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A  
Further Report  
FROM THE  
COMMITTEE  
OF  
*SECRECY,*

Appointed to Enquire into the CONDUCT of

*ROBERT* Earl of *ORFORD,*

During the last Ten Years of his being  
First Commissioner of the Treasury,  
and Chancellor and Under-Treasurer  
of His MAJESTY's Exchequer.

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*With the APPENDIX.*

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L O N D O N

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**FURTHER REPORT**  
 FROM THE  
**COMMITTEE OF SECRESY.**

**Y**OUR Committee having in their former Report laid before the House the Obstructions they met with in the Course of their Enquiry, and finding that the Lords had refused to concur in the Means proposed by this House to remove them, by rejecting the Bill for indemnifying such Persons as shall, upon Examination, make Discoveries touching the Disposition of publick Money, or concerning the Disposition of Offices, or any Payments or Agreements in Respect thereof, or concerning other Matters relating to the Conduct of *Robert Earl of Orford*, have not thought it adviseable to enter upon any new Matter relating to the Transactions of the *Earl of Orford*. But as previous to the rejecting of the said Bill by the other House, they had several Matters before them of the highest Consequence and Importance to the Success of the War with *Spain*, and to the domestic Oeconomy and good Order of the Kingdom, to the Payment of the Troops abroad, to the Freedom of Elections at Home, and to the Quantity and Method of issuing publick Money for the secret Services of the State, in all which the said *Earl* appears to have had the principal, if not the sole Direction; Your Committee thought it their absolute Duty to lay these Matters before the House, and were preparing to do it with as much Clearness and Perspicuity, as the many notorious Difficulties and Discouragements this Enquiry has laboured under would permit. But in the Execution of this Design, they were again interrupted by a new and unforeseen Obstruction to one of the most material Points in Question, which therefore, together with the other Matters abovementioned, they find themselves under a Necessity of laying before the House.

As the vigorous and successful Prosecution of the War in *America* seems to have been the great Object of the Interests and Inclination of the People of *Great-Britain*; and as an Expedition to a Climate so distant and dangerous, must unavoidably be attended with an immense Expence both of Men and Money to the Nation, Your Committee therefore, considering how essentially it must affect the Glory of His Majesty's Arms, and the Justice due to this Nation, that those of their Countrymen, who cheerfully undertook a Service, where the Enemy was the least Danger they were exposed to, should be justly and fully paid the great Sums raised to support them, have thought it their Duty to enquire into the Contract made for supplying His Majesty's Forces going upon the Expedition with Lord *Catbarr*, and to examine whether it had been established on the most just and advantageous Foot, for Troops so peculiarly deserving the Care and Attention of the Publick. And in proceeding therein;

Your Committee find; That the Money, or rather the Currency of *Jamaica*, is of a less Value than *Sterling* Money; and by the Examination of Merchants it appears, that for some Years before the Commencement of the War with *Spain*, the Rate of Exchange between *Jamaica* and *England* was from 135 to 140, but generally at 140, very few Bills having been drawn under that Rate; that is, Persons at *Jamaica* generally paid 140 *l.* of the Currency of that Country, for a Bill which intitled them, or their Agents, to 100 *l. Sterling* in *England*.

Your Committee find, that on the 9th of *July* 1740, the following Proposal was made to the Treasury; for furnishing Money at *Jamaica* for the Expedition under Lord *Catbarr*, by *Peter Burrell* and *John Bristow*, Esqrs. Members of this House.

*To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury; The Proposal of Peter Burrell and John Bristow.*

" That they are ready to furnish at *Jamaica* His Majesty's Forces going upon the intended Expedition with Lord *Catbarr* with any Sums of Money, and at the Times which the Service shall require, at the Rate of 100 *l. Sterling* for every 120 *l.* paid at *Jamaica* in the Currency of that Island: that the Sum of 27,000 *l.* be paid to them before the Departure of the Troops, they furnishing their Bills at Sight on *Jamaica* for the Amount thereof, at the abovementiond Rate of 100 *l. Sterling* for 120 *l. Jamaica* Currency.  
 " That the subsequent Payments be made upon their producing the Deputy Paymaster's Bills or Receipts, who shall be directed to give the same, for the Sums they shall receive from Time to Time.

" *London, July 9th, 1740.*

" *PETER BURRELL,*  
 " *JOHN BRISTOW.*

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This Proposal was the same Day agreed to by the Commissioners of the Treasury, the Earl of Orford being then present at the Board; which appears the more extraordinary to your Committee, because the Commissioners of the Treasury (had they thought fit to enquire) must have found, that for several Months preceding the Date of this Proposal, all the Bills drawn from Jamaica for the Service of His Majesty's Navy and Ordnance, were drawn at the Rate of 140 l. for 100 l. Sterling, as appears by the Appendix (No. 1.)

Your Committee also observe, that at the Time of the Delivery of this Proposal, it could be no Secret to Mr. Burrell and Mr. Bristow that the Exchange from Jamaica was 140 l. for your Committee find in the Minutes of a Court of Directors of the South Sea Company, when Mr. Burrell Sub-Governor, and Mr. Bristow Deputy-Governor, were present, the following Order,

"Friday, 16th of March, 1738-9.

"Ordered, That it be referred to the Committee of Correspondence, to consider and report their Opinion concerning the Exchange from Jamaica, which is now at 140 l. for 100 l. Sterling, and yet the Company are not credited for the Dollars, Pistoles, and Bar-Gold, more than when the Exchange was at 135 l. per Cent."

The Circumstances which preceded and occasioned this extraordinary Transaction, as far as your Committee have been able to trace them, are of a very singular Nature; for it appears by the Examination of Captain Alexander Wilson, who was Agent to Lord Cathcart, when he was preparing for the Expedition to the West-Indies, (which is annexed to the Appendix. No. 2.) That in the May or June preceding this Contract, the Pay Master-General, communicated to Lord Cathcart a Method of paying the Troops, which his Lordship approved of; this was by sending a Sum of Money by the Deputy-Pay-Master who was to attend the Expedition, and empowering him to draw what Bills should be necessary, and directing the Troops to be paid at Jamaica at such a Rate of Exchange as should appear to Lord Cathcart and the superior Officers to be most advantageous to the Troops. And it being intimated some time after to Lord Cathcart that a Contract for paying the Troops at 120 l. Jamaica Money for 100 l. ster. was then depending before the Treasury, he immediately procured a Meeting with Mr. Hanbury Williams, Pay-master of the Marines, Mr. Burrell, and Mr. Bristow, with a View, if possible, to get the Troops paid in a more advantageous manner, for he did not apprehend the Contract was at that time passed. At this Meeting he mentioned the Inconveniencies which might arise from the paying Men at a Rate so much lower than the known Exchange, and the Danger there was from what he had observed abroad, of its producing Discontent and Mutiny. And after several Arguments used on both Sides, their Meeting ended on Mr. Burrell or Mr. Bristow's declaring that they had made an Agreement with the Treasury already on the Terms of 120 l. Jamaica Money for 100 l. ster. and that they could not do it for less Profit.

From the Examinations of Mr. Burrell and Mr. Bristow (which are annexed in the Appendix No. 3.) it appears that they applied for this Contract to the Earl of Orford, and to no other Person; for when it was publickly known that the Troops were going to Jamaica, Mr. Burrell acquainted the said Earl, that he had Correspondents in Jamaica, on the South-Sea Company's Account, who were Men of great Credit, and had the greatest command of Money of any in the Place; and he thought if any Money was wanting there, he could supply the Government as well as any body; and that afterwards considering the great Importance of the Affair, he thought it too much hazard for himself alone, and mentioned it to Mr. Bristow, and they together settled the Terms of their Proposal: And about the Month of June 1740, the Parliament being then prorogued, they waited on the Earl of Orford, and proposed to him the same Terms, which were afterwards agreed to by the Treasury. The said Earl asked them if these were the lowest Terms, and hoped they would not ask more than was reasonable, or what any body else should complain of, that he would not take it on himself, but desired them to make their Proposals to the Treasury, which seems to your Committee to have been intirely Matter of Form. For it appears that when this Proposal was accordingly delivered to the Treasury, the Gentlemen cannot recollect to whom it was delivered, nor when, nor by whom they were informed of its being accepted; nay, one of the Gentlemen even does not remember whether they themselves went with their Proposal when it was presented.

And your Committee having also examined Charles Hanbury Williams Esq; a Member of this House, touching the Conversation that passed between Mr. Burrell, Mr. Bristow, and Lord Cathcart, at Mr. Williams's Office, have also added his Examination to the others, in the Appendix, (No. 3.) to which they beg leave to refer.

Your Committee cannot find that any Notice or Intimation was given to any Person, except what passed between the Earl of Orford and the Contractors, as is before mentioned, of the Intention of the Treasury to make this Contract; for it appears by the Examination of James Knight Esq; (which is annexed in the Appendix, No. 4.) that when he heard the Troops were going to Jamaica, and was told the Treasury would contract with private Persons for paying them, he did himself intend to make an Offer of furnishing the Money; but in a very few Days after, he heard the Treasury had agreed with Mr. Burrell and Mr. Bristow, at the Rate of 120 l. and he did not believe the Treasury ever gave any Notice

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of their Intentions to make any such Contract. That what he expected was not a formal publick Notice, but that it should have been communicated to Merchants, as he has heard has been practised in Queen Anne's Wars: And had this been done, he believes several besides himself would have proposed, and that he himself would have furnished the Money at 130 l. per Cent. for 100 l. Sterling, and should have thought it a good Bargain, provided he could have had the same Money advanced to him which he has heard was advanced to Mr. Burrell and Mr. Bristow. That after the first Difficulty, which would be on the Arrival of the Troops, was over, he did not doubt but he could have contracted with the People of the Island to furnish the Money at the rate of 137½, and if the whole Money was advanced to him here before-hand, and he was only to send it over and furnish it at Jamaica at the Rate of 130 per Cent. he thinks he should make 12 or 15 per Cent. per Annum of the Sums he furnished by returning the same Money twice a Year.

This led your Committee into a Computation of the Profits which might have been made in this Contract, which they conceive to stand thus:

If the Value of 100 l. ster. be sent to Jamaica in Moidores, it appears they will produce 143 l. 10 s. Jamaica Currency; but by this Contract only 120 l. Jamaica Currency was to be paid at Jamaica for every 100 l. ster. received here. To this 120 l. Jamaica Currency, all the necessary Charges must be added, which your Committee conceive to be 1 per Cent. Commission, 2½ per Cent. Insurance, 1 per Cent. Freight, and ½ per Cent. for the Charges of Shipping, in all 4 l. 15 s. per Cent. which on 120 l. Jamaica Currency, is 5 l. 14 s. of the same Currency, in all 125 l. 14 s. Jamaica Currency. So that the Profit to be made on sending Moidores was the Difference between 125 l. 14 s. and 143 l. 10 s. which is 17 l. 16 s. Jamaica Currency, or 12 l. 8 s. 1 d. ster. out of every 100 l. ster. which is 14 l. 3 s. 2 d. ¾ per Cent. ster. And your Committee observe, that if Half of the Sum sent had been in Six and Thirty-shilling Pieces, and only Half in Moidores, 100 l. ster. so sent, would have produced 141 l. Jamaica Currency, which is only 2 l. 10 s. Jamaica Currency, less than Moidores alone would have produced.

And your Committee cannot help observing that if the Treasury had thought fit to send in Moidores to Jamaica, on the account of the Public, the same Sums of Money which they actually advanced to the Contractors, than every 100 l. ster. so sent would have produced 143 l. and an Half, Jamaica Currency, except what may be allowed for Insurance, which your Committee is informed amounts to about 2 l. and an Half per Cent. on Money sent by Ships of War. Nor could frequent Opportunities have been wanting of sending on board his Majesty's Ships, such farther Supplies of Money as might, at any Time, have been necessary for that Service. But if it had been thought more adviseable to have supplied Part of this Expence by Draughts from thence, there can be no doubt but that the Deputy Pay-master, being furnished with a proper Proportion of Specie from hence, would have been able to keep up the Exchange at 140 l. and in that Case no Charge would have attended that Part so supplied.

It further appears that in the Course of this Affair, and before the Departure of Lord Cathcart, still greater Indulgences were granted to the Contractors; for by their first Proposal the Sum of 27000 l. only was to be advanced them by the Treasury before the Departure of the Troops, but the subsequent Payments were not to be made to them till they produced the Deputy Pay-master's Bills or Receipts: And yet on the 30th of September following, which was before the Departure of the Troops, 12000 l. was further advanced to them by the Pay master General, for their Bill of that Date; and on the 1st of October 9500 l. more was advanced to them by the Pay-master of the Marines, for their Bill of the 30th of September; and on the 23d of December a Sum of 12000 l. was advanced by the Pay-master General, for their Bill of that Day's Date; and on the 6th of January, a farther Sum of 9000 l. was advanced by the Pay-master of the Marines for their Bill of the 31st of December. All in Consequence of Minutes of the Treasury, as in the Appendix, No. 5:

Here your Committee cannot help observing, that the paying these Sums, amounting to 42,500 l. over and above the 27,000 l. originally advanced before there had been any Disbursements on the Part of the Contractors, altered the Nature of the Contract, and rendered it much more beneficial than as it was originally proposed by the Contractors themselves.

Mr. Burrell said, he did offer half of his Share to his Brother, and a Gentleman engaged in Business with him, but they thought it too great a Risque for them to run: He likewise mentioned it to another Gentleman (whom he did not name) who would not accept of it; that these Refusals were very early before any Thing was done in it, more than passing the Contract, and that he mentioned them, to shew that he thought he had no great Bargain of it. And from the Examination of Mr. Burrell, and Mr. Bristow, it farther appears, that sometime after the making of the Contract, they offered Mr. Monson, a Member of this House, one fourth Part of it, as far as it related to the Payment of the Troops in the Office where he is Deputy, which he accepted of, and has shared accordingly the Profits of this Contract from the beginning; and sometime after the Earl of Orford mentioned to Mr. Burrell, that Mr. Hanbury Williams had desired him to speak to him, Mr. Burrell, that one of Mr. Williams's Friends might have a Share in the Remittances, but he added, You are to do just as you please, I don't ask you to let any body in, for the Contract is

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yours;

yours; and soon afterwards, Mr. Hanbury Williams spoke to the Contractors, and told them, that he had a Relation, one Mr. Hanbury, a West-India Merchant, to whom he had Obligations; and as he had Money and Effects at Jamaica, he desired he might be concerned one fourth Part with them for the future; Which he has accordingly been, in what relates to the Payment of the Marines in Mr. Hanbury Williams's Office.

And it appears to your Committee, that neither the one nor the other of those Gentlemen advanced any Money, or were concerned in the Management, but wereto be Sharers of the Profit or Loss only.

And it further appears to your Committee, that on the Arrival of the Troops at Jamaica, and the tendering the Money to them at 120 l. Jamaica Currency, great Discontents were expressed by the Officers, and some actually refused to receive it, and with time the Discontent increased, and nothing was talked of so much amongst the Officers of the Army, as the Hardship of being paid at 120 l. when the exchange was at 140 l. every one of them became a Calculator, and complained that he lost 16 l. 6 s. on every 100 l. he being paid his 120 l. Jamaica Money, with 62 Moidores, which is no more than 83 l. 14 s. Sterling; all which appears by the Letters of Colebrooke and General Wentworth, annexed in the Appendix, (No. 6.) so truly were the Fears of Lord Catbcart verified.

And this Uneasiness among the Troops was greatly increased by the peremptory Refusal of the Agents of Mr. Burrell, and Mr. Bristow, to furnish the Deputy Paymaster at Jamaica with any Money upon their Credit, arising, as Mr. Colebrooke says in his Letter of the 20th of February, 1740, Mark (B) in the Appendix, (No. 6) from their Views of appropriating the Profit to themselves, and being dazzled with the Prospect of getting 15 or 20 per Cent, instead of 2 per Cent their Commission. Upon this the Deputy Paymaster took up Money from other Persons, and gave them Bills on the Paymaster General; and tho' there were, as appears by the Extracts of Letters of the Deputy Paymaster, of the 20th of February, and the 23d of March, 1740-1, which are mark'd (B and D) in the Appendix (No. 6.) Combinations to distress him, yet the first Bills he thus drew were at the rate of 130 l. and he by degrees raised the Exchange, so that at last he drew at 140 l. whilst the Troops still continued to be paid at 120 l.

And it farther appears to your Committee, that on the 5th June, 1741, there is entred in the Treasury Books the following Minute:

" Mr. Bristow, one of the Remitters for the West-Indies, is called in, and acquaints my Lords, that he and Mr. Burrell have discharged such of their Factors and Agents at Jamaica, as misbehaved themselves in their Conduct about supplying the Money for the Publick Service there; and that as General Wentworth has applied for the Troops to be paid at the rate of 125 per Cent, he will take care that the Remittance shall be made accordingly "

And on the 10th of July following, the Commissioners of the Treasury agree and order, " That Messrs. Burrell and Bristow pay the Troops in America at the Rate of 125 l. Jamaica Currency for 100 l. Sterling, from the 24th of April preceeding "

Now your Committee observe on this new Contract, first proposed on the 5th of June, 1741, and finally regulated on the 10th of July following, that Mr. Colebrooke, the Deputy-Paymaster at Jamaica, did on the 24th of February preceeding, being nineteen Weeks before the settling of the said Contract, draw Bills on the Paymaster-General to the Amount of 1250 l. all at the Rate of 130 l. and did in his Letter of the 23d of March beforemention'd, acquaint the Paymaster General, that he had happily overcome all Opposition, and could assure him, on good Grounds, that whatever Money might be necessary to be raised for the Service would be found at Jamaica for Bills on the Paymaster-General, for 130 l. and upwards; and this last Letter is dated above 10 Weeks before the Proposal of Mr. Burrell and Mr. Bristow to amend their Contract, and above fifteen Weeks before the final Acceptation of that Proposal by the Treasury: And it is worthy of Observation, that in the Months of January, February, March, April and May, preceeding the July in which this second Contract at 125 l. was establish'd by the Treasury, there were drawn from Jamaica no less than thirty-nine Bills for the Service of his Majesty's Navy, most of them at the Rate of 135 l. and the Remainder at the Rate of 140 l.

And it appears to your Committee, that several Bills, amounting to the Sum of 11,392 l. 17 s. were drawn on the Paymaster of the Marines, by his Deputy, between 18th February, 1740, and 1st of August, 1741; Part of which Bills, amounting to 5000 l. were drawn in the Month of February preceeding the New Contract, that these Bills were paid by Mr. Burrell and Mr. Bristow, and that Money was issued to them for that Purpose by the Paymaster of the Marines. But your Committee have not been able to discover at what Rate of Exchange they were drawn; nor does it appear whether Mr. Burrell and Mr. Bristow have been allowed to take the Profit arising from the Difference between 120 l. the Rate of the Contract, and the Rate of Exchange the Bills were drawn at.

And it further appears to your Committee, that the Bills drawn by the Deputy-Paymaster from Jamaica on the Paymaster-General, when the Agents of Mr. Burrell and Mr. Bristow refused to supply him, amounting to the Sum of 29,216 l. 5 s. 3 d. and which were drawn in the Months of February and March, 1740, and in April, May, June, July and August, 1741, at 130, 135, 137 1-half, and at least at 140 l. were sent for Payment to Mr. Burrell and Mr. Bristow. And also that Money was issued from the Pay-Office to them to dis-

charge the said Bill; altho' it does not appear to your Committee what pretence of Right the Contractors could have to the Profit arising from any of these Bills, after the Forfeiture of their Bargain, by the Refusal of their Agents to furnish the Deputy-Paymasters at Jamaica.

But tho' these Bills were thus Paid by Mr Burrell and Mr. Bristow, yet your Committee find, that on the 15th of December last, the Paymaster-General made a Representation of this Matter to the Treasury, as in the Appendix (No. 7) praying a Direction of the Commissioners, whether the Profit or Difference arising by the Exchange on the said Bills should be accounted for and paid to the Agents of the said Contractors, or reserved in the Hands of his Deputy for the Use and Benefit of the Publick. And your Committee find the following Minute in the Books of the Treasury.

" Whitehall Treasury-Chambers, 29th December, 1741.  
" Read also to my Lords a Memorial from the same Paymaster, dated the 15th Instant, relating to the Remittance of Pay for the Troops in America with respect to the Jamaica Currency, and order'd a Copy thereof to be sent to the Remitters, for their Answer thereto "

To which the Remitters gave in their Answer annexed in the Appendix (No. 8) in which it is remarkable, that in stating the several Charges upon sending over Specie to Jamaica, they make one Charge in the following Words, " Three per Cent. Commission we pay in Jamaica ". Whereas it appears by their Examinations, that they paid One per Cent. only to their Agent, Mr. Colebrooke, for the Money sent out with Lord Catbcart.

This Answer was received on the 5th of February last, and nothing appears to have been done upon it while the Earl of Orford continued in the Treasury.

Your Committee have been obliged to dwell the longer upon this Contract, because the whole Behaviour of the Earl of Orford, who had the sole Direction of it, seems so extraordinary, that they fear this Part of their Report would want Credit, if they had not descended into the most minute Particulars of it.

Here they find a Contract enter'd into upon the good Faith of the Proposers, only with an Ignorance of the Value of the Exchange, whether real or affected, does not appear to your Committee. And that Defect so far from being endeavoured to be supplied by admitting Proposals or Information from any other Merchants, that it seem'd a determin'd Point to shut it out, even when it seem'd to obtrude itself upon him, from the very offices subject to his Inspection.

