

THE
CHARTER

OF

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

GEORGE the third, by the grace of GOD of
Great-Britain, France and Ireland, King, De-
fender of the Faith, &c.

To all to whom these Presents shall come,
GREETING.

WHEREAS it hath been represented to our trusty and
well-beloved JOHN WENTWORTH, Esq; Governor
and Commander in Chief in and over our Province of
New-Hampshire in New-England in America, that the Reverend
ELEAZAR WHEELOCK of *Lebanon* in the Colony of *Connec-
ticut in New-England* aforesaid, now Doctor in Divinity, did on or
about the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven-Hundred and
Fifty-Four, at his own expence on his own estate and plantation, set
on foot an INDIAN CHARITY SCHOOL, and for several
years through the assistance of well disposed persons in *America*,
cloathed, maintained and educated a number of the children of the
Indian natives, with a view to their carrying the gospel in their own
language, and spreading the knowledge of the great REDEEMER
among their savage tribes, and hath actually employed a number of
them as Missionaries and School-Masters in the wilderness for that
purpose. And by the blessing of GOD upon the endeavors of said
WHEELOCK, the design became reputable among the *Indians*,
insomuch that a larger number desired the education of their chil-
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dren in said SCHOOL, and were also disposed to receive Missionaries and School-Masters in the wilderness more than could be supported by the charitable contributions in these *American* colonies.

WHEREUPON the said ELEAZAR WHEELOCK thought it expedient that endeavors should be used to raise contributions from well disposed persons in *England* for the carrying on and extending said undertaking, and for that purpose said ELEAZAR WHEELOCK requested the Rev. NATHANIEL WHITAKER, now *Doctor in Divinity*, to go over to *England* for that purpose, and sent over with him the Rev. SAMPSON OCCOM *an Indian Minister* who had been educated by the said WHEELOCK. And to enable the said WHITAKER to the more successful performance of said work on which he was sent, said WHEELOCK gave him a full power of attorney by which said WHITAKER solicited those worthy and generous Contributors to charity, viz. The Right Hon. WILLIAM Earl of DARTMOUTH, the Hon. Sir SIDNEY-STAFFORD SMYTHE, Knight, one of the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, JOHN THORNTON of *Clapham* in the County of *Surrey*, Esq; SAMUEL ROFFEY of *Lincoln's Inn-fields* in the County of *Middlesex*, Esq; CHARLES HARDEY of the Parish of *St. Mary-le-bonne* in said County, Esq; DANIEL WEST of *Christ's Church Spitalfields* in the County aforesaid, Esq; SAMUEL SAVAGE of the same place, Gentleman; JOSIAH ROBARIS of the Parish of *St. Edmund the King Lombard Street London*, Gentleman, and ROBERT KEEN of the Parish of *St. Botolph Aldgate London*, Gentleman; to receive the several sums of money which should be contributed, and to be TRUSTEES to the contributors to such charity; which they cheartully agreed to.

WHEREUPON the said WHITAKER did by virtue of said power of attorney, constitute and appoint the said Earl of DARTMOUTH, Sir SIDNEY-STAFFORD SMYTH, JOHN THORNTON, SAMUEL ROFFEY, CHARLES HARDEY and DANIEL WEST Esquires, and SAMUEL SAVAGE, JOSIAH ROBARIS and ROBERT KEEN, Gentlemen, to be TRUSTEES of the money which had then been contributed, and which should by his means be contributed for said purpose; which trust they have accepted, as by their engrossed declaration of the same under

under their hands and seals well executed fully appears, and the same hath also been ratified by a *deed of trust* well executed by said WHEELOCK.

AND the said WHEELOCK further represents that he has by a power of Attorney for many weighty reasons given full power to the said TRUSTEES to fix upon and determine the place for said SCHOOL most subservient to the great end in view. And to enable them understandingly to give the preference, the said WHEELOCK has laid before the said TRUSTEES the several offers which have been generously made in the several governments in *America* to encourage and invite the settlement of said SCHOOL among them for their own private emolument, and for the encrease of learning in their respective places, as well as for the furtherance of the general design in view.

AND whereas a large number of the Proprietors of lands in the western part of this our province of *New-Hampshire*, animated and excited thereto by the generous example of his Excellency their Governor, and by the liberal contributions of many Noblemen and Gentlemen in *England*, and especially by the consideration that such a situation would be as convenient as any for carrying on the great design among the *Indians*; and also considering that without the least impediment to the said design the same School may be enlarged and improved to promote learning among the *English*, and be a means to supply a great number of Churches and Congregations which are likely soon to be formed in that new country with a learned and orthodox ministry, they the said proprietors have promised large tracts of land for the uses aforesaid, provided the School shall be settled in the western part of our said province.

