

"As you may have heard, in the year 1855 our case was brought before Parliament, which resulted in directions being given by Lord Palmerston to the Attorney-General to file an information on our behalf. Our case is, shortly, this: The Charity was founded by King Edward III., who declared that the Knights would be 'forever comfortably maintained' out of the funds of St. George's Chapel. In the reign of King Edward IV., the Dean and Canons procured an Act of Parliament, without the knowledge of the Knights, and upon representations which were untrue, whereby the Chapel was freed from the maintenance of the Knights; but it was stated in the Act that the Knights had been otherwise provided for. This statement was also untrue, and no provision was made directly for the Knights until the reign of King Henry VIII.

"King Henry VIII., in a letter which he addressed to the Dean and Canons, informed them that he would settle lands on the college for our maintenance; and by his last will he directed lands to be made over by the Crown to the college of the value of £600 per annum for our maintenance; and his successor, King Edward VI., accordingly made over lands of that value, and the Dean and Canons, on their part, covenanted to apply the same as the Crown should direct.

"These documents form the foundation of the present Charity, the rights of which we are seeking to establish.

"The account of the rents arising from the lands so settled on the college was kept quite distinct by the Dean and Canons during the reigns of Edward VI., Queen Mary, and part of the reign of Elizabeth, and the same were wholly applied for the benefit of the Knights, excepting thereout the necessary repairs of the land, and a small sum to the Dean and Canons for preaching sermons in the chapel.

"The whole of the documents show that the lands were settled upon the college for us and for our benefit, and that no such lands would ever have been settled except to make a provision and to provide a retreat for military men. When we first employed our present solicitors, Messrs. Turnley & Luscombe, they enquired if any declaration of the trust subsequent to the deeds of Edward VI. had been executed, and we informed them of a book deposited in the Chapter House at Westminster, said to have been executed by