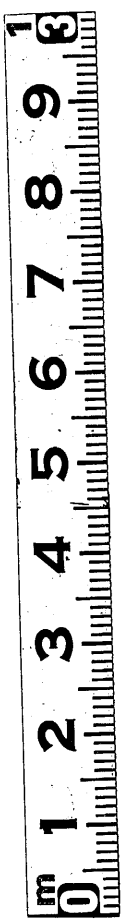


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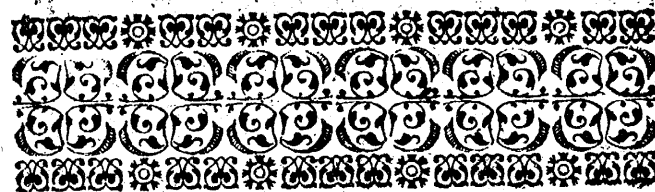
THE
REPORT
 OF THE
 Lords Committees,
 Appointed by the
House of Lords

To View and Consider the
Publick RECORDS;
 AS ALSO,

In what Manner and Place the
 same are now kept: Together
 with their Lordships ADDRESS
 to His MAJESTY thereupon,
 and His MAJESTIES most
 Gracious ANSWER.

LONDON,
 Printed by *John Baskett*, Printer to the Kings
 most Excellent Majesty, And by the Assigns
 of *Thomas Newcomb*, and *Henry Hills*, de-
 ceas'd. MDCCXIX.

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Die Jovis 16 Aprilis, 1719.

T H E Earl of Clarendon Reported from the Lords Committees, who by Order of this House, of the Ninth of December last, were directed to View the Records of the Court of Chancery in the Tower, and those fit to be carried thither; and to Consider what Place there is proper to receive them; and likewise

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*wise to View all such
other Publick Records
as they shall think fit,
and in what Manner
and Place the same are
now kept, as follows.*



THAT their Lordships did, in the first place, Send for and Examine the Two Senior Six Clerks of the Court of Chancery ; who acquainted their Lordships, That there were a vast Quantity of Bills, Answers, Depositions of Witnesses, and other Pleadings, from the Reign of King *Charles* the First, which about Six Years since, were bundled up and put into a proper Condition

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Condition to be Transmitted to the *Tower* ; but upon Enquiry there, it was said, That there was no Reception for them in the Record Room : However Sir *Christopher Wren* having, by the Direction of the then Lord Chancellor, view'd several Places in the *Tower*, and found a handfom Room there, as he thought proper to be fitted up for receiving and keeping the said Records, Application had been made to the Treasury concerning this Matter ; between whom, and the Officers of Ordnance, who Claim'd that Room, there has been a Dispute, which is not yet determin'd. The said Six Clerks further inform'd the Com-

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mittee, That the last Transmittance of the Chancery Records to the *Tower* was in the Year 1674, and that an Order was made the 6th of *August*, 1712. by the then Master of the Rolls, for the like Transmittance of such Records from the Beginning of King *Charles* the Second to the Beginning of the late King *James*, a Copy whereof they deliver'd to the Committee; and being enquir'd of, in what Manner those Records now lie at the Six Clerks Office, and whether Recourse could be had to them, they Answer'd, That the said Records were in Safety, and had not yet receiv'd any Damage; but that it was very difficult

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difficult to find any thing in them as they at present lie.

The Committee likewise Examined Mr. *Saunderson*, Deputy Usher of the Rolls, touching certain Records and Papers, which their Lordships had been inform'd appear'd to View upon pulling down the Old House of the Master of the Rolls; who acquainted the Committee, That there were a vast Quantity of Papers which lay in a confus'd manner, and consisted of Bills, Answers, and Proceedings in *Chancery*, from the Time of Queen *Elizabeth* downwards; also Depositions, Dockets, and Writs, but no Decrees; and that those Papers were of like Nature

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with those in the Six Clerks Office; but they being very numerous, wou'd take up a great deal of Time to put them up fit to be Transmitted to the *Tower*: Whereupon their Lordships are of Opinion, Directions shou'd be given for putting up the said Papers to be so Transmitted, as likewise any old Bills and Answers, or other Proceedings, which may be found not already bundled up in the Six Clerks Office.

The Committee after this repair'd to the *Tower* of *London* themselves; and being there attended by Mr. *Topham* and Mr. *Holmes*, their Lordships first View'd the Office of Records, and found the
loose

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loose Papers and Parchments, which heretofore lay in great Confusion within the Chapel of the *White Tower*, were most of them sorted and put into Order of Time in an excellent Manner, in pursuance of several Reports from former Committees of this House for Records, and Applications thereupon to the Crown; but Complaint being still made of the want of Room for receiving and distinctly disposing the Publick Papers and Records remaining to be put in Order, The Committee were of Opinion, that a large Room on the East-side of the *White Tower*, adjoining to *Cæsar's Chapel*, being Sixty Four Foot long, and Thirty
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One Foot wide, shou'd be allotted for that Use and Purpose, as well as for the Reception of the Records to be Transmitted from the Court of Chancery : And their Lordships thereupon directed a Plan to be made of the said Room, and an Estimate of the Charge of fitting up the same ; which having been made accordingly, the said Estimate amounts to about 330 l.

The Committee on this Occasion crave Leave further to Observe to Your Lordships, That it appearing to them, that the Floor of *Cesar's* Chapel being much broken and subjected to the raising of Dust, to the Damage of the Records, are

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are of Opinion, that the same ought to be Boarded in the plainest and strongest Manner.

The Committee having received Information, That a great Quantity of Records and Papers of the late Court of Wards, which some Years since were brought from a House belonging to the King's Fishmonger in *Fish-Yard*, over the Princes Chamber, and lately remov'd from thence over the Black Rods Room, are Lodg'd there, with divers Ancient Records of the Court of Requests, where they now lie in great Disorder ; their Lordships took a View of the same, and directed Mr. *Anstis*, Garter King of Arms, to Inspect the

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the said Records in order to the Placing them in a proper Method: Who having accordingly made such Inspection, deliver'd a Memorial concerning them to the Effect following, *viz.*

*Mr. Anstis's
Memorial*

That if it was their Lordships Pleasure to have those Records or Papers digested into Order, and to Annex the Keeping of them to the Office of Garter King of Arms, he was willing to Undertake the Care thereof; these Instruments taken upon Oath being the most certain Proofs of the Descents of the Nobility and Gentry, &c.

In which Case he humbly Propos'd, That each Instrument shou'd be Reduc'd according

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ording to Order of Time, with regard to the Subject Matter of it, and the Contents put into Calendars with Three Indexes; One of the Surnames, the other of Lands, and the Third of Matters, all Alphabetically disposed under the particular Counties; and that the loose Papers, whereof there were an Imense Quantity, might be Bound into Volumes (if they appear'd to be of Value) for preserving and keeping them constantly in the same Method.

That the Expence of New Binding such Books as want it, and of the Paper for making Indexes, &c. shou'd be, from time to time, repaid, with

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with other Incident Charges, upon laying particular Accounts thereof before the Lords of the Treasury for the time being.