But, as if this Injury to the Troops, and Injustice to the Nation, had been too little, he render'd this Contract more advantageous to the Contractors than their most sanguine Expectation originally suggest'd to them.

For tho', by the Terms of the Contract, the Publick was to advance 27,000 l. only in Money, yet we find the further Sum of 42,000 l. advanced to them before the Arrival of the Troops in America.

And your Committee observe, that the Shares of the Profits of this Contract were dealt out to the Deputy of the Pay-Office, and to a Friend of the Paymaster of the Marines, at the Request of the said Paymaster, without any Advance of Money or Trouble on their Part. And it is very remarkable, that these Shares were confined to the Sums issued from the respective Offices.

And here your Committee must observe, from the whole Course of the Proceedings, that neither the Interest of the Soldier, or the Publick, seem to have been the Object of the Earl of Orford's Attention.

The Cries of the injured Soldiers, who had lost one Day's Pay in seven, where Provisions of all kinds bear an excessive Price, made so little Impression, that the only Relief they obtained, was an Advance of their Pay upon the Contract, from 120 l. to 125 l. though there had been drawn upon the Navy-Office, during the six Months preceeding, several Bills, none at less than 135 l. and some at 140 l. And tho' the Deputy of the Paymaster-General likewise, 19 Weeks before, had drawn upon the Office at 130 l. and 15 Weeks before had written to the Pay-master-General, that he might depend upon being furnished with whatever Sums should be wanted at 130 l. and upwards, nor could there be any Reason to fear a Disappointment in relying upon those Assurances of the Deputy-Paymaster, because to his Care wholly it was owing, that they were not disappointed, upon the Refusal of the Contractors Agents to furnish him with Money.

Your Committee cannot but observe, That the Treasury in establishing this new Contract, where the Contractors proposed the Advance from 120 l. to 125 l. to commence from the 5th of June 1741. order it with a Retrospect, and to commence from the 24th of April preceeding, and are greatly at a Loss to find if the first Contract was upon just and equal Terms, why the Contractors submitted to any Advance at all; and if it was not upon equal Terms, why the Treasury did not extend their Retrospect, and order it to be rectified from the Commencement.

And so little was the Publick to avail itself of this Injustice to the Soldier, that when the Contractors could furnish no Money at all, from their Agents refusing to answer Credit; and consequently the Contract was dissolved, and the Army must have starved, if the Deputy-

Paymaster, who is the Officer of the Publick, had not procured Money by Draughts upon the Pay-Office, at 130 l. 13 s. l. up to 140 l. Jamaica Currency, or 100 l. Sterling; yet those very Bills were suffered to be paid by the Contractors, and publick Money issued to them to pay the same; but by whose Order, does not appear to your Committee, as if the Profits arising from the advanced Prices of those Bills, drawn by a publick Officer upon the Publick, had belonged to the Contractors.

And your Committee observe, That when on the 15th of December last the Paymaster prayed Directions from the Treasury, whether the Profits on those Bills should be paid to the Contractors, or reserved for the Benefit of the Publick, even that could not be obtained, while the Earl of Orford remained in the Treasury.

Your Committee now proceed to lay before you the great Part which the Earl of Orford appears to have had in several Transactions, which nearly concern the Freedom of Elections, and the Independency of Parliament; and they have the greatest Reason to believe, that had the Persons employed in these dark Transactions been properly indemnified, many Discoveries would have been made of the utmost Importance.

Your Committee having in their former Report laid before you the Share which Mr. Paxton and Lawton had in carrying on the Prosecutions relating to the Borough of Orford; and particularly that Lawton had declared, That he did not pretend to say he should not be reimbursed his Expences on that Head, think fit now to acquaint you, that Mr. Abraham Farley being examined, said, That about January 1736, Mr. Lawton told him there was an Order made out at the Treasury in his (Farley's) Name for 1200 l. and bid him go and receive it; which he did, and paid it over immediately to the said Lawton.

And Mr. Richard Banks upon his Examination said, That John Lawton Esq; of the Exchequer, appeared to be his Client in the Prosecutions relating to Orford, tho' he did not know what Relation Mr. Lawton had to the Borough of Orford; but he believed that what Mr. Lawton did was to oblige Sir Robert Walpole, to whom he apprehended Lawton was under Obligations, that the whole Bill of near 3000 l. which the Prosecutions amounted to, was never satisfied; that Mr. Lawton, Paxton, and he (Banks,) met about it, and after a good Deal of Time allowed to examine the Bill, they, on the 15th of December 1736, came to a stated Account, when there was a Balance of 1200 and odd Pounds in his (Banks's) Favour, which Mr. Lawton agreed he would pay in a Fortnight's Time, and he did soon after pay 500 l. to Paxton, who paid Banks 100 l. thereof, and promised soon to pay more. The remaining 700 and odd Pounds have not yet been paid; that he (Banks) did about two Years ago file a Bill against Paxton in Chancery, to bring him to an Account; that in this Bill Mr. Lawton was made a Defendant, and that Lawton, in his Answer did swear, That he detained the 700 l. in his Hands to reimburse himself what was due to him from Paxton, and to secure the 200 l. still unpaid to Mr. Masterman for his Bill.

Mr. Leonard Martin, an Attorney, and Partner with his Father-in-Law, Mr. Paxton, being examined, said, That he has been concerned in several Suits about the Borough of Colchester, and that he had his chief Directions therein from Mr. Daniel, an Attorney at Colchester, tho' Mr. Lawton sometimes interfered, and that soon after Lawton's Death, he received a Letter from Daniel, as annexed in the Appendix, (No. 9.) that he received 133 l. for Fines, to which the Prosecutors were entitled; that he believed he advised with Lawton about framing a Petition to the Treasury for the King's remaining two Thirds of the Fine, that Lawton (who seemed very desirous of Success in the Affair of that Corporation) approved of it, and he believed Lawton might say he would speak about it; that he (Martin) thereon drew the Draught of a Petition, and sent it to Daniel to get it signed, and on its Return he procured a Warrant from the Treasury, directing Paxton to pay him 280 l. that the Warrant was dated the 10th of July 1741, and that he received the Money on the 26th of January last, and did imagine these Prosecutions were with a View of influencing the Election, and to turn the Borough, and to get out the Mayor, and get the returning Officer.

By all this it appears, that the Management of this Affair was lodged in the Hands of Paxton's Partner and Son in-Law, and the Expences attending it were in Part paid by the said Paxton, in Consequence of a Warrant of the Treasury. But tho' your Committee here met with a fresh Instance of the Solicitor of the Treasury intermeddling in Matters relating to Elections; yet they did not think fit to examine him again, having little Reason to expect he would make any Discoveries after the other House had rejected the Bill by which he would have been indemnified. And your Committee cannot determine what could induce the Earl of Orford to continue Paxton in his Office upwards of 11 Years, and to suffer him to defer accounting for any Part of the large Sums, which were from Time to Time issued to him till the 9th of February last, and then to account for two Years only in so precipitate a Manner; but must submit to the Judgment of this House, whether that Indulgence was owing to a criminal Neglect, or to a more criminal Confederacy.

Your Committee now proceed to lay before you a Transaction relating to the Borough of Weymouth.

Mr. Richard Jordan being examin'd, said, That he was Mayor of Weymouth and Melcomb Regis in the Year 1740. That on the 16th Day of June, in that Year, Mr. Pearse and Mr. Olmius came down to Weymouth; that Mr. Pearse applied to him (Jordan) and desired

desired his Vote and Interest for himself and Mr. Olmius, and two others in petto, whom he did not name; and told him at the same Time, That there would be a Letter produced, obliging him, and all the Officers in the Service, to vote for Mr. Pearse and his Friends. That then Mr. Pearse desired him to go with him in private: That when they were alone, Mr. Pearse said he was desirous to have the Corporation filled up, and that a Hall should be call'd for that Purpose. And he further requested, That he (Jordan) would meet him (Mr. Olmius) and some other Friends; but Mr. Jordan refused to meet Mr. Olmius; and then Mr. Pearse left him. That on the 18th of June Mr. Pearse came to his House about Noon, and told him, That if he would come into the Measures of him (Pearse) and his Friends, and fill up the Corporation, in order to have a Returning-Officer, or Words to that Effect, he had it in Commission to say, That he (Jordan) should have the Collection of the Port of Weymouth in a Month's Time, and a Letter from Sir Robert Walpole, under his own Hand, to make good that Promise. Mr. Pearse then went from his House, and returned about Four of the Clock of the same Day, and brought to him a List of such of the Revenue Officers as were to be displaced. He took this List, which was wrote in Pearse's own Hand, and read it over; and after Mr. Pearse was gone, he wrote it down from his own Memory. And it appear'd to your Committee, by this and the subsequent Examinations, that several of the Persons therein nam'd were displaced accordingly. And Mr. Jordan farther said, That on the same Day, as he thinks, Mr. Pearse told him he did not doubt of prevailing on Mr. Charles Taver and Mr. John Carswell, who were Aldermen, and others, that he should wait upon them, and convince them that they were going against their own Interests, the Interest of the Government, and their Duty to His Majesty; and again pressed him (Jordan) to fill up six of the Vacancies with Friends of his (Pearse's) who are most of them since provided for. That he farther told Jordan, That if he was sure of the Returning-Officer, Sir Robert Walpole would send down two other Candidates. That Mr. Pearse soon after went to London, but return'd to Weymouth on the 30th of June, and sent a Message to him (Jordan) by Mr. Richard Arbutnot, desiring to speak with him at Capt. Tizzard's; but he (Jordan) told the Messenger, That Mr. Pearse knew very well where he lived, and he should not go to the Captain's House. That the Messenger reply'd, Mr. Pearse had a Letter from Sir Robert Walpole to shew him. That when Mr. Arbutnot found that he would not go to Mr. Pearse at Capt. Tizzard's, he told him he would go and fetch the Letter, and accordingly went and brought the Letter, which he (Jordan) read, and took it to be address'd to Mr. Pearse; the Purport of which was, That whatever Mr. Pearse promised to him (Jordan) Sir Robert Walpole would make it good; and that Jordan's Brother-in-Law Mr. Franklyn, a Clergyman, should have the first Living that fell, in the Gift of the Crown or the Seals, worth his Acceptance. That with much Persuasion he did meet Mr. Pearse at Mr. Tizzard's Summer House: That Mr. Pearse there shew'd him this Letter again, and told him it was Sir Robert Walpole's Letter, that it was sign'd R. Walpole, and he apprehends it was all wrote in the same Hand with the Signing. That at this Meeting Mr. Pearse told him, You have four Aldermen now absent, I would have you call a Hall, and fill up the Corporation. That he reply'd, He thought Mr. Pearse had been long enough acquainted with him to think, that He would not be prevail'd on by base Means to betray his Friends. And he further said, That on the 19th of September, in the same Year, being two Days before the Election for Mayor came on, a Letter was produced to him from the Commissioners of the Customs, importing, That his Deputation as Land-Waiter was superseded, and Robert, the Brother of Richard Arbutnot, who first brought Sir Robert Walpole's Letter to him, was to succeed him; and he said he had been employ'd in the Custom-House ever since the Year 1712, and had been Land-Waiter in the Port of Weymouth, from the 4th of May 1729, to the Time of his Dismission.

The Reverend Mr. Franklyn being examin'd, said, That on the 1st of July, 1740, Mr. Pearse being then at Weymouth, sent for him to shew him, as he said, how much he had his (Franklyn's) Interest at Heart; but that he was sorry to tell him he was afraid his Brother Jordan would spoil all his Endeavours to serve him, for that Mr. Jordan had promised to come into his (Pearse's) Measures, but now attempted to evade his Promise; but, however, Mr. Pearse, to convince him what a Friend he intended to have been to him, shew'd him a Letter, which was sign'd R. Walpole; the Purport of which was, "You have given me so good a Character of Mr. Jordan, that whatever Preferment you shall think reasonable to offer him, shall be made good: And as for his Brother-in-Law, Mr. Franklyn, he shall have the first Living that he will accept of, which falls in the Gift of the Crown, or the Seals." That Mr. Pearse, at the same time, told him, that he expected his Brother Jordan would call a Hall and fill up the Corporation; which he (Franklyn) took to be to get a Returning-Officer. And Mr. Pearse said, since his Brother Jordan had refused him, that he had nothing now to trust to, unless he (Franklyn) could influence him; that he told Mr. Pearse he did not like the Affair, and would not meddle with it, and Mr. Pearse then reply'd, If fair Means would not do, foul must; and he thought Mr. Pearse explain'd what he meant by foul Means, for he said he must have at their Charter: And he thinks their Charter has been since attack'd; for three Months after, Mr. Pearse attempted to set up a Mayor in a manner contrary to the usual Custom of the Place, and Mr. Pearse's Friends have filed several Informations in the King's Bench against the Corporation.

Thomas Pearse Esq; being examined said, that some time before the last general Election, Mr. Foyeux of Weymouth was sent up to London by his (Pearse's) Friends, with a Scheme for the removal and promotion of several Officers of the Revenue at the Port of Weymouth, without which Alterations, tho' he (Pearse) himself might be chose at the general Election, yet it was impracticable to carry all the four Members. Part of this Scheme was to remove William Clapcott Esq; from being Governor of Portland Castle, and Mr. Richard Tucker from being Receiver of the Hawkers and Pedlars, and Surveyor of the King's Quarries in Portland; which last with the Salary of 500 l. per Annum, and 40 l. for a Clerk, was to be divided between Mr. Tizzard, the then Collector, and Mr. Bryor, which alterations took Place; that Mr. Olmius generally transacted with Sir Robert Walpole every thing about the Election; that he (Pearse) apprehended that all the Removes that were to be made, were with a View to influence the Election; and Mr. Olmius and he went together to Sir Robert Walpole to consult on Measures for carrying on the Election, but he believes that the Scheme was not shewed Sir Robert Walpole, but only talked over with him. He further said, that when he was at Weymouth in the Summer 1740, he was told by Mr. Jordan, the then Mayor, if he was made Collector in the Room of Mr. Tizzard, that he would fill up the Corporation in order to choose a returning Officer against the general Election; but that he (Jordan) would not think of doing any such thing, unless he saw a Letter of it under Sir Robert Walpole's own Hand: That when he came to London he did acquaint Sir Robert with the desire of Mr. Jordan, and he (Pearse) had a Letter from him, the Purport of which was, that whatever Friends Mr. Pearse should recommend, he (Sir Robert Walpole) would endeavour to provide for. That he is well acquainted with Sir Robert Walpole's Hand, and believes the Letter to be of his writing. That Mr. Franklyn, a Clergyman, Brother-in-Law to Mr. Jordan, was particularly mentioned in the Letter. Sir Robert Walpole saying he would use his Endeavours to get him any Living that should become vacant in the Gift of the Crown, or of the Lord Chancellor. That he (Pearse) returned with his Letter to Weymouth, and did shew it to Mr. Franklyn, and he believes to Mr. Jordan, and he thinks it was in a Conversation he had with Jordan in Mr. Tizzard's Summer-house; but that Mr. Jordan flew from the Proposal, saying, Employments might be given one Day and taken away the next; which much surprized him, and in a Day or two he quitted the Borough and came to London. That he did not know but after the Election was over, he might say to Mr. Franklyn, Have at your Charter; that he did not know what was become of Sir Robert Walpole's Letter, but he believed he has since burn'd it. That when he returned from Weymouth, after Mr. Jordan's refusal, he called on Sir Robert Walpole, and told him he had been disappointed in his Scheme; that Sir Robert encouraged him to proceed, and he was told by Mr. Olmius, that Sir Robert Walpole had recommended to him (Olmius,) Mr. Cholmondely, and Mr. Plummer, to join with him (Olmius,) and that he (Pearse) did join with them.

John Olmius Esq; being examined said, that there was a rough Scheme of Alteration in the Officers of the Revenue at Weymouth, which was talked over at Mr. Pearse's, and was intended to facilitate the Election at Weymouth: That the Persons who were mentioned to be advanced, had all Interest in Weymouth; that he and Mr. Pearse were with Sir Robert Walpole to desire that the Surveyor's Place might be given to Mr. Tizzard and Mr. Bryor, but he does not recollect if the whole Scheme was shewed to Sir Robert Walpole or no; nor can he recollect Sir Robert Walpole's Answer about the Scheme; but Sir Robert Walpole was very slow in promoting Tizzard and Bryor. That Mr. Olmius had an old Servant whom he wanted to provide for, and he told Mr. Tizzard and Bryor that as he had so much trouble to get them the Place, he expected they should give his Servant 50 l. per Annum, which they agreed to, but it has not yet been paid; for they have not as yet received their own Salaries. That Sir Robert Walpole said one Day to this Examinant that Colonel Cholmondely and Mr. Plummer were very good Men, on which Mr. Olmius said, he would give them all the Interest he could.

Your Committee find that tho' these Endeavours of the Earl of Orford to influence the Voters of Weymouth, and to procure a proper returning Officer by thus placing and displacing the Officers of the Revenue, did, at that Time, prove ineffectual; yet just before the Election came on, another Attempt was made of the same Nature, tho' with as little Success as before.

For Mr. Ezekiel Pomeroy, Chief Clerk to the Clerk of the Cheque at Deptford, being examined, said, that on or about Monday the 27th of April 1741, Eight or ten Days before the Weymouth Election came on, the Reverend Mr. Morgan came to his House at Deptford, between Five and Six of the Clock in the Morning, and asked him if he was willing to go on a particular Message to Mr. Tucker at Weymouth, which would be of singular Service to Mr. Tucker, as well as to him Pomeroy; that he answered, he was willing to do any Thing which could be any Service either to Mr. Tucker or himself, but that he must have Leave to be absent from Duty: Mr. Morgan told him he was going to Town to wait on Sir Robert Walpole, and he would return as soon as possible; and about Two of the Clock in the Afternoon of the same Day Morgan returned to him again, and told him he had got Leave for him, for Sir Robert Walpole had written a Letter to Sir Jacob Ackworth for Leave, that Sir Robert had enquired much of Morgan, whom Pomeroy was, and if he might be safely depended on: and that Morgan said he had answer'd

to Sir Robert Walpole for his Fidelity; and between three and Four of the Clock in the Afternoon, on the same Day, he (Pomeroy) came to Town with Morgan, who carried him to the Crown-Tavern behind the Exchange, where they met Mr. Olmius, and they three dined together; and after Dinner Mr. Olmius told him (Pomeroy) that he found by Mr. Morgan he was willing to go on a Message to Mr. Tucker; he (Pomeroy) then asked him, what the Message was, and Mr. Olmius told him, if he would go down to Mr. Tucker, and tell him that if he would but agree to take him, Olmius, Mr. Pearse, and another Friend who was not mentioned, he (Olmius) was commissioned by Sir Robert Walpole, to assure him (Tucker) that every Friend of his that had been displaced, should have their Places again, or any others that Mr. Tucker should please to ask; and as for Mr. Tucker himself, he should have any Thing he would be pleas'd to ask; and that if he (Tucker) doubted of the Veracity of the Message, and either he or his Brother would come to Town, they should be fully satisfied of the Truth of it; and that he (Pomeroy) was not to communicate this Message to any Persons, but to the Tuckers, and his (Pomeroy's) Father, who had been Post master, but was then out; upon this he observed to Mr. Olmius, that Mr. Pearse, who was his Patron, was then in Dorsetshire, that he would wonder to see him, and would ask him Questions; and he desired to know if he might be at Liberty to acquaint him, Pearse, with the Message. On this Mr. Olmius said he would write to Mr. Pearse, and he did write a Letter to him, which he gave unseal'd to him, Pomeroy, who read it two or three Times, and it was in Substance as follows.

" Sir, Mr. Pomeroy comes on a special Message from our good Friend S. R. W. (which he, Pomeroy, said he understood to mean Sir Robert Walpole) " which Message he is not to communicate to any body, but those to whom he is sent, therefore ask him no Questions; but be assured that nothing shall be done or transacted but what shall be for your Interest, as well as for that of your humble Servant,

JOHN OLMIUS.

In Consequence of this, he (Pomeroy) set out Post the next Morning, which was on Tuesday, for Weymouth, and arrived there on Wednesday at Nine in the Morning; that he waited on Mr. Tucker, and found him and his Brother both together; he told them the Particulars of the Message from Mr. Olmius, and he was answer'd by Mr. Tucker, that a Proposal of that kind was absolutely too late, that his Word and Honour was engaged, and he would not go from it for any Consideration. He farther said, that Mr. Tucker asked him if he had brought any Letter from Sir Robert Walpole, to which he said, No. He farther said, that Mr. Morgan and Mr. Olmius had often told him, that if Mr. Tucker and his Friends refused to agree with Mr. Olmius, and join their Interest to his, it would be the total Ruin of Mr. Tucker and his Brother, and the Overthrow of the Charter.

John Olmius Esq; being again examined, and not recollecting several Things which had been mentioned by Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Pomeroy was called in, and he repeated the same Evidence which he had before given, and the Minutes taken by the Clerk of that Evidence were also read in the presence of Mr. Olmius, who then recollecting himself confirmed the same: And further said, that he did communicate to Sir Robert Walpole his Intention to send a Message to Mr. Tucker; that he told him he had got Mr. Pomeroy, who was a Relation of Mr. Tucker's, to go down to use his Interest with him; that Sir Robert said, by all Means do. That he told Sir Robert Walpole, that if Mr. Tucker came to Town, in Consequence thereof, his (Sir Robert's) Assistance would be necessary for the replacing of Mr. Tucker's Friends; that Sir Robert Walpole said, it was a very good Thought, that he would do every Thing that lay in his Power to serve him and his Friends; and that this was the Substance of what passed between them.

