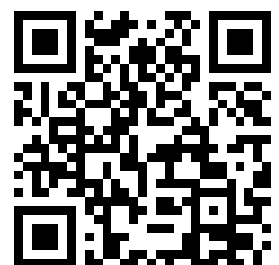

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HOUSE OF LORDS

THE SESSIONAL PAPERS 1801-1833

Vol. 63 (1812-13).

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HOUSE OF LORDS

THE SESSIONAL PAPERS 1801-1833

Vol 63 (1812-13)

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R E P O R T

FROM

THE LORDS COMMITTEES

Appointed to consider of the

AGREEMENT MADE WITH MR. PALMER,

FOR THE

REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE POST OFFICE.

Ordered to be printed 5th July 1813.

1777

By the LORDS COMMITTEES appointed to consider of the Agreement made with Mr. PALMER, for the Reform and Improvement of the Post Office, and report to the House ; and to whom were referred the Report made by the Committee of the House of Commons in the Year 1797, appointed to consider of the Agreement made with Mr. Palmer for the Reform and Improvement of the Post Office, and also the Report made by a Committee of this House in the Year 1808, on the same Subject; and to whom were also referred the several Accounts respecting Mr. Palmer, presented to the House in the present Session ;

ORDERED TO REPORT,

THAT the Committee have met, and considered the Matter to them referred ; and have directed the Evidence taken before the Committee to be reported to the House.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE, taken before The Lords
Committees appointed to consider of the Agreement
made with MR. PALMER, for the Reform and Improve-
ment of the Post Office ; and report to the House.

Die Veneris, 25° Junii 1813.

The Lord President in the Chair.

ORDER of Reference read.

The Right Honourable CHARLES LONG M. P. attending, is called in ; and,
having been sworn, is examined as follows :

You are requested to attend to the Evidence, as given by you before a Com-
mittee of this House, as it will be read by the Clerk, and to inform the Com-
mittee, whether it contains your present Opinions upon the Subject ?

*The Right Hon.
Charles Long.*

The Evidence is read by the Clerk, as follows :

“ *Die Jovis, 16° Junii 1808.*

“ Lord *Eliot* in the Chair.

“ The Right Honourable CHARLES LONG attending, is examined as
follows :

“ When you were one of the Joint Secretaries of the Treasury, did you be-
come acquainted with the Nature of Mr. Palmer’s Appointment, and with the
Grounds on which he was afterwards superseded ?—I did.

“ On what Principle was the Remuneration to Mr. Palmer given ; as a Reward
for Services performed previous to his Appointment, exclusively or conjointly
with such as were to be performed by him in the Discharge of the Duties of his
Office ?—Not exclusively for the first, but with Reference to both Considera-
tions.

“ Was Mr. Palmer’s Appointment made with a View of enabling him to pro-
mote the Public Service by a zealous and faithful Discharge of his Duties ?—I
certainly so understand it.

“ Was the Remuneration by way of Per-centage adopted in order to stimulate
him to such Discharge of his Duty, by making him participate proportionably
with the Public in the beneficial Effects produced by it ?—I believe that was the
Ground upon which that Mode of Remuneration was adopted.

“ Was that Part of the Remuneration by Per-centage wholly independent of
the Discharge of official Duties ?—I conceive it was not. The Condition to be
performed on the Part of Mr. Palmer I understand to have been the Continuance
of the faithful Discharge of official Duties, in the Furtherance of his Plan, and in
the Improvement of the Revenue of the Post Office ; and the Compensation to
have been fixed as the Remuneration for the Discharge of such Duties.

“ Do you know why the Remuneration agreed to be given to Mr. Palmer was
to be paid partly by way of Salary, and partly of Per-centage ?—I believe the Salary
(123.) A was

*The Right Hon.
Charles Long.*

was given to Mr. Palmer with a View of securing something certain to him, in case the Net Revenue of the Post Office should at any Time fall below the Sum upon the Surplus beyond which that Per-centage was to be calculated. The Ground upon which the Per-centage was given I have before explained.

“ Was the £1,500. per Annum to be considered as being given as a Commutation of a Per-centage on Ninety thousand Pounds, the supposed annual Produce of a Tax suggested by Mr. Palmer?—From frequent Conversations I have had with Mr. Pitt on that Subject, I certainly did not understand it to be granted on that Ground.

“ Having stated, in the beginning of your Evidence, that you were acquainted with the Grounds upon which Mr. Palmer was ultimately superseded in his Office, will you state them to the Committee?—By the Appointment of Mr. Palmer, of the 11th of September 1789, he was placed in the Post Office as Comptroller of that Office, under the Authority of the Postmasters General. He was suspended by them from that Office in the Year 1792, for disobeying their Orders. The Papers relating to this Proceeding were transmitted to the Treasury, for the Decision of Mr. Pitt and of that Board. During this Suspension, and while these Papers were under Consideration, the Postmasters General preferred Two Charges against Mr. Palmer, the one for having recommended the Payment of false Charges in Bills made out for the Performance of Services relating to the Office, he knowing such Charges to be false; the other for having endeavoured to delay the Delivery of Letters, and to throw the Post Office into Confusion, with a View of attributing that Delay and Confusion to the Postmasters General.

“ They produced, in Proof of these Charges, Letters written by Mr. Palmer to his Deputy: These Letters were admitted by Mr. Palmer to be written by himself. Mr. Pitt thought they fully proved the Charges exhibited against Mr. Palmer, and was of opinion that he should no longer continue in Office. The Letters to which I refer are in the Appendix to the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, 1797, and are marked No. 10. in that Appendix.

“ On what Ground was the Annuity of £3,000. per Annum granted to Mr. Palmer?—This Sum I understood to have been fixed with reference to the Amount of the Per-centage to which he was entitled at the Time of his Suspension. Although he was not considered by Mr. Pitt as entitled to the same Allowance as he would have been entitled to, had he continued discharging his Duties in the Post Office in the Superintendance and Furtherance of his Plan, Mr. Pitt considered some Remuneration due to him for the Introduction of that Plan, and his Services up to the Period of his Suspension.

“ Did Mr. Palmer ever express himself satisfied with this Grant?—Mr. Palmer often expressed himself dissatisfied at the Production of the Letters to which I have referred, and his consequent Removal from Office; but I understood him, at the Time of that Removal, and under all the Circumstances attending it, to express his Satisfaction at the Sum which had been granted him for Life. Mr. Pitt also, I have reason to know, understood him in the same way. It is possible, however, we may have been mistaken in this Supposition, as Mr. Palmer has declared in his Evidence he never expressed himself to that Effect.

“ When did you first hear from Mr. Palmer that he was dissatisfied with it?—I did not hear of any Dissatisfaction on the Part of Mr. Palmer until about the Time that he presented his Memorial to the Treasury, towards the End of the Year 1794.

“ Had the Post Office Revenue considerably increased between the 5th of April 1793 and the 5th of April 1794?—Very considerably.

“ Do you think the Plan introduced by Mr. Palmer into the Post Office beneficial to the Public, and in what Respect?—I think the Plan very beneficial to the Public, and particularly in the two essential Points of Security and Dispatch. From this Circumstance it has also probably added to the Revenue, but in what Degree it is impossible to state.

“ Did

“ Did Mr. Palmer meet with Obstructions on the first Introduction of his Plan?—I have understood that he met with Obstructions in the first Introduction of his Plan, and that Mr. Pitt supported him in the Removal of them; indeed, it was Mr. Pitt’s general Disposition to support Mr. Palmer, until the Production of the Letters I have referred to, which in Mr. Pitt’s Opinion exposed Transactions which it was impossible to justify or palliate, and which he conceived rendered Mr. Palmer unfit to hold Public Office.

“ Was there any particular Obstruction to Mr. Palmer’s Plan at the Time of his writing the Letters you have referred to, or at the Time of his Suspension?—I believe there was no Obstruction to his Plan at either of those Periods. The Postmasters General, at the Time of his Suspension, and previous thereto, appeared to me to be strenuous Supporters of that Plan, though they differed with Mr. Palmer in various Points not necessarily connected with the Plan.

“ Was any Person officially authorized by Mr. Pitt to communicate with Mr. Palmer respecting the Remuneration he should have on his quitting the Post Office?—I believe no Person was officially authorized.

“ Mr. Long was referred to a Question and Answer in the Examination of Mr. Palmer, contained in Page 7. of the re-printed Report, as follows :

“ Had you any Answer to the Memorial presented in December 1794?—I had from Mr. Long; and he assured me that the Lords of the Treasury would give it their earliest Consideration; that he thought it very probable that the Percentage might be granted me; but as I had acted with Contumacy towards the Postmasters General, and disobeyed their Commands, I might be deprived of the Salary of £1,500 a-year. He stated to me, that he considered the Percentage as the Agreement for my Plan, and the Execution of it, and that the Salary was for performing the official Duties of my Employment, and that appeared to him forfeited. At the same Time, on a further Explanation of the original Agreement, and Mr. Pitt’s Modification, it appeared the Salary had formed a Part of the agreed-for Percentage; upon which he wished me every Justice to the Extent of my Claims; but not being in Office himself at the Time the Agreement was made, he could say nothing to that.”—And was asked,

“ Do you recollect the Circumstances thus stated?—I do not particularly recollect the Conversation here referred to. It could not have taken place in the Manner above expressed, because that Part of it which relates to the Percentage due to Mr. Palmer is contrary to the Opinion I have always entertained. The Opinion I expressed probably was, that whatever Remuneration should be given to Mr. Palmer, would be fixed with reference to the Amount of the Percentage at the Time of his Removal from Office.

“ When and in what Manner was Mr. Palmer removed from his Situation in the Post Office?—He was suspended, as I have before stated, in the Year 1792, and in the following Year his Name was omitted in a new Establishment of the Post Office, recommended by the Treasury, and carried into Effect under an Order of The King in Council.

“ Are you clearly of opinion, that the Discharge of Official Duties on the Part of Mr. Palmer was included in the expressed or implied Agreement between Mr. Pitt and Mr. Palmer?—I certainly am of that Opinion; from the many Conversations I have had with Mr. Pitt upon this Subject, I have no Doubt he also so considered it. He thought Mr. Palmer had not performed the Condition of the Agreement on his Part, by a faithful Discharge of those Duties, and was of opinion he ought to be removed from Office in consequence.”

That Evidence contains my present Opinions upon that Subject; I have nothing to alter.

You are requested to attend to the Letters which the Clerk will read, as contained in No. 10. of the Appendix to the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons of 1797, and to state whether those are the Letters which you say Mr. Pitt thought fully proved the Charges against Mr. Palmer, and for which he was dismissed?

The

*The Right Hon.
Charles Long.*

The said Letters are read by the Clerk, as follow :

“ Letters from Mr. Palmer to Mr. Bonnor, delivered to the Postmaster General by Mr. Bonnor.

“ Dear B.

Salisbury, October 16th, 1788.

“ I hear by Lloyd, of the Fag you have at Bow Street ; whoever the Villain is, I hope it will be brought home to him, and that severe Example may put a Stop to these Frauds so disgraceful to our Office. You have not been able, I suppose, to see Rose about Morfe's Application.

“ If you could send to Chinnery about it, or get some Answer or other for Morfe, I should be glad. I will write to Lord W. To-morrow ; he is going on just right. I hope you have kept his Letters, as they would justify any Thing ever so absurd or extravagant.

“ The Lesson I would have given Wilson is this ; that it is impossible for me or any one the most ignorant, not to be sensible to the shameful Conduct of the Business, or Charges of his Bills, and not officially to condemn it ; at the same Time, I have recommended Lord W. to pay it, and shall continue to do so ; as, having made the Charge, if he recedes from it, it will be proclaiming himself a Rascal. I think Lord W. saw Wilson himself, and gave him Orders to spare no Expence, &c. ; if so, that should be the Point pressed by Wilson.

“ I shall advise him to see Wilson, who must be damned firm with him ;—insist on every Article being just ;—that he has charged nothing for his Trouble, that £200. could not pay his Loss in his other Business, by attending to this, which made him very ill ;—the first Time his Character was called in question, to be suspected and treated in this Manner, after all he has done for the Office, the World will cry Shame on it ; that to get down the Price for carrying the Mail, &c.—that they understood they should always have 3d. a Mile the first Price ; that in obeying my Orders, and assisting to get it down to a Penny, he got the Ill-will of all his Partners and Friends ; that he saw they would not do it much longer, if they had not their old Price, and what they deserved, for they lost, God knows what by it ; but if he was to be treated in this shabby Way, he knew what he had to do, and should take Care of himself, &c. &c. &c. This is a private Hint and Advice from your Friendship to him ; that you know I shall not object to his taking any Merit to himself, to get him out of his present Scrape.

“ The Matter should be quietly to throw this Load upon his Lordship ; let him be bullied, perplexed and frightened, and made apprehensive that his foolish Interference may even occasion a rising of the Mail Prices at £20,000. per Annum Difference to the Office : Think of all this, for he must not escape this Bout ; the fun would be to get Wilson to a Board, and let him bamboozle his Lordship with his Slouch and his Slang and his Blackguard. Wilson must be well lessoned ; tell him Lord W.'s Declaration to me in his Letter about the Bill, but that I shall still advise Payment. I hope to get to Bath ere the Post goes off ; if I should, any Thing in your Letters there to answer.

“ Yours truly,

“ J. Palmer.

“ Can any thing be so gross as Lord W. sending his Letter to me open to Braithwaite, and desiring him to give him his Opinion on a Surveyor for Scotland, without saying a Syllable to me, who am just returned thence ? But I know the Gentleman pretty well, and his shallow Views.”

“ Dear Bonnor,

Isle of Wight, May 22d, 1789.

“ I Should rather imagine, by your Letter, that the Deed could not be done effectually, without betraying that some Pains on our Parts were taken to effect it ; unless therefore a thorough and complete Dust could be kicked up, and a glorious Confusion, better forbid the Account being taken at all, and assume a Merit in preventing Mischiefs. You will however determine as you see fit, that which may be best. The Horse fell with me about Two Miles this Side Southampton ;

ampton; he was so stunned that he rolled on my Leg, and lay on it so that I feared it was broke, but thank God it is whole, though much bruised; take Care therefore, and be cautious of riding your Mare again, after the Hints she has given you. Poor Toby had given me Two or Three gentle Warnings, which I was fool enough to neglect. Our best Compliments to the Ladies; Mrs. Palmer is very indifferent; the Girls well.

*The Right Hon.
Charles Long.*

“ Ever yours truly,
“ *J. Palmer.*”

“ All unite in Love to Tom and Charles.”

“ Dear Bonnor,

Wilderness, September 30th, 1790.

“ YOU have managed vastly well.—If, like Trappolin, I was made King for a Day, I should say like him, I believe, Take me these Two coxcomby Lords to ———. The Soreness of the Business is—Lord W. just after my last Return from Scotland, went into a curious Investigation, and a Sort of Reform of that Office, without the least Communication whatever with me, and in the coarsest Manner to Oliphant, made some Confusion, and did nothing. The Business will now be really and effectually done, and without advising with his Lordship, and I will defy them to undo it. I sent to them for the Papers and Reports, or Copies of them, by Hasker. They sent Word, being Official Papers, they could not part with them, but would send me Copies; which they have not done. Every Thing being nearly finished, the only Way I could comply with their Orders, if they should think proper to repeat them, would be to send to Freeling, that, as by my Directions, he had carried into Execution many Regulations for the Improvement of the Correspondence, &c. &c. which had already been productive of good Effects, it was the Postmaster General’s Pleasure that he should, as far as he possibly could, put it back in the same irregular and confused State he found it:—But they are not such miserable Fools to press it.

“ They will be entering some absurd Resolutions, that the Comptroller General having done so and so, that in future no Regulations shall take place without first having their Sanction.

“ I really have always felt, that every material Alteration, &c. should have their Sanction; but that it is impossible with Lord W. to do this, and unless the Constitution of the Office was altered, it must be so if they insist on it.

“ I certainly could expose them most damnably; but 3 or 4,000 a Year must not be trifled with, though if it was not for the Children, I should like to lead them on to a downright Quarrel, and a thorough Exposure of them. If there were Men of Sense at the Head of the Department, I could not have a Dispute with them.

“ I have sent your Letter to Lott, which is vastly well; I have told him to inform the Proprietors where the Fault lay. You see, that I ought not to hazard the most distant Possibility of these worthy Peers saying to me, You do not pay the Contractors their Money. I hope a few days will complete all your accounts, and work up the Rubbish, that you and Mrs. Bonnor may have a quiet Dip in the Sea, and be set up for the Winter. I think of passing through Town in my Way to Bath, about the 10th or 12th of next Month; and if you think it necessary, will meet Sir Benjamin and the Partnership. I could wish my Accounts to be given to Maskelyn soon as Gofnell can, to look over against I come up. Soon as you return from the Sea, I shall want to talk to you about a new and general Post Office Act, which I have occasionally mentioned to you, and other Matters. Will you see Maskelyn, and let all the Guards and incident Bills be now settled; for that insidious Lord W. though he has himself occasioned the Delay, exclaims about the poor People. Day, and all together, would soon do it; the sooner too we can send in the proposed Officers, and their Arrears, &c. the better.

“ Yours ever,
“ *J. Palmer.*”

“ Hope to reach Hastings to-morrow.—It is certainly right to take care of every Paper that passes betwixt the Postmaster General and me.”

(123.)

B

“ Dear

*The Right Hon.
Charles Long.*

“ Dear Bomior,

Hastings, October 3d, 1790.

“ THE worthy Peers, you see by their last Letter, have left me no Alternative, but we must go to the Treasury: 'Tis unpleasant, bitch'd as I have been there, but it must be done. My last Letter proves every Disposition on my Part to go on well, and the troubling Mr. Pitt rests with them. As I shall write them a very full and decided Answer, that we may close entirely on the Business, it is necessary for me to have many Papers, and Lloyd to copy some. All the Papers that were laid before the Commissioners—my Letters to Lord Walsingham, and his that occasioned them—Allen's Narrative, 'tis in the Bureau, I believe; Day and Lloyd can find them, I think, and every Paper you can think of that may be of use to refer to. Do you likewise look out Lord W.'s numerous Correspondence, his Minutes, &c. &c. and recollect some Instances of his throwing the Correspondence into Confusion, but for my stopping his Order given. You recollect the particular Circumstances I allude to. Pack Lloyd down in the Coach with the Materials. Will you send a Porter to Mr. Jackson, Old Palace Yard, for a small Turtle he has given Mr. Harris, and let Lloyd bring it with him. Though the Conduct of the Lords is the very Thing I ought to wish, and must end well, yet it revives old Quarrels and Feelings, and fevers me in spite of myself—Damn them, I never can be absent to get a little Bathing or Quiet, but this is the Cafe. I think they will look small.—You may trust Sir B. in confidence, but beg him to mention nothing of it. I mean you to shew him the Papers that have pass'd. I wish you would call on Boydell, congratulate him on being Mayor, and say all civil Things from me to him of his Spirit, Encouragement of Genius, &c.; for we may want him, and Brathwaite you know is his Intimate; but of this we'll talk further when we meet.

“ In a hurry,

“ Your's ever,

“ J. Palmer.”

“ Send me a Copy too
of their last Minute.”

“ Dear Bonnor,

Brighton, October 26th, 1790.

“ WILL you see the principal Clerks, and say, as from yourself, that in the present Situation of Matters you think the Postmaster General will sign their Warrant directly, by way of shewing how ready they are to take my Recommendation if I will only submit it to them. You had better, therefore, simply send the Officers Names, and the Sums allotted to each.

“ The inclosed Papers need not go unless they chuse to canvass the Matter, which I don't think they'll do. Nobody, therefore, should go down, but do you send it them, and say any Thing you please yourself. I thought it better, as an Official Letter, to date it from the Post Office. Excuse to Stow my not answering a Letter I had from him; how much I am pleas'd with his Exertions, and that I shall see him soon.

“ I think Johnston, or any other expectant Friends, should have their Minds made easy, and be told how safe every Thing is, and their Officers being the better settled for this very Brulée.

“ I have the Pleasure to tell you I have had a long Conversation with Lord C. this Morning, and a gentle and friendly Jobation for basting the Peers. He will see Mr. Pitt himself, and enter fully into the Business; and I hope and believe we shall now have it clearly and definitively settled; but this must not be mentioned, nor his Name.

“ Tell Bartlett to look over all the Letters betwixt me and Lord Walsingham, and he will find some Copies from me, though they can be scarce made out, which shew that I foretold it must come to this Issue if he persisted in his Conduct; and used every Method myself to prevent it.

“ Will you send likewise for the Copy of what they last sent to the Treasury, which they mean as a Sort of Reply or Observation on my last Letter; because I should have it to refute to Lord C. if necessary. I go with him, Thursday, to Chiselmhurst. He wants to see the Copy of the actual Treasury Warrant for my Appointment, and the Postmaster General's Appointment of me in consequence of it.

Bartlett

Bartlett will find them all in the Right-hand Drawer of my Desk; send, therefore, all of them by Return of Post. He will look over, all the Acts, and every Part of it, to see if he can't work out a little Law to go on ere he sees Mr. Pitt.

*The Right Hon.
Charles Long.*

" I keep the Three Minutes you have sent to shew Lord C. As to their Query about 2 oz. Franks, I suppose some Person's Frank under 2 oz. has been charged by Mistake, and this is their Way of Enquiry, and doing Business. They are certainly charged according to the Acts, and there cannot be a more regular Officer than Colton: speak to him upon it. As to the good Woman at Bagshot, she seems a Friend of mine, and to have given the Peer a Dressing for interfering in her Department. But why should we send a Surveyor when the Peer has made the Enquiry and Examination, and say what should be done. He is the Surveyor, and should have finished his Business; for Freeling can't go down and report against the Postmaster General.

" Freeling may as well go down tho', and follow his Directions; and I hope the old Woman may be spunk, and refuse to apologize, and bid them kiss her B. for the Office is not worth holding; and if the Surveyors visit them on this Stuff, they will have nothing else to do. Freeling should go to the Secretary, and look at Lord Chesterfield's Minute, as I can't return this. I think, by your Account, the Discipline of the Inland Office goes down, which will be no bad Thing. It is not impossible but they may get into a tolerable Confusion there, as the Dispute is known amongst them. I wish, if you can send it by Return of Post, to have my former Letter to Lord Walsingham, to shew Lord C.

" I think Johnston might take Huff at some of the Officers not observing his Directions, and keep out of the Inland Office; and Stow and Austin, quietly if they could, and without apparent Design; let Brown and Ruddick take their Situations. Brown would be disregarded, and Ruddick would dispute with the Officers, instead of enforcing Obedience. We should by Degrees get an Hour or Two later in the Delivery; by Degrees, in a Week or Two: I think it might be quietly and cautiously managed, if even little or no Notice was taken of their not coming early, or Absence. The Coaches must be kept to their Duty, as they have not interfered with them.

" Ever, dear B.

" C. Bonnor, Esq. &c.

" Your's most truly,

" J. Palmer."

" You will of course mind your Cue with the Peers, and be as well in their Grace as you can. I return with Lord Camden to Chiffelhurst, Thursday; and shall be in Town Friday or Saturday, I think; but I wish it not to be known.

" I forgot to say, send a Copy of the Postmaster General's Patent too, if you can get it. They will let one of our Officers copy it at the Treasury, if you will send to Mr. Mitford, tho' I think you will find one amongst the old Papers."

" Dear B.

Bath, November 23d 1790.

" LORD Camden is returned to Town, or Owen's Letter would be excellent; a right Sketch. I shall keep it for him, as I shall state in my Answer the Inutility of the Secretary or Postmaster General's Clerks Places; the latter is not of long Standing; was a mere Job at first; Jackson once gave me the History of it. I wish you could get him to dine with you, and the Subject might easily be introduced. Have you yet sent my Friend Abbot the Correspondence, as Mr. Pitt is willing to confirm any Powers to me the Act of Parliament will allow; I really think they might in some Shape or other be made out sufficiently strong, and independent of the Noble Peers. Did Bartlett mention to you they had been telling their Story to the King? Pretty Masters! So they complain to Domine of the great Boy.

" Your's most truly,

" C. Bonnor Esq. &c.

" J. Palmer."

Those are the Letters to which I refer; and which occasioned the Removal of Mr. Palmer from his Office.

Have

*The Right Hon.
Charles Long.*

Have not you said you did not impute any fraudulent or dishonourable Motives to Mr. Palmer's Conduct in the Post Office, for which he was suspended?—I have, in my Examination before a Committee of the House of Commons.

Did you mean to limit that Observation to his Conduct in the Transaction for which he was suspended; or do you include the Conduct which induced the Postmaster General to prefer the Charges against him?—I answered that Question according to the Terms in which it was put to me, which related solely to the Causes of the Suspension of Mr. Palmer, and not to those of his Removal; I have no Difficulty in saying that I do not consider there was any Thing fraudulent in the Conduct of Mr. Palmer, for which he was removed; whether there was any Thing dishonourable I must leave to the Judgment of the Committee; that Sort of Conduct which those Letters expose, I should wish not to characterize.

Do you recollect the Sum Mr. Pitt first proposed to grant Mr. Palmer, subsequent to his Suspension?—He proposed to grant to Mr. Palmer £2,500. a Year.

Did you apply, in Conjunction with the present Lord Camden, for an Increase of this Sum?—I did; we proposed to Mr. Pitt to increase it to £3,000. a Year.

In so doing did you understand that you were acting in conformity to the Wishes of Mr. Palmer?—I certainly so understood.

Were you the first Person that communicated to Mr. Palmer Mr. Pitt's having assented to increase the Allowance to the Sum of £3,000. a Year?—I believe I was; I cannot say positively whether it was Lord Camden or myself; it is more probable it was myself.

Did Mr. Palmer express to you any Dissatisfaction?—He certainly expressed no Dissatisfaction at that Time.

Have you heard Mr. Pitt express his Opinion whether this was a temporary or a final Settlement of Mr. Palmer's Claims?—I have heard Mr. Pitt state, that he considered it the final Adjustment of Mr. Palmer's Claims.

You have said in your former Examination before this House, that Mr. Palmer got his Appointment as Comptroller General of the Post Office for the joint Object of Remuneration for his former Services, and of stimulating him to a faithful Discharge of his Duty; do not you know that Mr. Palmer himself conceived the Salary of £1,500. per Annum and the Two and a Half per Cent. to have been given him on those Accounts, and not exclusively as a Reward for past Services?—I certainly believe that Mr. Palmer so considered it; I have no Objection to state the Reasons why I believe he so considered it; because I never heard Mr. Palmer attempt to separate the one from the other, until after the £3,000. a Year had been assigned to him; nor did I ever hear him assert his Claim of Right to the Per-centage, independently of the Discharge of his official Duties, until some Time after the Settlement had been made upon his Removal from Office; and particularly during the Period that it was under Mr. Pitt's Consideration, whether he should receive £2,500. or £3,000. a Year, and during which Time I frequently saw Mr. Palmer, he never stated to me his Claim of Right to that Per-centage; if he had, I should not certainly have endeavoured to induce Mr. Pitt to increase the Sum to £3,000. a Year, which I did upon the Ground of its being a final Adjustment, and that Mr. Palmer himself would so consider it.

Do you recollect a Memorial presented to the Treasury by Mr. Palmer on the 4th of December 1794?—I do.

Do you recollect that in that Memorial Mr. Palmer states the £1,500 a Year, and the Two and a Half per Cent. to be not only a Reward for Services past, but to be given him to encourage him to continue his Exertions for improving the Revenue of the Post Office?—I believe it will be found that those Words, or Words to that Effect, are contained in the Memorial.

Since the Examination which has been read to you, have you not been examined lately before a Committee of the House of Commons?—I have.

Was

Was there not an Agreement entered into between Mr. Pitt and Mr. Palmer, and a Warrant of the Treasury and Appointment in consequence of that Agreement?—I only know that from the Papers which are before the Committee.

*The Right Hon.
Charles Long.*

You have been permitted to state your Conversations with Mr. Pitt and Mr. Palmer; did not you learn in those Communications with Mr. Pitt, that Mr. Palmer would have been entitled to his £1,500 a Year and Two and a Half per Cent. upon the increased Revenue of the Post Office, according to the Warrants made out for that Purpose, but for the Objections stated by you?—I stated no Objection whatever.

The Objections to the Continuance of it?—Not the least; I stated none.

You were understood to say, that Mr. Pitt was of opinion that upon the Removal of Mr. Palmer from the Office of Comptroller General, he was not entitled to his Per-centage?—That was Mr. Pitt's Opinion.

Did not you collect from your Conversations with Mr. Pitt, that but for that Objection stated by Mr. Pitt, Mr. Palmer would have been entitled to his £1,500 a Year, and his Two and a Half per Cent., in consequence of the Agreement between him and Mr. Palmer?—Mr. Pitt considered the Salary of £1,500 a Year, and the Per-centage upon the Revenue, to be granted to Mr. Palmer with the double View of rewarding Mr. Palmer for the Introduction of his Plan and for the Discharge of his Official Duties; he conceived that Mr. Palmer had not discharged those official Duties faithfully, and therefore did not consider him as entitled to the Remuneration which he would have been entitled to, had he faithfully discharged those Duties.

Did not Mr. Palmer's Contrivance consist in a new Mode of conveying the Mail in Coaches carrying Passengers, by which the Public not only gained by Expedition, as you have before stated, and by Security, but also in the saving of Expence in the conveying of the Mails?—I conceive it did.

After Mr. Palmer's Contrivance of so carrying the Mails in public Carriages, and after all the Arrangements made by Mr. Palmer to give Effect to that Contrivance, in the Details, was not the Public put thereby into complete Possession of all the Advantages of Mr. Palmer's Contrivance?—I conceive the Public to have been very materially benefited by it. I cannot pretend to say that the Public received all the Advantages that might have been derived from that Plan had Mr. Palmer continued to superintend it; his Superintendance was thought by Mr. Pitt to be very material in furthering and improving the Plan, and the Office created for him to effect that Purpose was considered to be a very active and a very laborious one.

Did not the Revenue very considerably and immediately increase upon the Adoption of Mr. Palmer's Contrivance?—I believe the Revenue was certainly increased by it; to what Extent it is quite impossible for me to say.

Does not the Public still continue to enjoy the Advantages of Mr. Palmer's Contrivance?—I believe so; but whether to the same Extent as it would have done if he had continued in Office, I cannot pretend to say.

Can you state any particular Advantage which Mr. Palmer's Exertions could have communicated after his Plan was completely known and thoroughly established in all its Details?—I am not sufficiently acquainted with the Post Office to answer that Question particularly. I do conceive, from the Nature of it, that his continued Superintendance might have been very material.

Had not Mr. Palmer a direct Interest in giving every possible Effect to his own Contrivance, from the Nature of his Agreement?—He certainly had a material Interest in increasing the Revenue of the Post Office to the utmost Extent.

Have you read the Evidence of Mr. Pitt as it is to be found in Page 27 of the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons in 1797?—I have.

You are perfectly acquainted with that Evidence, as given by Mr. Pitt?—I have a general Recollection of it.

*The Right Hon.
Charles Long.*

The Evidence of The Right Honourable William Pitt, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is read by the Clerk as follows :

“ *Martis, 13^o Die Junii 1797.*

“ The Right Honourable the Chancellor of the Exchequer called in and examined :

“ Was a Proposal, on the Part of Mr. Palmer, for the Improvement of the Posts, and more expeditious Conveyance of the Mails, submitted to you in 1784?—To the best of my Recollection it was; the Subject had been before mentioned, I believe in 1782, and was brought forward again in 1784.

“ Do you recollect generally what Answer you gave to this Proposal, after having considered it?—No Answer was given, that I recollect, in Writing; and the Subject was repeatedly discussed at different Times. I cannot therefore, at this Distance of Time, undertake to give any Account of any one specific Answer; but the general Result of what passed I conceive to have been, that the Terms of Mr. Palmer’s Proposal appeared to me to be fair and reasonable; and that I was desirous of carrying it into Execution, conceiving it would be of great public Benefit: The Outline of those Terms, as proposed in 1784, I believe was, that Mr. Palmer should have some Appointment for Life to superintend the Execution of his Proposal, with an Allowance annexed to that Appointment of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. on the Amount of the Increase which it might produce in the Revenue. The Appointment which took place afterwards, I believe in 1786, differed from that which had been in Contemplation, and which I had originally intended to have acceded to; the Difference was in consequence of legal Objections arising from the Post Office Act.

“ Did you conceive that Appointment to be independent of his Services in the Post Office?—I considered that Appointment as being to enable him to render Services in the Post Office in future, as given with a View to reward him for his past Merits and Services, in bringing forward and maturing his Plan. With this double View the Mode of Payment by a Per-centage was, if I recollect, particularly thought desirable; because, besides giving a Reward proportioned to the Advantage derived by the Public in the first Instance, it seemed calculated to operate as an Incentive to Mr. Palmer to continue his Exertions under that Appointment, in order, if possible, to benefit the Revenue still further; and I have a strong Impression on my Mind, that in the Course of some of the Conversations on this Subject, this Idea was explained as a Recommendation for the Per-centage.

“ Did you conceive that the Appointment which you have described placed Mr. Palmer in the Post Office independent of the Controul and Authority of the Postmaster General?—The Committee will best judge of the Effect of the Appointment by a Reference to the Appointment itself, and to the Laws respecting the Post Office; but as well as I recollect the Discussions that took place before the Appointment, it was not thought possible by Law to make him independent of the Postmaster General. I remember, however, that the great Difficulty Mr. Palmer apprehended and conceived himself to experience in the Outset and Progress of his Plan for a Time, was from the Unwillingness which might exist in an established Office to encourage a Plan introduced by a Person not originally connected with the Office, and deviating from their established Mode of proceeding. He at different Times expressed great Anxiety to be supported by the Treasury against any unfounded Difficulties that might arise; and there were certainly many Occasions on which I thought it my Duty to interpose, as far as I was able, to promote the Execution of the Plan.

“ Under such an Appointment for Life, as you have described to have been originally intended, do you conceive the Enjoyment of it could depend on the Will and Pleasure of the Postmaster General?—If such an Appointment had taken place and could be legally carried into Effect, the Enjoyment of it certainly could not depend on the Will and Pleasure of the Postmaster General; and such an Appointment, I conceive, could have been vacated on no Grounds but such as would by Process of Law, vacate any other Appointment for Life made by competent Authority.

“ By whose Authority was the Draft of the original Warrant made, to which the legal Objection was made?—I am inclined to believe that it was drawn up in consequence of different Discussions on the subject; probably in consequence of Suggestions from Mr. Palmer; but I rather believe prepared at the Treasury, or by Directions from thence, and communicated to The Attorney General, though there is no Trace that I know of for preparing it, or for a Reference to The Attorney General.

*The Right Hon.
Charles Long.*

“ Do you recollect at what Times you found it your Duty to interpose, in order to promote the Execution of the Plan?—I cannot recollect the particular Times, but it was principally at the Outset, and on other Occasions as they arose.”

You know that there was an Intention on the Part of Mr. Pitt, if the Law concerning the Post Office would have admitted of it, of giving Mr. Palmer an Appointment for Life?—I have so understood generally; I was not in the Treasury at the Time it was under Consideration, but I have always so understood it.

In proposing to Mr. Pitt to allow Mr. Palmer £3,000. a Year, was it not with a Reference to what Mr. Palmer would have been entitled to as his Per-centage at that Period?—It was certainly; at this Distance of Time I cannot pretend to speak very particularly upon that Point; Papers, I remember, were laid before Mr. Pitt, stating the Amount of the Per-centage at the Time of the Suspension, and I have always understood that the £3,000. a Year was settled with Reference to the Amount of the Per-centage at that Period.

Had the Per-centage then amounted to what it now does, should you not have recommended an annual Sum commensurate with that State of the Per-centage?—I have no Doubt that I should have recommended a larger Sum than I did recommend, because the Principle upon which I acted was this, that Mr. Palmer was entitled to a considerable Remuneration for the Introduction of his Plan, and that he was also entitled to a Remuneration for the Discharge of his official Duty, up to the Time that he was suspended from his Office.

You having made the Foundation of your Recommendation of £3,000. a Year, with reference to the then State of the Per-centage; had the Per-centage then been what it is now, would not your Recommendation still have had the same reference?—I believe it would.

Was not Mr. Palmer paid his Salary and Per-centage for Thirteen Months after he was suspended from his Office?—Mr. Palmer was paid his Per-centage during the whole Course of the Year during which he was suspended, up to April 1793.

And his Salary?—I believe his Salary also. At the Time of the Settlement of the £3,000. a Year, Mr. Pitt allowed him to retain his former Emoluments to April 1793.

Was Mr. Palmer's Suspension a Suspension from the Duties and not from the Office?—It was a Suspension from the Discharge of the Duties of the Office.

As you recollect that Mr. Palmer presented a Memorial to the Treasury, and afterwards a Remonstrance against his being bound by this £3,000. a Year, can you take upon yourself to say positively that Mr. Palmer ever expressed a Satisfaction at receiving the £3,000. as a fair Settlement?—I certainly understood him to be satisfied with it; at the same Time I cannot recollect any Conversation in which Mr. Palmer expressed that Satisfaction to me, but the Impression upon my Mind was, that he was satisfied.

That Impression upon your Mind, not being founded upon any particular Conversation of his?—I have no Recollection of any such particular Conversation. I have understood also that he had expressed his Satisfaction to Mr. Pitt.

How did it happen that, notwithstanding these Impressions of his having accepted the £3,000. a Year, as a final Settlement, his Case was afterwards referred to Parliament for its Consideration, and that the Negative of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not opposed to its coming before Parliament?—Its being presented to Parliament was Mr. Palmer's Act. Why the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave
The

*The Right Hon.
Charles Long.*

The King's Consent to bringing it before Parliament, it is quite impossible that I can answer; I suppose Mr. Pitt had no Objection to a thorough Investigation of the Claim, and he certainly thought that upon that Investigation it would appear that there were no Grounds to rest it upon.

That Objection of its having been finally settled, in Point of Fact, was not urged by the Chancellor of the Exchequer?—Certainly not; if it had been, I apprehend the Petition could not have been received.

The following Paper, being Part of Appendix No. 7. to the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons in 1797, is read by the Clerk.

“ AN ACCOUNT of the GROSS and NET PRODUCE of the Revenue of the Post Office, for Thirty Years; from 5th April 1763 to 5th April 1797.”

	Gross Produce, exclusive of States, Members, Newspapers, and Country Letters.			Nett Produce.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
The Year ending 5th April 1764 -	225,326	5	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	116,182	8	5
1765 -	262,496	6	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	157,571	—	11
1766 -	265,427	17	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	161,943	—	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
1767 -	275,230	10	— $\frac{1}{2}$	161,944	14	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
1768 -	278,253	9	—	165,783	11	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
1769 -	284,914	14	5	164,760	9	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
1770 -	285,050	14	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	156,062	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1771 -	292,782	7	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	155,543	—	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
1772 -	309,997	8	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	165,503	6	10
1773 -	310,126	11	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	167,176	11	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
1774 -	313,032	14	6	164,077	8	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
1775 -	321,943	1	4	173,188	14	2
1776 -	318,418	7	4	167,482	4	2
1777 -	329,921	14	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	158,575	14	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
1778 -	347,128	8	5	137,994	6	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
1779 -	372,817	11	2	139,248	9	9
1780 -	387,092	10	7 $\frac{9}{16}$	136,409	5	10
1781 -	417,634	12	9 $\frac{3}{16}$	154,157	2	7 $\frac{9}{16}$
1782 -	393,235	18	6 $\frac{9}{16}$	117,325	4	10 $\frac{3}{16}$
1783 -	398,624	6	4 $\frac{6}{16}$	159,625	1	1 $\frac{6}{16}$
1784 -	420,101	1	8 $\frac{1}{16}$	196,513	16	7 $\frac{1}{16}$
1785 -	463,753	8	4 $\frac{1}{16}$	261,409	18	2
1786 -	471,176	8	1 $\frac{6}{16}$	285,975	15	11
1787 -	474,347	9	7 $\frac{9}{16}$	278,599	14	11 $\frac{1}{16}$
1788 -	509,131	15	8 $\frac{4}{16}$	296,980	12	1
1789 -	514,538	4	3 $\frac{3}{16}$	318,610	5	8
1790 -	533,198	1	9	331,179	18	8 $\frac{1}{16}$
1791 -	575,079	3	10 $\frac{3}{16}$	355,999	6	6 $\frac{9}{16}$
1792 -	585,432	10	10	366,959	19	8
1793 -	627,592	19	—	391,508	15	11 $\frac{1}{16}$
1794 -	691,268	11	9 $\frac{9}{16}$	430,662	1	10 $\frac{3}{16}$
1795 -	705,319	10	9 $\frac{1}{16}$	409,497	7	11 $\frac{3}{16}$
(The Two following Years are taken from the Receiver General's Ac- count.)						
1796 -	657,541	10	8	466,457	15	4
1797 -	691,616	11	4	513,350	2	1

Examined per

THO. CHURCH,
Dep^y Acc^t Gen^l.

June 20th 1797.

Was

Was the Calculation upon which the Amount of Mr. Palmer's Remuneration was founded grounded upon this Account, or upon an Account of a similar Nature?—I cannot state that it was grounded upon this Account; I believe it to have been grounded upon one of a similar Nature.

*The Right Hon.
Charles Long.*

Do not you know that in point of Fact many Applications received at the Treasury, urging Claims with which the Treasury has thought it proper not to comply, have subsequently received the Consent of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when an Application has been made to Parliament, to Parliament's discussing them?—I believe so.

Have not most of the Claims for Public Money urged to Parliament, to the Consideration of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has given his Consent, been previously rejected as unfounded at the Treasury?—I cannot answer that Question particularly. I have no Doubt that some have.

You have said in one of your Answers to a Question put to you, that there was a great Saving to the Revenue by carrying the Mail by Coaches; are you of that Opinion on a Re-consideration of the Subject?—I apprehend there was a Saving to the Revenue, because the Mail Coaches were allowed to carry Passengers, and were also allowed to pass Turnpikes without paying Toll, by a special Act of Parliament.

Are you aware that there are now a great Number of Mail Coaches employed to carry the Mails which formerly were conveyed by one Mail Cart?—I believe there are.

If Parliament had not exempted the Mail Coaches from paying Turnpike Duty, and the Turnpike Duty had been paid out of the Revenue, are not you convinced that the Conveyance by the Mail Coaches would have been detrimental to the Revenue?—I cannot say that I am convinced of that: all this depends upon a Calculation, to which unless I have Recourse I cannot speak, because though the Expence of a Mail Coach I have no Doubt is considerably greater than that of a Mail Cart, yet on the other Hand there is a considerable Saving arising from the Passengers by the Mail Coaches.

Have you ever seen any Calculation of the Amount of the Turnpike Duty that Mail Coaches would pay throughout the Kingdom?—I have; it amounts to about £50,000 a Year.

If that Sum had been charged upon the Revenue, do you believe that the Mail Coaches would have been a cheaper Conveyance of the Mails than the former Mode of conveying them?—I really cannot answer that Question with any Degree of Precision.

Do not you know that Mr. Palmer himself has stated that the Revenue of the Post Office would have been greatly increased if he had continued to act as Comptroller General?—I believe he has so stated.

Do you mean that you have heard Mr. Palmer verbally state it, or do you refer to any of the Proceedings?—I think it will be found in some of the Proceedings upon this Subject, that Mr. Palmer has stated that the Expence of the Post Office considerably increased immediately after his Removal.

Do you know any Instance of a Consent being given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to refer to Parliament a Claim in Opposition to a final Settlement which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made himself?—I have no Recollection of any particular Case.

Do you not conceive that the Chancellor of the Exchequer in referring such Claim to Parliament exercises a Discretion; that he is at full Liberty either to refuse or to consent to such Reference?—I conceive he exercises a Discretion, and is at full Liberty either to refuse or to consent.

The Witness is acquainted he may withdraw.

*Marquess
Camden.*

The Most Honourable JOHN JEFFREYS Marquess Camden is examined as follows :

Had not your Lordship frequent Interviews with Mr. Pitt on the Subject of Mr. Palmer's Plan for the Reform and Improvement of the Post Office?—When that Plan was first in Contemplation I very frequently conversed with both Mr. Pitt and Mr. Palmer on the Subject of it.

