

[GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN, 1707] [1]

[6 Anne]

**COPY of the CHARTER to the Charitable Corporation for the
Relief of the industrious Poor, by Assisting them with small
Sums upon Pledges at legal Interest**

[1]
Tertia Pars
Paten' de Anne
Rrène Anne
Sexto.

*D. Con' Charitable Corporacion for Releife of
Industrious Poor—Charter.*

ANNE, by the Grace of God &c. to all to whom these Presents shall come, greeting.

Whereas Our trusty and well-beloved Subject *William Higgs, Gentleman,*

hath by his Petition humbly represented unto Us [2] that, the poore and necessitous People of England being very much oppressed by the extravagant Interest exacted from them by such as lend small Summes of Money upon Pawns, he hath invented a new Method of supplying such poore People upon faire and easie Terms, by a Joyst Stock to be raised by charitable Persons; and

hath humbly prayed Us so far to countenance this charitable Undertaking as to grant Our Letters Patent

for incorporating him the said *William Higgs,* with such others as are herein-after named, and to invest them with such usual legall Powers and Privileges as may enable them to carry on the same by the Name of *The Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest:*

Now know yee, that Wee,

being very desirous to promote and encourage all Endeavours and Undertakings tending to the Releife and Redress of our indigent Subjects, and

being graciously pleased to gratifie the said *William Higgs* in his said Request, and to encourage the pious and charitable Undertaking aforesaid,

of Our especiall Grace, certain Knowledge, and meer Motion, have granted, constituted, declared, and appointed, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, do grant, constitute, declare, and appoint, that

[1.]

Our trusty and well-beloved Subjects *Anthony Bowyer, Esquire, John Chamberlaine, Esquire, Ichabod Tipping, Dr in Divinity, Joseph Shaw, Esquire, John Oneby, Gentleman, Jacob Bonell, Merchant, John Fortescue, Esquire, Joseph Moxon, Esquire, Charles Wood, Esquire, Ebenezer Sadler, Gentleman, John Rawlinson, Esquire, Roger Smith, Esquire, Arthur Farewell, Esquire, Thomas Bromfield, Gentleman, Henr' Salter, Gentleman, William Stafford, Gentleman, Thomas Samson, Gentleman, Henry Shute, Clerk, George Shelley, Gentleman, George Wilcox, Gent., William Lancy, Gent., John Knight, Gentleman, John Booth, Mercer, John Wade, Mercer, John Smith, Brazier, Thomas Green, Carver, William Watts, Joyner, Dorothy Lady Altham, Dame Mary Fleetwood, Widow, Hannah Brownsorth, Lettice Crauford, Widow,* and the said *William Higgs*, and

all and every other Person and Persons

who shall be a Subscriber or Subscribers to the Fund or Joyst Stock aforesaid according to the Directions herein-after contained, and

who also shall have paid his, her, or their respective Subscription Monies accordingly, and

[1] [UK National Archives, C 66/3459, Patent Rolls, 6 Anne, pt iii; yet to be researched. The text shown here is that printed in House of Lords, *The Sessional Papers 1801-1833*, vol 193 (1825), Paper Number (62.) *Papers relating to The Equitable Loan Bank Company* “Ordered to be printed 25th April 1825” pp (99)-(106). Also printed in part and discussed in *Select Charters of Trading Companies, A.D. 1530-1707*, edited by Cecil T. Carr, Selden Society vol 28, London: Quaritch, 1918, pp cxvi-cxvii, cxxi, cxxvii, 255-263, cited here as “Carr”. See also “The Charitable Corporation for the Relief of Industrious Poor: Philanthropy, Profit and Sleaze in London, 1707-1733” by Peter Brealey, *History* vol 98 no 333 pp 708-729 (2013), cited as “Brealey”. The charter does not itself state the year it was made, just the date and month, 22 December. The record copy occurs in the patent roll of Queen Anne’s sixth regnal year, which was 8 March 1707 to 7 March 1708 using present day calendar years. So the date of this charter is 22 December 1707, not 1708 as Carr suggested at p cxvii.]