These Instruments consisting of Duplicates of Inquisitions *post Mortem*, and Proceedings of course in the Court of Wards, such as Liveries, Ouster le mains, Premier Seisins, Proofs of Age, Tenures of Lands, and Services thereof, together with Proceedings in Cases of Controversies, and a great Quantity of old Deeds, wou'd require much Time and Pains to be put into Method; so that if their Lordships thought reasonable, that Three Clerks should be allow'd (who have been Conversant in
Matters

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Matters of Record) to be employ'd, with such Salaries as shou'd be judg'd proper, those Persons might be Sworn before One of the Barons of the Exchequer (the said Papers relating formerly to the Revenue) not to Embezil or Alter any of them, or any other Papers under their Charge: And if he was permitted the Liberty of Nominating them, he wou'd be Answerable for their Abilities, Integrity, and Progress in that Affair; as also that the Catalogues shou'd be Transmitted to the Clerk of the Parliaments, Subscrib'd by him the said Garter, as a Charge upon himself, to be afterwards Sign'd in like manner by the
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Successive Garters Kings of Arms ; and the same, if thought necessary, might be Printed for that Purpose, as well as for the Publick Service.

The Books, Parchments, and Papers, belonging to the Court of Requests, shou'd be placed according to the Catalogue of them formerly Printed by Sir *Julius Caesar* ; and when the Contents of them are better known, a farther Account shou'd be laid before their Lordships.

And submitted it to their Lordships, whether it were not necessary to have His Majesties Warrant for these Purposes, if their Lordships Approv'd thereof.

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The Committee having been likewise inform'd by the said Mr. *Anstis*, That several Bags of Records hung up by the Pell-Office in the Exchequer, some of which were thought very Valuable, and no way belonging to that Office; their Lordships sent for and Exam'd Mr. *Sadler*, Deputy Clerk of the Pells in relation thereunto; who acquainted the Committee, That he believ'd they were brought thither at the Time of the Fire which happen'd at *White-Hall* in the Reign of King *James* the First, and had been told some of them were very Valuable, but not at all as he apprehended belonging to the Revenue: Whereupon immediate Order

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was given for bringing the said Bags to the Committee; and the same being brought accordingly, there were found to be Twenty one Bags full of Records; which being by Direction of their Lordships Seal'd up and Mark'd, the same at present remain in the Custody of Mr. *Jucleon*, Your Lordships House-keeper.

And on Consideration of the said Memorial laid before the Committee by the said Mr. *Anstis*, and of the Nature of the said Records, Papers, or Writings, contain'd in the said Twenty one Bags; their Lordships are of Opinion, That it will be for the Service of the Publick to have the several Records, Papers, or Writings,
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mention'd in the said Memorial, and contain'd in the said Twenty one Bags, digested into Order, and for that purpose that they may be placed under the Care of the said Mr. *Anstis*, whom We Conceive to be a very proper Person to Methodize the same; and that he may be Ordered to make such Calendars and Indexes thereof, as are mentioned by him in his said Memorial; and that such of the loose Papers as shall appear to him to be of Value, may be Bound up for the better preserving and rendring them more Useful; and that Catalogues of such Records and Papers aforesaid, as soon as the same can be perfected, may be Trans-

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mitted by the said Mr. *Anstis* to the Clerk of the Parliaments.

And for as much as We Conceive the Work aforesaid will necessarily require the Assistance of Three Clerks to perfect the same, in any reasonable Time, according to the Proposal of the said Mr. *Anstis*, it seems reasonable to us, that he may have such Assistance of Clerks, and that such Recompence may be made the said Mr. *Anstis*, and his Clerks, as shall be thought proper.

And in regard some large and convenient Place is necessary for the keeping and preserving the several Records or Papers mentioned in the said Mr. *Anstis's* Memorial,
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and contain'd in the said Twenty one Bags, their Lordships have been at the Cathedral Church of St. *Paul*, to see if there was any Place which might be thought proper for Repositing and Preserving the said Records or Papers; and having Survey'd several Upper-Rooms and Apartments, conceive, That an Upper-Room on the South-side of the said Cathedral, over the Isle on the Left Hand of the South-Door, which is near the *Herald's Office*, is a very convenient Place for that Purpose; and their Lordships having had an Opportunity to Discourse with the Dean and some of the Chapter of the said Cathedral
B 3 Church,

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Church, have good reason to believe, there will be no Difficulty in obtaining the Consent of that Body. And the Committee having, in pursuance of a Request made by their Lordships, received a Plan or Scheme of fitting up the said Room for that Use, with an Estimate of the Charge thereof, the same amounts to Seven hundred and eight Pounds.

The Committee understanding, That divers Records, in the Custody, and under the Care of the Deputy Chamberlains of the Exchequer, were in great Disorder, if not in a Dangerous Condition, their Lordships sent for and examin'd the said

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said Deputy Chamberlains ; who acknowledg'd there were a great many Records in their Custody, which were in a confus'd Condition, and liable to Ruin for want of an Allowance for Hands to put them in Order ; and being ask'd, if they could give a particular Account of the Nature of them, they deliver'd to the Committee an Account accordingly, as drawn up some Years ago by Mr. *Lowe* and Mr. *Le Neve*, late Deputy Chamberlains, which is as follows.

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An Account of the several Records in the Court of the Receipt of the Exchequer, in the Custody of the Lord Treasurer, or the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the Time being, the Chamberlains of the Exchequer, and their Deputies.

FIRST, Foreign Records, as Leagues or Treaties betwixt the respective Kings of this Realm, and the Foreign Kings,

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Kings, Princes, Dukes, Earls, and Common-wealths of *Europe*, Scil. *The Empire, France, Spain, Scotland, Denmark, Holland, Flanders, Castile, Portugal, Aragon, Burgundy, Genoa, &c.* from before the Time of King *Edward I.* (together with many Bulls of fundry Popes) to the Time of King *James I.* inclusive (but not since) with many Letters and Cyphers of Ambassadors in their Negotiations in *Henry the Eighth's* Time, &c.

Secondly, Domestick Records, wherein are Comprized such as concern, first Matters of Estate and the Crown only, as several Rolls, Deeds, Papers,

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Papers, and Books, relating to the Dissolutions of the Abbies, Suppression of the Pope's Supremacy, and Acknowledging King *Henry the Eighth*, the Marriages and Divorce of that King, several Original Parliament Rolls of the Time of King *Edward the First*, the Wills of the Kings, *Henry the Seventh* and *Eighth*, with an Exemplification of the last fundry Broad-Seals and Privy-Seals Cancelled for Loans of Money, several Books cover'd with Blue Velvet, and Embossed with Silver, touching the Foundation of *Henry the Seventh's* Chapel, and Agreements between that King and the Abbot of *Wemminster*,

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ster, for Masses, &c. to be said in that Chapel for his Soul; A Box sealed with the Seals of the Right Honourable *Charles Mountague*, Esq; Chancellor of the Exchequer, late Lord *Halifax*, and *John Smith*, Esq; Privy-Councillors, wherein are certain old Assays of Gold and Silver, small Wedges of Silver, old small Weights, old Rolls of the Trial of the Pix, Warrants and Accounts thereof, which were in a Bag of Cordovar quite rotten, and by Order of the Council they were put into this Box and sealed up likewise; the Assays of Gold of several Kings Reigns, &c. with many others of the like Nature,
Scil.