Was it not your Lordship's Object, conceiving this Plan to be of Public Benefit, to promote Mr. Palmer's Views and Interest, and to use your Influence with Mr. Pitt in his Favour?—I certainly thought that the Plan proposed by Mr. Palmer was likely to be of great Public Benefit, and during the Time that Mr. Palmer was presenting Memorials to the Treasury and otherwise communicating with Mr. Pitt, I frequently had Opportunities of desiring Mr. Pitt to turn his Attention to that Plan, with a View to its being carried into Execution.

Had your Lordship also frequent Interviews with Mr. Pitt subsequent to Mr. Palmer's Suspension?—I had several Interviews with him.

Does your Lordship recollect what Allowance Mr. Pitt at first proposed to grant to Mr. Palmer upon that Occasion?—There was an Idea of his receiving £2,500 a Year.

Was it your Lordship who proposed that that should be augmented to £3,000 a Year?—When I was examined before the Committee of the House of Commons, a Question was asked me by an Honourable Member which brought to my Recollection that there was a Communication to Mr. Pitt from Mr. Long or from me upon that Subject; whether Mr. Long or I first mentioned to Mr. Pitt the giving to Mr. Palmer £3,000 a Year, I cannot recollect, but I think it very likely that I did.

Does your Lordship recollect whether that Proposal for an Increase of the Allowance was made with a View to a final Settlement?—I conceived the Business at a Close when that £3,000 a Year was determined to be given by Mr. Pitt.

Your Lordship conceived the Grant of £3,000 a Year, to be made as a Settlement of all Mr. Palmer's Claims?—I made no Memorandum upon the Subject; but certainly the Impression upon my Mind, from a Recollection of all the Circumstances both then and since, is, that it was a Settlement of those Claims.

Can your Lordship recollect any Expressions of Mr. Pitt, signifying his understanding whether it was or was not a final Settlement?—I really cannot; certainly the Impression upon my own Mind is, that it was a final Settlement.

Did your Lordship conceive the £1,500 a Year, and the 2½ per Cent given to Mr. Palmer when appointed Comptroller General, to be given him solely in reward for past Service, or jointly for the Purpose of rewarding his past Service, and as an Excitement to the faithful Performance of his Duties in Office?—For both Purposes.

Was not the Plea for making his Remuneration dependant on an Increase of the Revenue, that that Circumstance would excite him to Exertions in the Service of the Public?—I should apprehend that such was the Cause of that peculiar Mode of Payment being proposed.

When your Lordship says that the Impression upon your Mind, was that the £3,000 a Year was a Settlement of Mr. Palmer's Claims, do you not know from Correspondence with Mr. Palmer, that the Impression upon his Mind was entirely different?—When I was examined before the Committee of the House of Commons, Colonel Palmer shewed me a Letter from me to his Father, dated in August 1793; that Letter appeared to be an Answer to one I had received from Mr. Palmer, stating his Dissatisfaction at what had passed; and it contained my strong Advice to him to be satisfied, as far as I recollect.

In consequence of that Correspondence, are not you well convinced that whatever Impression might have rested upon your Lordship's own Mind, with regard

to the Nature of this Settlement, Mr. Palmer at no Time so considered it?—Two or Three Months after I conceived it to be finally settled, Mr. Palmer expressed his Dissatisfaction.

And said that he thought himself infamously treated?—That he considered himself ill used.

From the Time of that Letter to which your Lordship was referred up to the present Moment, in any Communications you have had with Mr. Palmer, has he not uniformly insisted upon his Right to his Per-centage under the Agreement, in Opposition to its being a final Settlement?—I think since that Time Mr. Palmer has always declared that he conceived himself ill used, and should endeavour to gain what he conceived to be his Right.

In the Interval between the Period of the £3,000 a Year being granted, and the Date of Mr. Palmer's Letter considering himself ill used, to which your Lordship has referred, can your Lordship take upon you to say, that Mr. Palmer had ever expressed himself as satisfied with that £3,000 a Year as a Settlement?—At the Time that the £3,000 a Year was given to him, I considered it as a Settlement between that Period, and the Period to which the Question alludes when Mr. Palmer wrote that Letter to me; I am not aware that he expressed Satisfaction or Dissatisfaction.

Your Lordship has no Recollection that Mr. Palmer at any Time agreed with your Lordship in considering it as a final Settlement?—I cannot recollect; but it is impossible for me not to suppose that it was satisfactory to him; that is my own Impression, and I am desirous of giving only my own Impression.

Your Lordship cannot state that at any Time (Mr. Palmer having expressed himself dissatisfied in that Letter) between the Period of the £3,000 being granted, and that Letter, he had expressed himself satisfied?—I considered Mr. Palmer to have unwillingly submitted to the Arrangement.

Your Lordship does not recollect any Expression of Mr. Palmer expressing his Satisfaction with that Agreement?—The Impression upon my Mind is, that he submitted to it unwillingly.

Does not your Lordship conceive that though he submitted to it unwillingly, he at the same Time submitted to it as a final Settlement?—I considered him as unwillingly submitting to a final Settlement.

Your Lordship was understood to say, that previously to the Settlement of £3,000. a Year, your Lordship had frequent Communications with Mr. Palmer as to the Remuneration to be made to him; did it come from Mr. Palmer's Solicitation the having an Increase of £500. a Year added to the Proposition of £2,500. a Year as originally intended?—I should think it did not come from Mr. Palmer, according to my Recollection.

Does your Lordship recollect representing the Unwillingness of Mr. Palmer to submit to the Agreement to Mr. Pitt?—I think it probable that in the Conversations I had with Mr. Pitt, I stated my Impressions upon that Transaction: when it was thought right by the Treasury to agree to the Suspension of Mr. Palmer by the Postmaster General, I stated to Mr. Pitt my Wishes, from old Acquaintance with Mr. Palmer, that that Remuneration should be as considerable, as consistently with his Duty to the Public, he could make it; I may have mentioned to him Mr. Palmer's general Concern at the Termination of the whole Transaction: I do not recollect stating to Mr. Pitt precisely the Manner in which Mr. Palmer took the Proposal.

Does your Lordship recollect stating any Thing to Mr. Pitt after the Close of the Transaction?—I think probably I may have had Conversations with him, but I do not recollect any particularly; I believe he considered it as closed, and I considered as closed.

Your

*Marquess
Camden.*

Your Lordship is confident that Mr. Palmer never authorized your Lordship to state himself perfectly satisfied with the whole Transaction?—My Recollection is, as I have several Times repeated, that he unwillingly submitted to the Arrangement; that is the Impression upon my Mind, after a great deal of Reflection upon it.

Then His Lordship withdrew.

*The Right Hon.
George Rose.*

Then The Right Honourable GEORGE ROSE, M. P. is called in; and having been sworn, is examined, as follows:

Did you consider the Reward given to Mr. Palmer of £1,500. a Year and 2½ per Cent, on the increased Revenue, merely as the Reward for suggesting his Plan, or for the joint Object of rewarding him for the Invention, and stimulating him to Diligence in the Duties of his Office?—My constant Understanding upon that Subject was, that the Encouragement given to Mr. Palmer by the Salary and Per-centage, was with the double Object unquestionably of rewarding him for the Merit of his Plan, and for the due Execution of the Office to which he was to be appointed; I never entertained a Doubt upon that Subject; that indeed appears upon the Face of the first Draft of the Warrant in Page 43 of the Report of the House of Commons in 1797.

Was not the Plea for adopting the Per-centage upon the increased Revenue; that it would excite him to Exertion in his Situation?—It certainly was.

Did you conceive the Sum of £3,000. a Year given to Mr. Palmer in the Year 1793, as a final Settlement of all his Claims?—I apprehend so; but I had no Interference with that Arrangement, the whole of the Business passed through me in 1785, and up to 1789; but the Business respecting Mr. Palmer's Suspension and Removal, went through Mr. Long, who came into Office in 1789; and I do not recollect interfering in it at all.

Do you recollect the Impression upon your Mind at the Time that this Settlement took place, whether it was a final Settlement, or only temporary?—The former certainly was my Opinion; but I had no Intercourse with Mr. Palmer on the Subject, and therefore cannot speak with any Sort of Confidence as to the Opinion entertained by him at that Time.

Have you ever given your Attention to the Investigation, of whether the Revenue was greatly increased by Mr. Palmer's Plan?—I cannot speak with any Degree of Certainty upon that. I thought the Accommodation to the Public was a most important one, beyond all Doubt, in respect of the Acceleration of the Delivery of Letters: there were a great many Places in this Country, where the Letters were sent only Three Days in a Week, and it was Four or Five Days in some such Cases before Answers could be received; by Mr. Palmer's Plan a regular Daily Post was established; I conceive therefore his Improvement a most beneficial one, and that he executed it most admirably well.

Have you ever endeavoured to form an Opinion how far the Revenue was increased from the Adoption of that Plan, making an Allowance for the increasing Commerce of the Country, and also for the increasing Duties imposed by Parliament on Letters?—I never have made any Calculation that would justify my stating an Opinion upon it: it must be apparent to every Body that the increased Commerce of the Country would add very materially to the Revenue without any new Mode of conveying the Letters; the Committee will be able to judge in a certain Degree themselves with respect to the increased Correspondence, because there is a Paper in the Appendix to the Report of the House of Commons, (I think No. 27,) shewing the Number of Letters sent out from 1782 or 1783 to a later Period.

Then

Then the following Paper, being Appendix No. 27 to the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons in 1797, is read by the Clerk;

*The Right Hon.
George Rose.*

“AN ACCOUNT of the Annual Number of Letters Inwards and Outwards, at the General Post Office, as well as they can be made out, from 1782 to 1797.

LETTERS.

Number of Letters Inwards.				Number of Letters Outwards.			
				Number.		Number.	
1782	-	-	-	-	-	One Week, March 11 th to 16 th , Bye Night - 32,488 Grand Do. - 84,116	116,604
1783	-	-	-	-	-	One Week, March 10 th to 15 th , Bye Night - 36,722 Grand Do. - 85,153	121,875
1784	-	-	-	-	-	One Week, March Bye Night - 40,175 Grand Do. - 90,900	131,075
1785	-	-	-	-	-	One Week, March 16 th to 21 st , Bye Night - 35,305 Grand Do. - 58,218	93,523
1786	-	-	-	-	-	One Week, March 13 th to 18 th , Bye Night - 44,404 Grand Do. - 63,099	107,503
1787	-	-	-	-	-	One Week, Oct. 8 th to 13 th , Bye Night - 52,376 Grand Do. - 51,638	104,014
1788	-	-	-	-	-	One Week, February 18 th to 23 ^d , Bye Night - 42,739 Grand Do. - 59,544	102,283
1789	} No Books to give any Account for these						
1790	} Years; it is supposed they were lodged						
	in the late Comptroller General's Office.						
From April 5th 1791, to 1792	-	-	-	6,391,149	-	-	5,081,344
Year ended 5th April 1793	-	-	-	6,584,867	-	-	5,041,137
Ditto - 1794	-	-	-	7,094,777	-	-	6,537,234
Ditto - 1795	-	-	-	7,071,029	-	-	7,473,626
Ditto - 1796	-	-	-	7,641,077	-	-	8,597,167
Ditto - 1797	-	-	-	7,632,104	-	-	8,411,418

General Post Office,
June 24th 1797.

DAN. STOW,
Superintending President.”

Is that the Account referred to by you in your last Answer?—That is the Account, made up at the Post Office, which I take for granted is a correct one, as it is signed by the proper Officer in the Post Office.

Have you made any Calculation of the comparative Number of Letters sent out?—In 1784 it will appear by that, that 131,075 Letters were sent out in a Week, which is equal to the Number of 6,815,900 in the Year; by the same Account it appears that in the Year 1792 ending April 1793, the Number sent out was 6,584,000; and it will also appear from the same Account, that the Average of the

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the Letters sent out in the Three Years to 1784 were 123,184 in each Week ; and in the Four Years from 1785 to 1788 inclusive, were 101,830 weekly ; being in the first Period 6,405,568 annually, and in the Second 5,295,168.

Do you, from your Knowledge of Business, suppose that the Conveyance of the Letters by the Mail could in the least increase the Correspondence of the Custom House or of the Excise Office?—No, I imagine not.

Then you would be disposed to attribute the increased Charge for the Correspondence of those Offices solely to the Increase of Business, and to the increased Duties on Postage?—I should think so.

When Mr. Pitt consented that Mr. Palmer should receive the Salary which has been before mentioned, and the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. upon the increased Revenue of the Post Office subsequent to his Appointment, was there any Distinction made between the Sources of that increased Revenue ; was not his Percentage to depend upon the increased Revenue, whatever was the Cause of it?—That will appear upon the Face of the Instrument.

It was impossible to enter into any minute Calculation of how much of the Increase of the Revenue of the Post Office might arise solely from Mr. Palmer's Contrivances, and how much from the increased Prosperity and Business of the Country?—It would be, I conceive, very difficult.

Mr. Palmer's Contrivance consisted in carrying the Mail by Coaches that carried Passengers, by which there was not only a Diminution of the Expence, but greater Facility and greater Expedition?—I think it must be apparent to every Body that there was a considerably quicker Delivery of the Letters in general ; the Letters before went by Carts.

You say, Mr. Palmer superintended his Contrivance with great Zeal and Ability?—He did.

After Mr. Palmer had communicated his Contrivances to Government, and had entered upon the Execution of them by his own skilful Superintendance, as you have given it, by instituting all the different Details necessary to his System, were not the Public from that Time in the Enjoyment of all the Advantages of his Contrivance?—They certainly were.

After Mr. Palmer had thus given to the Public the Benefit of his Contrivances, which Mr. Pitt had adopted, and had arranged all the various Details necessary for its Accomplishment, would the faithful Discharge of them by the ordinary Officers of the Post Office, be sufficient to continue to the Public the Benefit of such Contrivances?—I apprehend if any skilful and attentive Person had been appointed to succeed Mr. Palmer, they would have carried on the Business exactly in the Way in which he had established it ; that would have been so if he had died.

Supposing Mr. Palmer to have died instead of having been removed, the Benefit of his Contrivances would not have been lost to the Public?—I think not altogether ; perhaps Mr. Palmer carried them on better than any Successor would have done, at least for a Time.

Is not the Public still enjoying the Benefit of Mr. Palmer's Contrivances?—They are undoubtedly ; whatever may have been the Effect on the Revenue, the Benefit to the Public is unquestionable.

Have you any Reason to impute to Mr. Palmer a fraudulent Subtraction of his Activity and Knowledge in the Execution of his Trust?—I cannot say fraudulent ; if I am at Liberty to answer that Question with a little Degree of Latitude, I should say fraudulent is a harsh Term ; I have no Doubt Mr. Palmer was guilty of great Dereliction of his Duty, as I conceive that was Twofold, the one Part of it to accelerate the Delivery of Letters by every Means in his Power, the other that he was to check the Expenditure with Care and Industry : It appeared to me, by the Evidence in the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, that he failed in both ; that he certainly did, by Instruments under his own Hand, instruct the Parties how they

they were to create a Delay in the Delivery of Letters, and in the other Instance, that by the Instructions he gave to a Person whose Accounts he was to check, how his Account might be allowed though admitted by him to be exceptionable. But all this appears in the Report, and I had much rather your Lordships should refer to that, than rely on any Opinion of mine.

Do you know any Facts, of your own Knowledge, of Mr. Palmer's Dereliction of his Duty, except as you collect them from the Evidence before the Committee?—I have no other Information.

Do not you know that that Evidence was before Mr. Pitt at the Time of Mr. Palmer's being dismissed from Office?—It certainly was, and was the Ground of Mr. Pitt determining that Mr. Palmer should not continue in any Situation of Trust; it was not the Ground of his Suspension.

Mr. Palmer's Suspension was for refusing a Key of an Office?—It was.

Was not the Ground of Mr. Palmer's Suspension refusing a Key when ordered by the Postmaster General to deliver it to an Officer whose Services they required in his official Situation?—I understood it to be so.

In a former Answer, you have stated that Mr. Palmer had put the Office into such a State, that the Benefits of his Plan might be secured by any Officer who did his Duty attentively; do you not recollect that in the Memorial to the Treasury, Mr. Palmer states his Removal from the Office to have occasioned serious Loss to the Revenue?—I think he did, but that will appear by the Instrument itself. I think he stated that he had the Means of further considerable Improvement: it is so long ago, that I had rather the Instrument was referred to, than any Recollection of mine should be depended upon; he certainly said that he had further Improvements to make.

What you have been stating to the Committee, as to the Dereliction of Duty on the Part of Mr. Palmer, is the Impression formerly made, and still remaining upon your Mind from the Perusal of the Evidence, and not from Facts within your own Knowledge?—The Dereliction of Duty I take from the Letters under Mr. Palmer's own Hand.

And not any Facts falling within your own Knowledge?—Certainly not.

Was the Two and a Half per Cent. stipulated for by Mr. Palmer, ever stated or intended, to your Knowledge, to be the Consideration for the Disclosure of his Invention taken separately from the Personal Services of that Gentleman in continuing to superintend the Plan?—To the best of my Recollection it certainly was not; I always considered, and so far, I can have no Doubt upon my Mind, that the Salary and Per-centage was with the double Object of rewarding him for the Plan, and for the due Execution of his Duty.

Do you recollect seeing a Draft of a Patent granting to Mr. Palmer the Office of Comptroller General, said to be framed at the Treasury?—I have seen that in Print; and I am inclined to believe, that that Draft was made by me, but I cannot speak with Certainty upon it; at that Time I was Secretary of the Treasury, and in the Habit of preparing Papers of Importance.

Was there any Copy of that Draft in the Treasury?—I think it was searched for and not found, but of that I am not sure; it is not usual to enter Instruments of that Sort at the Treasury until they are completed.

Are you certain that that Paper was not a Draft tendered to you by Mr. Palmer?—I cannot say that with Certainty; it certainly was intended to give Mr. Palmer the Office for Life, of that I entertain no Doubt, and to give him the Two and a Half per Cent. beyond the £1,500 a Year.

Do you recollect the Draft ever having been regularly referred by the Treasury to The Attorney General?—No, I do not recollect that with Certainty; I believe it was, and that The Attorney General took the legal Objection.

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Can you inform the Committee whether that Objection was stated in loose Conversation with The Attorney General, or in consequence of the Treasury having regularly referred it to him?—No, I cannot.

Had it been regularly referred to The Attorney General, would there not have been some Minute or some Document in the Treasury, or in the Possession of the Solicitor, to shew that Proceeding?—It is usual in all official Papers, strictly official, to make an Entry of them, when they are referred to The Attorney General; but in Cases of this Sort, not.

Is there any Minute at the Treasury, on the Subject of that intended Patent?—I think it was inquired for and not found on a former Occasion, in the Year 1797.

Do not you know that there was a considerable Objection and a considerable Obstruction, from Difference of Opinion, at the Post Office, when Mr. Palmer first began to carry his Plan into Execution?—I certainly understood that many Difficulties were made at the Post Office, by subordinate Officers there not liking to alter their Course.

Do not you know that those Difficulties having occurred to Mr. Palmer before his Plan was adopted, was the Inducement to Mr. Pitt to wish to give him an Appointment for Life, independent of the Post Office?—No, I believe not. I believe Mr. Pitt's Intention from the beginning, was to give Mr. Palmer an Office for Life; I never had any Reason to believe that Mr. Pitt had any Intention of rendering Mr. Palmer independent of the Principals of the Post Office.

But that he wished him to have for his Life the Per-centage and the Salary?—Certainly.

The Witness is acquainted he may withdraw.

F. Freeling, Esq. Then FRANCIS FREELING Esquire is called in; and having been sworn, is examined, as follows:

You are at present Secretary to the Post Office?—I am.

How long have you been in the Post Office?—About Seven-and-twenty Years.

What Situation did you hold in the Post Office at the Time of the Introduction of Mr. Palmer's Plan?—I held no Situation at that Time; I came into the Post Office with Mr. Palmer, and was an active Agent with Mr. Palmer in carrying that Plan into Execution; I was the Agent for the Country, and for the first Two or Three Years, I believe, there were but few Coaches established in the Country, but under my Agency.

Did that Situation enable you to form a correct Judgment of the Utility and Value of this Plan, and of Mr. Palmer's Exertions in giving Effect to it?—I conceive it did.

You were employed to assist Mr. Palmer from the very Origin of it?—I was.

Of course you became acquainted with every Thing relative to its Process?—I did; inasmuch as I altered all the Cross Posts of the Country to make them fit in with the Establishment of Mail Coaches along the great Lines of Road.

Mr. Palmer's Plan was to convey the Mails quite different from what they had been conveyed before?—Perfectly so.

To convey them by public Carriages carrying Passengers?—Yes.

Did Mr. Palmer, besides contriving that new Plan of conveying the Mails by public Carriages carrying Passengers, contrive the various Details for giving complete Effect to it?—Certainly.

Did those Plans of Mr. Palmer give a Benefit to the Public in the Cheapness of the conveying the Mails?—I conceive they did.

In what Manner?—Chiefly by combining the Conveyance of the Mails with the Conveyance of Passengers, thereby giving to the Coaches conveying the Mails a great Superiority over every other Description of Carriage, inasmuch as it secured to those who travelled by it certain Arrivals at the Place of their Destination; and that the whole being under the Eye of Government, I conceive great Advantages arose from that Circumstance; and that the Contractors were enabled to find their chief Remuneration for conveying the Mails more in the Passengers than in any Rate of Mileage from the Public.

F. Freeling, Esq.

As some of the Mails are still conveyed in the old Mode of Conveyance, does that enable you to form any Estimate of the Reduction of Expence; what Difference there is in the Expence to the Public?—I conceive the Mileage may be averaged for Mail Coaches, taking England and Scotland, at something less than Three-pence Halfpenny a Mile; both Ways; I think the average Allowance for the Conveyance of the Mail by Horse and Cart, taking England and Scotland, may be averaged at something about Sixpence a Mile.

Was there not also an Advantage in the greater Security with which the Mails were conveyed?—Certainly, the Mails of the Country had no Security whatever before; they now travel regularly with a Guard.

Did not that afford the Persons furnishing those Carriages a great Advantage in respect of Passengers?—I conceive it did.

Was there also an increased Expedition in the Conveyance of Letters, and of Communication of the Post to various Parts of England every Day, which had not had it before?—Certainly, and the Posts of the Country have been doubled and trebled in various Instances since that Time.

Independently of the Merit of this Contrivance, did not Mr. Palmer employ great Ability, Labour, and Exertion in the Institution of the various Details necessary to give it Effect?—He certainly did, in all the Articles mentioned.

Did Mr. Palmer meet with Impediments on the Part of the Post Office at the Commencement of his Plan?—I believe it is notorious that he did.

Were those Impediments of a Sort greatly to inconvenience and embarrass him in the Execution of his Plans?—Certainly.

Was the Revenue of the Post Office in a decreasing or an increasing State at the Time Mr. Palmer's Improvement was adopted?—I believe I have seen Statements of the Revenue for Two different Periods of Years: Upon a given Number of Years, the Revenue appeared to be decreasing; on another given Period, I doubt whether the Evidence was to that Point; but certainly the Impression upon my Mind was, that the Revenue was not in a flourishing but in a languishing State at that Time.

Upon the Adoption of Mr. Palmer's Plan, did not the Revenue increase progressively and rapidly?—It did.

Previous to any increased Postage of Letters?—There was an additional Postage put upon Letters nearly about the Time of Mr. Palmer's Plan, which makes the Answer to that Question, I think, more difficult.

Are you of opinion, that but for the Introduction of Mr. Palmer's Plan the increased Imposts could have been laid at that Time with Effect?—All those Imposts originated entirely with me, the Ideas for the increased Taxation of Letters were all presented by me to the Minister; and certainly, if there had not been a Plan of great Vigour, and affording great Accommodation to the Public introduced, it would not have occurred to me to propose any increased Taxation of Letters, as in my Opinion an increased Taxation could not have been productive.

Without Mr. Palmer's Plan, or some other Plan for the changing the Mode of Conveyance that existed before Mr. Palmer's Time, are you of opinion that an additional Impost could have been successful?—That is what I meant to convey by the Manner in which I answered the last Question, either Mr. Palmer's Plan or some Plan affording great and decided Accommodation to the Public.

F. Freeling, Esq.

Was any other Plan except that of Mr. Palmer offered to the Post Office, which in your Opinion could have been productive of a successful additional Impost?—Not that I know of.

Do you know the annual Amount of the Net Post Office Revenue previous to Mr. Palmer's Plan?—I cannot say that I do in Point of Fact, but I believe somewhere about £150,000.

Do you know the Net Annual Revenue of the last Year?—There is a printed Account; I believe it is somewhere about £1,400,000.

Do you know what the Sum is which would be due to Mr. Palmer under the Appointment of 1789, with the Deductions made by the Committee of the House of Commons?—I have seen the Account which was presented to the House, but that Account was not prepared by me.

When Mr. Palmer had produced his Plan, which was adopted by the Public, and had finished all the Details which you have stated he did with so much Ability, was the Public in such Possession of his Contrivance, as that it might be carried on by the faithful Execution of it in the Post Office?—I conceive it was; I have sedulously adhered to all the Principles which I had derived from Mr. Palmer in the Prosecution of that Plan.

Has Mr. Palmer's Plan continued to be acted upon ever since he left the Post Office?—Yes.

From the Time of his coming into the Post Office up to the present Time?—Certainly.

Is the Public now, according to your Opinion, in the complete Possession and Enjoyment of all the Advantages derivable from the Plan of Mr. Palmer?—It is.

Had you an Opportunity of judging of the Manner in which Mr. Palmer conducted himself in the Execution of his Plan, and the Motives by which he was actuated in the Execution of it?—I conceive no Individual had more Opportunities of acquiring that Knowledge than myself.

What is your Knowledge and Opinion upon that Subject?—Mr. Palmer always conducted (as far as my Knowledge consists) his Plan with great Ardour and Energy and Zeal; I believe no Man was more alive to the Reputation which attached to a Plan of that Sort, and I believe no Man's Motives ever were more honourable.

You are understood to say, also, that the Post Office is now in the Enjoyment of all the Advantages which Mr. Palmer's Plan was capable of conferring?—Certainly.

Are you of opinion that the Revenue of the Post Office would have improved in the same Proportion with the increasing Trade and Revenue of the Country, in the Manner it has, if Mr. Palmer's Plan or some similar Plan of Utility had not been introduced?—I conceive the Post Office Revenue would have increased with the increasing Prosperity of the Country, but not in the Manner it has done, aided by a Plan of this great Convenience, or some other Plan of the same Nature.

Do you remember the Circumstances under which Mr. Palmer was suspended from the Execution of his Office, and afterwards dismissed?—It is so long since, that my Recollection of the Circumstances is not so strong as I could wish it to be on this Occasion; I believe, in Point of Fact, the Suspension was grounded upon a Refusal on the Part of Mr. Palmer to deliver a Key.

Have you any Reason to know, or to believe, that, previous to the Time of Mr. Palmer's Dismissal altogether from his Office, he had conducted himself in any fraudulent Manner to subtract the Benefit of his Invention from the Public?—Certainly not.

Had Mr. Palmer conducted himself in any Manner fraudulently, or otherwise, so as to deprive the Public of the Benefit derived or derivable from his Contrivance

trivance and Plan, are you of opinion you must have known it?—I conceive I must. *F. Freeling, Esq.*

In what Employ were you in the Post Office at the Time of Mr. Palmer's Dismissal?—I was then Riding Surveyor; I did not become prominent in the Post Office till after Mr. Palmer's Dismissal.

Although you were in the Situation you have described previous to Mr. Palmer's Dismissal, and have been in a higher Situation up to this Time, have you any Reason to know or believe that he had conducted himself fraudulently, or otherwise, so as to produce any Disadvantage to the Public by not giving it the Benefit of his Contrivance?—I think I can answer that Question as far as consists with my Knowledge, in the most unqualified Manner, that I certainly do not know of any one Circumstance of either of the Descriptions there mentioned.

Have you any reason to know or to believe that Mr. Palmer, directly or indirectly, created a Delay in the Delivery of Letters about the Period of his Suspension?—There was a Delay in the Delivery of the Letters a little antecedent to the Time of Mr. Palmer's Suspension, but I conceive that Delay did not at all originate with Mr. Palmer; on the contrary, I believe it is recorded in the Minutes of the Office, that it originated with some other Person; that there were some Checks introduced which turned out to be perfectly nugatory; and that those Checks, not introduced by Mr. Palmer, but I believe by his Deputy, had the Effect of retarding the Delivery of Letters considerably; and very soon after Mr. Palmer's Suspension, those Checks were removed, and the Letters were delivered much earlier.

Who was the Deputy?—Mr. Bonnor.

Do you recollect the Cause of the Check in the Delivery that was complained of, and which is alluded to in the Evidence of 1797?—I do not know whether in the Evidence in 1797; but I have certainly lately seen this Evidence in Print, or in the Appendix to the Evidence which has been printed; I refer to Two Minutes of the Post Office, the one a Minute of the Postmaster General, and the other of the Individual whose Name I have just mentioned.

The private Letters in the Appendix written by Mr. Palmer to his Deputy were produced for the first Time subsequent to Mr. Palmer's Suspension?—So I have understood from Lord Chesterfield since.

Do you conceive these Letters to have related in any Manner to the Delay which took place about the Period of his Suspension?—I should conceive not, inasmuch as those Letters were written Two, if not Three Years, before the Delay to which I allude; I conceive those Letters were written in 1789 or 1790, and cannot have referred to those Circumstances which took place in 1792.

Have you any Reason to know or to believe that Mr. Palmer ever gave Instructions to any of the Officers of the Post Office to create Delay, or exhibited any Intention of that kind?—I do not know that Instructions of that Sort ever were given. If Instructions of the kind were given, I conceive they must have been given to various Persons. The Machinery of the Sorting Office is very complicated; the Number of Persons employed in it is very great: It is impossible, I presume, that any one Individual controlling the Proceedings of the Morning and Evening could, without Communication with Numbers of Individuals, retard the Delivery of Letters or the Departure of the Mails at Night.

For these Reasons, do you believe that any Plan of that Sort could have been acted upon by Mr. Palmer, without you and other Officers in the Post Office having Knowledge of it or being privy to it?—Certainly, without my Agency all this could have been done. As Riding Surveyor I had nothing to do practically with the Interior of the Sorting Office, but I think it could scarcely have been done without my Privy. I repeat again, that there must have been a Number of Persons privy to Mr. Palmer's Intentions or his Orders, and his Wishes must have been ineffectual and nugatory.

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F. Freeling, Esq.

Could Mr. Palmer's private Interest have been at all benefited by such Delay?—On the contrary, I think it must have been injured. Any Thing diminishing the Accommodation to the Public, I conceive to be rather calculated to discourage the sending of Letters than to promote it.

You have said, that any Directions to delay the sending of the Letters could hardly have been given without your Privity; would not any Directions given for the Absence of any intelligent and active Officers from that Business, and the Substitution of Officers less active and intelligent, have necessarily or probably produced that Delay, without any particular Directions being given to delay the Sorting?—There are duplicate Officers in the Sorting Department, who have the same Duties to do; those that are present on one Night transact the Duties that are performed by Officers of a similar Class on the next.

Could not the Effect of delaying the Sorting of the Letters have been produced, without any Direction to delay them, by substituting less intelligent and active Officers for more intelligent and active Officers?—I scarcely see the Bearing of the Question upon the Operations of the Office. There are Six Presidents, Three on Duty on one Night, and Three on Duty on the other. The Proceedings of the Office cannot go on at all without the Presence of that Number, and without there being full and equal Numbers of Clerks at all the Roads of the Office.

The Question does not refer to the Diminution of Numbers, but the Substitution of less active and less intelligent Officers for the Time, to perform the Duty of more active and more intelligent Officers?—The Officers appear to me, at this Time and for some Years past, to be of nearly the same Degree of Intelligence, with the Exception of the Superintendant, who was selected for his extraordinary Knowledge of the Details: I believe one is equal to the other.

The Question does not refer to the State of the Office at present, but your Opinion is asked upon the Question as put at first?—I conceive, if there were to be my own Absence from Office, or the Absence of the Comptrollers of the Evening, without whom the Business of the Office cannot go on, the Business must fall into very great Confusion; there can be no Doubt at all about that.

Might not the Effect of delaying the Sorting of Letters be produced by that Means, as effectually as if a direct Order was given to delay it?—If good and efficient Officers were withdrawn, I think it follows of course that the Delivery of Letters must be retarded.

If to carry a late Delivery into Effect, Mr. Palmer had had Recourse to the Removal of Persons who had been engaged fairly and faithfully in executing that Branch of the Service, and had introduced others into their Room, must you not have known it?—It must have been Matter of Notoriety in the Office, and I conceive I should have known it.

Have you ever heard any Suggestion of that kind in the Office, that Persons were withdrawn and removed from their official Situations, in order to the Perpetration of such a Fraud?—Certainly not; I have not the smallest Knowledge of such a Circumstance.

In which Fraud you are understood to say, Mr. Palmer had not only no Interest, but must have sustained a Loss from it?—Certainly, in a general Point of View.

You have said, that Mr. Palmer had great Knowledge of the Details in the Post Office?—He had.

Do you conceive, that if Mr. Palmer wished to retard the Delivery of the Letters, he did not know the Means of executing it?—I conceive humbly, that if he had had the Means, they must have been Means of some Notoriety in the Office.

Do not you suppose, that Mr. Palmer, from his Knowledge of the Office, if it had been his Object to retard the Delivery, would fall upon effectual Means?—
I conceive,

I conceive, that if such Ideas had occurred to Mr. Palmer, with his Ability, he might have found the Means. *F. Freeling, Esq.*

Do you think, that with his Knowledge and Ability, if he had had that Desire, he would have attempted it by ineffectual Means?—I have no Idea that Mr. Palmer would have resorted to indirect Means: I have this Opinion of Mr. Palmer, that he would not attempt any Thing that he thought he could not effect.

Mr. Palmer had a great deal of Skill in every Thing belonging to the Post Office; and therefore, if he had been wicked enough to contrive any Thing mischievous to the Interests of the Post Office, he would not have resorted to any Mode of doing that; which would not answer his Purpose?—Certainly he would not.

Have you any Reason to know or to believe, from all that you saw and had an Opportunity of seeing and judging of Mr. Palmer, in the whole Course of his being in the Post Office, that he ever either executed or intended any Project mischievous to the Interests of the Post Office?—As far as consists with my Knowledge, I can answer that Question, certainly not.

The following Extract from the Letter of Mr. Palmer to Mr. Bonnor, dated October 26th, 1790, is read by the Clerk:

“ I think Johnson might take Huff at some of the Officers not observing his Directions, and keep out of the Inland Office; and Stow and Austin, quietly if they could, and without apparent Design. Let Brown and Ruddick take their Situations. Brown would be disregarded, and Ruddick would dispute with the Officers, instead of enforcing Obedience; we should by Degrees get an Hour or Two later in the Delivery; by Degrees, in a Week or Two. I think it might be quietly and cautiously managed, if even little or no Notice was taken of their not coming early, or Absence. The Coaches must be kept to their Duty, as they have not interfered with them.”

If the Plan proposed in this Paragraph had been adopted, would it not have had the Effect of delaying the Delivery of the Letters, without any positive Order being given for that Purpose?—I should think not in any visible Degree. The Operations of the Sorting Office are chiefly mechanical, and perhaps the Exertion of one Man may effect a Delivery of the Letters Five Minutes earlier than that of another, who may not be so efficient. There have been various Regulations introduced since the Date of that Letter; so that perhaps I am applying more particularly to the Proceedings at the present Moment, than of that Time of Day.

Do not you think that Mr. Palmer's Talents, and his Knowledge of the Office, would have enabled him at that Time, knowing the Nature of the Regulations that then prevailed, to know whether any particular Measure would occasion a Delay of an Hour or Two in the Delivery of the Letters?—It certainly would have enabled him.

Could that have been carried into Execution without the Privity of the Officers in general in the Post Office?—I think that several Persons must, as I said before, have been communicated with.

And you think you must have known it, from your Situation?—I think I must have heard of it; but that is Matter of Opinion.

Do you think it would have been necessary to have communicated it to any other Persons than the Persons named in this Paragraph, to wit, Johnson, Stow, Austin, Brown and Ruddick?—I conceive there must have been a Communication made to Three or Four Persons, perhaps the Persons first mentioned.

Was there in fact any Delay contemporary with that Paragraph?—None at all, that I know of.

Are you of opinion, that if there had been any Delay in the Delivery of Letters contemporary, or nearly so, with this Letter, you must have known it?—I think I must.

F. Freeling, Esq. Do you mean to say that you, of your own Knowledge, can assert that this Direction produced no Delay whatever in the Delivery of Letters?—The whole System was a System of early Delivery of Letters; and I am not aware of any Circumstance which in any way formed an Exception to that System. I do not believe that any Act of Mr. Palmer, occasioning a later Delivery, was the Result of that Letter.

Do you mean to say, that of your own Knowledge you know there was no Delay in the Delivery occasioned by that Letter?—I believe there was none. These Things were every day Conversations and Observations on the Part of Mr. Palmer.

Was this Direction at the Time a Subject of general Conversation in the Office?—No; I mean to say, Mr. Palmer so expressed himself about late Deliveries, and Things of that Sort, that he never acted upon. I believe that he has admitted, in his Evidence, that those were the Feelings of every Day, but never outlived the Day; and I believe they were never carried into Execution.

Do you speak from any Recollection of the Moment, or your general Belief?—My general Belief.

You have no Reason to believe there was any later Delivery soon after the Date of this Letter?—I have no particular Knowledge, any further than I think, if there had been any Delay in the Delivery of the Letters, it must have been Subject of Comment, and that I must have known it.

You have no Recollection of the Circumstance, so as to authorize you to swear, whether that Circumstance did or did not take place?—Not at that particular Time.

From all the Knowledge you have of the Transactions of the Post Office, and of Mr. Palmer, are you not firmly of Opinion, that those Expressions, whether verbally or in a Letter, were the Effects of Temper for the Moment, in consequence of Disappointment?—I think they were the Effect of Temper, and Temper only, and not acted upon.

Was it Part of Mr. Palmer's Duty to take Care that no Bills containing improper Charges were paid?—Yes.

Have you seen Mr. Palmer's Letter to Mr. Bonnor, of the 16th of October 1788?—I have read it some Time since in the Printed Evidence.

Do you conceive that the Recommendation on the Part of Mr. Palmer to pay that Bill, when he himself states, that the Conduct of the Business, and the Charge in the Bill, were shameful, was a proper Exercise of his Duty?—Certainly not.

Do you conceive that any Fraud or improper Motive attached to Mr. Palmer's Conduct respecting that Transaction?—I believe not.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

It being then proposed to adjourn this Committee to Monday next;

The same is agreed to, and Ordered accordingly.



Die Lunæ, 28^o Junii 1813.

The Lord President in the Chair.

ORDER of Adjournment read.

The Proceedings of this Committee on Friday last are read.

FRANCIS FREELING Esquire is then called in, and further examined as *F. Freeling Esq.*
follows :

Did you see Mr. Palmer about the Time of the £3,000 a year being granted to him?—I did.

Do you know, from the many Intercourses you had with him, whether he expressed himself satisfied or dissatisfied with that Appointment?—Always dissatisfied, from that Time to the present, in the various Conversations I have had with him on the Subject.

Were the Carriages formerly in Use for the Convenience of the Mails, before Mr. Palmer's Invention, subject to Toll?—They were not.

Never?—Never.

The Carriages contrived or brought into Use by Mr. Palmer, under the new Mode of conveying the Mail, and those that conveyed the Mail before, carried the Mail in the same Manner as to Exemption from Toll?—They were equally exempted.

Did they carry Passengers?—No.

Are any of the Mails in the Country still conveyed in the old Mode?—Many on Roads which are not principal Roads.

Upon the different Payments of the Per-centage made to Mr. Palmer, was there ever any Deduction made on account of the Exemption from Toll?—Never.

It was merely on the Rate of the Per-centage?—Yes.

Is the Expence of the Guards included in the Three-pence Halfpenny *per* Mile, as stated by you on Friday?—No, certainly not.

What would it be, taking in the Expence of the Guard?—It is so small as scarcely to be worth taking into the Calculation.

Do you know what Number of Mail Carts formerly passed through Barnet Turnpike?—I confess I cannot exactly answer that Question.

Do you know whether there was more than One?—I should doubt whether there was.

Can you state what Number of Mail Coaches pass through Barnet Turnpike at present?—There are Five.

Do not each of those Coaches receive the Mileage for carrying the respective Mails with which they are charged?—They do.

Can you state to the Committee all the additional Rates which have been imposed upon Letters since the Year 1784?—I could, by taxing my Recollection a little, as they originated with myself, with the Exception of that in 1785. I think there

F. Freeling Esq.

there was a Tax imposed in the Years 1797, 1801, 1805, and 1812. It is possible I may not have recited the Years correctly. There was also an additional Rate on Penny Post Letters in 1801, and the Regulations as to Franking in 1795.

You say you were in Habits of Intimacy and confidential Communication with Mr. Palmer at the Time of his Dismissal from Office, and that he submitted unwillingly to the receiving £3,000. per Annum; that he was always dissatisfied with it; do you wish the Committee to understand by that, though Mr. Palmer was dissatisfied with this Payment, he still did consent to receive it, or that he never acquiesced at all, except so far as he could not prevent it?—My Conception is, that he received it unwillingly, and as a Matter of Necessity.

Never acquiescing in it, except so far as he could not prevent it?—Never, according to my Idea.

Do not you know that Mr. Palmer uniformly received the £3,000. a-Year since that Grant was made?—I do.

Do you recollect having said, that you knew Mr. Todd, when Secretary to the Post Office, received $2\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. on the Expenditure of the Packets, having seen it in the Post Office Accounts?—I meant to convey that I had seen a Statement of that Sort in Print. I certainly did make a Mistake in mentioning the Post Office Accounts. I should have said that it appeared in the Report of the Committee of Inquiry upon the Post Office.

Was any Part of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent paid by the Public?—I do not know the Mode of Payment at all.

If it had been paid by the Public, do not you know, from your Knowledge of official Detail, that it must have appeared in an official Account?—Certainly, as the Accounts are now kept, and have been kept ever since I have been in Office.

Are not you then convinced that it was not paid by the Public?—I have never examined those Accounts to ascertain that Fact. The Question was put to me broadly, and I answered it to the best of my Knowledge, namely, that I had seen a Statement of that Sort in the Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry, and it did not occur to me to enquire in what Manner that $2\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. had been received.

Is it not stated in the Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry not to be paid by the Public?—Not to my Knowledge.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. Ch. Bonnor.

Then Mr. CHARLES BONNOR is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined as follows:

When were you first employed in the Post Office?—I was first employed as Assistant to Mr. Palmer, I think, in the Year 1783.

Were you in the Confidence of Mr. Palmer?—Yes, completely so.

What Situation did you hold when you obtained an Appointment in the Post Office?—It was that of Deputy Comptroller General.

The Letters contained in Appendix No. 10. to the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons in 1797 are shewn to the Witness*.

Are those the Letters you recollect receiving from Mr. Palmer?—I have seen them before in the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, and

* Vide Page 4.

know

know them to be faithful Copies of the Originals which I delivered to the Post-Mr. Ch. Bonnor.
master General.

The following Extract from the Letter of Mr. Palmer to Mr. Bonnor, dated October 26th, 1790, is read by the Clerk :

“ I think Johnson might take Huff at some of the Officers not observing his Directions, and keep out of the Inland Office, and Stow and Austin, quietly if they could, and without apparent Design; let Brown and Ruddick take their Situations. Brown would be disregarded, and Ruddick would dispute with the Officers, instead of enforcing Obedience. We should by Degrees get an Hour or Two later in the Delivery; by Degrees, in a Week or Two. I think it might be quietly and cautiously managed, if even little or no Notice was taken of their not coming early, or Absence. The Coaches must be kept to their Duty, as they have not interfered with them.”

Were those Instructions carried into Execution at that Time?—No, they were not.

For what Reason was nothing done at that Time, in consequence of this Letter from Mr. Palmer?—It was frequently Mr. Palmer’s avowed Intention to act upon that Principle, but his occasional Differences with the Postmaster General being made up, he waved that Intention.