[2] [Carr, p cxvii, n 1] 1 See *Petition Entry Books*, 241, p 43. A pawn-office had existed earlier; see *Patent Rolls*, 5 Car I., pt x. (Bedingfield).

all and every Person and Persons who (as Executors, Administrators, Successors, or Assigns, or by any other lawfull Title derived or to be derived from, by, or under the said originall Subscribers at any Time or Times hereafter), shall have or be entitled to any Part, Share, or Interest of, in, or to the said Fund or Joint Stock, or any Part thereof,

so long as they respectively shall have any Share or Interest in the Joyst Stock or Fund of the Corporation hereby created (the Whole not to be less at any one Time than the Sum^m of Twenty thousand Pound^f nor more than the Sum^{me} of Thirty thousand Pound^f),

shall be and be called One Body Corporate and Politick of themselves, in Deed and in Name, by the Name of *The Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest*; and

them, by the Name of *The Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest*, Wee doe, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, make, create, ordaine, constitute, and establish by these Presents to be One Body Corporate and Politick, in Deed and in Name, for ever:

[2.] And Wee do hereby, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, grant and declare

that, by the same Name of *The Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest*, they shall have perpetuall Succession; and

that they and their Successors shall, by the Name of *The Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest*, from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, be able and capable in Law

to have, take, and receive of and from any Our poor Subjects any such Goods, Wares, Pawns, or Pledges as they shall desire to lay in Pawn, and

to advance and lend upon the same such Sum^{me} and Sum^{mes} of Money as shall be thought reasonable and agreed upon,

such Good^f, Pawns, or Pledges being redeemable nevertheless, at such Time and Times as shall be agreed upon in that Behalf by the Repayment to the said Corporation of the Principall and Interest Money, not exceeding the Rate of Six Pound^f *per Centum per Annum* for the respective Sum^{mes} so to be lent: [3] And

further, that the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poore by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legal Interest*,

shall and may have, take, and accept, as, for, and in the Name of Pawns and Pledges, any Goods whatsoever, and

shall and may also, by the Name aforesaid, plead and be impleaded, sue and be sued, answer and be answered, defend and be defended, in whatsoever Courts and Places, and before any Judges, Justices, and Officers of Us, Our Heires and Successors, in all and singular Actions, Pleas, Suits, Accounts, Plaints, Matters, and Demand^f of what Kind or Quality soever they shall be, in the same Manner and Forme, and as fully and amply as any of Our Subjects may or can do, sue or be sued, plead or be impleaded, answer or be answered, defend or be defended; and

that the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poore by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legal Interest*, shall and may have and use a Common Seale for the Affaires and Business of the said Corporation; and

that it shall and may be lawfull to and for them and their Successors, the same Seale, from Time to Time, at their Will and Pleasure, to break, change, alter, or make new, as to them shall seem expedient:

And We do hereby, for Us, Our Heires and [3.] Successors, grant, declare, and direct,

that all and every Person and Persons who shall hereafter be admitted a Member or Members of

[3] [Carr, p cxvii n 2] It [the Charitable Corporation] offered six *per cent*, upon goods pledged.

the said Corporation, according to the Powers and Limitations hereby granted, and herein contained shall be and be esteemed Members of the said Corporation hereby constituted;

but that no Person shall be or continue a Member of the said Corporation longer than he or she shall have a Share or Interest in their said Joynt Stock or Fund:

[4.] And Wee do hereby, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, ordain and appoint, that there shall be from thenceforth Seven Persons, Members of the said Charitable Corporation, to be named, constituted, elected, and appointed, in such Manner and Forme as is herein-after expressed,

who shall be and be called *The Committee of the Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legal Interest;*