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Scil. the Exemplification of Sir *Thomas Gresham's* Will, Kt. &c.

Thirdly, The Records of the King's Court from *Richard* the First's Time to King *John* and King *Henry* the Third, part of his Reign inclusive, before the Division thereof into the Courts of King's Bench and Common-Pleas; the Rolls of the Records call'd the King's Bench, of the Times of King *H. 3. R. 2. H. 4. H. 5.* inclusive, Entitled *Placita coram Domino Rege*; the Rolls of the Court of Common-Pleas of the Reigns of the Kings *H. 3. E. 1. E. 2. E. 3. R. 2. H. 4. H. 5. H. 6. E. 4.* and *H. 7.* inclusive,

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inclusive, but none since, by reason of the Neglect of the respective Officers of those Courts to Transmit them to the King's Treasury; these being called *Placita de Banco Temporibus*, &c.

Fourthly, The several Fines of Lands Levied in all the Counties of *England*, from the Reign of King *R. 1.* to the Year, 1660. inclusive, transmitted from the *Custos Brevium* Office.

Fifthly, The Rolls of Assizes and Pleas of the Crown afore the Justices Itinerant, in almost all the Counties of *England*, call'd *Placita Jurator' & Assisar' coram Justiciar' Itinerantibus in diversis Comitatus Angliæ*, & *Placita Coronæ*, in the

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Reigns

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Reigns of the Kings *H. 3. E. 1. E. 2. E. 3.* and other Reigns, the *Placita Aulae* of several Kings Reigns, *Scil. E. 1. E. 2. & E. 3. Rotulus Marescalciæ Tempore E. 1.* the Pleadings of the *Quo Warranto's*, of the Times of King *E. 1. E. 2. E. 3.* in most Counties of *England*, together with those of the Islands of *Fersey* and *Guernsey*, most of which are Bound up with the Assize-Rolls of those Reigns.

Sixthly, Old Evidences and Deeds, many Accounts of Auditors, Receivers, &c. and Surveys, and Court-Rolls of divers Honours, Manors, Lands, and Tenements, in *England* and *Wales*, which came to the Possession of several Kings of *Eng-*

England, the Princes of *Wales*, and Dukes of *Cornwall*, by Purchase, Exchange, Forfeiture, or Escheat, from the Reign of King *E. 1.* to the time of King *H. 8.* Inclusive, with Surveys of Deeds, Court-Rolls, &c. of the lesser Monasteries in several parts of *England*, and their Surrenders, which were granted to Cardinal *Woolsey* in the said Reign; together with all the Deeds, Books, Papers, and Letters Patents, which were Seized into the King's Hands on his being Guilty of the *Premunire*; together with the Old Deeds of some few Abbies and Priories, Surrendred into King *Henry* the Eighth's Hands before the Acts of Parliament for

for Dissolution of Abbies, &c. all which were formerly Transmitted into the King's Treasury, into the Custody of the Lord Treasurer and Chamberlains of the Exchequer, by their Deputies, immediately after their being Purchased, Surrendred, Forfeited, &c. Sundry Accounts of the Staple of *Calais*, of the *French* Territories, of the Butlerage of *England*, Buildings at *Windsor*, of the Hanaper, Wardrobe, Jewels, &c.

The Record call'd *Doomsday Book*, in Two Volumes, One in Quarto, containing the Counties of *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, and *Essex*; the other in a large Folio, containing the other part of *England*, except

C Dur-

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Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, and Part of Lancaster, with a Third Book in Folio, containing an Abstract of those Two Books, very Ancient; Several Bags of Perambulations and Inquisitions of Assarts, Vert, and Venison, Rolls of the Justices in Eyre, of several Forests, in the Times of King E. 1. E. 2. and E. 3. a Book of Perambulation of the Forests North Trent, in the Time of King H. 8. the Justice Seats of Waltham, and the New Forests, before Aubrey Earl of Oxon, in the Time of King Charles 2. many Counter-pells of several Reigns, from the Times of King Edward 1. to King Philip and
 A Queen

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Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth; several Books in Velum, one call'd the Black Book, *de Necessariis Scaccarii Observantiis*, writ by *Gervasius Tilburienfis*, in the Time of King Henry 2. in which are the Oaths and Admittances of the Officers of the Lower Exchequer, &c. Two others concerning the Dutchey of Cornwall, others of Inrolments of Popes Bulls, of Deeds of Lands; some Statutes as those of *Winton*, and *Gloucester*; of some Leagues with Princes, and with the *Welsh*; of Deliverances of Records and Jewels, &c. of Calendars or Catalogues of Leagues betwixt Prince and Prince, &c. from *Edward* the Third's Time to
 C 2 King

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King *Henry* the Eighth's Time; Two Books, One of the Old Statutes, of the Order of the Garter, another of the Order of St. *Michael*, sent to King *Henry* the Sixth, by the *French* King *Francis* the First, and some few other things relating to those Two Orders.

Three Patent Rolls, One of *Edward* the Second's Time, from the First to the Fourteenth Year of His Reign; One of King *John*, from the First Year of his Reign to the Ninth; Another of King *Henry* the Sixth's Time; One Pipe-Roll of the Third Year of King *John*, *Termino Paschæ*; many Inquisitions in a Bag called *Rayman* in divers Shires, touching Liberties withholden from the

B King

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King in *Edward* the First's time, and of Tenures in another Bag, with many of the like sort put into Bags in their proper Shires; the Seal of the Court of the Receipt of the Exchequer, wherewith are Sealed Indentures for Standard Weights and Measures, when deliver'd; several Indentures of the Receipt and Delivery of Records, Jewels, Weights, and Measures, &c. between the Judges and others, of the one Part, and the Officers of the Talley-Court, *Scil.* the Chamberlains Deputies of the other; many Indentures concerning the *Mint*, between the respective Kings of this Realm and the Masters and Workers of the *Mint*, about the Advancing or

C 3 Aba-

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Abating of Coins, together with several Old Rolls about the same; and Establishments of the *Mint*, with several old Stamps of Coins, *Scil.* the *Rose Noble*, and *Spur Royal*, &c. The Standards of Weights, *Averdupois* and *Troy*, with those of Measures; sundry Books, and Rolls of Musters of Men at Arms, Hobilers, Butmen, &c. in divers Shires, made in the Time of King *Henry* the Eighth; Vast Quantities of Common Writs, from King *Edward* the First or Second's Time, to the Year 1660. sent at several times from the *Custos Brevium* Office; which are most of them put under the Chests in One of the Treasuries, as being of no Value; the Indenture

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ture of Annexation of Jewels to the Crown under the Great Seal and Sign Manual of King *James* the First, with Two Schedules annext, and a Paper-Book containing the Remain of all such Jewels, &c. remaining in the *Tower* of *London*, Signed by the said King. *Item*, The Bills, Answers, Depositions, and Commissions, relating to the late Dissolv'd Court of *Star-Chamber* and of Survey, till the Dissolutions thereof. *Item*, The Writs of Entry, *in le Post*, & *Seisin*, on Common Recoveries, the Writs of Covenant, Concords of Fines, the *Postea's*, *Venire's*, and *Jurata's*, in Common Actions, to the Year 1660. from *Henry* the Eighth's Time.

