

The Company of Scotland

Transcript of an extract from the Act to set up the Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies, 26 June 1695 (NRS reference PA2/36 f.28)

Our Sovereign Lord, Taking into his
Consideration, That by an act past in this present Parliament Intituled Act for encourageing of fforraign Trade; His Majesty for the improvement thereof Did with advice and Consent of the Estates of Parliament, Statute and Declare, That Merchants, more or fewer may Contract and enter into such Societies and Companies for carying on of Trade, as to any subject of goods or Merchandise, to whatsoever Kingdoms, Countries, or parts of the World, not being in Warr with his Majesty, where trade is in use to be, or may be followed, and particularly, beside the Kingdoms and Countreyes of Europe, to the East and West Indies, the Streights, and to trade in the Mediterranean, or upon the Coast of Affrica, or in the Northern parts, or else where as above: Which Societies and Companies being contracted and entered into, upon the terms and in the usual manner, as such Companies are set up, and in use in other parts consistent allways with the Laws of this Kingdom: His Majesty with Consent forsaied Did allow and approve, giving and granting to them, and each of them, all Powers, rights and priviledges as to their persons; Rules and orders, that by the Lawes are given to Companyes allowed to be erected for Manufactories; And his Majesty for their greater encouragement, Did

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promise to give to these Companyes, and each of them his Letters patent under the great Seal, Confirming to them the whole forsaid Powers and privileges, With what other encouragement his Majesty should Judge needfull, As the forsaid Act of Parliament at more Lenth bears And his Majesty Understanding That several persons as wel Forreigners as Natives of this Kingdom, are willing to engage themselves with great soumes of money, in an American, Affrican and Indian Trade, to be exercised in and from this Kingdom; if inabled and encouraged thereunto, by the Concessions powers and priviledges, needfull and usual in such cases. Therefore and in pursuance of the forsaid Act of Parliament, His Majesty with advice and Consent of the saids Estates of Parliament Doth hereby Make and Constitut John Lord Belhaven, Adam Cockburn of Ormiestoun, Lord Justice Clerk, Mr Francis Montgomery of Giffen, Sr John Maxwell of Pollock, S[i]r Robert Chiesly present Provost of Edinburgh, John Swintoun of that ilk, George Clark late Baillie of Edinburgh , Mr Robert Blakewood, and James Balfour, Merchants in Edinburgh, and John Corss Merchant in Glasgow, William Paterson Esquire, James Fowlis, David Nairn Esquires, Thomas Deans Esquire, James Chiesly, John Smith, Thomas Coutes, Hugh Frazer, Joseph Cuhaine [Cowan], Daves Ovedo, and Walter Stuart, merchants in London, with such others as shall joyn with them within the space of twelve Moneths after the first day of August next.

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