

Patent to the University of Oxford (12 November 1632)

Source

OUA, Long Box 15/1

Notes

Transcribed in Madan, 1.281–3. The transcription given below results from a checking of Madan's text with the original by Andrew Hegarty, advised by Robin Darwall-Smith, and a few minor corrections have been made. A translation has been provided by Simon Neal and revised by Andrew Hegarty, with advice from Robin Darwall-Smith.

Transcription

Carolus Dei gratia Anglie Scotie Francie et Hibernie Rex fidei defensor &c. **Omnibus** ad quos presentes litere pervenerint salutem **Sciatis** quod nos de gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa scientia et mero motu nostris dedimus et concessimus Ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris damus et concedimus dilectis nobis in Christo Cancellario Magistris et Scholaribus Vniversitatis nostre Oxon licenciam quod ipsi et Successores sui per scripta comuni eorum Sigillo munita de tempore in tempus tres Typographos librorum Impressores et Bibliopolas tam de alienigenis et extra obedientiam nostram heredum et Successorum nostrorum ortis vel oriundis quam de Indigenis infra eandem obedientiam natis vel nascendis infra Septum vel Ambitum eiusdem Vniversitatis residentes et inhabitantes tam conductivas quam proprias Domos habentes vel tenentes designare poterint et constituere quorum singuli omnimodos libros seu Codices publice non prohibitos editos vel edendos et librorum exemplaria Cancellarii eiusdem Vniversitatis vel eius vices gerentis ac trium Doctorum quorum vnus ad minus Sacre Theologie existat Professor quibus per eosdem Cancellarium magistros et Scholares facultas facta fuerit libros examinandi Iudicio approbanda ibidem imprimere excudere ac Typis mandare ac tam libros et Codices illos quam alios vbicunque sive infra Dominia nostra heredum vel successorum nostrorum seu extra eadem impressos vel excusos ac vt prefertur approbatos tam in eadem vniversitate quam alibi vendicioni exponere vendere et distrahere quociens voluerint valeant et possint Quibus quidem Typographis librorum Impressoribus ac Bibliopolis et singulis eorum tam

presentibus quam futuris ad omnia premissa licite et impune agendi licentiam similiter damus et concedimus per presentes. **Ac** pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris ulterius volumus et concedimus quod huiusmodi Typographi librorum Impressores et Bibliopole eciam extra obedienciam nostram heredum vel Successorum nostrorum orti vel oriundi et eorum singuli quamdiu infra ambitum vniversitatis predicte moram traxerint et negotio antedicto sint intendentes in omnibus et per omnia tanquam fideles Subditi et ligei nostri infra Regnum Anglie oriundi reputentur habeantur et tractentur et singulis libertatibus liberis consuetudinibus legibus et privilegiis vti et gaudere valeant libere et quiete prout aliquis fidelis Subditus et ligeus noster heredum vel Successorum nostrorum infra Regnum Anglie ortus vel oriundus vti et gaudere debeat et ad quotas onera Consuetudines vel Imposiciones quascunque aliter aut alio modo quam ceteri fideles Subditi et ligei nostri heredum vel Successorum nostrorum infra Regnum Anglie orti vel oriundi Solvenda vel contribuenda nullus eorum arctetur vel compellatur Statutis de Alienigenis antehac editis seu Statutis vel Provisionibus quibusvis aliis in contrarium non obstantibus **Proviso** tamen quod iidem Typographi librorum Impressores et Bibliopole et singuli eorum extra obedienciam nostram heredum vel Successorum nostrorum oriundi omnia et omnimoda Custumas et Subsidia et alia debita et onera pro rebus et merchandizis suis extra Regnum Anglie traducendis vel in idem Regnum inducendis vt alienigene solvere teneantur et legibus Regni nostri Anglie sint obedientes **Eo quod** expressa mencio de vero valore annuo vel de certitudine premissorum sive eorum alicuius aut de aliis Donis sive Concessionibus per nos seu per aliquem Progenitorum sive Predecessorum nostrorum prefatis Cancellario Magistris et Scholaribus ante hec tempora factis in presentibus minime facta existit aut aliquo Statuto Actu Ordinatione Provisione Proclamacione sive Restrictione in contrarium inde antehac habitis factis editis ordinatis sive provisus aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunque in aliquo non obstante **In Cuius** rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes **Teste** me ipso apud Westmonasterium Duodecimo die Novembris Anno regni nostri octavo.

per breve de privato Sigillo. Wolseley.

Translation

Charles, by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc. To all whom these present letters reach, greeting. Know you that we, of our special favour, certain knowledge, and free will, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant for us, our heirs and successors, to the Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of our University of Oxford, beloved to us in Christ, licence that they and their successors may from time to time designate and establish by deeds fortified with their Common Seal three typographers, printers of books and booksellers, whether from among aliens and those born or yet to be born outside our obedience and that of our heirs and successors or from among denizens born or yet to be born within the same obedience, resident and dwelling within the confines or curtilage of the same University, having or holding either rented premises or their own houses, each and every one of whom is to have power and capacity to print, compose, and commit to type all manner of books or codices such as, whether already brought forth or still to be issued, are not publicly prohibited, and original scripts of books which are to be approved by the judgement of the Chancellor of the same University or his deputy and three Doctors, of whom one at least is to be a Doctor of Sacred Theology, to whom by the same Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars there shall be granted the power to examine books, and once both those and other books and codices, wheresoever within our dominions and those of our heirs or successors or outside the same, have been printed or composed and approved as aforesaid, they are to have power and capacity to place on sale and to sell and distribute them both in the same University and elsewhere as often as they desire. To which typographers, printers of books, and booksellers, moreover, and each and every one of them, now and in the future, we likewise give and grant licence by these presents to perform all the aforesaid lawfully and without punishment.

And for us, our heirs, and successors we further desire and grant that these typographers, printers of books, and booksellers, even those originating or later to come from outside our obedience and that of our heirs and successors, and each and every one of them, for as long

as they reside within the curtilage of the aforesaid University and are attending to the aforesaid business, should be in all respects and to all effects reputed, held, and treated as though our faithful subjects and lieges originating within the realm of England, and that they should be empowered freely and quietly to use and enjoy each and every liberty, free custom, law, and privilege, such as any faithful subject or liege of us, our heirs, or successors, born or to be born within the realm of England, ought to use and enjoy; and that none of them is to be forced or compelled to pay or contribute to quotas, charges, customs, or impositions of any kind otherwise or in any manner other than the other faithful subjects and lieges of us, our heirs, or successors, born or to be born within the realm of England, notwithstanding statutes concerning aliens hitherto issued or any other statutes or provisions whatsoever to the contrary.

Provided, however, that the same typographers, printers of books, and booksellers and each and every one of them, who may originate outside the obedience of us, our heirs, or successors, be obliged to pay as aliens all customs, subsidies, other dues, and charges for exporting their moveable goods and merchandise outside the realm of England, or for importing them into the same realm, and that they be obedient to the laws of our realm of England.

On the understanding that express mention of the true yearly value or of the certainty of the aforesaid matters or of any one of them or of other grants or concessions made before this time by us or by any of our Progenitors or Predecessors to the aforesaid Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars, is not at all made in these presents, and any statute, act, ordinance, provision, proclamation, or restriction formerly had, made, issued, ordained, or provided to the contrary thereof, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever in anything, notwithstanding.

In testimony of which matter we have caused these our letters patent to be made. Witnessed by myself, at Westminster on the twelfth day of November in the eighth year of our reign.

By writ of Privy Seal. Wolseley.