AND they the said Right Hon. Hon. and worthy TRUSTEES before mentioned, having maturely considered the reasons and arguments in favor of the several places proposed, have given the preference to the western part of our said province lying on *Connecticut*-river as a situation most convenient for said School.

AND the said WHEELOCK has further represented a necessity of a legal Incorporation in order to the safety and well being of said Seminary, and its being capable of the tenure and disposal of lands and bequests for the use of the same. And the said WHEELOCK

LOCK has also represented that for many weighty reasons it will be expedient at least in the infancy of said Institution, or till it can be accommodated in that new country and he and his friends be able to remove and settle by and round about it, that the gentlemen whom he has already nominated in his last will (which he has transmitted to the aforesaid gentlemen of the trust in *England*) to be TRUSTEES in *America*, should be of the corporation now proposed. And also as there are already large collections for said School in the hands of the aforesaid gentlemen of the Trust in *England*, and all reason to believe from their signal wisdom piety and zeal to promote the REDEEMER's cause (which has already procured for them the utmost confidence of the kingdom,) we may expect they will appoint successors in time to come who will be men of the same spirit, whereby great good may and will accrue many ways to the institution, and much be done by their example and influence to encourage and facilitate the whole design in view. For which reasons said WHELLOCK desires that the TRUSTEES aforesaid may be vested with all that power therein which can consist with their distance from the same.

KNOW YE THEREFORE THAT WE considering the premises and being willing to encourage the laudable design of spreading christian knowledge among the savages of our *American* wilderness. And also that the best means of education be established in our province of *New-Hampshire* for the benefit of said province, do of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, by and with the advice of our council for said province, by these presents will, ordain, grant and constitute that there be a College erected in our said province of *New-Hampshire* by the name of *DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE*, for the education and instruction of youths of the *Indian* tribes in this land in reading, writing and all parts of learning which shall appear necessary and expedient for civilizing and christianizing the children of pagans, as well as in all liberal Arts and Sciences, and also of *English* youths and any others. And the TRUSTEES of said COLLEGE may and shall be one body corporate and politic in deed, action and name, and shall be called, named and distinguished by the name of THE TRUSTEES OF *DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE*. AND

AND further, WE have willed, given, granted, constituted and ordained, and by this our present Charter, of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, with the advice aforelaid, do for Us our Heirs and Successors forever, will, give, grant, constitute and ordain that there shall from henceforth and forever be in the said *DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE* a body politic, consisting of TRUSTEES OF *DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE*. And for the more full and perfect erection of said Corporation and Body politic, consisting of TRUSTEES OF *DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE*, WE of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, DO by these presents for Us our Heirs and Successors, make, ordain, constitute and appoint our trusty and well beloved JOHN WENTWORTH Esquire, Governor of our said province, and the governor of our said province of *New-Hampshire* for the time being, and our trusty and well beloved THEODORE ATKINSON Esquire, now President of our Council of our said province, GEORGE JAFFREY and DANIEL PIERCE Esquires, both of our said council, and PETER GILMAN Esquire, now Speaker of our House of Representatives in said province, and WILLIAM PITKIN Esquire, one of the Assistants of our colony of *Connecticut*, and our trusty and well beloved ELEAZAR WHEELOCK of *Lebanon*, Doctor in Divinity, BENJAMIN POMEROY of *Hebron*, JAMES LOCKWOOD of *Weathersfield*, TIMOTHY PITKIN and JOHN SMALLEY of *Farmington*, and WILLIAM PATTEN of *Hartford*, all of our said colony of *Connecticut*, Ministers of the Gospel, (the whole number of said TRUSTEES consisting and hereafter forever to consist of *twelve* and no more) to be TRUSTEES of said *DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE* in this our province of *New-Hampshire*.

AND WE do further of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, for Us our Heirs and Successors, will, give, grant and appoint that the said TRUSTEES and their successors shall forever hereafter be in deed, act and name, a body corporate and politic, and that they the said body corporate and politic, shall be known and distinguished in all deeds, grants, bargains, sales, writings evidences or otherwise however, and in all courts forever hereafter plead and be impleaded by the name of THE TRUSTEES OF *DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE*. And that the said corporation by the name aforelaid, shall be able and in law capable for the use of said

