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# R E P O R T

FROM THE

## COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO ENQUIRE INTO

CERTAIN ABUSES

IN THE

POST OFFICE,

PRESENTED TO THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

*May 23d, 1787.*

WITH AN

A P P E N D I X,

Containing the EARL of TANKERVILLE's Narrative, shewing  
the real Motives of his Dismission from the Post Office—  
The Correspondence between the EARL of TANKERVILLE,  
LORD CARTERET, and the Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT,  
relative thereto, &c. &c. &c.

---

L O N D O N :

Printed for J WEBB, Paternoster-Row.

M, DCC, LXXXVII.



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RE-

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# REPORT, &c.

The Committee, appointed to enquire into certain Abuses in the Post-Office, met according to the Order of the House, and proceeded to examine into the same.

**A** Narrative transmitted to the Post-office here, (Appendix No. I.) by John Lees, Esq. Secretary to the Post-office in Ireland, was presented to your Committee, and your Committee finding matter therein, which appeared highly deserving of further investigation, examined the Earl of Tankerville, late Post-master General; John Walcot, Esq. Agent to the Post-master General at Dover; Anthony Todd, Esq. Esq. Secretary to the Post-office; and Pellegrin Treves, Esq.

That it appeared to your Committee, (Appendix No. IX.) from the Evidence of

B

these

these persons, that Mr. Lees, on receiving his appointment, of Secretary to the Post-office in Ireland, entered into a security to pay the sum of £.350 sterling a year, out of the profits and emoluments of the said office, to a person described by the said Mr. Lees, by the letters A. B. and whose real name it appears, by a letter from Mr. Lees, to Mr. Todd, (Appendix No. II.) likewise laid before your Committee, Mr. Lees considered himself bound to conceal.

That the annual payment aforesaid was to take place on the death of a Mr. Barham, an ancient and meritorious officer, in the service of the Post-office; and who had as a reward for his services; (Appendix No. I.) been permitted to retire, with the enjoyment of the emoluments attendant upon the office of Agent to the Packet Boats at Dover.

That it appeared to your Committee, that Mr. Treves was the person to whom the annual sum of £.350 was to be paid; and that the security for the payment thereof was given by Mr. Lees and Mr. Walcot, to Mr. Trevers. That the payment of this sum was  
required

required of Mr. Lees, as the condition of his appointment to the office of Secretary to the Post-office in Ireland, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Walcot, who was appointed in the room of Mr. Barham. That Lord Carteret, who was Joint Post-master General with Lord Le Despencer, at the time of the above appointment was privy to the same; and that the engagement to pay Mr. Treves £.350 a year, after the death of Mr. Barham, was in fact the condition of the appointment of Mr. Lees. That it appeared to your Committee, (Appendix No. II.) that Lord Carteret had been greatly displeas'd and disquieted by the discovery of this transaction, contained in the narrative of Mr. Lees, already mentioned.— That Mr. Todd, who has for many years past been Secretary to the Post-office, informed your Committee, that such a transaction was totally unprecedented; and that he expressed his disapprobation of it to both Post-masters General, at the time it took place.

That it further appeared to your Committee, (Appendix No. XI.) from the examination of Mr. Todd and Mr. Treves, that a payment of an annuity of £.200. a year had



been exacted from a Mr. Dashwood, appointed to the office of Post-master General, in Jamaica. That this annuity was exacted from Mr. Dashwood, as the condition of his appointment to the last mentioned office; and has been regularly paid by him to Mr. Treves, who has never performed any public service in the Post-office, or in any other public department, to entitle him to any public reward.

That it further appeared to your Committee, that Crisp Molineux, Esq; Agent to the packets, (Appendix No. XI.) at Helvoysfluys, was permitted, with the knowledge of Lord Carteret, to dispose of his office to a Mr. Hutchinson for a sum of money. That complaints have been made against Mr. Hutchinson, for improper conduct in his office: That a letter was written to him from the Post-office, in the month of January last, by the order of Lord Carteret, informing Mr. Hutchinson, that if he did not perform his engagements to Mr. Molineux, Mr. Molineux must have his place again.— That it appeared to your Committee, that  
Mr.

Mr. Molineux was, from his situation, incapable of discharging the duties of the office, and that Mr. Hutchinson had not properly discharged those duties.

