

*thousand six hundred and thirty-six*, laid the foundation of Harvard College, in which University many persons of great eminence have, by the blessing of God, been initiated into those arts and sciences which *qualified* them for *public employment*, both in *church* and *State*. And whereas, the encouragement of *arts* and *sciences*, and all *good literature* tends to the *honor of God*, the *advantage* of the christian religion, and the great benefit of this and the other United States of America:" "it is declared that the president and fellows of Harvard College in their corporate capacity, and their successors in that capacity, the officers and servants, shall have, hold, use, exercise, and enjoy all the powers, authority, rights, liberties, privileges, immunities, and franchises which they now have, or are entitled to have, hold, use, exercise and enjoy : and the same are hereby ratified and confirmed unto them, the said president and fellows of Harvard College, and to their successors, and to their officers and servants respectively forever." "And whereas, there have been at sundry times by devise, presents, gifts, grants, devises of legacies, lands, tenements, goods, chattels, and conveyances, heretofore made, either to Harvard College in Cambridge, in New England, or to the president and fellows of Harvard College, or to the said College by some other description under several charges successively: it is declared that all the said grants, devises, legacies, and conveyances are hereby forever confirmed unto the president and fellows of Harvard College, and to their successors in the capacity aforesaid, according to the true intent and meaning of the donor or donors, grantor or grantors, devisor or devisors."

5th. And whereas, by an act of the General Court of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, passed in the year one thousand *seven hundred and forty-two*, the Governor and Deputy Governor for the time being, and all the magistrates of that jurisdiction were, with the president and a number of the clergy, in the said act described, constituted the overseers of Harvard College: and it being necessary in its new constitution of government, to ascertain who shall be deemed as successors to the said Governor, Deputy Governor, Council, and Senate of this Commonwealth, are and shall be deemed their successors; who, with the President of Harvard College for the time being, together with the ministers of the Congregational churches in the town of Cambridge, Watertown, Charlestown, Boston, Roxbury, and Dorchester, mentioned in the main act, shall be, and hereby are, vested with all the powers and authority belonging or in any way appertaining to the overseers of Harvard College; provided, that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the Legislature of this Commonwealth from making such alterations in the government of the said University, as shall be conducive to its advantage and the interest of the republic of letters, in as full a manner as might have been done by the Legislature of the late province of the Massachusetts Bay." "Chapter 5th Section 2nd.—The encouragement of *literature*, *wisdom*, and *knowledge*, as well as *virtue*, *diffused* generally among the