Time. *Item*, A great Parcel of Fragments of Records of divers Natures, lately brought to the Treasury, of which the Contents are not known.

In the Chapter-House belonging to *Westminster Abbey* in the Cloister, there are contained vast Quantities of Common Writs of many Reigns, Confusedly heaped together; a like Quantity of the Bills, Answers, Replications, &c. of the Dissolv'd Court of *Star-Chamber*, which was formerly kept by the Usher of the Exchequer, and on the making of the Annuity Offices in the late Reign, were Order'd to be put into this Treasury, but have not been Digested since: *Memorand'* None of the Decrees

crees of the said Court are to be found; the last Notice of them (that cou'd be got) was that they were in a House in *St. Bartholomew's Close, London*; Rolls of Assizes in divers Counties, of many Reigns, several whereof have been formerly Abbreviated by our Predecessors in Books, some of which Books still remain in the Office, but more have been lost; with many Books of Abbreviations of many other Records, and dispersed into private Hands; (One Sold to the Right Honourable *Henry Earl of Clarendon*) others said to be in the Hands of the late Master of the Rolls: In the Treasury or Repository, by the Side of the
the

the Talley-Court in the Exchequer, lie the Books of *Doomsday*, the *Black Book*, the Book of *Memorandums* and Entry of Leagues, Treaties, Deliverances of Records, Jewels, &c. of Abbreviations of Records, the Assize Rolls, those of the Pleas of the Crown, the *Quo Warranto* Rolls, Fines levied of Lands, Accounts, Surveys, Court-Rolls, Old Deeds, and Evidences of Lands.

In the Treasury situate over the Gate-way going out of the *New Palace Yard* into *St. Margaret's Lane*, are Records of divers Natures; First, Several Cart Loads of Common Writs; Secondly, *Postea's*,
Con-

Concords, *Jurata's*, *Venire's*, &c. Thirdly, The Fines of Lands in the several Counties of *England*, from King *Henry* the Eighth's Time to King *James* the First inclusive; Fourthly, The Bills and Answers of the Court of Survey in the Time of King *Henry* the Eighth; the Papers, Deeds, and Evidences, relating to the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and to Cardinal *Woolsey*; Accounts of *Calais*, of the Butlerage, Accounts of many Mens Lands, Old Deeds, Indentures, and many other Things of divers Natures; the Writs of Entry *in le Post*, and Writs of Seisin or Common Recoveries, during the Reign of King
Henry

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Henry the Eighth, Edward the Sixth, King Philip and Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, King James the First. Lastly, A Press of Letters and Cyphers of Ambassadors, in the Time of King *Henry 8.* &c.

This Treasury wanting Reparation and Fitting up, the Care thereof is humbly Submitted to Your Lordships; besides one of the Tenants adjoining hath broke a Door into the Leads, over the said Treasury; and part of the Building underneath, and on one side, is lately encroached upon, and annoy'd by keeping of an Ale-house, and Building of Leads even with the Windows.

The

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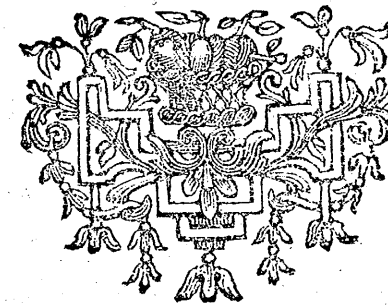
THE Committee having been Inform'd, That *Mr. Madox* was a proper Person to give an Account in relation to the Subject of their Lordships Enquiry, they sent for and Examined him as to his Knowledge of any Records in Disorder, or liable to receive Damage, and likewise as to the Condition of the Records in the Exchequer in general: And having heard the Account he gave, their Lordships thought proper to give Direction, That *Mr. Neale* Deputy in the Pipe-Office, *Mr. Harding* Deputy in the Office of the King's Remembrancer, *Mr. Plaxton* Deputy
in

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in the Office of the Treasurer's Remembrancer, and Mr. *Jett*, one of the Auditors of the Revenue, shou'd Inspect the Records, in their respective Offices, and give an Account in Writing of the Nature of the said Records, in what State they were in, and whether any thing, and what was necessary to be done to put the same into a more proper Condition ; and Directed the said Mr. *Madox* to assist in such Inspection, and Preparing such Accounts ; and likewise gave Direction to the Deputy Chamberlains, for them to prepare the like Account in relation to the Chapter-House at *Westminster* ; and also Order'd, That Mr. *Topham*, Keeper of
the

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the Records in the *Tower*, shou'd lay before the Committee an Account of the Nature of the Records there ; And Reports or Accounts having been accordingly, by Mr. *Madox* and the said Officers, severally laid before their Lordships, the same are as follows.



To

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*To the Right Honourable
the Lords Committees
for Inspecting of Re-
cords,*

*The Humble Report of Tho-
mas Madox.*

May it please your Lordships,



IN Obedience to
your Lordships
Commands signi-
fied to me in your
most Honourable
Committee, the Seventh Day of
Feb. Instant, I have personally
D View'd

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View'd the several Treasuries of Records belonging to the Upper Exchequer at *Westminster*, to wit, the several Offices of the Pipe, the King's Remembrancer, the Treasurer's Remembrancer, and the Augmentations, being Accompanied in the said View by the several Deputies of the respective Offices; and do most humbly Certifie, as followeth.

The Pipe-Office.

IN the Treasury of this Office are kept the great Rolls of the Exchequer, which are Records of great Dignity and Value. They are well kept, and lie in Order in Presses, partly

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partly Wainscot and partly Deal; the Outsides of many of the great Rolls are decay'd by Time, and want New Vellom or Parchment Covers; which Covers when put on must be Mark'd on the Out-side in large durable Writing, to shew the King's Reign and Year.

Besides the said Great Rolls there are in this Office many other Valuable Records which deserve to be put into better Order.

Most of the Presses want to be repaired and new lined throughout.

Tables, Desks, and Stools wou'd be useful, as well to the Clerks of the Office, as likewise to Persons resorting

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forting thither upon Business.

The King's Remembrancer's Office.

TH E Principal Records of this Office are the *Memoranda*, containing the Enrollments of all the Business of Weight that is done in this Office: These *Memoranda* lie in Substantial Wainscot Presses in the best Record-Room belonging to this Office, which Presses may be repair'd with little Charge.

This Treasury is much overstock'd with Files of Bills, Answers, and Proceedings on the

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the Equity-Side of the Exchequer; Those Files have lain in Disorder for many Years before the Time of the present Deputy; but if these numerous Files be removed into one or other of the Rooms, of which mention is made here-under in this Report, a great deal of Room will be gain'd in the Principal Record-Room.

Here are also many other Records that have lain indigested for many Years.

Many Bundles of the said *Memoranda* do want Covers and Bands, and many Files of the said Equity Proceedings want new Wrappers and Strings, &c.

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Some

Some New Presses are wanted in the Chief Record-Room, and some Old Presses there, which joyn to the Brick Wall, require to be well lin'd at the Back.