That it appeared to your Committee, none of these transactions were entered in the books of the office, but on the contrary had been kept concealed.

That it further appeared to your Committee, that upon the death of Mr. Allen, a Mr. Staunton, Post-master at Isleworth, a place worth £.400 a year and upwards, was in addition thereto, appointed Comptroller and Resident Surveyor of the Bye and Cross Roads Letter-office, to which a salary of £.500 a year, and the perquisites of coals and candles is attached. That a house has always been attached to this department: That his Majesty's first Lord of the Treasury expressed his desire to the Post-masters General, that the house attached to this department, might be allotted for another purpose, in order to save the expence of an additional house to the public:—That Lord Carteret proposed to the Board at the Post-office, that  
an

an allowance of an £.100 a year should be made to Mr. Staunton in lieu of his house:—That Lord Tankerville resisted the same:—That since Lord Tankerville's removal from the office of Post-master General, that allowance has been made.

That the peculiar motives to these various instances of undue preference, as well as the objections to Mr. Staunton (Appendix No. V.) being the object of them, appear more fully from Lord Tankerville's narrative.

That it appeared to your Committee, as well from Lord Tankerville's evidence, (Appendix No. IX, V.) as from the correspondence and narrative delivered in by his Lordship to your Committee, that he has made frequent representations to his Majesty's first Lord of the Treasury, respecting the abuses which he had discovered in the Post-office; and that he was encouraged in the belief, that he would have the support and assistance of Government in redressing the same:—That he was soon after such encouragement removed from his office of Post-master General.

That

That during the enquiries, the attention of your Committee was directed to a specific charge against Lord Tankerville, stating his having countenanced a corrupt transaction, respecting the appointment of a Mr. Peisly to be Coal Merchant to the Post-office, which charge was upon full enquiry, discovered to have arisen upon a misapprehension, and to be totally without foundation.

Your Committee likewise received information, respecting the origin, of the misunderstanding, between Lord Tankerville and Lord Carteret; which is alledged, to have arisen in the proposed nomination of a Mr. Dashwood, by Lord Tankerville, to the office of Riding Surveyor, against the opinion of Lord Carteret, and when Mr. Dashwood, had been charged with having committed several frauds (Appendix IX. X. X. a. b. c. d. a. f. and g.) as Master and Captain of a Packet and for which, he had been dismissed the service.

The evidence of this transaction appears in the appendix to this Report. But as this matter, is not stated as an abuse practised in  
the

the Post-office, but as the Commencement of a difference, between the Post-masters-general; Your Committee do not consider it as within their province to report upon the merits of the case.

That it further appeared to your Committee, that various, and extraordinary abuses, exist in the management of the packet boats, particularly that no deductions have been made from the hire, (Appendix IX.) of any of the packet boats whilst under repair, seizure for smuggling, or when unemployed, and that they have been for many months together, in that situation.

That it further appeared to your Committee, that the receipts of perquisites and incidents by the Post-master General, particularly in coals, candles and tin ware, were excessive, and that various articles of furniture, have been improperly and contrary to precedent, supplied to persons having appointments under the Post-office. Respecting all which matters (Appendix VI. VII. VIII.) your Committee have inserted several papers in the Appendix to this report.

That

That owing to the short time in which your Committee have been engaged in this enquiry, they are unable to report the different matters which they have enquired into so particularly at the extent and nature of the abuses seem to require, but they think it their duty to state generally, that great and weighty abuses appear to them, to have prevailed in the department of the Post-office, and such as seem to call for a further, strict and immediate enquiry, and a substantial reform; the more especially as it appears that the Commissioners appointed two years ago to enquire into fees, gratuities, perquisites and emoluments, have not hitherto made any enquiry whatever, into the abuses of the said department, notwithstanding, that the same have been of great public notoriety, and that many of them were distinctly detailed to his Majesty's first Lord of the Treasury, by Lord Tankerville, previous to his dismissal from the Post-office, (see letter from the Earl of Tankerville, dated 27th of Nov. 1786, Appendix No. V. B.)

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That

That your Committee being pressed in point of time, have not been able to include in their Report, all the matter contained within Minutes, and therefore, that the House may be fully informed of the nature of their enquiries, they have annexed their Minutes to their Report, by way of Appendix.

