



TRINITY HALL
CAMBRIDGE

A copy of the Inspeximus (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)

(5) A COPY OF Y^E INSPEXIMUS [A.D. 1559¹]. [409]

"ELIZABETH Dei gracia Anglie Francie et Hibernie Regina fidei
 "defensor &c. Omnibus ad quos presentes lre peruenirent salutem.
 "INSPEXIMUS quoddam bfe nostrum de cerciorand Dilco nobis
 "Francisco Spelman Armigero Clerico Parliamentorum nrorum
 "direct & in cancellariam nram retornatum ac in filacijs eiusdem [410]
 "cancellar nre residens in hec verba: Elizabeth Dei gra Angt
 "Fran & Hiberi Regina fidei defensor &c. Dilco sibi Francisco
 "Spelman Armigero Clerico Parliamentorum suorum salutem.
 "Volentes certis de causis cerciorari de & super tenore cuiusdam
 "actus parliamenti apud Westmonasterium anno regni nri primo
 "concerneti incorporacionem Domus Sancte Trinitatis vulgariter
 "nuncupat Trinitie Hall in Academia Cantebrig ten & edit vobis
 "mandamus qd tenorem actus predicti cum omnibus eam tan-
 "gentibus Nobis in cancellariam nram sub sigillo vro distincte
 "& aperte mittatis et hoc bre T me ipa apud Westmonasterium
 "undecimo die Maij Anno regni nri primo. MARTEN.

"INSPEXIMUS eciam retornum bñs praedicti in dorso ipsius
 "insertum in hec verba: Executo istius brevis patet in secula
 "huic breui annex. INSPEXIMUS insuper tenorem actus predicti
 "nob in cancellariam nram predctam pretertu bñs nri predcti missum
 "& in filacijs eiusdem cancellar nre similiter resideñ in hec verba.
 "IN Parlamento inchoato et tento apud Westmonasterium vicesimo
 "tercio die Januarij anno regni serenissime atq excellentissime
 "Domine nre Elizabeth Dei gra Angt Fran & Hibernie Regine
 "fidei defensatrix &c primo et ibidem continuato usq, in octauum
 "diem Maij proñ sequen quo die dissolutum fuit coi oim procerum
 "et populi assensu ac dicte Domine nre Regine tum presentis consensu
 "Sancitum Stabilitum et inactatum est hoc presens statutum verbatim
 "prout sequitur: WHEREAS in ye time of Kyng Edward ye thirde
 "ye Reuerend Father in God William Bateman sometyme Bishopp of
 "Norwiche for ye studye & knowledge of ye Civill lawe did founde
 "& erecte within ye Vniuersitie of Cambridge one Colledge or Hall
 "commonlye called & known by ye name of Trinitie Hall & uppon
 "ye same foundation did assigne & appointe y^t 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—3. It is printed in *Documents relating to the University and the Colleges of Cambridge*, vol. II., pp. 439—443. Published by order of the University Commissioners, 1852.

[410] "man shulde for euermore from tyme to tyme be Maister or Keaper
 "of y^e said Colledge or Hall to gouerne as well y^e Fellowes & Scollers
 "there as y^e Mannours lands tenementys & other possessions &
 "hereditamentys whiche he did assigne for y^e maintenance of y^e said
 "Maister Fellowes & Scollers, Whiche said Colledge or Hall hath
 "always sithens y^e tyme of y^e said foundation ben used as a Colledge
 "& borne & v^{se} y^e said name of Maister Fellowes & Scollers of
 "[411] "y^e Colledge or Hall of the Holye Trynitie in y^e Vniuersitie of
 "Cambridge: And by that name hath v^{se} to Impleade make leases
 "grauntes & gyftes & hath lykewyse taken & receiued by that name
 "diuerse gyftes & grauntes to y^e vse of y^e saide Colledge or Hall.
 "AND forasmuche as yf cavillacion shuld at any tyme hereafter be
 "had or v^{se}d uppon y^e simple woords of that tyme some question
 "or doubte might aryse of y^e validitie of y^e corporacion of y^e said
 "Colledge or Hall & thereuppon daunger & hurte might growe aswell
 "to y^e said Colledge as also to diuerse & sundrie personnes who hath
 "heretofore receiued & which hereafter shall receiue gyftes grauntes
 "or leases of y^e said Colledge or Hall, For auoyding of which
 "Inconuenyencys & for y^e sure establyshment both of y^e Corporacion
 "of y^e said Colledge & of all other mens rights & interests It MAIE
 "PLEASE y^e Quenes Majestie with thassent of y^e Lordes spirituall
 "& temporall & y^e Co^mons in this present parliament assembled &
 "by thautoritie of y^e same y^t y^e company & Fellowshypp which now
 "be of y^e said Colledge or shalle hereafter be shall & maye be a bodye
 "polytyke of them selves & incorporated reallye & actuallye by y^e
 "name of Mayster Fellowes & Scollers of y^e Colledge or Hall of y^e
 "Holie Trinitie in y^e Vniuersitie of Cambridge to have being &
 "continuance for euer: And y^t y^e said corporacion or bodye polytyke
 "by thautoritie aforesaid continuallye & for euer shall & maye remayne
 "& abyde a perfect corporacion & bodye polytyke: AND y^t y^e said
 "Mayster Fellowes & Scollers & their successours shall & maye be
 "at all tymes hereafter inhabled & auctorized to demande clayme
 "& chalenge sue & impleade & to be sued & impleaded by y^e name
 "of Mayster Fellowes & Scollers of y^e Colledge or Hall of y^e Holie
 "Trinitie in y^e Vniuersitie of Cambridge: And y^t they shall have one
 "Co^mon Seale: And y^t one Henrye Harvye Doctour of y^e Civill
 "Lawe now Mayster of y^e said Colledge be Mayster of y^e said
 "[412] "Colledge: And y^t y^e said Mayster Fellowes & Scollers &
 "their Successours shall and may have houlde leuue perceive
 "take & enioye all & singuler mannours landes tenementys
 "possessions pencions porcions tithes titles interests co^mons

