A copy of the Inspeiximus (A.D. 1559)

Elizabeth by grace of God Queen of England France and Ireland defender of the faith etc sends greetings to all whom the present letters reach.

We have inspected a certain brief of ours sent to our beloved Francis Spelman Esq clerk of our Parliaments and returned to our Chancery and remaining in the files of the same Chancery in these words:

Elizabeth by the grace of God of England France and Ireland Queen defender of the faith etc Greetings to our beloved Francis Spelman Esq clerk of our Parliaments. Wishing for reasons to have a search made of and upon the tenor of a certain Act of Parliament at Westminster in the first year of our reign concerning the incorporation of the House of the sacred Trinity, commonly called Trinity Hall, in the University of Cambridge, held and published by you, we order that you send the tenor of the aforesaid Act with everything relating to it to Us in our Chancery and clearly and openly and this brief. Witness myself at Westminster on the eleventh day of May in the first year of our reign. MARTEN.

We have inspected also the return of the aforesaid brief on the reverse of which is entered these words: The execution of this brief is shown in the schedule annexed to this brief. We have inspected also the tenor of the aforesaid Act sent to us to our aforesaid Chancery by authority of our aforesaid brief and kept in the files of our same Chancery in these words: In a parliament begun and held in Westminster on the 23rd day of January in the first year of the reign of our most serene and most excellent Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England France and Ireland Queen defender of the faith etc and continued to the 8th of May next following on which day it was dissolved. By consent of the members and of the lady our Queen then present, this present act and established decree was enacted as follows verbatim:

(then follows English text pp 339-342, Warren’s Book, 1730)
A COPY OF Y* INSPEXIMUS [A.D. 1559].

"ELIZABETH Dei gracia Anglie Francie et Hibernie Regina fidei
defensor &c. Omnibus ad quos presentes tre peruenert salutem.
"INSPEXIMUS quoddam bne nostrum de cercioranâ DÎŁô nobis
Francisco Spelman Armigero Clerico Parlamentorum norum
"direct & in cancellariam nám returnatum ac in filiacis eiusdem [410]
cancellâ nėe residens in hec verba: Elizabeth Dei ḡa Angl
"Franê & Hiberâ Regina fidei defensor &c. DÎŁô sibi Francisco
"Spelman Armigero Clerico Parlamentorum suorum salutem.
"Volentes certis de causis cerciorari de & super tenore ciusdam
"actus parlamenti apud Westmonasterium anno regni nţi primo
"concernēn incorporacionem Domus Sancte Trinitatis vulgariter
"nuncupat Trinitie Hall in Academia Cantebriâ tent & edif vobis
"mandamus qâ tenorem actus predicti cum omnibus eam tan-
gentibus Nobis in cancellariam nâm sub sigillo vro distincte
"& aperte mittatis et hoc bne T me iâa apud Westmonasterium
"undecimo die Maij Anno regni nţi primo. MARTEN.

"INSPEXIMUS eciam returnum bns praedictâ in dorso ipsius
"insertum in hec verba: Execucio istius breuis patet in sedula
"huic breui anœx. INSPEXIMUS insuper tenorem actus predict
"nob in cancellariam nâm predēam pretexnu bns nţi predēi missum
"& in filiacis eiusdem cancellâ nėe similiter resideņ in hec verba.
"IN Parlamento inchoato et tento apud Westmonasterium vicesimo
"tercio die Januariâ anno regni serenissime atq. excellensìsime
"Domine nîe Elizabeth Dei gâa Angl Franê et Hiberne Regine
"fidei defensatricis &c primo et ibidem continuato usq. in octauum
"diem Maij proξ sequêi quo die dissolutum fuit cói oim procerum
"et populi assensu ac dicte Domine nîe Regine tum presentis consensu
"Sancitum Stabilitum et inactatum est hoc presens statutum verbatim
"prout sequitur: WHEREAS in ye time of Kyng Edwarde ye thirde
"ye Reuerend Father in God William Bateman sometyme Bishop of
"Norwiche for ye studye & knowledge of ye Civill lawe did founde
"& erecte within ye Vniuersitie of Cambrige one Colledge or Hall
"commonlye called & known by ye name of Trinitie Hall & upon
"ye same foundacion did assigne & appointe ye one sobre & discreate