The Reverend Mr. John Morgan being examined, and not readily recollecting some Circumstances mentioned by Mr. Pomeroy, he was order'd to attend the Committee with Mr. Pomeroy, who then repeating what he (Pomeroy) formerly said in his Examination, Mr. Morgan did then agree, that the principal Part of what he (Pomeroy) asserted to have passed between them, was true; and further and particularly said, that Sir Robert Walpole did write a Letter in his presence to one of the Commissioners of the Navy, for Leave for Pomeroy to be absent, which Letter he (Morgan) carried to Sir Jacob Ackworth.

To such notorious Attacks as these upon the Freedom of Elections, your Committee apprehend, are owing the great, and possibly unwarrantable Expences that particular Persons may have been drove to engage in. Some Expences the Laws allow, by regulating the manner of them; and those who engage in illicit Expences are subject to heavy penal Laws; but there are none particularly adapted to the Case of a Minister who clandestinely employs the Money of the Publick, and the whole Power and profitable Employments that attend the collecting and disposing of it, against the People; and by this Profusion, and criminal Distribution of Offices, in some measure, justifies the Expence that particular Persons are obliged to be at, by making it necessary to the Preservation of all that is valuable to a Free Nation. For in that Case the Contest is plain and visible. It is, Whether the Commons shall retain the Third State in their own Hands, whilst this whole Dispute is

carried on at the Expence of the People, and on the Side of the Minister, out of the Money granted to support and secure the Constitutional Independency of the Three Branches of the Legislature.

This Method of Corruption is as sure, and therefore your Committee apprehends as criminal a Way of subverting the Constitution, as by an armed Force. It is a Crime productive of a total Destruction of the very Being of this Government; and is so high and unnatural, that nothing but the Powers of Parliament reach it; and as it can never meet with Parliamentary Animadversions, but when it is unsuccessful, it must seek for its Security in the Extent and Efficacy of the Mischief it produces; and therefore your Committee apprehend it is the more necessary for your Consideration, while it wants of Success, yet leaves an Opportunity to preserve and maintain your Independency for the future.

Your Committee now proceed to lay before you the Conduct of the Earl of Orford, with relation to the Quantity and Manner of issuing and receiving that Part of the publick Money, granted for the Support of the Civil Government, which has been employed in what is commonly called Secret Service.

Your Committee having been informed, that this Money had been issued under three different Denominations, called for an Account hereunto annexed, (No. 10.) of all the Sums issued for Secret Service, or for his Majesty's immediate or special Service, (the Money issued to his Majesty's privy Purse excepted) or to reimburse Expences during the last ten Years in which Robert Earl of Orford was first Commissioner of the Treasury, &c. And the Account having been laid before them from the Auditor of the Exchequer's Office, there appeared to be issued under these three Heads only, including the annual Sum of 3000 l. paid to each of the Secretaries of State for Secret Services, the Sum of 1,453,400 l. 6 s. 3 d.

The issuing such an immense Part of the Money, given for the Support of the Civil Government, to these particular Uses, during a Time of profound Tranquility, till the late Rupture with Spain, greatly alarmed your Committee, and put them upon examining what Sums had been issued for the same Services in a former Period of the like Number of Years. And your Committee beg Leave to represent to you that exorbitant as this Sum may seem, they would have suppressed this Part of their Report, if, by the Comparison they had entered upon, they could any ways have reconciled their Silence upon this Head, to their Duty to this House, and the Nation; and your Committee hope, that the Period they have pitched upon, will evince the Truth of this Intention, as it comprehends a general and most expensive War abroad, a Demise of the Crown, the happy Establishment of the present Royal Family upon the Throne, and an open and dangerous Rebellion at home; in short, every Event that can happen to justify extraordinary Expences in carrying on the Business of Government. And it is not easy to express the Surprise of your Committee, when they found by an Account laid before them, which is annexed, (No. 11.) that from the 1st Day of August 1707, to the 1st Day of August 1717, there was issued under the aforesaid Heads, no more than the Sum of 337,960 l. 4 s. 5 d. Halfpenny.

Your Committee observing, that the Solicitors of the Treasury for the Time being, are the only Persons to whom any of these Sums have been issued that are accountable for the same; and there having been issued to Mr. Paxton, the present Solicitor, 68,800 l. in the last ten Years, in which the Earl of Orford was first Commissioner of the Treasury, and the Sum of 58,516 l. 2 s. 10 d. to Mr. Borret, and Mr. Cratcherde, successively Solicitors, between the 1st of August 1707, and the 1st of August 1717. These Sums subtracted from their respective Totals, the Remainder will be 1,384,600 l. 6 s. 3 d. issued for Secret Services, during the last ten Years, and 279,444 l. 1 s. 7 d. Halfpenny, issued for the like Services from the Year 1707, to the Year 1717; by which it appears, that the Sum expended on these Services during the last ten Years, amounts to near Five Times as much as what was expended for the same Services in the ten Years ending the 1st of August 1717; and your Committee cannot see that any Exigency of Affairs, any Diminution of the National Debt, or Accession of Wealth to the Nation, has happened to justify such Profusion.

And though your Committee very well apprehend, that no Form of Government can subsist, without a Power of employing publick Money for Services, which are, in their Nature, secret, and ought always to remain so; yet when such exorbitant Sums are issued for those Services, as by passing through the Hands of a Minister, may become dangerous to the Liberties of the People, your Committee thought themselves indispensably obliged to lay it before you, in all the Lights which the very imperfect Evidence they have been able to procure, can throw upon this nice and dangerous Branch of Service.

Your Committee now proceed to lay before you the Proofs that the Money issued under the Three Heads of Secret Service, of Special Service, and to Reimburse Expences, were understood to mean one and the same Thing.

Christopher Tilson, Esq; a Clerk in the Treasury, and who came into that Office in the Year 1684, said on his Examination, "That he look'd on all these Monies to be of the same Nature; that they are all without Account, except as to what relates to the Solicitor of the Treasury, nor is there any Entry in the Treasury of the Application of any of these Sums of Money."

John

John Shepherd, A Deputy-messenger of the Treasury, who has received very large Sums under each of these Three Heads, being examined, said, "That the Warrants upon which he received Money at the Exchequer under any of these Three Heads, whether in his own Name, or in the Name of other Persons, were all without Account, and that he made no Distinction, whether the Orders were for Special, or Secret Service, or to Reimburse Expences."

But your Committee observe, that all the Money issued under the Head of Secret Service, is issued in the Name of John Scrope, Esq; Secretary of the Treasury; but the Orders for the Sums which were issued under the Heads of Special Service, or to Reimburse Expences, are payable to Mr. Lowther, Mr. Richards, and Mr. Shepherd, Messengers of the Exchequer, and to a great Variety of other Names, for which Sums no Receipts appear to have been given; but none of those to whose Names these Orders are payable, under either of these Three Heads, appear to have any Interest in the Sums thus issued.

And your Committee have the greatest Reason to believe, that many of the Orders for this Money were issued unknown to the Persons to whom they were made payable; for Mr. George Campbell, Banker, in the Strand, did, on his Examination before the Committee, declare, "That he was desired by the Earl of Ilay to go to the Treasury, and take up an Order which he would there find issued in his own Name, and to carry it to the Earl of Orford; that he accordingly went to the Treasury, where he received from one of the Clerks an Order for the Sum of 2231 l. 4 s. 6 d. for Special Service; that he carried this Order to the Earl of Orford, and indors'd it; and then the said Earl desired the Examinant to leave it for him at the Treasury; that he accordingly did leave it at the Treasury with Mr. Lowe, one of the Clerks; that being at the Treasury about some other Affairs, in February last, he accidentally saw an Order that was made out in his Name for a Sum of Money, which he believes had been signed two or three Days before, but that he had no Notice from the Earl of Ilay, or any other Person, that such an Order would be made out in his Name."

And Mr. Abraham Farley being examined in Relation to an Order in his Name for 1200 l. said, "That about the Month of January 1736, Mr. Lawton told him, there was an Order made out in his Name, and bid him go and receive it; that he did receive it, but not for his own Use; for he paid it over immediately to Mr. Lawton, and that he did not know what Lawton did with it, nor did he (Farley) know that any such Order was made out, till Mr. Lawton told him of it, and sent him to receive it."

And Mr. Edward Bryant, formerly under Door-keeper to the Treasury, and now Messenger, being examined before the Committee, in relation to two Orders, one for 3961 l. 6 s. 8 d. and the other for 2700 l. which were issued in his Name, said, "That Mr. Tilton called him to indorse those Orders; which he accordingly did, and then gave them to Mr. Tilton; and that this is all that he knew about it, for he never did receive the Money for those, or for any other Orders at the Exchequer, nor does he know who did."

And your Committee also observe, that there have been a great Number of other Orders, which do not appear to have been communicated to the Persons whose Names were made use of therein (if any such Persons there were) altho' their Names were indorsed on the Back of the respective Orders, as having received the Amount of the Sums therein specified; for a List of Persons in whose Names Money was issu'd during the Term of the Enquiry, lying before the Committee, many of these Names were read over, (a List of which is annexed No. 12.) to Mr. Tilson, Mr. Fane, and Mr. Shepherd, and they all declar'd they knew no such Person, tho' Mr. Shepherd in particular had received money on many of these Orders, and said, "He has wonder'd he never saw the Persons who indorsed for large Sums." And tho' neither Mr. Tilson, Mr. Fane, nor Mr. Shepherd knew who these Orders were indorsed by, yet Mr. Fane said, "That such Orders where the Persons were not known, have been sometimes taken away by the Earl of Orford, and other Lords of the Treasury, to be indorsed; and that they have often been sent away to be indorsed, and when they were thus sent away, it was generally to the Earl of Orford."

In the next Place, your Committee lay before you, That though they have the greatest Reason to believe, that the whole Sum of 1,384,600 l. 6 s. 3 d. (excepting the annual Allowance to the Secretaries of State for Secret Service) was under the sole Direction and Disposition of the Earl of Orford; yet in order to proceed with the utmost Care and Caution, they think it becomes them to distinguish to the House those Sums which they can trace into the Hands of particular Persons, from those which were evidently lodged with the said Earl, or with Mr. Scrope, Secretary to the Treasury, and which your Committee have the strongest Reason to believe, from collateral Proofs, (having not been able to obtain the direct ones) were deliver'd over by Mr. Scrope to the said Earl.

And they begin with Mr. Lowther, to whom the Sum of 177,610 l. 11 s. 6 d. has been issued within the Term of the Enquiry, which has been disposed of by him, from Time to Time, pursuant to Minutes of the Treasury, and he has paid in that Interval no less a Sum than 50,077 l. 18 s. to Authors and Printers of News-papers, such as Free-Briton, Daily-

Daily-Courants, Persuasions to Candour and Impartiality, Corncutter's Journal, Gazetteers, and other political Papers, as appears by the Appendix (No. 13.) And your Committee leave it to the Judgment of the House, whether this particular Sum was less under the Direction of the Earl of Orford than if it had paid through his own Hands.

The next Sum to be ranged under this Head is a Sum of 30,119 l. 00 s. 4 d. which has been paid to Mr. Middleton, Banker in the Strand, on the Earl of Ilay's Account, being 27,769 l. 4 s. issued in his own Name, and 2350 l. paid him by Shepherd. Mr. Middleton being examined, said, "That all the Sums issued in his own Name, and what was paid him by Shepherd, was received by him on the Earl of Ilay's Account, out of which about 1500 l. was paid for Fees: That the Earl of Ilay has kept Cash with him for several Years; and that he keeps no Account of these Sums of Money distinct from his general Cash-Account with the Earl of Ilay, and that these Sums were drawn out of his Hands in the same manner with the rest of the Earl of Ilay's private money. That perhaps 5 or 6000 l. per Annum of the Earl of Ilay's money may have pass'd thro' this Examinant's Hands; that this Examinant cannot charge his Memory that any large Sums were drawn out at any Time, except for Purchases and buying of India Bonds; nor has this Examinant remitted any Money into Scotland for Lord Ilay, nor does he remember that Lord Ilay has drawn on him from Scotland for more than one Sum, which was about 400 l. payable to a Merchant; nor did any Persons come to him for Money, according to the best of his memory, but Servants and Tradesmen".

In the next place, your Committee lay before you an Account of a Sum issued for his Majesty's Service, which tho' in itself not considerable enough to deserve the Attention of the House, yet is accompany'd with such Circumstances as make it their indispensable Duty to take particular Notice of it.

For Mr. John Lever, High-Bailiff of the City of Westminster, having incur'd the Displeasure of this House, by acting at the general Election in an illegal and arbitrary Manner, in prejudice of the Rights and Liberty of the Electors of the said City, and in manifest Violation of the Freedom of Elections; and being in Custody of the Serjeant at Arms attending this House for the said Offence, your Committee find that 1500 l. issued under the Head of Money to reimburse Expences for his Majesty's Service, was (during his being in Custody) apply'd to the Use of the said Lever; for John Shepherd said, "That Mr. Scrope sent for him, and pulled out of his Pocket an Order for 1500 l. which was in his (Shepherd's) Name, and told him he must carry it to Sir Charles Wager and endorse it, and leave it with Sir Charles; that he went accordingly to Sir Charles, took the Order of him a gain, pass'd it as usual, and receiv'd the Money, and deliver'd the 1500 l. Nett-money, into Sir Charles's own Hands." And Francis Galsbery, a Member of this House, being examin'd, said, That Sir Charles Wager told him, that he was in Expectation of getting some Money for Mr. Lever, the High-Bailiff of Westminster. And when he (Galsbery) one Day return'd from the Navy-Board, Sir Charles told him, that in his Absence 1500 l. had been brought him by one of the Treasury, and Sir Charles desired him to take the Money and pay it to Mr. Lever; and that he receiv'd the 1500 l. from Sir Charles the 2d of January last, and has since paid it to the Use of the said Lever, as will more fully appear by his Examination hereunto annexed (No. 14.)

Besides these Sums there are two other Sums of 428 l. 12 s. and 2,110 l. 13 s. to be added to this Account, issued to Mr. le Heup, which he said were to answer Bills drawn from abroad. These Sums already mentioned, together with the Money issued to the Secretaries of State for Secret Service, are all the Money which your Committee has been able to trace into the Hands of particular Persons, and amount in the whole to the Sum of 271,769 l. 0 s. 6 d. and this being taken from the Sum of 1,384,600 l. 6 s. 3 d. the whole issued under the three Heads for Secret Service, there remains the Sum of 1,112,831 l. 5 s. 9 d. which Sum your Committee conceive they have traced more immediately into the Hands of the Earl of Orford or Mr. Scrope, and do now proceed to lay the Proofs thereof before you, as also the Circumstances which induced them to believe that whatever Sums were paid into the Hands of Mr. Scrope, were by him paid over to the Earl of Orford.

They first observe, that this last Sum of 1,112,831 l. 5 s. 9 d. hath either been issued under the Head of Secret Service in the Name of Mr. Scrope, or under the Heads of special Service, and to reimburse Expences in the Names of Richards, Shepherd, and others, the greatest Part of which hath been received at the Exchequer by Shepherd or his Predecessor Richards.

For John Shepherd being examined said, "That he has received at the Exchequer several Sums of money by Orders made out in his own Name, and other Sums by Orders made out in the Names of Persons unknown to him; and that he has generally received the Secret Service-money which is in Mr. Scrope's Name: That the Orders for these Sums were generally given to him by Mr. Fane, or Mr. Scrope, and sometimes by Mr. Tilson, or an under Clerk, but chiefly by Mr. Fane, and that he usually repaid the money when he had received it, to those from whom he received the Order, unless they particularly directed him to pay it to other Persons; and that all his Warrants were without Account; and he made no Distinction whether the Orders were in his own Name or in Mr. Scrope's, or in unknown Names; nor whether for special, or Secret Service, or to reimburse Expences: That he has sometimes paid money which he has thus received to the Earl of Orford; and

and this has sometimes been the Secret Service-money which is in Mr. Scrope's Name, amounting to 5, 6, 7, or 8,000 l. at a time; and that he has paid him likewise money that was issued in his (Shepherd's) Name, but that he has not made these Payments often; and that what he had been employed in had been formerly done by Mr. Richards; but when Mr. Richards died it was put on him (Shepherd.)"

Mr. Tilson being examined said, "That he has had Secret Service-money brought to him, but that he never did receive any money at the Exchequer himself, Shepherd always brought it to him; but that he has always delivered all Moneys he has received, whether for Secret Service, Special Service, or to reimburse Expences, to Mr. Fane, Mr. Scrope, or the Earl of Orford: That he has, to be sure, paid very considerable Sums of Secret Service-money to the Earl of Orford, but has no way of ascertaining by Book what he has paid, the Transition was so quick."

Henry Fane Esq; a Clerk of the Treasury said, "That he has received verbal Orders from the Earl of Orford to prepare Warrants for the King to Sign, and to bring to him, the said Earl, the Money. That Sums of Money for Secret Service have been frequently put into his Hands, which were sometimes brought him by a Messenger; and that he delivered this Money either to the Earl of Orford, himself, or to Mr. Scrope, to carry it to the said Earl. That when he gave it to Mr. Scrope, it was for him to carry to the Earl of Orford, and he believes all such Sums came into the said Earl's Hands, excepting some trifling Sums of 40 or 50 l. which he has paid to others. That he has paid many Sums to the said Earl, but kept no Account; nor could he recollect the particular Sums he has thus paid. That what he has received and paid, and what he has acted in these Affairs was by the said Earl of Orford's Directions, either from himself, or signified to him by Mr. Scrope; and he does not know that any other Lord of the Treasury has ever given him Directions for either receiving or paying any Secret Service-Money,

And he further said, that the Orders he has received to prepare Warrants upon the three Heads of Secret Service, Special Service, or to reimburse Expences for his Majesty's Service, have been either directly from Lord Orford himself, or from other Persons who signified to him that those Orders were from Lord Orford."

Your Committee next observe, that the Sum issued in Mr. Scrope's Name for Secret Service, during the time of the Enquiry, amounts to 815,819 l. 5 s. 2 d. And there has been issued in the Name of Shepherd, within the same time, exclusive of what he paid to Mr. Middleton, and Sir Charles Wager, the Sum of 78,633 l. 14 s. 2 d. and in the Name of Richards, 45,546 l. 18 s. 6 d. and out of 32 Orders in various Names, which the Committee called for, 26 of them, amounting to the Sum of 119,211 l. 8 s. 4 d. appear to have been received by Shepherd; for he said he always signed them on the Back, as a Witness when they were not in his own Name. These Sums, thus issued in the Names of Mr. Scrope, Shepherd, Richards, and of other Persons received by Shepherd, amount in the whole to 1,059,211 l. 6 s. 2 d. And this Sum your Committee think they have traced into the Hands of the Earl of Orford, or Mr. Scrope, who, Mr. Fane believes, carried all he received to the said Earl. There is still wanting to make up the Sum of 1,112,831 l. 5 s. 9 d. the Sum of 53,619 l. 19 s. 7 d. And this last Sum hath been issued, by Orders, six of which, amounting to 23,650 l. were in Names not known, and witnessed by Persons belonging to the Treasury, tho' not by Shepherd; and the Remainder were generally for such small Sums, that your Committee did not think it necessary to enter into a more minute Examination about them.

It further appears to your Committee, that, besides the Sum of 1,453,400 l. 6 s. 3 d. already mentioned, there has been paid in the ten Years preceding the 10th of February last, the Sum of 45,675 l. without Account to the Society of the Post-Office for the Time being, as by an Account hereunto annexed, (No. 15.) by virtue of a Warrant from the Treasury; and this for a Service formerly inconsiderable. Your Committee find, by Papers laid before them, that the first Payment of this kind was in the Year 1718, and amounted to 446 l. 2 s. 0 d, and the succeeding Payments for some Years were about 750 l. per Annum, from whence it has gradually increased to 4700 l. the present annual Allowance; and the present Secretary, John David Barbutt, Esq; being examined as to this Allowance, said, that the greatest Part of this Money is for defraying the Expence of a private Office for the inspecting foreign Correspondence; that he cannot say as to the first Establishment of this Office, having been but three Years and an half in the Post-Office; but he apprehends there was always an Office of this kind, and that it was defrayed formerly by the Secretaries of the State. The Establishment in this Office seemed so extraordinary to your Committee, that they have added the Particulars, as contained in the Examination of Mr. Barbutt, hereunto annexed, (No. 16.) Your Committee can but observe, that this Method of giving Warrants for Money, without Account on the Offices, where any Part of the Civil List Revenue is received, is highly irregular, as it tends to disguise the Sums issued for secret Service, and may conceal the Amount of the Revenue itself; for if the Sums paid by such Warrants are deduced from the Receipt of the Revenue before it is accounted for, and the Ballance only paid into the Exchequer, the Revenue must appear to be less by so much as the Deductions amount to.