[5.] and for the better Execution of Our Will and Pleasure in this behalfe, Wee have made, named, ordained, constituted, and appointed, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, do make, name, ordaine, constitute, and appoint, the said *Anthony Bowyer, John Chamberlaine, Ichabod Tipping, Joseph Shaw, John Oneby, Jacob Bonnell, and William Higgs*

to be the first and present Committee of the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legal Interest,*

to continue in the said Office of Committee respectively during such Time as the Members of the said Corporation, assembled in a Generall Court to be held for that Purpose, within the Space of One Month next ensuing the Date hereof, or the major Part of them who shall be then and there assembled, shall think expedient, or shall order, agree, and appoint, (timely Notice being given or left to or for all the Subscribers of the said Meeting):

[6.] And Wee do hereby also, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, graint, ordaine, and appoint, that upon the Death or Removall of any of before-named Seven Committee Men, or Determination of their said Offices, or of any other Committee Man of the

said Corporation for the Time being, some other fit Person and Persons

shall, out of the Members of the said Corporation, be duly elected and sworn into the said Office of Committee by the major Part of the Persons assembled in a Generall Court of the said Charitable Corporation, and

shall

continue in the said Office of a Committee Man of the said Corporation, during such Time, and be lyable and subject to be removed from the same Office in such manner

as the Members of the said Corporation, assembled in a Generall Court as aforesaid, shall, by Majority of Votes, order and direct:

And Our Will and Pleasure is, and Wee doe hereby strictly command, that all Persons herein-before named and constituted the present Committee of the said Charitable Corporation, shall, before they be admitted to the Execution of their said several Offices and Trusts of Committee Men respectively, take their corporall Oathes for the due and faithfull Performance of their respective Offices and Trust, before the said *Roger Smith, John Fortesue, and Thomas Bromfield*, or any Two or more of them,

to whom, or to any Two of whom, Wee do hereby give full Power and Authority to require, give, and administer the said Oathes accordingly:

And Wee do hereby further, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, grant and ordaine that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the Persons herein-before named and constituted the present Committee of the said Charitable Corporation, and the Committee of the said Corporation for the Time being, or any Three or more of them, from Time to Time as often as they shall think fit

to assemble and hold Courts, and therein to treat and consult of and concerning all Matters and Things relateing to the said Charitable Corporation, and their Joynt Stock; and also to hear and determine all Controversies that shall or may in anywise happen thereupon:

Provided nevertheless, that all such Courts of [9.] Committee be assembled and held on such Dayes

and so often only as the same shall be agreed upon by a Majority of Votes in General Court of the said Charitable Corporation;

and that all the afore-named Committee Men, and all other Persons who shall from Time to Time be the Committee of the said Charitable Corporation, be duly summoned to attend and be present at every Court of Committee of the said Corporation:

[10.] And Wee do hereby, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, give and grant unto the said *Charitable Corporation, for Releife of industrious Poor, by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest*, and their Successors, full Power and Authority to make and raise, by voluntary Subscriptions, a Joynt Stock or Fund from Time to Time for the Ends and Purposes herein declared and expressed:

[11.] And Our Will and Pleasure is, and Wee do hereby declare, that such Joynt Stock or Fund shall not at any Time, without Licence first had and obtained in that Behalf, from Us, Our Heires or Successors, under Our or Their Privy Signet and Signe Manuall, exceed the Summe of Thirty thousand Pounds: [4]

[12.] And Our Will and Pleasure is, and Wee do hereby, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, grant, ordaine, and declare, that the said *Charitable Corporation for Releif of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summs upon Pledges at legall Interest*, and their Successors, shall and may have and receive the Benefit and Advantage of the said Joynt Stock or Fund, to the Use of the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summs upon Pledges at legall Interest*, and their Successors, according to such Shares and Proportions as the Members of the said Corporation or any of them have, hath, or shall have in the Joynt Stock or Fund aforesaid:

