

THE MOST DISTINGUISHED  
ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AND  
ST. GEORGE.

*Instituted 27 April, 1818, for the United States of the  
Ionian Islands, and for the Island of Malta.*

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This and the following Order (the Guelphic) having been instituted subsequently to the publication of any English Work on Knighthood, and their details little known, the Author is induced to give a short abstract of their Statutes: that of the Ionian Order is taken from a copy in the possession of Nicholas Harris Nicolas, Esq.

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STATUTES OF THE IONIAN ORDER.

PREAMBLE—Recites the Treaties whereby the United States of the Ionian Islands were placed under the sole protection of, and the Island of Malta ceded in entire sovereignty to the Crown of England, declaring the King's pleasure to found an Order of Knighthood for these Islands, and describes the Great Seal of the Order.

STATUTE I. The King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to be perpetual Sovereign of the Order.

II. The Lord High Commissioner of the United States of the Ionian Islands for the time being, to be Grand Master.

III. The Order to consist of Three Classes :—

Knights GRAND CROSSES. Number, Eight,  
including the Grand Master.

Knights COMMANDERS. Number, Twelve.

KNIGHTS. Number, Twenty-four.

And providing that each and every person admitted into this Order, shall immediately be entitled to assume the distinctive appellation of Knighthood.

IV. All Members of this Order to be natives of the Ionian Islands or Malta, with power reserved to the Crown to appoint such British-born subjects as should hold “the highest and most confidential situations” in the Ionian Islands or Malta, or in the King’s service therein, or the King’s Naval Service in the Mediterranean.

V. Appoints that the Commander-in-Chief of the British Naval Forces in the Mediterranean for the time being, shall be First and Principal Grand Cross, but only during the time of his command, at the conclusion of which he is to deliver the Insignia to his successor.

No British subject on whom, in consequence of his

employment in the Ionian Islands or Malta, the Order may be conferred, to continue a Member of the Order, or to retain the Insignia thereof, after he shall cease to be in the said employment, unless he shall actually have been so employed for five years. Absence on leave to be considered as service.

VI. Describes the Habits and Decorations of the Knights.

VII. Ceremonial of Investiture.

VIII. St. George's Day, 23 April, to be observed as the Festival of the Order.

IX. Members of this Order to take precedence of all Knights Bachelors in the Ionian Islands.

X. Directs that there shall be two Prelates of this Order, *viz.* the Archbishop Metropolitan of the Ionian Islands, and the Archbishop of Malta, a Registrar, King of Arms, and Secretary.