**APPENDIX.**

# APPENDIX.

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N U M B E R I.

C O P Y.

A NARRATIVE OF FACTS RESPECTING  
MR. LEES'S ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT AND  
PRESENT SITUATION AS SECRETARY OF  
THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, OF IRELAND.

*Nov. 16, 1774.*

**M**R. SECRETARY TODD's letter to Mr. Lees states, that Mr. Barham, agent to the Dover packets, having, on account of his age and infirmities desired leave to resign, the Postmaster General had been pleased to appoint Mr. Walcot to succeed him in that employment, on condition, that Mr. Walcot should allow to Mr. Barham, during Mr. Barham's life, the full income of his place both for salary and perquisites, as a reward, for his long and faithful services, and, in like manner, that they had been pleased to appoint Mr. Lees Secretary to the Dublin Post-office, in the room of Mr. Walcot, on condition that he, Mr. Lees, should allow to Mr. Walcot, for the

C 2 purpose



purpose of Mr. Walcot's handing over the same to Mr. Barham, the full income of that employment, both for salary and perquisites, during the life of Mr. Barham.

That Mr. Lees, prior to the above recited appointment, entered into an engagement to pay to A. B. an annuity of 350*l.* British, or 379*l.* Irish currency, to commence from the death of Mr. Barham, and to continue the same during the joint lives, of the said A. B. and Mr. Lees, provided Mr. Lees should remain so long in the office of Secretary, or should not be removed therefrom contrary to his consent.

Mr. Lees as a further consideration for his said appointment in the Post-Office also entered into an engagement to pay to Mr. Walcot at the rate of 150*l.* British annually, in case the emolument of the office should be found to exceed 1000*l.* per ann. or a moiety of whatever the office should produce between 800*l.* and 1000*l.* Those annual payments of 350*l.* and 150*l.* British or 541*l.* Irish currency were to commence and be paid half yearly in London, from the death of Mr. Barham.

Mr. Walcot on his part, engaged during the life of Mr. Barham, and in consideration of Mr. Lees's doing the duty of the office, to allow to him, Mr. Lees, the sum of 300*l.* per ann.

Mr. Barham being at that time in a very precarious state of health, and Mr. Walcot being very desirous to extricate himself from the necessity of advancing large sums of money, for paying the Printers for newspapers, which he had theretofore been obliged to do, and from the  
trouble

trouble of long accounts, and the expence of collecting payment for them throughout the kingdom; he, Mr. Walcot, laid before Mr. Lees, a state of the salary and emoluments of the Post-office, rating them together at £.1150, a year; he also represented to Mr. Lees, that he had stipulated, instead of the salary and emoluments of the office, to pay to Mr. Barham, a net income of £.800 a year; that his uncle Lord Le Despenser, the then Post-master General, had expressed an earnest desire, that he and Mr. Lees, should enter into an agreement of the same nature, and according after various statements, and to obviate every difficulty that might arise in settling accounts; it was, at last, finally agreed between Mr. Walcot and Mr. Lees, that Mr. Lees, during Mr. Barham's life, should pay to Mr. Walcot £.750 British, or £.812 Irish currency. The payments of £.350, to A. B. and £.150 to Mr. Walcot, were to remain subject to the original engagement, prior to Mr. Lees's appointment, or, in other words, Mr. Lees was to pay to Mr. Barham's use, £.812 Irish, per annum, during Mr. Barham's life; and the two sums amounting to £.500 British, for the lives of Messrs. A. B. and Mr. Walcot, to commence on the death of Mr. Barham.

It having been judged expedient by Administration, as well in England as Ireland, that Mr. Lees should be advanced to the War-office in this kingdom; he was succeeded in the Post-office, May 15, 1781, by Mr. Armit; and Mr. Lees became responsible with him for the due performance of these engagements, entered into, under

under the Minute of appointment, and with A. B. and Mr. Walcot.

The office appointments consist of a salary of £.300 to a Secretary, £.100 to a Comptroller of the Penny Post office, and an allowance of £.33 for Coals and Candles, for the use of apartments, separate from the office. The emoluments otherwise arose entirely from supplying English and Irish newspapers.