Desks, Stools, &c. wou'd be useful.

The Treasurer's Remembrancer's Office.

THE Principal Records of this Office are the *Memoranda*, which contain Enrollments of all the Business of Weight that is done in this Office; In this Treasury are also kept the *Originalia* or Originals of the Chancery, which are Estreats of the Fine Rolls,

Rolls, Patent Rolls, &c. transmitted hither from the Court of Chancery.

These Records lie in tolerable Order in Wainscot Presses, many of the Bundles being impaired by Time, do want New Parchment Covers and New Banding, and many of the Modern Originals want the like Covers and Banding.

All the said Records when New Cover'd must be Endorsed on the Covers in a proper manner, to shew the King's Reign, the Year, or the Term contain'd therein respectively.

There are also in this Office many Records that have lain undigested in great Chests and otherwise, for many Years

D 4 before

before the Time of the present Officer.

The Augmentation Office.

THE most useful Records of this Office are in tolerable Order, but there are many others which were never yet Digested and Methodized.

Several small Necessaries are wanting, to wit, Parchment Covers for many of the Records; Canvas to make New Bags instead of the Old ones, most of which are rotted; New Binding of several Parchment Books of Enrollments, Wooden Boxes, and other small Things.

Gene-

General Memorandums.

THE Roof and Gutters of the House where the Records lie, are with great Difficulty kept defensible against Weather.

In the Offices of the Pipe, and the Two Remembrancers, New Records are to be made up for every Year successively; which makes it necessary to reserve Room in those Treasuries for future Records. At present there seems to be no spare Room in the said Treasuries.

In some of the said Offices there are important valuable Records, that lie in a sort
Buri-

Buried ; and in all of them there are many Records that remain in Confusion for want of Means to defray the Charges of Digesting them.

The Digesting and Methodizing of many Records that are in Disorder in the several Treasuries above mention'd, and the New Covering and Endorsing the Years, &c. will be a Work of Time, and of many Mens Hands, and may deserve to be done under the Care and Supervisal of some fit Person or Persons.

In the *Brick Tower* there are Two Rooms or Garrets ; One, a large Room, the Floor of it cover'd with Books and loose Parchments, many of which do relate to the Revenue

venue of the Customs ; the other, a smaller Room, with Presses in it ; which Presses are filled with Port Books relating also to the Customs, and the rest of the Room with Bags of Duplicates of Taxes. The King's Remembrancer Claims these two Rooms.

Near *Hell Yard* there are Two Ground Rooms ; the One is a large Square Room, having many Parchments and Books lying in Dust on the Floor, and otherwise ; the other is a much smaller Room, wherein Parchments and Tallies have lain in Disorder for many Years past. No Officer (that I can find) Claims these two Rooms, or either of them. They are seldom

(60)

seldom open'd; never for the purpose of Searching.

May it please Your Lordships,

All Things contain'd in this most Dutiful Report are humbly Submitted to Your Lordships Great Wisdoms.

Tho. Madox.

The 14th Day of Feb. 1718.

To

(61)



To the Right Honourable the Lords Committees for Inspecting Records.



IN Obedience to your Lordships Order of the Seventh of this Instant February, I humbly crave Leave to represent to your Lordships,

That the Records in the Pipe-Office are of Two sorts, the Great Roll of the Exchequer, and the Foreign Acccompts. The former contains

(62)

tains an Accompt of the Ancient Revenue of the Crown, writ out in Proceſs every Year to the ſeveral Sheriffs of *England*, who were the General Receivers and Collectors thereof, and by them Levied and Answered to the Crown upon their Annual Accompts before the Clerk of the Pipe; which Method is ſtill preferred and continued to this Day, for ſo much of the ſaid Revenue as yet remains, and hath not been Alienated from the Crown: For all which the reſpective Sheriffs do now Accompt, and take their *Quietus* out of this Office every Year.

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The Foreign Accompts are that part of the Revenue which is Granted by Act of Parliament for Aids, Subſidies, Polls, &c. and of late Years upon Window-Lights; as alſo for Customs, Excife, Salt, and all other Parliamentary Impoſitions and Taxes whatſoever. The Accompts for the Land-Tax and Window-Lights (commonly called the Tax upon Houſes) are made up by the Auditors of the Revenue, and all the reſt by the Auditors of the Impreſts. The former Accompts are Declared before One of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer, and the latter by the Treasury: And all theſe Accomptants do likewise Annually receive their *Quietus*

Quietus out of the Pipe. So that the whole Revenue of the Crown (except the Land-Revenue) passing through this Office, and the Records thereof being as Valuable as they are Numerous, It is humbly hoped your Lordships will think them worthy of your Care and Consideration.

And I also beg Leave humbly to Represent to your Lordships, That the State and Condition of the Pipe-Office in His Majesties Court of Exchequer at *Westminster*, having upon several Occasions been of late View'd and Examind, and more particularly at this time, by virtue of your Lordships Order; It appears that the Rain has sunk through the

the Tiling and Cieling thereof, and Damaged several of the Records; so that it is humbly hoped that Care may be taken in the first place to Secure the Covering, Roof, and Cieling of the House from the Injury of Rain and Weather; without which the Reparations that are necessary for the better keeping and preserving the Records, will be rendred in great Measure ineffectual. The Office to be Plaistered and White-washed.

All the Presses, which contain the Great Rolls made up from the Time of King *Stephen* to the Reign of King *James* the Second, being very Old, and taking in Dust continually, by reason of the Decay

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of the Materials and Shelves, those Records are very much Injured, many of their Covers or Outsides being worn out, and the Marking or Texting thereof not to be read: For these Reasons it is humbly Proposed, That all the Presses for the Great Rolls be made New of hard and season'd Waincot, Close and Firm, with good Locks, Rings, and Hinges; all the Shelves whereof to be strong and broad, and sufficiently supported, and able to bear the great Weight that must be laid upon them; and the Rolls (which want it) to be New Covered, Marked, and Texted. By which means those Valuable Records will not only be made

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more easie to be found for the Service of the Publick, but the Records themselves be preserved to future Ages.

And because the Rolls and Records of this Office must necessarily Increase every Year, it will likewise be necessary that more New Presses be made, not only for the Great Rolls, but also for the vast Number of Accompts which now are, and for the future must be repositied there, which at present are laid up in great Chests and Trunks. These New Presses, design'd chiefly for Accompts of several Natures, may be built under the Windows of both the Rooms, and made of the Stuff of the Old Presses.

E 2

Strong

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Strong Steps or Ladders to take down and put up the Records, with Two or Three Joynt-stools.

A convenient Cover'd Table in each Room, with a Desk and Seat at each end of the Tables.

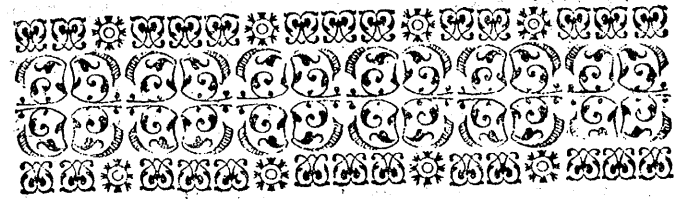
All which is humbly Submitted to Your Lordships.

