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THE Queen having taken into Her Royal consideration the Statutes of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, bearing date the 31st day of January, 1851, and made under the authority of the Letters Patent, passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, bearing date the 31st day of December, 1850, the operation of which Statutes had theretofore been limited to Natives of the then United States of the Ionian Islands, or of Malta, and to such other Persons as should be distinguished as therein mentioned, in connection with the said Islands, or with Malta, or with Her Majesty's Service in the Mediterranean, and being desirous of making such alterations in the said Statutes as will enable Her Majesty to reward such Natural-born Subjects of the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland as may be persons of Conspicuous Merit, or may have rendered Important Services to the Crown within or in connection with any of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, has been graciously pleased, in pursuance and in exercise of the power vested in Her as Sovereign and Chief of the said Most Distinguished Order, to repeal the aforesaid Statutes.

And Her Majesty has been graciously pleased by certain Statutes, bearing date the 4th day of December, 1868, to ordain that the said Order shall thenceforth as theretofore be Styled and designated in all Acts, Proceedings, and Pleadings, as the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George: And that it shall as theretofore consist of the Sovereign, a Grand Master, and Three several Classes of Knights Grand Cross, Knights Commanders, and Companions.

And to ordain that Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, Kings and Queens Regnant of this United Kingdom, are, and for ever shall be Sovereigns and Chiefs of the said Order, and that a Prince of the Blood Royal, being a Descendant of His late Majesty King George the First, or such

other Exalted Personage as Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, may thereafter appoint, shall hold and enjoy the Office of Grand Master of the Order, who shall be the First or Principal Knight Grand Cross of the same, and that Field-Marshal His Royal Highness George William Frederick Charles, Duke of Cambridge, K.G., Commanding-in-Chief the Forces, be Grand Master of the Order:—

And to ordain that the First Class or Knights Grand Cross shall not exceed Twenty-five in number: And that the Second Class or Knights Commanders shall not exceed Sixty in number: And that the Third Class or Companions shall not exceed One hundred in number, it being competent to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, to appoint any Person actually holding the Office of Governor in any of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions to be an Extra Member of either the First or the Second Classes until a vacancy therein should occur:

And to ordain that the Persons to be admitted into the Order shall be such Natural-born Subjects of the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland as may have held or should thereafter hold High and Confidential Offices within any of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, or such other Natural-born Subjects of the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland as may have held or should thereafter hold High and Confidential Offices, or may render Extraordinary and Important Services to Her Majesty, as Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in relation to any of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, or who may become eminently distinguished therein by their Talents, Merits, Virtues, Loyalty, or Services, or who then were or thereafter might be appointed Officers of the Order.

Her Majesty has also been pleased to ordain that it should be lawful for Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, by virtue of the powers to Her and Them reserved in and by the aforesaid Letters Patent, to increase the Numbers of any of the said Classes, and to assign a Place in any