From the Time of the Date of this Letter, was not the throwing the Business of the Inland Office into Confusion for the Purpose of grounding Accusations against the Postmaster General, a Measure frequently attempted by Mr. Palmer?—Frequently intended, frequently the Subject of his Conversation; but in few Instances attempted. By referring to the Papers I am made to recollect that Eight or Ten Months before the final Accomplishment of the Intention, an Effort was made, which is confirmed by the Affidavit of Mr. Harraden.

Previous to Mr. Palmer’s being suspended, did he not take Steps to retard the Delivery of the Letters?—If I am required to answer that Question from my own Knowledge, I am not qualified to answer it in the Affirmative, for I was kept in the dark as to the Proceedings on that Occasion.

Do you not know that the Delivery of the Letters was retarded at the Time?—Yes I do; and Mr. Palmer confirmed to me, himself, that he had so done, though I was not privy to the Proceeding at the Time.

By “so done,” do you mean that Mr. Palmer himself, had retarded the Delivery of the Letters?—Yes.

Do you know what Means he resorted to for that Purpose?—No.

Did he tell you?—I experienced myself that they were retarded; I knew it was impossible it could be done but by Mr. Palmer’s Authority, by something more than his Connivance; it must be by his Orders; it was notorious to every one that they were retarded.

Was the Adoption of the Check on the Charge Takers, the Cause of that late Delivery?—If at all it must have been in a very trifling Degree; but indeed for such Delay Mr. Palmer alone is accountable, as that Check could not have been put in Practice without his Orders.

When you succeeded after Mr. Palmer’s Suspension, what Means did you take to effect an immediate early Delivery?—It was principally by restoring the Office to its ordinary State of Discipline, suspending for a Time, and requiring the Absence of those Officers whom I considered as being principally Mr. Palmer’s Instruments in effecting the Delay.

You are desired to attend whilst the Clerk reads Mr. Robert White’s Affidavit, being Appendix No. 11. to the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, in 1797.

Mr. Cb. Bonnor.

The same is read by the Clerk, as follows :

“ Robert White voluntarily maketh Oath, That the Contents of his Letter to the Postmaster General, dated the 29th of February 1792, are true; and this Deponent further saith, that the Account he delivered in for travelling Charges, commencing the 20th of January 1786 and continued to the 5th of January 1790, amounting altogether to the Sum of £348. 6d. or thereabouts, is from beginning to end a fictitious and false Account, prepared by and under the Direction of Mr. Hasker, the Superintendant of Mails, in Obedience to the Order of John Palmer Esquire, the Surveyor and Comptroller General. And this Deponent further saith, that although the said Account is made to commence so far back as the 20th January 1786, he, this Deponent, did not begin to incur official travelling Expences (except in about Four or Five Instances, when he was sent to Places at the Distance of a few Miles only from London), until the 2d January 1787, on which Day he made his first official Journey, being, until that Day, employed in other Parts of the official Duty. And this Deponent further saith, that the said Surveyor and Comptroller General could not but be acquainted with the Time when his, this Deponent's official Journies began, and of the Falstity and Fraud, not only of that Part of the Account which includes the Period of Time from the 20th of January 1786 to the 2d of January 1787, but of the entire Remainder of the said Account. And this Deponent further saith, that previous to the said Surveyor and Comptroller General's giving him Orders to attend the said Superintendant of the Mails, in order to be by him instructed in the Manner he the said Surveyor and Comptroller General should direct the said Accounts to be prepared, he, the said Surveyor and Comptroller General, asked this Deponent if he could not recollect any fair Articles of Expence, for which he, this Deponent, had omitted to make a Charge; and this Deponent said, for Answer, that he could not: That in the Account he had then prepared, he had set down every fair Charge he could possibly recollect, and that he had received from Mr. Bonnor, the Deputy Comptroller General, from Time to Time, all such Monies as were necessary to defray his Expences; but that from the Want of keeping a regular Account in many Instances, and from the mislaying and Loss of Papers in others, he could not, in any just and honest Way, make out any Account for the Deficiency, or Words to that Effect. And this Deponent further saith, that it was after this Conversation with the said Surveyor and Comptroller General, that the said Surveyor and Comptroller General ordered him, this Deponent, to attend the said Superintendant of the Mails, for the Purpose of inventing and preparing fictitious Accounts, to the Amount of £348. 6d. or thereabouts, in order to make up the said Deficiency.

“ And this Deponent further saith, that he made no Secret of this Transaction at the Time it happened, not considering himself as involved in the Guilt of it, because he did it in Obedience to the Orders of his superior Officer and Comptroller; but that he made it the Subject of common Conversation, for the Truth of which he refers to Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Morice, Mr. Day, Mr. Harraden, and Mr. Butts, who, among many others, were well acquainted at the Time with what was going forward, and have frequently made it the Subject of their free Conversation at his Expence since.

“ And this Deponent further saith, that he believes a Reference to the Landlord of the Saracen's Head at Ware in Hertfordshire, will prove that Part of his Letter, which states the Meeting there between the said Superintendant of the Mails and this Deponent. And this Deponent saith, that the inventing and preparing the said false, fictitious, and fraudulent Accounts was the only and entire Cause, Occasion, and Business for which he met the said Superintendant of the Mails at the said Inn at Ware in Hertfordshire.

“ And this Deponent further saith, that the Parcels of Papers attached to this Affidavit, and which are Sixteen in Number, numbered and signed by him in red Ink, are the original Drafts of the false Accounts, which, excepting a few Articles that do not exceed One hundred Pounds, are unfounded in Truth. And this Deponent refers to the several Articles written in the Hand-writing of and by the said Superintendant of the Mails, in proof of such Parts of his said Letter to the

Post-

Postmaster General, and of this Affidavit also, as state the Assistance which by the Order of the said Surveyor and Comptroller General was given in preparing the said Accounts, by the said Superintendant of the Mails. *Mr. Ch. Bonnor.*

“ Sworn before me at the Mansion
House, London, the Eighth Day of
May 1792. *J. Hopkins Mayor.*”

R. White.”

Did you assist Mr. White in drawing that Affidavit?—I drew it under the Orders of the Postmaster General, in consequence of Letters previously written by White to the Postmaster General, containing the Substance of the Affidavit, and a Desire expressed by the Postmaster General that Mr. White should be asked, if he would confirm the Contents of that Letter by swearing to them.

Had not Mr. White, at the Time the Directions are stated in that Affidavit to have been given by Mr. Palmer, for the Purpose of making this false Statement of Accounts, received Money in Advance from you?—Yes.

Whose Money did you so advance to Mr. White?—Mr. Palmer's.

If there had been a Deficiency of Vouchers to the Extent of £340. or. 6d. or thereabouts, do you know whether Mr. White had the Means of paying it?—Certainly not, he was an indigent Man.

Was Mr. White's Account signed by you, before its going to the Accountant General's Office?—No.

In the Course of Office were not you the Person who usually signed such Accounts?—Yes, I was.

Can you state to the Committee the Reason why this Account was not signed by you?—Because I knew it to be a fraudulent Account; and I gave that Reason to Mr. Palmer, why I could not sign it.

If Mr. Palmer had not himself signed those Accounts, could he have recovered the Money so advanced by you upon his Account to Mr. White?—No, because the Signature of the Comptroller General or his Deputy was essential to the putting Warrants before the Postmaster General for their Signature.

You are desired to attend to the Reading of the Draft of a Commission contained in Appendix No. 1. to the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons in 1797.

The same is read by the Clerk as follows:

“ Whereas it has been represented unto Us, that the Appointment of a fit and proper Person to be Comptroller and Surveyor General of the Revenues of Our Post Office in Great Britain will greatly contribute to the Advancement of the same: And whereas John Palmer has been recommended unto Us for that Purpose, he having invented and partly carried into Execution a Plan for extending and improving the Posts, and for the more safe, expeditious, and regular Conveyance of the Mails within Our said Kingdom, which has already proved highly beneficial to the Trade and Commerce thereof; We do appoint him for and during his Life, Surveyor and Comptroller General of the General Post Office of Great Britain, with all its Connections and Dependencies of all Postmasters, Contractors, Deputies, Accountants, Comptrollers, Surveyors, Clerks, Sorters, Window-Men, Letter Receivers, Carriers, Messengers, and other Officers and Servants thereunto belonging, giving and hereby granting for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, to the said John Palmer full Power and Authority to suspend any such Officers or Servants for Neglect of Duty, or of such Instructions or Directions as they have already received or shall hereafter receive from Our Postmaster General or the said John Palmer for the above Purposes, as well as for the better conducting the Business of the said Office. And in order to a due and strict Examination of all Expences incurred in the Management of the said Revenues, it is Our Will and

Mr. Ch. Bonner.

and Pleasure, that no Bills whatever respecting the same shall be paid till they are examined and signed by the said John Palmer or his Deputy, who are hereby authorized and required to call for such Accompts and order the same before them from Time to Time when they shall judge it necessary. And We having taken into Our Royal Consideration the good and faithful Services of the said John Palmer for the Advancement of Our Revenue and the Advantage of the Commerce and Manufactories of Our Kingdom of Great Britain, by greatly accelerating the Conveyance of Our Mails and Packets, are also graciously pleased, as well as a Reward for such Services, as to encourage him to continue his Exertions for furthering the same, to give and grant for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, to the said John Palmer, an annual Salary of £1,500. to be paid to him, without Deduction or Abatement of any sort, out of the Revenues of Our said Post Office, together with a further Allowance of such Sum of Money annually as shall be equal to 2½ per Cent. on the Surplus of the said Revenues, on making up the Accounts at over and above the Sum of £ which Accompts it is Our Will and Pleasure shall continue to be made up, and the Balance struck in the same Manner as at present, in which, for the Purposes aforesaid, no additional Pension or Charge on the said Revenue of the General Post Office shall be included, as a Deduction from the Nett Revenue on which the said Percentage shall be calculated, except for Salaries and Expences actually incurred in the Management of the same."

State what you know of this Paper?—It was an Instrument, a Draft of which was in the first Instance prepared by Mr. Palmer, afterwards fairly copied by a Clerk of the Name of Lloyd; and then Mr. Palmer having prepared Mr. Abbot, then a Counsel in Lincoln's Inn, the present Speaker of the House of Commons, to receive from me any Explanations upon the Subject that might be deemed necessary for his rendering the Instrument such as in his Opinion he thought it ought to be; I did attend Mr. Abbot at his Chambers in Lincoln's Inn, where, after the Alterations were made by him, fresh Copies were prepared and taken by Mr. Palmer to the Treasury. I accompanied him on that Occasion. He first went into the principal Chamber, where the Clerks present, Mr. Mitford, Mr. Cotton and others, had their Attention invited to this Instrument by Mr. Palmer. His obvious Intention was to introduce it if possible so to their Notice as that it should be adopted by them, and be made an official Instrument. He, as was usual when he appeared there, was asked how his Affair was going on, and on this Occasion his Reply was something to this Effect; That having finally settled with Mr. Pitt all Particulars respecting his Appointment, he had in Compliance with Mr. Pitt's Wish thrown the Particulars together; he was not quite sure that it was in due official Form, but there it was. The Gentleman to whose Notice it was submitted, felt no Inclination to entertain the Thing, but looking at it cursorily said Yes. Mr. Palmer desired to know what in case that Instrument had been prepared by them, would be the next Step to be taken in it; he was told that of course it must be referred to The Attorney General. Mr. Palmer folded it up, and I attended him to Mr. Pitt's, where he had an Interview with Dr. Pretyman, at which I was present. He told Dr. Pretyman that agreeably to Mr. Pitt's Desire a Draft had been prepared at the Treasury for his Appointment, a Copy of which he had that Moment received, and understanding the next Step was the submitting it to The Attorney General, he came to request of Dr. Pretyman that he would have the Goodness to rescue it from that Chance of Delay to which it would be exposed if, in the ordinary Routine of Treasury Business, it lay till forwarded with other Papers to The Attorney General's Office, and that he would have the Goodness to present it to him, informing him at the same Time how much it was Mr. Pitt's Wish that every Expedition should be given to its Accomplishment. At this Period The Attorney General came into the Room, and Dr. Pretyman turning to him, repeated what Mr. Palmer had said; The Attorney General folded up the Paper without making any Reply, and put it into his Pocket.

Was this Paper ever framed or in any respect corrected at the Treasury?—Never; it was not under the Roof of the Treasury but during the few Minutes that I have described, during the Conversation between Mr. Palmer and the Gentlemen of the Office.

Who

Who was Attorney General at that Time?—It was Sir Richard Pepper Arden. *Mr. Ch. Bonnor.*

Previous to Mr. Palmer's Suspension how late were the Deliveries made?—I speak from a distant Recollection; but, I believe Two or Three Hours later than usual, or than was at all necessary.

Have you the Means of ascertaining for what Length of Time the Check on the Charge Taker retarded the Delivery?—I can say scarcely at all; in a very trifling Degree; I am borne out in that Answer by an official Report of the Man most competent to give Information upon that. From the official Account it is plain that the Operation of the Check did not tend to retard the Delivery. It was first established on the 17th of January 1792; and from the official Return of Mr. Ferguson the Inspector, it appears that, Three Weeks previous to that Day, the Hour of the Delivery of the Letters compared with the Delivery for Three Weeks afterwards were scarcely at all differing the one from the other, consequently the Check could occasion no Delay; and it is particularly to be observed that on the Day when it was first introduced, and when of course it would occupy more Time than when the Officers became more familiar with it, the Time of Delivery was pretty much the same as before.

Can you state what was the Hour of Delivery on Monday the 26th of December 1791?—Fifteen Minutes past Ten.

Do you speak from your own Knowledge?—I speak from the Report of the Officer.

Do you mean that looking at that enables you to speak from your own Knowledge that that was the Hour of Delivery?—I do not scruple to say, that this is a correct Statement of the Hour of Delivery.

Does it so refresh your Memory that without referring to the Authenticity of that as an Instrument, you are enabled to say upon your Oath to the Committee that that is the correct Time of Delivery?—No, certainly not.

From your own Knowledge do not you know that there was no material Difference in consequence of taking off the Check on the Charge Accounts?—My Mind is quite satisfied that this is a correct Statement of the Time of the Delivery of the Letters.

Do you not know that there was no great Difference in the Time of Delivery in consequence of that being taken off?—Most perfectly.

When you speak of the Delivery, you mean the Time when the Letters are issued from the Post Office?—Yes.

Did you at that Time call upon the Officers under you to give you precise Information with regard to the Time of Delivery?—I did; and further, whether any Delay in the Delivery was or was not occasioned by the Introduction of the Check in question.

As Comptroller General did you not receive a Report every Morning concerning the Hour of the Delivery?—I did.

Was the Report made in Writing?—In Writing certainly.

State the Report of the precise Hour that you know to have been made to you, from the 26th of December 1791 to the 16th of January 1792?—On the 26th of December it was 15 Minutes past Ten, on the 27th Ten o'Clock, the 28th Forty-five Minutes past Nine, the 29th Ten o'Clock, the 30th Fifteen Minutes past Ten, the 31st Ten o'Clock, the 2d of January 1792 Fifteen Minutes past Ten, on the 3d Ten o'Clock, the 4th Ten o'Clock, the 5th Thirty Minutes past Ten, the 6th Forty-five Minutes past Nine, the 7th Ten o'Clock, the 9th Forty-five Minutes past Ten, the 10th Ten o'Clock, the 11th Thirty Minutes past Ten, the 12th Fifteen Minutes past Ten, the 13th Ten o'Clock, the 14th Forty-five Minutes past Nine, the 16th Ten o'Clock.

Mr. Ch. Bannor.

What Day was the Check imposed?—On the 17th of January 1792.

State the Times of Delivery from that Day to the 6th of February?—On the 17th of January it was Fifteen Minutes past Ten, the 18th Ten o'Clock, the 19th Thirty Minutes past Ten, the 20th Thirty Minutes past Ten, the 21st Thirty Minutes past Ten, the 23rd Fifteen Minutes past Eleven, the 24th Thirty Minutes past Ten, 25th Thirty Minutes past Ten, the 26th Forty-five Minutes past Ten, the 27th Thirty Minutes past Ten, the 28th Eleven o'Clock, the 30th Forty-five Minutes past Ten, the 31st Forty-five Minutes past Eleven, February the 1st Thirty Minutes past Ten, the 2d Thirty Minutes past Ten, the 3rd Fifteen Minutes past Ten, the 4th Thirty Minutes past Ten, the 6th Fifteen Minutes past Ten.

Had you no Concern yourself in any Delay in the Delivery of Letters?—No.
None at all?—None at all?

Then no Act of yours tended to the Delay of the Delivery of Letters?—No, none; no Act of mine.

No Act of yours either did delay or tended to delay the Delivery of Letters?—No; I mean to say that.

Then to what do you impute the late Delivery of the Letters from your own Knowledge, that you will abide by?—Mr. Palmer's Admission of his having taken Measures to that end.

What Measures?—For causing a late Delivery of the Letters; I have already said that I was not made acquainted with, or a Party to the Arrangements by which the Delay at the Period in question was occasioned.

Then you do not know of your own Knowledge what were the Means to which Mr. Palmer had Recourse for effecting a late Delivery of Letters?—No.

But you swear that the Check, or the Removal of the Check, had nothing to do with it?—In a very slight Degree if at all.

That either the Imposition of the Check, or the Removal of it could have in a very slight Degree any Effect upon the Time of the Delivery?—Yes; but I have likewise said, that if the Adoption of this Check did occasion any Delay, it was Mr. Palmer's Act, it was done by his Order, for I possessed no Authority to enforce this Check. I was specially directed by Mr. Palmer to do what was an unusual Thing for me to do, and that was to be in constant Morning Attendance in the Inland Office, to superintend the Adoption of this Check. In obedience to those Orders of his I did attend; and that proves that it was no Act of mine without his Sanction.

You have told the Committee that you do not impute to the Imposition of that Check the late Delivery of Letters, that that Check would affect it, if at all, in a very slight Degree?—I do more than say that, for I prove by a Comparison of the Deliveries which took place Three Weeks after, with the Deliveries of Three Weeks before, that the Difference was very trifling indeed.

Then according to your Account, if Mr. Palmer did delay the Delivery of Letters, he must have done it by some Means unknown to you?—Yes.

By what Agency you do not yourself know?—No, I was not privy to his giving his Orders on that Occasion.

Nor do you know by whose Means the late Delivery was effected, so as to name the Persons?—I have no Question in my Mind, but that it was from positive Orders given by Mr. Palmer to the general Superintendents of the Morning Duty in the Inland Office; for, upon my suspending those Individuals when Mr. Palmer was himself suspended, I was enabled to restore the former Discipline, and immediately the very next Day to effect an early Delivery of the Letters instead of a late one.

Who

Who were the Persons to whom you impute from some Orders, which, though you do not know, you suspect that Agency of the late Delivery of the Letters? —I hesitate a little in giving the Names, unless it is desired. I must refer to those whose Absence I required from the Inland Office, at the Time. *Mr. Ch. Bonnor.*

Who were they?—I believe Mr. Daniel Stow was one; Mr. Johnson I think was another; I have not in my Recollection any other at this Moment.

Will it not appear officially who were suspended by you?—Yes.

Could it have been done without the Knowledge of a considerable Number of Persons?—It must be notorious to the whole Office.

Could the Fact of the late Delivery of the Letters have taken place in the Post Office without the fraudulent Assistance of a considerable Number of Persons?—It would require the Co-operation of some few.

Who were the Persons whose Co-operation it would require?—The Superintendants of the Duty.

How many Superintendants of that Duty are there?—Generally Two.

Do you know who they were at that Time?—From my Recollection of having suspended Mr. Stow and Mr. Johnson, I have no Doubt they were of that Number.

Are they living?—They are both living.

Do you recollect the Names of all those you suspended?—I do not.

In point of fact did not you suspend those who you thought occasioned, by their Conduct, the late Delivery?—Yes, I did.

Are Johnson and Stow in the Office now?—They are.

Were they restored again after you suspended them?—I restored them under the Orders of the Postmaster General after a Time; there was nothing vindictive in my Proceedings against them; I restored them as soon as I had effected an early Delivery of the Letters.

Did you restore them with the Belief that they had conspired with Mr. Palmer to effect, by the Means you have been describing, the late Delivery of Letters?—There was a great Tenderness on the Part of the Postmaster General, as well as a great Disinclination on my Part, to be unnecessarily hard with Individuals; and as soon as with Safety to the Service they could be called back to their Stations, it was done.

You at the Time believing, as you still profess by your Testimony to believe, that this was not by Accident or by Carelessness, but by a Conspiracy between them and Mr. Palmer the Comptroller?—I restored them with a thorough Conviction that even if they had an Inclination, with my Superintendance, they could not have the Power of throwing Obstructions in the Way of Business.

You restored them under the Orders of the Postmaster General, with that Belief you profess still to entertain, that it was not owing to any accidental Negligence on their Part, but a fraudulent Design and Conspiracy with Mr. Palmer?—I never bestowed a thought upon the Subject.

You had communicated to the Postmaster General the Belief you entertained of their having done this by Direction of Mr. Palmer?—I did not entertain any Reflections on that Subject, with respect to their being Members of a Conspiracy; it was enough for me to know that the Delay in the Delivery had taken place whilst they exercised a Controul which would have prevented a late Delivery if the controlling Power had been properly exercised.

When you had suspended Johnson and Stow, and the others whom you suspended, did you inform the Postmaster General on what account you had suspended them?—It was sufficient for me to put them aside for a Time, until I had restored the Office to its former Discipline.

You

Mr. Ch. Bonnor.

You are asked whether you did or did not inform the Postmaster General?—
I did nothing without informing their Lordships.

Did you inform the Postmaster General when you suspended those Persons, of the Reason of your having suspended them?—I am not aware of my being impressed with any other Necessity for suspending them, than that under their Superintendance the Business had been so improperly conducted.

Did you not at the Time you suspended them, believe what you profess to believe To-day, that Mr. Palmer had desired them to delay the Delivery of the Letters?—I have not gone so far as that.

You do not believe that he did?—Mr. Palmer himself admitted most unequivocally, that which I had been informed Three or Four Days before the Meeting was called at the London Tavern; and Mr. Palmer himself confirmed to me the Fact, that he had caused the late Delivery of the Letters.

That he had done so by these People?—No, certainly not; what possible Inducement could Mr. Palmer have for telling me who his Instruments were.

Could he do it without the Interference of those Persons whom you have named?—I should think not, without a great Disobedience amongst the People in the Inland Office to their Directions.

Then but for Mr. Palmer's Admission to you just before the Meeting at the London Tavern, you do not know of your own Knowledge the Fact that he had directed those People?—No, I do not.

Is the Committee to understand that Mr. Palmer confessed generally that he had caused a late Delivery, or that he confessed that he had ordered those Persons to forward his Object of making a late Delivery?—I do not mean that Mr. Palmer had given any Directions to particular Individuals to retard the Business; but I do mean that Mr. Palmer most unequivocally admitted that he had taken Measures for causing a late Delivery of the Letters; and still further, that he did it with a View of disgracing the Postmaster General in the Eyes of the Public, with the Hope of thereby inducing Mr. Pitt, from the Representations of the Merchants, on account of the Injury Correspondents sustained, to discontinue the Appointment of the Postmaster General.

Did not you infer that it was owing to the Conduct of those Persons you have mentioned, and the other Superintendants, from the Circumstance of the Delivery being restored to the former early Period immediately on their Suspension?—Certainly I did.

How long was it before the Time when the actual Delay of Delivery took place that Mr. Palmer signified to you that he had taken Measures to produce such an Effect?—It was after the Delay had taken place.

You were understood, in the early Part of your Evidence, to state to the Committee that Mr. Palmer had, in his Letters and his Conversations with you, signified Intentions, without your knowing whether he had carried them into Effect or not, or your believing that he took any Steps to carry them into Effect?—I believe I stated that Eight or Ten Months before he had actually carried them into Effect to a certain Extent.

You have said that after Mr. Palmer was suspended an early Delivery took place as it had done before; what Period do you mean by before?—A few Days, perhaps a Week, Ten Days or a Fortnight, it could not be of any long Continuance without exciting Clamour; and when a sufficient Degree of Clamour was excited to lead to the calling the Public together to express their Dissatisfaction, then the Interference of the Postmaster General put an End to the Delay.

At what Time was that late Delivery?—I think it was about the Tenth Day of February in the Year 1792 when Publicity was given to the Proceeding.

For how long was the Delivery delayed?—I have not a sufficiently clear Recollection of it, to speak to it; but I believe Two or Three Hours later than it had had

had been accustomed to be; it must have been something more than Half an Hour, or an Hour before it could be a subject of Complaint, or occasion great Inconvenience. Mr. Ch. Bonnor.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then THOMAS HASKER Esquire is called in; and having been sworn, is examined, as follows: T. Hasker Esq.

How long have you been in the Employ of the Post Office?—I came to the Post Office in November 1785, but I was not appointed for several Years after that to any Situation; I was not appointed till the Year 1789.

What Duty did you perform when you were first at the Post Office?—The bringing Mail Coaches to Time, superintending them as it is now called.

What Appointment did you receive in 1789?—That of Superintendent of Mail Coaches.

Do you recollect any Thing of an Account of a Mr. Robert White delivered to the Postmaster General for Travelling Charges some time in the Year 1790 or 1791?—Yes; I remember the Comptroller General desiring me to assist Mr. White in making out his Account; he said that Mr. White had lost some of his Accounts, and that he had been very negligent in keeping a Journal; that the few Memoranda that he had made he had lost; and that the Journal he ought to have kept he had been very negligent in; and he desired I would assist him in making out his Account, but to take Care that I did not make it above 16s. or 18s. a Day. I met Mr. White several Times to arrange his Accounts; they were very long; he was the last Person that was paid I believe; I was not paid for Three or Four Years after I came into the Office. Mr. Palmer seemed very anxious to get those Accounts. I told Mr. Palmer that although he had not kept a regular Journal he had a very good Memory, and I thought that would assist: Mr. White had a very good Memory if he had a Mind to use it. Mr. Palmer seemed angry at what I said relative to his Memory, and said, “Curse his Memory, I wish he had Method;” upon that I assisted Mr. White in making out his Accounts.

Did Mr. Palmer mention to you the Sum of Money that had been advanced to Mr. White at that Time?—No, I have no Recollection that he ever did.

Where did you and Mr. White meet for the Purpose of making out those Accounts?—First at the Office, and then at Ware, in Hertfordshire; for I travelled about so much it was very difficult to catch me, unless it was in the Country. I had just returned from Scotland, where I had been Ten or Twelve Months, and in Ireland Four or Five. I met him at Ware, I think about the beginning of the Year 1790, where we finished the Accounts: he dictated to me what his Road Expences were that he travelled upon, and I put it into such Paragraphs as I thought were proper to word the Bill, as Mr. Palmer had desired me; he had told me to see that the Heading was proper, and that the Words were proper, and to see that he did not make it above 16s. or 18s. per Day. He would say, for Example, “I have been Six or Seven Days upon such a Road;” I said then, “Are you sure you have been Six or Seven Days upon that Road?”—“Yes, or more.” “How much Money have you spent?”—“Five or Six Pounds.” “Are you sure you have spent so much Money?”—“Yes, and a great deal more.” And it was upon that Basis that I wrote the Accounts; and the Reason of my being Amanuensis was, that Mr. White never liked to sit down to a Table to write: he was one of the worst for Writing I ever met with; therefore if Mr. Palmer was to have a Bill it must be of somebody else’s Writing, though Mr. White dictated it.

Were you convinced that Mr. White actually had been on the Roads on which he was stated to be on the Face of that Account?—No, I was not; it was impossible I could; I had been so much in Scotland and Ireland that it was impossible I could know; but he said he was.

T. Haſker Eſq.

Was that Account written in a clean Book, or a Book which was ſoiled?—I never ſaw any Book that I recollect; what I did was written upon Sheets of Paper for him; I wrote the Manuſcript upon Sheets of Paper, and he was to copy the Bill; I think ſo, to the beſt of my Recollection.

He could write himſelf?—Oh yes! extremely well; but he did not like to do it. There are many Perſons who do not like to confine themſelves to a Table; but he could write very well.

You do not know the Shape in which it was preſented at the Office?—I never ſaw it after it was finiſhed.

Did Mr. Palmer give you no Directions about this Account, amounting to a particular Sum?—None that I recollect.

Can you take upon yourſelf to ſwear that?—It is a long Time ago, but I think I can. He told me to take Care that they did not amount to above ſo much per Day.

Did he give you no Directions about what the Sum Total of that Account was to amount to?—I think he did not.

Was there no Converſation paſſed with Mr. Palmer on that Subject?—I do not recollect that there was. He told me that he had ſpent a great deal of Money, and loſt his Accounts. He might have told that to Mr. White, but I do not recollect his telling it to me.

Mr. White is now dead?—He is.

Did Mr. White never ſtate to you any Converſation that had paſſed between Mr. Palmer and himſelf on the Subject?—Yes; Mr. White told me that his Accounts ſhould come to between Three and Four hundred Pounds, and that the Comptroller General agreed to that.

Did Mr. White tell you that the Total Charge ſhould come to that, or that the Deficiency of Vouchers was to that Amount?—That the total Amount of his Travelling Charges would amount to that.

Had he not Vouchers for a Part of that?—He had a Parcel of Scraps of Papers, but I never ſaw them, for he walked about while I wrote; and he referred to an Almanack alſo.

If Mr. White was an excellent Writer, how came the Comptroller General to employ you to write out the Account?—Becaufe Mr. White wanted Industry. He began to be a looſe young Man, and could not confine himſelf to the Deſk long enough to make out the Accounts. He had had a great deal of Money from the Office, and became indolent.

Did he tell you from whom he had received the Money?—No; it was underſtood that he had received it from the Comptroller or Deputy Comptroller General, as we all had: For Example, during the Four Years I was not in the Office, I received a great deal of Money from the Comptroller General, or his Deputy.

Do you know of Mr. Palmer having applied to another Perſon to aid Mr. White to make out this Account?—I never heard of that.

Were you ever employed to write out any other Account?—I do not recollect that I was.

Did it not ſtrike you as a very extraordinary Requeſt?—Not knowing the Situation of the Office, but being acquainted with the Situation of Mr. White being ſo troubleſome, it did not ſtrike me as extraordinary.

Did you go from London to Ware to meet him?—No; I came acroſs the Country from Newmarket, or ſomewhere elſe in that Part of the Country, and met him there.

Do you know what White's Employment was in the Office?—He was ſtiled Second Clerk to Mr. Palmer; but he travelled a great deal. I know that he travelled

travelled a great deal in ſuperintending His Maſtey's Mail Coach at Cheltenham and Worceſter. He was down there a long Time in that Quarter, and alſo upon the Road twice or thrice during His Maſtey's Reſidence in Weymouth; I mean as many Seaſons; and one Seaſon he had the entire Superintendance of His Maſtey's Mail there himſelf; and during that Time he ſpent a great deal of Money. It was upon thoſe Occaſions I aſked him, "Are you ſure you have ſpent ſo much Money?" and he ſaid "Yes, a great deal more." This was at the Time I interrogated him whether he had taken ſuch Journies or not.

You were frequently about the Poſt Office at that Time?—Always, when I returned from the Country.

Did you chance to hear that Mr. White had made any Obſervations upon what paſſed between him and the Comptroller General?—Never; I never heard any Obſervations upon that till I ſaw Mr. White's Affidavit Two Years afterwards. Mr. Godby was the Perſon who firſt mentioned it to me, and I believe I read it Three Times over before I underſtood it, I was ſo confuſed; for that was the firſt I had heard of its being a fallacious Account.

You never had heard what Mr. Harraden and others ſtate themſelves to have heard at the Time this Account was made?—No, I never kept Company with Mr. Harraden, or thoſe Mr. White kept Company with.

Do you remember going with Mr. White, after you had received theſe Orders from Mr. Palmer, into Sherborne Lane?—I remember going there very well. I met him there to make out the Account, and we began it there; but Sherborne Lane was a Part of the Office, it was attached to the Office.

You remember beginning there?—Perfectly well.

What was the Difficulty of making out this Account, that you ſhould have adjourned from Sherborne Lane to Ware?—It took a great deal of Time, and there were many Quarters' Accounts; and I could not confine him, ſo that we met not only there, but at the Office in Lombard Street, and in my Lodgings once down near Spitalfields. There were a great Number of Papers to refer to, to make them out, but we finiſhed them at Ware.

What Progreſs had you made before you got to Ware?—I cannot tell at all.

Do you not recollect how far you had got in Sherborne Lane?—No, I cannot tell indeed. I know they were finiſhed completely at laſt at Ware.

How do you know they were finiſhed completely?—I left them with Mr. White at Ware; all the Accounts in my Hand-writing I left with him to copy.

How do you know that was the Whole of the Account?—It was the Whole of his Travelling Expence Account.

How do you know that was the Whole of the Account?—He ſaid ſo.

Then he had told you before, that he would recollect ſomething more?—No, not at all; it was conceived and underſtood that he had finiſhed the Account.

When you deſiſted at Sherborne Lane, did he tell you, I ſhall recollect ſomething more another Day?—No, not that I recollect.

How came you to deſiſt?—The Morning was over in all Probability.

You ſpent a whole Morning in Sherborne Lane?—I do not know that we did, my Memory will not ſerve me as to the Time, nor as to the Quantity I wrote there.

Was it an Hour you ſpent there?—I ſhould think more than that.

Was it Three Hours?—I cannot ſay indeed, not ſuppoſing I ſhould be called to ſpeak to the Account.

Where did you meet next?—I think in the Office in Lombard Street.

Have you any Idea what Space of Time you ſpent in the Office when you ſubſequentially met?—No, I have not; but I was there aſſiſting towards the Accounts.

Was

T. Hafker Esq.

Was it One or Two Hours?—I cannot say indeed; I know I assisted in the whole of his Account.

You met subsequently upon it at your Lodgings?—I did.

What Time did you spend there?—One Morning or one Afternoon; and the Reason why it was not all done in London was, that I had a great Deal to do in the Country, and I settled with him to come down to Ware and finish them.

What Time were you at Ware upon them?—I should think Two or Three Days. We referred to all the Memorandums as we could. He turned to the Almanack and to the Memorandums. He furnished the Particulars, and I found the Language. He would tell me “Six Days.” Doing what, I asked: “Superintending His Majesty’s Mail Coach;” then that was put into a Paragraph denoting what he did.

Have you seen the Account as given into the Post Office?—I never saw it after I gave my Copy over to Mr. White.

When you were desired by Mr. Palmer to go over Mr. White’s Accounts with him, in consequence of his having professed to have lost Vouchers for some of his Expences, did Mr. Palmer say any Thing to you from whence you could collect, that he wished you should come to a fair Consideration of that Account?—I never understood any Thing but that.

Was there any Thing passed from which you could possibly conceive he had an Interest to have made out a false and fictitious Account?—There never was an Idea entered my Head, either from Mr. Palmer’s Conversation, or that with any body else, till I heard of that Affidavit Two Years afterwards.

When Mr. White in consequence of his professing to have lost those Vouchers, and you with him in consequence of Mr. Palmer’s Direction made out that Account, had you any Reason from Mr. White’s Conduct at that Time, or from his Declarations, to believe that he was practising a Fraud?—No, I had not; I knew Mr. White had had a considerable Sum of Money from the Office, and had spent it in that Service; and that he had been negligent in making out his Accounts, and the Time was coming that they must be sent in.

Did he go on from Item to Item, as a Man anxious to recollect all the Sums he had expended?—He appeared to do so.

Had you the least Reason in the whole course of this Transaction with Mr. White, to believe that any Fraud was practising?—Upon my Oath I had no Idea of the kind for a Year and a Half afterwards, when I was first told of this Affidavit.

From the Time of your first Employment up to the Time of this Affidavit of White being produced, you had no Reason to suppose he was not acting as an honest Man?—None in the least.

Nor had you any Interest to act in any other way than as an honest Man?—Not in the least, he never owed me a Farthing.

Had you reason to suppose it would be advantageous to Mr. Palmer that the Account should be swelled?—Not the least; I had no Hint of that kind upon my Oath, nor the least Suspicion of it.

If this had been a Fraud practised in the Manner stated in this Affidavit, and this Man not thinking himself involved in the Guilt of it, had made it the common Subject of Conversation, do you think you should have heard of it?—I do not know that I should, because he herded with a Parcel of People with whom I had no Communication; added to which, I was Nine Months or more out of Twelve in the Country.

From the Period of Mr. White’s Affidavit in May 1792, up to the present Time, were you ever called upon to give an Account of this Transaction?—Never.

Notwithstanding this Affidavit being publicly made, you were never called upon up to the present Occasion, to account for your having been involved in this scandalous Transaction, as it is now represented?—I was never called upon, nor asked by any Person of any Authority.

T. Haſker Eſq.

Are you still in the Post Office?—I am.

Are you in the same Station you were in, in 1792, when this Transaction was made public, or have you been advanced in your Situation?—I have been advanced in my Situation; when Mr. Palmer left the Post Office, that same Year that the Discussion took place about White's Account, I was appointed Surveyor and Superintendent of Mail Coaches, since which Time I have conducted the Mail Coaches throughout the Kingdom.

Who were then the Postmaster General, this Affidavit being made Matter of Publicity?—Lord Chesterfield and Lord Walsingham; I had very flattering Letters from their Lordships, approving of my Conduct, they never hinted at such a Thing as an Impropriety.

Are you much acquainted with Mr. Bonnor?—I am.

Is he a Person of Respectability whose Word you place any Value upon?—While he was Deputy Comptroller General, I held him in very high Esteem.

The Question refers to the present Period?—I do not know any Thing of him now.

Have you seen him since he ceased to be Deputy Comptroller General?—I have seen him several Times lately.

Have you had any Intercourse with him since he ceased to be Deputy Comptroller General?—Whenever I met Mr. Bonnor, I have had Conversation with him, how do you do, and so on; I have never been at his House in my Life.

You have not kept up any Intercourse with him, so as to know any Thing respecting him?—I have seen him several Times.

White's Account might have been a fraudulent one without your Knowledge?—Certainly it might, Mr. White dictated it; and as I had Orders to assist him in making out his Account, if he dictated improper Things, I could not help that.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

It being then proposed to adjourn this Committee to Wednesday next;

The same is agreed to, and Ordered accordingly.



Die Mercurii, 30° Junii 1813.

The Lord President in the Chair.

ORDER of Adjournment read.

The Proceedings of this Committee on Monday last are read.

Mr. JOHN HARRADEN is then called in; and, having been sworn, is examined, as follows :

Mr. J. Harraden.

IN what Situation were you in the General Post Office?—I was called Tick-book Clerk; Check Clerk.

At what Time were you first employed by the Post Office?—Prior to the Mail Coach Establishment; on the 2d of August 1784, I believe the Coaches started; and from that Time I have been employed at different Times in the Post Office, till it was established in 1786 or 1787.

It was the Bath Coach was established first?—Yes.

Do you recollect making an Affidavit about Mr. Palmer's Declaration of an Intention of throwing the Office into Confusion in the Month of May 1791?—I recollect that I was in the Habit of going into Mr. Palmer's Office every Morning, perhaps Ten or Twenty Times, and he asked me how I went on, always telling me that if I saw any Thing that would obstruct the Delivery of the Letters, I should give him the earliest Information; this I continued for Four or Five Years. I went in one Morning and he asked me how we were going on, I said not so well as we used to do; instead of the Business going on so as to have an early Delivery, we should have a late Delivery; he seemed to be a little indifferent to it. A similar Occurrence took place a Second Morning, and a Third Morning, till at last it became visible that we lost an Hour every Morning; and I was rather surpris'd that Mr. Palmer should hint such a Thing as that to me, that a late Delivery seemed to suit him; it astonished me rather, and I said the Business was going into Confusion, and he said "so much the better, I wish a hearty Fellow to assist me in throwing it into Confusion;" and I said, "Sir, what will become of the Public." The Importance of the Mails coming in, to many Tradesmen was a Matter which I thought he was doing wrong in, and he nodded to me to go out of the Room; and from that Time to this he has treated me with every Mark of Disgust, to my Ruin; he has ruined me.

Did you make an Affidavit to that Effect?—I think I did before Mr. Hopkins, when he was Mayor.

Will you attend to the Affidavit, as read, for the Purpose of being able to inform the Committee whether you recollect, that what is now read to you, was the Substance of the Affidavit you say you made before Mr. Hopkins the Lord Mayor. "John Harraden voluntarily maketh Oath, That on or about the Month of May 1791, the Surveyor and Comptroller General of the Mails asked him how they were going on in the Inland Office, to which he replied, very badly; that one President contradicted the Orders of another, and that if something was not done the Business would soon get into the greatest Confusion and Disorder: And this Deponent saith, that the said Surveyor and Comptroller General then addressed him in the following Words, which he delivered with great Energy and Force, "that's the very Thing I want, Jack; I wish to see a thorough Dust and Confusion kicked up; I want a good determined Fellow now that would lend a Hand at such a Job;" upon which

Mr. J. Harraden. which this Deponent, astonished at such a Declaration, said, "But what, Sir, will become of the Public?" to which the Comptroller General answered, "Oh damn the Public, we'll contrive to manage and set them to rights again," or Words to that Effect: And this Deponent further saith, that upon his appearing, by his Hesitation and Surprise to decline and be averse to any Scheme of the Sort, the said Comptroller General dismissed him abruptly from his Presence, and has ever since treated him with a Harshness and Severity he was not accustomed to before?"—Exactly so; if the Affidavit is stronger, it is because my Memory was stronger than it is now from the Recentness of the Event; that is the Truth and the whole Truth.

Do you recollect any Circumstances about the Account of a Mr. Robert White?—Yes, I do.

What are the Circumstances you recollect?—I had a Room at No. 15, Sherborne Lane, and Mr. White asked me for the Use of that Room to settle some Post Office Account. I had Occasion to go to the Room, and coming there one Morning I found my Presence was disgustful to Mr. Hasker, who was just going into the Accounts. As Mr. Hasker quitted the Room, White in a kind of loose Manner tossed up the Book, and said he was going to make some false Accounts, and he put some Ink upon it, and some Dust out of the Grate, to make it appear like an old Book, and stamped upon the Account, and oftentimes said that that was to add Money to his Losses, or to what he could make good in his Account, I do not know any Thing else of that Transaction.

Do you remember the Comptroller General sending for you, and blaming you for some Observations you had made upon White's neglecting to attend his Appointment with the Superintendent of the Mails?—I recollect Mr. Palmer sending for me to ask me why I kept White from meeting Mr. Hasker to settle the Accounts; but prior to Mr. Palmer asking me, I met Mr. Hasker in a Passage in Pope's Head Alley, which I recollect, and he asked me how I kept White; we Clerks used to dine together, we used to go at Four or Five o'Clock, and came back again at Seven to see the Mails go off in the Evening; and Mr. Hasker imagined I had kept White, I told him I had not; and finding Mr. Palmer put the same Question, and as he seemed dissatisfied and displeased, I found Mr. Hasker had told him; with that Explanation I did it away, and he said no more; that is all I know about it.

Did you make an Affidavit upon the Subject?—I believe I did.

Before whom was that Affidavit made?—If my Memory is right, I think it was Mr. Hopkins.

Do you know what has become of that Affidavit?—I suppose it is in the Office; I have no Copy of it.

How came you to make that Affidavit; by whom were you desired?—Nobody desired me, I was called in to know if that was Truth, and I said yes; and I believe the Affidavit was drawn up.

Who drew up the Affidavit?—I am sure I cannot tell.

Was not it Mr. Bonnor who drew it up?—I think it was Mr. Day's Handwriting, if I recollect right; it is so long ago I cannot recollect.

You were examined in the House of Commons?—Yes.

What was the Reason you did not say the same Thing in the House of Commons?—My Mind was so engaged at that particular Time, that I thought I was to be examined upon the First Affidavit read to me; I was absent, and in a few Weeks afterwards I recollected it, and saw my Error; but my Mind was very much engaged at the Time; I perfectly well recollect the Circumstance, and explain it in that way.

When did you make this Affidavit which has been read to you?—I think in the Year 1792.

Where

Where did you make it?—Before Mr. Hopkins, who was Lord Mayor.

Mr. J. Harraden.

For what Purpose were these Affidavits made?—The Purpose they were made for was to prove I had done nothing wrong; or if I had said any Thing wrong to set it right.