Fra. Neal,
Dep' Cleric' Pipe.

*Pipe-Office,
Feb. 11. 1718.*

To

(69)



*To the Right Honourable
the Lords Committees,
to whom it was Re-
ferr'd to Review the
Records of the Court
of Chancery, &c.*



IN Obedience to Your Lordships Order, I do humbly Certifie, That the Records in the Office of the King's Re-

E 3 mem-

membrancer in the Exchequer consist of,

Bills, Answers, and Proceedings thereon, in Causes in Equity.

Writs of *Scire Facias*, and Proceedings thereupon, for Recovery of the Debts of the Crown.

Extents, and Inquisitions thereupon, and Commissions of Inquiry, and Inquisitions thereupon; whereby the Estates of Debtors and Accomptants to the Crown, and Estates Forfeited to, or belonging to the Crown, are Seized into the King's Hands.

Informations upon Seizures made in the several Ports of *England*, of Goods Forfeited for

for Non-payment of Custom or Unlawful Importation.

Informations Personal for Forfeitures arising to the Crown by Offences Committed against Penal Laws.

Records of Outlawries certified into the Exchequer, whereby Seizures are made of Lands and Goods into the King's Hands, and the Proceedings depending thereupon.

Commissions and Inquisitions Returnable in, or Certified into the Exchequer upon Attainers, and Forfeitures for Treasons or Felonies.

Process against Receivers and Collectors of Assessments and Taxes Granted to the Crown, to bring them in, to pass their Accompts, and to

(72)

pay the Monies by them received, to Seize the Lands and Goods of them that refuse or neglect so to do.

Port Books Yearly sent to the Customers and Patent Officers of the several Ports of *England* and *Wales*, for the Entry of all Goods and Merchandizes Imported and Exported.

There are *Memoranda*, which consist of all Matters Inrolled in the said Office.

And in further Obedience to Your Lordships Order, I have Inspected the Records in the Office aforesaid, and do find some of the *Memoranda* want Covers and Whipcord to tie them close, to preserve them from Dust.

And

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And I do find, That some Records relating to Equity Proceedings, *viz.* Bills, Answers, and Depositions, are much out of Order by the Decay of the Wrappers that Cover the same, and were so long before I came into the Office; and by what I can learn have been so for a great many Years. And it will require a great many Vellom Skins and Cords to new Cover and better Preserve the same. And likewise several Books of Orders want new Binding.

And I do find, That the Walls of some of the Record Rooms want to be lined with Boards, or that New Presses with Doors thereto shou'd be made,

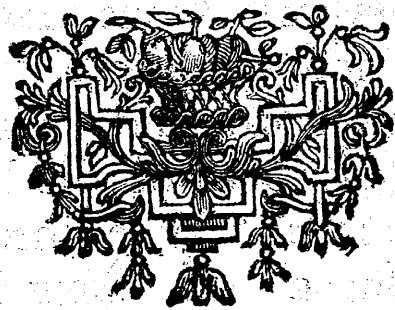
(74)

made, the better to preserve
the Records from Dampness
and Duft.

*All which is humbly Sub-
mitted to Your Lordships
Great Wisdom.*

John Harding, D. R. R.

Feb. 17.
1718.

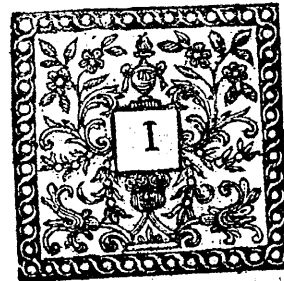


To

(75)



*To the Right Honourable
the Lords Committees
for Inspecting Records
in the Court of Chan-
cery, &c.*



IN Obedience to
Your Lordships
Order of the Se-
venth Instant,
whereby I am
requir'd to lay before Your
Lordships an Account in
Writing in what State the Re-
cords in this Office are, and
what

what may be necessary to put the same into a more proper Condition.

I do in all humble manner Certifie Your Lordships, That of the Records in this Office, those of the greatest Dignity and Concernment are the *Memoranda* and the *Originalia*.

The *Memoranda* contain great Variety of Pleadings relating to the Tenures and Estates of the Nobility and Gentry of *England*, with Judgments given by the Court of Exchequer thereupon.

Pleadings and Judgments upon Claims of Franchises and Privileges within Manors, Towns, and Liberties.

Many

Many Acts of the Court of Exchequer concerning the Accompts of Sheriffs, Escheators, &c.

Variety of Matters concerning the Charge and Discharge of the King's Debtors and Accomptants.

The Entries of Accompts of Greater and Lesser Accomptants.

Many Acts and Orders of Court concerning the Land Revenue, and Casual Revenue of the Crown, as Fee-Farms, Fines, Post-Fines, Issues, Amerciements, Recognizances, &c. of all which *Memoranda* there is a Series from the Beginning of the Reign of King *Henry* the Third to the present Reign.

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The *Originalia* are the Extracts from the Chancery of all Patent Rolls and Grants from the Crown; and are transmitted into this Office to be put in Charge *pro Commodo Regis*; and Commence about the Beginning of the same King's Reign, and are continued in a Series ever since.

All which Records, and the Repertories relating thereto, do for the most part lie in good Method and Order, and are kept in commodious and durable Waincot Chests and Presses, sufficient for the due Preservation of the same. And I do not find that there is immediately wanting any thing materially necessary to
put

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put these Records into a more proper Condition; Except such a quantity of Vellom, or strong Parchment, and Cording, as shall be sufficient for New Covering and Re-binding such whose Covers and Bindings are worn out, or greatly decay'd by Time; of which there being a considerable Number, the same will require the Assistance of a strong Hand or two to perform that Work, and a competent Clerk to Endorse the Covers in proper manner, to denote the Reigns and Years; which may probably prove a Work of some Labour and Time, and will occasion some few Tables, Desks, Stools, and other odd Things
(the

(the Expence whereof will be inconsiderable) to be provided for that and future Service.

The Consideration of all which is humbly Submitted to Your Lordships great Wisdoms.

W. Plaxton,
Dep^r Rem^r Thes^r

Treasurer's Remem-
brancer's Office,
Feb. 17. 1718.



To



To the Right Honourable the Lords Committees for Inspecting of Records,

The Humble Report of Thomas Jett, One of the Auditors of the Land-Revenue.

May it please Your Lordships,

IN Obedience to Your Lordships Commands, signified to me by Precept of the Seventh Instant, I have Inspected the several Records in my Office, **W**hich

which consist of the several Kinds following, viz.

Ministers Accompts made up in Parchment Rolls, from the Beginning of King *Henry* the Eighth, and continued down to the latter End of King *Charles* the First, wherein are contain'd the Rents of the several Honours, Castles, Lordships, Manors, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, which came to the Crown by Dissolution of the several Monasteries, Abbies, Priors, &c. and likewise by Attainder and other Forfeitures; as also the Ancient Revenues of the Crown of *England*.

Accompts of the Receivers General of the Rents, Issues, and

and Profits, arising out of the said Honours, Castles, Lordships, Manors, &c. for the same Time, likewise made up in Parchment Rolls, and Indorsed on the Back, in large Characters, the respective King's Reign and Year.