On an exact statement of the salaries and emoluments of this office, at the time Mr. Lees was advanced to the War-office, laid before Lord Carlisle, by Mr. Eden; it appeared during the seven years, which he, Mr. Lees, had held the Post-office, that after deducting the annual payment of £.812, payable to Mr. Walcot, and the necessary expence of management in circulating the newspapers, Mr. Lees had, on an average, received to his own use only, £.76 3s. 4d. per annum; to which income is to be added a gross sum by way of arrear, then due for newspaper accounts of £.3152, of which it is presumed £.1200 may upon the whole be recovered.

Acts of Parliament having passed in both kingdoms for rendering the Irish Post-office independent of the British Post-office, Mr. Armit, in August 1784, was removed, and Mr. Lees by letters patent under the great seal of Ireland, was appointed in his room.

Upon such an appointment made independently of the British Post-office, it might be supposed that the conditions under which Mr. Armit, held the office from the Post-master General of England should cease, and many people in Ireland, to whom such part of the original stipulation, so far

far as respected Mr. Barham, was known (for the contingent and eventual parts were not disclosed) concluded, that from the moment the Irish Post-office became a distinct and separate department, and that the Secretary's appointment also became independent of the Post-master General of England, the conditions under which Mr. Armit had been appointed, and had held the office, could no longer be in force against his successor, and that the emoluments of this office, as independent of the London-office, would from thence be enjoyed by the Irish Secretary, discharged from prior engagements.

But Mr. Lees never having meant to avail himself of any distinction which could arise from the change, has acted from sentiments of gratitude and respect, arising from a recollection of kindnesses, by the Post-master General towards him, and is willing also to admit that he accepted his original appointment, under the express conditions stated in Mr. Todd's letter before recited; that all the engagements which he entered into were his own voluntary acts, and were the terms upon which he obtained the appointment; subsequent events therefore so far from relieving Mr. Lees, in case the Post-master General of England and Government of Ireland judge it expedient and just, that he ought not to be discharged from those burthens, determined him to a strict and rigid adherence to what was originally understood to be the terms and spirit of the engagements, except where the legislature in the instance he shall hereafter state, may warrant a deviation; and where, he is persuaded, he can in perfect security throw himself upon the candou

dour and justice of the Post-master General, and of the Administration of both kingdoms.

Mr. Lees has fully and fairly stated the terms of his appointment to the Post-office, in 1774, and he appeals to Mr. Todd's recollection of the various circumstances connected with it.

At the time of his appointment, whilst he held the office, and until the late Secretary, Mr. Armit's removal, in August last, the Secretary of the Dublin office, enjoyed the privilege of receiving *Free*, and of circulating in Ireland, English newspapers, together with the exclusive privilege of franking to, and of circulating Irish newspapers in England, under the privileges formerly annexed to the station; very considerable emoluments resulted to the Secretary, which unquestionably were understood, and stated to Mr. Lees as furnishing no inconsiderable part of the means by which he was to fulfill his engagements, as well those combined with the conditions stated in Mr. Secretary Todd's letter of appointment, as with the engagements to A. B. and Mr. Walcot.

By the English Act of Parliament for disuniting the Irish from the British Post-office, the privilege of circulating English newspapers was totally destroyed; and the Irish Post-office Secretary, circumstanced as that matter now stands, and upon which he also appears to Mr. Todd, does not, nor can circulate with any possible advantage to himself, a single English newspaper, and as the exclusive privilege which he formerly held in the Dublin-office of sending Irish newspapers to England, that is also totally taken away, such newspapers being made liable to British postage,  
and

and every person whatever, may under the British act of Parliament, send to and receive Irish newspapers in England, on the payment of one penny postage.

From a list of the names of persons in England and in Ireland supplied with newspapers by the Secretary, a copy of which was transmitted to Mr. Todd, the 22d of March last, it appeared that the emoluments arising therefrom, on due collection, would amount to £.403 a year.

Mr. Lees, at the same time that he transmitted to Mr. Todd that list, likewise sent him the names of such persons as were supplied with English newspapers in Ireland, by the several clerks of the roads, belonging to the the Dublin-office; when the separation of the Irish Post-office from the British Post-office took place, those officers having been by the English Act also deprived of their privilege; they accordingly represented their situation to the Irish Government, and the Lord Lieutenant, in consequence, from a principle of justice, ordered that an allowance equivalent to the loss stated to be sustained by each of the said clerks of the roads, should be placed upon the Irish establishment and paid quarterly. The same justice, Mr. Lees is warranted in asserting, would have been extended to Mr. Armit, the Secretary, had he been continued in that employment.