1 This Act, confirming the Charters of Trinity Hall, was enacted in Elizabeth's first Parliament. It gave exceptional security and permanence to the foundation. See Malden, History of Trinity Hall, pp. 101—5. It is printed in Documents relating to the University and the Colleges of Cambridge, vol. ii., pp. 439—445. Published by order of the University Commissioners, 1855.
"man shulde for euermore from tyme to tyme be Maister or Keaper of ye said Colledge or Hall to gauerne as well ye Fellowes & Scollers there as ye Mannours lands tenementys & other possessions & hereditamentys whiche he did assigne for ye maintenance of ye said Maister Fellowes & Scollers, Whiche said Colledge or Hall hath always sithens ye tyme of ye saide foundation ben used as a Colledge & borne & vsed ye said name of Maister Fellowes & Scollers of Cambridge: And by that name hath vsed to Implead make leases graunte & gyftes & hath lykewyse taken & receiv'd by that name diverse gyftes & graunteys to ye vse of ye saide Colledge or Hall. AND forasmuche as ye said cayllacion shuld at any tyme hereafter be had or vsted upon ye simple wyords of that tyme some question or doubt might arise by ye validitie of ye corporacion of ye said Colledge or Hall & thereupon daunger & hurte might growe aswell to ye said Colledge as also to diverse & sundrie persons who hath heretofore receiv'd & which hereafter shall receiv'e gyftes graunteys or leases of ye said Colledge or Hall, For anyduyng of which Incouenuencys & for ye sure establishment both of ye Corporacion of ye said Colledge & of all the mens rights & interests IT MAIE PLEASE ye Quenes Majestie with thassent of ye Lordes spiritual & temporall & ye Comions in this present parliament assembled & by thauthoritie of ye same ye company & Fellowshyp which now be of ye said Colledge or shalle hereafter be shall & maye be a bodye polytyke of them selfes & incorporated really & actuallye by ye name of Mayster Fellowes & Scollers of ye Colledge or Hall of Holie Trinitie in ye Vniersitie of Cambridge to have being & continuance for euer: And ye said corporacion or bodye polytyke by thauthoritie aforesaid continuallly & for euer shall & maye remayne & abyde a perfect corporacion & bodye polityke: AND ye said Mayster Fellowes & Scollers & their successors shall & maye be at all tymes hereafter inhabited & auctorized to demaund clayme & chalenge sue & impleade & to be sued & impleaded by ye name of Mayster Fellowes & Scollers of ye Colledge or Hall of Holie Trinitie in ye Vniersitie of Cambridge: And ye the shall have one Co'mon Scale: And ye one Henrye Harvyce Doctour of ye Civill Lawe now Mayster of ye said Colledge be Mayster of ye said Colledge: And ye said Mayster Fellowes & Scollers & their Successors shall and maye hau'e houlde leuye perceive take & enioye all & singular mannours lands tenementys possessions porcions tithes right tittles interests comons liberties fraunchies iurisdiicciones preheminencys rentys reuercions & remaunders seruices & all other hereditamentys whatsoeuer apertneining or belonging to ye said Colledge or Hall or accepted or reputed to be belonging or apertneining to ye same or accepted reputed vsed occupied or taken as parte or parcell of ye possession of ye said Colledge or Hall in suche sorte fouarme estate condicion & degree as ye same were given or graunted & as they nowe haue ye same: And ye all suche gyftes estates & graunteys as hath ben made to ye said Colledge by ye name of Mayster Fellowes & Scollers of ye Colledge or Hall of ye Holie Trinitie in ye Vniersitie of Cambridge or by any other name whatsoever shall be as good & effectuall in ye lawe to all intentyes construccions & purposes as ye said Colledge at ye tyme of ye makyng of suche gyftes graunteys & estatys had ben fullie perfectelye & playnylye incorporate by ye name of Mayster Fellowes & Scollers of ye Colledge or Hall of ye Holie Trinitie in ye Vniersitie of Cambridge: SAVING alwayes to ye Quenes highness her heires & successours & to all & euerie other parson & parsons bodyes polityke & corporate their heires & successours & to theires & successours of euerie of them other then such as be heyre & heyres successour & successours vnto any suche parson or parsons whiche hath made any gyfte or graunte of any Mesuage lands tenementys or hereditamentys to ye said Mayster Fellowes & Scollers or to their Predecessours in fee symple all such estate possession right title interest reuericion remaunders rentys seruices lease leases claymes condicions commons & all other profitts & commodities as they haue or ought to haue in & to ye premysys or any parte thereof as though this Acte had neuer ben had ne made: PROUISED always & be it enacted that this Acte or any thing therein conteined shall not in any wyse extend to take awaye or be preudicuall unto any of ye Fellowes or Scollers of ye said Colledge or Hall for displacing or removing of any of them from any maner of Office or rome within or without ye said Colledge or for ye takynge awaye of any manner of proffyt commoditie or advantage to them or any of them belonging or apertneining: Ne to empayre hurte or vndoe any lease giftes feoffement or graunte made by ye said Mayster Fellowes & Scollers or their Predecessours or by any of ye to any parson or parsons bodyes polityke or corporate but that they & euerie of them shall & maye hau'e & enioye peaseable & quiete their right title & interest in suche like maier fouarme & condicion as though ye said severall rights titles and interests had
"[413] "Ben to euyre of ym seuerallie made given graunted appointed & assured by yse said Maister Fellowes & Scollers now encorporated by this acte PROVIDED always yse this Acte ne any thinge therein contyned shall not extende to make sure avy landys tenementys or hereditamentys heretofore gyven or assured to yse said Colledge or Hall for yse whiche any accion or suite nowe dependeth in any of yse Quenes Highnes Courts of Recorde or any suite depending in yse Chauncerye for any euydence concerning any suche lands tenementys or hereditamentys: But ys all those landes tenementys & hereditamentys shall stand & remayne in yse same state & condicion they weare before yse making of this Acte as though this Acte had never ben had ne made Any thinge in this present Acte expressed notwithstanding.

