

THREE CHARTERS OF KING CHARLES III

issued at the request of John Geddes

A. THE CHARTER OF 5th DECEMBER 1771, RE-ESTABLISHING THE COLLEGE IN VALLADOLID.¹

Charles, by the Grace of God, King of Castile, Leon, Aragon, the Two Sicilies, Jerusalem, Navarre, Granada, Toledo, Valencia, Galicia, Majorca, Seville, Sardinia, Cordoba, Corsica, Murcia, Jaen, the Algarves, Algeciras, Gibraltar, the Canary Islands, the East and West Indies, and the islands and lands of the ocean, Archduke of Austria, Duke of Burgundy, Brabant and Milan, Count of Hapsburg, Flanders, Tyrol and Barcelona, Lord of Biscay, Molina, etc., to those of my Council, the President and Magistrates of my Courts and Chancelleries, the heads and governors of my household and court, and to all mayors, assistants, intendants, governors, higher and ordinary magistrates, and all other judges and justices of these my Realms, as well as those of the various orders and jurisdictions and to all those other persons, of whatever rank, quality or condition they may be, whom the contents of this my letter may or could concern in any manner whatsoever, and especially to you, the Governor at present in office in my city of Valladolid, who have authority regarding the occupation of the temporalities of the Colleges of St. Ignatius and St. Ambrose in which the Religious of the Society expelled from my Dominions used to be.

You are well aware by other letters patent, which were despatched to you on the twenty-first day of August in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine, that, after consultation with my Extraordinary Council, I was pleased to order, among other matters and after having made the necessary enquiries and investigations, that, in the new building beside the aforementioned College of St. Ambrose, there should be established the Royal Hospital of the Esgueva and the Convalescent Home of the Holy Rosary, completely separated from the section destined for the boarding school, concerning which last I also saw fit to issue letters patent, addressed to the Bishop of the city and requesting him to carry out that part of my royal decision which affected him. You also know

1. A translation of the Spanish original. (College archives 30/4.)

that the members of the Confraternity of the Royal Hospital represented that the transfer resolved upon would be impossible, due, not only to their lack of the funds needed to meet the high costs involved, but also to the insufficiency of space for patients' wards, supervisor's quarters and various other necessary rooms and offices, as well as to the ventilation, which is poorer than in the building in which the hospital is at present located, and to other reasons, all of which serve to show that the proposed transfer would not be wise.

Once my Extraordinary Council had completed the enquiries that it thought right to make in this matter and because D. John Geddes, the Rector of the Seminary of the Scots, had requested permission, on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Scotland, to set up the Seminary in Valladolid (a city with a more temperate climate than Alcalá, nearer the seaports through which the students would pass in travelling from and to their native land, and where the cost of living is less expensive), I saw fit, after the requisite investigations had been completed, to issue, in consultation with my Council, new letters patent, dated the twenty-first day of April of this year, by which you were to proceed, in agreement with His Reverence the Bishop (to whom I also sent letters patent), to set up the aforementioned Seminary of the Scots in that part of the building of the College of St. Ambrose which had earlier been proposed for the Royal Hospital of the Esgueva.

But since both of you, the Governor of the City and D. John Geddes, have represented that, in that part, there would not be sufficient space and accommodation for the Scots students either, that the rooms themselves are unsuitable (since the ground floor is taken up with children's classrooms while, in the upper floors, there are only six rooms or apartments, wholly insufficient for the students, especially as one is already occupied by the library of the school) and that, in addition, since the students are not allowed outside except on holidays, a garden or yard would be necessary, in which they could amuse themselves, as boys do, and take care of their health; in view of this, the aforementioned D. John Geddes and the Rector of the English Seminary, D. Philip Perry, decided to set up the Scots Seminary in the two sections, one above the other, to the left of the main entrance, along with the kitchen which pertained to the College, and various other elements which, although separated from the rest of the building, could be taken over and enclosed. Of all this, you informed my Extraordinary Council, afterwards sending a Plan to show the part destined for the Scots Seminary, marked off with a line in blue, in such a way that D. John Geddes was able to demonstrate that the classrooms, the boarding school, the church and the Scots Seminary would each be kept separated from the others, there being three courtyards, three doors on to the street, and three different staircases; the school would retain, in that part allotted to it, its library, as well as sufficient space for rooms, as shown in the Plan, nos. 13, 19 and 20, and, if it flourished in the future and needed to expand, further rooms were available in that part called the new building.