Mr. Lees's present appointment having only commenced with the Irish Act (the 1st of August last) which whilst it established the independency of the Irish Post-office, annulled the privileges formerly enjoyed by it's Secretary, he had no just right to claim compensation for what, from the

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time

time of his appointment to the War-office, in 1781, he had not been in the possession of, much less to expect an indemnification at the expence of Ireland, from an engagement made and continued for the support of a superannuated officer, belonging to the British Post-office, entered into ten years ago, when Ireland held her Post-office merely as a branch of the London-office.

Mr. Lees therefore conceives his original appointment having been given to him, with the privileges and consequent advantages above stated, as the very means by which he was expected and enabled to perform the engagements and conditions entered into under that appointment, that he ought in his future payments to be exempted in the amount of the loss sustained; such an exemption he is led to consider as an act of mere justice, and upon that principle hopes that he shall, in the judgment of the Post-master General of England, stand justified, if from the date of his late appointment he shall take upon him to deduct from the former stipulated remittance of £.812 the before mentioned sum of £.403, concluding as a necessary consequence, that Mr. Walcot will be equally exempted in his payments to Mr. Barham; and that provision will be made for that gentleman on Office Incidents, out of the revenue produced by the newspapers, or otherwise, according to the judgment of the Board; Because,

When it is adverted to, that the Irish Secretary has been deprived of his customary emoluments in the amount above stated, by an act of the British Legislature, founded on a deliberate system, calculated for the improvement of the British Revenue,  
it

it would be arraigning the justice, as well as candour, of the Post-master General, and of British Government, to suppose it possible, that under such circumstances, if the Secretary had even continued to derive under their appointment and authority, they could expect or exact from him the performance of such engagements.

It ought also to be adverted to, that on the separation of the Irish Post office, from that of Great Britain, the probability is, that the late Secretary would not have been continued in that station. The present circumstances of this country, the regulations necessary to be formed, and the system to be pursued in conducting the Post-office department, might have induced Government, independently of any attention to Mr. Lees, to make the change which actually took place in Mr. Armit's situation, in which case, as he, Mr. Armit stood thereby acquitted of every engagement to Mr. Barham, A. B. or Mr. Walcot, Mr. Lees became equally discharged; and if Irish Government had appointed any other person to that employment, such person unquestionably would not, nor could have been considered in any other respect whatsoever responsible for Mr. Armit's private engagements; Mr. Lees's late appointment, therefore, taken up in that point of view, stands without doubt, equally freed from such engagements.

Mr. Lees has hitherto confined himself to a mere statement of facts, so far as they respect the circumstances attending his original and present appointment in the Post-office. He now presumes to submit to the consideration of the Post-master General of England, how far it may appear con-



sistent or desirous that an officer of theirs, who had served the public honourably and faithfully upwards of fifty years, and who may now be considered as reduced, through old age and infirmities, to a state of imbecility, shall be left in that situation to a precarious maintenance, arising out of the income of an officer no longer acting under their authority, and from the present circumstances of his appointment, actually deprived of a moiety of that maintenance, which he had hitherto enjoyed, and even that moiety entirely depending on the the still more precarious tenure, the death or removal of that officer.

Mr. Lees is therefore persuaded that when the Post-master General shall be duly apprized of Mr. Barham's present dependent situation, and the possible distress to which in his moments he may be exposed, that they will instantly represent his case to the Lords of the Treasury, and obtain their Lordships warrant for allowing to Mr. Barham, on incidents, or out of the revenue accruing to the Post-Office from the lately adopted mode of circulating news-papers, an annuity during his life equal to the annuity paid to him, by Mr. Walcot, in consequence of remittance hitherto made to him for that purpose by the Secretary of the Irish Post-Office, since the 16th of November 1774, such annuity to be paid and payable from the 1st of August, 1784.

