

year of Her Reign, did institute, erect, constitute and create an Order of Knighthood, to be called and known for ever thereafter by the name, style and designation of "The Royal Victorian Order," whereof Her said late Majesty, Her heirs and successors, for ever, should be Sovereigns:

And whereas by further Letters-Patent under the Great Seal of the said United Kingdom, bearing date at Westminster the Twentieth day of December, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, in the Sixty-second year of Her Reign, Her said late Majesty did ordain, direct and appoint that certain changes should be made in the precedence to be observed with regard to the several Classes of the said Order:

And whereas by further Letters-Patent under the Great Seal of the Realm bearing date at Westminster the Twenty-eighth day of May, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-six, in the First year of Our Reign, We did ordain, direct and appoint that certain changes should be made in the several Classes into which the said Order is divided, and that the precedence to be observed with regard to the several Classes of the said Order shall be such as shall from time to time be determined by Us, Our heirs and successors, Sovereigns of the said Order, and that an additional Officer shall be appointed for the service of the said Order:

And whereas Statutes and Ordinances governing the said Order were enacted and issued on the Thirteenth day of December, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, and at divers subsequent dates, by Our Royal Predecessors:

And whereas We deem it now expedient to assemble the said Statutes and to make such alterations as appear to Us necessary for the proper government of the Order:

Now Know Ye that, in pursuance and exercise of the power vested in Us by the said Letters-Patent We have abrogated and annulled, and do hereby abrogate and repeal, all and every the said Statutes and Ordinances so far as they are repugnant to, or inconsistent with, the following Statutes; and in substitution therefor We have made, ordained and established, and by these Presents, sealed with the Seal of the Order, do make, ordain and establish, the following Statutes and Ordinances, which shall from henceforth be inviolably observed and kept within the same, namely:—

I. It is ordained and enjoined that this Order shall be styled and designated in all Acts, Proceedings and Pleadings "The Royal Victorian Order," as directed in the Letters-Patent of the Fifty-ninth year of the Reign of Our Royal Predecessor Queen Victoria, and by no other designation.

II. It is ordained that this Order shall consist of the Sovereign and five several Classes, namely:—I. Knights Grand Cross and Dames Grand Cross, II. Knights Commanders and Dames Commanders, III. Commanders, IV. Members of the Fourth Class, V. Members of the Fifth Class.

III. It is ordained that We, Our heirs and successors, Kings or Queens regnant of these Our Realms, are, and for ever shall be, Sovereigns of this Order.

IV. It is ordained that the persons to be admitted as Ordinary Members of the several

Classes of this Order shall be such persons, being male or female subjects of Our Crown, as may have rendered, or shall hereafter render, extraordinary or important or personal services to Us, Our heirs and successors; or who have merited, or may hereafter merit, Our Royal favour.

V. It is ordained that the Honorary Members of the several Classes of this Order shall consist of foreign Princes or Princesses and foreign persons, male or female, upon whom We may think fit to confer the honour of being received into the Order.

VI. It is ordained that when We, Our heirs and successors, shall be pleased to nominate and appoint any person to this Order, such appointment shall be made by Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual, sealed with the Seal of the Order.

VII. It is ordained that this Order shall rank next to and immediately after Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, and before Our Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; that in all solemn ceremonies, places and assemblies the Knights Grand Cross of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately after the Knights Grand Commanders of the said Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, and the Dames Grand Cross of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately before the Dames Grand Cross of the said Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and may on all occasions have, use and enjoy the appellation and style of Dame before their Christian or first names; that the Knights Commanders of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately after the Knights Commanders of the said Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, and that the Dames Commanders of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately before the Dames Commanders of the said Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and may on all occasions have, use and enjoy the appellation and style of Dame before their Christian or first names; that the men who are Commanders of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately after the Companions of the said Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, and that the women who are Commanders of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately before the women who are Commanders of the said Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; that the men who are Members of the Fourth Class of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately after the Companions of the Distinguished Service Order, and that the women who are Members of the Fourth Class of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately before the women who are Officers of the said Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; that the men who are Members of the Fifth Class of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately after the eldest sons of Knights Bachelors of these Our Realms, and that the women who are Members of the Fifth Class of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately before the women who are Members of the said Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. And it is further