Your



Your Committee now proceed to lay before you the last Transactions of the Earl of Orford, as first Commissioner of the Treasury; by which it will appear, that, beside the vast Sums they have already mentioned, he not only exhausted the Remains of the public Treasury, which his former Profusion had left in the Exchequer, but even presumed to anticipate the Revenues of his Majesty's Civil-List for a considerable Sum, and by altering the regular Course of Exchequer-Payments, did avail himself of that Anticipation, and got a large Sum of Money into his own Hands, disguised under three different Orders. For on the 9th of February last, which was but two Days before he quitted his Employments, Orders were signed by him for the Payment of 23,641 l. 7 s. 6 d. for Secret Service, and to reimburse Expences, besides two other Orders payable out of the Civil-List Revenues, which he signed on the same Day, for 5047 l. 16 s. 3 d. halfpenny, there being then other Orders in the said Revenue, standing out and uncompleted with; for the Sum of 1562 l. 9 s. 8 d. amounting in the whole to the Sum of 30,257 l. 12 s. 11 d. halfpenny, notwithstanding, that on that Day there was but 14,284 l. 17 s. three Farthings in the Exchequer, applicable to the Uses of his Majesty's Civil Government, as appeared to your Committee, by a State laid before them of the Cash of the Civil-List-Revenues, on that Day; and in order to shew the Irregularity which the said Earl was guilty of in the Course of this Affair, it is necessary to lay before the House, an Account of the regular Course of Payment at the Exchequer.

John Shepherd being examined, said, That the Course of receiving Money in the Exchequer, is thus: The King issues his Sign Manual for a certain Sum, which is counter-signed by the Lords of the Treasury, and thereon the Lords of the Treasury direct a Warrant, signed by them to the Auditor of the Exchequer, who, on the Receipt of it, makes out an Order, signifying, That Order is taken that Payment shall be made; this Order is sent to the Treasury, and signed by the Lords; and then one of the Secretaries of the Treasury signs a Letter to the Auditor, directing the Money to be issued when the before-mentioned Sign Manual, Warrant and Order, are produced; that these Instruments, together with the Letter, are carried to the Auditor, who directs the Payment of the Order to one of the Tellers, and then sends it to the Clerk of the Pells, in order to its being recorded, but keeps the Sign Manual and the Warrant till the next Morning, when, upon applying to him, he delivers them up to the Person who is to receive the Money, who carries them to the Clerk of the Pells, where they are compared with the Order, and then the Clerk of the Pells writes them upon the Order, under the Auditor's Direction, recorded such a Day; then the Order being carried to the Tellers, the Money is paid.

By this it appears, that, according to the regular Course of the Exchequer, there must be many Steps thro' the different Offices between the issuing of the Warrant, and the Receipt of the Money from the Tellers, which were not observed in the Case of the Sum, which the Earl of Orford did, on the 9th of February, get into his own Hands; for it appears, that this Sum was received in Consequence of two Warrants, issued in the Name of Mr. Scrope, for Secret Services, one for 8442 l. and the other for 5969, and one other Warrant, issued in the Name of Shepherd, for Special Service, for 3050, and was paid to the Earl of Orford on the very Day the Warrants were signed by him the said Earl. This was effected by depositing the Orders with the Bank Officer at the Exchequer, before they were properly directed by the Auditor for Mr. Matthew Collet, the principal Bank-Clerk, who attends at the Exchequer; and being examined, said, That he paid the Money for those Orders to Mr. Fane, on Tuesday the 9th of February last, that the Orders were not directed by the Auditor, till the 11th of February following, and he did not receive the Sums for those Orders at the Exchequer, till the 17th; and Mr. Fane being examined, said, That he received on the 9th of February last the three Sums of 8442 l. of 5969 l. and 3050 l. as Secret Service Money. That it was from the Bank-Officer that he received this Money, and left the Orders with him, and that the same Day, between the Hours of 11 and 1, he paid them altogether in one Payment to the Earl of Orford in his Closet at his House in Downing-Street; That he took his Directions from the said Earl, to prepare the Warrants for these three Sums, and was at the same Time ordered to bring the Money to him; and he being again further examined, said, That on the Thursday preceeding the Earl of Orford's Resignation of his Employments, being the 4th of February, Mr. Scrope ordered Mr. Fane, to draw a Warrant for a Pension of 4000 l. per Annum, to Lord Orford, during the joint Lives of the King, and of the Earl, which he accordingly did, and gave it to Mr. Scrope, who returned it him the next Day, and said, the Earl of Orford had perused it, and approved of it with some immaterial Alterations; and when it was wrote fair, Mr. Scrope took it again, and, as Mr. Fane believes, left it with the Earl of Orford.

It appears to your Committee, that one of the other Orders, sign'd by the said Earl on the 9th of February, was for 2000 l. payable to Major Forth, under the Head of reimbursing Expences for his Majesty's Service.

And Major Forth being examin'd, said, That he advanc'd a Sum of Money to the Duke of Bolton, for which he was to receive 7000 l. at 1000 l. each half Year; and that the Duke draws a Bill, directed to Sir Robert Walpole, which runs thus: "I desire you will pay to Major Forth 1000 l. or his Order, every half Year, for three Years and a Half, to commence from Lady-Day last, Value receiv'd, 16th May 1738." That Sir

Sir Robert Walpole verbally accepted this Bill, but would not indorse it: That he has receiv'd 5000 l. at five different Payments, from Sir Robert Walpole's own Hands in Bank-Notes; and that Lord Orford told him, about the 9th of February last, That a Warrant was sign'd for the 2000 l. unpaid, which was the first Order that had pass'd through the Treasury.

Your Committee being further desirous to inform themselves in what Manner the vast Sums issued for Secret Service were accounted for to His Majesty, sent for Mr. Tilson, who being examin'd, said, That when His Majesty sign'd a Sign Manual for the paying of any Sum of Money to Mr. Scrope, for Secret Service, he also sign'd at the same Time a Receipt to Mr. Scrope for the same Sum, but that there was always a Blank left for the Date, and the Dates are at the same Time put in at the Treasury to the Warrant, the Order, the Sign Manual, and the King's Receipt; and this is usually done by the Entering-Clerk, who wrote the Sign Manual, that it may all appear in the same Hand: That the Date of the Receipt is always made the same as the Date of the Order. And he produc'd to your Committee a Paper, the Copy whereof is here insert'd, and is as follows:

"GEORGE R.

"We acknowledge to have receiv'd of our trusty and well-beloved John Scrope, Esq; the Sum of 5969 l. being the same Sum, which in Pursuance of an Order, bearing Date this Day, was issued to him, at the Receipt of Our Exchequer for Our Secret Service. Given at Our Court of St. James's, the 9th of February 1741, in the 15th Year of Our Reign."

"GEORGE R.

"Examined. ORFORD."

And your Committee being inform'd, That the Paper deliver'd by Mr. Tilson was the Hand-writing of Mr. Thomas Wilkins, sent for him; and he being examin'd, said, That the said Paper was his Hand-writing, and was by him copied from a Paper deliver'd to him by Mr. Tilson, and which he believ'd was an Original: That he has never seen the King write, but he has seen many Sign Manuals, and he thinks there was the same Hand to that Paper: That he has never seen the Earl of Orford write, but what was to the Paper, he copied, was like what he had seen for the Earl of Orford's Hand: That he believes the Copy he made was not examin'd, but he copied it exactly, Word for Word, and took the Sums and Dates exactly, and believes it was a true Copy.

Your Committee cannot but observe, That this Receipt is for one of those very Sums which Mr. Fane receiv'd by Anticipation of the Bank-Officer, the 9th of February, and was not really issued at the Receipt of the Exchequer till the 17th of February, and never went into the Hands of Mr. Scrope, but was immediately carried to Lord Orford.

Your Committee were at a Loss to know, what was meant by those Words, Examined, ORFORD, it being impossible to mean the witnessing to His Majesty's Receipt of it from Mr. Scrope on that Day; for Mr. Scrope never had the Money; and therefore could not pay it in to His Majesty's Hands, as that would imply. Nor have your Committee been able to inform themselves, whether or no this is conformable to any antient and regular Way of discharging Persons for the Receipt of such Sums, or a modern Invention.

And in order to clear up this, and other Matters of far greater Importance, your Committee apply'd to the House for Leave to examine John Scrope, Esq; in consequence whereof he did attend on the 4th of June, instant, when he did acquaint the Committee, That he had read the Oath and found it to be a strong one, and desir'd the Opinion of the Committee how he was to behave: That if they intended to examine him about the Secret Service-money, he doubted he could not answer without having his Majesty's Leave: And he said he was tender of doing any thing that might leave a Stain upon his Character: And he believes he can give no Information to the Committee more than what they have already got. And then he withdrew. And then Mr. Scrope was again call'd in, and the Chairman inform'd him, That the Committee had consider'd of what he had said, and he was directed to acquaint him, that they did not think themselves to be in a Situation to direct or advise in the Affair; but the Committee desir'd to know, whether he would submit to take the Oath or not? To which Mr. Scrope answer'd, I hope you will give me Time to consider of it, as being a Matter of great Consequence; and then he withdrew: Upon which the Committee appointed him to attend on the 14th instant June; on which Day he did accordingly attend, and your Committee being inform'd, that he desir'd to speak with the Chairman and the Committee, he was call'd in and ask'd, What he had to say?

Whereupon Mr. Scrope said, He was extremely sorry that he should give the Committee so much Trouble, for he did assure them, that his Refusal was not premeditated, for he came the other Day resolv'd to take the Oath, tho' he had then Doubts if he should answer in what related to Secret Service-money, and he thought he might have made his Objections, when he was examin'd, to it; and accordingly began to take the Oath; but when he came to the general Words, he found them to be so strong, and general, that he doubted if he should not be guilty of Perjury, if he should take the Oath and not answer.

That he had improved the Time the Committee had been so kind to give him, and had consulted with the ablest Lawyers and Divines, and they have made his Scruples stronger; and that he did not do it to obstruct the Enquiry, but could not as an honest Man, and

with a safe Conscience, take the Oath; that he had laid his Case before the King, and was authorized to say, "That the Disposal of money issu'd for Secret-service, by the Nature of it, requires the utmost Secrecy, and is accounted for to His Majesty only, and therefore His Majesty could not permit him to disclose any Thing on that Subject."

That he had well considered with himself, and consulted other Persons, and thinks he should be criminal if he took a general Oath, when there were particular Questions which he did not intend to answer; that he hoped he should not incur the Displeasure of the Committee, for if the Oath was confined, he was ready to be examined.

Which Behaviour of Mr. Scrope greatly surpriz'd your Committee, considering the Information they had received from the many Papers relating to the Secret-service, which had been laid before them, and from the Examination of the Messengers, and the most knowing and active Clerks in the Office where he is Secretary.

Mr. Scrope having thus refused to answer to this material Part of this Enquiry, your Committee beg Leave to observe, that those Sums which are specify'd to be for Secret-service, and which have always been issu'd in Mr. Scrope's Name, are the only money for which His Majesty gives a Receipt, and may therefore be all that the Crown conceives to be issu'd without Account; for the specious Titles of Special-service, and to reimburse Expences, seem, from the very Phrase, to imply some Account; and what is issu'd to the Solicitor of the Treasury, under the Head of reimbursing Expences, is actually accounted for, so that His Majesty may possibly be led to believe, that all the money issu'd under these Heads is accounted for, as he gives no Receipt for the same; and that it may happen, that by the Artifice of a Minister, such Sums of money may be issu'd under the Heads of Special-service, and to reimburse Expences, as may endanger the publick Liberty, while the Crown may be ignorant of the same, and by attending only to what is specified to be for Secret Service, may believe that Service is kept within reasonable Bounds.

These are the most remarkable Particulars that your Committee think proper to lay before you, relating to the Head of Secret-service, which, if it be considered either by Comparison, or by its Consequences, either by the Sum, or the manner of its Issue and Receipt, are equally exorbitant, dangerous, and destructive.

If it be considered by the gross Comparison, then it stands as above; as 1,384,600 l. 6s. 3d. to 279,444 l. 1s. 7d. Halfpeny; if by descending into Particulars, then it will appear, that the two remarkable Years 1733 and 1734, amount to 312,128 l. 19s. 7d. being considerably more than the Total of the whole Ten Years, from 1707 to 1717.

And what is most astonishing, the Demands for Secret Service, in the six Weeks immediately preceding the Resignation of the Earl of Orford, amount to more than the whole Expence, upon that Head, in the Three Years ending August 1710; and the Draughts upon the Exchequer for that Use, in one Day only, being the 9th Day of February last (the last indeed he sat at the Treasury) amount to a greater Sum than was issued for that Service, in any one of the aforementioned Three Years, so gloriously distinguished by repeated Victories.

And if the Consequences of this Profusion be considered, what can they be, but the Alteration of a Government, which so lately was supported in that Branch for one fifth Part of the Expence upon the medium of the ten Years. Your Committee have informed you how the Power, the Influence, the Offices of the Government have been employed by him towards violating the Freedom of your Elections; and they apprehend they have just Grounds to suspect that Part of these immense Sums have been expended for the same most pernicious Purpose; and the rather when they consider from what Question the obstinate Silence of Paxton took its Rise, as also what Sums have been given towards the defraying the Expences of the new Charter at Radnor, and to carry on the Prosecutions at Colchester, as also the strong Probability of the same Practice being carried on with regard to the Borough of Orford; besides the remarkable Sum to Lever, as a Reward to a most unjust returning Officer, censur'd by, and actually under the Punishment of Parliament, as a Violator of the Liberties of his Country.

Nor are the Apprehensions of your Committee at all lessened when they consider the manner of issuing and receiving these great Sums: For here they find the regular Course and Order of the Exchequer was, on the 9th of February last, overturned by pawning the Orders to a Bank-Man for immediate Payment, by which Means the Earl of Orford got 17,461 l. into his own Hands, one of the last Days he remained in the Treasury, which was disguis'd in three Warrants, and was much more than there actually was in the Exchequer applicable to the Uses of the Civil Government.

They also find the Sums issued under the two Heads of Special Services, and to reimburse Expences for his Majesty's Service, tho' they seem to imply open and determinate Uses, yet they are issued without Receipt from his Majesty as well as without Account, except what relates to the Solicitor of the Treasury; so that it is possible the Sums under these two Heads, amounting to 508,781 l. 1s. 1d. may be issued and employed for Uses, which the Crown itself may look upon as no ways making Part of the Article of Secret Service; and if a profuse and designing Minister should by these Means get a Power of squandering such vast Sums of Secret Service upon his own arbitrary Designs, while the Crown may be misled to imagine that this Branch of the Government is carried on at a moderate and justifiable Expence, your Committee apprehend that the King may be impoverished, the Civil List exhausted, the just Debts unpaid, and the People in Consequence loaded with new Burthens to replace that Profusion which may be so dangerous to their Liberties.

Your Committee have now laid before you the Conduct of the Earl of Orford, with relation to the Payment of the Troops, the Freedom of your Elections, and the Quantity as well as Manner and Consequence of issuing and receiving the Publick Money, supposed to be employed for the Secret Services of the State, notwithstanding the Obstructions they have met with either for want of Power to compel or indemnify the unwilling Witness or Accomplice, and from their Inability to protect and support those who might have been more ready to do their Duty to the Publick.

Your Committee are now proceeding in the Examination of the Copies of the Papers and Letters, and Extracts of Letters relating to the Convention, referred to them by the House, which they will report with all possible Dispatch.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX. NUMBER I.

NAVY-OFFICE, } AN Account of all Sums of Money drawn by Bills from  
15 April, 1742. } Jamaica, for the Service of His Majesty's Fleet, since the Commencement of the War against Spain, and at what Rates of Exchange the said Bills were drawn.

Table with columns: Date of the Bills, By whom drawn, Sum (l. s. d.), Exchange, Date of the Bills, By whom drawn, Sum (l. s. d.), Exchange. Includes entries for Decem. 1739, Janu., Feb., March, April, May, June, July, August, Septem., Octob., Decem. 1740, and April, May, June, July, August, Septem., Octob., Decem. 1741.

An Account of the Sums of Money drawn by Bills from, or by Bills remitted to *Jamaica*, for the Service of his Majesty's Ordnance, since the Commencement of the War against *Spain*, and at what Rates of Exchange the same were drawn.

Table with columns: Drawers, Dates, Rate of Exchange, Sum Sterling. Includes entries for 'Commanders of his Majesty's Ships' and 'John Rogers, Store-keeper at Jamaica'.

All the foregoing Bills are drawn from *Jamaica*. No Bills have been remitted to *Jamaica*.

Received Advice of the following Bills drawn from *Jamaica*, but as they are not yet arriv'd, the Rates of Exchange are not known.

Table with columns: Drawers, Dates, Sum Sterling. Includes entries for 'John Turner' and 'Major Jonathan Lewis'.

Office of Ordnance, April 17. 1742.

W. R. EARLE, Clerk of the Ordnance.

NUMBER II.

CAPT. Alexander Wilson, being examined in the most solemn manner, this 21st Day of April 1742, said, That he was an Agent to Lord Cathcart, when he was preparing for his Expedition to the West-Indies: That in or about May or June 1740, Lord Cathcart received from Mr. Pelham a rough Draught of Instructions, which Mr. Pelham proposed to give to his Deputy Paymaster, that was to attend the Troops under Lord Cathcart: That this Examinant perused the said Draught together with Lord Cathcart: That it contained Directions to the Deputy to pay the Troops at Jamaica, at such a Rate of Exchange, as should appear to Lord Cathcart and the superior Officers, to be most advantageous to them: That this Rate of Exchange should be constant and invariable; and that the said Deputy should keep an Account current of what he thus paid; and if any Advantage accrued from the Currency thus settled, the Publick were to be entitled to it; but if there was any Loss, the Publick were to make it good: And it was also proposed, that the Deputy should carry with him a Sum of Money for this Purpose, and should be authorized to draw the necessary Bills on the Paymaster-General: That Lord Cathcart approved of these Instructions; but on or about the latter End of June, or the Beginning of July, 1740, it was intimated to Lord Cathcart from the Pay-Office, or by Messieurs Burrell or Bristow, that the Treasury were of Opinion, that the Troops were not to be left to the Uncertainty of finding Money abroad, since Merchants might make their Advantages of the Necessities the Troops might be sometimes under, and that in Consequence of this Opinion, a Contract for paying the Troops at the Rate of 120 l. Jamaica Money, for 100 l. Sterling, was then depending before the Treasury: That Lord Cathcart immediately, on this Information, applied, by this Examinant, to Mr. Williams and Mr. Monson's Offices for a Meeting. His declared Purpose in procuring this Meeting, was, if possible, to get the Troops paid in a more advantageous manner; for he did not apprehend, that the Contract was already pass, but only that it was then depending. That at this Meeting, which was at Mr. Williams's Office, between the 4th and 13th of July 1740, there were present Lord Cathcart, Mr. Hanbury Williams, Paymaster of the Marines, Mr. Burrell and Mr. Bristow, and this Examinant, Mr. Pelham was then in Yorkshire with Mr. Arundel, as he believes. Lord Cathcart took Notice of the Inconveniencies which might arise by paying Men only 120 l. Jamaica money, for 100 l. Sterling, when by the concurring Reports from Jamaica, and of Merchants, the Exchange was at 135 to 140. That he mentioned hereupon what he had observed in Armies abroad, particularly what happened at Ghent and Bruges in 1712, where the Troops mutinied, on account of some small Deductions for Camp Necessaries and Bread, which were taken from some Regiments and not from others. That this Examinant said at the same Time, that as the Troops from North America, under Colonel Blakeney, were paid at the full Currency of the Exchange in those Parts, he apprehended, that if they received less money, when they joined Lord Cathcart, than what they had before, they might begin a Mutiny, and by informing Lord Cathcart's Men, might occasion Discontents or Mutiny amongst them also. The Contractors answered to this, That the Difference of Currency in the North Provinces of America, from whence Colonel Blakeney's Troops came, was rather more to the Advantage of those Troops, than the intended Payment of 120 per Cent. That the Contractors explained themselves on this Particular, in a manner that this Examinant could not answer, nor indeed understand. That Lord Cathcart was silent. The Contractors reckoned up several Articles of the Charge it would be to them, some of which were the Insurance of the money, the Freight, the Commission, which they were to pay their Correspondents in Jamaica, with other incident Charges, which this Examinant cannot remember. All these together, they said was the Cause that they could not contract for less Profit than what they should get by paying 120 l. Jamaica Currency for 100 l. Sterling. There was some other Talk upon this Affair, which all ended in Messieurs Burrell and Bristow (but thinks it was Mr. Burrell) declaring, That they had made an Agreement with the Treasury already upon these Terms, and that they could not do it for less Profit. That this Declaration of Mr. Burrell's put an End to the Debates, and the Meeting; for Lord Cathcart acquiesced in what the Treasury thought fit, as he was under Orders. He was a polite Man, and did not choose to signify his Disapprobation when it was of no Consequence. So on the said Declaration, he said he was to be determined by superior Powers; but in private Conversation afterwards with this Examinant, he wished it had been better. That this Examinant cannot of his own Knowledge say, what Steps had been taken with the Treasury, with Relation to the first intended Instructions, nor does he know of any publick Notice given by the Treasury for receiving Proposals, nor has he heard of any Proposals from others, but Messieurs Burrell and Bristow: But he is not in the Way of Treasury Affairs.