Such representation Mr. Lees humbly conceives, when the facts are known, will be made to, and admitted by the Lords of the Treasury, as a  
matter

matter of course, his case being shortly this, as may be submitted in a memorial conceived in terms to the following import :—

That about ten years ago, Mr. Barham being from age and infirmities rendered incapable of discharging his duty as agent for his Majesty's Packets at Dover, he was permitted to resign, upon the terms stated in the minute of Mr. Walcot's appointment in his room ; that since that time, in consequence of the terms stated in the minute appointing Mr. Lees Secretary to the Irish Post-office in the room of Mr. Walcot, Mr. Walcot had regularly received from the Irish Secretary, and paid over to Mr. Barham, an annual allowance out of the salary and emoluments of that department, of £.812 Irish currency. That in pursuance of an act lately passed, for rendering the Irish Post-office independent of that of Great Britain, and for establishing certain regulations therein mentioned, the Irish Secretary by that act became deprived of certain emoluments formerly arising to him from the privileges he had uninterruptedly enjoyed of circulating newspapers ; that such newspapers are, by the said act, now liable to a certain rate of postage, applicable to the revenue of Great Britain. That the appointment of the said secretary no longer depends upon us ; that in consideration thereof, and the loss he sustained by the regulation before mentioned respecting the circulation of newspapers, he has represented the same to us, and made it his request, that from and after the first day of August last, when the separation of the two offices took place, he may be exempted from  
the

the said annual payment to Mr. Walcot, for the use of Mr. Barham; that Mr. Barham is now near 80 years of age, &c.

Mr. Lees further takes the liberty to submit to the consideration of government in both kingdoms, whether from his present situation, necessarily confidential, attended with great labour and responsibility, where an expensive establishment, from the peculiar line in which he has been placed for many years in this kingdom, must as well in his immediate department, as from other causes not less essential to Government, and well known to Mr. Orde, be kept up; it may not be expedient and wise to liberate him entirely from every part of the engagements, under which he may in point of honour conceive himself personally bound to Mr. Walcot, for the benefit of Mr. Barham, so long as Mr. Walcot shall be obliged to perform to Mr. Barham the conditions of his appointment, as stated in Mr. Todd's letter, in Nov. 1774.

Upon the whole, confiding in the justice and candour of the Post-Master General of England, and relying on the wisdom and liberality of Administration in both kingdoms; Mr. Lees is willing to hope, that upon consideration of the facts and circumstances which he has stated, and of the representation of Mr. Orde, he shall be permitted to enjoy his present appointments in the Post-office, clearly and independently of the various incumbrances, with which it has been  
hitherto

hitherto oppressed, and that in making provision for Mr. Barham, Mr. Walcot will necessarily be exempted from any future payments to Mr. Barham,

J O H N L E E S,

GENERAL POST-OFFICE,

D U B L I N,

*November 15th, 1784.*

A P P E N .

A P P E N D I X.

N U M B E R II.

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Copy of a Letter from Mr. LEES,  
to Mr. TODD.

*General Post-Office, Dublin,*

*Dec. 20th, 1784:*

S I R,

I Have heard with very great concern, that Lord Carteret has expressed some disapprobation at my stating in the narrative, which I transmitted to you, the 23d past, that part of the transaction to which I was made subject, respecting the eventual annuity to A. B. to commence on the death of Mr. Barham.

No

No man has a better or a quicker understanding, more accurate ideas of justice, nor nicer feelings of honour and delicacy, than Lord Carteret; and there are but few indeed to whom I owe more sincere and real respect; and I am satisfied to have my conduct and my whole purpose in this business, canvassed and examined, by these principles only.

When this agreement was entered into, the consideration of that agreement, and the means by which I was enabled to perform it, were certain emoluments which I derived from the circulation of English news-papers, under an English act of parliament. The post-office laws are now totally changed. The Post-office of Ireland is governed by an Irish law; these emoluments which *have hitherto* furnished to me a principal part of the means of paying to Mr. Walcot, for the use of Mr. Barham, annually, since my appointment in 1774, the sum of £.812, and *that were* to enable me, on Mr. Barham's death, when the allowance to him should cease, to pay to A. B. an annuity of £. 350; are not only cut off from me, but are actually vested in the British Post-office, and are otherwise made applicable to the public revenue, by the charge of one penny postage on each paper.