It must have been either an Act of your own, to go and make the Affidavit, or the Act of some Person to direct you to do so?—After Mr. Palmer had discarded me, and I had told it to One or Two particular People who were about me that I would not do the Work that he wanted me, I was sent for.

Where to were you sent for?—I was sent for to Harley Street to Lord Walsingham's; I believe I went to Chesterfield House several Times; but I think it was Lord Walsingham I saw upon it.

Had you made a Statement to the Postmaster General of these Facts some Time before you made that Affidavit?—I made a Statement to the Postmaster General of the Usage I received from Mr. Palmer; who had suspended me. He suspended me the 19th or 20th of February, I think 1792; and when I informed their Lordships, they wrote to Mr. Palmer to know the Cause why he suspended me; and Mr. Palmer would make no Answer; and their Lordships, I think, on the 8th of March restored me: it was on that account, I think, that I was sent for.

Were not you applied to, to make an Affidavit of the Facts you have detailed to the Postmaster General?—I was.

By whom were you applied to?—I think it was an Order of my Lord Walsingham.

Was not it Mr. Bonnor who applied to you?—Yes.

Why did not you give his Name when you were first asked?—I cannot recollect at this Moment, whether it was Mr. Bonnor or Lord Walsingham. I have a kind of Recollection, either by Letter or by Words, that Lord Walsingham should make answer, "Words were Wind; would I make Affidavit of it?" I cannot recollect whether I had a Letter to that Purport, or whether it was by a Minute, but that Lord Walsingham's Words which impressed my Mind, were "that Words were Wind; would I make Affidavit of it?" to which I said, certainly I would.

You were understood to say you were called in to make this Affidavit; can you recollect where you were called in to make the Affidavit?—Into Mr. Bonnor's Room at the Office.

That was before you went to the Lord Mayor's to swear it?—Yes, in consequence of Lord Walsingham's Minute or Message.

Was Mr. Bonnor there?—Certainly.

What did you mention to one or more People?—I mentioned that which I said first, that Mr. Palmer called me in to know how I was going on in the Inland Office; it was his usual Custom to send for me Ten Times in a Morning, to ask me how we were going on.

Had you mentioned to Two or Three Persons the Substance of the Affidavit?—Yes, but I have one Remark to make, that for Five Years I opened all Mr. Palmer's Letters of every Description; he had found very great Inconveniences from his Letters being left upon the Table, and his living out of Town at Putney, and he appointed me to open all his Letters, which I did for Five Years, and they were abruptly taken away; after he told me to go out of the Room, he took the Letters away. The President and some other Clerks seeing I was rather in Disgrace, they made a kind of Laugh that I had lost his Confidence. I said I did not mind losing his Confidence upon such Work; that was the Cause of my speaking it, or I should not have said a Word upon the Subject; they rather laughed at me, and I told them exactly as I stated in the Affidavit which has been read.

Do you recollect when you were suspended by Mr. Palmer?—The 19th or the 20th of February I was suspended by Mr. Palmer.

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When

Mr. J. Harraden. When were you replaced?—I wrote to Mr. Palmer to know the Cause; he did not answer me. I then applied to Lord Walsingham, and the Postmaster General wrote to Mr. Palmer a Minute desiring to know the Cause; Mr. Palmer gave no cause, and they restored me on the 8th of March by public Notice over the Fire, and in the different Places in the Office.

On the 8th of March was not Mr. Palmer suspended?—That was when my Suspension was off, I cannot tell. The first Week in March Mr. Palmer was suspended.

Mr. Palmer was no more there after that?—It was within a Day or Two.

Have you been in the Post Office ever since?—No, in the Year 1802 I retired upon a small Pension of £53 a Year.

And you have been living upon that ever since?—Yes.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

E. Johnson Esq. Then EDWARD JOHNSON Esquire is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined, as follows:

Are you in the Post Office now?—I am.

What is your Situation in the Post Office now?—Comptroller of the Two Penny Post.

What Situation had you in the Post Office when Mr. Bonnor was the Deputy of Mr. Palmer?—I was employed by Mr. Palmer to superintend the Morning Duty of the Inland Sorting Office, and the Letter Carriers Office.

Were there any others in the same Situation with yourself at that Time?—None others; the Presidents were in the Office at the Time assisting me.

Who were the Presidents?—Some of the Senior Clerks of the Office.

Did you receive from Mr. Palmer directly or indirectly any Instructions or Hints, or any Thing to the Effect of delaying the Delivery of Letters?—Never; quite the contrary. Mr. Palmer was always anxious for early Deliveries; and I used to make my Report to him of the Time of Delivery every Morning.

Have you any Reason to know or to believe that Mr. Palmer did ever obstruct the early and regular Delivery of Letters?—Not while I was in the Office, or at any Time.

If any such Course had been pursued by Mr. Palmer, do you think you should have known it?—Mr. Palmer would have communicated it most likely to me; for he looked upon me to be responsible for the Office at that Time, from January the 16th 1787, 'till some Time in the Year 1791, between Four and Five Years.

Were you suspended from your Situation?—Never.

Were you in that Situation in 1792?—Not in 1792; I withdrew from the Office in the Year 1791, I think some Time in February.

You were not in the Office at the Time that Mr. Palmer was suspended?—I was in the Office, but did not superintend that Department.

What Time did you go into the Penny Post Office?—The new Regulations which I conducted in the Penny Post Office, as it was called at that Time, took place on the 1st of May 1794.

In what Situation were you between 1791 and 1794?—In the same Situation as assisting the Comptroller General in superintending the Letter Carriers' Office, and the Newspaper Office; I retired from the Inland Office in consequence of some Disputes. I was likewise employed in establishing Penny Posts in the Country, at Manchester, Bristol and other Places.

Explain

Explain what became of you from 1791 till 1794?—I attended in the middle of the Day to attend to Applications from the Public, and in the Evening to superintend the Newspaper Office; and I was sent down to Manchester to establish a Penny Post there; to Bristol, and also to Birmingham, and established Penny Posts at those Places, during that Time.

Did not you suggest the Plan for improving the Penny Post Office?—I framed the Plan in consequence of Directions from Mr. Palmer to do so.

The Plan was your Plan?—The Plan was my Plan.

You have said you withdrew from the Office in 1791?—Yes, from the Inland Sorting Office.

Did you withdraw also from superintending the Office of Letter Carriers?—I did not.

Is not the Letter Carriers' Office that in which the early or late Delivery must be regulated?—Only in part; chiefly in the Sorting Office.

You continued in that after 1791?—There was an Inspector immediately in the Office who superintended the Business of the Office, so that I did not attend in the Office myself.

What was the Cause of your not attending that Office, as you had done before?—Because certain Officers in the Sorting Office would not be attentive to the Directions I gave them.

They would not obey your Directions?—No; and Mr. Palmer signified that he could not support me any longer, and I told him unless he could support me, it was no use my being there.

Have you often in the Course of your Duty at the Post Office, heard Mr. Palmer in his Communications with the inferior Officers of the Post Office, whose Duty it was, express an Anxiety for a regular and early Delivery of Letters?—Never any other but an Anxiety for an early Delivery of Letters.

Have you often heard him express it?—Yes; and he always shewed it.

Was it the general Course of his Conduct?—Always; I can speak only up to the Year 1791.

Were you in the actual Execution of the Duty of superintending the Sorting and Delivery of the Letters at the Period when the late Deliveries are stated to have taken place in 1792?—I did not superintend the Duty then.

Then you have no immediate Knowledge of what passed at that Period?—After 1791 I can say nothing as to what passed in the Inland Sorting Office.

Do you know who was in that Situation at that Period?—The Business was managed by Presidents; I cannot mention their Names.

You state that the Reason of your withdrawing was, because you could not get the Duty done as you wished, and that Mr. Palmer told you he could not support you through it?—It was; Mr. Palmer did not immediately say so, but he signified as much; I told him unless he supported me, it was of no Use my being there; he expressed himself, that for the present he could not.

Did he explain to you why he could not?—I understood it to be a Misunderstanding between the Postmaster General and Mr. Palmer.

Was the Office of President a new Office at that Time, or had it existed before?—It was new about that Time, it used to be managed by Comptrollers and Deputy Comptrollers; I forget when the Office of President commenced.

Was that before or after you quitted the Office?—It was while I was in the Office.

How long before you quitted the Office?—Two or Three Years.

Did

E. Johnson Esq.

Did you receive any Reward from the Public for this Scheme of the Penny Post Office?—The Office I now hold.

What is the Salary of it?—Five hundred Pounds a Year.

That is the sole Reward you have received for it?—That is the sole Reward.

Can you state what was the net Sum produced to the Penny Post Revenue before your Scheme?—It was about £6,000 a Year when I took it up.

What is it now?—It is £60,205.

Does that include the increased Duties?—That includes the increased Duties.

Were you suspended from your Situation by Mr. Bonnor at any Time?—Never by any One.

You are sure of that?—I am sure of it.

Was there any other Mr. Johnson in the Office?—Not at that Time.

You were never suspended, and afterwards restored by Mr. Bonnor?—Never.

Was it ever imputed to you by Mr. Bonnor, that you had aided in the late Delivery of Letters?—Never.

He never charged it upon you?—Never; this is the first I ever heard of any Thing of the kind.

In that Statement you made of the present nett Produce of the Penny Post Revenue, do you mean the Penny Post Revenue in and about London, or the Penny Post Revenues in and about Bristol, Edinburgh, and so on?—In and about London only.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. John Baptist Austin.

Then Mr. JOHN BAPTIST AUSTIN is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined, as follows;

Are you in the Post Office now?—I am.

In what Situation?—In the Inland Department; I am President.

What Situation did you hold in the Year 1792?—President.

Do you recollect the Time when there was a Meeting of the Merchants in consequence of some late Delivery of Letters?—I remember there was a Meeting.

What Situation did you hold in the Post Office at that Time?—I am not certain whether I was President at that Time, I rather think I was.

Were you concerned directly or indirectly in occasioning the late Delivery of Letters at that Time complained of?—No.

Were you ever directed or instructed, or spoken to by Mr. Palmer, to lend yourself to such a Purpose?—Never.

You must have frequently seen Mr. Palmer in the Execution of his Duty as Comptroller and Surveyor General of the Post Office?—I did.

Did you ever observe any Thing in his Conduct which led you to suspect such an Abuse?—No, I cannot say that I ever did.

Did you ever hear him give any Directions or act in such a Manner as would produce that late Delivery of Letters?—No.

Do you think from your Situation if that late Delivery of Letters had taken place in consequence of Directions to those who must have occasioned it, you must have known it?—I must have reported it if it had occurred.

Did Mr. Palmer appear to you, during the Time that you were in the Situation which gave you an Opportunity of observing his Conduct, to be active and diligent in the Execution of his Trust?—I never saw any Thing to the contrary.

Are

Are not the Dates of Deliveries on the different Days kept daily at the Post Office?—They are now. *Mr. John Baptist Austin.*

There can be no Difficulty in getting a Return of the Deliveries for Three Weeks antecedent to the 8th of March 1792, and Three Weeks subsequent?—That I cannot say, it is not in my Department.

Were not they kept in 1792?—They were to the best of my Recollection.

Do you recollect an Affidavit made by Mr. Harraden relative to a Conversation that passed between him and the Comptroller General in 1792?—No, I have no Recollection of it; I confined myself so strictly to my Duty in the Inland Office, that I hardly knew what passed in the other Offices.

Do you recollect a Conversation in which you stated that Mr. John Harraden told you that he went into the Comptroller General's Room one Morning after the Business was finished, as he had been accustomed to do, that the Comptroller General said, "Well, Jack, how do you go on?" that he replied, "There appeared to be a great deal of Confusion prevailing in the Office;" and that the Comptroller General replied, "that was just what he wanted, and that he wished some hardy Fellow would be instrumental in causing more;" that Mr. Harraden replied, "Under such Circumstances what would become of the Public," and that the Comptroller General answered, "Oh! damn the Public, we will soon set them to rights?"—I cannot say that I have any Recollection of it.

You have no Recollection that you made such a Declaration?—No, I have not.

Can you take upon yourself to swear, that you made no such Declaration?—I am upon my Oath now, and if I had any Recollection of it, I should say I had; I have not the most distant Recollection that I did make the Declaration.

Do you recollect whether in point of fact, there was in 1792, a late Delivery of Letters?—There was.

What was the cause of it?—It was a complicated Check that was introduced, that the Officers did not well understand.

Who introduced it?—Mr. Bonnor the Deputy Comptroller.

Have you any Doubt that the whole Occasion of the late Delivery of Letters arose from the Introduction of that complicated Check?—I have no Doubt of it.

Could that have been done by any fraudulent Directions to the Presidents and other Persons, whose Duty it was to accelerate the Delivery of Letters without its being known to a great Number of Persons?—It must have been known to the whole Office.

Was it known to the whole Office?—I can speak for myself, I had the best Opportunity of knowing it.

Did you hear it attributed to any other Cause, but the complicated Check?—No, I did not.

Were there any Officers suspended about that Time?—I cannot recollect at this Distance of Time.

Were you suspended on the 8th of March 1792?—No, I do not recollect that I was.

What Situation did you hold in the Office at that Time?—I was President at that Time.

How long did that late Delivery last?—As long as the Check did, I believe.

When did the Check begin?—That I cannot say, it was some time in March I believe.

*Mr. John Baptist
Auflin.*

When did it cease?—I do not think it exceeded a Week ; but it is so long a Time that I cannot pretend to take upon myself to speak positively as to the Time, but I should suppose it did not continue long.

Did you at once perceive the Effect of that Check?—Yes.

How long did it delay the Delivery?—I suppose between Half an Hour and Three Quarters of an Hour.

Was the Comptroller General ignorant that that Check was imposed?—I suppose not ; I cannot speak to that.

Did you make any Remonstrance to the Comptroller General when you saw it had that Effect?—No, the daily Report we sent into the Comptroller General, pointing out the Time.

Was the daily Report presented to the Comptroller General?—Yes.

Could he be ignorant of the Contents of that daily Report?—No, I presume not.

Did the Comptroller General make any Inquiries of you why the late Deliveries took place at that Time?—No, I do not recollect that he did.

Did you see Mr. Bonnor at that Time?—Yes, Mr. Bonnor was in the Practice of using the Check himself, he attended the Progress of it.

Personally?—Yes.

Was it not in his Power to take it off?—Yes.

Was it in his Power to take it off if the Comptroller General thought proper to put it on?—No, I do not say that.

Did Mr. Bonnor find any Fault with the Check?—He thought the Officers did not comprehend it sufficiently.

Did he think it would be beneficial if it were properly comprehended and acted upon?—I suppose he might think that.

Had not you said this Check only endured for the Space of One Week?—I am not positive, I cannot speak to that Fact.

Do not you know that Mr. Bonnor was suspended from the Duties of his Office during the Week antecedent to that Check being taken off?—Mr. Bonnor was suspended, but the Period I cannot recollect.

You cannot tell what the Period was, with relation to the Existence of the Check?—No.

Will it appear from any Office Accounts when the Check was imposed, and when it ceased?—I cannot speak to that, because I kept no Accounts at all, but the Accounts of the Day.

You are quite sure Mr. Bonnor was privy to the allowing of the Check during its Progress?—He superintended it.

Do you know what Situation a Mr. H. Ferguson held in the Office in 1792?—He was Inspector of Letter Carriers.

Was Mr. H. Ferguson the Person who had any Charge of marking the Times of the Delivery?—Yes.

He was the regular Officer for that Purpose?—Yes he was, he makes out a Card for each Letter Carrier with the Time of Delivery.

Did he then make it out?—Yes he did.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then

Then DANIEL STOW Esquire, is called in; and having been sworn, is examined, as follows: Daniel Stow Esq.

In what Situation are you?—Superintending President of the Inland Department.

What Situation did you hold in the Year 1792?—I was then President of the Office.

Do you recollect at that Time any Delay in the Delivery of the Letters?—There was a Delay.

Can you account for that Delay at all?—I believe it was owing to some Checks that were tried, that were put on for the better checking the Revenue.

At whose Suggestion were those Checks put on, if you know it?—I believe, as far as my Recollection carries me, they were at the Suggestion of the Deputy Comptroller General.

Did he superintend them?—Yes.

How long did they last?—I really cannot speak with any Degree of Certainty.

Do you recollect their being taken off?—I think I do.

About what Period were they taken off?—I should think it was after the Time that Mr. Palmer was suspended.

Shortly after do you think?—I was not in Attendance at that Time, my Attendance was dispensed with.

What was the Cause of your being suspended?—It was I believe owing to Mr. Palmer's Suspension; at the Time of Mr. Palmer's Suspension I was one of the Presidents acting in the Inland Department; and after Mr. Palmer's Suspension I received a Letter from the Deputy Comptroller General, saying, that my Services would be dispensed with in that way.

Did he give you any Cause for your Suspension, or only that formal Letter?—Only that formal Letter; no Reasons whatever.

Did Mr. Palmer express any Dissatisfaction at those Checks being imposed?—I do not recollect.

He must have known of them?—I dare say he did, but I am not able from Recollection so far distant to speak to it.

Do you impute the Delay of Delivery when you were President to the Check or to the unskilful Manner in which the Officers conducted themselves under the Check?—The Nature of the Check was such as certainly to create Delay.

However ably acted upon by the Officers, it would have produced Delay?—Exactly so.

State how the Nature of the Check itself, supposing the utmost Diligence in the Persons having to deal with it, would have produced delay?—As far as I can recollect the Thing, in the first Place the Letters were told up by One of the Clerks as is usual against the Letter Carriers, and there was the Check Clerk who received this Account; the Account was put into a slit Stick and handed up to the Person who was to receive that, and to enter it; that caused a certain Degree of Delay; if there was any Error, a Report to that Amount was made in a similar Manner, so that the conducting the Thing in this Manner effected of itself a Delay.

Previous to this Delay actually taking place, through, as you consider it, the Interposition of this Check, had Mr. Palmer, then Comptroller General, ever directly or indirectly communicated to you, or to any other Person in your Presence, or to your Knowledge, any Desire on his Part, that there should be a Delay in the Delivery of Letters?—Never.

Did you ever discover any Part of his Conduct that led to such a Delay, or any Wish on his Part that there should be any?—Not any.

If

Daniel Stow Esq.

If the Delay which took place had not arisen from the Check as you have explained it, but from the Negligence or Incapacity or Fraud of those who should have facilitated the Delivery of the Letters, do you think you should have known it?—Certainly.

You were one of them yourself?—I was one of the Presidents.

Were you guilty of any Negligence in that Respect, or do you know of any Negligence of others?—I do not know of any Neglect of others, nor was I guilty of any myself.

Did it appear to you that the different Persons employed in their Stations, relating to the Delivery of Letters, conducted themselves properly at the Time that the late Delivery took place?—I do think they did.

Is that your Reason for believing that the late Delivery was owing to the Check, and not owing to the Manner in which the Check was carried into Effect?—I consider it entirely owing to the Check.

And not to any Defect in those who carried it into Execution?—No.

Do you know when the Check was first imposed?—I have been endeavouring to recollect; I think it must have been some Time in the Month of February, previously to the Suspension of Mr. Palmer.

You cannot state that accurately?—No, I cannot.

Do you recollect when the Check was first suggested?—I really cannot speak positively to it.

Can you recollect whether the Check was adopted the Moment that it was suggested?—That I cannot speak to.

You do not recollect previous Conversation about this Check before it was tried?—No.

You have no Notion when Mr. Bonnor first suggested this Check?—No, I have not.

Could the Deputy Comptroller introduce this Check without the Approbation of the Comptroller?—I should think the Comptroller General must have known of it; that all Alterations or Proposals of that Sort would necessarily be laid before him.

Do you know how this Check was introduced, whether by any written Order?—No, I really cannot say.

Would it appear by any Books at the Post Office when this Check was introduced, and when it was taken off?—I do not think there was any Minute to which a Reference could be had shewing that.

You were one of the Presidents at that Time?—Yes.

Should you have felt yourself authorized to introduce any new System of Sorting or Delivery of the Letters without some written Communication from some superior Officer, and if so, what Officer?—Any Orders of that Sort might have been given either verbally or otherwise, I cannot say, for we were in the Habit at that Time of Day of daily Communication, either with the Comptroller General or his Deputy; a good many Things were settled by Conversation.

Do you recollect a Person of the Name of H. Ferguson?—Yes.

What Situation was he in, in 1792?—Inspector of Letter Carriers.

Is he not the Officer whose Duty it is to report the Hours of Delivery?—He was at that Time; he is since dead.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then

Then Mr. JOHN BAPTIST AUSTIN is again called in; and further examined, Mr. J. B. Austin.
as follows :

Do you wish to make any Correction in your Evidence?—I conceive myself to have said that Mr. Palmer knew of the Check referred to in my Evidence; I wish to say that I am rather apprehensive he was then under Suspension, and consequently could not know of it.

Do you mean to say that Mr. Palmer was under Suspension at any Period when this Check was acted upon and used in the General Post Office?—I think he was, but it is so long since I cannot remember the Dates.

Do not you know that the Check was taken off the Day on which Mr. Palmer was suspended?—I do not; I do not mean to say that it was or was not.

Do you know when the Check was imposed?—The latter end of February or the beginning of March, I believe it was in Operation.

Do you know when it was imposed?—The latter end of February or the beginning of March; it was in Operation immediately after it was imposed.

Do you know when Mr. Palmer was suspended?—I do not recollect the exact Date.

Was the Check imposed verbally or by written Order?—Verbally, by the Deputy Comptroller General.

Was Mr. Bonnor in the Execution of his Duty in the beginning of March and the latter end of February, or was he at that Time suspended?—I cannot say, I am sure; when the Check was in Operation Mr. Bonnor could not be suspended, because he attended the Operation of that Check himself.

Can you state to the Committee that Mr. Bonnor was not suspended from the 1st of March to the 8th of March 1792?—I do not know the Dates, it is so long since.

You are certain Mr. Bonnor was not suspended at any Period when that Check was in operation?—That I am certain of.

You are quite certain of that?—Yes, I think I can speak with Certainty to that.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. CHARLES BONNOR is called in; and further examined, as Mr. Ch. Bonnor.
follows :

In the Event of the Postmaster General not paying the £348. the Amount of White's Accounts, should you have sustained the Loss?—No; I could not sustain the Loss, because my Claim was neither upon White nor the Postmaster General, but upon Mr. Palmer, who never disputed his having given me Orders to advance the Money to White; and who, if the Postmaster General had returned him no Part of it, must have been responsible to me.

If Mr. White had not successfully fabricated an Account, Mr. Palmer must have been the Loser by that, and not you?—I could sustain no Loss in any Case.

Would Mr. Palmer have sustained Loss, if there had not been a fabricated Account of Mr. White's?—It was plain he did not, from the Success of the Fabrication; he would have sustained a Loss if those Accounts had not been made up.

Did you think at the Time, that Mr. White intended to injure you?—No, certainly; I had no Idea that he did.

(123.)

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Did

Mr. Ch. Bonner.

Did you think, at the Time the thing took place, that he was fabricating an Account?—The Man stated the Fact himself.

At the Time?—At the Time that he made out these Accounts, he kept them no Secret from the whole Office.

Consequently none from you?—No; it was not particularly addressed to me.

You knew at the Time that he was fabricating an Account?—The Man stated that he could not account for the Monies he had received.

Did you understand he could not account for them, because that he had lost his Vouchers, or that he made a false and fabricated Account for that which he had not expended?—The Man certainly did not say that he had spent the Money; all that he stated was that of the Eleven or Twelve hundred Pounds he had received, he could only account for Six or Seven hundred, or within £348. of the Amount.

Did you take him, upon his Account, to be a Rogue, or only an unfortunate Man, who had lost his Vouchers?—I could form no Opinion upon that.

You could form no Opinion upon that from Mr. White's Statement, whether being an unfortunate Man who had lost his Vouchers, he wished to supply it from Memory, or whether he was a Rogue?—It was impossible for me to understand whether he was a Rogue or not; he did not say the Money had been squandered by him, but he said I have given you an Account of all the Services I have rendered, there is a Deficiency of £348. for which I can charge nothing conscientiously; he was unable to produce any Vouchers, or in any way to account for what was become of the Money.

Was the Impression upon your Mind, that Mr. White only meant to acknowledge, that having lost his Vouchers, he was at the Mercy of Government, if they would not allow him to be paid without his Vouchers, or that he confessed he was making fictitious Accounts?—Very far was I from acquitting him from all Suspicion of improper Conduct; if Mr. Palmer at that Time had said to me, Here is this Fellow deficient to the Amount of £348., what is your Opinion, Do you think he has spent the Money or lost the Vouchers, and that he has fairly appropriated it to the Service of Government? my Answer would have been this, He may very possibly have mislaid some of his Vouchers; he may have neglected to enter some of his Accounts; but that to such an Amount as £348. a Man shall have neglected to make his Entries, is incredible, and therefore the Persuasion upon my Mind is, that a great deal of it must have been appropriated to his own Use, and he has set up the best Excuse he could for not rendering a proper Account; he over and over again confessed that the Accounts were fictitious, that they were altogether Inventions, and that he never performed one of the Journies for which he made out those Accounts, not to me only, but to numerous other Persons capable of giving Evidence to that Effect.

Before Mr. White made out this Account with Mr. Hasker, had the Comptroller General any Conversation with you about the making out of this Account?—Yes.

What was that Conversation?—Mr. Palmer applied to me in the first Instance, upon my representing to him that White was incapable of accounting for the Sums advanced to him. Mr. Palmer saw White upon the Subject, and he requested that I would sit down with him, and take Measures to prevent his, Mr. Palmer's, being subject to so serious a Loss. I asked him in what Manner Measures were to be taken to that Effect. Mr. Palmer said, he was determined he would not lose the Money, and that if this Fellow would not make out such an Account himself as would supply the Deficiencies, he must be instructed in what Way to do it, and that the safest Way would be, that he should be allowed to charge as a Superintendent of Guards for as many Journies as would make up the Sum deficient; adding at the same Time, that great Care must be taken that he should not make a Charge for any particular Line of Road for which it might afterwards
be

be shewn that another Superintendent had been paid. I, in as serious a Manner as I could express myself, intreated that I might not be called upon to perform so painful a Duty ; upon which Mr. Palmer desired I would send Mr. Hasker to him ; which I did, and there my Communications upon that Subject ended. *Mr. Ch. Bonnier.*

Do you recollect, in the Month of February 1792, Mr. Palmer's dictating to you any Notes, conveying Information for the Purpose of Sir Benjamin Hammet's making his Speech at the London Tavern ?—Yes ; I hold in my Hand a Copy of the Notes that were taken on that Occasion.

Mr. Palmer dictated them to you ?—Mr. Palmer dictated them to me ; and I afterwards communicated with Sir Benjamin Hammet upon the Subject.

He is since dead ?—Yes, he is ; but Evidence can be procured of the Part Sir Benjamin Hammet took at the London Tavern, which tends to corroborate this.

Are those Notes you are about to read your own Hand Writing ?—They are from my own Hand Writing ; but after Seven Years had elapsed, and I considered the Business at an End, I destroyed a Sack full of Papers.

Can you state from Recollection the Purport of these Notes dictated to you by Mr. Palmer ?—The professed Object and Intention of furnishing those Instructions to Sir Benjamin Hammet, was to promote an Object that Mr. Palmer had a great many Times declared himself to be devoted to, that of representing and causing it to be understood, that the Interference of the Postmaster General was injurious to the Service ; and for the Purpose of inducing Mr. Pitt to abolish or discontinue those Appointments. It was with those Intentions that Mr. Palmer was desirous of enabling Sir Benjamin Hammet so to represent what he, Mr. Palmer, wished to be understood to be the Conduct of the Postmasters General at the Meeting at the London Tavern, as would admit of the Merchants grounding thereupon Representations to the Minister to that Effect. I beg further on this Subject to observe, that no Question can remain as to Mr. Palmer's Efforts to that end on that Occasion, as he himself procured from Sir James Sanderson, Papers put into his Possession for the same Purpose, and, alarmed at the possible Effect they might produce to Mr. Palmer's Prejudice, he offered to settle an Annuity upon me and my Wife if I would return to him those Papers ; this Fact can be proved by different Witnesses.

You have stated in your former Evidence when the Check on the Charge-Takers was first imposed ?—It was some short Time before the Business of the Office got into that confused State which occasioned the late Delivery.

Have not you stated from the Official Account in your Possession, that it was the 17th of January ?—I do believe that it was the 17th of January.

Have you any Recollection what Day you were suspended ?—I can refer to a Publication of the Facts at the Time that will enable me to answer that ; I think it must have been within a Day or Two of the 15th or 16th of February.

You were not attending in the Office from that Time till the 8th of March, when you were restored ?—No ; I was not.

Can you state how long that Check was in Operation ?—I cannot.

Do not you recollect that you took off the Check the Day after you were restored to Office, which was the 8th of March ?—I have Doubts about that ; I have a strong Impression upon my Mind that that was the Case : I think I could enable myself to speak positively to that Question, but I do believe it was persisted in after I became responsible for the Government of the Office ; and that I had that Experience of its not retarding the Business ; I think I can be enabled to ascertain that Fact.

By what means ?—By reference to Papers I have, I think I may be enabled to ascertain that Fact.

Is the Committee to understand, that the Check continued to be in Operation from the 17th of January at least, to the Time you were restored to Office ?—I have already said I cannot speak positively to that Question.

You

Mr. Ch. Bonnor.

You can speak positively to the Checks having been in Operation during those Days that you have mentioned in your former Answer?—Yes.

Was the Check proposed with the Approbation of Mr. Palmer?—It was by Mr. Palmer's specific Order that the Check was first established. I stated in my former Evidence, that if it was a cause of Delay, it was chargeable upon Mr. Palmer only, without whose Orders it could not have been made use of.

Do you recollect any Letter of the 11th of March 1792 from the Postmaster General to you, upon the Subject of the Check?—I cannot recollect any.

You had in your Hand just now a Note of what Mr. Palmer had dictated to you?—I had.

Have you lost the original Note?—Yes, I have no Paper now to that Effect; and my Impression is that that original Note must have been given to Sir Benjamin Hammet. Upon Recollection I can state confidently that I did not part with the original Note; I did not choose to let it go out of my Possession; Sir Benjamin Hammet took it down from my Dictation.

What is become of the original Note?—As I said before, I found a very great Incumbrance in these Papers, notwithstanding which I kept them so many Years, as to furnish a reasonable Belief, that I should never have Occasion to refer to them again, and no less than an entire Sack-full were destroyed under that Impression.

When did you look for this particular Paper?—I have not looked for it at all particularly; but what makes me confident, is the Circumstance of my printing those Materials, and the Instrument from which this Article was supplied, was given to the Printer.

You cannot take upon you to swear, that the Original was among those Papers that were destroyed by you since?—Yes; I can take upon me to swear that, because the Number undestroyed is reduced so very small.

But you have not looked for those particular Papers?—I have turned over every one of those Papers within a Fortnight.

You have just said you have not looked for this particular Paper?—I have had no Motive for looking for that particular Paper; but I have turned over in order to qualify myself for this Task, all the few remaining Papers I have got.

Without finding that among them?—Yes.

Your Attention was not called to that particular Paper?—No, but I am sure it is not among them. I have strong ground for being satisfied that that Paper was destroyed, for it was one of the Articles sent to the Printer to complete this Work, and they were all destroyed; as soon as I was satisfied that he had given faithful Copies, I burned the Originals.

Can you say that that is a Copy? (*Shewing a Paper to the Witnesses*)—Most confidently.

The said Paper is read by the Clerk, as follows:

“ The Number of Miles travelled is upwards of Seventeen Million. Not a single Robbery of the Mail attempted, or a Passenger attacked; notwithstanding which, Opposition to the Contractors has been countenanced, their Confidence in the Continuance of the Plan shaken, some of the most responsible induced therefrom to act with a Negligence that required their Dismissal, and others (to avoid what they deemed a worse Consequence) uniting with the very People that opposed them, in order to secure themselves under the Postmaster General, whom they considered as possessing the most permanent as well as the strongest Interest. Hence a vigorous Conduct towards the tardy has been rendered impracticable without endangering a general Combination, which the Postmaster General appeared ready to head. A Readiness shewn to encourage Disaffection among the Officers,

Officers, and many of them in the most indecent Manner announcing themselves to be of the Post-master General's Party, thereby sowing the Seeds of Discontent and Difference among the rest, and exciting a Variety of Sentiments and Opinions, where one Opinion and one Mind only ought to act; and the public Convenience sacrificed to this distracted, undisciplined, and disorderly State of Affairs.

“ West India, America, and Lisbon Correspondence unprotected 100 Miles of the Road, by the Postmaster General's discountenancing the Allowance granted for a guarded Conveyance between Exeter and Falmouth.

“ The Communication with Ireland by Way of Donnaghadee and Portpatrick, deprived of a protected Mail by the Postmaster General's opposing Allowances essential to the Establishment of a proper Conveyance by that Route.

“ Much of the Inconvenience arising to the Public from the late Delivery, occasioned by the Postmaster General's Interference in the Inland Office Regulations for the Purpose of establishing Checks that perhaps may and perhaps may not be of a few Shillings Benefit to the Revenue in the course of the Year, but by which the Public are subjected to the Inconveniencies of which they now so justly complain.”

Did you take down this from the Comptroller General's dictating to you?— I did.

Had you his Orders to communicate it to Sir Benjamin Hammet?—I had.

For the Purpose of being used?—For the Purpose of its being used at the Meeting of the Merchants at the London Tavern.

Was it for the Purpose of supporting the intended Charges to be brought against the Postmaster General?—It was.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

It being then proposed to adjourn this Committee till To-morrow;

The same is agreed to, and Ordered accordingly.



The first part of the document discusses the general principles of the proposed system. It is intended to provide a clear and concise summary of the main points. The following sections will deal with the details of the system, including the methods of implementation and the results of the experiments.

The second part of the document describes the experimental setup and the results of the tests. It is intended to provide a detailed account of the work done and the conclusions drawn from the experiments. The following sections will deal with the discussion of the results and the conclusions of the study.

The third part of the document discusses the conclusions of the study and the implications of the results. It is intended to provide a clear and concise summary of the main points. The following sections will deal with the details of the system, including the methods of implementation and the results of the experiments.

The following table shows the results of the experiments. It is intended to provide a clear and concise summary of the main points. The following sections will deal with the details of the system, including the methods of implementation and the results of the experiments.

Die Jovis, 1^o Julii 1813.

The Lord President in the Chair.

ORDER of Adjournment read.

The Proceedings of this Committee Yesterday are read.

JOHN PALMER Esquire is then called in; and, having been sworn, is examined, as follows: *John Palmer Esq.*

Do you remember the Proposition made to you for the Acceptance of the £3,000 a-Year after your Suspension and Removal?—Yes.

Did you ever acquiesce under that Proposition?—Never in the slightest Degree.

By whom was it first proposed to you?—By Lord Camden; the present Lord Camden.

How soon after it was proposed to you did you express your Dissatisfaction?—Directly. I hardly conceive that it could be called a Proposal, because it was communicated to me as a Determination.

Upon this being so communicated to you as a Determination, did you immediately express your Dissatisfaction in as unequivocal a Manner as you could, when the Public was in the other Scale?—Perfectly so; in the very Words I have given in my Evidence before the House of Commons.

Do you abide, upon your Oath, to the whole of that Evidence so delivered?—Entirely so.

Did you, the first Opportunity you had, express that unequivocal Dissatisfaction to Lord Camden personally?—At the very Time he communicated to me the Determination of Mr. Pitt, at that very Time I made that Declaration.

Did you, at any future Period, relax from that unequivocal Dissatisfaction?—Not in the slightest Degree.

Was it in consequence of that unequivocal Dissatisfaction, so expressed and acted upon, that you subsequently presented your Memorial and your Remonstrance?—Exactly so.

Have you continued, from that Time to the present, when you are now submitting your Claims to Parliament, dissatisfied?—Invariably so.

Do you remember the Business of Mr. White's Accounts?—Yes, I remember them.

Did you direct Mr. Haker to investigate those Accounts with him?—I did.

What was it that rendered that Investigation necessary?—This Man was personally recommended to me by my Deputy, and employed by his Recommendation. He had frequently complained to me of this Man's Negligence, and on this Occasion declared he could not possibly get his Accounts from him, and begged me to interfere; and I sent for the Man, and reprov'd him for his Conduct, and settled with him that he should meet Mr. Haker, who was the Superintendent of these People, to make out these Accounts.

When you appointed Mr. Haker to investigate the Accounts with Mr. White, was anything suggested of the Loss of Vouchers?—I think Mr. Bonnor told me that his Box was burnt, or something of that kind.

When

John Palmer Esq.

When you so appointed Mr. Hasker to investigate these Accounts of Mr. White's, had you any Reason to believe or suspect that he intended to put upon you fabricated Accounts?—None in the World.

Had you any personal Interest in his Accounts?—Not the least.

Did you, in any Part of the Business of White's Accounts, know or suspect that he was engaged in any Fraud?—Not the least.

Did Mr. Bonnor at any Time communicate to you, that he believed or suspected that White was engaged in a fraudulent Fabrication of Accounts?—Never.

Did you give any Instructions to Mr. Bonnor at any Time, or make any Communication to him as your Deputy, to deal with White and his Accounts otherwise than to supply by Memory and by fair Consideration any Loss of Vouchers that might have taken place?—Never.

At this Time were you in advance to Mr. White any and what Sums of Money?—Not One Shilling.

Are you sure, that whatever might be the Result of the Investigation, you could be no Loser or Gainer?—None in the World. In short, the whole Time I was in the Office I never had any pecuniary Transaction with White.

Had you ever, until you saw Mr. White's Affidavit, and until the Business came on in the Year 1797, any Reason to suspect White had been engaged in fraudulent Accounts?—Never. I had heard he was negligent, but considered a very clever Fellow.

Recollecting that you are upon your Oath, you swear that you had no Reason to believe or to suspect, during any Part of this Transaction, that he had been guilty of any Fraud upon the Public, or meditated any?—Exactly so.

It appears in Page 34 of your Evidence before the Committee in 1797, that you referred to a Letter of the 11th of June 1791 from your Deputy, from which you read Two Extracts; have you that Letter?—I have not. I believe it was delivered in to the Committee of the House of Commons.

With regard to the late Delivery of Letters in No. 10. of the Appendix to the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons in 1797, several Letters appear which you wrote to your Deputy Mr. Bonnor; did you ever act in your Office upon any of the Matters contained in those Letters?—Never in the slightest Degree.

Not having acted upon the Matters contained in those Letters, what induced you to write those Letters to Mr. Bonnor?—They were written in Moments of Irritation, when my Mind was agitated by what I considered a Sort of Persecution from Lord Walsingham.

Had your Plan, before the writing of those Letters, met with Obstructions in the Post Office, as you conceived?—Yes; so much so, by the frequent Minutes I considered strange and totally unnecessary and vexatious, that took away all Subordination in the Officers respecting me; extremely perplexed the Business, and so employed my Time, that I could not possibly attend to it in the Manner I wished.

Is the Committee to understand, that under the Irritation of what you conceived to be Obstructions to your Duty, you wrote those Letters to Mr. Bonnor, but never acted upon them?—Exactly so; in short, they were Answers to Letters of Complaint from him of the extreme Sufferings he had under the Postmaster General in the Repetition of these kind of Minutes.

You remember when, in point of fact, there was a Delay in the Delivery of Letters?—Yes.

As you had thrown out, in the Manner stated, your Wishes and your Views in those Letters to Mr. Bonnor, was it in the Prosecution of any Plan on your Part,
or

or any Interference on your Part, that that late Delivery of Letters took place?—*John Palmer Esq.*
 Never in the slightest Degree. Whatever Expressions I used in those Letters vanished at the Moment; the Moment the Provocation was withdrawn, the Feeling ceased.

As a Man of the World, you cannot but regret having written those Letters?—Certainly, as every Man regrets every improper Expression in the Haste of the Occasions, which I have done frequently.

The Committee are now to understand you to swear positively, that you did not directly or indirectly conduct yourself in any Manner to delay the Delivery of Letters?—In the most solemn Manner, and if I was to die To-morrow, I would make the Declaration, that I never did in the slightest Degree to any Individual. If there is any Oath that could possibly be prescribed to me, I am ready to take it.

You have said, that you wrote the Letters in Appendix No. 10. in Moments of Irritation, without ever acting upon them; did you ever before or after the Date of those Letters directly or indirectly give any Commands, or express any Wish to any Officer employed in the Post Office, to cause the late Delivery of Letters?—Never.

When did you first know that a late Delivery of Letters had in fact taken place; how soon after the late Delivery took place were you informed of it?—As far as I recollect the Circumstance, there did not appear to me a particularly late Delivery. A later Delivery was much more usual at that Season of the Year, I mean previously to the Meeting of the Merchants.

Do you recollect what Day the Meeting of the Merchants was?—I do not call it to mind.

Do you remember when you were suspended?—The beginning of March.

Were you apprized of the Meeting of the Merchants on the Subject of the late Delivery of the Letters?—After the Advertisement I received a Note from Sir James Sanderson, informing me of it, and wishing to consult with me about it.

Did you see him in consequence?—I saw him in consequence.

Did you take every Step in your Power to remedy any Defect that might have taken place?—The whole Communication I made to Sir James Sanderson was, that I considered the Powers that were invested in me by Mr. Pitt, to conduct the Office, were so extremely interrupted by Lord Walsingham, that I could not be responsible for any Delay that might occur.

Whatever Delay occurred at that Period, were you the Cause of it?—Not the least in the World; it was impossible.

After your former Answer, you need hardly be asked whether you had given any Directions to cause it?—Not the slightest, to any Individual breathing.

Whatever Delay might have existed at that Time, what do you impute it to?—I really am not aware, as far as I can recollect, that there was much more Delay than usual, nor in fact any Delay, as far as I can recollect.

Did your Deputy make any Complaint to you of a Delay at that Period?—Not the least.

What was the Date of the Suspension of Mr. Bönnor?—It must have been a very short Time previous to my own.

Can you explain to the Committee the Nature of the Check, as it has been called?—There were so many new Forms, and so many new Regulations, that I really cannot recollect them.

Was the Imposition of any Check your A&?—Oh no, not the least in the World; previously to that Time Lord Walsingham had sent Mr. Church the Accountant, proposing a Variety of Checks to me, and I referred Mr. Church, as in fact he states in his Evidence, to Mr. Austin and Mr. Stow, the Gentlemen at the

John Palmer Esq. Head of the Inland Office, and most competent to judge of them, to settle with Mr. Church such Regulations as they might best approve, and as would best meet Lord Walsingham's Ideas, and had myself nothing whatever to do with the Checks.

Do you mean that Mr. Church or Lord Walsingham state that in their Evidence?—Mr. Church and Lord Walsingham, both; in short, Lord Walsingham's Ideas of the proper Method of conducting the Post Office and my Plan were so extremely wide from each other, that feeling it utterly impossible to proceed under his Regulations, I washed my Hands entirely of all Communication with him whatever on any Regulation in the Office, and invariably referred him to those Officers who had the principal Regulation of the Business he referred to. If I might be permitted to select a few of those Minutes that I referred to, I am sure I shall convince the Committee that it was utterly impossible for any human Being under such a Direction to go on. I beg to say, that I mean nothing disrespectful to Lord Walsingham as a private Gentleman, I entertain the highest Esteem for him. I do not think he meant any Thing personal to me, but his Regulations and Mode of doing Business to perplexed and distracted my Mind, that I could not possibly go on with it.

Have you got here the original Draft of the Commission which is printed in Appendix, No. 1. to the Report of the House of Commons in 1797?—I have.

(*Mr. Palmer produces a Paper.*)

Is that Paper produced by you it?—I think it is.

Is there any of Mr. Bonnor's Hand-writing upon that Paper?—The Endorsement.

The said Paper is read by the Clerk, as follows :

“ Copy of a Draft of Appointment referred by the Treasury to the Attorney General.