There are also several Books beginning in the Reign of the said King *Henry* the Eighth, and continued down to this Time, wherein are contain'd the Inrollments of the several Grants in Fee, and in Tail, which have been made of the said Manors and Lands, since the Reign of the said King, as also of the several Leases.

There are likewise some few Books of Particulars of

(84)

Estates and Rents, which have, from time to time, been Granted from the Crown, as also View Books of the Ministers, and Receivers General Accounts, and some Extracts of Court-Rolls of Manors, while they remain'd in the Crown.

Some of these Records and Books are kept in Wainscot Presses, lined behind, standing in the Court of Exchequer, and in Tables in the same Court, which were Originally built and fixed there for the Use of the Auditors of the Land Revenue, with Locks to the same.

Others are kept in Dry Presses well lined, and in Chests in a large Square Room over the Court of Exchequer, which

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which leads into the Pipe-Office.

Others are kept in two long Rooms over the Top of the Exchequer-Court, fronting the *Palace Yard*, in dry Wainscot Presses, well lined next the Walls, thro' which Rooms are two Drains to Carry away the Water off the Top of the Exchequer-Court; but being well Leaded, the same are Dry, and the Plaistering and Tiling in good Condition.

The Remaining part of the said Records and Books, from the said King *Charles* the First's Time, are in the Office in the *New Palace Yard*, in good Wainscot Presses well lined.

The greatest part of the Revenue being alienated from

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the Crown there is not much resort had to these Records, but they may be readily turned to upon any Occasion.

Time hath worn out the Indorsement of some few Parchment Rolls, as likewise the Binding of several of the Books of Inrollment and some of the Views; which may be repaired and made good at no great Expence.

All which is most humbly submitted to Your Lordships great Wisdom.

Tho. Jett, *Aud.*

Feb. 18.
1718.

To

(87)



To the Right Honourable the Lords Committees for Inspecting Records.



N Obedience to Your Lordships Order of the Seventeenth Instant, whereby we the Deputy Chamberlains of the said Court of Receipt are requir'd to lay before Your
F 4 Lord-

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Lordships an Account in Writing of the Nature of the Records in the *Chapter-House* at *Westminster*, in what State or Condition they are in, and whether there is any thing, or what wanting to put the said Records into more proper Condition, and also whether any, and what Room is there for the further receiving of Records.

We do in the humblest manner Certifie Your Lordships, That our Predecessors *John Lowe*, and *Peter Le Neve*, Esqs. some Years past, drew up an Account in Writing under their several Hands, of the Records deposited in the said *Chapter-House*; which Account
upon

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upon our Admittances into our Offices we found in the Treasury adjoining to the said Court of Receipt, (commonly called the Talley-Court) And we have Reason to believe that the Records hereafter mentioned, as put down in their Writing, are still remaining there, we having been Obligated upon several Searches for the Use of the Publick, to Examine many Records there deposited, which we have found by the Directions of the said Writing after long Searching.

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The Records in the Chapter-House are as follow, viz.

Foreign Leagues and Treaties, with many Papers of Publick Matters.

There are very great Quantities of Common Writs, of many Reigns, confusedly heap'd up together.

A great Quantity of the Bills, Answers, Replications, &c. of the Dissolv'd Court of *Star-Chamber*.

The Rolls of Records of Affize of King *Richard* the First's Time, King *John*, and King *Henry* the Third, and thence down to King *Henry* the

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the Fifth, of the King's Bench, and to King *Henry* the Seventh, of the Common-Pleas, with the Rolls of Affizes in divers Counties of many Reigns.

Several Fines of Lands, *Postea's*, Concords, Writs of Covenant, *Furata's*, &c. that have been Transmitted from the Common-Pleas. The Fines of each County are from the Reign of *Hen. VIII.* to the Year 1660.

That the Foreign Leagues, &c. have lain promiscuously some Years in Chests, but it wou'd be more convenient if they were digested, and put into Wainscot Presses.

That among the great Quantities of Writs there are many Special Returns which have been,

(92)

been, and others may be Proofs of Titles to Lands, and likewise prove the several Boundaries of Lands, as in Writs of Partition, Dower, &c. and when digested ought to be bundled up under Covers of Vellom or strong Parchment.

As to the Bills, Answers, &c. of the *Star-Chamber*, they have lain many Years in a very great Heap undigested, without any Covering from Dust, or Security from Rats and Mice.

As to the Rolls of Records of King's Bench, and Common-Pleas, there are very many of them have lain upon the Ground for want of Presses to put them in; the Damp-
ness

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ness of the Ground having been very prejudicial to them.

The great Numbers of Fines, *Postea's*, Concords, Writs of Covenant, *Jurata's*, &c. We humbly Conceive ought to be digested under their proper Reigns and Counties, and accordingly carefully bundled up under proper Covers of Vellom or Parchment.

From the Outward Door leading to the *Chapter-House*, and within the said *Chapter-House*, there is a great deal of Room, and it is altogether very Lightfom to receive many more Records; as may be seen if Your Lordships please to direct a Survey to be made thereof, and also of
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the Repairs of the Top of the same.

The Reason why these Records have not been Abstracted, and better digested, is for want of suitable Time, and due Encouragement; We beg Leave therefore to lay the Principal Obstructions before Your Lordships.

The Deputy Chamberlains are the Proper Officers for Sorting and Abstracting the said Records; but are so Limited and Streightned in point of Time, that 'tis impossible at present any Progress shou'd be made in so necessary and beneficial a Work; their Hours of Attendance in the Talley-Court are from Nine in the Morning till One; most of which

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which Time they are generally (being only Two Persons) employ'd in Striking and Examining Tallies, and at other Hours entirely debarr'd from doing any thing with the Records by a Key kept by the Auditor of the Exchequer's Clerk, who has only the same Hours of Attendance with the said Deputy Chamberlains: We therefore humbly recommend this to Your Lordships Consideration, That there being large Quantities of Records to be sorted and digested, this will be a very Laborious Work, not to be carried on without an Allowance of Salaries for our selves and proper Clerks, with free Access for us to dispatch the same.

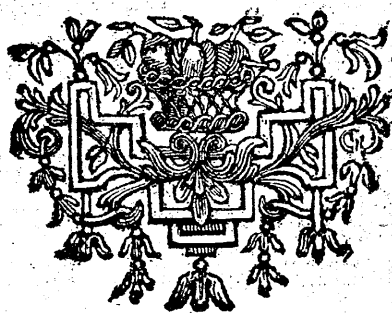
(96)

same. All which we humbly submit to Your Lordships great Wisdoms, and are Your Lordships

Most Dutiful and Obedient Servants,

**Dudley Downes,
John Lawton.**

*Court of Receipt
in the Exchequer,
20th of
March, 1718.*



To

(97)



*To the Right Honourable
the Lords Committees
for Records,*

*The Humble Report of Rich-
ard Topham, Esq; Keeper
of His Majesties Records in
the Tower of London.*



IN Obedience to Your Lordships Command, I do Certifie, That in *Wakefield Tower* there are the Records follow-
ing, viz.