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You,

You, I know, have said, and very recently, and having said it, I ought to believe, that it is your opinion that the privilege in question was not taken away from the Irish secretary; will you only have the kindness to advert to *your own* official authorized advertisement to the public, and there you will see that you give notice, that the Clerk of the Chester road will supply Ireland with English news-papers at the printed price charged thereon, being 3d. for each paper, with the additional expence, of one penny only for postage? and you will be pleased also to recollect, that from the moment the tendency of the separating act was known, and that your advertisement appeared, I and every person connected with this office (the two sorters excepted, who are permitted to supply the Printers and Coffee-Houses of Dublin, merely) discontinued the circulation of English news-papers in Ireland. You will also be pleased to recollect, that I transmitted to you, lists of the names of the persons supplied with English news-papers, by the secretary and clerks of this office. That I gave public and circular notice, that from the first of August last, persons in Ireland desirous of having English news-papers, must apply to the London office; and you must also recollect that on the 11th of September last, I referred you to a letter of the 11th of August preceding, with which I had transmitted a copy of the circular notice, given

ven by me to every newspaper correspondent in Ireland, that I had no other connection or concern, with English newspapers, than merely communicating to you the applications made for them to this office. From the Secretary's list of English and Irish newspapers which I sent you, it appeared that the profits resulting to him annually from that traffic, amounted, on due collection, to £.403; and in addition to what I have said, and the most conclusive answer that can be given to what you conceive on this subject, is, that from the commencement of the present Post-office laws, and my appointment in August last, I have neither directly or indirectly circulated a single British newspaper in this kingdom; and so far you will at least give me credit, that if I could have done it with any apparent advantage to myself, I would not have neglected the means that my knowledge of the business, my habits and connections in this country give me, over every other man, either in or out of the kingdom. So that whatever emolument arises from it, is now possessed entirely and exclusively by the London-office. With respect to the privilege of sending Irish newspapers to England, that privilege so far from being as heretofore exclusively enjoyed by the Secretary of this office, you know that it is now thrown open to every person who chuses to ex-



ercise it, on the payment of one penny postage, in the option by your advertisement, of the person either sending or receiving the paper; any profit consequently arising from that branch, has become so very trifling, as scarcely to deserve notice, being, as I have said, the right of any body and of every body.

But to return to the disapprobation expressed by Lord Carteret, in making my humble application to be discharged from an engagement, which, by the present Post-office laws, it became impossible for me to perform, either now, or after the death of Mr. Barham; I conceived it to be a duty not less due to myself than to A. B. to state the fact; but without going into the particulars of that transaction, or pointing it in any manner to any person whatsoever; and so careful have I been in this respect, that neither to Mr. Orde, Lord Tankerville, or Mr. Hamilton, have I ever disclosed the name, or any other circumstance relative to that transaction, further than, that after the death of Mr. Barham, I was liable to my engagements to Mr. Walcot, to pay an annuity to A. B. of £.350 a year. Had I concealed the outline of this fact, on this occasion, and the extent of the emolument, of which I have been deprived, I should have done injustice to myself, as well as to A. B. because relying on the original engagement, he might have complained

plained of want of candour in me, that whilst in seeking exemption for myself, and pointing out the means of permanent provision for Mr. Barham, I omitted to apprise the Post-masters General of the ultimate disappointment and loss to him, which they might have been led to seek occasion to compensate by some other mode of provision.

I am therefore willing to hope, that Lord Carteret, when he reconsiders my conduct in this business, will be induced to think, that I could not avoid stating it, without doing injustice to A. B. and eventually to myself; and that I have done it with every possible guard to delicacy. For, as I have said, no man, who was not privy to the original transaction, yet knows from me who A. B. is. No man can think it is, or can mean, and you know, it does not relate to any Post-master General, either living or dead; and it has personally, no more to do with Lord Carteret, than with the King of France.