All of this having been considered by my Extraordinary Council in the light of an explanation given by my Fiscal, D. Pedro Rodríguez Cam-pomanes, its advice, accompanied by the aforementioned Plan, was laid before my person on the thirty-first day of October last, and by my royal

decision, I saw fit to signify my agreement with the advice tendered, which agreement was made known at the Extraordinary Council held on the nineteenth day of November, in consequence of which, it was resolved to send this my letter to you, the Governor of Valladolid. In virtue of which, I command you that, when you receive this letter, you proceed at once, in so far as it pertains to you as commissioner of temporalities, to the establishment of the aforesaid Seminary of the Scots in that part of the building marked with a blue line in the Plan, the original of which is returned with this letter and is signed by D. Joseph Payo Sanz, my honorary private secretary for affairs of my Extraordinary Council, so that it may serve you as a guide and thus avoid any confusion. You are to put yourself in agreement in all matters with the Reverend Bishop of Valladolid, to whom I have also seen fit to send letters patent, instructing him that he, for his part, assist you in the matter. I also enjoin the Most Reverend Archbishops, the Reverend Bishops, Prelates and Ecclesiastical Judges to observe what is contained in this my Royal Charter in so far as it concerns them and I order those of my Council, its President and Members, magistrates of my household and court and of other tribunals and chancelleries, assistants, governors, higher and ordinary magistrates, and all judges and justices, especially you, the commissioner who have authority in the disposal of the temporalities of the already mentioned Religious of the Society, and all persons whom it may in any way concern, that they maintain, fulfil and carry out, procure observance and themselves observe this Charter fully and completely, ensuring that the necessary conditions are made present and thus accomplishing my Royal Service and this my Royal Will.

Given at Madrid on the fifth day of December in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-one.

I, the King.

I, D. Josef Ignazio de Goioneche, Secretary of our Lord, the King, have had this written at His Majesty's command.

B. THE CHARTER OF 18th OCTOBER 1778.¹

[In 1778, John Geddes obtained another Royal Charter, which gathered into one the Deed of Foundation of 1627, the Charter of 1771 (both printed above), and various other documents of importance to the institution. At his instigation, the following twelve Points were also included in the new Charter, in order to make certain matters regarding the college and its legal position more definite and to clear up some doubts.]

POINTS

First, That the Seminary-College of the Scots, founded by Colonel William Semple in Madrid, was transferred with my royal authorisation, to that section which it at present possesses of the College that formerly

1. A translation of the Spanish original. (College archives 30/9.)

was of St. Ambrose; and that I, as an effect of my royal liberality, have seen fit to give to the said College of the Scots the ownership of the aforementioned part of the College of St. Ambrose, along with the Chapel of the Conception, the garden and the courtyard which, by my royal decision, taken after consultation with the Council, the Seminary-College of the Scots presently possesses.

Second, That this transferred College is to be considered as a continuation of the Scots College which was in Madrid and thus enjoys the same rights and privileges that the said Scots College of Madrid possessed; and that all the goods, houses, lands, bonds and all other property whatsoever that belonged to the aforementioned Scots College of Madrid do now appertain and must appertain to the Scots College established by me in Valladolid.

Third, That I have seen fit, as a consequence of my royal bounty, and in order to foster the Catholic Religion, to take this College under my royal protection, making it part of my Royal Patronage and honouring it with the title of Royal.

Fourth, That the purpose of the College, in accordance with the wish of the Founder, is the preparation of Scottish priests who will go to their native land to preach the holy Faith, caring for the Catholics in that Kingdom and trying to convert the heretics; and, as the Catholic Bishops of Scotland are those who know best which persons are most suited to look after the training of their missionaries, I permit, as I have seen fit to permit in the case of the Royal English College, that the said Bishops nominate three priests whom they consider suited to be Rector, so that I, in consultation with my Privy Council and according to my royal pleasure, may nominate for the office one of the three and forward him the appropriate certification; and, in order that the Rector may always conduct himself as responsibly as possible, he will exercise his office for only six years, with the provision added that he may continue for one or several more periods of six years, if such seems opportune, it being well understood that such continuation shall always in fact take place if the Rector is not notified, either by me, by my Privy Council or by the Bishops of Scotland, six months prior to the expiry of the current six years' period, that he is being given a successor, or if the Rector himself does not request a successor before the expiry of the period; moreover, the Rector has to enjoy a salary of three hundred and fifty ducats a year, with his accommodation and food along with the community, in the same way as the Rector of the English College of St. Alban in Valladolid, by provision of my Extraordinary Council.

Fifth, That, whenever the Rector requires to be absent, he may nominate a Vice-Rector to govern the College in accordance with his orders; and that, in the case of the Rector's death or other such event, the master of theology must at once assume the office of Vice-Rector, losing no time in notifying the Privy Council and the Scottish Bishops, in order that they may make whatever provisions they think proper.

Sixth, That, in the College, there have to be three masters, one for theology, one for philosophy and one for humanities, receiving the same salaries as the masters of the English College of St. Alban, that is to say, three hundred ducats for the theology master, two hundred and

eighty ducats for the philosophy master and two hundred and sixty ducats for the humanities master, with accommodation and food in the common refectory, and doctor and physic also provided.

Seventh, That the appointment, continuance and changing of the masters are entrusted to the Rector, in agreement with the Scottish Bishops; and if it should ever happen that there are no students suited for the study of theology and philosophy and, at the same time, more than two classes of humanities, then the masters of theology and philosophy must not object to teaching one of the classes of humanities, since the common good of the College has always to be borne in mind.

Eighth, That the Bishops of Scotland nominate those who are to be students and send them when the Rector notifies them that there is room for them in the College; and that the Rector, with the advice of the masters, may dismiss those students who, after a sufficiently long period of trial, seem unsuited for the purpose of the College.