[13.] And for the End^p and Purposes aforesaid, Wee do hereby for Us, Our Heires and Successors, authorize and strictly command the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by*

assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest, and their Successors, that they provide, keep, and lay open, or cause to be provided, kept, and laid open, as Occasion shall require, one or more Book or Books wherein shall be fairly entred and written

all and every the Names, Titles, and Places of Abode of the severall Subscribers now and for the Time being to the Joynt Stock or Fund of the said Charitable Corporation, and

all and every Summe and Summes of Money which from Time to Time shall be subscribed, received, and paid;

to which Booke or Bookes all and every Person and Persons having any Title, Share, or Interest in or to the Joint Stock or Fund of the said Charitable Corporation, or in or to any Dividend or Interest arising thereby, shall and may from Time to Time, and at all seasonable Times, have Recourse and Inspection, without any Fee, Gratuity, or Reward to be demanded, given, or paid for the same:

Provided always, and Our expresse Will and [14.] Pleasure is, that

in case the full and whole Summe of Twenty thousand Pound^p be not as well actually paid in as subscribed as and for a Joynt Stock and Fund of the said Charitable Corporation, within the Space of Eighteen Months next ensuing the Date of these Presents, for and in order to releive industrious Poor, by assisting them with small Summs upon Pledges at legal Interest, according to the true Intent and Meaning of these Our Letters Patents, or

in case that at any Time from and after the End or other Expiration of the said Eighteen Months the said Joynt Stock or Fund of the said Charitable Corporation shall be less than the said Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds,

then and in either of the said Cases, Our Will and Pleasure is, and Wee do hereby reserve full Power and Authority to Us, Our Heires and Successors, by Our or Their Order, in Our or Their Privy Councill, at any Time to declare that these Our Letters Patent, and the Corporation hereby made, shall from the End of Twelve Months next after such Declaration cease, determine, and be utterly void;

[4] [Carr p cxvii] Its [the Charitable Corporation's] joint stock was not to exceed £30,000 ...

and from Twelve Months next after such Declaration made as aforesaid in Council, in either of the said Cases this Our present Charter and the Corporation hereby constituted shall cease, determine, and be utterly void, to all Intents and Purposes, any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding: [5]

[15.] And Wee do hereby further, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, give full Power and Authority to the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legal Interest*, and their Successors, to procure, have, and use such and so many Houses, Shops, Roomes, and Warehouses, in any Place or Places within the Weekly Bills of Mortality, [6] as they by Majority of Votes in a generall Court shall approve and think convenient for the receiving, keeping, and preserving their Joynt Stock or Fund, and also all such Goodf and Wares as shall from Time to Time be left in pledge or pawned to the said Charitable Corporation:

[16.] And Wee do hereby, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, strictly requiure and command the said *Charitable Corporation for Releif of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Sums upon Pledges at legal Interest*, and their Successors,

that they keep or cause constantly to be kept, as occasion shall require, one or more Register or Entering Book or Books, wherein shall be fairly entred and written the Names, Natures, Kindes, and Quantities of all and singular such Goodf, Pawns ,or Pledges as shall be brought by any Borrower or Borrowers to be pawned, and that all and every such Goodf, Wares, or Merchandizes as shall from Time to Time be pawned as aforesaid to the said Charitable Corporation, shall be carefully preserved and kept by the Warehouse Keeper or Warehouse Keepers of the said Corporacion, in some convenient Ware-

house or Warehouses, or other convenient Places within the weekly Bills of Mortality; [7] and that a reasonable Value of all and singular such Goodf or Wares so pawned or left in Pledge as aforesaid, shall be agreed and settled by and between the Borrower and Warehouse Keeper aforesaid, whereby it may appear that each and every of the Goodf so pawned is a sufficient Security for the same Summe lent upon the Pledge thereof, together with Interest that shall grow due thereupon, not exceeding the Rate of Six Poundf per Centum per Annum.; [8] and that every such Warehouse Keeper do and shall from Time to Time give a Note in Writing to every Borrower, expressing and describing the afore-mentioned to be agreed Value of the Goodf and Wares which he or she shall have in pledge or pawn, and also mentioning the Summe of Money which shall be then lent or advanced upon such pawned Goodf by the said Charitable Corporation; and