“ Whereas it has been ^(No. 3.) represented unto Us that the Appointment of a fit _{in 34} _a

and proper Person to be Comptroller and Surveyor General of the Revenues of Our Post Office in Great Britain will greatly contribute to the Advancement of the same; And whereas I. P. has been recommended unto Us for that Purpose, he having invented and partly carried into Execution a Plan for extending and improving the Posts, and for the more safe, expeditious, & regular Conveyance of the Mails within Our said Kingdom; which has already proved highly beneficial to the Trade and Commerce thereof; We do hereby appoint him *for and during his Life*, Surveyor & Comptroller General of the General Post Office of Great Britain, with all it's Connections & Dependencies; of all Postmasters, Contractors, Deputies, Accomptants, Comptrollers, Surveyors, Clerks, Sorters, Window Men, Letter Receivers, Carriers, Messengers and other Officers and Servants thereunto belonging; giving and hereby granting for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, to the said I. P. full Power and Authority to suspend any such Officers or Servants for Neglect of Duty, or of such Instructions or Directions as they have already received, or shall hereafter receive from Our Postmaster General or the said I. P. for the above Purposes, as well as for the better conducting the Business of the said Office; And in order to a due and strict Examination of all Expences incurred in the Management of the said Revenues, it is Our Will and Pleasure that no Bills whatever respecting the same shall be paid 'till they are examined & signed by the said I. P. or his Deputy, who are hereby authorized and required to call for such Accompts and order the same before them from Time to Time when they shall judge it necessary; And We having taken into Our Royal Consideration the good & faithful Services of the said I. P. for the Advancement of Our Revenue and the Advantage of the Commerce & Manufactories of Our Kingdom of Great Britain, by greatly accelerating the Conveyance of Our Mails and Packets, are also graciously pleased

as well as a Reward for such Services, as to encourage him to continue his Exer- *John Palmer Esq.*
 tions for furthering the same, to give and grant for Us, Our Heirs and Successors,
 to the said I. P. an annual Salary of £1,500. to be paid to him without Deduction
 or Abatement of any sort, out of the Revenues of Our said Post Office, together
 with a further Allowance of such Sum of Money annually as shall be equal to
 £2½ Cent. on the Surplus of the said Revenues on making up the Accountts,
 at over and above the Sum of £ which Accountts it is Our
 Will & Pleasure shall continue to be made up, and y^e Balance struck in the same
 Manner as at present, In which for the Purpose aforefaid no additional Pension
 or Charge on the said Revenue of the General Post Office shall be included as a
 Deduction from the nett Revenue, on which the said Centage shall be calculated,
 except for Salaries & Expences actually incurred in the Management of the
 same.

Indorsement 72 a Mr. Palmer's Appointment as drawn by Mr. Rose, and submitted to the Attorney General's Consideration in 1785, immediately under the Crown. This is a Part also of No. 34. a	from Octob ^r 1782		
	to		£
	Octob ^r 1784	-	3000
	from Oct. 84 to D. 85	-	2000
	85 to 88	-	7500
		<hr/>	12500

Do you know in whose Hand-writing that Copy of the Commission is which you have now produced?—It is a Hand-writing I am very familiar with, and I think it is Mr. Lloyd's.

Who was Mr. Lloyd?—Mr. Lloyd was a Clerk in the Office.

Mr. Lloyd is dead, is he not?—Yes, he is; he wrote a remarkably good Hand, and was generally put to copying any Papers or Reports.

Was this Copy of that Commission which you have now produced the identical Copy sent to Mr. Abbott?—I really do not know.

Have the Goodness to read the whole of the Indorsement?—" Mr. Palmer's Appointment, as drawn by Mr. Rose, and submitted to the Attorney General's Consideration in 1785, immediately under the Crown." I think these Words, " immediately under the Crown," are my Hand-writing; " this is a Part also of No. 34."

Are these Words in your Hand-writing?—No, I do not think they are.

Do you know in whose Hand-writing they are?—No, I do not.

In whose Hand-writing is the First Part?—Mr. Bonnor's; " immediately under the Crown," is mine. I do not know whose Hand-writing " this is a Part also of No. 34." is.

Do you know what that refers to?—No, I do not; but I suppose it was put up in distinct Parcels, and that this was in Part a Copy of one included in No. 34.

Was this the Copy produced to the House of Commons?—It was never produced to the House of Commons; I believe the Copy produced to the House of Commons was the Office Copy.

How was there an Office Copy of this Commission?—A Copy was given in to the House of Commons by me, being a corrected Copy of the Appointment sent to The Attorney General for his Opinion.

It was not this Copy that you carried to the House of Commons?—I think not.

Where did you get this Copy which you have now produced?—From the various Post Office Papers in my Possession.

Were

John Palmer Esq. Were you understood rightly, in conceiving that you said that this was the original Draft?—No. I do not recollect that I made any such Answer.

This is not the original Draft then?—I really do not know.

Cannot you for a Certainty say that this is not the original Draft?—Indeed I cannot.

Did not you state, in your Examination in the House of Commons, that you had made a verbal Agreement with Doctor Pretymán for the Reform and Improvement of the Post Office Revenue?—No.

Did you, on that Occasion, say that you left some Papers with Doctor Pretymán, stating, that if your Plan succeeded, you demanded Two and a Half per Cent. on the increased Revenue for Life?—I did.

Can you state what those Papers were?—I really cannot.

Do you recollect whether Mr. Allen's Narrative formed any Part of it?—Yes, that was one I left.

Do you recollect whether a Letter from yourself to Mr. Sheridan, and a Letter from Mr. Sheridan to you, formed any Part of them?—No, I do not recollect those Circumstances.

You do not recollect having produced such a Paper to Doctor Pretymán?—Indeed I do not at this Period.

With the Exception of Mr. Allen's Narrative, you cannot state the Circumstances, or the Substance, or any Description of any other Paper left with Doctor Pretymán?—I cannot, except merely stating that Mr. Pitt was aware of the great Trouble and Expence I had incurred, and that if I carried my Plan into Execution, I expected to have in future, for my Life, Two and a Half per Cent. upon the future increase of the Revenue beyond the Time of the Commencement of my Plan. As far as I recollect, that was much about the Purport of what I left in the Papers.

You cannot state what Papers you left with him?—I cannot.

Do you recollect whether you had got a Copy of any of those Papers?—Indeed I cannot.

Can you recollect that you had no Copy of those Papers?—I really do not.

Were you in the Habit of communicating with the present Lord Camden in the Year 1793, or about the Time you got the Allowance of £3,000. a-Year?—I was.

Do you know that Mr. Pitt once proposed to grant you only £2,500. a-Year at that Time?—Never. I recollect very well, that when Lord Camden communicated to me Mr. Pitt's Determination of granting me £3,000. a-Year, he said, "Mr. Pitt meant only to give you Five-and-twenty hundred, but on my Representation to him, he increased it to £3,000. a-Year." Now I remarked to his Lordship, I was very sorry I could not thank him, for I conceived myself unjustly dealt with, and that I had a Right to the Whole of my Percentage, and should consider myself extremely ill used if I had any Thing short of it; or to that Effect. I cannot precisely recollect the Words.

You are quite certain you said that to Lord Camden, at the Time you first learned that Mr. Pitt had granted you £3,000. a-Year?—I am.

Had you any Conversation with Mr. Pitt himself at that Time?—I had not.

With Mr. Long?—None.

With Mr. Rose?—None.

Is there any other Person that you can name, to whom you expressed, the Moment that you learned Mr. Pitt's having granted you the £3,000 a-Year, Dissatisfaction upon

upon that Subject?—I can recollect no individual Person; but there is no Person *John Palmer Esq.* whatever that I spoke to upon the Subject, to whom I did not communicate the same Dissatisfaction.

You cannot state the Name of any Person to whom you made that Communication?—To those immediately about me; to Mr. Freeling, Mr. Bartlett, a Gentleman who transacted Business under me in the Office; and I might to an hundred others, but I cannot recollect their Names.

Were you in Town in the Month of June 1793, when the Warrant for the Grant of £3,000 a-Year was made out?—I cannot recollect, but most probably I was, or in the Vicinity of London.

You are sure Lord Camden was the first Person that announced it to you?—I am.

And you are certain you did not see Mr. Long at that Time?—I am perfectly sure of it.

And that Mr. Long never communicated to you Mr. Pitt's having granted you the £3,000 a-Year?—Not till after my Memorial; previously to the Grant, certainly. I conceive, from Mr. Long's Evidence in the House of Commons, that he has mistaken and confused the Periods of the Grant of the £3,000 a-Year, and his Conversations with me after presenting my Memorial; for I had no Conversation with Mr. Long or Mr. Rose or any public Character, except the late and the present Lord Camden, upon that Business, till after the official Communication that the Grant of £3,000 a-Year was made to me.

Who made the official Communication of the Grant?—That came regularly from the Treasury, by Letter, as far as I recollect.

Then this Objection was stated by you to Lord Camden, before you received this Letter?—Yes, directly upon his first Communication to me, upon the Resolution of Mr. Pitt.

You are quite certain that you expressed yourself very strongly to Lord Camden at that Time?—I did.

You have said, that the Letters printed, No. 10. in the Appendix to the Commons Report, were Answers to Letters of Complaint from Mr. Bonnor addressed to you; have you any of those Letters of Complaint?—I have not.

After writing those Letters which are printed in the Appendix, No. 10. did you next Day write to Mr. Bonnor, to forbid his acting upon them?—I have no Recollection that I did.

Did you ever, without taking any active Measures to produce Delay in the Delivery of Letters, express yourself highly satisfied to hear, that the Discipline of the Office was so relaxed as to be likely to produce a Delay?—Possibly I may in some of those Letters have expressed, from the Irritation of my Mind, the Satisfaction that the Interference of Lord Walsingham had produced those ill Effects, which I had frequently cautioned him upon.

Did you ever express to any Person in Conversation, on hearing that the Discipline of the Office was relaxed so as that a Delay in the Delivery must necessarily take place, great Satisfaction?—Upon my Word I have no Recollection of any such Thing.

Did you communicate with the Merchants of the City of London, for the Purpose of raising a Party against the Postmaster General?—Never.

Did you supply them with any Hints or Information that you thought might be used at that Meeting?—Upon the Application of my Deputy to me, upon the Advertisement appearing, and representing to me, that it might be made a very injurious Use of toward me, he requested me to allow him to take some Extracts of the Minutes that I have described, and the Correspondence between the Postmaster General and myself, to satisfy some of his Friends amongst the Merchants, of the Impracticability of my going forward, under the Obstructions that were

John Palmer Esq. thrown in my Way. Those Papers, I understood afterwards, he gave to the Postmaster General, with a Declaration, that I had employed him to go to the Merchants, for a Purpose injurious to their Characters, or something to that Effect.

You gave your Deputy Information, for the Purpose of being communicated to the Merchants?—I gave him those Papers, for the Purpose of being communicated to the Merchants.

Did you dictate any Information to be communicated to any of the Merchants?—None whatever; they were given to him at his Request, and to be made use of for Purposes of my Defence, in case my Character should be attacked at the Meeting.

Have not you stated in your Evidence before the House of Commons, that you believed in your Conscience £187,848 would have been saved to the Public, if your Suspension had not taken place?—I think I did.

Have you not said that you had Plans, at the Time you quitted the Office, which would have added to the Revenue, had they been carried into Execution by you, to the Extent of £80,000 or £100,000?—I did; I think much more than that.

Take that Paper into your Hand, (*the Draft of Commission produced by Mr. Palmer*), and read the Sums of Money indorsed upon the Back.

From October 1782		
to		
October 1784	- -	£3,000
from October 84 to D. 85	-	2,000
85 to 88	- -	7,500
		£12,500

Do you know what this alludes to?—I cannot immediately recollect; I think they are in my Hand-writing.

Do not you believe those are the Sums which you received by Warrant to reimburse you the Expence you had been at?—If I received them, they must be in Part of my Per-centage.

Did you receive any Warrants for Money that formed no Part of your Per-centage?—I did.

Are you sure that those are not the Sums that you received Warrants for exclusive of your Per-centage?—I really cannot say, very probably they may have been.

How many Years did Mr. Bonnor act as your Deputy?—I believe Seven or Eight Years.

Was he in the Habit of obeying the Orders which you gave him as your Deputy?—Generally.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. Ch. Bonnor. Then Mr. CHARLES BONNOR is called in, and further examined, as follows :

Is that your Hand-writing? (*the Indorsement upon the Draft of Appointment produced by Mr. Palmer.*)—It is like my Writing.

Have you any Doubt of its being your Hand-writing?—I have great Doubt; the Figures are not all my Writing I am satisfied. I have no Hesitation in saying that there is a Figure of Five here that is not my Writing.

Look at that Indorsement and say what Part is your Hand-writing, and what Part is not?—The Figures 72 at the Top are not mine; the Letter "a" immediately under is not mine; the Word immediately on a Line with the Date is not mine;

mine; "this is a Part also of No. 34," with the Letter "a" under is not mine; *Mr. Ch. Bannor.*
 the whole of the rest, and which comprehends the Title, appears to be mine, except the Figure 5, which is certainly not mine.

Have you looked at the Figures denoting the Sums of Money which are also written there, are they in your Hand-writing?—They are of Mr. Palmer's Writing.

Have you any Recollection of having put that Indorsement upon that Paper?—No; but I think it very likely that upon such a Paper I should have put such an Indorsement, supposing it to be what its Title describes. I know not the Contents of the Paper, and therefore it is only presuming that the Contents agree with the Title, that I say I have no Recollection of having penned any such Indorsement, though it is very likely I might have done it.

What could have induced you, with the Convictions you have stated to the Committee, to indorse a Paper of the Title which that Paper purports to be, with the Title with which it is there indorsed?—The Opinions I have expressed to the Committee could not have acted upon my Mind at the Time I penned this Indorsement, and I should naturally indorse any official Paper according to its Contents; I presume that the Title applies to the Contents of this; I do not feel that this Paper, ignorant as I am of its Contents, does, from what I see in its Title, tend to contradict any Opinions I have given or evidenced to the Committee.

If you had put that Indorsement upon a Copy of the Commission, which is No. 1, of the Appendix to the Commons Report in 1797, how could you have accounted for it?—I profess to be at a Loss to know how it could be accounted for, that is, supposing that the Date of this Indorsement does not agree with the Time when that Draft was prepared.

You have stated in your Evidence, that this Paper never was regularly sent by Mr. Rose to the Attorney General; you have described, that in your Presence you saw it delivered to The Attorney General: After having stated these Facts, how can you account for having put that Indorsement upon the Commission?—I am to presume that the Contents of that Paper correspond with No. 1. in the Appendix. I must repeat my former Answer, that I know not how to account for it; that I am utterly at a Loss to account for it; I question the Possibility of the Thing.

Whose Hand Writing is that (*the Body of the Paper*)?—It is my Writing at the Top.

Read the Words that are in your Hand Writing?—"Copy of a Draft of Appointment referred by the Treasury to the Attorney General."

In whose Hand Writing is the Remainder?—It is in the Hand Writing of Mr. Lloyd, the Clerk, whom I have already described to have prepared that Draft under Mr. Palmer's Directions, which Mr. Palmer represents to have been prepared at the Treasury.

Must you not have written that Indorsement and that Entry upon the Top of the Paper, under the Conviction that this was sent by Mr. Rose to The Attorney General?—I have the clearest Conviction upon my Mind that the Title penned by me at the Top of the Article was penned by me under Mr. Palmer's Direction. I never affected to be ignorant of that of which this is a most convincing Proof, namely, that the Appointment, represented by Mr. Palmer's Evidence to have been prepared at the Treasury, but which I stated, as it appeared to myself very uselessly at the Time, to have been prepared by Mr. Palmer, was fair copied by the Clerk Lloyd; this, here presents itself precisely as I described.

The Question applied to the Indorsement and the Title, and your Answer applies only to the Title, do you mean to include the Indorsement?—Exclusive of that Figure of 5; the Part in my Hand Writing is "Mr. Palmer's Appointment as drawn by Mr. Rose, and submitted to the Attorney General's Consideration in 178," the Figure of 5 is not my Writing.

Do

Mr. Ch. Bonner.

Do you mean to say you wrote 178 of 1785, and that the 5 added is not in your Hand Writing?—Yes; the Erasure is obvious of the Figure that stood there, nothing can be plainer; no Man would be believed who should say that he wrote the Three first Figures, and likewise wrote the Fourth.

Look at that Paper deliberately, and state, in the first Place, whether there appears to you to be any Erasure; and in the second Place, whether you are perfectly certain that the 5 is not your own Hand Writing?—I have no Doubt whatever that a considerable Part of the Figure 5 as it now stands was penned by me, but that it originally was a Figure of 6, and that it has been converted into a 5, by the Stroke at the Top and the Tick at the Bottom, from the Pen of a free official Writer, which I am not. Upon examining the Thing nicely, I am satisfied that it was a Figure of 6 of my Writing, and so converted into a Figure of 5; and I am further confirmed in this Opinion, because so much of the Figure as is, exclusive of the Stroke at the Top and the Point at the Bottom, is in the same coloured Ink with the rest of the Indorsement, extremely pale; the Top Stroke and Tick at the Bottom is, on the contrary, very black.

Look at that Paper, and say whether there is any Erasure in that Paper?—Yes; it appears to me that some Erasure must be necessary to compleat the Alteration, the Forgery I will call it. I however beg Leave to observe, that in the Word Consideration, immediately over the Figure of 5, a Liquid of some kind has been applied that has obliterated Four of the Letters composing that Word; it has likewise acted upon the Letter C, in the Word Crown, immediately under the Figure 5, and it is extremely probable, that by Means of that Liquid instead of an Erasure, Part of the Figure of 6, as originally written, may have been destroyed, which would naturally render any other Sort of Erasure unnecessary to the Accomplishment of this Forgery.

How can you account in the Year 1786 for having written this Indorsement, describing this Paper as the Commission drawn by Mr. Rose and sent to The Attorney General, considering the Evidence you have stated to this Committee on that Subject?—The Indorsement was in all Probability written at a Period very distant from the Time in which the Instrument was prepared; it is usual for official Documents to accumulate, and at a convenient Period they become docketed for the Purpose of being put away, and are then done in considerable Numbers; it does not always follow that an Indorsement is made to a Paper whilst it is in immediate Use, or under Consideration.

But with the Impression upon your Mind that this Paper was not framed at the Treasury, and that Mr. Rose never sent it to The Attorney General, how can you account for at any Period putting this Indorsement upon that Paper?—In the same way I account for having penned such a Title at the Top of the Instrument; for whatever Purpose Mr. Palmer would instruct me to pen such a Title, it was my Business, when I came to fold and put away Papers, to give such an Indorsement to it, as should correspond with its Title; it would be very strange indeed if the Indorsement did not agree with the Title; but it in no respects lessens the Confidence, I will say the Certainty of my Mind, with respect to its being as I have already explained it to be.

Does this Title convey that Description of the Paper which was generally given in your Office at that Time?—I am not aware that that Paper or the Subject it relates to was so much a Document of Office as immediately an Object of Mr. Palmer's particular Attention, and upon which he would not be likely to communicate with any one except myself.

Does it convey that Description of the Paper which you knew Mr. Palmer generally gave it at that Time?—Yes.

Do you see any Marks of an Erasure in the Date of that Paper?—I cannot answer it in other Terms than I already have.

Do you see any Marks of an Erasure in the Date of that Paper?—The Erasure, if by Erasure the Application of a Knife is meant, is certainly not very visible.

Do you see any Marks of an Erasure in the Date of that Paper?—I will say no, *Mr. Ch. Bonnor.* it is Matter of Opinion upon which I believe many People would differ; but nothing can be plainer than that the Figure is not the Figure I penned there.

You account for the Title of that Paper by this Circumstance, that you implicitly obeyed the Instructions of Mr. Palmer; you suppose that it was by his Instructions you wrote that Title; if Mr. Palmer had instructed you at that Time to put a Title to that Paper which you knew to be false, would you have put that Title to it?—I was not in the habit of disobeying Mr. Palmer's Orders. I felt it my Duty to obey him, I did so in every Instance; and frequently when I felt I was doing what was not right; but where I felt the Degree of Error not to be so great as to induce me to make the very large Sacrifice that I frequently apprehended I should sooner or later be obliged to make, and which at last I did make on the 11th Day of February 1792, when I stated to Mr. Palmer by a Letter, that I could no longer act in Obedience to his Orders, and by so informing him I risked, I may say, my Means of Existence, for I ceased to have that Hold upon my Situation in the Office which I had ever considered as infinitely more depending upon him than upon the Postmaster General.

Do you distinctly recollect being ordered by Mr. Palmer to write that Indorsement or that Title to the Paper which you have in your Hand?—Certainly not; I cannot carry my Recollection back nearly Twenty Years, with respect to the Contents or the Title, or the Indorsement of a Paper of that Description.

Do you recollect remonstrating with Mr. Palmer upon being ordered to write any Indorsement or any Title of any Paper, at the Period at which that Paper was written?—No; I do not think if a similar Transaction was to take place again, that I should consider it (on receiving from him his Directions for such an Act) of any Utility to remonstrate.

It is too long ago for you distinctly to recollect what passed upon that Occasion?—It is so long ago, as to reconcile to myself the great Probability of my having no Recollection of the Circumstance, though I have the clearest Recollection of many Events that took place 30 Years before.

Among those Events which took place some Years ago, of which you have a distinct Recollection, you are understood to have said in the Course of your Examination, that you have a distinct Recollection that this Paper was never under the Roof of the Treasury but during the few Minutes that you have described, during the Conversation between Mr. Palmer and the Gentlemen of the Office?—I believe I was very correct in saying so.

Then you think that your Recollection of that Circumstance is more correct than the Indorsement which appears to be in your Hand Writing upon that Paper?—The one I consider to be a Transaction of an Importance likely to make a strong Impression upon the Mind, the other a very feeble one, or rather to leave no Impression at all.

Have the Goodness to state to the Committee, what is the Distinction that you draw between these Two Transactions, namely, the Transaction of that Paper being under the Consideration of the Treasury, and the Statement of the Indorsement of the Paper which has been placed in your Hands?—The last was a mere hasty Title, the Indorsement given to one Paper, in all Probability of a very considerable Number, at the clearing away of a Variety of Papers; and in penning the Title and the Indorsement, it was not possible for me to imagine that when placed away it would ever again see the Day-light; the other was a Transaction which I could not but feel at that Moment to be one of the most important, and at the same Time one of the most extraordinary Transactions that ever Man was witness to.

Read aloud to the Committee the Indorsement of that Paper?—"Mr. Palmer's Appointment, as drawn by Mr. Rose, and submitted to the Attorney General's Consideration in 1785," as it stands at present.

Mr. Ch. Bonnor.

You distinctly recollect that that Appointment was not drawn by Mr. Rose?—Yes, it was likewise ascertained by Mr. Pitt; that Fact was unequivocally declared by Mr. Pitt in his Evidence to the House of Commons, that the Instrument certainly was never prepared at the Treasury; that it could not have been prepared there without being grounded upon a Minute of Treasury, and that no trace whatever of that kind was to be met with.

Did you in 1786 know that it was not drawn at the Treasury?—I believe that was the Period when it was prepared; however, I scruple not to say I have known at all Times that the Instrument was not prepared at the Treasury.

You speak from your own Recollection, and not from the Impression of Mr. Pitt's Evidence, or any other Person's Evidence?—I speak from my own Knowledge; not so much as to who did not prepare it as to who did prepare it; it is to that Fact I speak.

Have you any Doubt that if you wrote that Indorsement, you thought at the Time that you wrote that Indorsement, that the Paper had been drawn at the Treasury by Mr. Rose?—I never, at any one Moment of my Life, thought any such Thing.

Have you any Doubt that you wrote that Indorsement?—I have no Doubt but that I wrote it all, except the Figure 5.

Then you have no Doubt that you wrote that Indorsement, knowing the Paper not to be such as is described in that Indorsement?—Yes; being instructed so to do by the Person whom it was my Duty to obey.

Will you swear that you wrote that, knowing that the Description of the Indorsement was not true, and that you were instructed by Mr. Palmer so to do?—Expecting that the Paper, as soon as it was so indorsed agreeably to his Instructions, would be put away by him amongst other Papers, never likely to be made any Use of whatever.

You clearly recollect that Expectation in your Mind?—No, I do not.

Do you recollect the Instructions, Yes, or No, upon your Oath?—No, I certainly do not, I have not that accurate Recollection of any Thing relating to that particular Paper, which I have not bestowed a Thought upon from the Moment when I did so indorse it and leave it for Mr. Palmer to dispose of.

You say you have not an accurate Recollection; have you any?—Not the remotest, I did not know that such a Paper was in Existence, I am very happy to find that it is.

How came you to introduce in your Answers agreeably to his Instructions, meaning the Instructions of Mr. Palmer, when you have since sworn that you have not the remotest Recollection of any Instructions?—Because it is not possible that I ever could have penned such a Title and such an Indorsement under any other Circumstances than in obedience to his Direction.

Describe to the Committee what it is that makes you happy that a Paper has an Existence which requires all this Explanation from you?—Because I conceive that it tends to clear away any Doubts that might before have existed as to the Draft of the Appointment being prepared by Mr. Palmer, and not at the Treasury, to which Point I conceive it goes very completely.

You think then that the Indorsement upon that Paper in your Hand Writing, stating it to be drawn at the Treasury, is a convincing Proof that it was not drawn at the Treasury?—No, I do not think so; but I do feel, that it in no respect whatever tends to enfeeble, but on the contrary very much indeed to strengthen and confirm my former Impressions upon that Subject.

Why so?—Because, as I stated before, that after Mr. Palmer had prepared the Original Draft, and it had been corrected, it was fair copied by Mr. Lloyd previously to any Use whatever being made of it; and here is a fair Copy by Mr.

Mr. Lloyd, agreeably to what I had described from my Recollection; and it therefore affords me Satisfaction to meet with what strikes me, as confirming that which I have before stated.

Mr. Ch. Bonnor.

Were those Letters of Mr. Palmer which form No. 10. of the Appendix to the Commons Report, Answers to any Letters of yours?—[*The said Letters are shewn to the Witnesses.*]—Some of them obviously are; they were all written in the Course of a Correspondence that was seldom broken in upon; a regular Correspondence that lasted for many Years.

Did you receive from Mr. Palmer any Letters desiring you not to execute the Orders given you in these Letters?—In no one Instance that I can recollect.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then THOMAS HASKER Esquire is called in; and further examined, as follows:

T. Hasker Esq.

Do you wish to assign any reason to the Committee why you were with Mr. White at Ware in Hertfordshire, adjusting and settling his Accounts?—I wish to make this kind of Observation, that Surveyors and Superintendents who travel, carry their Accounts along with them, and Nine Accounts out of Ten made out by Surveyors and Superintendents for Travelling Expences are written somewhere on the Road, at Public Houses or Inns; that was the Case then, and generally it is so now; for their Business is in the Country, and they generally write there.

Was Mr. White engaged in going that Road where Ware is?—He was very much engaged on that Road, as well as many others.

You know that he went upon that Road, and was frequently at Chuck's?—Very often.

Do you ever recollect in settling the Accounts of any of these Officers, beginning in Sherborne Lane, forming another Part of it at your own Lodgings, afterwards adjourning to another Apartment, and lastly, meeting the Officer whose Account is to be settled on some Road at a Distance?—I never assisted in settling any Account but Mr. White's.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Then BARNABY JOHN STUCKEY BARTLETT Esquire, is called in; and, having been sworn, is examined, as follows:

B. J. S. Bartlett Esq.

You are the Nephew of Mr. John Palmer?—Yes, I am.

Were you at any Time his Private Clerk?—For some Years.

Were you in the Period from 1787 to 1792?—From the latter Part of the Year 1786 up to the Time of his Suspension.

Were you his confidential Clerk during that Time, and living in his Family?—Yes, I was.

Were you well acquainted, in consequence of that Situation, with all the Transactions of Mr. Palmer in the Post Office?—I should think the whole, or nearly so.

Do you remember a Meeting of the Merchants in the Year 1792, concerning the late Delivery of Letters?—I recollect that there was such a Meeting, that there was an Advertisement to that Effect.

If your Uncle Mr. Palmer had in his official Character done any Act to delay the Delivery of Letters, do you think you should have known it?—Most probably I should.

Have

*B. J. S. Bartlett
Esq.*

Have you any Knowledge or any Belief that any such Acts of his existed?—
I have none.

Do you know, from the confidential Situation in which you lived with Mr. Palmer, that for some Time before he was suspended, he was so uneasy at Lord Walsingham's Conduct, that he, in fact, had withdrawn his Superintendance from the Office?—I am not aware of such a Circumstance.

Did Mr. Palmer continue up to the Time of his Suspension to give the same Course of Directions from himself that he used to do at former Periods?—Not altogether so frequently perhaps.

You did not see any Relaxation in Mr. Palmer's Exertions, from the Uneasiness that he felt in consequence of Lord Walsingham's Interference?—Certainly Lord Walsingham's Interference perpetually cramped Mr. Palmer's Exertions.

Did Mr. Palmer withdraw his Exertions in consequence of this?—I cannot conceive that Mr. Palmer did withdraw his Exertions entirely from that; but Mr. Palmer was unable to give much Exertion from that Circumstance; he was prevented doing a great many Things that would have been very advantageous to the Country, if he had not had that Interference.

You are acquainted with the various Duties of the Inland Office and the other Departments of the Post Office, are you not?—Certainly I was at that Time.

How could any Conduct of Lord Walsingham's produce such Disorders in the Inland Office as to occasion late Deliveries?—By interfering with the regular Duties of the Officers who were to superintend them in such a Manner as to render them totally nugatory.

Do you mean to say upon your Oath that Lord Walsingham interfered with the Duties of the Inland Officers in such a Manner as to render their Exertions totally nugatory?—That is a hard Question for me to answer, because my Situation did not take me into the Inland Office; but I am very certain that his Conduct was the Means of considerably impeding the Duties in the Inland Office.

You are certain of this without ever having been in the Inland Office?—I do not say I have never been in the Inland Office, because I was frequently in it.

You had no Duty to do in it?—I was occasionally in the Office, to see how the Duties were proceeding, but I had no special Appointment in that Office, nothing more than as Mr. Palmer's private Clerk, to go round and see how the Duties were proceeding; and during that Time I might have made Observations that would lead me to think that Officers were misplaced.

What do you mean by Officers being misplaced?—I cannot at this length of Time go into a Detail of the Duties of the Office, so as to specify particularly as to the different Persons or their different Duties.

Can you state any Officer who was misplaced by Lord Walsingham so as to produce any Alteration in the Delivery of the Letters?—Upon one Occasion I recollect a Mr. Briggs had been suspended by Mr. Palmer in consequence of his having opposed Mr. Johnson, who is now the Comptroller I believe of the Twopenny Post Office; in consequence of which Mr. Johnson, if I recollect right, did not superintend those Duties he had been accustomed to do, and which were very advantageous to the Service.

Was Mr. Johnson in the Inland Office?—Mr. Johnson's Situation I think was not immediately in the Inland Office; I think he was in the Letter Carriers' Office, but he had to superintend Duties in the Inland Office by the Direction of Mr. Palmer.

Then

Then the only Instance you can recollect of Lord Walsingham's interfering with the Inland Office so as to derange the Delivery, was by the Suspension of a Person who was not in the Inland Office?—Yes; but I think his Situation there might be very well accounted for, because at that Time every Thing was Matter of Experiment; it was necessary to be trying a Variety of Experiments, with a View to see how the Duties could best be performed, and who were the fittest Persons to conduct those Duties.

*B. J. S. Bartlett
Esq.*

Was every Thing a Matter of Experiment in 1792?—No; not every Thing surely; for Instance, the Mail Coaches at that Time were not Matter of Experiment, but the Duties relating to the Sorting and the Delivery of the Letters must be perpetually the Subjects of Experiments to perfect them.

You being the Nephew of Mr. Palmer, and his confidential Clerk, and knowing that there were Differences of Opinion between him and the Postmaster General, conceived that your Uncle's View of the Subjects were preferable to theirs?—I certainly did.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

It being then proposed to adjourn this Committee till To-morrow;

The same is agreed to, and Ordered accordingly.



Die Veneris, 2^o Julii 1813.

The Lord President in the Chair.

ORDER of Adjournment read.

The Proceedings of this Committee Yesterday are read.

The Right Honourable THOMAS Lord WALSINGHAM is then examined, *Lord Walsingham.*
as follows :

When was your Lordship appointed Postmaster General?—I was appointed Postmaster General in the Year 1787; in June or July 1787.

Was Mr. Palmer's Plan then established in the Post Office?—Yes, it was; the Plan began the 2d of August 1784, that is the Date the Treasury Warrant of the 2d of July 1789 recites.

Did your Lordship introduce any new Mode of transacting Business in the Post Office?—We introduced, in August 1790, the Plan of Minutes, in consequence of there being at that Time no one Record whatever, that I know of, of the Proceeding of Mr. Palmer's Office before the Board.

Did your Lordship ever interfere with the immediate Details of his Arrangement in the Inland Office?—I could not interfere with them because our Complaint was that we knew nothing of them; the first Case which I recollect to have come before me is that which is recorded in the Report of the House of Commons of 1797, respecting the Accounts; the Fact was, that in looking over the annual Accounts, to the Truth of which I was to certify, and in examining them with the Vouchers, there appeared to be a great Inaccuracy, and great Carelessness in making up those Accounts; and it appeared by the Vouchers that there was a great Loss to the Revenue for want of Attention in the Manner of making out these Vouchers; all this was examined by the Accountant General and myself, and the Account of that is given in this Report, to which I beg Leave to refer. It will be found in Pages 16 and 17 of the Report.

The same is read by the Clerk as follows :

“ Lord WALSINGHAM examined :

“ Was Mr. Palmer suspended when your Lordship was Joint Postmaster General?—He was.

“ Besides the immediate Reason which has been assigned for his Suspension, had your Lordship any Cause of Complaint of the Conduct of Mr. Palmer during the Time he was in Office, and which led to his Suspension?—I think the best way of answering this Question will be, by referring to the Circumstances which led to that Suspension. It is customary for the Postmaster General, every Year, to send to the Auditors a complete annual Account of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Office of every Department; this Account is signed and sworn to by the Principal in each Department, or by his Deputy; and the Postmaster General, at the Foot of the Account, certifies to the Truth of it in the most solemn Manner. I therefore held it to be my Duty every Year, previous to my signing this Account, to examine, as far as I could, with the Deputy Accountant General, the Manner
of

Lord Walsingham. of making up those Accounts, and the Manner in which the Vouchers were kept. To examine the Vouchers of so many and such extensive Departments, the Committee will feel is almost an Impossibility; but of those we did examine, we found several of them, especially in the Inland Department, in a State of great Inaccuracy, as the Minutes which were made upon the Occasion, and to which I must refer, will shew. I was so apprehensive, that if I gave at once such positive Orders as might occur to the Deputy Accountant General and to myself as necessary, it might in reality have, or it might be understood to have, the Effect of retarding the Morning Deliveries and the getting out the Mails in the Evening; I therefore proposed a Minute, desiring the Deputy Accountant General to wait on the Comptroller General, for the Purposes which are fully explained in that Minute, to which I refer, and which shall be presented to the Committee To-morrow.

“ Mr. CHURCH, Deputy Accountant General in the Post Office, called in, and examined.

“ What did you, in consequence of a Minute of the Postmaster General, ordering you to wait on the Comptroller General to consult upon the Measures necessary to correct the Inaccuracies of the Accounts in the Inland Department?—I waited on Mr. Palmer, and told him I was deputed by the Postmaster General to confer with him relative to a correct Arrangement of the Checks in the Inland Offices, which were found to be in so disorderly a State. At the same Time, I told him, that I came with the fullest Knowledge of the Sentiments of the Postmaster General, being no ways hostile to the general Execution of his Office and Plan; and that I flattered myself our Meeting would have the happiest Effect; that I wished to enter fully into the Business with him, and I was persuaded, upon his Knowledge of such Facts, that he would cheerfully engage in it also. He told me, most cheerfully, as he was very well satisfied with the Agent they had employed; and we entered on the Business in the most pleasant and promising Manner. The consequence of our Discussion was, agreeing for me to meet the Clerks in the Inland Office, who would communicate with me, and with our mutual Attention to the Business, be able to fall upon some regular and proper Expedient to carry on the Checks in future to the Effect desired on the Part of the Postmaster General: I did meet the Clerks, and we discussed the Subject fully; and several Points were proposed to be gone upon, and which we, each of us, had a Belief would have a good Effect, and answer the proposed End. Mr. Palmer wrote a Letter to the Postmaster General, which Letter I saw, signifying his fullest Approbation of their having deputed me upon the Business: I also wrote to the Postmaster General, giving them a faithful Report of the general Outlines of what had passed between Mr. Palmer and myself, and what was agreed upon in consequence of such Discussion; and I had the Honour to receive the Approbation of the Postmaster General for the Progress I had so far made in the Business.

“ Was the disordered State of the Accounts of the Inland Office likely to be prejudicial to the Revenue?—I conceive so, for the following Reasons: The Mass of Letters that came into the Inland Office, amounting to a certain Sum, should be accounted for by the different component Parts of the Letters received in Town by the Letter Carriers, Penny Post Letters, and the Amount of the Letters passing through the London Office, to be ultimately charged upon the Deputies. The Morning Bills exhibited a Statement, on one Side, of a certain Amount received into the Office, and on the other Side, the Amount of the various Letters to be received for in Town, and others to be forwarded into the Country. The Sums on each Side ought to agree in Amount, that the Revenue may be supposed to have no Injury done to it by the Letter Carriers having a greater Share of Letters in Amount than for which they were made accountable. Instead of such Agreement of Totals, there was from £10 to £20, £30, or £40 Difference, which occasioned an Apprehension in the Minds of the Postmaster General as well as myself, that, unless some more close, correct, and attentive Manner was observed by the different People in the Office, there would never be any Thing near a Certainty that the Letters were properly accounted for, and Justice done the Revenue.”

Here

Here is an Entry to which I would wish to refer in Page 100, to shew what was the State of the Office soon after Mr. Church's Attention and mine were called to the Examination of the Vouchers. *Lord Walsingham.*

The same is read by the Clerk, as follows :

“ General Post Office, March 13, 1792.

“ One only of the new Checks has been discontinued, and that is the Check on the Charge-takers. The Time lost by it was very considerable; but that Loss of Time proceeded not from the Operation of the Check itself, but from the Ignorance and Incapability of some of the Inland Officers, whose Deficiencies it has been the peculiar Merit of this Check to detect. It is scarcely to be credited, that in an Employment where the principal Part of the Duty consists in casting up the Amount of small Sums, from Shillings unincumbered with Fractions, and indeed so extremely easy to perform, that any School-boy who had passed the very first Rule of Arithmetic, would be competent to the Task; yet such has been the Neglect, the habitual Carelessness, or the total Incapacity of several of the Sorters; and such the slender and insufficient Superintendence exercised over them, that every Morning, during the Use of this Check, there were from 15 to 25 Charges wrong cast up by the Tellers, and the Error sometimes to the Amount of 5s. and 10s. each; and Instances have occurred of a Letter Carrier's being charged with no more than £1. worth of Letters, when the Amount has exceeded £3; one Teller has cast up 8 and 10 Charges wrong in a Morning, out of from 12 to 20; and it is impossible but that the Detection of these Errors by the Charge Takers, and the repeated re-telling which becomes necessary to the establishing the just Amount, must occasion a great Loss of Time.

“ Two Things are requisite to the fair and full Operation of the necessary Check; namely, Accuracy on the Part of the Tellers, and more Room to be set apart for their Accommodation. A Plan for effecting the first, will shortly be submitted to the Postmaster General; and if this Check, now so creative of Delay, can be brought forward under its due and proper Advantages, there can be no Doubt but that it will contribute greatly to the saving Time, instead of wasting it, as well as the rendering correct and accurate a Part of the Duty, which, to the Disgrace of the Office, is now performed in a Manner that cannot fail to be extremely prejudicial to the Revenue.

C. Bonnor.”

(Lord Walsingham.)—This will shew you our Interference, as it is called, was neither wanton nor unnecessary.

Did you ever order some of the Officers of the Inland Office to be suspended, and others to perform their Duty, and other Officers to supply their Places?—We never originated Suspensions in the Inland Office that I recollect; we could not, for we had no Knowledge of any Part of their Proceedings till they were reported to us, and if there is any such Instance as that to which your Lordships refer, I should be glad to have it pointed out, for I have not the least Conception of it except in one Instance where Mr. Palmer had employed a Mr. Johnson to take a principal Share in the Management of the Office; he was a very excellent Officer, but he had only the Rank of a Letter Carrier, and therefore that gave occasion to Complaint from many of the Officers of the Inland Office, who presented a Memorial to us complaining of their being put under his Directions, he not having any other Rank than that of Letter Carrier; this also is stated in Page 19 of the same Report.

Can you speak to the Date of Mr. Johnson's Suspension?—Mr. Johnson was not suspended, he was the Person who was put to conduct the Office.

Can your Lordship speak to the Date of the Order for his leaving the Inland Office?—I do not recollect that we made any such Order; there was a Complaint which was presented to us; I beg Leave to refer to the Evidence taken on the former Report.

Lord Walsingham.

The following Extract is read by the Clerk from Page 19.

“ On the same Day the Postmaster General received the Comptroller General's Answer, for which I refer to the Minute already delivered in, observing only that that Part of the Minute in which the Comptroller General desires that Directions may be given that every Person disobeying his (the Comptroller General's Authority), or the Persons authorized by him to be dismissed, seemed to the Postmaster General to relate to a Mr. Johnson, who, though an excellent Officer, had at that Time only the Rank of a Letter Carrier, and had been employed by the Comptroller General in superintending the Inland Department; upon which Subject the Postmaster General received (but at what Time I do not recollect) a Memorial signed by most of the principal Officers of the Inland Department, complaining that it was a Supercession of their Authority. This Memorial I presume is in the Office, if the Committee think proper to call for it.”

(*Lord Walsingham*)—I mention that as the only other Instance in which our Attention was called to interfere as to the internal Arrangement of the Inland Office, as far as I now recollect.

The following Extracts from Appendix, No. 9, to the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons in 1797, are read :

“ General Post Office, February 21st 1792.

“ Let the Comptroller General report to the Postmaster General the Reasons for the Delay in the Deliveries complained of by Mr. Curtis, and others, in the inclosed Advertisement.

“ *W.*
“ *Cb.*

“ Comptroller General's Office, February 22d 1792.

“ The Comptroller General, in reply to the Minute of Yesterday, begs Leave to inform the Postmaster General that the Cause of the late Delivery of the Letters, as well as every other existing Abuse in the Post Office, arises from his not having sufficient Authority to correct it.

“ *J. Palmer.*

“ General Post Office, February 22d 1792.

“ The Postmaster General have received the Comptroller General's Minute, and direct him to report immediately what are the existing Abuses in the Post Office, and wherein his Authority is insufficient, either to correct them, or to prevent the late Delivery of the Mails.

“ *W.*
“ *Cb.*

“ Comptroller General's Office, February 22d 1792.

“ The Comptroller General has received their Lordships the Postmaster General's Minute of this Day; in Answer to which he has to lament that an unfortunate Difference of Opinion, and an equally unfortunate Interference in his Office (both of which are too plainly manifested by the Minutes in their Lordships' Possession to need any further reference) are among the Causes which have produced the existing Evils in the Office.

“ If their Lordships will have the Goodness to cause Directions to be given that every Person in the Inland Office disobeying the Directions of the Comptroller General, or of the Persons authorized and deputed by him, shall be dismissed, the Comptroller General believes will in a great Measure effect an early Delivery, without making such Dismission necessary or even probable.

“ *J. Palmer.*”

EXTRACT

EXTRACT from the King's Commission to the Postmaster General, under the Great Seal, 13th March 1790. Lord Walsingham.

" We do hereby strictly charge and command all Officers and others employed or to be employed in or about the Affairs of the said General Letter Office or Post Office, or Office of Postmaster General, or in relation to the said Revenue from Time to Time to give Account of their Doings therein, to the said Thomas Lord Walsingham and Philip Earl of Chesterfield, and observe and obey their Orders and Instructions in reference to their respective Offices, Trusts, or Employments."

" Minute, February 24th 1792.

" In answer to the Comptroller General's Minute, dated February 22d, the Postmaster General observe, that, " the Interference" of the Postmaster General in the Comptroller General's Office is a Duty prescribed to them by their Commission under the Great Seal, which they cannot forego without abandoning the Trust reposed in them by the King, as by the inclosed Extract will more particularly appear ; the Question will be, if in the Manner of that Interference the Postmaster General have deprived the Comptroller General of Authority to correct any of the Evils of which he complains. This will be proved by the Minutes to which the Comptroller General refers, Extracts of which the Postmaster General have selected and send to the Comptroller General for his Information, which shews how much their Lordships have supported, instead of fettering his Authority.