Being further examin'd on the 27th Day of April 1742, in relation to the rough Draught of the Instructions mentioned above, said, that Mr. Pelham, in Conversation with Lord Cathcart, when this Examinant was present, delivered it as his Opinion, that the Troops might be supplied in the Manner there laid down, especially as he supposed that the Money would be brought into Jamaica by the taking of Prizes. That the rough Draught was de-

delivered to Lord *Catbcart* after these Conversations: That it began with the Style of Instructions, in the same Manner as was customary to give to all Deputy Pay-masters abroad, empowering him to take up, and draw Bills for the Supply of the Troops, &c: That it was written in a running Hand, and, as he thinks, in two Sheets of Paper, Folio way, but all the Sides were not filled: That as it was to be perused by Lord *Catbcart*, as a Plan, on which, if approved of, Instructions were to be formed, there was Room left for Additions and Alterations; but that Lord *Catbcart* finding, that so far as it related to himself, it was complete, and wanted none, neither Lord *Catbcart* nor this Examinant made any therein, but returned it to the Pay-Office unaltered: That this Examinant believes Lord *Catbcart's* Secretary carried it back, or perhaps Mr. *Pelham's* Deputy might call for it: That this Examinant saw the final Instructions given to the Deputy Pay-master, but he only looked over them transiently; however, he read so much, as to be sure, that the Power of drawing upon the Pay-master in case of Necessity or Disappointment, was therein contained, though he cannot expressly speak to those Words. This Examinant adds, that he has been informed by one of the Clerks of Mr. *Williams's* Office, that Messieurs *Burrell* and *Bristow* did ensure the Money they sent to *Jamaica*, but he does not know at what Rate.

Alexander Wilson.

### NUMBER III.

*Peter Burrell*, Esq; being examined in the most solemn Manner, this 30th Day of *April*, 1742, said, that about the latter End of the Year 1739, going down Stairs from the House of Commons, he was asked by Sir *Robert Walpole*, if he, this Examinant, or his Acquaintance, had any Money in the Northern Colonies. That about three Weeks or a Month afterwards, he told Sir *Robert* that he could not meet with any Persons, whom he could depend on, who had. And Sir *Robert* then replied, he believed there would be no Occasion for any. That as soon as it was publickly known that Troops were going to *Jamaica*, this Examinant took occasion from this Incident to apply to Sir *Robert Walpole*, and to acquaint him, that as he, this Examinant, had Correspondents in *Jamaica*, on the *South-Sea* Company's Account, who were Men of great Credit at *Jamaica*, and who had the greatest Command of Money of any in the Place, this Examinant thought he could supply the Government as well as any Body, if Money was wanted there. To which the Examinant then received no positive Answer. That after this, this Examinant considering with himself the great Importance of this Affair, he thought it too much Hazard for himself alone, and thereupon asked Mr. *Bristow*, if he thought it could be undertaken without a great Risque. That when they had consulted together, they agreed on the Terms on which they would propose it, and about the Month of *June*, the Parliament being then prorogued, they waited on Sir *Robert Walpole* at *Chelsea*, and made an offer of furnishing any such Sums as might be wanting for the Payment of the Troops, on the same Conditions, which were afterwards agreed to by the Treasury. That Sir *Robert Walpole* asked them, if those were the lowest Terms, and hoped they would not ask more than what was reasonable, nor what any body should complain of. And the Examinant assured him, that upon the best Calculation they had not. That he would not take it on himself, but desired them to make their Proposals to the Treasury. That a few Days after this Conversation with Sir *Robert Walpole*, they did lay this Proposal before the Treasury, without any thing else passing between them and Sir *Robert* in the Interval; nor had the Examinant any Conversation with any other Lord of the Treasury before he offered his Proposal to the Board. That on Delivery of these Proposals, he does not recollect, whether he was called in or no, nor can he say when he received the first Notice of his Proposal being accepted, nor by whom he was informed of it; but he thinks, if any thing particular had happened on this Occasion, he must have remembered it; nor does he recollect of meeting Mr. *Hanbury Williams* the Morning this Proposal was delivered. This Examinant does indeed remember that he one Morning met Lord *Catbcart*, or Capt. *Wilson*, who desired a Meeting at Mr. *Hanbury Williams's* Office, but he is not sure that this was the Day of his Contract's being agreed to, but rather believes it was a Week or a Fortnight after. That the same Day this Meeting was desired, Mr. *Bristow* and this Examinant met Lord *Catbcart* and Capt. *Wilson*, and Mr. *Hanbury Williams*, who came after. That this Examinant does not conceive, that Lord *Catbcart* would desire a meeting or could have any thing to do with this Examinant and his Partner, but as Contractors; and therefore he thinks this meeting was after the Contract was passed; and that he supposes the Intention of this meeting was, that Lord *Catbcart* might be satisfied, that the Troops would not be disappointed, but that due Care would be taken to supply them with money when abroad. That at this meeting Lord *Catbcart* talked to Capt. *Wilson* of the manner in which the Troops were to be Paid, saying to them, that if the Troops going to *Jamaica* were not paid at the same Rate of Exchange as those from *North America*, it might occasion Discontents, as he remembered a Mutiny had like to have happened in *Flanders*, on the like Account. That they said they had nothing to do with paying of the Troops, what they had contracted for, was to deliver the Money at such a cer-

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tain Rate. That this Examinant takes it for granted, that Lord *Catbcart* by his Enquiry, wanted to know in what Specie the Troops should be paid, and not at what Rate the Money was to be furnished to the Deputy Paymaster. That this Examinant does not remember there were any Disputes at this meeting, whether the Contract was a good or bad Contract, or indeed whether there was mention made about it; and he believes at the Beginning of the Conversation Lord *Catbcart* knew of, the Contract being passed; and he is persuaded that Capt. *Wilson* knew it, because the Gentleman who is gone over Deputy Paymaster, was informed by the Examinant with every Step taken in this Affair, and he was intimate with Capt. *Wilson*; That this Examinant does not remember to have told Capt. *Wilson* that the Contract was passed, but if he had met him, he believes he should have told him, but he takes it for granted, that it was understood to be done, in their whole Conversation at that meeting; and he does not remember that either Lord *Catbcart* or Capt. *Wilson* shewed any surprize at that time, on hearing it was done; and that he thinks that this meeting with him and Mr. *Bristow*, was on the Footing of their being Contractors for the Money. That Lord *Catbcart* asked them how they would supply the Money; and they told him, they would send foreign Gold; but this Examinant cannot remember if there was any Talk about Insurance, Freight, and other Items. That in this Conversation, which he does not know lasted half an Hour, many Things of another Nature were talked of between Lord *Catbcart* and Capt. *Wilson*, as about the Imbarkation of the Troops, &c. That though this Examinant had contracted at 120 *l.* he does not recollect, that the Rate was mentioned at this Meeting. The Reason for fixing the Price at 120, was upon the Consideration of the probable Fall of the Exchange at *Jamaica*, when so great a Demand must be made, upon the Payment of so large a Body of Troops. That as the Exchange had advanced since the last War from 111 to 135, during which time, there not having been any extraordinary Demand for Money in that Island, the Reverse might reasonably be expected when a Demand of Money was made, that greatly exceeded the natural Currency. This plainly appear'd upon Col. *Blakeney's* Arrival with but 3000 Men, who with great Difficulties raised between 9 and 10,000 *l.* at 120, and could not have procured more at above 110, at least that was the Demand from those who had Money by them. In regard to the Par of Exchange between *Jamaica*, and *London*, I am not informed by what Rule that Calculation is made, unless it be from the Value they have stamp'd on the Silver Specie of this Kingdom, a Shilling passing there current for 15 Pence, which answers to the Exchange of 125 *l.* for 100 *l.*

From the Uncertainty of obtaining money at *Jamaica*, I desired Mr. *Colebrooke* to enquire at what Rate he could procure Bills on that Place; and he informed me, he could not get Bills at any fix'd Rate, not even at 120 *l.* nor any other Price, than what should appear the current Exchange of the Island, as the same should happen to be, upon the Time their Bills should appear there. We had then no other Resort, but to send out some Specie to supply the Want of Currency in *Jamaica*, and in that there was no Certainty as to its Value, as whatsoever was the nominal Price, there appeared no Act of Council to oblige any one to receive it; and the Valuation is so much out of Judgment, that no Man could conceive it to be made but by Chance, as a Moida of 27 *s.* is above 3 per Cent. higher than a Moida of 36 *s.* in proportion to the intrinsic Value of each; which determined us to buy heavy *Portugal* money of the Bank, not only to prevent any Complaint, if received by Tale, but to answer their full Value, if received by Weight. The first Parcel sent being heavy money of 36 *s.* Lots instead of Profit to the Contractors. The Insurance of this money was at 2 1/2 per Cent. which went by the Men of War with the Troops, but we apprehend we had the Risque of a Deviation, if the Ships had been ordered to *Carthagena*, or any other Port but to *Jamaica*, which would have thrown the Risque on us; but if, from any Accident the Ship where our money was, had not arrived with the Troops, we had then been at the mercy of the Inhabitants; and in such Case, I would willingly have compounded for 10 per Cent. Lots. We agreed for one per Cent. Freight, for all but what we sent with the Troops, but we are informed one of the Captains has sued our Agents for a Freight of 2 1/2 per Cent. The Charge of Shipping is put at one per Cent. for the Expence of Guards, Iron-chests, Servants and Coaches to attend it, and for the Risque and Charges of sending the money in a Boat from *Portsmouth* to *St. Helens*.

That in regard to the nominal Value of the Gold Species at *Jamaica*, at a Medium, deducting the Commission and Charges, we allow there doth not remain a Profit of 3 per Cent. upon the present Contract. That no other Persons but Messieurs *Burrell* and *Bristow* were consulted or concerned in the Contract, when they first engaged in it; that after the first Imbarkation, and this Examinant believes after the second, but before the Contract was raised to 125 *l.* Sir *Robert Walpole* spoke one Day to this Examinant and told him, that Mr. *Hanbury Williams* had desired him to ask the Contractors, that a Friend of his, a *West-India* Merchant, might have a Share in the Remittances. But he added, "You are to do just as you please: I don't ask you to let any Body in; for the Contract is your's." That some little Time afterwards Mr. *Hanbury Williams* spoke to this Examinant and Mr. *Bristow*, telling them, that he had a Relation, one Mr. *Hanbury* a *West-India* Merchant, to whom he had Obligations, and as he had money and Effects at *Jamaica*, he desired he might be concerned, for the Future, one fourth Part with them: And since that Time he has been accordingly concerned one fourth Part in what relates to the Payment of the Marines

*Mr. Hanbury Williams's Office.* That *Mr. Hanbury* had wrote, as he told the Examinant, to his Correspondents at *Jamaica*, that in case any money was wanting, he might pay it into the Hands of their Agents, and receive their Bills for the same; but the Examinant said, that though *Mr. Hanbury* wrote, no Use has been made of it. That before this *Sir Robert Walpole* never recommended any Person to be concerned with the Contractors, nor had any Knowledge of any one that was; but that sometime after the Contract was passed, he (the Examinant) asked *Mr. Monson*, Deputy Paymaster to *Mr. Pelham*, whether he would take one fourth Part of it; telling him, that though the Profits might not be great, yet unless some unforeseen Accident happened, the Loss could not be much. That *Mr. Monson* accepted of it, and has one fourth Part of the Contract, as far as it relates to the Payment of the Troops in the Office where he is Deputy. And being asked if *Mr. Monson* had any Effects at *Jamaica*, he said he could not tell; nor had he any there himself, nor has he (*Mr. Monson*) advanced any money, nor has he had any Share or Trouble of the Management, but is to stand his Share in the Profit or Loss; and besides these, no Person else is concerned with them, to the Knowledge of this Examinant; that this Examinant did offer half his own Share to his Brother, and a Gentleman engaged in Business with him; but they thought it too great a Risk for them to run. He likewise mentioned it to another Gentleman, who would not accept of it. That these Refusals were very early, before any Thing was done in it, more than passing the Contract; and that he mentions them to shew that he thought he had no great Bargain of it. A Copy of a Minute of the Treasury lying before the Committee, dated the 29th of *January 1740-1*, relating to the Refusal of the Agents of the Contractors at *Jamaica* to supply the Troops under Colonel *Gooch* and *Blakeney* with a Sum of money, being read to the Examinant, and it being therein said that *Mr. Burrell* agrees, that those Troops were always understood and intended as contained and included in his and *Mr. Bristow's* Proposal to the Treasury; this Examinant said, that Minute had mistaken their meaning; for their Agreement was for the Troops under Lord *Catbcart*, and those he should find at *Jamaica*; and that this Examinant never understood, that the Troops under Col. *Gooch* and Col. *Blakeney* would be included in the Contract before the Arrival of Lord *Catbcart* at *Jamaica*. That this Examinant believes, that it was about *June* or *July 1741*, that he had the first Account from *Jamaica* of the Refusal of his Agent's to comply with the Demands of the Deputy Paymaster. That the Contractors having Advice from *Jamaica*, that there was no money in the Island, and that it was proposed, that Notes of Hand should have a Currency, they had applied to the Treasury for the Advance of a second Sum; and that in *December* following there being a second Imbarkation, they procured a third Sum from the Treasury, on account of the Convenience they had of sending it.

And being further examined, this 15th Day of *June*, he said, That *Mr. Colebrooke*, the Deputy Paymaster, who went with Lord *Catbcart*, supplied the Place of an Agent for the Examinant and the other Contractor; and that *Mr. Colebrooke* had a Commission of one per Cent. only. And, he added, that there never had been any money advanced to the Contractors, without their delivering a Memorial to the Treasury.

*June 23.*

P. BURRELL.

*John Bristow*, Esq; being examined in the most solemn Manner, this 30th Day of *April*, 1742, said, That the first Notice he had, relating to the Remittances, was from *Mr. Burrell*, who told him, that probably there would be a Contract for supplying the Troops under Lord *Catbcart* with Money; and he thinks *Mr. Burrell* mentioned his having talk'd with *Sir Robert Walpole* about it, but he cannot be positive. That *Mr. Burrell* asked him, (this Examinant) if he would be concerned. To which he agreed; and then, between them, formed a Proposal to be laid before the Lords of the Treasury. That previous to their laying of it before the Treasury, they waited on *Sir Robert Walpole*, who was then at *Chelsea*, the Sessions, as this Examinant believes, being ended. That in this Proposal, he thinks, they mentioned 120 per Cent, as the Rate at which they would agree to furnish the Money. *Sir Robert* said, That he expected they should offer it at a reasonable Profit, that the Publick may be well served. That this Examinant cannot recollect any other Conversation that passed, either with *Sir Robert Walpole*, or any Body else, before their Proposal was communicated to the Treasury; nor does he believe that they spoke about it to any other Lord of the Treasury. That when it was laid before the Treasury, he does not remember whether they went with the Proposals themselves, but is inclined to believe they did, and that they delivered it to some Person in Office, who carried it in. That he cannot remember, whether there were any Debates about it, nor whether he was called in or no; but from a Copy of a Minute of Treasury lying upon the Table before the Committee, he thinks the Proposals were immediately accepted; and he is pretty sure he had Notice of it when it was accepted, though he cannot say by whom, nor can he be sure that at that Time he acquainted *Mr. Hanbury Williams* he had agreed. That he remembers the Meeting of Lord *Catbcart*, *Mr. H. Williams*, and *Capt. Wilson*, at *Mr. H. Williams's* Office, where *Mr. Burrell* was likewise present; but he is pretty sure no Body from *Mr. Pelham's* Office was there, and believes it was in *July 1740*, and believes it was after the Contract was pass, tho' he cannot say if it was that Day; nor can he remember who first proposed this Meeting, tho' he believes Lord *Catbcart*; nor where or when the Agreement

ment to meet was made. That the Substance of the Conversation, at this Meeting, was the Manner in which the Troops were to be paid. That Lord *Catbcart* talked about the Pay of the Troops; but this Examinant cannot tell if Lord *Catbcart* supposed the Contract to be passed, or to be only a Proposal, though he apprehends that the Contract was then made, and that Lord *Catbcart* knew it was made; because otherwise they, as Contractors, could have nothing to do with Lord *Catbcart*. That this Examinant believes it might be possible Lord *Catbcart* might except to the paying of the Troops at a low Rate. That this Examinant and his Partner said in Substance, That the Rate the Troops were to be paid at was no Concern of theirs. That their Business was only to supply the Money at a certain Rate; but this Examinant does not apprehend, that the Troops were to be paid at a lower Rate than what they had contracted for. That this Examinant thinks Lord *Catbcart* desired to know in what Specie they intended to send out their Money. That they told him, in *Portugal Gold*. That the Contractors proposed the Rate of 120 *l. Jamaica* Money, for 100 *l. Sterling*, for the following Reasons; That they were to furnish Money in a Place where there was not much; that therefore in case a considerable Sum was demanded at once, the Owners of the Money would make the most Use of it they could, and lower the Exchange under the Rate of 120 *l.* at which they had contracted; for that Colonel *Blakeney*, before Lord *Catbcart's* Arrival, drew on the Pay-Office for a small Sum, and this with Difficulty, as he has heard, at or under 120; and had he wanted a larger Sum, he must have doubtless have drawn even still lower. That this put them under a Necessity of sending out Funds or Money to supply the Want of Currency in that Place. That as Men of Business, it was natural for them to consider the several Species of Money, which might be proper to send thither. That in this they found a great Variety. That they could not find there was any Law to settle the Currency of different Species of Coin, and the different Species of Coin were actually at different Proportions of Value in their Currency; the Guinea in particular being at a lower Rate than the Thirty-six Shilling Pieces, and both these lower than the Twenty seven Shilling Pieces. That this Examinant is not sure, that any considerable Sum of Moidores or Thirty-six Shilling Pieces were there before; and they were apprehensive, that the Sum sent out by the Contractors, which was the greatest part in Thirty-six Shilling Pieces, and the rest in Moidores, might, on its Arrival at *Jamaica*, be reduced to an Equality with Guineas; and in order to prevent, in some Measure, the Loss which must attend an Alteration in the Value of these several Species, which was not improbable, when the Disproportion should come to be considered at the Island of *Jamaica*, the Contractors sent the major Part of the Supply by the Fleet under *Sir Chaloner Ogle*, in weighty *Portugal Gold*, of Thirty-six Shilling Pieces, that at all Events they might be the Value in Gold. That the Contractors sent their Money on board three Men of War, and insured it; but notwithstanding this, they were liable to many Risques and Accidents; for had the Men of War been ordered to any other Place, this would have been a Deviation from the Voyage, and would have vacated the Insurance; and that the very want of the Money at *Jamaica*, or even what was on board one Ship only, though it had not been lost, would have sunk the Exchange; and that this was no improbable Accident, for three or four of the capital Men of War were actually separated from the Fleet and driven to *Lisbon*; and had the Money been on board either of these Ships, the Contractors would have been under great Disadvantages, as they must have rais'd it, at *Jamaica*, at a great Loss; and as it was all the Money sent out, had upon the Arrival of the Fleet no more Effect than to raise the Exchange to 130, and small Sums soon after got up to 135 and 140, soon after which the Contractors came to a new Agreement at 125. That they have been told lately that the Victualling and Navy have drawn at 135 and 140; but this being for Stores, and Provisions is not like Money, but is really no Exchange at all. And this Examinant did not inform himself of the Rates at which the Navy and Victualling drew, when he was deliberating about his own Contract. He added, that he has since been told, that the Independent Companies at *Jamaica* are paid at 125. That he believes, that he might communicate a Memorial, containing the Reasons for fixing the Currency at 120, to Lord *Orford*, before this Examinant's Memorial of the 5th of *February* last was laid before the Treasury. That soon after Lord *Catbcart's* Arrival, Messieurs *Merewether* and *Manning*, their Correspondents, from a Misunderstanding, did refuse to furnish Money for the Troops; but the Deputy Paymaster *Mr. Colebrooke*, drew on *Mr. Pelham*. That this Examinant believes, that the Reason of the Refusal of their Agents, was their thinking they could make a greater Advantage of their Money from the Necessity of the Publick, than what they could get by complying with our Commission. The Reason urged by them, was the indefinite Demand of *Mr. Colebrooke*, who refused to specify either the Sums, or the Times when they would be wanted. That as the Contractors were to pay the Difference of these Bills drawn on *Mr. Colebrooke*, if they had been under 120 or 125 per Cent. they thought they had a Right to those Bills, when drawn at a higher Rate, and they accordingly took them up and paid them as soon as due, with Money they received from the Pay-Office; but these Bills are still in Dispute, and our Contract does not subsist any longer; for the Lords of the Treasury have within this Day or two given orders to the Deputy at *Jamaica* to draw on the Paymaster. That no Persons were concerned with them in their Contract till after it was made; but that now *Mr. Monson*, Deputy Paymaster to *Mr. Pelham*, and *Mr. Hanbury*, a Merchant, are Sharers. *Mr. Monson* has

has a fourth Part of what is paid in the Office where he is Deputy; *Mr. Hanbury* has, from a certain Time, been entitled to one fourth Part of what relates to the Marines, which are paid in *Mr. H. Williams's* Office. That the Offer to *Mr. Monson* was made jointly by the Contractors, on their own motion, and without the Desire or Knowledge, as he believes, of any other Person whatsoever, and before any Remittances were made; and he never offered a Share to any Person but *Mr. Monson*. That as to *Mr. Hanbury*, *Sir Robert Walpole* mentioned to them, that *Mr. H. Williams* desired his Relation, *Mr. Hanbury*, should have a Part; That *Sir Robert* had been spoke to by *Mr. Williams* about it; but he (*Sir Robert*) told the Contractors, he left it to themselves; and it is most probable *Sir Robert Walpole* mentioned this to the Contractors before *Mr. H. Williams* spoke to them. That neither *Mr. Monson* nor *Mr. Hanbury* have advanced any Money on this Affair, nor indeed have the Contractors themselves properly advanced any Money; for on delivering their Bills drawn at Sight on *Jamaica* to the Paymaster here, he furnished the Money for them, as is the constant Practice of the Pay-Office, whenever Bills of Exchange are furnished payable in foreign Parts by the Drawers of such Bills, or by Draughts from *Jamaica* on the Pay-Office, to make good such Sums, as are raised for the Service in the Island.

