

# Royal Letters Patent

## Issued 14th March, 1859

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*VICTORIA by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith To all to whom these presents shall come greeting:*

WHEREAS under and by virtue of the provisions of an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of Our Colony of Victoria passed in the sixteenth year of Our reign and numbered thirty-four intituled An Act to incorporate and endow the University of Melbourne and to which our Royal Assent was granted on the twenty-second day of January One thousand eight hundred and fifty-three an University to consist of a Council and Senate was established at Melbourne and incorporated and made a body politic with perpetual succession under the name of the University of Melbourne with power to grant the several degrees of Bachelor of Arts Master of Arts Bachelor of Medicine Doctor of Music AND WHEREAS Our trusty and well beloved Sir Henry Barkly Knight Commander of the most Honourable Order of the Bath Our Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over Our said Colony has transmitted to Us the humble petition of the Chancellor Vice-Chancellor and Council of the said University of Melbourne under their Common Seal dated the thirteenth day of August One thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight wherein is set forth a statement of the establishment of the said University and the appointment of learned professors and reference is made to the Statutes of the said University and to the provisions adopted and to be adopted in respect to the course of education and discipline for the Scholars Undergraduates and Graduates of the said University and in which it is humbly stated that the Standard of acquirements which must be attained by Graduates in the University of Melbourne is not below that prescribed by the most learned Universities in the United Kingdom That the direction of the studies of the said University has been committed to Professors of great attainments That the Statutes under which the high standard of the University has been fixed cannot be altered without the consent of Our representative in the Colony who is also appointed by the said Act the Visitor of the said University with authority to do all things which appertain to Visitors as often as to him shall seem meet And that it is desirable to have the Degrees of the University of Melbourne generally recognized throughout Our dominions. And it is also humbly submitted that although Our Royal Assent to the Act of the Legislature of Victoria hereinbefore recited incorporates the University and confers the power of granting degrees yet that the degrees so granted by the said University under the authority of the said Act are not legally entitled to recognition beyond the limits of the said Colony and that the memorialists are in consequence most desirous to obtain a grant from Us of Letters Patent requiring all Our subjects to recognize the degrees given under the said Act in the same manner as if the said degrees had been granted by any University of the United Kingdom And the memorialists therefore thereby most humbly pray that We will be pleased to take the premises into Our gracious consideration and grant unto the University of Melbourne Letters Patent effective of the object therein set forth: NOW KNOW YE that We are taking the premises into consideration and deeming it to be the duty of Our Royal Office for the promotion of sound learning to hold forth to all classes and denominations of Our faithful subjects without any distinction whatsoever through Our dominions encouragement for pursuing a regular and liberal course of Education and considering that many persons do prosecute or complete their studies in the Colony of Victoria on whom it is just to confer such distinction and rewards as may induce them to persevere in such their laudable pursuits Do by virtue of Our Prerogative Royal and of Our especial grace and certain knowledge and mere motion by these presents for Us Our heirs and successors Will grant and declare that the degrees of Bachelor of Arts Master of Arts Bachelor of Medicine Doctor of Medicine Bachelor of Laws Doctor of Laws Bachelor of Music and Doctor of Music already granted or conferred or hereafter to be granted or conferred by the said University of Melbourne shall be recognized as Academic distinctions and rewards of Merit and be entitled to rank precedence and consideration in Our United Kingdom and in Our Colonies and possessions and throughout the world as fully as if the said degrees had been granted by any University of Our said United Kingdom AND We further will and ordain that no variation of the Constitution of the said University which may at any time or from time to time be made by Act of the Parliament of Victoria shall (unless the same or the like standard of knowledge in the opinion of Our said Governor duly proclaimed in Our said Colony be not preserved as a necessary condition for preserving the aforesaid degrees therein) in any manner annul abrogate circumscribe or diminish the privileges conferred on the said University by these Our Royal Letters Patent nor the ranks rights privileges and consideration

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conferred by such degrees AND lastly We do hereby for Us Our heirs<sup>1</sup> and successors grant and declare that these Our Letters Patent or the enrolment or exemplification thereof shall be in and by all things valid and effectual in the law according to the true intent and meaning of the same and shall be construed and judged in the most favourable and beneficial sense for the best advantage of the said University as well in all Our Courts as elsewhere not withstanding any non-recital uncertainty or imperfection in these Our Letters Patent IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the fourteenth day of March in the twenty-second year of Our reign.

By Warrant under the Queen's Sign Manual.

C. ROMILLY. 2



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