further also, that all the Notes which shall be given or delivered to each such Borrower as aforesaid, shall from Time to Time be entred in some Booke or Bookes for that Purpose by the Book Keeper and Book Keepers of the said Charitable Corporacion; and

that after every such Entry of such aforesaid Note shall be so made, each and every Borrower shall and may bring such Note to the Cashier of the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Sumes upon Pledges at legall Interest*, who shall file the same Note and pay the Money, and also give and deliver another Note for and on behalf of the said Corporation to the Borrower, entitling him or her or the Bearer or Bearers of such Notes to the Redemption of his or her Goodf or Pledge, upon Repayment to the said Charitable Corporation or their Cashier

[5] [Carr p cxvii] Its [the Charitable Corporation's] joint stock was not to exceed £30,000, while the patent was to be cancelled if £20,000 were not subscribed in eighteen months.

[6] “the bills of mortality”—This expression referred to a geographical area centred on London for vital statistics purposes. All parishes within the “cities of London and Westminster, the borough of Southwark, and thirty-four out-parishes in Middlesex and Surrey” (Mozley and Whiteley’s *Law Dictionary*, 8th ed. (1970), p 45) had to report all deaths, or more accurately all burials in Church of England cemeteries, to a central office. The area was approximately that known later as metropolitan or greater London.

[7] [Carr, p 260 n 1] 1 See *ante*, p cxxi. (4).—4 See the charters of the Society of Parish Clerks in and near London (*Patent Rolls*, 9 Jac I pt xii; 14 Car I, pt xl) ordering them to send weekly to the Clerks’ Hall a true note, signed, of all christenings and burials for the week, and of the diseases which caused deaths, and empowering the printing of the weekly bills of mortality.

[8] [Carr, p cxvii n 2] It [the Charitable Corporation] offered six *per cent*, upon goods pledged.2—2 . . . In 1678 ‘divers poor artificers and handicraftsmen’ of London asked the King to ‘establish some way for the accommodation’ of needy people ‘with money upon their pawns at the interest of ¾ d. a week for every 20 s.’ [about 17% per year] though that was ‘above the common interest’ (*Petition Entry Books*, 46, p 241).

the Principal Money that shall have been advanced and lent to the Borrower, and also Interest Money not exceeding the Rate of Six Pound^l per Centum per Annum; and further also, that when and as often as any Borrower shall be minded and offer to pay the Moneys that shall have been lent and advanced to him as aforesaid, together with such Interest as aforesaid,

he or she shall and is hereby commanded

to deliver up his or her said Note given to him or her by the Cashier of the said Charitable Corporation, and

also to take back the said Note that shall first have been given by the Warehouse Keeper as aforesaid, and

upon redelivering the same Note to the Warehouse Keeper, with a Receipt thereupon endorsed for what Good^l shall be then redelivered, every Borrower in such Case is to have and receive his or her Good^l againe without any Damage or Prejudice wittingly or willingly done, or suffered to be had, done, or committted thereunto:

[17.] And Wee do hereby, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, strictly require and command the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legal Interest*, and their Successors,

to permit and suffer from Time to Time the Good^l in Pawn of every Borrower to be shewn and produced to any Chapman [9] at all Office Hours, as often as any Borrower shall desire the same: And

further, also to permit and suffer, from Time to Time and at all convenient Times, any Person or Persons requireing or desireing the same, to view and see any of the Good^l that shall from Time to Time be pawned as aforesaid, whereby to prevent the said Corporation from lending Money on any Stolen Good^l:

[18.] And for as much as the said Undertaking to relieve industrious Poor, by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legal Interest, in

the Manner herein expressed, will at the Time of first settling and establishing the same be chargeable, and also require the constant keeping and maintaining many Offices and Warehouses, as also the diligent Attendance of Officers for putting in Execution the Intents and Purposes herein mentioned, together with certain Charge and Expeunce for Stamp Duty and Bills of Sale, Our Will and Pleasure therefore is, and Wee do hereby, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, grant unto the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legal Interest*, and their Successors, full Power and Authority

to agree upon and ascertaine the reasonable Costs and Charges, to be paid by the respective Borrowers, for storing, keeping, and preserving all Good^l which shall be pawned to the said Corporation, and

also to agree upon and ascertaine the Charges to be paid by the respective Borrowers, for the makeing of all Manner of Securities, for Repayment of Moneys which shall be lent as aforesaid, and Interest which shall grow due thereupon:

And Our Royall Will and Pleasure is, and Wee [19.] do hereby, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, strictly require and command the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legal Interest*, and their Successors, when and as often Goods shall by Failure of Redemption thereof become legally forfeited to the said Corporation, and be to be sold by them, that such Sales be made by way of Auction (due and public Notice being first to be given and published thereof); and

and if at any Time by Sale of such Good^l there shall remaine a Surplus of Moneys more than will pay and satisfie the Principall and Interest Money then due and owing upon such Good^l as shall be sold as aforesaid, and the reasonable Charges, Wee will and command, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, that such Overplus shall immediately be paid to the prime Owner of the said Good^l, or Bearer of the said Notes given by the Cashier of the said Charitable Corporation:

And Wee do hereby, for Us, Our Heires and [21.] Successors, grant unto the said *Charitable Corpo-*

[9] chapman: "A man who buys and sells; a merchant, a dealer."—OED.

ration for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest, and their Successors, that it shall and may be lawfull to and for all the Members of the said Corporation, within the Space of Ten Dayes next ensuing the Date hereof or after, and from thenceforth as often as they or the major Part of them shall think fitt, to assemble and meet together in some convenient Place or Places within the Cities of London and Westminster, or the Suburbs thereof, and then and there hold Courts;

and that every such Court or Meeting or Assembly of the Members of the said Charitable Corporation shall be called, held, and esteemed as a Generall Court of the *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summs upon Pledges at legall Interest;*

and that it shall and may be lawfull to and for such Generall Court, or the major Part of such of them as shall be assembled in a Generall Court from Time to Time as aforesaid, to order, manage, and direct the Affaires and Business of the said Corporation,

according to the Rules and Directions herein mentioned and ordained, or

according to such Rules, Orders, Bylaws, and Ordinances as shall be reasonably made, ordained, and agreed upon by the Members of the said Charitable Corporation, or the major Part of such of them as shall be assembled in a Generall Court of the said Corporation;

and further also, that in such Generall Court (which Our Will and Pleasure is shall not at any Time consist of lesse than Seventeen Members of the said Corporation) it shall and may be lawfull to and for the Members of the said Charitable Corporation, or such of them as shall be assembled in a Generall Court as aforesaid, by Majority of Votes,

to constitute, ordaine, and make such and so many reasonable Bylaws, Rules, Orders, and Ordinances, for the good Government of the said Charitable Corporation, and of all the Members, Officers, and Affaires thereof, as to them or the major Part of them being then and there assembled shall seem necessary and convenient

with reasonable Penalties to be contained in such Bylaws on the Offenders for Non-performance of, or Disobedience to, the said Bylaws;

the said Penalties to be received, enjoyed, and paid to the Use of the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest, and their Successors, without any Account to be rendred for the same to Us, Our Heires and Successors; and*

the said Bylaws, Rules, and Ordinances, or any of them, to alter, change, or annull, as the said Generall Court, by Majority of Votes, shall think requisite, and

to mitigate the Forfeiture on the same, as they shall find Cause,

so as all and singular such Bylaws, Rules, Orders, Ordinances, and Penalties be reasonable, and not repugnant or contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Our Realm, or to the Prejudice of any other Company or Corporation:

