

The Preface.

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expected Success of so great a Work. Especially if it is considered, that this Society hath no publick Income or Revenue. This good Work was at first supported by the voluntary Subscriptions of the Members of the Society, and hath been ever since carried on by their Contributions, and the casual Donations of many other worthy Persons. The Support of this Design must therefore be ascribed wholly to that good Providence, which hath influenced such Religious and Honourable Persons to become unforeseen Patrons, and many of them (thro' their Concealment of their Names) unknown Benefactors to this Charity.

The same good Providence hath brought down upon it the peculiar Favour of our Princes. Queen MARY by her Bounty gave the chief Occasion to the Rise of this Society, King WILLIAM Established it. Queen ANNE Encouraged it, and His late Majesty King GEORGE supported it: For when the Society's Fund was almost exhausted, an humble Representation of this Matter, from the Society, was laid before His late Majesty, of happy Memory, by his Grace the present Archbishop of Canterbury, the most worthy President of