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DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE, to have, get, acquire, purchase, receive, hold, possess and enjoy tenements, hereditaments, jurisdictions and franchises for themselves and their successors in fee simple or otherwise howsoever, and to purchase, receive, or build any house or houses, or any other buildings as they shall think needful and convenient for the use of said **DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE** and in such town in the western part of our said province of *New-Hampshire* as shall by said **TRUSTEES** or the major part of them be agreed upon, their said agreement to be evidenced by an instrument in writing under their hands ascertaining the same. And also to receive and dispose of any lands, goods, chattles and other things of what nature soever for the use aforesaid. And also to have, accept and receive any rents, profits, annuities, gifts, legacies, donations or bequests of any kind whatsoever for the use aforesaid : so nevertheless that the yearly value of the premises don't exceed the sum of *six thousand pounds sterling*. And therewith or otherwise to support and pay as the said **TRUSTEES** or the major part of such of them as are regularly convened for that purpose shall agree, the President, Tutors and other Officers and Ministers of said **DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE**, and also to pay all such missionaries and school-masters as shall be authorized, appointed and employed by them for civilizing, christianizing and instructing the *Indian* natives of this land their several allowances, and also their respective annual salaries or allowances, and also such necessary and contingent charges as from time to time shall arise and accrue relating to said **DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE**. And also to bargain, sell, let or assign lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods or chattles, and all other things whatsoever by the name aforesaid, in as full and ample a manner to all intents and purposes as a natural person or other body corporate or politic is able to do by the laws of our realm of *Great-Britain* or of said province of *New-Hampshire*.

AND further of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, to the intent that our said corporation and body politic may answer the end of their erection and constitution, and may have perpetual succession and continuance forever, WE do for US our Heirs and Successors, will, give and grant unto the said **TRUSTEES OF DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE** and to their successors forever, that

that there shall be once a year, and every year, a meeting of said TRUSTEES held at said *DARTMOUTH-COLLEGE*, at such time as by said Trustees or the major part of them at any legal meeting of said Trustees shall be agreed on. The first meeting to be called by the said *ELEAZAR WHEELLOCK*, as soon as conveniently may be within one year next after the enrollment of these our *letters patent*, at such time and place as he shall judge proper. And the said Trustees or the major part of any seven or more of them shall then determine on the time for holding the annual meeting aforesaid, which may be altered as they shall hereafter find most convenient. And WE do further ordain and direct that the said *ELEAZAR WHEELLOCK* shall notify the time for holding said first meeting to be called as aforesaid, by sending a letter to each of said Trustees, and causing an advertisement thereof to be printed in the *New-Hampshire Gazette*, and in some public News-paper printed in the colony of *Connecticut*. But in case of the death or incapacity of said *WHEELLOCK*, then such meeting to be notified in manner as aforesaid, by the Governor or Commander in Chief of our said province for the time being.

AND WE also for Us our Heirs and Successors, hereby will, give and grant unto the said Trustees of *Dartmouth-College* aforesaid, and to their successors forever, that when any seven or more of the said Trustees or their Successors are convened and met together for the service of said *Dartmouth-College* at any time or times, such seven or more shall be capable to act as fully and amply to all intents and purposes as if all the Trustees of said College were personally present; and all affairs and actions whatsoever under the care of said Trustees shall be determined by the majority or greater number of those seven or more Trustees so convened and met together.

AND WE do further will, ordain and direct, that the *President, Trustees, Professors and Tutors*, and all such officers as shall be appointed for the public instruction and government of said College, shall before they undertake the execution of their respective offices or trusts, or within one year after, take the oaths and subscribe the declaration provided by an act of Parliament made in the first year of King *George the first*, entitled *An act for the further security of his Majesty's person and government, and the succession of the Crown*

in the heirs of the late Princess Sophia being Protestants, and for the extinguishing the hopes of the pretended Prince of Wales, and his open and secret abettors, that is to say, the President before the Governor of our said province for the time being, or by one empowered by him to that service, or by the President of our Council, and the Trustees, Professors, Tutors and other Officers before the President of said College for the time being, who is hereby empowered to administer the same; an entry of all which shall be made in the records of said College.

AND WE do for Us our Heirs and Successors, hereby will give and grant full power and authority to the President hereafter by Us named, and to his Successors, or in case of his failure, to any three or more of said Trustees to appoint other occasional meetings from time to time of the said seven Trustees, or any greater number of them to transact any matter or thing necessary to be done before the next annual meeting, and to order notice to the said seven or any greater number of them of the times and places of meeting for the services aforesaid, by a letter under his or their hands of the same one month before said meeting. Provided always, that no standing rule or order be made or altered for the regulation of said College, or any President or Professor be chosen or displaced, or any other matter or thing transacted or done which shall continue in force after the then next annual meeting of said Trustees as aforesaid.