(Of these Papers)
The whole of these Minutes are in the Comptroller General's Possession, with which it will be in his Power to compare the Extracts.

" As to the Order which the Comptroller General proposes to be given by the Postmaster General, viz. " That every Person in the Inland Office disobeying the " Directions of the Comptroller General, or of the Person authorized and deputed by him, shall be dismissed ;" the Postmaster General observe, that the Comptroller General has, by his Commission Authority to suspend any Person in his Office who disobeys his Orders.

" The Postmaster General have as yet in no Instance refused to dismiss such Persons as the Comptroller General recommended to be dismissed ; viz. Mr. Stafford, Mr. Ormsby, the Postmaster of Hemelhemstead and others ; and have taken his Opinion upon the Propriety of dismissing Mr. Creswell the Postmaster of Towcester and others, who have not been dismissed.

" That they have restored no Person when dismissed, but by his Concurrence.

Williams, Letter Carrier.

" In the Absence of the Comptroller General, the Deputy Comptroller General for the Time being has also a Commission under which he is to act as the Comptroller General's Representative ; in addition to which the Comptroller General has appointed Four Persons to act as Presidents, and has given his Orders to the Officers of the Inland Office from Time to Time through any Person he thought fit ; but if the Postmaster General were to say that whoever disobeyed the Orders of a Person not known, named, or described, should be ipso facto dismissed without the Postmaster General's knowing what these Orders were either before or after they were given ; and without Persons so to be dismissed having an Opportunity of being heard in their Defence ; it would be to abandon their Officers to possible Caprice and Resentment, and to withhold from them that just Protection which whilst they behave well they have a Right to claim and demand.

Supposed to refer to Johnston.

" W.
" Ch.

" Comptroller General's Office, February 27th 1792.

" The Comptroller General begs leave to inform the Postmaster General for the Satisfaction of the Merchants, that he hopes the regular and early Delivery of the Letters will very soon be restored ; and lest any Misunderstanding should arise from his Minute of the 22d February, he wishes their Lordships to be assured that the Expressions contained in that Minute, are not meant to imply any *Accusation* against them.

Is not this miscopied for Complaint?
No.

" J. Palmer."

Did

Lord Walsingham.

Did your Lordship ever receive from Mr. Palmer any Complaints or Remonstrances, that your Mode of conducting the Business created a Delay in the Delivery of Letters?—He may have complained of it at different Times, but I do not recollect the Occasions; he has certainly complained of it in the Report before referred to.

Had he ever complained to your Lordship, while you were Postmaster General, that any Regulation of your's created a Lateness in the Delivery?—No, not to my Recollection; I do not recollect that he did; he has complained of the Manner of transacting the Business by Minutes, in his Evidence before the House of Commons, (vide Page 32 of Report) and in his Memorial to the Treasury, of December 4th 1794 (vide Page 56.)

Did Mr. Palmer ever propose any Scheme or Plan to you, to expedite the Delivery of Letters, which you did not immediately adopt?—I think not one; and I beg the Favour of any one of your Lordships to put to me any Question, and I call upon you to do so now, which shall tend to shew that I ever cramped Mr. Palmer's Exertions, or fettered them in the smallest Degree; that I did not give him every Support in my Power, and that any one Expression or Act of Hostility on my Part could have occasioned the Letters which you see in the Appendix.

Was it not your Lordship's Object, during the Time you were Postmaster General, to do every Thing which could accelerate the Delivery, or in any other Manner give Efficacy to Mr. Palmer's Plan?—Every Thing that could depend upon us we did, as this Report will shew; we gave him all the Officers he could want; we gave him Leave to recommend them all.

Does your Lordship recollect the Date of Mr. Palmer's Suspension?—The 7th of March 1792; that appears in Page 65.

Do you recollect the Date of Mr. Bonnor's Suspension?—It is stated in Page 10 to have been after February 21st; that is confirmed in Page 32.

Does your Lordship recollect that the Delivery of Letters had been later for some Time previous to Mr. Palmer's Suspension?—I remember that it was so, but I trust the Committee will not abide by my Recollection; there is the Return of the Inspector of Letter Carriers, which makes a Part of this Appendix, which shews at what Time the Letters were delivered, for some Time before and for some Time after that Suspension.

What is that Paper your Lordship has in your Hand?—I have in my Hand the Report. This Return is stated in the Appendix, Nos. 16 and 17, made by Mr. Ferguson, who was Inspector of Letter Carriers.

From your Situation as Postmaster General, do you know Mr. Ferguson to have been the regular Officer to make that Return?—I take him to be the Inspector, as he signed himself; and that he was the Person who would officially and regularly sign it.

The Extracts are read by the Clerk, as follow :

“ APPENDIX,

“ APPENDIX, No. 16.

Lord Walsingham.

“ An ACCOUNT of the TIME the Letters were dispatched from the General Post Office, Three Weeks before and Three Weeks after the 15th of January 1792.

		Minutes.	Hours.			Minutes.	Hours.
1791. Dec.	26.	— 15	past 10.	1792 Jan.	16.	— 0	— 10.
	27.	— 0	— 10.		17.	— 15	past 10.
	28.	— 45	— 9.		18.	— 0	— 10.
	29.	— 0	— 10.		19.	— 30	— 10.
	30.	— 15	— 10.		20.	— 30	— 10.
	31.	— 0	— 10.		21.	— 30	— 10.
1792. Jan.	2.	— 15	— 10.		23.	— 15	— 11.
	3.	— 0	— 10.		24.	— 30	— 10.
	4.	— 0	— 10.		25.	— 30	— 10.
	5.	— 30	— 10.		26.	— 45	— 10.
	6.	— 45	— 10.		27.	— 30	— 10.
	7.	— 0	— 10.		28.	— 0	— 11.
	9.	— 45	— 10.		30.	— 45	— 10.
	10.	— 0	— 10.		31.	— 45	— 11.
	11.	— 30	— 10.	Feb.	1.	— 30	— 10.
	12.	— 15	— 10.		2.	— 30	— 11.
	13.	— 0	— 10.		3.	— 15	— 10.
	14.	— 45	— 9.		4.	— 30	— 10.
					6.	— 15	— 10.

H. Ferguson,
Inspector.

“An ACCOUNT of the TIME the Letters were dispatched from the General Post Office, One Month before and One Month after the 7th of March 1792.

		Minutes.	Hours.			Minutes.	Hours.
Feb.	8.	— 15	past 10.	March	7.	— 15	past 10.
	9.	— 15	— 10.		8.	— 0	— 9.
	10.	— 45	— 10.		9.	— 15	— 9.
	11.	— 30	— 10.		10.	— 0	— 9.
	13.	— 45	— 10.		12.	— 15	— 9.
	14.	— 30	— 10.		13.	— 45	— 9.
	15.	— 15	— 10.		14.	— 0	— 9.
	16.	— 15	— 10.		15.	— 0	— 9.
	17.	— 0	— 10.		16.	— 0	— 9.
	18.	— 45	— 10.		17.	— 0	— 9.
	20.	— 45	— 11.		19.	— 45	— 9.
	21.	— 15	— 11.		20.	— 30	— 8.
	22.	— 30	— 10.		21.	— 45	— 8.
	23.	— 15	— 10.		22.	— 30	— 8.
	24.	— 15	— 10.		23.	— 30	— 8.
	25.	— 15	— 10.		24.	— 45	— 8.
	27.	— 0	— 11.		26.	— 30	— 8.
	28.	— 15	— 10.		27.	— 15	— 8.
	29.	— 0	— 10.		28.	— 0	— 9.
March	1.	— 15	— 10.		29.	— 30	— 8.
	2.	— 15	— 10.		30.	— 45	— 8.
	3.	— 15	— 10.		31.	— 45	— 8.
	5.	— 0	— 11.	April	2.	— 15	— 9.
	6.	— 45	— 9.		3.	— 45	— 8.

H. Ferguson,
Inspector.

Lord Walsingham.

“ APPENDIX, No. 17.

“ An ACCOUNT of the TIME the Letters were dispatched from the General Post Office, One Week before and One Week after the 7th March 1792.

	Minutes.	Hours.		Minutes.	Hours.
Feb. 28.	— 15	past 10.	March 8.	— 0	past 9.
29.	— 0	— 10.	9.	— 15	— 9.
March 1.	— 15	— 10.	10.	— 0	— 9.
2.	— 15	— 10.	12.	— 15	— 9.
3.	— 15	— 10.	13.	— 45	— 9.
5.	— 0	— 11.	14.	— 0	— 9.
6.	— 45	— 9.	15.	— 0	— 9.
March 7. — 15 past 10.					

H. Ferguson,
Inspector.”

Has your Lordship looked at this Paper so as to know upon the Average what was the Difference of Hour that the Letters were delivered before and after Mr. Palmer's Suspension?—I have stated in my Evidence before the House of Commons, Page 20, that the Result of the Examination was, that it was one Hour earlier upon the Average.

The Extract is read by the Clerk, as follows :

Appx. No. 16.

“ I have only to add, that by an official Return, to the Truth of which Mr. Ferguson, the Inspector of Letter Carriers, may be called, the Check on the Charge Takers, which was first established on the 17th January 1792, did not make any Delay in the Delivery of Letters, as will appear by the Hour of Delivery for Three Weeks before and for Three Weeks after that Check was introduced; it will also appear, by an official Return which I hold in my Hand, what the Difference was between the Delivery of the Inland Letters for one Week before and for one Week after Mr. Palmer's Suspension; by which it will be seen how much earlier the Letters were delivered after that Event; the Average is one Hour earlier.”

Appx. No. 17.

Mr. Palmer speaks to this Point in his Evidence, Page 35, in the said Report.

Who was Postmaster General along with you?—The Earl of Chesterfield Part of the Time; Lord Westmorland during another Part of the Time; Lord Carteret during another Part of the Time.

Was not your Mode of conducting Business perfectly known to the other Postmaster General?—It must have been so, for he signed every Minute with me. I desire, however, if there is any Blame, that it may fall upon me; if there is any Merit, he has his full Share of it. The Practice was, that I drew and signed the Minutes, (my Name standing first in the Commission) and sent them to him; he either signed them, or if he disapproved of them, he sent them back to me, and I corrected them, in consequence of any Suggestion of his; but I do not wish to exculpate myself by laying any Blame upon my Noble Colleague.

Did any of your Lordship's Brother Postmasters ever remonstrate to you against that Mode of conducting Business, or inform you that any Complaint had been made by Mr. Palmer or any other Officer on the Subject, as retarding the Delivery of the Letters?—That Mode of conducting Business was never resorted to till August 1790, which appears by these Minutes. One Reason which made these Minutes the more necessary, was, that when Lord Carteret applied to the Treasury to allow Salaries for some of Mr. Palmer's Officers, he stated an Intention of Mr.

Mr. Palmer to have a Book ; which Letter I should beg Leave to turn to, because if we had had that Book which I so often called for, but never could obtain, it might perhaps have saved us the Necessity of having Recourse to Minutes, for that Book would have contained almost every Thing we could well have wanted by way of informing us of the Proceedings of the Office. I look upon that Book to have been material, and that the Treasury thought we were to be in Possession of it when they gave Leave for those additional Salaries, but which we were not in Possession of, and for want of it had no Record whatever of the Proceedings of Mr. Palmer's Office ; this was one Reason, among others, for our having Recourse to Minutes, that there might be a Record of what passed, and that we might have the Means of counteracting all the Misrepresentations which we heard of daily respecting the Business which was going on in the Office ; we therefore wished to have a Record to turn to, to justify ourselves, and to prove the real State of what was going forward, and of any particular Proceedings to which it might be thought fit to refer.

Lord Walsingham.

The following Extract from Lord Carteret's Letter to the Lords of the Treasury, dated 5th January 1787, Page 73 of the Report in 1797, is read by the Clerk :

“ To avoid in future therefore the numerous Evils arising to Correspondence from so narrow a System, Part of the Comptroller General's Plan is to divide the Kingdom into Six Districts, and allot a Surveyor to each, who is to live near the Centre of such Districts, to instruct the Postmasters in their Duty, and attend to the due Performance of it, as well as that of the Contractors and Riding Work, &c. ; to keep a Book, in which is to be entered each Contractor's Name, Terms of Contract, and Nature of his Duty, likewise that of each Postmaster in the District ; a Map of all the Places, &c. in his Delivery ; the exact Duties of his Offices ; Time of Arrival and Departure of his Posts ; yearly Receipts, Deductions, Incidental Expences, Salary, Dead and Mis-sent Letters, &c. &c. By which Means he will see whether the Revenue or Expence of each Office increases or decreases, and in the latter Case to endeavour at a Remedy. He is occasionally to visit the various Offices ; survey the Country ; correspond with the Gentlemen and Manufacturers ; to examine into and proceed to the Remedy of all just Complaints and Grievances, and make every possible Improvement in the Correspondence of his District.

“ A Copy of each Surveyor's Book is to be kept in the Comptroller General's Office, and regulated every Quarter. They are likewise to keep regular Journals of their Proceedings when travelling, to be transmitted every Quarter likewise to his Office for Examination and Signature.”

That was the Occasion of having Recourse to Minutes ?—That was one Reason among others we wished to have a Record to turn to whenever we were called upon, touching the Proceedings of the Office.

Did you ever receive any Complaint that those Minutes or any Thing else done by you, tended to make the Delivery of Letters later ?—I do not recollect it, but I will not say there were not such Complaints, it is very likely there may be such to be found in the Correspondence of which at this Distance of Time I am not aware, otherwise than is stated in the Report before referred to.

Are you not certain that if you had received such Complaint, you would have immediately taken Steps that nothing done by you should retard the Delivery of Letters ?—I should beg in Answer to that, that your Lordships will give me Leave to have read Eight or Ten of these Minutes, which lay down the Principle upon which we acted, and from which we could not depart.

They are read by the Clerk as follow, from Page 157, and following Pages of Report in 1797.

“ November 8th, 1790.

Extract of Minute relating to the Division of £2,000. granted by Treasury to the Inland Office.

“ This seems to the Postmaster General a more equal Distribution ; but if the Comptroller General still adheres to his former Recommendation, the Postmaster General

Lord Walsingham. General will by no Means set it aside, but will immediately sign the Warrants in the Proportion the Comptroller General desires."

" Minute, 21st December, 1790.

" Whenever any of the Postmaster General's Minutes contain Orders, which the Comptroller General conceives to be incompatible with the good of the Service, he will of course do, as the Principal of every other Department is always desired to do, state his Objections for the Postmaster General's Consideration.

This to be a Standing Order.

" Extract of Minute,

" January 17th, 1791.

" If the Comptroller General takes upon himself to say, that the Alterations there proposed will retard the Morning Deliveries, it will be, as far as it goes, a Reason for not adopting them."

" July 14th 1791.

" The Comptroller General will point any Errors, or suggest any Alteration he thinks necessary, in the Whole of this Minute."

" Extract.

" August 4th 1791.

" One of the Rules which Mr. Bonnor lays down is a bad One; viz. In all Cases where the Postmaster General assert or direct a Thing, he is to pay the utmost implicit Deference to it, and enforce it immediately, waving at once all Opinion of his own, &c. On the contrary, it is the Postmaster General's constant Desire, and was so stated in a Minute which their Lordships made in December last; viz. " That every Person should represent against the Impropriety or Inexpediency of any Order the Postmaster General may give, as their Lordships will be as ready to revoke it, as they can be to give it, if it is fraught with any material Objections;" therefore Mr. Bonnor is to understand, that the Postmaster General are always willing and desirous to receive all necessary Information upon the Points about which they are giving Directions."

" August 4th 1791.

" Whenever Mr. Bonnor discovers Oversights or Errors in the Postmaster General's Minutes of which there are probably many, he should always point them out; sometimes they arise from miscopying, oftener perhaps from real Mistakes, but never deliberately or intentionally."

" Extract of the Postmaster General's Minute, dated July 24th 1791.

" Article 10, of Regulations proposed for extra Duty.

" No Newspaper Sorter or Sub-sorter can be appointed but by the Postmaster General, upon Recommendation from the Comptroller General."

" December 16th, 1790.

" The Postmaster General mean only that both Time and Trouble should be saved, therefore, if it is objected to, the P. M. G. can have no Desire to enforce either of these Minutes when the Comptroller General has put the P. M. G. in Possession of his Reasons for disapproving them."

" February 7th, 1791.

" The leaving out the Paragraph about the Postmaster General's nominating the Letter Carriers is not correctly stated; on the contrary, the Postmaster General gave Mr. Palmer Leave to recommend the whole List, desiring, however, to reserve to themselves the Liberty of approving it, and when approved (as the Newspaper Sorters are) that they should not then be liable to be discharged or changed without a Cause stated to the Board. This is a Sort of Protection which their Lordships felt

felt they owed to those who were placed under them; the Proposal as it now stands, leaves Mr. Johnson the sole Judge of their Number, Continuance, Nomination, and Dismission.” *Lord Walsingham.*

“ (Original Minute Book 20, Page 10.)

“ July 14th, 1791.

“ The Comptroller General will point out any Errors or suggest any Alterations he thinks necessary in the Whole of this Minute.”

(*Lord Walsingham.*)—I rely upon these to shew, that in no Instance does any one of these Minutes controul him; on the contrary, they desire that he will in every Instance represent every thing which can prove inconvenient to the Service, and that he will by no Means carry into Effect any thing which shall be injurious or prejudicial to his Plan.

At the Time of Mr. Palmer's Suspension, was it not notorious, and communicated to you by public Report from every Quarter, that Mr. Palmer had managed through his Friends to call a Meeting of the Merchants that took place in the City of London?—It might be Matter of public Report, but we did not act upon that public Report; we acted upon the Information that Lord Chesterfield has stated in his Evidence to have been given by Mr. Bonnor.

The following Extract from The Earl of Chesterfield's Evidence Page 9. of the Report of the House of Commons in 1797, is read by the Clerk :

“ Soon after that Advertisement appeared, Mr. Bonnor came to me, and informed me, that the late Delivery of the Letters was the Effect of Mr. Palmer's Contrivance, and that the Meeting was called at his Instigation, and that he, Mr. Palmer, was to furnish Documents for that Meeting.”

Was it not communicated to you by various other Officers in the Post Office?—I do not recollect to have heard it from any other Officers of the Post Office.

Did you transact any Business you had to do with the other Departments of the Post Office by Minutes?—Yes, with them all, and have done so from the Time of Mr. Palmer's Suspension; and from that Time no Complaint has ever been made of the transacting the Business of the Office by Means of those Minutes, during the Time I was in the Office. I recollect no Complaint upon the Subject.

Were you understood rightly, that a constant Difference of Opinion between the Postmaster and Mr. Palmer, respecting the Authority of the Postmaster General over Mr. Palmer, existed during the whole Time you were in the Post Office?—I believe during the whole Time he claimed and always avowed and considered himself to be perfectly independent of us, and we holding that by our Commission he was perfectly dependent upon us, in the same Manner that we held Mr. Allen to be dependent upon the Postmaster General, who Mr. Palmer said was independent; we said he was dependent; there is his Agreement, and your Lordships will judge between us. I beg your Lordships to insert this.

The same is read by the Clerk, as follows :

“ APPENDIX, No. 36.

“ ARTICLES of AGREEMENT, indented, had, made and concluded, upon this Seventeenth Day of December, in the First Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and sixty; between The Right Honourable William Earl of Bessborough and The Honourable Robert Hampden Esquire, His Majesty's Postmaster General, of the one Part; and Ralph Allen, of the City of Bath Esquire, of the other Part, in Manner and Form following :

“ Whereas it is agreed by and between the Parties to these Presents, that the said Ralph Allen shall, for the Considerations, and on Condition of the Performance
(123.) Y of

Lord Walsingham. of the Covenants hereafter on his Part to be performed, have the Port and Carriage of all Letters, and Packets of Letters on the Cross Road to, from or between the City of Exeter and the City of Chester, or any Place or Places between those Cities, by the Way of Tiverton, Wellington, Taunton, Bridgewater, Wells, Bristol, Wootton-under-edge, Stroud, Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Kidderminster, Bewdley, Bridgenorth, Shrewsbury, Whitchurch and Chester; and also of all Letters and Packets of Letters, passing or to pass, or be carried to and from any of the Places lying in the said Cross Road to Oxford, by the Way of Bath, Devizes, Marlborough, Wantage and Abingdon, or to or from any of the Towns or Places near adjoining to the said Cross Road or Roads in the Counties hereafter mentioned, which have been and now are usually served by or from the said Cross Road or Roads: And for the like Considerations, and on the like Conditions, it is agreed, that the said Ralph Allen shall have the Carriage of all Letters, commonly called or distinguished by the Name of Bye or Way Letters, collected or to be collected, or delivered at any Post Road or Town within His Majesty's Dominions of England or Wales; (that is to say), such Letters as have constantly, since the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and sixteen, by the respective Deputy Postmasters on the several Roads, been deemed, accounted, and usually sent as Bye Letters, and are not such as are commonly distinguished or known by the Name of Country Letters; (that is to say), such as have been usually sent through or by Way of London, nor London Letters, (that is to say), such Letters as are sent to or from London: Now the said William Earl of Beesborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, in Performance of the Agreement on their Part, for and on the Behalf of His Majesty, as His Majesty's Postmaster General, and in Consideration and on Condition of the Payment of the Rent, and Performance of the Covenants and Agreements hereinafter expressed, on the Part and Behalf of him the said Ralph Allen, to be paid, done and performed, do, by virtue of a Warrant from the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, bearing Date the Sixteenth Day of December instant, by these Presents give and grant unto him the said Ralph Allen, full and free Power and Authority, at his own proper Costs and Charges, to manage, convey, carry, and send Post all the said Bye or Way Letters or Packets, and the Letters and Packets in the above described Cross Roads, or to Oxford as aforesaid, or the Letters and Packets to all or any the Places or Towns adjacent, every or any of them, in the Counties of Devon, Somerset, Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester, Salop, Chester, Oxford and South Wales, or any of them (except as before and hereinafter is excepted) and to demand, have, receive, and take the lawful Rates for the Conveyance or Postage of such Bye or Way Letters or Packets, and of the said other Letters or Packets, in the said Cross Road or Roads, with full Liberty, at his Costs and Charges, to settle, establish, and manage the said Cross Road or Roads, to, from, and between the said Cities of Exeter and Chester, by the Way above mentioned, and to Oxford aforesaid, by the Way aforesaid (except and always reserved out of this present Grant and Demise, to the said William Earl of Beesborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or to the Postmaster General for the Time being, all Letters or Packets going or coming to or from the Kingdom of Ireland, and also the Scotch Port of all Letters or Packets which shall or may be received by the said Ralph Allen, during the Term hereby granted, and all Benefit and Advantage thereof; except also, and it is hereby agreed to be the Intent and Meaning of all the Parties hereunto, that no Letters which usually have been, and which shall be brought to England in any of His Majesty's Packet Boats, nor such Letters as usually have been and which shall be carried from England in any of His Majesty's Packet Boats, shall be deemed, taken, or adjudged to be within the Demise of the Port of Letters hereby granted, but that all such Port of Letters shall be to and for His Majesty's sole Use and Benefit, any Thing hereinbefore contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding: And also except all Letters, which by virtue of His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, or any other proper and sufficient Authority hereinafter mentioned, shall or may be allowed to pass and go free, and all such other Letters as shall be allowed of by the Postmaster General for the Time being to pass and go free); to have and to hold, receive, perceive, and enjoy the Port and Carriage of the Letters or Packets, and the Rates of Postage aforesaid (except as before excepted) to his own proper Use, from the Twenty-fifth Day of October last past, unto the Fifth Day

Day of July which will be in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven (if His present Majesty, and if the said Ralph Allen shall so long live) yielding and paying therefore yearly and every Year, during the said Term, unto the Receiver General of His Majesty's Revenue of the Post Office for the Time being, for His Majesty's Use, at His Majesty's Letter Office in Lombard Street, London, the yearly Rent or Sum of Six thousand Pounds of lawful Money of Great Britain, in the Manner following, that is to say, the First Payment thereof, from the said Twenty-fifth Day of October last past to the Fifth Day of January next ensuing, being Christmas Day, according to the Old Stile, being a broken Quarter of a Year, to be made and paid on the said Fifth Day of January next ensuing, and from and after the said Fifth Day of January, by Four equal quarterly Payments, and at the Four usual Feast Days in the Year, that is to say, on the Fifth Day of April, being the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, according to the Old Stile; on the Fifth Day of July, being the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist; on the Tenth Day of October, being the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel; and on the Fifth Day of January, being the Nativity of our Lord Christ, according to the same Stile, by even and equal quarterly Payments; the first even and equal quarterly Payment thereof to begin and to be made on the Fifth Day of April, which will be in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and sixty-one, being the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, according to the Old Stile, and now next ensuing. And the said Ralph Allen, for himself, his Heirs, Executors and Administrators, doth hereby covenant, promise, and agree to and with the said William Earl of Bessborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, and the Postmaster General for the Time being, that he the said Ralph Allen, his Heirs, Executors and Administrators, shall and will well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the Receiver General of His Majesty's Revenue of the Post Office for the Time being, for His Majesty's Use, the said yearly Rent or Sum of Six thousand Pounds of lawful Money of Great Britain, at such Times and Places, and in such Manner and Form as the same is hereby before limited and appointed to be paid. Also the said Ralph Allen, for himself, his Heirs, Executors and Administrators, in Consideration of the Grant, Liberty, and Licence aforesaid, and of the Profits and Benefit of the Letters and Pacquets aforesaid, hereby granted, mentioned, or intended to be hereby granted as aforesaid, doth covenant, promise and agree, to and with the said William Earl of Bessborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, that he the said Ralph Allen shall and will from Time to Time and at all Times hereafter, during the Continuance of this present Grant and Licence, at his and their own proper Costs and Charges, diligently and carefully collect, carry, receive and convey, thrice at least in every Week, and disperse and deliver as well all the Bye or Way Letters aforesaid, as all other Letters or Pacquets of Letters whatsoever, which shall or may pass or be conveyed in the said Cross Road, or to Oxford as aforesaid, or to any other Place or Places within the Description aforesaid, not coming or going from, to, or through London. And it is agreed, by and between the said Parties to these Presents, that for the Considerations aforesaid, and for the Improvement of the Revenue of His Majesty's Post Office, and for the Benefit of Correspondence, the said Ralph Allen shall and will, at his own Costs and Charges, set up and establish new Posts for the Conveyance of Letters and Pacquets, to commence from the Fifth Day of July next ensuing the Date hereof, Three Days in every Week, on which Letters and Pacquets are not now carried, to and from the following Towns and Places; that is to say, between the City of London and the City of York, through Royston, Caxton, Huntingdon, Stilton, Stamford, Grantham, Newark, Tuxford, Bawtry, Doncaster, Ferrybridge and Tadcaster, so as that Letters and Pacquets may be carried and conveyed Six Days in every Week to and from the said several Towns and Places through the Town of Royston, to which said Town a Post is already erected, that goes and comes Six Days in every Week to and from London; and also between London and the Towns of Daventry, Coventry, and Birmingham, through Northampton, so as that Letters and Pacquets may be carried and conveyed Six Days in every Week to and from the said last-mentioned Towns, and other intermediate Towns and Places, through the
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Lord Walsingham. **Town of Northampton, to which said Town a Post is already erected, that goes and comes Six Days in every Week to and from London; also from London to Mansfield, Chesterfield and Sheffield, through Nottingham; also from London to Doncaster, Howden, Rawcliff, Thorne and Hull, through Nottingham, so as that Letters and Pacquets may be carried and conveyed Six Days in every Week to and from the said last-mentioned Towns and Places, by the Way of Nottingham, to which said Town a Post is already erected, that goes and comes Six Days in every Week: And also, that Letters and Pacquets may be conveyed Six Days in every Week between the City of London and the Towns of Leeds and Wakefield, by the way of Ferrybridge, to which Place the said Ralph Allen has herein-before covenanted to settle, support, and maintain a Post Six Days in every Week to and from London, to commence on or before the said Fifth Day of July next ensuing: And also that Letters and Pacquets may be conveyed Six Days in every Week, between the City of London and the Town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, through Easingwolde, Northallerton, Darlington and Durham, by the way of York, to which Place the said Ralph Allen has herein-before covenanted, to settle and support a Post Six Days in every Week: And also that Letters and Pacquets may be conveyed Six Days in every Week from London to the Town of Whitehaven, by the way of Darlington, through the several Towns and Stages of Barnard Castle, Brough, Penrith, Kewic and Cockermouth, the said Ralph Allen having herein-before contracted to settle, maintain, and support a Post Six Days in every Week to and from the said Town of Darlington; the said Ralph Allen does also, in like Manner, covenant to convey all Letters and Pacquets, at his own Expence, Six Days in every Week from the City of London to the City of Carlisle, by the way of Penrith, to which Place it is herein-before agreed, that the Six Days Post shall, at the sole Expence of the said Ralph Allen, be settled, supported and maintained: and moreover that all Letters and Pacquets shall be conveyed at the like Expence of the said Ralph Allen, Six Days in every Week, from the City of London to and from the Borough of Appleby, by the way of Warrington, through the several Towns and Stages of Wigan, Preston, Lancaster and Kendal, the said Ralph Allen having, by his Contract, dated in the Year One thousand seven hundred and fifty-five, agreed to settle, support, and maintain a regular Post Six Days in every Week, between the said City of London and the said Town of Warrington; all which Six Days Posts are to commence on the said Fifth Day of July next ensuing, or as soon after as the same can be settled and established. And it is further declared and agreed by the Parties hereto, that all Monies that shall arise and be produced for the Postage of Letters or Packets, going to and from London, or passing through London, that shall be conveyed and carried during the Term hereby demised, by the said new Posts hereby agreed to be erected, shall be paid and applied for the Use of His Majesty. And it is hereby agreed, by and between the Parties aforesaid, that during the Continuance of this Grant or Demise, the Posts already erected and established for the Conveyance of Letters and Pacquets Six Days in every Week, between London, Bath, Bristol, Cambridge, Yarmouth, Lynn, Thetford, Norwich, Worcester, Gloucester, Wells, Bridgewater, Exeter, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Chester, Warrington, Liverpool, Manchester, Leicester, Shrewsbury, Nottingham, Northampton, Canterbury, Colchester, Ipswich, and the several other considerable Cities, Towns and Places, wherein and to which Six Days Posts are already established, shall be continued and remain under the same Regulations, Provisoos, Conditions and Agreements, as are already settled and agreed upon concerning the same, by and under the Contract which, till the Death of His late Majesty, did subsist between the Postmaster General and the said Ralph Allen. And the said Ralph Allen, for the Considerations aforesaid, doth hereby for himself, his Executors and Administrators, agree to and with the said William Earl of Besborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or His Majesty's Postmaster General for the Time being, that he the said Ralph Allen shall and will, at his own proper Costs and Charges, continue, during the Term aforesaid, to quicken the Conveyance of and Correspondence by Letters and Pacquets on the Cross Road between Exeter, Bristol and Birmingham, by several of the other Post Towns on that Road. And also that the said Ralph Allen, at the like Costs and Charges, shall and will also**

also continue to quicken the Conveyance of and Correspondence by Letters and *Lord Walsingham.* Pacquets between London and the several following Towns and Places on the Western Road; that is to say, Blandford, Wareham, Corfe Castle, Weymouth, Melcomb Regis, Dorchester, Bridport and Lyme: And also that he will cause the Letters between the City of London and Amesbury, in the County of Wilts, to be regularly forwarded, conveyed, and delivered during the Time hereby demised, Three Days in every Week to and from London, instead of Two Days, as was formerly practised in the Correspondence between those Places. And moreover the said Ralph Allen does hereby covenant and agree, that the Mail with Letters and Pacquets from Manchester to Chesterfield shall, for the future, that is to say, from the Fifth Day of July next ensuing, pass through Buxton instead of Chapel in Frith, as has been practised hitherto. And it is further agreed by and between the said Parties to these Presents, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Ralph Allen, for the Considerations aforesaid, at his own proper Costs and Charges, immediately to erect and set up the several new Stages and Cross Branches herein-after mentioned, for the further Convenience of Trade, Manufactures and Commerce, the said Ralph Allen receiving to his own Use and Benefit the Port of all Letters to be conveyed in such new Cross Branches; that is to say, one new Cross Branch from Newcastle on the East, to Whitehaven on the West Coast of this Kingdom, by the Way of Durham, Darlington, Barnard Castle, Brough, Penrith, Kefwick and Cocker mouth; another Cross Branch from Wakefield to Leeds, Halifax, Rochdale and Manchester; another Cross Stage from Wakefield through Leeds to Tadcaster; another Cross Stage from Salisbury to Portsmouth, through Winchester; another Cross Stage from Cambridge to Caxton, and one more from Nottingham to Newark, together with all such other proper Stages and Branches, where the same are not already erected and settled, as may best answer the Ends and Purposes thereof, so as nevertheless no Prejudice be thereby done to the London or Country Letters aforesaid, or to His Majesty's other Revenues, and so as the same be done by and with the Consent in Writing of the said William Earl of Besborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being. And further, that the said Ralph Allen shall and will, during the Continuance of this present Grant or Licence, keep in Readiness a sufficient Number of good and able Horses, with convenient Furniture, as well for the carrying the Mails and Bags of Letters aforesaid, which shall or may be sent or conveyed to and from any the Parts and Places aforesaid, which he is hereby obliged and doth agree to do, as for Persons riding Post, and that within the Space of an Half Hour after Demand made of the said Horses, by any Person or Persons riding Post as aforesaid; and shall and will ride with the Mail at least Five Miles an Hour. And moreover it is in like Manner agreed, by and between the Parties to these Presents, that the Three Surveyors now appointed shall be continued, with the Allowance made to each of the said Surveyors, of the Sum of Three hundred Pounds a Year, or that new ones shall be appointed in their Room and Stead, which said Allowance is to be made and paid by the said Ralph Allen; and that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said William Earl of Besborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or for the Postmaster General for the Time being, to put out and remove the said Surveyors, and all and every the other Surveyors, Officers, Deputies and Agents, that shall or may be employed by, or serve under the said Ralph Allen, during the Continuance of this Licence and Contract, in or towards the Execution thereof, and to nominate and appoint others in their Room and Stead. And moreover, that it shall and may be lawful for the said William Earl of Besborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, at the proper Costs and Charges of the said Ralph Allen, his Executors and Administrators, to fix, settle, and appoint what Salaries, Payments, and Allowances shall be made from Time to Time to the said Surveyors, Officers, Deputies and Agents; which said Surveyors, Officers, Deputies, and Agents shall, during such Employment and Service, obey, follow, and observe all the Orders, Commands, Directions, and Instructions of the said Ralph Allen, so as the same be given in Writing, and be first approved by the said William Earl of Besborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being. And further, the said Ralph Allen doth in the like Manner covenant, that if any of the said Surveyors,

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Officers, Deputies or Agents, shall act contrary to their Duty, or be defective in doing the same, or if any Mischief or Damage is or shall, to the Knowledge of the said Ralph Allen, at any Time be done to His Majesty's said Revenue of the Post Office, or any Part thereof, that then and so often as the same shall happen, the said Ralph Allen shall forthwith give Notice and Information thereof to the said William Earl of Besborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or to the Postmaster General for the Time being: Also the said Ralph Allen doth hereby in like Manner covenant, that he the said Ralph Allen shall not nor will, during the Term hereby granted, ask, demand, take, receive or permit, consent, or suffer to be asked, demanded, taken or received, any other or greater Rates or Prices for the Port of the Letters and Pacquets aforesaid hereby granted, or for the furnishing of Posters with Horses and Furniture, than what he may lawfully receive, or are appointed to be asked, demanded, taken, or received by the Act of Parliament for erecting and establishing a General Post Office, made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen Anne, or by the Acts of the Sixth Year of the Reign of King George the First, and the Twenty-sixth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty, so far as they relate to the Post Office, and which, according to the Rates therein respectively mentioned, he may receive and take; nor shall nor will, directly or indirectly, by any Fraud or Covin, or any other Ways, collect, gather or disperse, or cause, permit, or suffer to be collected, gathered or dispersed, any Letter or Letters, Pacquet or Pacquets of Letters appertaining to any other Town or Place whatsoever, but such only the Port whereof is intended by these Presents to be demised or licensed to him. Also the said Ralph Allen doth further covenant, promise and agree, to and with the said William Earl of Besborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, that he the said Ralph Allen shall and will, during the Continuance of this present Grant or Demise, at his own proper Costs and Charges, erect, establish, and settle all such new Stages, Branches and Roads, distinct and apart from the grand Post Roads, for improving and extending Correspondence within His Majesty's said Dominions of England and Wales, as the said William Earl of Besborough, and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, shall order, direct or appoint; and that he shall and will not only pay and defray the Salaries of all such new Agents and Deputies as the said William Earl of Besborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, shall appoint for the Purposes aforesaid, but also shall and will, during the afore-mentioned Term, well and truly satisfy and pay all such Deputies and Agents Salaries, and all other Charges and Expences whatsoever in all the Stages, Branches, or Roads which have been formerly, or are hereby covenanted and agreed to be erected or settled, and which are now subsisting, or may hereafter subsist, distinct or apart from the grand Post Roads within England or Wales, in such Manner and Proportion as they the said William Earl of Besborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, shall order, direct or appoint. Provided always, and it is hereby declared and agreed to be the Intention of the Parties to these Presents, that if at any Time during the Continuance of the said Term, the said Ralph Allen shall think himself aggrieved by such Orders, Directions, or Appointments of the said William Earl of Besborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, touching or concerning such new Stages, Branches, or Roads already erected and established, or to be erected and established as aforesaid, that then and in such Case it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Ralph Allen to appeal to the Lord High Treasurer of Great Britain, or the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for the Time being; and that in case of such Appeal, the said Ralph Allen shall obey, observe, and perform such Orders, Appointments, or Directions as the said Lord High Treasurer or Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury shall make or give to the said William Earl of Besborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, concerning the same. And whereas the annual Amount of Country Letters have considerably increased during the last Contract between the Postmaster General and the said Ralph Allen, now the said Ralph Allen doth further, for himself, his Heirs, Executors and Administrators, covenant, promise and agree, to and with the said William Earl of Besborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or to and with

with the Postmaster General for the Time being, that if the said Country Letters shall not, during the Continuance of this present Grant or Demise, one Year with another, amount unto the annual Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds, that then and in such Case he the said Ralph Allen, his Heirs, Executors or Administrators, shall and will, over and above the said yearly Rent of Six thousand Pounds herein-before reserved, after the Expiration or sooner Determination of this present Grant or Demise, well and truly pay to the said Receiver General of the said Revenue, for His Majesty's Use, at the said Letter Office in London, all such Sum and Sums of Money as the said Country Letters shall appear by the Certificates of the Accountant General of the said Revenue, to fall short of the said yearly Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds, one Year with another, during the Continuance of this present Grant or Demise, within One Calendar Month after a true Copy of such Certificates shall be delivered to the said Ralph Allen, his Heirs, Executors or Administrators, by the said William Earl of Bessborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, or by their Agent or Agents to be appointed for that Purpose. Also the said Ralph Allen, for himself, his Executors and Administrators, doth further covenant, promise and agree, to and with the said William Earl of Bessborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, by these Presents, that he the said Ralph Allen shall and will, at his proper Costs and Charges, weekly, during the Term hereby demised, keep or cause to be kept an exact, distinct, and true Account in Writing, fairly, fully, and duly from Time to Time entered and written in a Book or Books to be by him or them kept for that Purpose, as well of all Sum and Sums of Money by him the said Ralph Allen, his Agents or Assigns, necessarily expended from Time to Time by reason of the Execution of the Premises hereby demised, and the exact Times when, and Persons to whom, and Places where, and for what Cause or Reason, as of all Sum or Sums of Money by him or them also from Time to Time had, made, gotten or received, distinguishing therein the gross Produce of each Stage; and shall and will; within the Space of One Year from the Date of these Presents, and once in every Year during the Term hereby demised, transmit or deliver to them the said William Earl of Bessborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or to the Postmaster General for the Time being, an exact and true Copy of such Book or Books, and, if required, shall make Oath as well of the Truth of such Copy and Copies so to be delivered as aforesaid, as of every such Entry and Entries so to be made and entered in such Book or Books so to be kept as aforesaid, and that the same is a full and true Account of what it purports to be; and shall and will also from Time to Time permit and suffer any Person or Persons, to be appointed for that Purpose by the said William Earl of Bessborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, as well to inspect, peruse, examine, and take Copies of such Book or Books so from Time to Time to be kept by the said Ralph Allen, as the Book or Books and Accounts of the Agent, Deputy or Deputies; and that he the said Ralph Allen shall not nor will alter any of the Stages settled by this present Contract, or make any new Branches thereto, but by and with the Consent and Approbation of them the said William Earl of Bessborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, in Writing under their Hands, or under the Hands of the Postmaster General for the Time being. Also, the said Ralph Allen does in like Manner covenant and agree, and it is the true Intent and Meaning of these Presents, and of all the Parties hereunto, that all Letters, which by virtue of any Warrant hereafter to be granted under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, countersigned by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for the Time being, or the Lord High Treasurer for the Time being, or any other proper and sufficient Authority, shall or may be allowed to pass and go free of Postage, and all such other Letters as shall be allowed of by the Postmaster General for the Time being to pass and go free, and which shall or may pass to, from, or through all, every, or any of the Towns and Places hereby granted, or intended to be hereby granted, and which go along with the Mails, shall always, during the Continuance of this present Grant or Demise, pass and be carried free of Postage by him the said Ralph Allen: Also, the said Ralph Allen doth in like Manner covenant, promise, and agree that he the said Ralph Allen, and that the said Surveyors, Officers, Agents or Servants, employed or to be employed in the Execution of the Premises hereby demised,

Lord Walsingham. demised, and at the proper Costs and Charges of the said Ralph Allen, shall and will from Time to Time observe and obey all the Orders and Directions of them the said William Earl of Befsborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, relating to this present Undertaking. And the said Ralph Allen doth in like Manner covenant to observe and obey all the Orders and Instructions of them the said William Earl of Befsborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, in all Matters relating to the general Affairs of the Post Office. Also, the said Ralph Allen, for himself, his Heirs, Executors and Administrators, doth covenant, promise, and agree to and with the said William Earl of Befsborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, their Executors and Administrators, and to and with the Postmaster General for the Time being, that he the said Ralph Allen, his Heirs, Executors and Administrators, shall and will from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, during the Continuance of this present Demise, save harmless and keep indemnified the said William Earl of Befsborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, their Executors and Administrators, and the Postmaster General for the Time being, of and from all Forfeitures, Penalties, Damages and Charges whatsoever, which he or they, or any of them, may sustain, suffer, or be put unto, by reason of the act, neglect, or default of him the said Ralph Allen, or for or by reason of his Servants or Agents transgressing or acting contrary to, or not performing the Laws or Statutes now in being relating to the Port or Carriage of Letters, or touching or concerning the Delivery of any of the Bye or Way Letters or Pacquets, or any other the Letters or Pacquets, to or from any of the Towns or Places the Postage whereof is hereby committed to his Charge and Care; or for or by reason of his or their not doing their Duty, or not performing the Covenants on his Part to be performed, or otherwise howsoever. Also, the said Ralph Allen doth further covenant, promise and agree, that he the said Ralph Allen shall not nor will, during the Continuance of the said Term, bargain, sell, assign, or set over this present Grant, Licence or Demise, or any Part of his Interest therein, to any Person or Persons whatsoever, without the Consent and Allowance of the Lord High Treasurer of Great Britain, or the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for the Time being, first had and obtained in Writing, and without entering the same at the said General Letter Office in London, in the Books of the said Receiver General and Accountant General of the said Revenue. Provided always, and it is hereby agreed, that if the said Ralph Allen do not in all Things well and truly obey, observe, perform, fulfil, and keep all and singular the Covenants, Articles and Agreements in these Presents contained, which on the Part and Behalf of him the said Ralph Allen are to be obeyed, observed, performed, fulfilled and kept, and especially if he shall refuse or neglect, within One Year from the Date hereof, to transmit and deliver an exact and true Account of his Receipts and Disbursements in the Manner before mentioned, or shall refuse or neglect to transmit and deliver such annual Accounts during the Term hereby demised as herein-before required, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said William Earl of Befsborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or the Postmaster General for the Time being, by Writing under their Hands, to determine these Presents, and the Grant, Authority, or Licence hereby given, and the same shall be and are hereby agreed to be determined, and to be null and void. Provided also, and it is hereby agreed, by and between the Parties to these Presents, to be the true Intent and Meaning hereof, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Lord High Treasurer for the Time being, or to and for the said William Earl of Befsborough and Robert Hampden Esquire, or His Majesty's Postmaster General for the Time being, by Warrant or Order from such Lord High Treasurer, or Lords Commissioners of Treasury, upon a View or Inspection of the Accounts to be kept and delivered by the said Ralph Allen as aforesaid, to declare this present Contract to be void from and after the Fifth Day of July which will be in the Year of Our Lord One thousand seven hundred and sixty-two, or from and after the Fifth Day of July in any subsequent Year, during the Term hereby demised; and that immediately from and after such Declaration, either by the Lord High Treasurer, Lords Commissioners of the

the Treafury for the Time being, or the faid William Earl of Befsborough and Robert Hampden Efquire, or the Postmafter General for the Time being, by Warrant or Order from the Treafury for that Purpofe, this prefent Contract, and every Article, Matter, Clause, and Thing herein contained, fhall abfolutely ceafe, determine, and become void, any Thing herein-before contained to the contrary thereof in anywife notwithstanding. Provided likewise, that if the faid Ralph Allen fhall at any Time during the Term hereby demifed and granted, think himfelf in danger of being a Sufferer by the Increafe of the Letters that go free of Pottage, or in cafe of a notable Falling-off of Country Letters upon a Peace, fo that the Amount of fuch Letters, which by this Contact he is obliged to make good, may fall fhort One Year with another of the Sum of Twenty thoufand Pounds, or if from the ill Effects of any other public Accident or Event, he fhould find himfelf unable to comply with the Terms and Tenor of this Contract, that it fhall and may be lawful to and for the faid Ralph Allen, at any Time after Six Months Notice in Writing by him given to the faid Earl of Befsborough and Robert Hampden Efquire, or the Postmafter General for the Time being, and upon Payment of all Arrears of Rent, and other Sums which by this Contract he is obliged to pay, that fhall be then due, to determine and make void this Contract, and every Thing herein contained. And it is hereby agreed, that in cafe the faid Ralph Allen fhall fo determine and make void this Contract, or in cafe the faid Ralph Allen fhall happen to die before the Expiration of the Term hereby demifed, or in cafe of any earlier or other fooner Determination of this Contract, that all the Books, Surveys, Accounts, Journals, and other Papers in his Cuftody, that anyways relate to the Management of the Bufinefs and Affairs to be tranfacted by virtue and in purfuanee of this Contract, or true and exact Copies thereof, fhall immediately be delivered to the Postmafter General for the Time being, for His Majesty's Ufe, at the Letter Office in London. And provided alfo, that if the faid Ralph Allen do not acknowledge thefe Prefents in His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and procure the fame to be inrolled and entered in the faid Court, and alfo with His Majesty's Auditors of the Impref, within Six Months from the Date hereof, that then thefe prefent Articles, and every Thing herein-before contained, fhall ceafe, determine, and be utterly void and of none Effect, any Thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in anywife notwithstanding. In witnefs whereof the faid Parties to thefe Prefents have hereunto interchangeably fet their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year firft above written.