C The

The Statute Rolls, beginning with the Statute of *Gloucester*, Anno 6. *Edw.* 1. and ending with the 8th of *Edw.* 4.

Parliament Rolls, beginning Anno 5. *Edw.* 2. and ending with the Reign of *Edw.* 4.

Patent Rolls, beginning Anno 3. *Johannis*, and ending with the Reign of *Edw.* 4. In these are contained Grants of Offices, Lands, Tenements, Temporalties, &c. passing under the Great Seal.

Charter Rolls, from the First of King *John*, to the end of *Edw.* 4. in which are Inrollments of Grants and Confirmations of Liberties and Privileges to Cities and Towns Corporate, and to private Persons, as Markets, Fairs, Free

Free Warren, Commune of Pasture, Waifs, Strays, Felons Goods, &c.

The Foundations of Abbies and Pories, of Colleges and Schools, together with Lands and Privileges Granted to them.

The Patents of Creation of Noblemen.

Close Rolls, from the Sixth of King *John*, to the end of *Edw.* 4. In which are Writs of various kinds, but more especially on the Back of the Roll are Entred the Writs of Summons to Parliament, both to the Lords and Commons, and of the Bishops and Inferior Clergy to Conventions; there are also Proclamations, and Inrollment of Deeds between Party and Party.

(100)

French Rolls, beginning *Anno* 1. *Edw.* 2. and ending with *Edw.* 4. in which are Leagues and Treaties with the Kings of *France*, and other Matters relating to that Kingdom.

Scotch Rolls, Transactions with that Kingdom.

Rome, touching the Affairs of that See.

Vascon Rolls, relating to *Gascoign*.

There are also other Rolls and Records of different Natures.

In this Tower are also kept the Inquisitions *post Mortem*, from the First Year of King *Henry* 3. to the Third Year of *Richard* 3.

The

(101)

The Inquisitions *ad quod Damnum*, from the First of *Edw.* 2. to the end of *Hen.* 5.

Writs of Summons and Returns to Parliament, from the Reign of *Edw.* 1. to the 17th of *Edw.* 4.

Popes Bulls, and Original Letters from Foreign Princes.

In Cæsar's Chapel in the White Tower are these Records, viz.

Privy Seals of the Reigns of several Kings.

Bills, Answers, and Depositions in Chancery, in the Reigns of Queen *Elizabeth*, King *James* the First, and King *Charles* the First.

G 3

Writs

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Writs of *Distringas* and *Supersedeas*.

*De Excommunicato capi-
endo.*

Statutes Merchant and Sta-
ple.

And other Writs of divers
Natures, relating to Proceed-
ings of the King's Courts of
Law.

Richard Topham.

March the 3d,
1718-19.



T H E

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TH E Committee having
received Information,
That several Transcripts of
Records, left by the late
Mr. *Rymer*, and not printed,
were now in the Hands of
Mr. *Awnsham Churchill* a Book-
seller, their Lordships there-
upon sent for and Examined
the said Mr. *Churchill*; who
acknowledg'd the said Tran-
scripts were in his Custody,
but he look'd upon them to
be only Papers which the
said Mr. *Rymer* threw by as
not fit to Print; and that
his Executrix had procur'd
them to be Bound, and they
were paid for by the Trea-
sury, and were to be applied
for the Publick Inspection.

G 4

And

(104)

And he further Inform'd the Committee, That the said Transcripts were ready to be deliver'd as Direction shall be given: And their Lordships have since given Direction that the same be for the present put into the Custody of the said Mr. *Inledon* Your Lordships Housekeeper.

The Committee having made Enquiry touching any empty Rooms which might be proper for the Reception of the Records now lying in Confusion, and in Danger of Ruin in the Room aforementioned over the Gateway, were Inform'd, there were Two Rooms near the Exchequer, which wou'd contain a great many Records, and little at present therein,

(105)

therein, excepting a few Old Port Books, and Useless Papers, and Old cancell'd Tallies; but at the same Time were acquainted, That the said Rooms were claim'd by the King's Remembrancer. Whereupon their Lordships Examined concerning it, and were Inform'd, That the said Rooms were under the Care of the Lord Treasurer for the Time being; who at first coming into his Office, constantly in Person Visits the same by way of taking Possession. Their Lordships then repair'd thither, and View'd the same, and having Directed an Estimate to be prepar'd of the Charge of Fitting up the said Rooms; and the same having been made accord-

(106)

accordingly, amounts to about Eighty Pounds.

The Committee have also View'd the *Chapter-House* afore mention'd, and having Directed the like Estimate to be made of the Charge which Fitting up thereof will occasion, the same amounts to about Two hundred and ninety Pounds.

And upon this Occasion their Lordships observing, That the Custody of the said House is in the Two Deputy Chamberlains and the Auditor of the Exchequer's Clerk, and that Three Keys belong thereunto, without which Recourse can be at no Time had to the Records there; the Inconveniency whereof being so very obvious, the Committee
only

(107)

only mention it for Your Lordships Consideration, That if you shall please to give Directions in relation to that Place, and the Records therein, that the said Inconveniency may be for the future prevented.

The Committee, as they proceeded, made Inquiry, Whether any Manuscripts, Books, Calendars, or Indexes, belonging to any of the Records of the Exchequer, had been lost or imbezilled; and were thereupon Inform'd, That several Manuscripts, being chiefly Abstracts or Calendars, had been prepared by Mr. *Le Neve*, and the late Mr. *Lowe*, whilst they were Deputy Chamberlains; which their Lordships, upon a careful

(108)

ful Examination, conceiving to have been Compil'd at the Expence and Labour of those Gentlemen respectively; and Mr. *Le Neve*, and the Executor of Mr. *Lowe*, being willing to part with the said Manuscripts, provided they might have a reasonable Gratuity for their Labour in Compiling the same, being of great Use for the more easy finding and understanding the Records to which they relate, the Committee conceive it wou'd be a Publick Service, that a reasonable Reward may be given for the said Manuscripts, to the End they may be plac'd and remain in the respective Offices to which they belong, for the Use above mention'd.

Die

(109)

Die Veneris 17 Aprilis, 1719.

WHich Report being read by the Clerk, was approv'd of by the House.

ORDER'd, *By the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Assembled, That an Humble Address be Presented to His Majesty, laying before His Majesty the said Report, and humbly desiring His Majesty, That he wou'd be Graciously Pleased to give such Directions upon the several Matters therein contain'd, as His Majesty in His great Wisdom shall think proper.*

Order'd, *That the said Address be Presented to His Majesty by the Lord Chancellor.*

C

Die

(110)

Die Sabbati 18 Aprilis, 1719.

THE Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That he had, according to their Lordships Order, Presented to His Majesty the above mention'd Address; and that His Majesty was Pleas'd to give a most Gracious Answer thereunto, to this Effect:

THAT He wou'd take the said Report into Consideration, and give proper Directions thereupon.

Order'd,

(111)

ORder'd, That the said Report, together with the Address of this House to His Majesty, and His Majesties most Gracious Answer thereunto, be forthwith Printed in an Octavo Volume.

W^m Cowper,
Cler' Parliamentor'



F I N I S.

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