AND further, WE do by these Presents for Us our Heirs and Successors, create, make, constitute, nominate and appoint our trusty and well beloved ELEAZAR WHEELOCK, Doctor in Divinity, the Founder of said College, to be President of said Dartmouth-College, and to have the immediate care of the education and government of such Students as shall be admitted into said Dartmouth-College for instruction and education; and do will, give and grant to him in said office, full power authority and right to nominate, appoint, constitute and ordain by his last will, such suitable and meet person or persons as he shall chuse to succeed him in the Presidency of said Dartmouth-College; and the person so appointed by his last will, to continue in office vested with all the powers, privileges, jurisdiction and authority of a President of said Dartmouth-College, that is to say, so long as until such appointment by
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said last will shall be disapproved by the *Trustees* of said *Dartmouth-College*.

AND WE do also for Us our Heirs and Successors, will, give and grant to the said *Trustees* of *Dartmouth-College*, and to their successors forever, or any seven or more of them convened as aforesaid, that in case of the ceasing or failure of a *President*, by any means whatsoever, that the said *Trustees* do elect, nominate and appoint such qualified person as they or the major part of any seven or more of them convened for that purpose as above directed shall think fit to be *President* of said *Dartmouth-College*, and to have the care of the education and government of the Students as aforesaid. And in case of the ceasing of a *President* as aforesaid, the senior Professor or Tutor being one of the *Trustees*, shall exercise the office of a *President* until the *Trustees* shall make choice of and appoint a *President* as aforesaid, and such Professor or Tutor, or any three or more of the *Trustees*, shall immediately appoint a meeting of the body of the *Trustees* for the purpose aforesaid. And also, WE do will, give and grant to the said *Trustees* convened as aforesaid, that they elect, nominate and appoint so many Tutors and Professors to assist the *President* in the education and government of the Students belonging thereto as they the said *Trustees* shall from time to time and at any time think needful and serviceable to the interests of said *Dartmouth-College*. And also that the said *Trustees* or their successors, or the major part of any seven or more of them convened for that purpose as above directed, shall at any time displace and discharge from the service of said *Dartmouth-College* any or all such officers and elect others in their room and stead as before directed. And also that the said *Trustees* or their successors, or the major part of any seven of them which shall convene for that purpose as above directed, do from time to time as occasion shall require, elect, constitute and appoint a Treasurer, a Clerk, an Usher and a Steward, for the said *Dartmouth-College*, and appoint to them and each of them their respective businesses and trust; and displace and discharge from the service of said *College*, such Treasurer, Clerk, Usher or Steward, and elect others in their room and stead; which officers so elected as before directed, WE do for Us our Heirs and Successors, by these presents constitute and establish in their
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respective offices, and do give to each and every of them, full power and authority to exercise the same in said *Dartmouth-College* according to the directions and during the pleasure of the said *Trustees*, as fully and freely as any like officers in any of our *Universities, Colleges or Seminaries* of Learning in our realm of *Great-Britain* lawfully may or ought to do.

AND also, that the said *Trustees* or their successors, or the major part of any seven or more of them which shall convene for that purpose as is above directed, as often as one or more of said *Trustees* shall die, or by removal or otherwise shall according to their judgment become unfit or incapable to serve the interests of said *College*, do as soon as may be after the death, removal, or such unfitness or incapacity of such *Trustee* or *Trustees*, elect and appoint such *Trustee* or *Trustees* as shall supply the place of him or them so dying or becoming incapable to serve the interests of said *College*; and every *Trustee* so elected and appointed, shall by virtue of these presents and such election and appointment, be vested with all the powers and privileges which any of the other *Trustees* of said *College* are hereby vested with. And WE do further will, ordain and direct, that from and after the expiration of two years from the enrollment of these presents, such vacancy or vacancies shall be filled up unto the complete number of *twelve Trustees*, *eight* of the aforesaid whole number of the body of the *Trustees* shall be resident and respectable Freeholders of our said Province of *New-Hampshire*, and *seven* of said whole number shall be Lay-men.

AND WE do further of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, will, give and grant unto the said *Trustees* of *Dartmouth-College* that they and their successors, or the major part of any seven of them which shall convene for that purpose as above directed, may make, and they are hereby fully empowered from time to time fully and lawfully to make and establish such ordinances, orders and laws, as may tend to the good and wholesome government of the said *College*, and all the students and the several officers and ministers thereof, and to the public benefit of the same, not repugnant to the laws and statutes of our realm of *Great-Britain* or of this our province of *New-Hampshire*, (and not excluding any person of any religious denomination whatsoever from free and equal

liberty and advantage of education, or from any of the liberties and privileges or immunities of the said *College* on account of his or their speculative sentiments in religion, and of his or their being of a religious profession different from the said *Trustees* of the said *Dartmouth-College*;) and such ordinances, orders and laws which shall as aforesaid be made. WE do by these presents, for Us our Heirs and Successors, ratify, allow of and confirm, as good and effectual to oblige and bind all the students and the several officers and ministers of said *College*. And WE do hereby authorize and empower the said *Trustees* of *Dartmouth-College*, and the *President*, Tutors and Professors by them elected and appointed as aforesaid, to put such ordinances laws and orders into execution to all intents and purposes.

