed previously to the promulgation of the present Statutes; We being pleased to declare and command, that the said rights, emoluments, privileges, and advantages shall remain as valid as if these present Statutes had never been ordained.

Sixteenth.—It is ordained, that, on the day appointed for the investiture of a Knight Grand Cross or Knight Commander of this Most Honorable Order, the Sovereign, wearing the robes and insignia of the Order, shall be attended by such Knights Grand Cross as can be conveniently assembled, and by the Officers of the Order, habited in their respective mantles and insignia; and the person to be invested shall then be introduced into the Royal Presence, between the two Junior Knights Grand Cross in attendance, preceded by Bath King of Arms, bearing the proper insignia upon a cushion, and by the Gentleman Usher of the Scarlet Rod, when the honor of Knighthood shall be conferred upon the person so nominated a Knight Grand Cross, or Knight Commander, unless he shall have previously received that honour; and he shall then be invested with the insignia of the Order, in form and manner following, that is to say, the new Knight kneeling near the Sovereign, and the Sovereign, assisted by the Great Master, or in his absence, by the Senior Knight Grand Cross present, shall proceed to invest him with the ribband and badge, and shall then deliver to him the star of the Order.

Seventeenth.—It is ordained, that if any person, nominated and appointed a Knight Grand Cross or Knight Commander of this Most Honorable Order, shall, at the time of such nomination and appointment as aforesaid, be absent on Our Service, it shall be competent for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, to authorize some distinguished Officer in Our Service, or other person, to perform in Our name and on Our behalf the ceremony of investiture, by the transmission to the said distinguished Officer or other person of the proper insignia, accompanied by a Warrant, authorizing the said investiture; and the said Warrant shall be prepared by direction of the Great Master, and shall receive the Royal Sign Manual, and shall be countersigned by the aforesaid Great Master, who shall affix thereto the seal of this Order; and the said Warrant shall notify, that we have been pleased, either wholly to dispense with the ceremony of investiture, or to authorize its performance as aforesaid, according as the case may be; and the said Warrant shall fully permit and authorize the person so nominated to wear the insignia, and enjoy the privileges appertaining to the class into which he has been admitted, in

as full and ample a manner as if he had been invested by Us, Our Heirs or Successors; and we do hereby admit such Knight Grand Cross, or Knight Commander, to the rights, privileges, and precedency belonging to either of the said classes, including, among such rights and privileges, the use and enjoyment of the distinctive appellation of a Knight Bachelor of these Realms, until it shall be convenient for the Sovereign to confer personally that honour, or to grant it by Letters Patent under the Great Seal, provided, nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall be construed or interpreted to authorize the assumption of the distinctive appellation appertaining to a Knight Bachelor of these Our realms, by a Knight Grand Cross or Knight Commander of this Most Honorable Order, until either after he has been invested by the Sovereign or otherwise, according to the foregoing provisions of this present Statute.

Eighteenth.—And for the greater honor and distinction of this Order, We are pleased to ordain, that it shall be lawful for every Knight Grand Cross of this Most Honorable Order to require Bath King of Arms to place in the collegiate church of Saint Peter at Westminster, immediately after his investiture, or immediately after the issuing of a Warrant dispensing with the same, an escocheon of his arms, whereon shall be engraven his style and dignity, with the date of his nomination; and for every Knight Commander to require Bath King of Arms to place as aforesaid, an escocheon or plate of his arms and style with the date of nomination.

And further, it shall be lawful for every Companion of this Most Honorable Order, immediately after his nomination to require Bath King of Arms to affix in the aforesaid church a plate, whereon his style and the date of his nomination shall be engraven; and for the due performance of these duties certain fees shall be paid to Bath King of Arms, which are more particularly hereinafter specified. Nevertheless, nothing herein contained shall be construed or interpreted in such a manner as to render the erection of the aforesaid escocheons or plates compulsory upon any Member of this Order, for We are pleased to declare and ordain, that neither the whole nor any part of the same shall in any instance be erected otherwise than at the request of each Knight Grand Cross, Knight Commander, or Companion, as the case may be: We are further pleased to declare and ordain, that each Knight Grand Cross and each Knight Commander of this Most Honorable Order shall be at liberty to limit the inscription on his plate to a statement of his name, style, and date of nomination, omitting therefrom, at his option, any representation of his armorial bearings; but that, in every case where a Member of this Order directs his armorial ensigns to be superadded, he shall duly prove the same, according to the laws of arms, and record them in Our College of Arms, previously to Bath King of Arms erecting them in the aforesaid church; in all cases at the