And further, Wee have given and granted, and [22.] by these Presents, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, do gave and grant unto the said *Charitable Corporation, for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest, and their Successors, full Power and Authority, by Majority of Votes of the Members of the said Charitable Corporation, at a Generall Court of the said Corporation, to be held within the Space of Ten Days next ensuing the Date of these Presents, or in any other subsequent Generall Court of the said Charitable Corporation,*

to elect and choose fit Persons to be their Cashiers, Book Keepers, Warehouse Keepers, and other inferior Officers and Servants; and

them or any of them from Time to Time to remove and displace, and elect others in their Room,

as to the Generall Court of the said Corporation for the Time being, or the major Part of them, shall seem necessary and expedient:

And Wee do hereby further, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, will, authorize, and command all and singular Our Judges, Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Bayliffs, Constables, Headbor-

oughs, and all other the Officers and Ministers whatsoever of Us, Our Heires and Successors, for the Time being, within this Our Kingdom, that they and every of them respectively be from Time to Time, in their severall and respective Offices and Places, favouring, aiding, and assisting unto the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest*, and their Successors, their Agents, Officers and Servants, in all Things according to Our Royall Will and Pleasure herein declared, and the true Intent and Meaning of these Presents:

[24.] Provided always, and for the effectual preventing and restraining the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest*,

from intermeddling or interfering with the Business or Affaires of the *Corporation of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England*, and from banking, [10] and

also from dealing in any Trade or Merchandise, and

from dealing in buying and selling any Goods, [11] (other than in takeing Pawns and selling such pawned Goods as shall become forfeited in failure of Redemption), and

from keeping any other Cash Bank or Stock besides the Bank or Stock of the Corporation hereby constituted to be applyed for the Purposes aforesaid,

Our Will and Pleasure is, and Wee do hereby direct and command, that the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest*,

[10] [Carr, p cxvi] The monopoly of the Bank of England was expressly saved in the charters of the Amicable Society and the Charitable Corporation.

[11] [Carr, p cxvii n 3] Its [the Charitable Corporation's] officers were concerned in some of the less creditable activities of the York Buildings Company: it also appears to have dabbled in the insurance of goods from fire.³—3 Relton (*Fire Insurance Companies*, 85-8), reprints various documents. (The statutes 5 Geo II cc 3, 31; 6 Geo II cc 2, 35, 36; 7 Geo II c 11, indicate the frauds of the staff and the relief needed for sufferers). See *post*, p. cxxvii. (3).—3 See Murray, *op. cit. [The York Buildings Company]*, by David Murray (1883)], for an account of these [losses in iron, coal, salt and glass ventures], and for the losses incurred in keeping up the price of the company's shares. These share-dealings were complicated by an issue of bearer bonds and by a discreditable incident in 1727, when a group bought for the rise with money borrowed upon bogus pledges from the Charitable Corporation . . .

shall not at any Time hereafter discount or deal in Bills of Exchange or Inland Bills or Notes, nor shall receive Monies or keep the Accounts or Cash of any Person or Persons, other than their own proper Monies, Accounts, and Cash, being their Joyst Stock or Fund, nor shall deale in Banking, nor shall anyways use the Banking Trade or Business, nor shall upon their Common Seal, nor by their Cashier, Officers, or Servants, or any other Person on their Behalfe, give or issue out any Bills or Notes payable upon Demand, for the Loan of Monies with or without Interest (except such Notes as shall be given by the Cashier of the said Corporation for Moneys to be lent by the said Corporation upon Good^f to be pawned to them), nor shall advance nor lend any Moneys at Interest upon any Account or Pretence whatsoever (except the Monies of their own Joyst Stock or Fund, to be by them raised as is herein-before limitted and expressed),

nor shall by way of Trade or Merchandise directly or indirectly buy or sell or deale in any Bullion, Gold, or Silver, or any Goods, Wares, or Merchandizes, other than such pawned Good^f, Wares, or Merchandizes, as shall in failure of Redemption become forfeited to the said Charitable Corporation):