And being further examined this Twenty-second Day of *June 1742*, said, that the Contractors allowed to *Mr. Colebrooke*, who carried out the Money sent with *Lord Cathcart*, one per Cent. Commission; but the further Sums, which have been since sent out, and all other Transactions relating to this Affair, have been managed by their Agents at *Jamaica*, to whom they are to pay two per Cent.

And further said, that an Action has been brought against their Agent at *Jamaica* by *Capt. Knowles* for 2½ per Cent. Freight, for the money which he carried out at the Time of the *Lord Cathcart's* going on the Expedition, for which, as the Examinant is informed, *Capt. Knowles* has obtained a Verdict; which if the Contractors should be obliged to pay, will be a Precedent for other Captains of Men of War by whom money was sent out at the same Time.

*John Bristow.*

*Charles Hanbury Williams, Esq;* being examined in the most solemn Manner, this 30th Day of *April, 1742*, said, That on the 9th of *July last*, as he thinks, being in his Chariot, he met *Messieurs Burrell and Bristow*, who told him, that they had made an Agreement with the Treasury for remitting Money to pay the Troops, at the Rate of 120 *Jamaica Money* for 100 *l. Sterling*. That after meeting *Messieurs Burrell and Bristow*, he went to the Treasury, and thinks he saw the *Lord Cathcart*, in one of the Rooms of the Treasury, and thinks he talked of what *Messieurs Burrell and Bristow* had told him, to *Lord Cathcart*, but he is not positive. That the same Day there was a Meeting at his Office in *Scotland-Yard*, at which were present *Lord Cathcart, Capt. Alexander Wilson, Mr. Burrell, Mr. Bristow, and this Examinant*; but he cannot say any one else in particular: He cannot say *Mr. Manson* was present. That this Meeting was desired that Morning either by the *Lord Cathcart*, or by *Capt. Wilson*, at his Instance, but he cannot tell which. He thinks they all met at the Treasury, and went from thence to the Office. That the Conversation, which lasted two Hours, turned on the proper Means of carrying *Messieurs Burrell and Bristow's* Contract into Execution, and preventing the Troops from being disappointed for want of Money. That he inclines to imagine, that *Lord Cathcart* knew that the Agreement was made. This Examinant asked *Messieurs Burrell and Bristow* what Money they had sent over, and what Credit they had established for this Purpose; but that this was a Question arising from his own Care and Curiosity only. That he believes *Lord Cathcart* said, He had heard, that the Exchange in the City was 130 or 135; that if the Troops were paid at 120, the Difference might occasion an Uneasiness amongst them: That what *Lord Cathcart* said, was rather repining and disliking the low Rate of Exchange they had agreed for, than disputing about it. That in Consequence of this Dislike of *Lord Cathcart's*, *Messieurs Burrell and Bristow* entred into a Detail about Exchanges, endeavouring from thence to shew, that they could not afford to remit cheaper; but this Examinant did not understand all they said upon this Head. And *Messieurs Burrell and Bristow* talked of this Agreement as made, but whether at the Beginning or End of the Meeting, he cannot say, That he cannot say or remember, that *Mr. Burrell*, at the End of the Conversation told them, he had agreed with the Treasury, nor can he say, that he heard *Lord Cathcart* mention the *American Troops* as then paid at a higher Rate of Exchange.

*N. B. Charles Hanbury Williams, Esq;* being now at *Bath*, could not sign his Examination, but it was read over to the Committee twice, and was found to be agreeable to the Minutes then taken.

NUMBER IV.

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*James Knight, Esq;* examined in the most solemn Manner this 3d Day of *May 1742*, said, that he lived many Years in *Jamaica*, from whence he came to *England* about 5 Years since, and that he has many Effects, Rents, and a Plantation, in that Island. That when he lived there, he acted as a Factor to the *Guinea Merchants*, and has sold several Cargoes of Negroes to the *South-Sea Company*, which were paid for in Bills of Exchange at *London*, and had by his Employments the Means of being acquainted with the Remittance from that Island, both in Specie and in Bills: That the Exchange between *Jamaica* and *London* has for seven Years past varied very little, being from 140 to 135, but generally 140, very few Bills being drawn under that Rate, excepting particular Contracts in the Sales of Negroes, Estates, or other Effects, when the Exchange has sometimes been agreed on at 35, and sometimes at 37½, the Difference in Exchange being considered in the Purchase. The *South-Sea Company*, in particular, settled their Exchange at 35 per Cent. at which Rate they drew for considerable Sums; and in Consideration of the Exchange, and the Number of Negroes they bought, they had them at a Price accordingly, the Planters paying 35 and 36 per Head, in Bills at 40 *l. per Cent.* and 38 and 40 *l.* in Sugars, or other Produce of the Island; when the Company, by Means of their Bills being at a lower Exchange, furnished themselves at 31 and 32 *l. per Head, Jamaica Currency*. That he has now a Bill of 600 *l.* drawn on the Ordnance at 140, and he has two others of 500 *l.* each drawn on the same Office, and other publick Bills as well as private, at the same Rate, within the last twelve Months. That the Independent Companies constantly draw at 140, as he has heard and believes, except one or two Officers, who have had Credit. That he believes, before the War, the Bills remitted from *Jamaica* to *England*, including those drawn by the *South-Sea Company*, may have amounted to 100,000 *l. per Annum*. That there are besides, great Sums sent from thence to *England* in Specie. That before the War, it was common for single Men of War to bring 40 or 50,000 *l.* from thence; and believes, including the Money sent over by the *South-Sea Company*, upwards of 500,000 *l. per Annum*, in Specie, was usually remitted from *Jamaica*, at a Medium, before the Commencement of the War. That the Specie of *Jamaica* consists chiefly in *Spanish Coin*: There are some *Spanish Pistoles* and *Doubleloons*. That there is a Law in *Jamaica*, made about the Year 1681, which ascertains the Currency of *Spanish Money*, and makes it Felony to diminish or falsify it; tho' he has known Persons tried upon the Law, yet it is not, in general, much observed, the Coin being commonly clipt and diminished of its true Weight, and the *Portugal Money* is not included in it, because there was then none upon the Island. That when this Examinant heard, that the Troops were going to *Jamaica*, he enquired how they were to be paid; and on being told, that the Treasury would contract with private Persons for that Purpose, he did, himself, intend to make an Offer for furnishing of the Money necessary; but in very few Days after he heard the Treasury had agreed with *Messieurs Burrell and Bristow*, at the Rate of 120 *l. Jamaica Money*, for 100 *l. Sterling*. That the Examinant does not believe, that the Treasury ever gave Notice, that they intended any such Contract. That indeed he does not know, that a formal, publick Notice has ever been given by the Treasury on such Occasions; but he has heard, that in *Queen Anne's War*, the Treasury, when they had such Contracts in View, have communicated their Intentions to Merchants, which was, in Effect, the same Thing, and was what this Examinant expected in the present Case; and had this been done, this Examinant believes, that several others besides himself, would have proposed to have furnished the Government with Money at *Jamaica*. That this Examinant would have furnished the Money at 130 per Cent. provided he could have obtained the same Advancement, which he has heard was made to *Messieurs Burrell and Bristow*; for in Proportion to this Advancement, he proposed to, have made his Offer of furnishing the Troops with money, otherwise he could not have afforded such an Exchange, and should have thought it a good Bargain. That he should have thought himself secured against any Disappointment for the want of Currency at *Jamaica*, by sending over in Specie one third Part of what he might be supposed to want in six Months Time; for that he apprehends the only Difficulty would have been at first, when the People there, on the Arrival of so great a Number of Troops, might endeavour to lower the Exchange; that afterwards he does not doubt, but he could have contracted with People on the Island, to have furnished the money at the Rate of 137½ per Cent. or by other Means provided money to answer the Occasion. That if the whole money was advanced to him here, before-hand, and he was only to send it over, and to furnish the money at *Jamaica*, at the Rate of 130 per Cent. he should think that he might make 12 or 15 per Cent. per Annum, of the money which he thus supplied, because he could return the same money twice in the Compass of one Year. He added, that he believes the Insurance of money on Men of War from *London* to *Jamaica* might be done at 2 per Cent. to pay 84. That the Commission which he pays to his Agents at *Jamaica* for transacting his Affairs, is 5 per Cent. but if he was to negotiate 30 or 40,000 *l.* for the Government, he would have done it, when at *Jamaica*, for 2½ per Cent. with all his Heart; and doubts not but other Persons of Credit and Reputation in *Jamaica*, would have undertaken the same for the like Commission or less.

*James Knight.*

NUMBER V.

NUMBER V.

To the Right Honourable, The LORDS COMMISSIONERS of his MAJESTY'S Treasury.

May it please your Lordships, MR. Burrell, one of the Contractors for the Remittances for the Marines to Jamaica, hath delivered the Letter hereunto annexed, into the Office of the Paymaster of the Marines; wherein he proposes that a further Sum of 9,500 l. may be issued for Subsistence to the Marines going on the intended Expedition. I humbly pray your Lordships will be pleased to order the said Sum to be issued to the Paymaster of the Marines, for Uses hereafter to be appointed, viz.

	l.	s.			l.
On the Order for	118,214	1	—	—	7125
On the Order for	33,429	0	—	—	2375
					L. 9500

Pay-Office, 23d September, 1740.

All which is humbly submitted,

EDMUND JONES, Deputy.

S I R, THE Troops under the Command of Lord Cathcart being detained so long at Portsmouth, that the Money sent by them will become due before they can arrive at Jamaica; we therefore beg Leave to represent to you, that we apprehend it will be for the Benefit of His Majesty's Service, that an additional two Months Pay may be sent by them, that at all Events they may be secured from any possible Disappointment. We therefore beg Leave to request, That a further Sum of 9,500 l. may be advanced to us, for the better enabling us to forward such Supply.

We are for Mr. John Bristow and self,

Your most humble Servants,

PETER BURRELL.

To the Honourable Charles Hanbury Williams Paymaster of the Marines. London, Sept. 23, 1740.

WHITEHALL, Treasury-Chambers, Sept. 24, 1740. Present Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Sundon, Mr. Earle.

ISSUE also out of the said Funds to the Paymaster of the Marines the Sum of 9,500 l. upon Account, for the Subsistence of the said Regiments, to answer the Value of Bills of Exchange to be given by Messieurs Burrell and Bristow, according to their Agreement in that Behalf, for their furnishing Money at Jamaica for the Expedition under Lord Cathcart.

To the Right Honourable, The LORDS COMMISSIONERS of His MAJESTY'S Treasury.

The Proposal of Peter Burrell and John Bristow.

THAT the Forces under the Command of Lord Cathcart intended for an Expedition to the West-Indies, having been detained so long at Portsmouth by contrary Winds, it is apprehended, that upon their Arrival at Jamaica, a further Sum will be wanting, than what is already remitted for that Service to the 24th of December 1740.

That they are ready to furnish their Bills for 12000 l. Sterling, for the Subsistence of His Majesty's Forces under the Command of the Lord Cathcart, from the 25th of December 1740, to the 23d of February following, at the Rate of 100 l. Sterling for every 120 paid at Jamaica in the Currency of that Island.

Which is humbly submitted to your Lordships,

London, Sept. 25, 1740.

For John Bristow and self,

PETER BURRELL.

WHITEHALL, Treasury-Chambers, Sept. 26, 1740. Present Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Sundon, Mr. Earle.

MY Lords, upon reading a Memorial from the Paymaster of the Forces, dated the 25th Instant, for carrying on the Subsistence of the Forces under the Lord Cathcart, from the 25th of December 1740, order 11,024 l. 15 s. 5 d. 2/3, to be issued to the said Pay-

0473

Paymaster on the Order in his Name, for Part of the 200,000 l. appropriated for the Extraordinaries of the War, to be appointed towards the Service of the Expedition to the West-Indies.

WHITEHALL, Treasury-Chambers, December 19, 1740.

Present, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Sundon, Mr. Winnington, Mr. Treby.

MY Lords, agree to a Proposal now read, of Peter Burrell and John Bristow, dated the Instant, for supplying a further Sum of 21,000 l. at Jamaica, for the Pay of His Majesty's Forces gone upon the Expedition with Lord Cathcart, finding that the Rate of their Bills is the same as was agreed to upon their Proposal of the 9th of July last, viz. in Bills payable in Jamaica at Sight, at the Rate of 120 l. Jamaica Currency, for every 100 l. Sterling. And their Lordships order a Copy of this Minute to be transmitted to the Paymaster of His Majesty's Forces and Marines, so as the said Sum of 21,000 l. may be issued for the said Bills accordingly.

NUMBER VI.

Extracts and Copies of Letters from Brigadier-General Wentworth and Mr. Colebrooke.

( A )

Extract of a Letter from Brigadier-General Wentworth, to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle

Jamaica, Jan. 20, 1740-1.

I Must beg Leave to represent to your Grace, That the fixing of the Payment of the Troops at 120 Jamaica Currency, will, I apprehend, be attended with Inconveniences. Upon the Money's being tendered to the Paymasters, great Discontent was expressed by the Officers, and some actually refused to receive it; of which being immediately apprized, I have taken Measures to put a Stop to any further Complaints. But as we shall have a Detachment from the Jamaica Independent Companies, who are paid at 125 per Cent. I believe it will be difficult to prevent the Discontent from getting amongst the private Men. As the Exchange is always fluctuating, the Payment of the Troops, according to the exact Currency, when their Pay should become due, would be attended with great Inconveniences. But was there a proper Medium fix'd, (even so low as 125 per Cent.) I believe all would be made easy.

( B )

Mr. COLEBROOKE to Mr. PELHAM.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb. 20, 1740.

S I R,

YOU will certainly have learnt from Messieurs Burrell and Bristow, before this Time, that their Correspondents, Merewether and Manning, had declined executing their Orders to pay to the Deputy Paymaster such Sums of Money as those Gentlemen had, by their Contract with the Lords of the Treasury, agreed to furnish here for the Service of the Expedition; but it is probable those Gentlemen were not informed, that the Motive of that Refusal was, that these Factors had in View the appropriating the Profits to arise by such supply to themselves. What Reasons they may have given to their Principals, I cannot say; but at this Place, to justify, or at least excuse, so uncommon a Procedure, they say Messieurs Burrell and Bristow did not propose to allow them a sufficient Commission or Provision; that it was not worth their while to undertake it for a consideration of One per Cent. to each of them. The Truth is, they were dazzled with the Prospect of getting 15 or 20 instead of 2 per Cent. and reckoning that a much greater Sum than those Gentlemen receiv'd from the Treasury, in July, would be due to the Forces before they arrived here, finding November almost out, they made their Calculation, that they should be able to set their own Price upon what they imagined the Deputy Pay-master would be under a Necessity of taking from them. But the further Supply you issued to Messieurs Burrell and Bristow in September, and for which they gave their Bill upon me, has put me in a Condition to answer all Occasions hitherto, and disconcerted all their Measures.

I perceived the General inclined to think favourably of the Intentions of these Persons, and yet it was not till the 25th of January, that he appeared convinced that they never intended to furnish Money upon the Account of the Gentlemen in England; at which Time Mr. Manning declared in express Terms, in the Presence of General Wentworth, Mr. Stewart Lieutenant Governor of this Island, and other Gentlemen, that they would not answer Messieurs Burrell's and Bristow's Credit. This was the 16th Day after I delivered Messieurs Burrell's and Bristow's Letters of Credit to them, and made my Demand on them. What past between me and them, and with General Wentworth, in that Interim, you will please to see by the Copies of the Letters I send herewith.

H

Upon

Upon the Refusal of *Merewether* and *Manning* to furnish Money, General *Wentworth* desired me to stay in this Place, and endeavour to raise Money for the Use of the Troops, which I have undertaken, pursuant to the Instructions you have honoured me with; and I hope my Zeal for His Majesty's and your Service, will receive your Approbation.

I have Reason to think, that as *Merewether* and *Manning* expected to supply what Money the Troops might have occasion for, at an immoderate Profit to themselves, that I shall meet with all possible Opposition from them and their Adherents, otherwise I could not have failed of finding all the Money I can possibly want, for Bills. What the Event will be, I cannot say, with sufficient Certainty, more than that my Endeavours will be faithful, and I hope effectual.

Messieurs *Merewether* and *Manning* acquainted me the 9th of *January*, that they had so long ago as the End of *November*, wrote to Messieurs *Burrell* and *Bristow*, to tell them, that whatever Sums were wanted here for the Forces, must be sent in Specie from *England*. They knew, that an Answer to those Advices could not well come back to this Island till *April* or *May*, and expected in the mean Time to have supplied Money to the Troops upon their own unjust Terms. This faithless Treatment of their Principals, must have astonished and deceived Messieurs *Burrell* and *Bristow*, till the Truth came to be developed by subsequent Letters; and upon what you will have heard from them, you have certainly been induced to send over more Specie, a thing that would have in no Case been necessary, if these Persons had not entered into the most ungrateful and unnatural Combination, to discredit their Benefactors, and distress the Publick Service; and insinuating to Brigadier *Blakeney*, that themselves only were in a Condition to supply the Troops, which for the Sake of the Service, as an Act of great Merit, they would find Means to do at the Rate of 110, this Currency, for 100 *l. Sterling*.

( C )  
Mr. COLEBROOKE to Mr. PELHAM.

KINGSTON, Feb. 24, 1740.

SIR,  
I Gave Notice that I had occasion for a Supply of Money for the Service, and offered my Bills at 130 *Jamaica* Currency, for 100 *l. Sterling*; and notwithstanding several things combine to make Money scarce, I have made a Beginning, and passed Bills upon you for 1,250 *l. Sterling*, as is noted at the Foot.

- L. 500 to *John Hamilton*, Esq; value of the same.
- 200 to *Robert Wilson*, value of *John Hamilton*.
- 300 to *John East*, value of *Samuel Spofforth*.
- 100 to *Samuel Spofforth*, value of the same.
- 150 to *Jacob Mendes da Costa*, value of *David Bravo*.

L. 1250 all under this Day's Date, payable at three Days Sight. Which Sum of 1250 *l. Sterling*, at the Rate of 130, making 1625 *l. Jamaica* Currency, I pass to the Credit of the Right Hon. *Henry Pelham*, Esq;

( D )  
Mr. COLEBROOKE to Mr. PELHAM.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 23, 1740.

SIR,  
I Have now the Pleasure to acquaint you, that the Combination that had been formed here to reduce the Price of Bills for the publick Service to 110, is entirely dissipated. The Confederates lately made a new Effort to put a Stop to the Supplies of Money, which they found coming into my Hands, by endeavouring to borrow all the Money they could hear of; but I have now happily overcome all Opposition, and can assure you on good Grounds, that whatever Money may be necessary to be raised for the Service, will be found here for Bills on you at 130 and upwards. I say this with Confidence from the State and Course of the Trade here; and I dare venture to advise you not to send any more Money from *England* in Specie, upon Account of any Doubt of my finding all that can possibly be wanted for the Use of his Majesty's Forces; and I think I am not mistaken in my Conclusion, if a War should break out with *France*, I shall find Money at 140 this Currency, for every 100 *l. Sterling*; because as the Risque of sending Money Home will be greater, the Premium of Inturance must rise in Proportion, and People will give a greater Price for such Bills of Exchange, as they find by Experience are regularly discharged.

Hereunder is an Account of all the Bills I have passed upon you the 24th of *February* for 1250 *l.* at 130, is 1625 *l.* the 9th of *March* for 2420 *l.* at 130, is 3146; and the 18th of *March*, for 1285 *l. Sterling* at 130, is 1670 *l. 10 s.* for all which Sums I make my self Debtor according to the respective Dates.

BILLS

BILLS drawn by John Colebrooke, for the use of his Majesty's Forces in America upon the Right Hon. Henry Pelham, Esq; Paymaster General of his Majesty's Forces

- Feb 24. No. 1. 500 *l. Sterling*, Order *John Hamilton*, Esq; value of the same.  
 2. 200 *l.* Order *Robert Wilson*, value of *John Hamilton*, Esq;  
 3. 300 *l.* Order *John East*, value of *Samuel Spofforth*.  
 4. 100 *l.* Order *Samuel Spofforth*, value of the same.  
 5. 150 *l.* Order *David Mendes da Costa*, value of *David Bravo*.

1250 *l. Sterling* at 130, makes *Jamaica* Currency, ——— 1625 *l.*

- Mar. 9. No. 6. 500 *l. Sterling*, Order *Edward Trelawney*, Esq; value of the same.  
 7. 120 *l.* Order *John Hamilton*, value of the same.  
 8. 250 *l.* Order *Pat. Taylor*, value of the same.  
 9. 200 *l.* Order *John Douce*, value of *George Peete*.  
 10. 500 *l.* Order *Juda Supino* and Son, value of *Jac. Pereira Mendes*.  
 11. 500 *l.* Order *Joseph Douglass* of London, value of *Murray Crimble*.  
 12. 300 *l.* Order *James Murray*, value of the same.  
 13. 50 *l.* Order *Jos. Nott*, value of the same.