Lord Walsingham.

“ *Ralph (L. S.) Allen.* ”

“ Sealed and delivered by the within named Ralph Allen (being firft duly ftamp) in the prefence of

“ *Hen. Potts,* ”

“ *Chris. Robinfon.* ”

“ The within written Indenture was acknowledged by the within named Ralph Allen Efquire, to be his Act and Deed, this Seventeenth Day of December 1760. Before me,

“ *B. Parker.* ”

“ The within named Ralph Allen Efquire defired that this Indenture might be inrolled in His Majesty's Court of Exchequer. Let the fame therefore be inrolled accordingly. Dated this Seventeenth Day of December 1760.

“ *B. Parker.* ”

“ Entered in the Office of William Aiflabie Efquire, Auditor, the 28th January 1761.

“ *Tho. Farraine, Dep. Aud.* ”

“ Entered into the Office of Sir Francis Charlton Baronet, Receiver General of the Post Office, the 29th of January 1761.

“ *Tho. Payne, Deputy.* ”

Lord Walsingham.

“ This is inrolled in the Remembrances of the Exchequer at Westminster, of Our Sovereign Lord King George the Third, of the First Year of His Reign (to wit,) among the common Matters of Hilary Term, the Roll in the Custody of The King’s Remembrancer. “ *Arbutnot.*”

(*Lord Walsingham.*)—It will appear there, that Mr. Allen was dependent upon the Postmaster General, and that every Thing was to be done with the Approbation of the Postmaster General.

Can your Lordship recollect, when it first came to your Knowledge, that Mr. Palmer thought he was independent of the Postmaster General?—Upon my Word I do not recollect; but I should think Proofs will be found of it in the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons; I would refer for one Instance to Page 33.

When did your Lordship, being Postmaster General, first learn that that was his Impression?—I cannot precisely recollect, but I should think about 1788; there were Three References to Mr. Pitt, one I know was in 1790, another in 1792, and I think the other in 1783, or rather in 1789.

How long was your Lordship Postmaster General?—From 1787 to 1794.

Do you recollect, when you were first appointed Postmaster General, making any Enquiries as to the Nature and Authority of Mr. Palmer’s Appointment?—No, I did not make any particular Enquiries respecting his Appointment.

Does your Lordship recollect, when a Difference of Opinion respecting the Authority given to Mr. Palmer by that Appointment, first arose between the Postmaster General and Mr. Palmer?—No, I really do not recollect when it first broke out.

Does your Lordship recollect any Interposition of Mr. Pitt’s, with respect to the Disputes between the Postmaster General and Mr. Palmer?—Yes; we referred them Three Times to Mr. Pitt,—in the Year 1790 I particularly recollect, the Year 1792 I also recollect, the first I do not, but I should think it must have been in 1788 or 1789; I am not sure of that indeed, for I see Letters from Mr. Palmer written in December 1788, (Pages 34 and 83,) in which he makes no Complaint of this.

There always existed a Sort of Misunderstanding between the Postmaster General and Mr. Palmer, with respect to the Extent of his Authority?—By no Means; at least Nobody could be, from the beginning to the end, more disposed to support the Plan than I was, and am: Nobody will do it more Justice than I have always been disposed to do, and to give him Credit for the Advantages which the Country has derived from the Security and Dispatch which have been given to Correspondence from it.

Without reference to the Plan, was there not always a Misunderstanding, while you were Joint Postmaster, with the several Colleagues you have mentioned and Mr. Palmer, respecting the Authority of his Office?—No, we had never any Dispute in Lord Westmorland’s Time. I do not recollect any material Dispute till the Year 1790, when we had a Dispute upon the Management of the Post Office in Scotland, in which we complained that he was exceeding his Powers, and that he was taking Measures which it was not right should be taken without any Knowledge or Communication with us. I believe before that there was some Difference, but it was not so material as that in the Year 1790.

Was that the first Time that you knew Mr. Palmer thought he was independent of the Postmaster General?—I do not exactly recollect when we first had a Question of his Independence of the Postmaster General. We began upon the best Terms. I had every Disposition to support him; and I had no Idea, for some Time, that we should have any official Differences.

Are the Mails now conveyed according to the Plan originally suggested by Mr. Palmer, and according to the Details originating and carried into Execution by him?

him?—I take it that is best answered by referring to the original Plan, which I beg Lord Walsingham leave to refer to.

Vide Appendix No. 33. of the Commons Report in 1797, Page 101.

By that Plan it was proposed to be carried on by Diligences.

Is it now carried on in that Way?—No it is not ; it is by Mail Coaches.

Were there Mail Coaches in Mr. Palmer's Time?—The first Mail Coach ran August 2d, 1784 ; there was one Coach ran the first Year, afterwards there was another, and so on.

Do those Mail Coaches continue to run now?—I understand so ; I take it as a Matter of Notoriety that the Plan has continued ever since.

Your Lordship has read Mr. Palmer's original Plan?—Certainly.

Was it acted upon in the Manner there detailed?—This Plan was communicated to the Three different Surveyors, for them to make their Observations upon it ; Mr. Palmer answered them, and such Parts of the Plan as he thought fit were carried into Execution from Time to Time in such Way as seemed best to him ; but I beg to observe, that he has himself acquitted us from having any Thing to do with the Management of that Part of the Plan, and I desire to refer to his Letter (Page 70), in which he says, “ The Coaches must be kept to their Duty, as they have not interfered with them.”

How were the Letters to be carried by the original Plan?—I was not in Office at the Time ; I beg to refer to the Plan itself.

Was there ever a Military Guard, as proposed in that Plan?—Never that I know of.

After the original Plan was brought forward by Mr. Palmer, there were Objections taken to it by different People, and Answers made by Mr. Palmer, and then that Mode was adopted which Mr. Palmer after all these Proceedings thought was best?—I take it to be so, but I can give no Evidence to that Fact ; I speak only from the Record I have in my Hand, as it was before I came into Office ; your Lordships will draw a much better Conclusion from that Record, than I can.

Mr. Palmer received no Interruption from the Post Office in the Mails being conveyed in the Manner he thought best, after all these Reports and Answers came in?—I must refer to the Records, as that passed before I came into Office ; I can only tell your Lordships that there is the Opinion of the Postmaster General in Page 105, and Mr. Palmer's Answer in the following Pages.

Nobody interfered with Mr. Palmer in the Mode which he adopted after all these Answers and Objections came in?—I know nothing of what passed in the Office before I came into it, which was in 1787 ; all this passed in 1786, and previously to 1786, which is all Matter of Record. Before I withdraw, I do beg of your Lordships to say one Word: Having been held up to the Country as a Person who obstructed Mr. Palmer's Plan, and prevented the Country from having the full Benefit of his Exertions, I do beg the Favour of your Lordships, to put to me any Questions arising out of this Evidence that you may think fit, tending to shew any one Instance in which I ever fettered or counteracted him in the smallest Degree, or by any Hostility of mine gave Occasion to write those Letters, or gave him Reason to complain of any Thing in my Conduct towards him, or of my not having given him every Assistance in my Power ; I am very ready to answer any Question upon that Subject, and am desirous that any such Question should be put by your Lordships, for I deny most positively that there is any Title of such Evidence to be found in the Whole of this Report.

Your Lordship is perfectly certain you never did any Thing in the smallest Degree to impede the Execution of Mr. Palmer's Plan?—I am perfectly certain that we never intended any Thing to impede the Execution of his Plan ; and I call upon

Lord Walsingham. upon anybody to state any Instance in which we ever did impede the Execution of his Plan.

Your Lordship approved of Mr. Palmer's Plan?—Certainly.

Did your Lordship think it, as a Public Officer, your Duty to further it as much as was in your Power?—I did; and I always did further it as much as lay in my Power.

Did not your Lordship do so, not only because you felt it your Duty, but because the Plan was beneficial to the Interests of the Public?—I looked upon it to be my Duty to promote it, because I considered it as beneficial to the Public.

Does your Lordship recollect having written a Letter in December 1787 expressing your strong Approbation of the Plan of Mr. Palmer?—I did; and I am now ready to say, that as long as Mr. Palmer continued by his Exertions to superintend the Execution of his Plan, and that it can be proved that that Plan augments the Revenue, he was fully entitled to the Per-centage, which he was to have upon the Augmentation of that Revenue.

How long did Mr. Palmer continue to superintend the Execution of that Plan?—Till March 1792.

From 1787, when your Lordship wrote that Letter, you continued of the same Opinion till what Time?—He was suspended in 1792; he did not return to the Office after that Time.

How long did he continue to superintend that Plan?—Till March 1792; but he was not removed till the Spring of 1793.

From 1787 till just previous to his Suspension, your Lordship continued of Opinion that it was a most fortunate Regulation, and that Mr. Palmer would well deserve the Salary and Commission upon the increased Revenue, for which the Faith of Government was pledged to him?—I abide by the Answer I have just given, which is to that Effect.

Does your Lordship recollect a Statement made upon Mr. Palmer's Plan, by the Commissioners of Accounts?—I do, perfectly well.

Was not that in the Year 1788?—It was.

Had your Lordship's Opinion with respect to Mr. Palmer's Conduct and the Advantages of his Plan continued the same, or was it altered between the Years 1787 and 1788?—I am not aware that it had altered in the smallest Degree.

Had your Lordship's Opinion in any respect changed between that Period in 1787 and 1788?—I think not.

Previous to the Time that Report was to have been transmitted to the Treasury, does your Lordship recollect to have seen that Report, and to have made any Observations upon it?—I do very well.

Were those Observations in Approbation of that Report speaking very highly of Mr. Palmer's Conduct, or in Disapprobation of it?—They were in perfect Disapprobation of the Report, because I will prove to your Lordships that the Commissioners gave an Opinion which was not supported by the Facts of which they ought to have been informed, and of which they seem not to have been informed, namely, they gave to Mr. Palmer the whole Credit of the whole Augmentation of the Revenue up to that Time; they never took into account the Act of 1784, which did produce exactly the Sum at which it had been taken, namely, at the Rate of £90,000 a Year; they did not take into the Account the Restrictions on Franking, which made a Difference of £30,000 a Year; they did not take into the Account the Expence of the Mail Coach Establishment whatever it might be, but of which I desire to be understood as by no means complaining; they did not take into the Account the Difference between the War and the Peace Establishments of the Packets, which must be full Fifty or Sixty thousand Pounds a Year.

Your

Your Lordship is to be understood to have objected to some of the Statements of the Commissioners of Accounts; did your Lordship object entirely to the Utility of Mr. Palmer's Plan, as stated in that Report?—No, I by no means objected to the Utility of the Plan; as far as I recollect, I objected to the Statement of the Commissioners, who attributed to him that which it was impossible for them to prove, the whole Augmentation of the Revenue which it is in proof was not at that Time much augmented, if at all; and which Augmentation Mr. Palmer himself states to have been £10,000 a Year, to March 1786, (Page 139); and the Postmaster General stated, that so far from being an Augmentation, it was a Decrease: but, I think it appears by the Accounts which make a Part of this Report, that up to the Year 1788, when the Commissioners Report was signed, it had neither increased or decreased; and for the Proof of that, I refer to my Evidence which will be found in Page 23 of the Report of the House of Commons in 1797. I beg to be understood that my Observations were meant to be addressed to the Report of the Commissioners; and I am not conscious that they were in the least degree in Hostility to the Plan of Mr. Palmer.

Then, notwithstanding the Observations made upon that Report, your Lordship continued at the Time of those Observations still of opinion that Mr. Palmer's Plan was most beneficial, as strongly stated by your Lordship's Letter alluded to?—I do not recollect that there is any Expression of mine written in haste upon the Margin of that Report, that should counteract that Opinion; but I desire to abide by the Evidence I have given, and to say that whatever was its Advantage in point of Revenue, the essential Benefits of the Plan in point of Security and Dispatch are beyond Dispute; we never could ascertain, when I was in the Office, how far the Revenue had improved by it; we tried it again and again, but we had nobody who could state from the Documents before them what Part was to be attributed to the Plan, and what Part was not; but I there stated, that whenever any Doubt arose, the Turn should be given in Favour of the Plan. (Vide Page 23).

Your Lordship has said strongly that you did not give any intentional Opposition to Mr. Palmer, in the Conduct of his Business?—I do not recollect ever having given him any Opposition whatever, intentionally or otherwise, but on the contrary every Degree of Support; and I am yet to learn a single Instance in which I ever opposed him intentionally or otherwise.

Your Lordship has strongly stated that there was a Clashing of Opinion between the Postmaster General and Mr. Palmer, on the Subject of Jurisdiction?—He refused to obey us, we thought it our Duty to require Obedience.

The Committee is then right in understanding your Lordship, that there was a Clashing from the beginning to the ending almost, between the Postmaster General and Mr. Palmer, with respect to your respective Jurisdictions and Powers?—Not in the least at the beginning; I had not an Expectation that I should ever have any difference of Opinion whatever with Mr. Palmer.

From what Period was that Clashing of Opinion?—I really do not recollect upon what Occasion that Difference first appeared, but I rather think it must have been somewhere about the Year 1788; at the same Time I cannot say when, nor do I recollect the immediate Occasion of it; in the Year 1790, I remember it perfectly well.

Does not your Lordship think that any known Clashing of Opinions between the Heads of an Office, and an Officer acting under them, must have created Difficulty to that Officer in transacting his Business with Facility?—That is purely Matter of Opinion, and can be no Evidence; an Office will go on better where all Parties agree, than where there is a Difference of Opinion.

Does not your Lordship think, that under those Impressions which you had as Postmaster General of your Jurisdiction, and Mr. Palmer's impression as to his Independence, that Minutes written by you under that Impression might have tended, though not agreeably to your Lordship's Intention, greatly to impede Mr. Palmer in the Execution of his Duty?—I desire that Recourse may be had to any such Minutes, for I believe there is none such to be found. My constant Meaning in

Lord Walsingham. drawing these Minutes, was to do the Duty that was imposed upon me, but to do it in a Way that should not be irritating to Mr. Palmer's Feelings; and I think the Committee will find that Principle pervades the Generality of the Minutes, I had almost said every one of them; you will not find a single angry Expression, nor a single positive Order, I think; but they are all conditional, provided he sees in them nothing which shall impede the Execution of his Plan, and of the Public Service; if they do, he is either to represent against them, or not to carry them into Execution at all.

Was your Lordship understood rightly, that there was no Objection whatever made upon the Part of Mr. Palmer ever, to these Minutes, as obstructing him in the Execution of his Duties?—I do not think I have said that; if I recollect what I said, it was, that there are Objections stated by him in the Report referred to; but I do not recollect at this Time any particular Occasion upon which he made any Representation to us against those Minutes, but there may be such upon Record; indeed I see there are in the Report I hold in my Hand.

Your Lordship is satisfied there were such Objections made by Mr. Palmer to these Minutes, as obstructing him in the Execution of his Business?—He has objected to them; I am very far from saying he has not; but I do not immediately recollect any Occasion upon which he objected to them positively to us; this is Twenty-three Years ago I am speaking to.

Which of the Officers did your Lordship and the other Postmaster General consult, with respect to the Propriety of those Minutes, or were they entirely dictated by yourself without Consultation with any of the inferior Officers?—The Generality of the Minutes contained the daily Orders respecting the Proceedings of the various Departments of the Office, and were the Result of the immediate Perusal of such Papers as were before us, upon which those Orders were to arise; where the Minutes contained our Orders respecting any particular or intricate Plan, we should not have adopted that Plan without Consultation with such of the Officers in the Office as we thought best calculated to give us Information upon the Subject.

Who were those Officers?—One of those Minutes will shew that we desired to have the Information of any Officers who had Communications to make to us upon any Business respecting the Departments of the Office in which they were employed at any Time.

Was Mr. Bonnor ever consulted by your Lordship or the other Postmaster General, as to any of those Minutes?—It is very difficult to say, I cannot take upon myself to say that I have never seen Mr. Bonnor upon the Subject of any of those Minutes before they were written; but in general they were daily Occurrences upon which they were written, upon which we saw nobody; our Principle was to hear any Thing that any body had to say upon the subject of the Office, whenever they desired to communicate it, and to exclude nobody.

Then your Lordship means to say, that Mr. Bonnor might have been consulted with respect to the Propriety of those Minutes?—He was for a considerable Time at the Head of the Inland Office, and then the Minutes must have been addressed directly to him: how far I conversed with him or not upon the Subject of them previously, I cannot take upon myself to say; I very likely might, but I do not recollect the Occasions; I should think there might have been Occasions upon which I did converse with him, but I do not recollect the Occasions. Mr. Palmer was Surveyor as well as Comptroller General, and therefore was necessarily very much absent from the Office, and then Mr. Bonnor was the Person through whom the Business of the Inland Office ought immediately to pass.

They were directed to Mr. Bonnor in the Absence of Mr. Palmer?—They were directed to the Comptroller General; he, being Deputy Comptroller General, of course acted upon them.

Were any of the Minutes which have been given in Evidence, suggested by Mr. Bonnor?—I do not recollect any of them at present that were, but I do not know to what Subject the Question alludes; if any one is pointed out, I will give the

the best Answer I can upon it. If Mr. Bonnor had suggested to us any Checks *Lord Walsingham.* which he thought necessary for the proper Regulation of his Office, I should most indisputably have been disposed to adopt them; I knew nothing of his being upon bad Terms with Mr. Palmer till the Meeting of the Merchants in London was advertised.

Which was generally most frequently present at the Office, Mr. Palmer or Mr. Bonnor?—I should rather think Mr. Bonnor was the most frequently present; I think he was the resident Deputy Comptroller General; Mr. Palmer had Journeys to take, which the other had not.

Is it not likely therefore under that Circumstance of Mr. Palmer being frequently absent, and Mr. Bonnor the resident Officer, that Minutes were adopted on the Representation of that Person, whose Duty it was to suggest to the Postmaster General what he might think or state to be useful to the Service?—I should be very glad to give to your Lordships any Information it is in my power to give; but how far the Thing is probable or likely, I conceive cannot be Evidence, and that your Lordships will form a better Opinion upon that than I can; I have no wish to withhold any Information which it is in my power to give to any of your Lordships.

Your Lordship cannot say, upon your Recollection, whether Mr. Bonnor did or did not ever suggest to your Lordships any of those Minutes?—I dare say he did. After Mr. Palmer was suspended he submitted several; it was his immediate Duty to do so then. And there are Minutes of his upon the Record, which are signed by himself, and will therefore appear as signed by himself; but I am speaking from Memory, when the Minutes are all upon Record.

Your Lordship has recollected some Representations of Mr. Bonnor subsequent to the Suspension of Mr. Palmer; will your Lordship call to your Recollection, whether there were any such, previous to Mr. Palmer's Suspension?—I do not recollect that there were; but the Minutes themselves will shew. Reference must be had to the Minutes, which will be more accurate than my Recollection at the Distance of 23 Years. I should certainly have been disposed to support him in such Measures, as he had stated, as the Head of that Department, to be necessary for the good of the Service, Mr. Bonnor being the resident Deputy Comptroller General in Mr. Palmer's Absence; taking for granted that Mr. Palmer would know of them, if done in his Absence, if they were material, and that Mr. Bonnor would not have suggested any material Alteration during Mr. Palmer's Absence without consulting him.

Subsequent to the Period of Mr. Palmer's Suspension, your Lordship recollects that Mr. Bonnor did make Representations that were followed; will your Lordship call to your Recollection whether, previously to that, any such Representations had been received from Mr. Bonnor?—I beg the Favour of the Noble Lord to call for any Minute he may wish; that will be much better Evidence than any Recollection of mine upon it, at this Distance of Time.

Does not your Lordship think that the Answer you have just now given refers equally to the Question your Lordship answered, as to that your Lordship's Recollection does not serve you?—Yes; and the Noble Lord will also, if he pleases, call for any of those Minutes, which will be also better than my Recollection; but I was unwilling to give him the Trouble of sending for them, for that which seemed to be obvious upon the face of it, that in Mr. Palmer's Absence Mr. Bonnor would of course be the Person who would apply for such Instructions respecting his Department, as he might think it necessary to ask for. I wish to say one Word with respect to the Marginal Observations, that if there are to be found amongst those Marginal Observations any Expressions which may have a different Tendency to that which was the Point I had in View; namely, to observe upon the Report of the Commissioners themselves, and not to direct my Observations with any View towards Mr. Palmer; I think it would be right to suggest any such Expressions to me, rather than to let it rest upon what may happen to be there, of which I have not the smallest Recollection at this Distance of Time. Whatever they were, they could

Lord Walsingham. could not be written as Matter of Record ; the Postmaster General's Answer to the Commissioners Report was sent to the Treasury, and that is the Record upon which I rely, and not upon any casual Observations which I may have made at the Moment of writing it.

Your Lordship is understood to say, that at the Time those Minutes were made you did not suspect there was any Animosity between Mr. Palmer and Mr. Bonnor?—I did not know of any at the Time those Minutes were made, I mean previous to the Meeting of the Merchants in February 1792.

As far as your Recollection goes, you would have received any Suggestions or Representations from Mr. Bonnor as arising entirely from his Zeal for the Service at that Time?—As acting in the Execution of his Duty.

Would you not have received any Representations from Mr. Bonnor during the Time of his Continuance in the same Office, subsequent to the Suspension of Mr. Palmer, as acting in the Execution of his Duty?—Certainly.

Were Mr. Palmer's Pretensions to Independence of the Postmaster General, whether just or unjust, generally known to the Clerks and Officers of the Post Office from about 1788 to his Suspension in 1793?—I think they must have been known to every body, for he made no Secret of declaring them.

When your Lordship wrote Mr. Palmer word that he well deserved the Commission on the increased Revenue, did you not think at that Time that the Revenue had actually increased, or was at least likely to increase, in consequence of Regulations which you describe as fortunate?—What I wrote was in a private Letter, and without having particularly, that I know of, had my Attention directed to that Subject; at that Time it was within a few Months of my being appointed to the Office, and immediately on Mr. Palmer's Return from Paris. I was appointed about the Month of July 1787, Mr. Palmer was at Paris I think in August and September 1787; this Letter was written towards the Close of that Year; and I do not know how far I had given my Attention to the Subject, whether the Revenue had increased or not in consequence of his Plan.

Does your Lordship know, whether those Regulations are still in force at the Post Office?—No, I do not know what is now doing at the Post Office.

Supposing Mr. Bonnor had suggested to your Lordship any of those Minutes, and that Mr. Palmer had subsequently stated to you that the Minute so suggested was injurious to the Service; do not you sufficiently recollect the Disposition with which you acted, to be able to say that you would instantly have remedied what Mr. Palmer shewed you was injurious?—Those Minutes will shew that upon the Principle upon which we acted we could not have done otherwise than as your Lordship suggests; for our constant Object was to take Care that no Minute of ours should embarrass or impede the Execution of his Plan; if it did so, he had full Authority to represent against it, and not to carry it into Execution, which those Minutes will shew.

Do you not recollect Complaints being made in private Conversations, or otherwise, by some inferior Officers and Clerks, of the Authority assumed by Mr. Palmer between the Year 1788 and the Year 1793?—I know nothing of such private Conversations; we had a Memorial upon the subject of Mr. Johnson's Appointment signed by above Forty of the Gentlemen in the Inland Department, but I should have taken no Notice of these private Conversations.

Do you recollect the Date of that Memorial?—No I do not recollect the Date of that Memorial; the Memorial must be in the Office; if it is wished to refer to it, it must be somewhere about 1790 or 1791, I should think.

Is the Committee generally to understand, that though you could not have an Authority over Mr. Palmer under his Commission, which he disputed, you in fact exercised that Authority, for the Purpose of furthering his Plan?—We meant to do so in every Instance, and I am yet to learn a single Instance in which we did otherwise; and I should be very glad if any Noble Lord would point out the Instance, whatever it may be.

Your

Your Lordship has stated that in furtherance of this Object, you appointed all the Officers recommended by him?—We appointed every Officer recommended by him; we established every Office he wished to have established, and he recommended the Officers to be appointed to them; all of which will appear in the Report I have in my Hand; there are Lists of all the different Officers he recommended; we appointed the Officers he desired to have, and the Treasury gave them the Salaries we recommended for them, which were the Salaries recommended by Mr. Palmer to us. See Appendixes 12. 18. 19. 20. *Lord Walsingham.*

Then his Lordship withdrew.

Then JOHN PALMER Esquire is called in, and further examined as follows: *John Palmer Esq.*

You said, in your Evidence in the House of Commons, that you had entered into an Agreement with Mr. Pitt through Doctor Pretyman: You have been asked in this Committee whether you had entered into any Agreement with Doctor Pretyman, to which you answered No; explain to the Committee this Circumstance?—I conceive that no Secretary to a Minister could have any Power to enter into an Agreement with me. I consider Doctor Pretyman the Medium of the Conveyance of my Terms to Mr. Pitt, and the Answer to these Terms was conveyed back from Mr. Pitt through him to me.

What were the Terms so communicated to you, and brought back again by him?—The Proposal was 2½ per Cent. upon the future Increase of the net Revenue of the Post Office for my Life, provided the Plan succeeded beyond the Income it should be when it commenced.

Did you receive back any Answer?—I received an Answer by Doctor Pretyman from Mr. Pitt, that the Terms were thought fair and would be fully complied with, provided the Plan succeeded.

The Answer being stated by Doctor Pretyman as coming from Mr. Pitt, was that the Reason of your saying that you had no Agreement with Doctor Pretyman?—Just so.

Considering him only as the Agent of the Minister, and he professing so to be?—Exactly so.

You before stated that you had had frequent Correspondence with Mr. Bonnor in the Year 1790?—Yes.

Were the general Tenor of his Letters to you, to raise an Opinion in your Mind, that the Conduct of the Postmaster General was calculated to defeat the Object, and diminish the public Advantages of your Plan?—They were.

Did he in repeated Instances impress that upon you in his Correspondence?—Yes, and I thought that he was very much justified by his own Experience in those Remarks; and if it is permitted, I will refer to one of their Lordships Minutes with my Deputy's Remarks upon it, which will satisfy the Committee that he had great Reason to complain.

The following Minute, contained in Appendix No. 30 to the said Report, is read by the Clerk.

“ MINUTE of the POSTMASTER GENERAL ;
with Mr. BONNOR's Remarks.

“ General Post Office, August 4th, 1791.

“ THE great object which the P. M. G. had in View, was to justify themselves, and not to censure others, but expose the Impossibility of the Comptroller General's Clerks being under the Necessity, by their Lordships Minute, of doing the Duty of Messengers, and of the Business of the Office being interrupted by Mr. Bonnor's doing the Duty of the Clerks. One of the Rules which Mr. Bonnor lays down is a bad one; viz. “ In all Cases where the P. M. G. assert or direct a

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“ Thing

Mr. Bonnor's Remarks.
There is no replying to this without risking a Quarrel; but in this Part of the P. M. G.'s Object, their Lordships must understand by the D. C. G.'s last Minute on the Subject, that they failed completely.

John Palmer Esq. “ Thing, he is to pay the most implicit Deference to it, and enforce it immediately, waving at once all Opinion of his own, &c.

This would employ more Time than the whole of their official Duty requires; to represent, to vindicate their Representations; to produce Proofs; maintain Arguments, in nine out of ten of which, though right, they would be obliged to yield; and nine out of ten of the Points disputed not worth saying three Words about, or bestowing three Minutes upon;

and to create fresh Correspondence and fresh Disputes.

It certainly is strictly, unless Mr. B.'s Statement of his Duties is erroneous, which the P. M. G. does say is the Case.

“ On the contrary, it is the P. M. G.'s constant Desire, and was so stated in the first Minute which their Lordships ever made in August last; viz. “ that every Person should represent against the Impropriety or Inexpediency of any Order the P. M. G. may give, as their Lordships will be as ready to revoke it, as they can be to give it, if it is fraught with any material Objections;” therefore Mr. Bonnor is to understand that the P. M. G. are always willing and desirous to receive all necessary Information upon the Points about which they are giving Direction. The P. M. G. are utterly at a loss to know, after the Quotations they have made from their Minutes, where is the positive Order “ not to employ a Substitute for “ Crompton,” as Mr. Bonnor knows the Order was the direct reverse; viz. that the Comptroller General was expressly allowed a Substitute, only he was to take him from the Messengers, not from the Letter Carriers.

“ Whenever Mr. Bonnor discovers Oversights or Errors in the P. M. G.'s Minutes, of which there are probably many, he should always point them out; sometimes they arise from Miscopying, oftener perhaps from real Mistakes, but never deliberately or intentionally. The P. M. G. observed, that no Messenger was allotted to any other Officer but the Comptroller General; in answer to which Mr. Bonnor cites Mr. Commins, the Chamber-keeper, whose Duties are all domestic, and certainly not those of a Messenger, for he is to keep the Door, the Stationery, the Coals, to overlook Bills, to pump the Well, &c.; therefore that is no Case in point.

“ The Comptroller General was distinctly allowed any one of the Messengers to be in waiting, *vice* Crompton, and they were to be exempted from all other Duties during that Time, for which see the Words of both Minutes; and if Mr. Bonnor had applied to any one of the extra Messengers, they probably would have undertaken it without much Reluctance. If the Misconception was accidental in Mr. Bonnor, it was by no means blameable; but no Man who reads the P. M. G.'s Two Minutes can say, that the Business of the Office was interrupted by their Lordships refusing to the Comptroller General the Substitute he wanted in Crompton's Stead.

“ *W.*
“ *Ch.*”

(*Mr. Palmer.*)—I think that Minute will be sufficient to shew the entire Impracticability of my going forward in the Execution of my Plan under such a Controul.

State to the Committee shortly in what Part of it, or in what Manner, that Minute was injurious to your Plan?—By entering minutely into the Detail and Description of individual inferior Officers, and proposing Plans, by which their Services should be regulated, and calling upon me to give in any Objections to those Plans which if I had done, I should have been certain to have had a Reply; I must have made a Rejoinder upon the most insignificant Stuff that was ever offered to any Man's Mind. Being called upon continually to attend to these trifling Subjects, it took off my Attention from those of greater Magnitude, and real Concern to the Interests and Accommodation of the Public; I particularly refer to one Part of it. Mr. Bonnor's Remarks upon their Lordships Minutes will shew how his Mind was affected by their unnecessary and vexatious Interference. I think his Remarks were provoked from him, and, though impertinently written, were certainly called for.

By “ called for,” you do not mean justifiable?—No; I mean to say only that they were certainly provoked. The Part to which I refer is, “ It is the Postmaster General's constant Desire, and was so stated in the first Minute which their Lordships ever made, in August last, viz. “ that every Person should represent against the Impropriety or Inexpediency of any Order the Postmaster General may give, as their Lordships will be as ready to revoke it as they can be to give it, if it is fraught with any material Objections.” That will appear extremely reasonable on the Face of it; but if Two Noblemen at the Head of any Department are to venture

ture to send out loofely any Ideas that strike their Mind to inferior Officers; and desire them to amend them, and if they are wrong to put them right, how can the Business of a Public Office possibly go forward? “Therefore Mr. Bonnor is to understand that the Postmaster General are always willing and desirous to receive all necessary Information upon the Points about which they are giving Direction.” So that they give Direction, and then desire that they may have Information upon it. “The Postmaster General are utterly at a Loss to know, after the Quotations they have made from their Minutes, where is the positive Order, “not to employ a Substitute for Crompton,” as Mr. Bonnor knows the Order was the direct reverse, viz. that the Comptroller General was expressly allowed a Substitute, only he was to take him from the Messengers, not from the Letter Carriers. Whenever Mr. Bonnor discovers Overights or Errors in the Postmaster General’s Minutes, of which there are probably many, he should always point them out; sometimes they arise from miscopying, oftener perhaps from real Mistakes, but never deliberately or intentionally. The Postmaster General observed that no Messenger was allotted to any other Officer, but the Comptroller General; in answer to which Mr. Bonnor cites Mr. Commis the Chamber Keeper, whose Duties are all domestic, and certainly not those of a Messenger, for he is to keep the Door, the Stationery, the Coals, to overlook Bills, to pump the Well, &c. &c. therefore that is no Case in point.” I submit to your Lordships, this is different from the Conduct of every other Nobleman with whom I had the Honor to act at the Post Office. In meeting with Men of high Birth and great Education, I always found they relied upon me with Trust and Confidence, and left me to the Management of my own Plan, after my own Ideas, without interfering in the Detail, or with the Officers under me, and I went on very happily with them; but I submit to your Lordships, looking simply at this Minute as a Sample, whether a Nobleman should descend to rake into the Common Sewer of the Post Office, and to make himself Master of the Detail of individual Officers Business and Duties; whether, if I was tied down to give a serious Answer to such Directions or Observations, I could possibly go on with the Office? I think that Minute alone is sufficient.

Are there any other Minutes that you wish to refer to, which you consider to be injurious to the Execution of your Office?—I refer particularly to the Two Minutes in Page 161 of the 4th and 11th of February 1792, being Part of Appendix No. 38, and to the Letter and the Two Minutes in Page 168, being Part of Appendix No. 39.

The same are read by the Clerk as follow :

“ Extract of Minute, February 4th, 1792.

“ THE Postmaster General are much obliged, at all Times, to any of the Gentlemen who will point out to them any Observations or Objections which their Experience enables them to suggest upon any of their Lordships Minutes.”

“ Minute, February 11th, 1792.

“ The Postmaster General are always glad that any of their Officers should propose such Plans as their Experience shall suggest to them to be a Saving to the Revenue, without prejudicing the Public Service.

“ Of course Mr. Barnes will have no Objection to the Postmaster General’s communicating to the Comptroller General the Proposal Mr. Barnes has now made for the new Regulation of the extra Duty, as it will be necessary to see how far it will or will not affect the early Delivery in the Morning and the early Dispatch of the Mails in the Evening; for, informed as the Postmaster General are at present, they do not see how the Difference of sending the Newspapers in the Manner Mr. Barnes proposes, shall make it practicable not only to dispense with all the Newspaper Sorters, but to do the Business with Eleven Messengers and Eighteen Letter Carriers less than are at present employed in the Letter sorting, independent of the Newspaper sorting.

“ It

John Palmer Esq.

“ It is true, indeed, to compensate this Loss of 47 Persons, Mr. Barnes proposes to add Six Messengers, to be put upon extra Duty after bringing in the Five o’Clock Bags ; but still if Mr. Barnes’s Plan is practicable, it will prove that there are now employed 18 Newspaper Sorters, 18 Letter Carriers, and Five Messengers, making in all 41 Persons more than are necessary, at the Expence of £1,138. 16s. a Year, which requires full Investigation.”

“ General Post Office,
February 10th, 1791.

“ Dear Sir,

“ WE can have no Wish to take off any Suspension which you may have put on; so as to appear to discountenance you or to weaken your Authority ; if you had suspended Mr. Briggs merely for not obeying such Orders as Mr. Johnson, calling himself your Representative, might give to him, such a Trust would be a Delegation of your Powers which you cannot give, nor we authorize : but as you say that Mr. Briggs’s general Conduct, and the serious Consequences that arose from it, gave you real Cause of Alarm, and that he has been exciting Dissatisfaction amongst your Officers, combining others with him to sign Memorials, and behaving impertinently to Mr. Brown and Johnson ; we have required him to expulate himself upon these Heads, though it will be difficult for him to give a particular Answer where the Charge is general ; and as to combining others with him to sign Memorials, the Country in which we live permits no Man to shut the Mouths of those who think they have Cause to complain against their Principals, either singly or collectively ; and the Consequence of their having been told by you, that they are not at Liberty to concur in presenting joint Memorials, is this, that every Man is afraid to come forward alone, lest he should be made the Victim of Mr. Johnson’s Vengeance ; and therefore we are every Day receiving anonymous Letters from the Letter Carriers, claiming our Protection, and stating the Grievances they suffer ; instead of which, how much better would it be to leave the Channel open, that all who desire it may be heard. If these Complaints are frivolous, vexatious or calumnious, the Consequences will fall upon the Persons complaining, and the Person complained against will rise superior to them ; and there will be no Occasion to fear the Repetition or Multiplication of them.

“ We are,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Your obedient and faithful humble Servants,

“ John Palmer Esq. Surveyor
and Comptroller General. } ”

“ *Walsingham.*
“ *Chesterfield.* ”

“ EXTRACT from Postmaster General’s Minute, dated July 2d, 1791.

“ Desire the Comptroller General to inform the Postmaster General by whose Negligence the Duke of Richmond’s Letter was mis-sent. The Sorters should be careful of all Letters, but especially of those belonging to Public Offices ; and the Comptroller General must make Examples of such Negligence, as the Complaints are so frequent and so serious.

“ General Post Office, August 16, 1791.

“ Tell Williams the Letter Carrier, that, with the Comptroller General’s Consent, the Postmaster General has restored him. But the Letter Carriers must understand that this Act of Lenity is not to be drawn into Example if they are guilty of any Negligence similar to that for which Williams was suspended ; and that they must positively expect no Mercy, if any other should be detected in fraudulent or dishonest Practices.

“ *W.*
“ *Ch.* ”

To what Part of this Minute, in Page 161 of the 11th of February 1792, do you particularly refer, as being of the Description you have given of the Postmaster General’s Minutes ?—The upper Part of that, as tending by these Sort of Minutes to invite Observations and Comments from inferior Officers, and to teach

teach them to consider me as incompetent to the Direction, but their Effect will be seen in this Letter of the 10th of February just referred to. I must say, Lord Walsingham was the only Nobleman from whom I experienced that vexatious and petty Interference. *John Palmer Esq.*

Is not this Letter you refer to signed by Lord Chesterfield as well as Lord Walsingham?—Yes.

Which of the two acted most in the Department of the Postmaster General?—Lord Walsingham.

Had it been usual for other Postmasters General, previous to the Time of Lord Walsingham, to enter much into the Details of the Duties of the Office?—Not at all; I never was, in any one Instance that I can recollect, interfered with by any one Nobleman besides; on the contrary, I received the most handsome Treatment and the most liberal Behaviour from them; at the same Time I impute nothing personal towards me to Lord Walsingham.

You are desired to point out any one Passage in the Minutes to which you have particularly called the Attention of the Committee, that gives Directions for the doing of any Thing that could counteract your Plan or retard the Delivery of Letters?—The Minutes themselves, and particularly those I have selected.

In answering that Question, do you refer to this Minute in particular, which says, “that every Person should represent against the Impropriety or Inexpediency of any Order, that the Postmaster General may give, as their Lordships are as ready to revoke it as they can be to give it if it is fraught with any material Objections?”—I do object to Minutes of the Description now stated to me, to their Lordships sending Minutes so ill considered by themselves, as even when they issue them to solicit that they may be amended by the Parties to whom they are directed.

Do you in suggesting these Minutes as Proofs of the Postmaster General's counteracting your Authority, particularly allude to the following Passage in that of the 11th of February 1792: “Of Course Mr. Barnes will have no Objection to the Postmaster General's communicating to the Comptroller General the Proposal Mr. Barnes has now made for the new Regulation of the extra Duty, as it will be necessary to see how far it will or will not affect the early Delivery in the Morning and the early Dispatch of the Mails in the Evening?”—I do most particularly object to this Minute, as a Regulation had been established after the most correct Examination by me in a Manner that at a very moderate Expence had effected a great Reform in respect of the Dispatch of the Letters, as well as Newspapers of the Office, this appearing to invite other Officers to interfere with, and perplex by new Projects, Regulations that had taken me much Pains to carry into Execution; it is upon the general Tendency of these Minutes calculated to invite Projects from the ignorant and inferior Officers to forward Ideas and Plans of their own instead of minding their Business and attending to those that had been already prescribed to them.

You have said in your Evidence, you had received as you thought Obstructions from the Postmaster General to the Progress of your Plans?—Yes.

Did you, or did you not, at the Time, complain and remonstrate against these Obstructions you received?—Certainly.

To whom did you make those Remonstrances?—Personally to Lord Walsingham.

That is, you remonstrated to Lord Walsingham during the course of his sending down those Minutes, how much they impeded the Execution of that Duty which you had undertaken to perform?—I did.

Can you state any one Obstruction that Lord Walsingham made to the Proceeding of your Plan?—I certainly could, if I am allowed to enter into detail.

John Palmer Esq. Without entering into Detail you are desired to state any one Instance in Lord Walsingham's Conduct to which you attribute the Character of obstructing your Plan?—I mean the general Effect, as I have represented it to arise from those Minutes.

You are again desired to state any one Instance in Lord Walsingham's Conduct to which you attribute the Character of obstructing your Plan?—I state the general Effect it had upon the whole Duties and Business of the Post Office.

Do you know any stronger Instance of Lord Walsingham's Conduct to which you allude, than those to which you have particularly called the Attention of the Committee?—I beg to refer to a Letter written by me to the Postmaster General dated October 12th, 1790, in Appendix No. 13. of general Remonstrance, as the best Explanation and Answer to the Question.

Did not you consider the whole System of Minutes by the Postmaster General which appears to have been a new System in the Office, as in itself a continual Obstruction to you?—Exactly so.

Which you at the Time remonstrated against repeatedly?—I did.