AND WE do further of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, will, give and grant unto the said *Trustees* of said *Dartmouth-College*, for the encouragement of learning and animating the students of said *College* to diligence and industry and a laudable progress in literature, that they and their successors, or the major part of any seven or more of them convened for that purpose as above directed, do by the *President* of said *College* for the time being, or any other deputed by them, give and grant any such degree or degrees to any of the students of the said *College*, or any others by them thought worthy thereof, as are usually granted in either of the *Universities* or any other *College* in our realm of *Great-Britain*; and that they sign and seal Diplomas or Certificates of such Graduations to be kept by the Graduates as perpetual memorials and testimonies thereof.

AND WE do further of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, for Us our Heirs and Successors, by these presents give and grant unto the *Trustees* of said *Dartmouth-College* and to their successors, that they and their successors shall have a common seal under which they may pass all diplomas or certificates of degrees, and all other affairs of business of and concerning the said *College*, which shall be engraven in such a form and with such an inscription as shall be devised by the said *Trustees* for the time being, or by the major part of any seven or more of them convened for the service of said *College* as is above directed.

AND

AND WE do further for Us our Heirs and Successors, give and grant unto the *Trustees* of said *Dartmouth-College* and their successors, or to the major-part of any seven or more of them convened for the service of said *College* full power and authority from time to time to nominate and appoint all other officers and ministers which they shall think convenient and necessary for the service of the said *College* not herein particularly named or mentioned; which officers and ministers we do hereby empower to execute their offices and trusts as fully and freely as any one of the officers and ministers in our *Universities* or *Colleges* in our realm of *Great-Britain* lawfully may or ought to do.

AND further, that the generous contributors to the support of this design of spreading the knowledge of the only true GOD and SAVIOUR among the *American* savages, may from time to time be satisfied that their liberations are faithfully disposed of in the best manner for that purpose, and that others may in future time be encouraged in the exercise of the like liberality for promoting the same pious design; it shall be the duty of the *President* of said *Dartmouth-College* and of his successors, annually or as often as he shall be thereunto desired or requested, to transmit to the Right Honorable, Honorable and worthy Gentlemen of the Trust in *England* before mentioned, a faithful account of the improvements and disbursements of the several sums he shall receive from the donations and bequests made in *England* through the hands of the said *Trustees* and also advise them of the general plans laid and prospects exhibited, as well as a faithful account of all remarkable occurrences, in order if they shall think expedient that they may be published. And this to continue so long as they shall perpetuate their Board of Trust, and there shall be any of the *Indian* natives remaining to be proper objects of that charity.

AND lastly, our express will and pleasure is, and WE do by these presents for Us our Heirs and Successors, give and grant unto the said *Trustees* of *Dartmouth-College* and to their successors forever, that these our letters patent or the enrollment thereof in the Secretary's office of our province of *New-Hampshire* aforesaid, shall be good and effectual in law to all intents and purposes against us our heirs and successors, without any other licence, grant or confirmation

firmation from us our heirs and successors hereafter by the said *Trustees* to be had and obtained, notwithstanding the not writing or mis-recital, not naming or mis-naming the aforesaid offices, franchises, privileges, immunities, or other the premises or any of them, and notwithstanding a writ of *ad quod damnum* hath not issued forth to enquire of the premises or any of them before the enfealing hereof, any statute, act, ordinance or proviso, or any other matter or thing to the contrary notwithstanding.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, all and singular the privileges, advantages, liberties, immunities, and all other the premises herein and hereby granted and given, or which are meant, mentioned, or intended to be herein and hereby given and granted unto them the said *Trustees of Dartmouth-College* and to their successors forever.

In TESTIMONY whereof WE have caused these our Letters to be made *patent*, and the public seal of our said province of *New-Hampshire* to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS our trusty and well beloved JOHN WENTWORTH, Esq; Governor and Commander in Chief in and over our said Province, &c. this thirteenth day of *December*, in the tenth year of our reign, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine.

J. WENWORTH.

By his Excellency's Command
with the advice of Council.

THEODORE ATKINSON, *Sec'y.*

(Locus)
(Sigilli)