

A short statement of the nature, objects, and proceedings of the Scottish Hospital in London / Drawn up at the request, and printed by the order of a general court of governors.

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A SHORT STATEMENT
OF THE
NATURE, OBJECTS, AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SCOTTISH HOSPITAL
IN LONDON.

Drawn up at the Request, and Printed by the Order of a General Court of Governors.

PRESIDENT.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CLARENCE.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The EARL of ROTHES.

The EARL of ABERDEEN.

LORD VISCOUNT MELVILLE.

|||||

LORD DUNDAS.

LORD KEITH.

The Hon. WILLIAM MAULE, M. P.

THE SCOTTISH HOSPITAL IN LONDON was originally founded by Royal Charter from King CHARLES II. in the year 1665, and afterwards re-incorporated by his present Majesty GEORGE III. in 1775. The Object of the Establishment was the Relief and Support of Poor Persons, natives of Scotland, *not having any parochial settlement in England.* A house was accordingly built for their reception. But the Promoters of the Charity soon discovered that an Hospital or *Workhouse*, was not only in the highest degree repugnant to the feelings in which they had been educated, but that a crowded assemblage of persons of both sexes, and of all ages, was detrimental alike to their virtue and their happiness. The establishment of a *Workhouse* was accordingly abandoned, and the pensioners of the Institution have ever since enjoyed its bounty *at their own habitations*, where they can also carry on their respective occupations, as far as their age and infirmities permit them.

The Institution is governed by

A PRESIDENT,

SIX VICE-PRESIDENTS,

A TREASURER,—and

An Indefinite Number of GOVERNORS.

A COMMITTEE of those Governors is annually appointed, and regularly attends at the Society's Hall (Crane Court, Fleet Street,) once every month, for the administration of pecuniary relief. And whenever Medical advice is required, the Physicians of the Hospital attend, and prescribe *gratis* to the afflicted.

THE utmost economy is observed in the management of the concerns of the Institution, from this conviction, that the *less* which is thus expended, the *more* will be distributed among the poor. All the higher offices of the establishment are accordingly executed gratuitously, and the greatest diligence continually exerted to apportion the relief given to the necessity that requires it.

IMPORTANT and beneficial as was the Institution at the time of its *first* formation, it has now become unspeakably more so, in consequence of the more frequent and general intercourse maintained betwixt all parts of the country and the Metropolis. The number of young persons resorting every year from Scotland to London, in search of employment, is greatly increased. And unfortunately, but what must unavoidably happen in such circumstances, the number also is increased of those who, by unforeseen calamities, accidents, disease, and age, are reduced to the most deplorable poverty and distress. Multitudes of these, our perishing countrymen, are most deserving persons; and have *no legal claim* in their need on the charitable Establishments of England. These, therefore, become the object of this Society's care.

THE Funds of the Scottish Hospital are employed *exclusively* in aid of the *virtuous* and *deserving* Scottish poor;—of those who, from age or infirmity, are “unable to work,” and from early education and independent feelings are “to beg ashamed.” To ascertain the reality of such characters, the Committee have, with a laudable and persevering zeal, adopted the excellent system of visiting their distressed petitioners at their own habitations, and in the course of their benevolent enquiries they have discovered many persons of good family, and most respectable characters, pining in want and wretchedness altogether inconceivable.

MANY of the Wives of those brave men who are fighting our battles abroad, and the Widows of others who have fallen gloriously in the service of their country, become also the objects of the Society's beneficence. The number of these too, has of late been very much increased by the unavoidable calamities of our protracted warfare, and the immense continental expeditions in which our forces have been engaged. In saving these helpless creatures and their children from the horrors of starvation, by restoring them to the comforts of their distant homes, the Committee of the Society are very frequently employed.

WHEN the *Character* of their poor Petitioners is found, after strict investigation, to be respectable, when their *Age* is far advanced, and their increasing *infirmities* render it physically impossible, that they should ever be again able to provide for their own support, the Society receives them on the list of its regular Pensioners, to whom there is allowed a certain sum *every* Month during the remainder of their lives, or so long as they continue deserving objects of this Charity. Others there are, whose hearts fondly turn in their old age, and in the midst of their afflictions, towards their NATIVE LAND,—who long to throw themselves into the arms of the few remaining Relatives that yet survive, and who desire to sleep at last among the ashes of their kindred. These, the Society have always a sincere pleasure in conveying *immediately* to the place of their Nativity, free of all expence, and until their departure from London providing them with what is necessary for their support.

THE Governors are further anxious to impress upon the public mind, that the benefits of this Institution are felt, not only by the Poor, but by the community at large. For the *industrious* being encouraged, and the *unfortunate* relieved by its assistance, such persons are prevented from sinking irrecoverably into the degraded condition of *habitual paupers*, and thus becoming burdensome to the Metropolis. The *modest* are often saved from the horrors of desperation and infamy,—the *virtuous sick* and *aged* are consoled and provided for in the days of their distress.

THE Countenance which the Institution has of late years received, is in the highest degree honourable and encouraging to its Friends. It can now reckon among its Governors, ALL THE SONS OF OUR ILLUSTRIOUS SOVEREIGN, a very considerable portion of the NOBILITY of the land, and many LADIES of the highest rank and distinguished worth.

ON all these accounts the Committee are firmly persuaded, that the more the Society is made known, the more extensive will be the Patronage with which it will be honoured by a discriminating and liberal Public, and trust that their Charitable aid and Friendly recommendations, will be still employed to advance its merited prosperity and growing usefulness.

Among the several objects proposed by the original promoters of the Society, was also

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOL,

For the Education and Employment of the Scottish Poor, resident in London.

THE present Governors of the Hospital are ardently wishful to comply in this respect with the words of their original Charter, and to fulfil the pious and patriotic intentions of their predecessors. By means of a School, they hope to contribute to the moral and religious improvement of those who, otherwise growing up in habits of ignorance, idleness, and vice, might finally become a burden or a bane to society. And they may, under Divine Providence, lay the Founda-

tion among the rising generation of that strict regard to religion and the laws; that persevering spirit of honest industry in business, and that virtuous independence of mind, for which the Peasantry of Scotland have been so highly and deservedly celebrated. To effect this great design, however, the finances of the Institution are still incompetent. But in a cause so truly patriotic, and so permanently beneficial, the intentions of the Committee, they trust, need only to be stated to the Public, in order to receive that encouragement, which they now earnestly solicit and require.

THEY are satisfied, that this appeal to the feelings of their country will not be vain; that while IRELAND and WALES can boast respectively of their Charity Schools in the Metropolis, SCOTLAND will no longer be wanting in affording protection and education to the destitute children of her industrious Poor resident in London.

SCOTS HALL, }
Crane Court, Fleet Street. }

*The Number of Cases of Poor Persons relieved by this Charity, for One Year, viz. from
St. Andrew's Day 1811 to St. Andrew's Day 1812, is as follows:*

Poor Pensioners at an allowance on the Establishment, and Persons relieved on the Recommendation of Governors	1671
Poor, Lame, and Sickly Persons, whose Passages and Expences to Scotland have been paid by the Cor- poration	275
Total of Poor, Lame, and Sickly Persons relieved	1946

N. B.—A Donation of Ten Guineas and upwards constitutes a Governor for life, and One Guinea or upwards, an Annual Governor. Each Governor and Governess can recommend One Petitioner for relief every Month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS will be received by ALEXANDER GORDON, Esq. Treasurer to the Society, 57, Old Broad Street; Mr. DOBIE, Secretary, Crane Court, Fleet Street; and by all the Bankers in London and Westminster.

1871

1875

1870