

' fires allowed them, besides their being educated and taught in manner foresaid. They shall be decently apparelled in clothes made after the fashion of the time, or such fashion as the Governors shall think fit, their clothes being all of one colour and fashion. They may continue in the Hospital until they be fourteen, fifteen, or at most, sixteen years of age compleat, and thereafter they shall be put to merchandizing or lawful trades and employments, according as their genius and inclination leads them, and their shall be given the sum of Ten pounds sterling as apprentice fee to a merchant, and Five pounds sterling as apprentice fee to a tradesman, as an apprentice fee to each of them. All to be bound for five years. And if the Patrons or Governors shall think fit at any time to diminish the said apprentice fees, they may do it at discretion.

' If any person shall give and mortify to the said Hospital a sum not below the sum of Two thousand pounds sterling money, he shall be assumed and conjoined in all time thereafter with me, the said Robert Gordon, in the name and title of the said Hospital, and be reckoned a founder of the same with me, the said additional foundations being always to be employed for entertaining and educating Boys that are indigent, and qualified to be chosen and admitted into the said Hospital in the terms of the foregoing statutes; the Mortifier of the said sum of Two thousand pounds sterling, or such a sum as is sufficient to maintain a boy or boys, being always at liberty to give a preference to the children of any name that he pleases.

' In case, after trial and experience, there may be ground for altering and improving of the foregoing statutes, the same shall remain with and devolve upon the Patrons and Governors of the said Hospital, providing that such alterations be concluded and agreed upon by three-fourths of the whole members, to meet for that effect after the same has been under their deliberation in two several sederunts, the one at the distance of, at least, a month after the other, and be approved by the said Provost of Aberdeen; and the said alterations no ways infringing upon the fundamental articles of the said Hospital, viz. :— That the same is for the relief, maintenance, and for the instruction in the principles of our Holy Christian Protestant Religion, and education in letters, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping of Boys of the names of Gordon and Menzies preferable to others, and that the Hospital shall always be called Robert Gordon's Hospital by himself alone, or in conjunction with others who shall mortify to the said Hospital a sum not below Two thousand pounds sterling, and that the right of the said Hospital stock and revenue thereof, and administration of the same, shall be vested in, and perpetually remain with, the Patrons and Governors beforementioned, and that no part of the stock or profits thereof shall be applied otherwise than for the use and benefit of the said Hospital.'

4. By a supplementary Deed of Mortification and Disposition, dated 19th September 1730, the said Robert Gordon ratified, approved, and confirmed, excepting in so far as altered or explained in manner therein mentioned, the prior Deed of Mortification under the declaration :— ' That, whereas in the said Deed of Mortification I have mortified and disposed Ten thousand pounds sterling, or such sum or sums as shall be recovered out of my effects, after my decease; for preventing any

' dubiety thereanent, I hereby declare that I thereby intended to dispoise and mortify all my effects, heritable and moveable, although they should happen to exceed the said sum of Ten thousand pounds sterling, and do accordingly hereby dispoise the same for the pious ends and uses therein set forth. . . . And whereas, by the first statute of the said Deed of Mortification, it is declared, That my said Hospital was to be founded for entertaining and educating indigent male children and grandchildren of decayed Merchants and Brethren of Guild of the said Burgh of Aberdeen, of the name of Gordon in the first place, and of the name of Menzies in the second place (the nearest relations of the Mortifier of the names of Gordon and Menzies being always preferred to any others); for preventing any dubiety that may arise anent the order of preference, I hereby will and declare that my indigent relations of the name of Gordon claiming to be admitted into the said Hospital shall be preferred in the first place; my indigent relations of the name of Menzies in the second place; any other indigent boys of the name of Gordon in the third place; and any other indigent boys of the name of Menzies in the fourth place—they being all Burgesses of Guild's children or grandchildren, and of the age and qualities mentioned in the said Deed of Mortification.'

5. The persons named in Robert Gordon's Deed of Mortification having accepted of the trust, proceeded to erect the Hospital Buildings on a site which had been acquired by him. These were partially finished in 1732, but the cost having exceeded expectation, and in consequence of the civil disorders of the country, the Hospital was not opened until 1750. The number of Boys then admitted was 26 and the Trust funds amounted to about £12,000. From that time the number of Foundationers was gradually increased as the funds permitted, till, in 1878, it reached 200, including 40 boys elected and maintained by the Trustees of the late Alexander Simpson of Collyhill, as aftermentioned.

6. In 1772 the President and Governors on the narrative that at the death of Robert Gordon, they, as Trustees appointed by him, had entered into possession of his Estates, built an Hospital in terms of special directions given by him, and governed the Charity for more than forty years, in the course of which time the funds had greatly increased, and doubts had arisen whether they, as Trustees of a private Endowment, could acquire and raise, and defend actions, applied to His Majesty, King George III., for a Royal Charter incorporating them and their successors in office, under the name and title of the President and Governors of Robert Gordon's Hospital in Aberdeen, with all the powers usually given to bodies Corporate of the like nature, but subject to and under all the conditions and ordinances of the original Deed of Endowment. The prayer of the Petition was granted, and a Charter was issued incorporating the Provost, Baillies, Town Councillors, and four Ministers of the City of Aberdeen, and their successors in these offices respectively, for the time, to be called one Corporation and Body Corporate and Politic, in Deed and in Name, by the name and title of 'The President and Governors of Robert Gordon's Hospital in Aberdeen.'

7. By Trust Disposition, dated 12th April 1816, the late Alexander Simpson of Collyhill directed his Trustees therein named to apply the whole rents and profits of the lands and others therein disposed 'for