2420 *l. Sterling* at 130, makes Currency at *Jamaica*, ——— 3149 *l.*

- Mar. 18. No. 14. 200 *l. Sterling*, Order *Strachan* and *Wilson*, value of the same.  
 15. 200 *l.* Order *Papillon* and *Benjamin Ball*, value of *Murray Crimble*.  
 16. 200 *l.* Order *John* and *James Porter*, value of the same.  
 17. 100 *l.* Order *Robert de Lap* and Company, value of the same.  
 18. 80 *l.* Order *James Taylor*, value of the same.  
 19. 130 *l.* Order *Alexander Barclay*, value of *David Barclay*.  
 20. 325 *l.* Order *Robert* and *John Hamilton*, value of the same.  
 21. 50 *l.* Order *Matthew Cleveland*, value of *Robert* and *John Hamilton*.

1285 *l. Sterling* at 130, makes *Jamaica* Currency. ——— 1670 *l. 10 s.*

Total 6444 *l. 10 s.*

( E )  
Mr. COLEBROOKE to Mr. PELHAM.

Kingston, Jamaica, May 1, 1741

SIR,  
I Advised you the 23 of *March*, of having drawn upon you 21 Bills of Exchange, under several Dates, amounting to 4955 *l. Sterling*. I have since drawn 7757 *l. 11 s. 2 d.* in other 24 Bills as here-under, and make my self Debtor for the respective Sums under each Date. I am now quite sure of raising Money at 130 *l.* and upwards, to any Amount that shall be required, provided a proper Notice is given.

An Account of the BILLS drawn by John Colebrooke, upon the Right Honourable Henry Pelham, Esq; Pay-master General, for the Use of the present Expedition.

1741	No.	L.		
March 24	22	300	Sterling to <i>Alexander Campbell</i> , value of the same.	
1500 <i>l.</i>	23	100	to Ditto ——— Ditto.	
	24	100	to <i>Abr' Van Hoorn</i> , <i>John Hamilton</i> .	
	25	1000	to <i>David Tavares</i> himself.	
	April 6.	26	500	to <i>Pandoso</i> and <i>Paniero</i> themselves.
	27	200	to <i>John Ferguson</i> , <i>Thomas Stratton</i> .	
	28	50	to <i>John Hamilton</i> himself.	
	29	100	Ditto ——— Ditto.	
	30	150	Ditto ——— Ditto.	
	31	400	<i>Daniel Dias Fernandes</i> , <i>A. and S. Dias Fernandes</i> .	
	32	300	<i>Aaron Lousada</i> , <i>J. and B. Lousada</i> .	
5407 <i>l. 11 s. 2 d.</i>	33	450	<i>Samuel Stork</i> , <i>John Curtin</i> .	
	34	1000	<i>Isaac Fuertado</i> himself.	
	35	200	<i>Ab. de Fonseca</i> , <i>M. and A. La Mera</i> .	
	36	150	<i>Pereira &amp; Lima</i> , <i>A. La Mera</i> .	
	37	207	11 2 <i>Jacob Brandon</i> himself.	
	38	800	<i>Daniel Mendes da Costa</i> himself.	
	39	500	<i>Juda Supino</i> and Son, <i>Isaac P. Mendes</i> .	
	40	200	<i>Pat. Taylor</i> himself.	
	41	200	Ditto ——— Ditto.	
	April 24	42	100	<i>William Groves</i> himself.
		43	200	<i>Jac. Mendes da Costa</i> , <i>David Bravo</i> .
		44	350	<i>Jos. Polander</i> himself.
850 <i>l.</i>		45	200	<i>Taylor</i> and <i>Jackson</i> themselves.

Which Sums of 1500 *l. Sterling*, drawn the 24th of *March*, and 5407 *l. 11 s. 2 d.* the 6th of *April*, and 850 *l.* the 24th of *April*, I pass to the Credit of the Right Honourable *Henry Pelham*, Esq; at the Rate of 130 *Jamaica* Currency for 100 *l. Sterling*, in his Account of Exchanges, under the respective Dates.



Mr. COLEBROOKE to Mr. PELHAM.

S I R, IN pursuance of your Command, in the second Paragraph of your Letter of the Twenty fifth of May, about the Discontent of the Troops, on Occasion of their being paid at the Rate of 120 l. Jamaica Currency, for 100 l. Sterling, it is my Duty to acquaint you, that the Par of money between England and Jamaica is.

Pistoles at	o	16	8 Sterling		1	3	9 Jamaica	142 1/2
Guineas at	1	1			1	8	9	138 1/2
Moedas	1	7			1	18	9	143 1/2
Portugal Pieces -	1	16			2	10		158 3/4
To which adding 6 per Cent. for Freight and Insurance from Jamaica to London, the Medium upon Gold is								149

Pieces of 8, 7 s. 3 d. per Ounce Jamaica 139 1/2  
 5 s. 6 d. London Par 134 1/2  
 Small Pieces 7 s. 2 d. 5 s. 6 d. 143  
 Medium 135; to which adding 6 per Cent. for Freight and Insurance as before upon Silver, is 143.

I mentioned in my last of September 12, that the Officers of the Independent Companies here draw for their Pay according to the Courte of Exchange, now 140, and pay the private Men at 125.

I have learnt, that when the Regiments of Cope and Hay arrived in this Island, the Assembly, in Consideration of the Dearness of all Necessaries, then passed an Act to make them an Allowance of Provisions at the Country's Expence; and I am well informed, that Provisions are at this Time fifty per Cent. dearer than they were then.

I confirm, that the Officers of the Independent Companies, have an Allowance of twenty Shillings, and each private Man five Shillings per Week, for which 10,000 l. is raised annually by the Assembly.

My Duty requires me to second your Zeal in His Majesty's Service to the utmost of my Ability, in the Department you please to honour me with; and it is with Joy that I can inform you, that by Occasion of the great Sum of Money issued by you, and brought to this Place in Specie, the Combination entered into to distress me in raising money for the Use of the Troops by lowering the Exchange, has been entirely broken; and from thence, and the State of the Trade to the Spanish Coast, there is Reason to be assured that the Exchange will keep up to 140, notwithstanding a Probability of its being raised higher by proper Management; and as this favourable Circumstance may be the Means of producing very considerable Relief to the Troops by paying them at a higher Rate hereafter; I hope you will look upon it as an Instance of my Ambition to make my Services agreeable to you, that I offer my self to undertake to draw Bills upon you at the best Courte of the Exchange.

The Interest of the Merchants sending Goods to Jamaica is against the Rise of the Exchange, but I persuade my self I shall be as successful in this Attempt, as I have been hitherto in your Service; and I am so well assured of what I advance, that should you prefer the having a certain Price fixt, I am ready to furnish any Sum of money wanted for His Majesty's Forces at 135 certain Price, without any Charge, and that my Bills bear no less Term than four Months after Date, or sixty Days after Sight; and that I will not trouble the Office with small Bills, but pass one in two Months, or one Month the ofteneft.

I sent farther to Mr. Pitt, for the Use of the Forces on Cuba 6285 l. 15 s. by the Defiance, Capt. Trevor, which failed yesterday. I am Sir, Your most Obedient, and most humble Servant

JOHN COLEBROOKE.  
Kingston Jamaica, Sept. 1, 1741.

Mr. COLEBROOKE to Mr. PELHAM Dated Jamaica, Sept. 7, 1741.

S I R, THE Dissatisfaction of the Officers receiving their Pay at 120 this Currency, for every 100 l. Sterling, increases every Day, and now I have found Means to bring the Exchange to 140, they complain of it as a very great Hardship. I had formerly represented to the General upon this Occasion, that the Price of 120 was fixt by Contract of the Treasury with Messrs. Burrell and Bristow. That your Instructions to me to pay the Troops at that Rate was in Conformity to that Contract, under the Supposition, that it was the most that could be obtained.

That it was not to be imagined, that you could order the Troops to be paid at a higher Exchange than the Price fixt with the Contractors; but that as the Contract was not answered by the Agents of Burrell and Bristow, I thought it probable I might receive your Orders to pay the Troops at a higher Rate, when you were informed of my Success in raising the Exchange.

This

This I have happily executed, contrary to the Inclination and Interest of some Persons, and to the Opinion and Apprehensions of others; not only unassisted by the Persons, whose particular Stations required their supporting my laudable Attempt, but opposed and obstructed in my Measures.

Mr. COLEBROOKE to Mr. PELHAM.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Sept. 12, 1741.

S I R, I Have the mortification to acquaint you, that this Discontent of the Troops increases every Day, the more as they come to understand that the Exchange is brought to 140, l. and that the private men of the Independent Companies here are paid one Ryal, or 7 1/2 Pence this Currency for 6 d Sterling, which answers to 125 Currency for 100 l. Sterling, and the Officer draws his Bills according to the Exchange, which is now at 140. Besides which, the Assembly, in Consideration of the Dearness of all Necessaries, allows every Capt. and Lieut. 20 Shillings Currency, and every private Man 5 s. a Week additional Pay, called here Country Subsistence.

This puts the Condition of these Independent Companies on so much better Footing than the Forces on the Expedition, that these latter are continually expressing their Uneasiness on the Comparison.

I can now assure you, that you may depend upon my keeping up the Exchange to 140, and raising whatever Sum may be wanted for His Majesty's Forces, and that Bills upon you will have the Preference of all private Bills.

Mr. COLEBROOKE to Mr. PELHAM.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Oct. 8, 1741.

S I R, THERE is nothing talked of so much among the Officers of the Army, as the Hardship of being paid at 120, when the Exchange is at 140. Every one of them is become a Calculator, and complains, that he loses 16 l. 6 s. on every 100. For 120 Jamaica Currency is paid with 62 Moidores at 38 s. 9 d. each; which 62 Moidores is no more than 83 l. 14 s. Sterling; and I have been told, that most of them have wrote to their Friends at home to apply for Redress, finding themselves very much straitned in a Place, where every Necessary is excessive dear.

As the General seems not inclined to order the Payment of the Troops, otherwise than Sums of Money upon Account, notwithstanding his strict Injunctions to me to be always ready, it is probable I may not be obliged to take up Monies soon; which I shall be very glad of, that I may be intrusted by you, whether I am to receive Money from Messieurs Gray and Woolley, as they now offer, at 125, or to pass my Bills to the Publick at 140; on which Price, and my finding all the Money that may be wanted for the Service; you may hence-forward depend.

Mr. COLEBROOKE to Mr. PELHAM.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb. 12, 1741-2.

I Have received the Honour of two of your Letters of the 18th of July, and the 1st of October, with a Copy of the Lords of the Treasury's Agreement with Messieurs Burrell and Bristow. Your Order, that it be complied with, has been already executed, and the Additional 5 per Cent. upon all Payments for Subsistence from the 24th April, has been paid to the respective Pay-masters, and the Payments since 25th of Dec. made at 125 l.

I have this Day passed my Bill on you for 4800 l. No. 93, at 30 Days Sight, payable to Peter Burrell and John Bristow, Esqrs. for Value of Messrs. Gray and Woolley, at 125, is 6000 Jamaica Currency.

Extract of a Letter to the Pay-master of the Marines, from his Deputy in Jamaica, Aug. 22. 1741.

General Guise has wrote to Mr. Colebrooke, That it is his Opinion, he ought not to take the Money from Mr. Gray at 120 for 100 l. Sterling, when he can draw at 130 and 135. That as the Agents of Burrell and Bristow would not supply Money according to the Contract with the Treasury, that it is void; and that he ought to keep drawing till he hears from Mr. Pelham. There is great murmuring amongst the Troops being paid at 120 l. I think if it had been settled at 125 l. it would have done better, which would have answered to the Currency of Silver here, 7 1/2 for 6 d. Sterling.

I don't doubt, but if I was to take all Opportunities for drawing, but I could be always sure of supplying at 130 l. &c.

NUMBER VII.

May it please your Lordships,  
I Humbly beg Leave to lay before your Lordships, Copies of three Letters received from Mr. John Colebrooke, at Jamaica, the Person deputed by me to pay the Troops employ'd upon the Expedition to America, relating to the Exchange of Monies between London and Jamaica; which I thought proper to communicate to your Lordships, with a Representation of this Affair, as the same appears to me.

That your Lordships were pleas'd, by Minute of the 9th of July 1740, to contract and agree with Messieurs Burrell and Bristow, to furnish Money for the Payment of the said Troops, at the Rate of 120 l. Jamaica Currency, for every 100 l. Sterling; in Pursuance whereof, my Deputy was instructed to take up Money from the Agents of the said Contractors or Remitters at Jamaica, and draw his Bills upon me payable to them for the same.

That upon Representation from Major-General Wentworth, Commander in Chief of the Forces upon the said Expedition, setting forth the Discontent among the Troops, occasioned by their receiving no more than 120 l. Jamaica Currency, for 100 l. Sterling; your Lordships were pleas'd, by Minute of the 5th of June 1741, to make a new Agreement with the said Messieurs Burrell and Bristow, that the Money should be furnished by them, at the Rate of 125 l. Jamaica Currency, for every 100 l. Sterling, and that the Troops should be paid at the same Rate.

That my Deputy, upon his Arrival at Jamaica, did apply to Messieurs Merewether and Manning, Agents for the Contractors, who refus'd to supply the Money that might be wanted for the Service of the Expedition, at 120 l. Jamaica Currency, for 100 l. Sterling; and that the said Contractors did, upon Notice thereof, in the Room of Messieurs Merewether and Manning, appoint Mr. John Gray, their Agent, who made an immediate Offer of all Sums as were or should be wanting for His Majesty's Service; but, previous thereto, my Deputy, apprehending a Combination was enter'd into, among some monied Men of the Island, to prevent his getting any more than 110 l. Jamaica Currency, for 100 l. Sterling, found himself under a Necessity of making use of the Credit and Power given him by his Instructions, to draw Bills upon me, as Pay-master-General, at the best Rate of Exchange that he could obtain; and hath actually drawn Bills upon me to the Amount of 29,216 l. 5 s. 3 d. at 130, 135, and some at 140 l. Jamaica Currency, for 100 l. Sterling, and makes no doubt but he shall be able to draw for all Monies that shall be wanted for the Service of the Troops, for the future, at 140 l. Jamaica Currency, for 100 l. Sterling; which is confirm'd by Brigadier General Guise, as his Opinion also, in a Letter of the 4th of September, a Copy whereof is hereunto annexed.

That he hath kept a distinct Account of the Profit of Difference between the Rate at which the Troops have been paid, and the Rate at which his several Bills have been drawn according to his Instructions; but that the said Remitters have been furnished with Money at my Office, to take up, and discharge the Bills so drawn by my Deputy upon me; they concluding, That by Virtue of their Contract with your Lordships, they have a Right to the said Profits or Difference; and expect that the same should be carry'd to their Account, and paid over into the Hands of their Agents at Jamaica.

I therefore humbly pray your Lordships Orders and Directions, whether the said Profit, or Differences, arising by Exchanges, shall be account'd for and paid to the Agents of the said Contractors, or refer'd in the Hands of my Deputy, for the Use and Benefit of the Publick.

Pay-Office, Horse-Guards, 15th Dec. 1741. Which is humbly submitted to your Lordships, H. PELHAM.

Brigadier GUISE to Mr. PELHAM.

S I R, KINGSTON, Jamaica, Sept. 4th, 1741.  
AFTER the Expedition of Carthagena, I arriv'd in this Place, and had a violent Fit of Sickness, that I was not in a Condition to serv'e in the Expedition in the Island of Cuba. I find that Mr. Colebrooke can have Money enough at 140 Currency, at 60 Days Sight. We have had a great Number of Officers sick here; and 'tis incredible the Expence they have been at; and they flatter themselves, that since Money can be had at so easy a Rate, they may reap the Benefit of it. S I R, Your most humble Servant, J. G. U I S E.

NUMBER VIII.

May it please your Lordships,  
WE having received, by Order of your Lordships, a Copy of a Memorial from the Pay-master-General of His Majesty's Forces, dated the 15th of December last, containing a State of the Transactions at Jamaica, relating to the Exchange, and Pay of the Troops there, and referring to several Letters from his Deputy in that Island, dated the 1st,

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1st, 7th and 12th of September last; also a Letter from Brigadier-General Guise, dated the 4th of September, to all which your Lordships are pleas'd to require our Answer. In Obedience thereto, we beg Leave to lay before you, in the first Instance, the Reasons upon which our Contract was founded in its original Price of 120, and Augmentation afterwards to 125. The Rule for fixing any Price of Exchange could only be found by the Probability of the Rate at which Money might be rais'd in Jamaica; and in order to obtain that Knowledge, we endeavour'd to procure Bills here on Jamaica, but could not succeed even at 120 l. It is well known, the Island of Jamaica has no Species of its own, but is supplied chiefly, if not intirely, by what it draws from the Spanish West-Indies, for Ballance of Trade; and of this a very small Quantity goes or can remain in the Island; for this Reason, because Silver in which that Ballance is paid, bears a higher Price in England, in Proportion to the Exchange, than it does at Jamaica; and the Currency of the Island is so inconsiderable, that it is extremely difficult to recover Debts of any Kind, but in Sugar, or some other Produce of the Plantation.

The Par of Exchange between England and Jamaica is deem'd to be 125 l. for every 100 l. Sterling; but as the Exchange between any two Places depends upon many Contingencies, and Incidents, no fixt Price or Course can be ascertain'd, but as more or less money is to be paid at one Place or the other, it must eternally vary. The Exchange might be at 125 or higher, whilst the Island of Jamaica remained on the same Footing with regard to England, which it had been for many Years; but the moment England was oblig'd to pay so large a Sum in Jamaica, for Subsistence of the Troops, the Case must alter, as it did with regard to Col. Blakeney, who, before the Arrival of the Forces under General Wentworth, could with Difficulty raise a small Sum for Subsistence of the American Regiment at 120; and had not this inevitable Consequence been foreseen by us, and the money for the whole to have been rais'd upon the Island, no Man can say at what Rate the Persons in Possession of the Currency would have given it, or what Price the Exchange would have fallen to; but if a Judgment may be form'd from the above Instance, it must have been greatly under 120. The Pay of an Independent Company cannot bear a Parallel with the present Case, as there is no Proportion in the Sums to be rais'd. Upon these Considerations it became incumbent upon us, for the Publick Service, as well for our own Safety, to remove the Difficulties, which attend'd the raising the money there. And the only Expedient left to avoid the Imposition of the Persons, who were in Possession of the Currency, was to provide a new one, in some measure, independent of them. This we did, by sending out, at our own Risque and Charge, the proper Funds for that Purpose. And your Lordships were pleas'd to direct the Payment of a Sum of money to us, upon our furnishing the Pay-master General our Bills on Jamaica for the Amount; which was accordingly done, and the Bills punctually discharged. The Receipt of this money at Jamaica had the desired Effect, as it broke a Combination, which was actually enter'd into, to lower the Exchange and distress the Service, and by which monies were soon rais'd by Draughts from thence at 130, which enabled us to alter the Price from 120 to 125.

And as this money was the sole Cause of supporting the Exchange in the Beginning, so that, together with what has been since sent out, and the great Reduction of the Pay from the fatal Mortality among the Troops, must be attributed the further Rise of the Exchange to 135 and 140. And we beg leave to remark, that had the money sent out by us mis-carried, the Exchange must have been govern'd by the arbitrary Will of the Persons possess'd of the Currency of the Island.

Messieurs Merewether and Manning, whom we appointed our Agents at Jamaica, did refuse to comply with a Demand made on them by Mr. Colebrooke, for the immediate Payment of a Sum of money, and also what might be further wanted for the Service of the Expedition, at 120; and the Reason alledged for this Refusal was, Mr. Colebrooke's absolute Denial of their Request to be inform'd what Part of the money brought out by the Deputies, had been issued, what Sums were then wanted, and what Sums would be necessary from time to time to be rais'd for carrying on the Service. This Denial of Mr. Colebrooke, and his peremptory Demand without Limitation, we conceive must have been calculated to deter our Agents from the Execution of our Orders, and he thereby get the Transaction of the whole Affair into his own Hands.

As soon as we received Notice of what had happen'd between the Deputies and Messieurs Merewether and Manning, we made an Alteration in our Agency acquainting your Lordships therewith, and in the Room of the former appointed Mr. John Gray our Agent, who made an immediate Offer of all such Sums as were or should be wanting for His Majesty's Service, at 125, agreeable to a new Engagement we had enter'd into with your Lordships.

As Mr. Colebrooke could no longer pretend Refusal on the Part of our Agents of the Payment of any Sum of money, which he should require, he pleads the Want of Orders, and that our Contract was at an End, notwithstanding Notice was given him of the new one made with your Lordships at 125, and under these Pretences he refus'd to accept of the Offer made him by our Agent, and continues to draw himself on the Pay-master General.

The Assurance that Mr. Colebrooke gives to the Pay-master-General, that the Exchange must be kept up at 140, appears to us most extraordinary, as we think nothing in Nature more precarious or uncertain, than the Course of that Exchange.

The Computations made by Mr. Colebrooke in his Letter the 1st September, are erroneous in Part, and extremely fallacious in the whole. Pistoles, instead of the Price which he men-

tions of 16 s. 8 d. are not to be bought under 17 s. 2 d. and Moidores of 27 s. are not to be found for a y large Sum, the Non-Coinage of this Particular Specie for many Years having rendered it very scarce, the Addition of 6 per Cent. to this Computation for Freight and Insurance from Jamaica to London, is placed directly contrary to what it ought to be; it is a necessary Charge upon the Remitter, who sends it from hence, and at whose Expence it got thither, and by which means alone the Exchange bears any Price at all. His Computation on Silver is equally erroneous, the Price which he mentions to be 5 s. 6 d. in England, has been, since the Commencement of the War with Spain, and will probably remain to during the Continuance of it, from 5 s. 7 d. to 5 s. 7 1/2 d. for Pieces of 8, and fo in proportion for small Pieces, which upon a Medium of 7 s. 3 d. and 7 s. 2 d. Jamaica Currency, forms an Exchange of about 128 1/2 per Cent.