"liberties franchises iurisdiccions preheminencys rentys reuercions [412]
 "remaynders seruices & all other hereditamentys whatsoever apper-
 "teining or belonging to y^e said Colledge or Hall or accepted or
 "reputed to be belonging or apperteyning to y^e same or accepted
 "reputed v^{se}d occupied or taken as parte or parcell of y^e possession
 "of y^e said Colledge or Hall in suche sorte fourme estate condicion
 "& degree as y^e same weare given or graunted & as they nowe haue
 "y^e same: And y^t all such gyftes estates & grauntes as hath ben made
 "to y^e said Colledge by y^e name of Mayster Fellowes & Scollers
 "of y^e Colledge or Hall of y^e Hollie Trinitie in y^e Vniuersitie of
 "Cambridge or by any other name whatsoever shall be as good
 "& effectuell in y^e lawe to all intentys construccions & purposes as
 "yf y^e said Colledge at y^e tyme of y^e making of suche gyftes
 "grauntys & estatys had ben fullye perfectlye and playnelye
 "incorporate by y^e name of Mayster Fellowes & Scollers of y^e
 "College or Hall of y^e Hollie Trinitie in y^e Vniuersitie of Cambridge:
 "SAVING alwayes to y^e Quenes highnes her heires & successours
 "& to all & euerie other parsonne & parsons bodies polityke &
 "corporate their heires & successours & to theirs & successours
 "of euerie of them other then such as be heyre & heyres successour
 "and successours vnto any suche parson or parsons whiche hath
 "made any gyfte or graunte of any Mesuage landes tenementys
 "or hereditamentys to y^e said Mayster Fellowes & Scollers or to
 "their Predecessours in fee symple all such estate possession right
 "title interest reuercion remaynder rentys seruyces lease leases
 "claymes condicions commons & all other profitts & commodities
 "as they haue or ought to haue in & to y^e premysses or any parte
 "thereof as though this Acte had neuer ben had ne made: PROVIDED
 "always & be it enacted that this Acte or any thing therein contained
 "shall not in any wyse extend to take awaye or be preiudiciall unto
 "any of y^e Fellowes or Scollers of y^e said Colledge or Hall for
 "displacing or removing of any of them from any maner of Offyce [413]
 "or rome within or without y^e said Colledge or for y^e taking awaye
 "of any manner of proffyt comoditie or aduantage to them or any
 "of them belonging or apperteyning: Ne to empayre hurte or vndoe
 "any lease gifte feoffemente or graunte made by y^e said Mayster
 "Fellowes & Scollers or their Predecessours or by any of y^m to
 "any parson or parsons bodies polityke or corporate but that they
 "& euerie of them shall & maye haue houlde & enioye peasible &
 "quietlie their right title & interest in suche like maner fourme &
 "condicion as though y^e said seuerall rights titles and interests had

[413] "ben to euerye of y^m seuerallie made given graunted appointed & assured by y^e said Maister Fellowes & Scollers now incorporated "by this acte PROVIDED always y^t this Acte ne any thinge therein "contained shall not extende to make sure any landys tenementys "or hereditamentys heretofore gyven or assured to y^e said Colledge "or Hall for y^e whiche any accion or suite nowe dependith in any "of y^e Quenes Highnes Courts of Recorde or any suite depending "in y^e Chauncerye for any euidence concerning any suche lands "tenementys or hereditamentys: But y^t all those landes tenementys " & hereditamentys shall stand & remayne in y^e same state & condicion "they weare before y^e making of this Acte as though this Acte had "never ben had ne made Any thing in this present Acte expressed "notwithstanding.

"Ego Franciscus Spelman Armiger Clericus Parliamenti virtute "breuis Domine nostre Regine de cerciorand^o p^rsentibus annex certifico "superius scriptum verum esse tenorem Actus parliamenti in eo breui "express. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus subscripsi sigillumq^{ue} "apposui nono die Maij Anno regni serenissime atq^{ue} excellentissime "Domine nostre Elizabeth dei g^ra Anglie Francie et Hib^{ie} Regine "fidei defensatrix &c. primo.

"Fraunces Spelman.

"NOS autem tenores breuis pred^{icti} retor^{um} eiusdem b^ris in dorso "ip^sius et actus predicti ad requisic^oem pred^{icti} Henrici Harvy Mag^{ri} "Collegij Siue Aule predictⁱ duximus exemplificand^{um} per presentes.

[414] "IN CUIUS rei testimonium has litteras n^{ras} fieri fecimus patentes. "TESTE me ip^sa apud Westmonasterium tercio decimo die Maij "Anno regni n^{ri} primo. Dr Gozdel.

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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