[12] and in case the said *Charitable Corporation for Releif of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summes upon Pledges at legall Interest*,

do or shall at any Time hereafter discount or deal in Bills of Exchange or Inland Bills or Notes or shall receive the Monies or keep the Accounts or Cash of any Person (other than their own proper Money, Accounts, and Cash, being their own Joyst Stock or Fund, to be by them raised as aforesaid), or

shall deal in Banking, or any way use the Banking Trade, or

shall either upon their Common Seal, or by their Cashier, Officers, or Servants or any other on their Behalfe, give or issue out any Bills or Notes

[12] [Carr, p 262 n *, regarding paragraphs 25 and 26 hereunder:] * As in Amicable Society's charter, *ante*, p. 255.

payable on Demand for the Loan of Money with or without Interest, other than as aforesaid, or shall advance or lend any Money at Interest upon any Account or Pretence whatsoever (except the Monies being their own Joynt Stock or Fund), or shall by way of Trade or Merchandise directly or indirectly buy or sell or deale in any Bullion, Gold, or Silver, or any Goodf, Wares, or Merchandizes whatsoever (except such pawned Goodf, Wares, or Merchandizes as shall become forfeited to the said Charitable Corporation in failure of Redemption),

that then and in any of the said Cases, Our Will and Pleasure is, and Wee do hereby reserve to Us, Our Heires and Successors, full Power and absolute Authority, by Our or Their Order, in Our or Their Privy Council, at any Time, upon Twelve Months Notice to the said Charitable Corporation, to determine this Our present Charter, and the Corporation hereby made, created, or erected,

and from the End of such Twelve Months after such Notice given in any of the said Cases this Our present Charter and the Corporation hereby made, shall cease, determine, and be utterly void to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever:

[26.] Provided always, that if it shall appear to Us, Our Heires or Successors, in Our or Their Privy Council, that these Presents, or the Corporation hereby erected and constituted, are or is prejudicial or inconvenient to or for the Publick, and not beneficial to the Poor, and shall be so declared by Us, Our Heires or Successors, in Our or Their Privy Council, then and in such Case it shall and may be lawfull for Us, Our Heires and Successors, at any Time after Six Months Notice thereof given to the said Corporation hereby constituted, by Writing under the Great Seal of Us, Our Heires or Successors, to revoke and determine this Our present Charter and the Corporation hereby erected such Notice to be given as aforesaid;

and by virtue of such Revocation or Determination signified by Writing under the Great Seal of Us, Our Heires or Successors, as aforesaid, these Our Letters Patent, and the Corporation hereby made, shall cease, determine, and be utterly void, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever:

And Wee do by these Presents, for Us, Our [27.] Heires and Successors, grant unto the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summs upon Pledges at legal Interest*, and their Successors, that these Our Letters Patents, or the Inrollment thereof,

shall be in and by all Things good, firm, valid, sufficient, and effectuall in the Law, according to the true Intent and Meaning thereof, and

shall be taken, construed, and adjudged in the most favorable and beneficiall Sense for the best Advantage of the said *Charitable Corporation for Releife of industrious Poor by assisting them with small Summs upon Pledges at legal Interest*, and their Successors, as well in all Our Courts of Record as elsewhere, and by all and singular the Officers and Ministers whatsoever of Us, Our Heires and Successors.:

In witnesse, &c.,

Witnessse Our Selfe at *Westminster*, the Twenty-second Day of *December* [1707].

By Writt of Privy Seale.

[Copied at:]

Rolls Chapel,
25th April 1825.