"Ego Franciscus Spelman Armiger Clericus Parliamenti virtute breuis Domine nostro Regine de cerciorand ęsentibus annex certifico superius scriptum verum esse tenorem Actus parliamenti in eo breui express. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus subscripsi sigillum, apposui nono die Maij Anno regni serenissime atq excellentissime Domine nostre Elisabeth dei gra Anglie Francie et Hiberne Regine fidei defensatricis &c. primo.

"Fraunces Spelman.

"NOS autem tenores breuis predi reto ri eiusdembris in dorso iijius et actus predicti ad requisiciem predii Henrici Harvy Maigr Collegii Sue Aule predict duximus exemplificand per presentes. [414] "IN CUIUS rei testimonium has litteras nias fieri fecimus patentes. "TESTE me ija apud Westmonasterium tercio decimo die Maij Anno regni nii primo. Dr Gozdell."
I Francis Spelman Esq Parliamentary clerk by virtue of the brief of our Lady Queen annexed to the presents, certify the writing above to be the true tenor of the act of Parliament expressed in that brief. In witness of which I have signed these presents and affixed my seal on the 9th day of May in the first year of the reign of our most serene and most excellent Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England France and Ireland Queen defender of the faith etc.
Fraunces Spelman

We moreover have brought the tenor of the aforesaid brief and of the dorse of the aforesaid brief and of the aforesaid Act to the keeping of the aforesaid Henry Harvy Master of the College or Hall aforesaid, being exemplified by the presents. In witness whereof we have had these our letters patent made. Myself being witness at Westminster on the 13th day of May in the first year of our reign. Dr Gozdell.
WARREN'S BOOK

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