Do you mean to say that you remonstrated with the Postmaster General against their Mode of conducting the Business of the Office?—Yes.

Is there any authentic Minute to that Import?—The Letter I refer to.

Did you on any other Occasion than the Letter you refer to, remonstrate with the Postmaster General?—Frequently.

Where are those Minutes?—Here is one in my Hand.

Can you refer to them in the Printed Minutes?—Not particularly.

You mean to say you remonstrated against the Conduct of the Postmaster General in their Regulations of the Duty so far as you thought it went to impede that Arrangement which you had meant to make for the Public Service?—Exactly so.

Cannot you recollect any of the Circumstances you have stated in the course of those Remonstrances on which you grounded your Accusation of obstructing the Public Service?—They were so constant and so general, that it precludes my Attention or Recollection of any one particular Fact.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. Ch. Bonnor. Then Mr. CHARLES BONNOR is called in, and further examined, as follows:

In your Evidence you have said, that by reference to Papers you had in your Possession, you thought you could ascertain whether you took off the Check the Day after you were restored to Office; have you referred to those Papers, and can you now state the Day?—The Checks were Three in Number, and one of them was discontinued, namely, the Check upon the Charge Takers; on my being placed in the Conduct of the Office, the other Two were continued.

Was the Title that you indorsed upon the Draft of Appointment, shewn to you Yesterday, accurately the Description by which that Paper generally went in the Post Office?—I answered that precise Question Yesterday in the Affirmative.

You were asked Yesterday, "Did you in 1786 know that it," meaning the Draft of Commission, "was not drawn at the Treasury?" your Answer was, "I believe that was the Period when it was prepared; however, I scruple not to say, I have known at all Times that the Instrument was not prepared at the Treasury;" do you wish to abide by that Answer now?—I consider the upper Part as altogether superfluous. My Impression at that Moment was, that it was the Date, that instead of 1785 it was 1786; but it may stand; it only marks that. I conceive the Date of the Instrument to be at a Period that it was not dated. The Answer, as I intended it, is perfect without those Two first Lines.

You

You mean to say you were mistaken in stating that that Paper was prepared in 1786?—Yes, certainly. *Mr. Ch. Bonnor.*

It was previously prepared?—The Paper was prepared and presented in 1785. If I understand the Paper referred to by the Committee, it has never been stated otherwise, it was prepared in 1785.

Look at that Indorsement to the Draft of Appointment. You have stated to the Committee, that it appeared to you that the last Figure in 1785 had been substituted for the Figure 6; tell the Committee whether you still are of that Opinion?—Yes, I am decidedly of that Opinion.

Do you consider those Figures as denoting the Date of the Indorsement or the Date of the Deed?—My Impression of the Paper applied to the Indorsement is, as I have already described, subject to another and a very probable Construction; namely, that I might have penned the 5 (being a 6 in my Writing). I might have given to it the Title it bears at the Head, as well as the Indorsement at the Back, under an Impression that it was what the Title and the Indorsement imply; namely, a Copy of a Draft, prepared in the Year 1786 at the Treasury. There is no question but in the Year 1786, the Instrument that was signed afterwards, I think by Lord Clarendon, was prepared at the Treasury, with the Concurrence of the Treasury. And if, upon making up this Paper, I had made not an extraordinary Mistake in that respect; if I had supposed that this was one Paper, when it was another, I should have thought nothing of giving to it the Title that I supposed belonged to it, and penning a suitable Indorsement; and if I had been told the next Moment what I had been doing here, I should have said I had given to it the Title it merited; but it is equally open to the common Construction, that as Mr. Palmer never represented it himself, nor suffered it to be received by others, but as the Thing which it certainly was not, namely, an Instrument prepared at the Treasury, I could not have given any other Title to it. If I had penned any Title to it without reference to whether Mr. Palmer directed me so to entitle it; if I had given any other Title to it, Mr. Palmer, if he had seen it, would have thrown it into the Fire.

Are those Figures 1785 or 1786 considered by you as the Date of the Deed or the Date of the Indorsement?—The Date I obviously penned upon this, which is 1786, applies to the Date of a subsequent Commission, and not to the Article No. 1, as it stands in the Appendix.

Is the Committee to understand, that when you put this Indorsement upon this Paper you supposed it not to be the Paper which it actually is, but to be a Copy of the Draft of that Warrant which was granted by the Treasury to Mr. Palmer, in the Year 1786?—If it was dated 1786, of which I have the most perfect Conviction, that satisfies my Mind that it was the Result of my examining what it was, and that I supposed it to be the Second Instrument and not the First; it would apply to nothing else.

Is your chief Reason for believing the Circumstance to be such as you have described it, the No. 6. having stood originally in that Paper instead of the No. 5.?—No; I consider that it is a more principal Reason that this Instrument was never entertained by Mr. Palmer, or in its Progress through the Office, otherwise than as an Instrument that he professed to have originated at the Treasury.

You have no Doubt that that was originally a 6, and not a 5.?—I have no Doubt of it.

And from your Certainty that it was a 6, you are convinced that you placed that Indorsement upon the Paper, not knowing what that Paper was?—I cannot say that. I persist in the Opinion with a perfect Indifference as to the Effect it may produce as a Part of my Evidence.

Is the Committee right in understanding you, that you state that this Indorsement was put upon this Commission from your believing it to be the Draft of a Warrant made out in 1786 in Mr. Palmer's Favour?—Professing as I have done

to

Mr. Ch. Bonnor. to have no Recollection of what my Feeling or what my Impression at the Time was, I have no Hesitation in saying, that if I had made the 6 in a Mistake, and that I had meant it should be 1785, and that I had known that this was the Instrument prepared by Mr. Palmer and not by the Treasury, I could have given to it no other Title than that which was the only Title Mr. Palmer allowed to attach to the Instrument.

Is the Committee right in understanding you, that you state that this Indorsement was put upon this Commission from your believing it to be the Draft of a Warrant made out in 1786 in Mr. Palmer's Favour?—It very probably was; it might apply in either Case.

Read the Indorsement?—“ Mr. Palmer's Appointment, as drawn by Mr. Rose, and submitted to the Attorney General's Consideration in 1786,” supposing that to have been a 6.

Read the Remainder?—Those Words which follow, “ immediately under the Crown,” are not my Hand-writing.

Are they Mr. Palmer's?—No; I am perfectly sure they are not Mr. Palmer's.

Whoever might have prepared that original Draft, which took place in 1785, there was a Difficulty in point of Law, which made it necessary to refer it to The Attorney General?—No. It was necessary to refer it to The Attorney General before any such Difficulty was apprehended, as a Matter of course. When Mr. Palmer presented the Draft to the Inspection of the Clerks in the Treasury, he asked them, what in the Event of this Instrument's being not objectionable, on account of official Accuracy, was the next Step to be taken with it; and the Answer he received was, that the next Step of course was, that it should be referred to The Attorney General.

If when you made that Indorsement, you might have supposed that you were putting an Indorsement upon the Instrument you have referred to, which did take place in 1786, and not that original Draft in 1785, what is the Reason that you state your Conviction of having made it by the Direction of Mr. Palmer, as you would have made it without any Direction at all if you thought you were making a correct Indorsement?—I must beg your Lordships to be aware of there being Two Impressions to which this Transaction is open for my Construction; the one is, that I might, under the Impression of its being actually the Instrument prepared in 1786, give to it the Title and the Indorsement it bears; there would be nothing extraordinary in that. I do feel, that if I had been shewn the Moment afterwards that I had given to it this Title, by any Person who was not aware of the established Rule, I will call it, of intituling that Instrument that was prepared by Mr. Palmer, an Instrument prepared at the Treasury, I should have felt it not extraordinary in saying, is it not that Instrument. Then I should have given one of these Two Replies, that either the Title and Indorsement was given to it under an Impression that it was what it was represented to be, the Instrument prepared in 1786; or that I had done it according to Mr. Palmer's Arrangement, which did not admit of the Instrument of 1785 bearing any other Title.

When you say that you might have indorsed it by the only Title Mr. Palmer allowed to attach to the Instrument, had you ever any Conversation with Mr. Palmer on the Subject of the Title which he desired to attach to the Instrument?—The Title; no; but as to the Instrument itself, Mr. Palmer's Evidence throughout shews that he means that the Instrument prepared in 1785 shall be considered as an Instrument prepared at the Treasury, for the Purpose of being submitted to The Attorney General; that appears among the first Answers given in Mr. Palmer's Evidence.

In your Evidence Yesterday you stated no Alternative, as you have done Today, but your perfect Conviction that you must have made the Indorsement by the Direction of Mr. Palmer; when you state that perfect Conviction, will you take upon you to swear that he ever did give you any Direction?—If your Lordships mean to ask, whether at any one Period Mr. Palmer said, Mr. Bonnor, here is the Draft of a Treasury Instrument of 1785, take your Pen, and write upon it, tha:

that it was prepared at the Treasury, and to be submitted to The Attorney General, certainly at no one Period did he ever in that Manner dictate to me that I should so write. I have no Recollection of any specific Order to that Effect; but the whole Course of his Proceeding relating to that Instrument, was one uniform Series of Instruction and Intimation of his Will to that Effect.

The Indorsement imports not only that it was prepared at the Treasury, but that it was drawn by Mr. Rose; do you mean to swear that Mr. Palmer ever stated to you that it was drawn by Mr. Rose as an Instruction to you how that Instrument should be considered in the Office?—I am very much relieved by the Question put to me; it satisfies me that I could have considered the Contents of the Paper as no other than the Copy of an Instrument that was prepared by Mr. Rose, and which, as I before described, was afterwards signed I believe by Lord Clarendon, the Instrument of 1786.

Did Mr. Palmer at any Time tell you, that the Instrument of 1785, prepared at the Treasury, was drawn by Mr. Rose?—He was sensible that I knew to the contrary; he could never look me in the Face and tell me so.

Then he never did tell you so?—What, that the Instrument prepared by him in 1785 was prepared by Mr. Rose? certainly not.

Then, if he never told you that the Instrument prepared at the Treasury in 1785 was prepared by Mr. Rose, if he could not have looked you in the Face and told you that, does not that enable you to swear that you are sure you must have been indorsing this, considering it to be another Warrant, and not that you supposed you were speaking to Yesterday?—It affords me no Certainty of that.

How do you account for that?—I scarcely know how to answer the Question.

When you say you have a most perfect Conviction that you must have made the Indorsement as if it was made referable to the Instrument of 1785 by Mr. Palmer, and when you have admitted that Mr. Palmer not only did not give you such Direction, but could not look you in the Face to give it; what is your Reason for thinking you must have meant to indorse that Warrant as the Warrant of 1785, by his Directions?—I thought the Question now put would terminate with reference to the Instrument of 1786, in which Case I should have no Difficulty in stating, as I have already done, that, persuaded as I am that I wrote 1786, and not 1785, reading the whole of the Indorsement, which includes not only its being drawn by Mr. Rose, but its being submitted to The Attorney General, I have no Doubt, that when I wrote this, I imagined its Contents to be that of the Instrument of 1786 for the Instrument of 1785. At no one Period could I imagine to have been drawn by Mr. Rose.

If you had no Doubt of that when you made the Indorsements, you would have put it yourself, without any Direction of Mr. Palmer?—That is what I meant, when I said it is open to two Constructions. In that Case I certainly should.

What was your Reason for not favouring the Committee with both those Constructions Yesterday, but giving only one, and making Mr. Palmer's Directions to you the Cause of your having so written it?—I am extremely happy to have an Opportunity of stating that; as I thank God I am not so hardened as to be placed in the Situation I was placed in here Yesterday, and to be treated as I was, without feeling that Sort of Agitation that it becomes a Man under such Circumstances to feel.

And you impute to that your not having given to the Committee both those Constructions?—My Answer is this, that so far from my wishing to have an Allowance made on the Ground of the State of Agitation into which my Mind was thrown, by the shocking Situation in which I was placed, so far from my wishing to have any Allowance made in the Evidence I gave, I profess to be completely satisfied with the Evidence I gave, and I look with Astonishment at the Distinctness of the Evidence given under such Circumstances.

Mr. Ch. Bonnor.

Is the Committee to understand you, that you consider the Account that you gave Yesterday, that you had the most perfect Conviction that you made that Indorsement by the Direction of Mr. Palmer, consistent with what you have said just now, that if you had indorsed it, as you might have done, believing it to be the Instrument of 1786, you would have made it without any such Directions?—I would in the first Place say, that instead of the Directions of Mr. Palmer, it would be more according with my Meaning to say agreeably to Mr. Palmer's known Will; for I have repeatedly stated, that I have no Recollection, nor did I in the Course of my Examination Yesterday, affect to have any Recollection at any one Moment of Mr. Palmer's having given me Instructions as to the titling and docketing this particular Paper; it is therefore, when I say that in giving to it a Title, that does not apply to its Contents, I could only have done so in conformity with Mr. Palmer's Instructions; I do not mean any particular Dictation at any one particular Time, but the general Impression of his Will in respect to the Character, that he meant should attach to the Instrument of 1785. If at that Period I had been asked what do you mean Sir, by giving to this Paper prepared in 1785 the Title of having been prepared by Mr. Rose, knowing as you do that Mr. Rose had nothing to do with the Paper; my Answer would have been, Sir, it is the Character that Mr. Palmer chooses to stamp upon this Paper, and upon the Transaction. I might as well be asked, how I could stand by and hear Mr. Palmer address himself as he did to the Gentlemen at the Treasury, or be a tacit Witness to the Imposition practised upon Doctor Pretyman? Why, I believe at a Moment like that, few People standing as I did would have felt themselves under any Consideration whatever in a Situation that required them to interfere and to oppose that Act of Mr. Palmer's which he deemed necessary to the furthering his Objects.

The following Extract from Mr. Bonnor's Evidence of Yesterday is read:

“ You distinctly recollect that that Appointment was not drawn by Mr. Rose?—Yes; it was likewise ascertained by Mr. Pitt. That Fact was unequivocally declared by Mr. Pitt in his Evidence to the House of Commons, that the Instrument certainly was never prepared at the Treasury; that it could not have been prepared there without being grounded upon a Minute of Treasury, and that no Trace whatever of that kind was to be met with.”

What Evidence of Mr. Pitt's were you then referring to?—I am not understood as giving literally Mr. Pitt's Expression in his Evidence, but I refer to a strong Impression that I believe will prove to be a correct one, that Mr. Pitt did speak to that Effect.

Negating any Agreement or any Draft of an Agreement having been drawn at the Treasury in 1785; you conceive that to be Mr. Pitt's Evidence?—That Mr. Pitt spoke to that Effect.

You meant his Evidence before the House of Commons in 1797, as it is printed?—I believe that is the Evidence to which I refer; I speak to my Recollection; I shall be very much astonished if it is otherwise.

Have you read that Evidence lately?—No; I have not seen it for several Years.

Your Impression is, that when you wrote that Indorsement, you thought the Paper so indorsed the Draft of the Warrant of 1786?—No, I cannot take upon me to say, and I have repeatedly said so, what my Impression was at the Moment that I wrote this Indorsement; but it does certainly appear that by my mentioning Mr. Rose's Name, it was utterly impossible for me to believe in my own Mind that it was the Copy of an Instrument that Mr. Rose had any Thing to do with, unless it was the Instrument of 1786.

You have stated to the Committee that Mr. Palmer always attached to the Paper of 1785 the Character of a Paper drawn in the Treasury?—Yes.

Do you recollect whether Mr. Palmer attached to that Paper the Character you describe in the Year 1785?—Most assuredly.

He

He at all Times, therefore, represented that Paper as a Paper drawn at the Treasury?—Of course. Mr. Ch. Bonnor.

Is the Committee right in understanding that you state that you are not clear whether this Indorsement was made with the Belief that this was the Warrant of 1786, or the Draft of a Commission made out in 1785, but, that if it was your Belief that it was the Commission of 1786, at the Time you put this Indorsement, you wrote it as *bonâ fide* descriptive of that Deed; but, on the other hand, if it was the Commission of 1785, you put that Indorsement knowing, it to be the Title which Mr. Palmer generally gave to that Commission?—I have the Satisfaction to understand the Question now put to me; I profess not to have understood many of the Questions before put to me, though I have answered them according to the best of my Judgment. I do mean, that if I understood this Paper to be a Copy of the Instrument of 1786, I should have put this Indorsement to it, and given it the Title it bears, as the *bonâ fide* Title belonging to it; on the other Hand, if I supposed that it was the Instrument prepared by Mr. Palmer in 1785, I should have given to it the Title it bears, in conformity with the Necessity I was under of so doing; because it was Mr. Palmer's Will it should be so done.

Then in one Case you would have given it the Title, because you thought it was true; and in the other Case you would have given it the Title although you knew it was false?—In Compliance with Mr. Palmer's Orders and his uniform Will upon that Subject, that applying to the latter Alternative.

You would have done this although you have stated in Answer to a former Question, that Mr. Palmer had given you no specific Directions on the Subject?—If I have stated that, at no Period do I recollect Mr. Palmer's giving me specific Directions to that point; I do consider myself as in Possession of his positive Instructions to that Effect, a Hundred Times given; it was uniformly the Manner in which he chose to entertain that Paper; he used it in that Way; and no other.

Look at the Extract of a Letter in Page 34 of the Commons Report; is that an Extract of a Letter from you?—It is.

Do you know this to be a faithful Copy of that Letter? (*Shewing a Paper to the Witness.*)—I have a Copy in my Pocket for the Purpose of presenting in case it was called for; it is a correct Copy of that Letter; professing to declare that the Letter from which those Extracts are taken has no relation whatever to the Subject that Mr. Palmer applies it to, namely, White's Disbursements, but to White's Receipts: this is a correct Copy of the Letter.

Do you know this to be a correct Copy?—I do.

It is a correct Copy of the whole Letter, of which Two Extracts are printed in Mr. Palmer's Evidence in the Report of the Commons in 1797?—Yes.

The said Letter is read by the Clerk, as follows:

“ Dear Sir,

June 11th, 1791.

“ The Intention of this is, to possess you of what remains to be offered on the Subject of our Accounts, a Subject that has for some Years been the Source of extreme Uneasiness and Anxiety to me, and has some Points, which I believe you have not viewed so considerately, as I flatter myself you will think they ought to be, when properly put before you.

“ I am sure that whatever Reason and Justice may suggest to be my Due, you will not deny me; and the Dependence I have all along had upon your doing me Right, whenever the final Adjustment took place, has been my chief Consolation under the many wearying Circumstances with which my Mind has been afflicted in the Course of my Accomptantship.

“ It should not be lost Sight of, that I never professed to be an Accountant; that I never was in Habits of Book-keeping; that from the Time I left School with the ordinary Acquirements in the Arithmetical Line, which every Boy who
goes

Mr. Cb. Bonnier. goes to School at all, is Master of, to the Time I became your Agent in the Outset of your Plan, I had no Opportunity whatever of making myself acquainted with the Method of keeping Accounts, or of conducting the Concerns of a Cashier, even in the most simple and limited Way. Had it been suggested, that such a Qualification was necessary to my embarking in the Service, it was a Ground upon which I should candidly have declared my Ineligibility; notwithstanding all this, among the unexpected Events with which the Progress of your grand Object has in its various Courses abounded, it is not among the least curious, that I was by Degrees led into the Necessity of keeping a very complex Account, including Receipts and Disbursements to the Amount of more than £160,000;* when I was once fixed in that undesirable Situation, there was no shrinking from it; the Practice of receiving and paying by Degrees occasioned me to be looked up to as the Source of Payment, under many Circumstances, where I had received nothing to pay with, and was frequently obliged to find the Means at a Hazard, as unpleasant as the Accomplishment of that Necessity was sometimes difficult; obliged also in various Instances to take the Charge of the Honesty of those about me, against whom I could establish no Check, and whose Carelessness or Dishonesty might subject the Account I kept to very material Deficiencies, without my being able to guard against it, or to know of it till too late to prevent or to trace it, which more particularly applies to the Remittances at one Time sent up to a very considerable Amount by the Deputy Postmasters, the Covers of which were opened, (in common with the immense Quantity of official Letters then daily received) by most of the People about me, and I alone responsible for the due Appropriation of their Contents; and though I really do not believe there ever was the least Reason to suspect the Honesty of those about me, I am persuaded that my Loss under this Head only has been very considerable indeed; one Article alone, amounting to £140, I had to make good some Months after it was remitted, although there was not the most distant reason in the world for me or any one else to imagine but that it was regularly paid in the Day it was sent up; it was a Remittance from the Postmaster of Newbury.

“ Equally persuaded am I also, of several other Payments of much less Consequence which I have been obliged to make a Second Time, because the Circumstances of Irregularity attendant on the First Payment made it impossible for me to prove that it had been made, and I was resolved at all Events to sacrifice every Thing rather than the numerous Enemies with which your Office was supposed to be surrounded, should have Occasion to cast the slightest Reflection upon it on that Score.

“ Another Source of great and unquestionable Loss to me, attended also with Circumstances of Embarrassment and Perplexity never to be overcome, arose from the Depredation committed upon my Papers when my Desk and Book-case were broke open and rifled, and my Red Box was stolen away. It is to this Event I have to attribute almost all the Confusion which I have experienced to arise from the Want of keeping a regular Account of all Cash Matters; and I may very fairly consider it as the Occasion of my losing some Hundreds of Pounds, for I was in the habit of transacting Money Concerns with different People about the Office who kept no Account at all; and when my Account was lost, I was left at the Mercy of their Ignorance, of my fair Claims at least, which subjected me to the same alarming Consequences that a bad Principle in them might have occasioned.

“ I had Instances in the adjusting one Account only, which are sufficient to confirm my Apprehensions, though I do not imagine there was any Design to injure me; but in certain Periods of White's Account, against which I happened to have Memorandums of different Sums I had advanced to him, there were Omissions to the Amount of between Three and Four hundred Pounds, and against great Part of his Account I had no Check at all; the Sums he had omitted, he perfectly well recollected when I brought them forward, but he has not been able to recollect any Omissions but such as I was able to point out, though in certain Parts of the Account the proportionate Amount of Monies admitted are so out of all Comparison below what has

* This should have been £300,000.

been

been advanced for similar Periods under other Dates, as to do away all Doubt as to the Omission of Articles to my irretrievable Loss, and to a very serious Amount, as between the Month of February 1787 and March 1788, which was One Month only before these Papers were stolen, no more than £25. 13s. is charged against him, although the usual Demand for the Months preceding was upon the Average £25. per Month, and the subsequent considerably more, so that at the lowest Computation I must be a Loser of more than £200.

“ The Loss of my Red Box, as I before stated, was the Foundation of all the really important Deficiencies I have had to struggle against ; for though partly from not being used to the keeping Accounts, and partly from the unsubiding round of other Objects which at that Time was every Day and every Hour starting up to claim my Attention, I was utterly unable to make regular Entries, or to exhibit such a Statement of particular Accounts as the Importance of the Concerns heaped upon me required ; yet as I was not inattentive to the making Memorandums of such Cash Articles as passed through my Hands I should have been at no Loss to make out every Account separately and distinctly whenever Time could have been commanded to appropriate to such a Purpose, nor would any Accomptant whatever have been perplexed to form regular Statements from these Memorandums, aided by my Explanations of such as were not explicit enough to speak for themselves. These invaluable Papers I always kept in my Red Box, because that I deemed the safest Place, and where (whether at the Office or elsewhere) I could at all Times refer to them.

“ My Fears for the Consequence of this Loss when it happened were very great, but the Consequences themselves proved infinitely more embarrassing than I had any Idea of at the Time. I have, however, on all Occasions forborne to plead it as the Cause of the confused State of the Accounts, because however just, it still would have been setting up an Excuse ; and I foresaw that if I were to give way to the right I had of resorting to this Accident for a Vindication of Irregularities, it would occur too often to afford me any Satisfaction ; and I therefore determined not to allude to it at all, but to do the best I could in arranging the Accounts, and by my Silence prevent as much as possible the raising dangerous Ideas in the Minds of those who had me at their Mercy, and if ill-inclined might be able to turn it more to my Disadvantage perhaps than it has been. You know, Sir, how often I withdrew myself from the general Affairs of the Office to sit down to an Arrangement of the Accounts, and of my shutting myself up in the Country to do it the more effectually, to be out of the Reach of Interruption ; but I only can know how ineffectual all my Endeavours were, deeming it the sort of Thing which if I could not in some Degree methodize myself, no other Person could possibly do any Thing with, and alarmed as much for the disrespectful Insinuations it eventually led to, as for the Probability there really was of its occasioning my irretrievable Ruin by the heavy Loss that threatened me, I declare I was at Times almost distracted ; and it was these unhappy Considerations which in spite of my natural good Spirits, and the Ease with which I had been generally accustomed to turn aside from unpleasant Reflections, that at last overcame me, and made my Friends uneasy for the Consequences of the evident Injury my Health was sustaining. I however had resolved at all Events to persevere in the Plan I had laid down ; namely, until the best possible Arrangement could be effected, to make myself accountable for all Deficiencies arising from whatever Cause they might, or however extensive in their Operations ; fortifying myself with a firm Confidence in the Justice that would be done me whenever I could say that every Thing was done that could be done, and that such are the Circumstances of the Case. That Moment I thank God is come ; that Confidence is not abated ; I have sustained the Shock, and weathered the worst of it. One serious Consideration only remains, and that is such an ultimate Adjustment of my Account with you as shall be mutually satisfactory, of which I entertain no Doubt, though the Hesitation about some few remaining Articles require that I should fully state the Grounds upon which I hope they will not be disputed.

“ In doing this, Sir, I hope I may be allowed first of all to suggest, that by making myself responsible as I hitherto have done for all the Consequences of the Loss of official Documents, which it was not in my Power to prevent, as

Mr. Ch. Bonnor.

well as for the various unquestionable Advances of Cash on your private Account of which no Entry can be shewn, I have certainly placed myself in a Situation, which however proper for me to sustain, while Things were in a progressive state of Arrangement, ought not to subject me eventually to the making good to the utmost Extent those Losses which do not arise from my own personal Misconduct; however certain it is that such must be the Case to a very severe Degree.

“ In the Adjustment of the Account so far as we have proceeded, such Articles only have been admitted as are established by unquestionable Vouchers, such as between any Debtor and Creditor would have been acceded to; but that I trust is not to be the strict Rule by which our Concerns, circumstanced as they are here fairly described to be, are to be finally decided.

“ The objectionable Articles selected by Mr. Maskelyn are explained in the annexed Statement, and what is over-charged allowed, except the Article of Interest and the Sum claimed by you, as a Payment supposed to be made by Lord A—, which is a mere Presumption unsupported by any Proof whatever; and I think, Sir, you will at any Rate agree when you have thoroughly considered the Business, that as in every other Article of this long Account, including a Period of Four Years, and such a Sum as near £20,000, the Proof even under the embarrassing Circumstances already described, has been established by me, the Proof should in this one Instance rest with you, and if not completely established, the Article should not be required to be disallowed. Additional Proof of the Certainty of my incurring Losses on your private Account, is manifest by the evident Omission, even in the last Statement presented, of Three Articles now first brought forward, amounting to £265. which are established on Grounds that cannot be disputed, being Checks on the Banker in favour of Mr. Bartlett, who never negotiated or transacted any Money Concerns of any official, or indeed of any kind, with me, but what related strictly to your private Accommodation, beyond all which, the Amount of each of these Three Articles corresponds with the Amount of the Sums for which it was your ordinary Practice to call. With respect to the Interest Account, I really gave Mr. Gosnell no Directions about the Manner of stating it, but left it to his better Judgment, desiring him in that, as I had done in every other Instance, to place to my Disadvantage every Thing that it did not appear to be right to charge otherwise, on every Ground of Fairness and of Justice. The Principle which guided him in this Object, was the equitable Consideration of my having voluntarily made myself the ostensible Cashier, and thereby subjected myself to the making good of all Deficiencies; whereas, instead of so doing I might, and indeed most People would, under the peculiar Circumstances of the Case, have stated, so far as the Office was concerned, an official Debit and Credit Account, the Deficiencies of which arising mostly from an Accident not chargeable upon me, I could not be made accountable for; and as the Postmaster General would not come forward, or be induced by any Plea that could be set up, to grant a Warrant for paying over again Monies which they would say could not have been subject to this Accident, if they had (as they ought to have) been paid directly to the Parties; when the original Warrants for the several Sums were signed, the Deficiencies would have rested with the Comptroller General's Office, or rather with him, as the Principal of it; for the Materials being stolen out of my Room, no more subjects me to the Reparation of the Damage than it would one of the Clerks, if taken from his immediate Desk. But as I waved all these Considerations, and made myself in all responsible, Mr. Gosnell deemed it a good Reason for charging to you an Interest upon such Monies as were advanced to you over and above the Sums received on your Account; because though it might add something more to my Credit on that Score than I had actually paid, yet it was by no Means an adequate Compensation for the evident Defects in the Cash Account, which, was it to be considered as yours, would abundantly exceed the Sum charged for Interest, and which considered, as the Price for exonerating you from all Losses, could not with any regard to the Circumstances of the Case be deemed unreasonable. One Ground of Hesitation with you I understand to be that of your having a Right to use the official Money without paying Interest, because there was a Balance due to you from Government; but that Argument which would hold good if the Account was immediately between you and them, or if

I as the General Cashier had received and held at the Time the Arrears in question, cannot hold good, as I had not received them, and did not hold them; besides the inconsiderable Amount of my private Disbursements beyond what was the Amount of my Income, shews that such Parts of the Money as were not appropriated to official Purposes were applied to your private Claims; and your admitting the Discount Article would be no more at most than paying Interest for Money you actually had the Use of, and which was necessary to the occasional Adjustment of your Affairs.

“ The Statement annexed, includes the Expence which has attended Mr. Gofnell’s Services, amounting altogether to £140, the official Part whereof is by far the greatest, and what I have no more right to pay than Mr. Church’s Salary, or that of any other Accountant in the Office; for even if it should be said that the Expence would not have been incurred, if I had kept regular Accounts, the Answer is, that my keeping regular Accounts under the Loss of the Materials before described, and the various Circumstances that compelled me to a continual regard of other Things at the same Time, was utterly impossible; and as their Irregularity never proceeded from Indifference to my Duty, Neglect or wilful Disregard of them, I cannot be called upon in Justice or in Reason to pay the Expence of putting them in a state of Order, and keeping them so until the task was compleated. With respect to the private Accounts that have engrossed his Attention they have not been mine, at most my Portion of them is inconsiderable, and I am sure, Sir, you will not require me to pay for Services devoted to the Arrangement of your own immediate personal Concerns.

“ Respecting Mr. Gofnell’s Account, I have thought it often a very proper Article to charge the Postmaster General with, but the same Reason which has induced me to decline to come forward to them with various Demands that would tend to diminish in some small Degree the heavy Loss I sustain, weighs with me in this Instance of Mr. Gofnell’s also, namely, that unless it was absolutely unavoidable, it would be best not to court their Inspection of the Books, because it will appear that the Monies issued by them (without including the Guards Wages which they are apprized of), have been kept back from the Purposes they were meant to answer in more Instances, and to a greater Degree than they at present can have any Idea of. You remember Sir, how full of Suspicion they were about the Mileage Warrants not being made out in the Contractors Names; and from the Period of their being by their Order so prepared, they naturally imagine that the Warrant for each Road has been delivered to the Contractor every Quarter; now though it might not be possible to discover any Thing more by the most diligent Investigation of the Books, that the Money issued was not appropriated as the Postmaster General designed it should at the Time it was issued; I am persuaded Things might be twisted into a thousand Shapes to your Prejudice, which is as well avoided, especially as it was observable that not only the Commissioners but in fact every body else deemed the Non-appropriation of the Guards Wages, a very unwarrantable Thing, and such as even the strong and necessitous Grounds it was done upon could not in their Opinions justify. If therefore Mr. Gofnell’s Services can be paid without resorting to the Postmaster General, it will be a certain Means of preventing their looking to Accounts which they would certainly call for if required, to pay the Expence of, although they at present are utterly ignorant of their Existence.

“ I consider the present Adjustment of Things to be a final Settlement of a long Series of Accounts, which it is scarcely possible to bring to a Conclusion in the way it is, and in which Justice is done to every Individual who had Claims upon those Accounts, without some Sacrifices. I trust you will think I have sacrificed my Share when I assert, that, independent of the Articles yet unadjusted, my Loss, at the lowest possible Computation that can be made (and it is capable of every necessary Proof) amounts to the enormous Sum of between £800 and £900.

“ I thank God I have met with Friends who have furnished the Means to fill up the terrible Chasm this Deficiency has made; but it is a galling Reflection, and will ever sorely wound my Mind, that such severe and unmerited Consequences should arise out of as indefatigable and zealous, as faithful and as upright a Series of Service, as ever was performed; and it is the more vexatious, as, independent
of

Mr. Ch. Bonnor. of this heavy Drawback, I should be comparatively at Ease in my Concerns ; for it does not appear that my own Expenditure has exceeded my Income altogether to a greater Amount than £300, or thereabouts.

“ I rather think, Sir, that this Explanation will place Things before you in a very different Light to that which you have hitherto seen them in ; and I assure you, I would not, on any Account, assert what I thought was wrong, or aim at righting myself by miscolouring Things to you. Of the £800 or £900 deficient, I have not the smallest Doubt, in my own Mind, of a considerable Part being Monies advanced on your private Account at different Times, but of which I have no Memorandum now to shew ; and it is some Proof of my being warranted in supposing so, that several of the Items admitted in the Account, to the Amount some of £20, £40, and I believe one of 80 or 100 Guineas, would not have been brought forward at all, if they had not appeared by private Memorandums of yours to have been advanced to you, no Trace whatever of them appearing among my Papers ; but, as I said before, Sir, the immense Concern cannot be expected to be finally adjusted without some Sacrifices ; you know now the Portion I already sustain ; I hope you will think it sufficient ; and if in exonerating me from the Remainder you should look at the Possibility of its making you the Paymaster of something more than you ought, if Things had been rightly kept together from the beginning, I must beg you to look also at the equal Probability there is of my having advanced more on your Account than I have charged even now, after all the Corrections the Account has received, which may tend, though not visibly, to render your Part of the Concern tolerably square, whilst the Loss I must put up with admits of no such Consideration ; it is certain, it is positive Loss ; it is a Deficiency, by the creating of which I could in no one Stage of it derive the least Advantage. It would not have been quite so bad, Sir, if you had fortunately kept an Account of your Money Concerns ; and I am sure it will not accord with your Sentiments, that all the ill Consequences of your not keeping a regular Account, as well as the Accident that befel the Materials from which I ought to have made out my own, should fasten upon me only.

“ But it is now, Sir, all before you :—the Interest Account, Mr. Gosnell’s Demand, and Lord A——’s Article, being (as I understand Mr. Maskelyn and Mr. Gosnell also) all that remain to be determined about ; and I am the more anxious for your coming to a Conclusion, because beyond your Decision there can be no Appeal.

“ To close all, I can only further observe, that if I was now to die, I am between 2 and £3,000 minus, which I hope by a Life of Care and Industry to replace, without any Friend or Person whatever suffering by me ; but I trust that you will allow that I cannot have spent it, and that I was about even with the World when your Goodness patronized me. I submit the Whole to your Consideration, and whatever your Determination is, I am sure it will be what you think right.

I am ever, and most faithfully,

Dear Sir,

Yours,

C. Bonnor.”

June 11th 1791.



No. 1.

AN ACCOUNT of all SUMS paid to Mr. Palmer over and above his Allowance for Salary at £1,500 a Year, and the Sum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. upon the encreased Revenue.

The Quarter ended 10th October 1789.

Paid John Palmer Esquire, Surveyor and Comptroller General of the Mails, agreeably to a Warrant from the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, dated 2d July 1789, for his Services and Expences in forwarding the Plan for the Conveyance of Mails by Coaches previous to the Commencement thereof - - - - £.3,000 0 0

General Post Office,
28th June 1813.

THOS CAMPBELL,
Deputy Accountant General.

(2)

No. 2.

AN ACCOUNT of the POSTAGE paid by the PUBLIC OFFICES
on an Average of Three Years, from 1781 to 1785, and for
1810 to 1812.

Inland Office, June 26th 1813.

No Account has ever been kept of the Postage paid by the Public
Offices, such Postage being paid on the Delivery of the Letters.

DAN^L STOW,
Superintending President.

THO^S CAMPBELL,
Deputy Accountant General.

June 28th 1813.

ACCOUNTS

RELATIVE TO

MR. PALMER'S CLAIMS.

Ordered to be printed 28th June 1813.

A C C O U N T S
OF
THE NET REVENUE OF THE POST OFFICE,
From 5th April 1793 to 5th January 1813;
AS ALSO OF
THE PER-CENTAGE CLAIMED BY MR. PALMER;
AND THE
INCREASED RATES OF POSTAGE
Imposed since the Year 1803.

Ordered to be printed 29th June 1813.

AN ACCOUNT of the NET REVENUE of the POST OFFICE, from 5th April 1793 to beyond the Sum limited by Mr. PALMER'S Agreement, the Expence of Irish Government Expresses, Produce of the Restriction in Franking in 1795, and of the several Duties imposed in and since at the Time at which they were severally imposed.

				Original Net, including Packet Expences, above £45,654. 19s. 10d. the Expence of Governem ^t Irish Expresses, and £3,000 per Annum actually received by Mr. Palm ^r .		
				£	s.	d.
Years ended the 5th April 1794	-	-	-	445,632	7	8
- - - 1795	-	-	-	449,978	2	10
- - - 1796	-	-	-	513,147	5	2
- - - 1797	-	-	-	557,732	2	—
- - - 1798	-	-	-	636,956	1	8
- - - 1799	-	-	-	689,620	9	8
- - - 1800	-	-	-	745,313	3	6
- - - 1801	-	-	-	800,361	9	8
- - - 1802	-	-	-	916,276	1	4
3 Quarters to 5th January 1803	-	-	-	728,871	3	4
Years ending 5th January 1804	-	-	-	949,898	17	6
- - - 1805	-	-	-	972,811	4	5
- - - 1806	-	-	-	1,108,840	18	1
- - - 1807	-	-	-	1,161,848	8	4
- - - 1808	-	-	-	1,147,375	13	11
- - - 1809	-	-	-	1,132,209	5	—
- - - 1810	-	-	-	1,251,371	7	7
- - - 1811	-	-	-	1,341,112	16	—
- - - 1812	-	-	-	1,328,266	3	4
- - - * 1813	-	-	-	1,414,224	—	7
* Estimated.				£	18,291,847	1 7

June 29th, 1813.

1.—

5th January 1813, distinguishing each Year; including in such Net Revenue any Expence of Packets and the Annuity of £3,000, paid to MR. PALMER since the Year 1793; distinguishing also, the 1797; calculated according to the relative Proportions which such new Rates bear to the Rates existing

Produce of the Restriction in Franking by 25th Geo. III. from 5th May 1795.	Produce of Additional Rates, by 37th Geo. III. from 5th January 1797.	Produce of Additional Rates, 41st Geo. III. from 5th April 1801.	Produce of Additional Rates, 45th Geo. III. from 12th March 1805.	Produce of Additional Rates, 52d Geo. III. from 9th July 1812.
£	£	£	£	£
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—
37,494	—	—	—	—
49,900	40,000	—	—	—
46,954	143,799	—	—	—
49,628	158,502	—	—	—
53,482	179,699	—	—	—
55,562	191,138	—	—	—
60,910	187,077	136,954	—	—
48,013	156,654	114,975	—	—
62,615	199,012	145,918	—	—
63,360	204,227	149,816	—	—
72,844	195,306	143,125	155,471	—
73,581	200,464	146,994	196,472	—
72,762	194,733	142,695	191,099	—
72,520	193,036	141,423	189,509	—
75,515	214,005	157,150	209,167	—
78,476	234,728	172,692	228,599	—
78,023	231,557	170,314	225,621	—
82,033	225,759	165,965	220,186	97,530
1,133,672	3,149,696	1,788,021	1,616,124	97,530

Errors excepted.

THOMAS CAMPBELL,
Depy Acc^t Gen^l.

No. 2.

AN ACCOUNT of the PER-CENTAGE on the NET REVENUE of the Post Office, claimed to be due to MR. PALMER from the 5th April 1794 to the 5th January 1813.

				2½ per Cent.		
				£	s.	d.
Year ended the 5th April	-	1794	-	5,140	16	2
		1795	-	5,249	9	2
		1796	-	5,891	6	7
		1797	-	5,695	16	—
		1798	-	5,155	1	6
		1799	-	6,037	5	2
		1800	-	6,803	6	1
		1801	-	7,841	10	8
		1802	-	7,283	7	6
Three Quarters ended 5th January		1803	-	5,730	14	7
Year ended the 5th January	-	1804	-	7,558	16	11
		1805	-	7,885	4	1
		1806	-	7,552	7	5
		1807	-	7,608	8	8
		1808	-	7,652	3	4
		1809	-	7,393	—	7
		1810	-	8,888	7	2
		1811	-	9,665	8	10
		1812	-	9,568	15	7
		*1813	-	9,568	15	6
* Estimated.						
Deduct at the Rate of £,3,000. per Ann. received by				£	144,170	1 6
Mr. Palmer, from 5th April 1793 to 5th January					59,250	— —
1813				£	84,920	1 6

Errors excepted.

June 28th, 1813.

THO^s CAMPBELL,
Deputy Accountant General.

No. 3.

AN ACCOUNT of the various increased RATES OF POSTAGE imposed since the Year 1803; distinguishing the Year in which such Increase has been imposed.

1805	-	March 12th	-	New Rates laid at £200,000
1812	-	July 9th	-	New Rates laid at 200,000

General Post Office,
June 29th, 1813.THO^s CAMPBELL,
Deputy Accountant General.

No. 1.

AN ACCOUNT of the PER-CENTAGE, including the Salary, distinguishing each Year, paid to Mr. Palmer, from the Date of his Appointment unto the Year 1793 ; specifying the Sums, if any, which were deducted therefrom on account of the Exemption from Tolls of the Carriages conveying the Mails.

	Salary.			Per-Centage.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From 2d August 1784 to 5th April 1785	1,037	13	5	712	11	6
The Year ended - 5th April 1786	1,500	—	—	1,149	7	6
1787	1,500	—	—	964	19	6
1788	1,500	—	—	1,423	10	5
1789	1,500	—	—	1,968	15	8
1790	1,500	—	—	2,210	13	6
1791	1,500	—	—	2,507	—	—
1792 } 1793 }	1,875	—	—	5,721	14	6

No Sums whatever have been paid for Tolls on Carriages conveying His Majesty's Mails, previous or subsequent to the Establishment of Mr. Palmer's Plan, with the Exception of a few Bridges and Gates, (Private Property) to which the Act of Exemption does not attach, and at which the Mails were equally liable to Tolls previous and subsequent to Mr. Palmer's Plan.

General Post Office,
June 25th, 1813.

THO^S CAMPBELL,
Deputy Accountant General.

No. 2.

AN ACCOUNT of SUMS, if any, paid for TOLLS on Carriages conveying His Majesty's Mails, previous or subsequent to the Establishment of Mr. Palmer's Plan; distinguishing the Amount paid in each Year.

No Sums whatever have been paid for Tolls on Carriages conveying "His Majesty's Mails previous or subsequent to the Establishment of Mr. Palmer's Plan," with the Exception of a few Bridges and Gates, *Private* Property, to which the Act of Exemption does not attach, and at which the Mails were equally liable to Tolls previous and subsequent to Mr. Palmer's Plan.

General Post Office,
June 25th, 1813.

THO^s. CAMPBELL,
Deputy Accountant General.



ACCOUNTS
RELATIVE TO
THE PER-CENTAGE AND SALARY
OF
MR. PALMER.

Ordered to be printed 25th June 1813.

(COPY.)

Die Mercurij, 30^o Junij 1813.

ORDERED by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled, That there be laid before this House an Account of the Period at which the Delivery of Letters took place on each Day, from the 20th of December 1791 to the 31st of March 1792, inclusive.

(Signed) **GEORGE ROSE,**
Cler^o Parliamentor^o.

No Return can be made to this Order, as there is no Record in the Office of the Period at which the Delivery of Letters took place prior to December 1801.

DAN^l STOW,
Superintending President.

General Post Office,
July 1st 1813.

(125.)

ACCOUNT

RELATIVE TO

MR. PALMER'S CLAIM.

Ordered to be printed 1/8 July 1813.

