

TRANSLATION of CHARTER
of
THE ROYAL BURGH of DORNOCHE
granted by
CHARLES 1 ANNO 1628.

Charles by the grace of God King of Great Britain
France and Ireland Defender of the Faith to all good men
of his land clerical and lay greeting.

Know ye that since it has occurred to us that our
city of Dornoch within the County and Province of Sutherland
is and has been beyond the memory of man the sole and only
town and city within the said County and Province, to which
the whole of the inhabitants of the said County naturally
resort as to a common market place for purchasing the
necessaries of life: and especially that being constructed
near the sea shore it possesses a most suitable place for
building a port and harbour for the importation and
exportation of merchandise: and that it is therefore
highly expedient that it be erected into a free Burgh
Royal Free port and harbour for the use and advantage of
our subjects inhabiting that part of our kingdom and as
they are mostly barbarous and savage mountaineers it may
be of the highest use in bringing them to a state of
civilization: and as the Province and County of Sutherland
is very wide extending to a distance of sixty miles it is
much in want of having a Free Burgh erected within it.

Therefore we, with the advice and consent of our
loved cousin and counsellor John Earl of Mar, Lord Erskyne,
&c. Principal Treasurer of the Rolls, accountant, collector
and treasurer of new augmentations in our kingdom of
Scotland: and of Archibald Lord Napier of Merchiston our
Deputy in the foresaid offices and of the other Lords

Commissioners of our Exchequer have erected and according to the tenour of this our present charter do erect the said Burgh and City of Dornoch with all lands, tenements, houses, buildings, yards, and other outsetts within the same, built and to be built together with the port and harbour of the same into a Free Burgh, Royal, Free Port and Harbour, with all privileges, liberties and immunities pertaining to a Royal Burgh, Free Port and Harbour: and that within the said Province and County of Sutherland.

Reserving however to our loved cousin John Earl of Sutherland and to his heirs male and successors his hereditary right over said lands of Dornoch and over all buildings and other outsetts within the said Burgh built and to be built to be held of the said Earl, his heirs male and successors in the same manner of holding as that by which the same are now held and possessed, or according as it will please the said Earl and his foresaids hereafter to dispoise of the same to the inhabitants thereof together with the annual duties specified and to be specified in his infeftments: also the entries of tenants by lapse of resignation or in any other way: and the said Earl and his foresaids will have power to possess all other casualties and hereditary right of property or superiority of the foresaid lands of said Burgh and of all buildings and tenements with other mosses of the same, and they will have ~~full right~~ full right notwithstanding the erection of the said Burgh of Barony into the said Burgh Royal as is set forth.

Likewise with the consent and assent foresaid we give and grant full power and liberty to the inhabitants of the said Burgh of Dornoch and to the councillors and community of the same for the time being, to elect a

Provost, four Bailies, a Dean of Guild, a Treasurer and twelve councillors with power also to said councillors to elect commissioners for our Parliaments, and all other officials for the good government of the said Burgh. To which Provost, Bailies, Councillors and their successors we give full power to make and ordain Laws, Acts and Statutes, for the Government of the said Burgh consistent with the Laws and Customs of our said kingdom of Scotland: also power to make and create Burgesses and Brothers of Guild with like liberties and privileges pertaining thereto as are usually observed in the other Royal Burghs within the said kingdom. Likewise we constitute and appoint the said Provost and Bailies of the Burgh of Dornoch and their successors, Justiciaries of the Peace among themselves with power to them to appoint constables and all other members and officials of Court and we give and dispone to them and their foresaids all escheats, bloodmonies, fines and amercements of the said Courts for the public or common good of said Burgh or the inhabitants of the same. Likewise we give full power and liberty to the Provost, Bailies and Councillors of the said Burgh and their successors to build and erect within said Burgh a Market Cross and a Tolbooth or prison in the same: likewise we give grant and dispone to the said Provost, Bailies and Councillors of said Burgh and to their successors a market day weekly on Saturday, together with three annual Fairs, each for the space of three days, one of these to begin on the twentieth day of July annually; the second on the twentieth day of August and the last on the tenth day of October, together with all small and petty customs of said Fairs. Likewise we give full power to the same to build and erect said Port and

Harbour of Dornoch with Breakwater and Jetty or shore and Pier: also to make the same suitable and convenient for the reception and entry of ships: and we give and dispense to them and to their successors all small and petty customs of said Port and Harbour with Anchorages or Dockmail and other liberties and privileges pertaining to a Free Harbour according to the custom of the kingdom.

To be held and possessed all and whole the foresaid Burgh of Dornoch with all liberties, privileges and jurisdictions and others above specified by the foresaid Provost, Bailies, Councillors and Community of said Burgh of Dornoch and by their successors of us and our successors in Free Burgh Royal Free Port and Harbour and Refuge in perpetuity through the whole of the same bond and free with Courts, Civil Courts, amercements of court, bloodmonies, escheats or "Pit and Gallows" and other liberties and advantages pertaining to a free Burgh, Port and Harbour, freely, quietly, fully, entirely, honourably and well and in peace just as any other Royal Burgh within the said kingdom possesses the same.

In return for which the foresaid Provost, Bailies, Councillors and Community of the said Burgh of Dornoch shall give annually to us and our successors the sum of forty shillings usual money of the said kingdom of Scotland in name of the Burgh cess with service of the Burgh according to use and wont.

In witness whereof we have ordered to be affixed to this our present charter, our great seal the witnesses being as in other preceding charters of the same date.

At Whitehall on the fourteenth of July in the year one thousand six hundred and twenty eight and in the fourth year of our reign.

C O P Y.

C H A R T E R

of

The Royal Burgh of

D O R N O C H

by

H.M. King Charles 1st.

Dated, 14 July, 1628

Town Clerk of Dornoch.