Ninth, That the Rector, with the advice of the masters and in agreement with the Scottish Bishops, send to the Scottish Mission the students who have finished their course of studies and seem suited for such an exalted ministry; but that some may be held back for a year or more if it appears beneficial, either for themselves, so that they may become more perfect in the ecclesiastical sciences, or for the College, so that they may teach or carry out some other work therein.

Tenth, That the Rector and masters, when they see fit to sell lands, buildings or other real estate belonging to the College, or to buy such goods for the College, may request permission of the Privy Council for the sale or purchase, and what they do in these cases with the permission and approval of the Privy Council will be valid, without need of seeking the consent or opinion of the students, who have to be considered as pupils, just as in the College of St. Alban and in all conciliar seminaries.

Eleventh, That, for the collection of the rents of the College, there shall be an administrator appointed by the Rector and who shall give the necessary sureties; and that the annual accounts of this administrator are to be examined and approved by the Fiscal of the Criminal Division of my Royal Chancellery of Valladolid, as already decided; and that the domestic and daily spending of these rents be in the hands of the Rector, who has to keep the accounts and the record of debits and credits in such a way that everything that he has done can be justified and will be clear for his successor.

Twelfth and last, That the Rector, having heard the opinion of the masters, may propose to me, through my Privy Council, constitutions and rules for the more detailed government of this College, so that, with my royal approval, they may be observed in the said house, the Rector bearing in mind, when drawing up these rules, those which have already been approved for the College of St. Alban.

All the foregoing having been considered by my Privy Council in the light of my Fiscal's opinion, I have resolved to issue this present Royal Charter, inserting the various documents presented and the points proposed by the above-mentioned Rector, so that all may be gathered together and

made clear within one Royal Charter, in order that what has been determined until the present and what has to be observed in the future in the Royal Scots College of the city of Valladolid may always be easily known. And I order that this, the original of my Royal Charter, be placed in the archives of the aforesaid College and that complete faith and credit be given to any authorised copy made out in the proper form. Which thus proceeds from my Royal Will.

Given in San Lorenzo el Real on the eighteenth day of October in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight.

I, the King.

I, D. Juan Francisco de Lastiri, Secretary of the King, my Lord, have had this written at his command.

C. THE CHARTER OF 25th MAY 1783, EXTENDING THE COLLEGE PREMISES.¹

Charles, by the Grace of God, King of Castile ... etc.,

In so far as there was presented to my Extraordinary Council by Don John Geddes, formerly Rector of the Royal Scots College of Valladolid and now titular Bishop of Morocco, a memorial showing: that, in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-one when, in consultation with the said Tribunal, I established the above-mentioned Scots College in the College of St. Ambrose that used to be of the Religious of the suppressed Society, the aforesaid Rector had requested only that part which lies at the east of the College of St. Ambrose, because he understood that the middle portion was destined for another purpose; that, I having condescended to grant that petition, the Scots College has since then been in possession of the above-mentioned eastern portion, the central part remaining unused and suffering some deterioration in its fabric, and with the expenses falling on the Temporalities of the College of St. Ambrose; that the part in which the Scots College is established is small, especially if the number of students increases; that, because of this and without prejudice to existing rights, the said Don John Geddes had requested of the same Extraordinary Council the concession of the central portion of the College of St. Ambrose, with the garden and those outhouses that are not joined to the new part where the *Reales Estudios* are located;

the Council sought a report from the Governor of the City of Valladolid (who is Commissioner of the Temporalities of the College of St. Ambrose), who replied on the seventh day of April of the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, stating that the proposal of the Rector, Don John Geddes, could be granted, in accordance with the plan and explanation drawn up by Master D. Francisco Alvarez Benavides, the original of which accompanied his report, but with the Temporalities of the College of St. Ambrose retaining the entrance to, and the use of, the *Pozo de Nieve*

1. A translation of the Spanish original. (College archives 30/12.)

In this state, the matter was transmitted by the Extraordinary Council to my Privy Council, in which the documents referring to the transfer of the aforesaid Scots College to that of St. Ambrose are kept. And the question having been examined there along with my Fiscal's report, I have resolved to issue this present Royal Charter, by which I confer on the said Scots College of Valladolid the part of the building of the College of St. Ambrose in the form proposed by the Governor of the City and in accordance with the plan which he sent, since this adjudication is in full conformity with my intentions expressed in my Charter of the fourteenth day of August of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight,² issued in consultation with my Extraordinary Council.

And, in order that the classrooms and other quarters which the Scots College needs so much may be constructed as soon as possible, I command the person whom it concerns to put the Scots College in possession, without delay, of the said part of the College of St. Ambrose; and that this, the original of my Royal Charter, be placed in the archives of the said College, so that its contents may always be known. Which thus proceeds from my Royal Will.

Given at Aranjuez on the twenty-fifth day of May in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three.

I, the King.

I, D. Juan Francisco de Lastiri, Secretary of our Lord, the King, have had this written at his command.

2. Probably a mistake for 18th October 1778 (Appendix II B), as no Charter of 14th August 1778 is known.