

monly called the Town's four Ministers of the old and new Churches, who exercise the pastoral charge there, and to their successors in their respective offices, Provost, Baillies, Town Council, and four Ministers of the said Burgh of Aberdeen, in trust for the uses, dens, and purposes aftermentioned, conform to and in the terms of the rules and statutes under-written, All and Sundry my hail goods, gear, debts, sums of money, and others whatsoever, principal sums, annual rents, penalties, and liquidate expenses presently pertaining, resting, and owing to me, or that shall happen to pertain, and be resting and owing to me at the time of my decease, whether by heritable, real, or personal security, &c.'

He further destined and appointed 'that the said sum of Ten thousand pounds sterling money, or whatever sum or sums of money the said Provost, Baillies, Town Council, and four Ministers, and their successors in office, shall happen to recover and make effectual of my hail effects, heritable and moveable, in virtue of this present right and conveyance (after payment of all my just and lawful debts and funeral expenses), shall be by them stocked, secured, and employed upon land, bonds, obligations, or other sufficient security from time to time, for erecting and maintaining an Hospital, and for the maintenance, aliment, entertainment, and education of young Boys, conform to and in terms of the rules, statutes and conditions of this my Mortification aftermentioned; and to the end this my Mortification may be the more effectually answered and obeyed after my decease, I hereby appoint and ordain the following statutes and rules to be observed and followed in all succeeding generations, for erecting and managing my Hospital and Mortification for the uses, ends, and purposes aftermentioned.'

3. By the said statutes and rules it was, *inter alia*, provided as follows:—

'This Hospital shall be called, in all succeeding generations, Robert Gordon's Hospital.

'The Management and administration of the affairs of the said Hospital shall still be in the saids Provost, Baillies, Town Council, and four Ministers of the said Burgh of Aberdeen for the time being, who are to be perpetual Patrons and Governors of the said Hospital. . . . And the saids Governors shall have power to make farther bye-laws and rules for the better administration of the said Hospital and affairs thereof, the same being no wise derogatory to what is declared to be fundamental, nor to the rules and statutes now adjusted (except the same shall be altered in manner after prescribed).

'There shall be chosen and admitted into the Hospital so many Boys as the stated and certain revenue shall be able to maintain. . . . The ordinary election shall be twice in the year, viz.:—The third or next lawful days of April and October yearly, when it is to be considered by the Governors what vacancies there are, and how many the stated and certain revenues of the Hospital (making reserve as above) is able to maintain, that so many boys qualified as before expressed, be immediately chosen. They shall have lodging, bed, diet, washing, and common 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 donations 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 saids 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