Mr. Colebrooke, to complete the whole, ventures, in his Letter September 7, to write to the Pay-master-General, that by his Success, His Majesty's Troops had been supplied 20 to 30 per Cent. better or cheaper than they would have been by our Agents. In order to give your Lordships all the Light in our Power, we beg leave to lay before you the real State of the following Species mentioned in Mr. Colebrooke's Letter, in respect to their Price here, their Value in Jamaica, and what their Produce is to the Remitter, after Deduction of the Charges they pay for the same, viz.

Table with columns for s. d. and l. s. d. listing items like Pistoles, Guineas, Moidores, and Port Pieces with their respective values and Sterling equivalents.

The Medium of the above Species produce for every 100 l. Sterling Jamaica Currency about 139 1/2. Deduct there-out the following Charges paid by us on Remittances to Jamaica: L. 1 per Cent. Shipping and other Charges in England, 2 1/2 per Cent. Insurance, 1 per Cent. Freight to Jamaica, 3 per Cent. Commission we Pay in Jamaica. L. 7 1/2 per Cent. Computed on 139 1/2 the above Medium is about 10 1/2.

The Price contracted for now being 100 l. Sterling for 125 Jamaica, deduct the said - 125. Then their Remains a Profit, Jamaica Currency, the Sum of 4 l. on 139 1/2 not quite 3 per Cent. which we presume will not be thought by your Lordships unreasonable, considering the Trust we are obliged to put in Agents, at that Distance, and the great Hazard that attends all Transactions in those Parts; to which we must again repeat, that as the Rise of the Exchange was entirely owing to the Money sent out by us, had that Money miscarried, we must have felt the Inconveniency of a want of a Currency for the Subsistence of the Troops, and been exposed to the Mercy of those Persons, who were engaged in a Combination to make their Advantage of it, and the Profit now made, no way equal to what we must in that Case have suffered. And this leads us to take Notice of what the Pay-master-General desires in his Memorial, that your Lordships will give Orders, and Directions, for the disposing of the Profits for Difference by Exchange, on the Bills drawn upon him by his Deputy. As we humbly conceive by our Contract, with your Lordships, we engaged and obliged ourselves to furnish the Pay of the Troops, at a certain Rate, and had the before-mentioned Combination taken Effect, and the Exchange thereby fallen under that Rate, or the Funds sent out been attended with Loss, such Difference or Loss must necessarily have been born by us. Therefore we humbly submit it to your Lordships, that we are in Equity entituled to the Profit, that shall arise from such Draughts, and that the same be carried to our Account and paid over to our Agents at Jamaica. Peter Burrell, John Briflow.

NUMB. IX.

SIR, Enclosed is the Affidavit as desired. I should be glad to know how the Petition succeeds for Costs out of the Justices Fines. I am exceeding sorry for the Death of Mr Lawton. Where to have such another for publick Affairs, I am at a Loss. Sure I am, had he been living and well, our Commission of Justices would have been determined one way or other, e'er this Time. If you have any Interest, I beg you would press it strongly. With it, the Corporation is our's; without it, it is hazardous, and will be attained (if ever) with great Difficulty. I beg you'd proceed no farther in any of the Motions you and I have been concerned in, than Mr. Brooksbank answers Payment for both to you and me, who am, SIR, Your Humble Servant, WILLIAM DANIEL. Colchester, Jan. 17, 1740. NUM.

NUMBER X.

An ACCOUNT of all Sums issued for secret Service, or for His Majesty's immediate or special Service, the Money issued to His Majesty's Privy Purse excepted, or to reimburse Expences for His Majesty's Service, distinguishing the Cause assign'd for issuing the same, the Time when, and Persons to whom, the same has been issued, from the 10th Day of February 1731, to the 10th Day of February 1741, Viz.

Large table with columns: Sums issued for His Majesty's secret Service, Sums issued for His Majesty's Service, or special Service, Sums issued to reimburse Expences, The Time when issued, and Persons to whom issued. Lists various amounts and names like Richard Allen, Robert Adams, etc.

K

Sums

Sums issued for His Majesty's secret Service.			Sums issued for His Majesty's Service, or Special Service.			( 38 ) Sums issued to reimburse Expenses.			The Time when issued.	Persons to whom issued.
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		
			1500						6 November	
			500						11 December	
			1000						30 ditto	
			1000						12 January	
			1000						8 February	
			1000						28 ditto	
			1000						22 March	
			1500						17 Apr. 1733	
			1000						2 June	
			500						19 ditto	
			2500						30 ditto	
			500						2 July	
			1000						14 August	
			1000						15 ditto	
			500						11 Sept.	
			1000						2 October	
			1500						19 ditto	
			1000						16 Nov.	
			1000						19 ditto	
			1000						15 Decemb.	
			1000						4 January	
			2000						17 ditto	
			1000						26 ditto	
			1000						22 February	
			2000						26 Mar. 1734	
			2500						11 April	
			2000						3 May	
			2000						13 ditto	
			1000						10 July	
			2500						18 ditto	
			500						7 August	
			1000						24 Septemb.	
			1000						8 October	
			1000						25 ditto	
			1000						6 Nov.	
			1000						12 Decemb.	
			1500						4 January	
			1500						17 February	
			1500						26 ditto	
			1000						19 Apr. 1735	
			3000						16 May	
			1500						14 June	
			2000						10 July	
			1500						20 August	
			2500						27 ditto	
			2000						5 Sept.	
			1000						26 ditto	
			1000						20 October	
			1000						7 November	
			1000						29 December	
			2000						3 February	
			1000						5 ditto	
			1500						4 March	
			1500						16 Ap. 1736	
			1500						5 June	
			1500						9 ditto	
			1000						30 ditto	
			1500						11 August	
			1500						6 October	
			2000						10 Nov.	
			1000						18 Dec.	
			1200						18 Jan.	
			1000						19 February	
			1500						29 Mar. 1737	
			1500						14 May	

Thomas Lowther.

Sums issued for his Majesty's secret Service.			Sums issued for his Majesty's Service, or Special Service.			( 39 ) Sums issued to reimburse Expenses.			The Time when issued.	Persons to whom issued.
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		
						2000			9 July	
						2300			22 Sept.	
						2000			5 Oct.	
						1500			7 Nov.	
						1500			31 Dec.	
						2000			1 Feb.	
						1000			22 March	
						2000			19 Ap. 1738	
						1000			4 May	
						1000			10 ditto	
						500			22 June	
						2000			12 July	
						1000			16 August	
						2600			25 October	
						1000			7 Dec.	
						1200			17 January	
						1000			24 ditto	
						1500			3 February	
						1000			28 ditto	
						1200			7 Ap. 1739	
						1500			12 May	
						1500			20 June	
						3500			11 July	
						1000			22 August	
						1000			5 Sept.	
						3500			3 Nov.	
						2000			23 January	
						1500			15 February	
						2000			8 March	
						1000			2 Ap. 1740	
						1500			22 ditto	
						1200			22 May	
						1500			3 July	
						1500			22 ditto	
						3110	11	06	29 ditto	
						2000			23 August	
						2000			19 Sept.	
						1000			6 Nov.	
						1500			22 Dec.	
						1000			9 February	
						1500			28 ditto	
						1500			13 March	
						1500			15 Ap. 1741	
						1500			21 May	
						1000			2 July	
						500			4 ditto	
						2000			16 ditto	
						1000			20 August	
						1500			1 Sept.	
						2000			30 Dec.	
						2000			21 January	
									2 July 1733	
									30 Ap. 1734	
									22 Ap. 1735	
									20 Oct. 1735	
									3 July 1736	
						2090	19		23 Dec. 1736	
						2090	19		11 May 1737	
						2090	19		28 Jan. 1737	
						2090	19		27 July 1738	
						2090	19		3 Feb. 1738	
						2090	19		19 May 1739	
						2090	19		25 Oct. 1739	
									11 Aug. 1735	
						500			4 Mar. 1736	
									7 June 1740	
						243				

Thomas Lowther.

George Middleton.

William Marshal  
Thomas Hay  
Horatio Mann Esq;



Sums issued for His Majesty's Secret Service.	Sums issued for His Majesty's Service, or Special Service.	Sums issued to reimburse Expences.	The Time when issued.	Persons to whom issued.
l. s. d.	l. s. d.	l. s. d.		
8000	0	0	17 April, 1736.	
8725	13	4	13 May,	
7750	0	0	27 Ditto.	
5300	0	0	3 July,	
6450	0	0	6 August,	
3000	0	0	15 Sept.	
5000	0	0	15 Octob.	
4857	10	0	6 Novem.	
5792	0	0	4 Decem.	
3850	0	0	17 Janu.	
1000	0	0	1 Feb.	
4390	0	0	4 March,	
6320	0	0	9 April, 1737.	
8250	0	0	27 May,	
7790	0	0	20 June,	
6200	0	0	7 July,	
8050	0	0	17 August,	
5000	0	0	5 Sept.	
2523	0	0	30 Decem.	
3557	10	0	26 Octob.	
4690	17	0	3 Decem.	
2861	0	0	22 Ditto.	
12000	0	0	7 Janu.	
4560	0	0	11 Febru.	
3941	0	0	8 March,	
5244	12	0	12 April, 1738.	
6950	0	0	10 May,	
7250	0	0	31 Ditto,	
4300	0	0	7 July,	
8000	0	0	10 August,	
5800	0	0	30 Septem.	
11000	0	0	13 Octob.	
6890	0	0	6 Novem.	
3200	0	0	23 Decem.	
6000	0	0	27 Febru.	John Scrope, Esq.
8159	16	0	31 March, 1739.	
12000	0	0	2 May,	
8900	0	0	30 Ditto	
6620	0	0	23 June,	
3220	0	0	5 July,	
7800	0	0	9 August,	
7200	0	0	15 Septem.	
6414	15	5	23 Octob.	
7795	0	0	24 Novem.	
4250	0	0	29 Decem.	
8700	0	0	12 Janu.	
6600	0	0	4 March,	
7850	0	0	28 April, 1740.	
8000	0	0	13 May,	
5666	13	0	5 June,	
6000	0	0	28 Ditto,	
6000	0	0	16 August,	
6000	0	0	10 Septem.	
6000	0	0	13 Octob.	
6000	0	0	7 Nov.	
8000	0	0	25 Ditto,	
7250	0	0	31 Decem.	
8474	0	0	24 Janu.	
7233	16	4	3 March,	
7718	18	10	20 April, 1741.	
7300	0	0	9 May,	
5000	0	0	6 June,	
5000	0	0	8 July,	
5000	0	0	8 August,	
5000	0	0	25 Ditto,	
5000	0	0	15 Octob.	
5000	0	0	1 Decem.	
7994	5	5	11 Janu.	
8544	0	0	23 Ditto,	
2000	0	0	4 Febru.	
5000	0	0	4 May, 1732.	James Starkey,
4160	0	0	21 June, 1733.	Francis Smith,
2900	0	0	9 Janu. 1734.	John Shepherd,
1500	0	0	10 Janu. 1735.	Ditto.

Sums issued for His Majesty's Secret Service.	Sums issued for His Majesty's Service, or Special Service.	Sums issued to reimburse Expences.	The Time when issued.	Persons to whom issued.
l. s. d.	l. s. d.	l. s. d.		
		2000	21 Janu. 1735.	
2900	0	0	4 Febru.	
3269	15	7	25 Ditto.	
4000	0	0	17 April, 1736.	
		2820	26 June,	
2000	0	0	11 August,	
2979	18	0	3 Septem.	
2900	0	0	15 Octob.	
		1400	17 Decem.	
640	0	0	13 Janu.	
2900	0	0	30 Sept. 1737.	
3054	0	0	29 August 1738.	
5286	7	3	16 Decem.	
2000	0	0	17 March,	
2583	16	0	7 June, 1739.	John Shepherd.
2983	6	0	23 Ditto.	
1321	2	0	3 Octob.	
2900	0	0	7 Novem.	
1900	0	0	29 Dec.	
1321	3	6	8 Jan.	
3600	0	0	17 March,	
1322	3	6	3 April, 1740.	
1322	3	6	6 May,	
739	6	6	22 Ditto,	
2715	8	10	8 August,	
1059	7	0	23 Febru.	
1584	19	0	21 March	
3600	0	0	4 April, 1741.	
2350	0	0	21 May,	
2900	0	0	30 Ditto,	
		795	21 July,	John Scrope, Esq;
		1500	4 January,	Ditto,
			7 Ditto,	Ditto,
323	5	0	18 Ditto,	John Shepherd,
3112	1	6	17 Febru. 1738.	William Sperin.
3650	0	0	19 May, 1739.	John Smith.
2141	2	2	10 March, 1740,	Arthur Stert, Esq;
541	16	8	1 Febru. 1741.	George Stephens, Esq;
500	0	0	2 June, 1732.	Henry Willfon.
4150	0	0	7 July, 1733.	
79	18	0	23 March, 1733	
532	18	0	3 Janu. 1734.	
		533	12 June, 1736.	John Waffe.
		658	28 April. 1737.	
		692	21 Janu. 1737.	
		131	5 Febru. 1739.	
10000	0	0	4 April, 1734.	John Williams.
1963	5	8	7 July. 1737.	Ditto.
849	2	0	15 Febru. 1734.	Jofas Wordsworth.
5000	0	0	26 August 1734.	Edward Williamfon.
5058	0	0	16 August 1735.	Henry Walters.
2000	0	0	20 Octo. 1735.	Andrew Wilfon, Esq;
		500	3 Novem. 1735	George Wilkins, Esq;
		10000	4 July, 1738.	Daniel White,
		323	3 Sept. 1741.	Thomas Wilkin, Gent.
1000	0	0	4 Janu. 1741.	Charles Watfon, Gent.

Memorandum. There is issued to the two Principal Secretaries of State, by Privy-Seal, the Sum of 3000 Lib. per Annum, each, payable Quarterly, for His Majesty's Secret Service.

Exchequer, April 19. 1742.

J. DAWSON.

NUMBER XI.

An ACCOUNT of all Sums issued for secret Service, or for the immediate or special Service of the Crown, the Money issued for the Privy Purse excepted, or to reimburse Expences for the Service of the Crown; distinguishing the Cause assign'd for issuing the same, the Time when, and the Persons to whom the same has been issued, from the 1st of August 1707, to the 1st of August 1720, Viz.

Table with 5 columns: Sums issued for secret Service, Sums issued for Service, or special Service, Sums issued to reimburse Expences, The Time when issued, and Persons to whom issued. Includes entries for Daniel Arthur, Esq., Samuel Buckley, Henry Bendysh, etc.

0481

Table with 5 columns: Sums issued for secret Service, Sums issued for Service, or special Service, Sums issued to reimburse Expences, The Time when issued, and Persons to whom issued. Includes entries for William Borret, Col. Ralph Congreve, James Craggs, etc.







NUMBER XIII.

Money paid by Mr. Lowther, of the Treasury, to the following Persons, for Printing, Publishing, and Writing of News-Papers, &c. by them delivered at the General Post-Office, in London, between Feb. 10, 1731, and Feb. 10, 1741. viz.

Table with columns for names (William Arnal, John Walkboe, William Wilkins, John Peel), dates, and amounts in pounds, shillings, and pence. Includes sub-totals and an Annual Totals column.

1732 28 April, Paid to Mr. George Hawkins, for 1100 Persuatives to Impartiality and Candour in Judging of the present Administration 42 10 0
1734 6 April, Paid Monsieur Le Grellé, for a Pamphlet in Vindication of the Ministry, delivered at the Post-Office by Joseph Chrichley 150 0 0
1735 28 Aug. Paid Samuel Buckley, for Disbursements on his Majesty's Service 2228 0 0
1739 23 Aug. Paid to Ditto, for Printing and Delivering several Pamphlets for his Majesty's Service 460 8 8
1740 17 July, Paid to Ditto, for Printing several Things for the Use of the Publick 50077 17 10

NUMBER XIV.

Francis Gashery, Esq; a Member of the House of Commons, being examined in the most solemn Manner, this 3d Day of June 1742, in relation to an Order for 1500 l. which Mr. Shepherd, in his Examination, mentioned to have been carried to Sir Charles Wager, when Mr. Gashery was present: And it being in particular asked this Examinant, if Sir Charles Wager did not say to this Examinant, what shall we do in this Affair? And if Sir Charles, did not inquire of Mr. Shepherd, whether the Fees were to be paid? or, if Sir Charles Wager did not desire Mr. Shepherd to receive the Money? The Examinant said, that he does not recollect any of these Circumstances, nor can he remember that he was present when any such Order was brought to Sir Charles Wager; that Sir Charles Wager did say to the Examinant, that he was in Expectation of getting some Money for Mr. Lever, the High-Bailiff of Westminster, to assist him, Mr. Lever then being in great Distress, for he being a Brewer had lost his Customers, and was forced to keep at Home to avoid his Creditors. That when the Examinant returned one Day from the Navy Board, Sir Charles Wager told him, that in his Absence 1500 l. had been brought him by one of the Examinant's Servants; that the Examinant received the 1500 l. from Sir Charles Wager, the second of January last. That Mr. Lever, some time before this, tho' the Examinant believes it could not be a Fortnight, applied to Sir Charles Wager, and mentioned the Distress he was in for Money to pay his Maltster; that Sir Charles had been told, the King would give him (Lever) some Money, and thereupon Sir Charles lent him 500 l. for which the Examinant thought it proper to take a Bond. That on the 3d of January last, Mr. Lever had of this Examinant 1000 l. that is, 500 l. in ready Money, and 500 l. to pay off the aforementioned Bond. That on the 6th of January, Mr. Goffree brought to the Examinant a Bill of Cofts on an Information against Mr. Lever, &c. relating, as this Examinant imagines, to the Election at Westminster, which amounted to 124 l. 14 s. and this Bill the Examinant paid on Mr. Lever's Account. That on the 9th of February, the Examinant paid a Bill of 107 l. 12 s. 6 d. for Fees and Expences, during Mr. Lever's being in Custody with the Serjeant at Arms; and that, on the 27th of February, the Examinant paid to Mr. Lever, 267 l. 19 s. which he conceived to be the Ballance remaining in his Hands of the 1500 l. and for which he has Mr. Lever's Receipt; but by what Accident the last mentioned Sum exceeded the real Ballance by a few Shillings, the Examinant cannot recollect.

FRANCIS GASHERY.

NUMBER XV.

An Account of all Warrants from the Crown, directing the Payment of any Money to the Secretary of the Post-Office without Account, from the 10th of February 1710, to the 11th of February 1741.

Table with columns for date, description of warrant, and amounts in pounds and shillings.

GEORGE STONE Receiver General.

NUMBER XVI.

John David Barbutt, Esq; Secretary to the Post-Office, being examined in the most solemn Manner, this 18th Day of May 1742, and being asked as to the Disposition of the

the Money paid into his Hands without Account by a Warrant from the Crown, said, That there is in the Post-House a private Office for the inspecting Foreign Correspondents, and that the greatest Part of that Money is for the defraying the Expence of this Office. That the Accountant-General and Receiver-General who have inspected the Books, have told him, that the first Traces they find of any Money thus paid by Warrant, was in the Year 1718; that this Examinant cannot say as to the first Establishment of this Office, having been but three Years and a half himself in the Post-Office; but he apprehends, there was always an Office of this Kind, and that it was detrayed, formerly, by the Secretaries of State; that he is a Stranger to the Business of the Office, having never been in it, for they pretend to be independent, and to receive their Instructions from the Secretaries of State, and carry their Intelligence to the Secretaries of State, though the Post-Masters have a Right to go into the Office: That the annual Expences of this Office are as follows: To the chief Decypherer Mr. *Willes*, for himself and his Son 1000 *l.* to the second Decypherer Mr. *Corbiere*, 800 *l.* to the third Decypherer Mr. *Lampe*, 500 *l.* to the fourth Decypherer Mr. *Zollman*, 200 *l.* to the chief Clerk Mr. *Lefevre*, 650 *l.* to the Four other Clerks, Messieurs *Bode*, *Thouveis*, *Clark*, *Hemmitt*, 300 *l.* each. To the Comptroller of the Foreign Office, Mr. *Day*, 60 *l.* to the Door-keeper 40 or 50 *l.* but this Examinant believes 50 *l.* there are besides, accidental Charges, for Seals, &c. an Account of which, is brought in by one of the Clerks, which may amount to 100 *l.* and to Mr. *Lavalade*, formerly Alphabet Keeper, but now superannuated, 40 *l.* That when these Sums were discharged, the Overplus, which may amount to 90 *l.* is divided between the two Post-Masters, and the Secretary, each Post-Master taking three Sevenths, and the Secretary one Seventh. That M. *Le Fevre*, besides his above-mentioned Salary, is paid something out of Incidents, so that his whole Salary may amount to about, as he believes 800 *l. per Annum*. That his (*Le Fevre's*) is a very troublesome Post, it being necessary he should be always present at the going out, and the coming in of the Mails; that this Examinant does not know of a Pension of 200 *l. per Annum*, paid out of this Money, but Mr. *Clark*, who has formerly attended and is incapacitated at present, has 200 *l.* paid him out of his Salary of 300 *l.* and another attends for him.

J. D. BARBUTT.

FINIS.

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