Suffer me then, to hope, that any impression unkind towards me, which his Lordship may on this occasion have conceived, will be removed from his mind; and that I shall have the honour, and advantage of his Lordship's aid in relieving a man who actually does a duty, such as mine now is,  
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from the incumbrances stated in the paper transmitted to you the 23d of last month; and that without loss to any persons who may otherwise be the victims of the legislatures of both kingdoms, without their own default. Had the laws of each country remained the same, and had not the means been actually taken out of my hands, I should have continued to pay these annuities, before I paid for my seven childrens' dinner. An exemption in my remittances to Mr. Walcot, for the use of Mr. Barham, in the amount of the emoluments the legislature has deprived me of, I claim and consider, as an act of mere justice, which cannot, without injustice, be withheld from me; and in placing Mr. Barham on the Post-office Incidents to that amount only, thereby rendering that provision permanent to him, which whilst it depended on my life or removal, was precarious, although it confers a substantial benefit on Mr. Barham, conveys, except the pleasure I shall receive from knowing, that a very worthy man is securely provided for, no advantage whatever to me—because, as I have repeatedly stated, the legislature has actually taken away so much from me.

If the Post-master General shall, from the circumstances of my present situation in this office,  
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so fully and particularly pointed out in the statement of it, transmitted to you through Mr. Secretary Orde, be pleased to recommend to the Lords of his Majesty's Treasury, an entire exemption from all future remittances to Mr. Walcot, for the use of Mr. Barham. Exempt Mr. Walcot from further payments to that gentleman, and make suitable provision for Mr. Barham, on incidents, or out of the revenue accruing to the Post-office, from the lately adopted mode of circulating newspapers; then indeed I shall acknowledge and feel real and solid obligation,

I have troubled you with a much longer letter than I intended, written too under much anxiety, lest from what I have been informed fell from you, my conduct should be misunderstood by my Lord Carteret; and that, by bringing the subject again pointedly to your recollection, I wished that you might again be convinced that I neither do, nor possibly can, derive any advantage whatever from their circulation, whilst English news-papers are supplied at the present rates, and in the present manner by the London Post-Office, and this fact being impressed upon your mind, you must also be convinced, that in excepting me merely from the payment of what the legislature has

taken away, a substantial and permanent benefit, will thereby be conferred on Mr. Barham, and from that event, I shall derive pleasure, but to me personally, an act of strict justice only will be rendered.

I am always very respectfully,

Sir, &c.

J O H N   L E E S,

## N U M B E R III.

*Copy of a letter from Anthony Todd, Esq. to Charles Cox, Esq. Agent at Harwich.*

*General Post Office,  
May 11, 1787.*

S I R,

IT having been reported here that many mal-practices are carried on at Helvoet Sluys in regard to the passes given from thence to England, and that several persons, both foreigners and others, well able to pay the whole passage, have given money for half, free, and poor passes; and also, that larger sums have been taken for passes than are allowed by the Post Master General: and although it is not conceived, under the cheques that have been established, how such iniquitous practices can be carried on, yet it is not proper that such reports should be passed over without being most strictly inquired into. I am, therefore, to require you, in the most serious manner, to examine into this matter of all the captains and any passengers you may think proper, or by any other means in your power, and transmit to me the fullest information you may be able to procure both from your own knowledge and from what you may learn from other persons, to be laid before the Post Master General.

I am, Sir, &c.

ANTH. TODD, Sec.

To Charles Cox, Esq.  
Harwich.

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## NUMBER IV.

*Copy of a letter from Anthony Todd, Esq. to Samuel Hutchinson, Esq. Agent at Helvoetsluys.*

*General Post Office,  
Jan. 26, 1787.*

S I R,

LORD CARTERET brought to the Board here last Wednesday, your letter to his Lordship of the 10th instant, with some inclosures from Mr. Molineux to you, which I herewith return, and am commanded to acquaint you, that it is not possible to enter into all the disputes and bargains between you; and, therefore, to cut the matter short, and until your agreements are concluded, the only chance for you to keep your employment is not to fall in arrear with this revenue; nor the Agent at Harwich, or any of the captains; and to sign and send me every quarter the receipt for your salary, desiring me to pay the neat money of it to Mr. Molineux, and now enclosed is a blank receipt for the next quarter, which you will sign and return me. I gave your wife yesterday the bill you sent me upon Mr. Manley for 9l. 6s. finding she had already received the money by a general order of yours, which makes me wonder at your sending it to me for Mr. Molineux's immediate subsistence.

Lord Carteret has received your letter of the 24th instant, and I return you the letter therein from Mr. Molineux.

I am, Sir, &c.

ANTH. TODD, Sec.

Saml. Hutchinson,  
Helvoetsluys.

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## NUMBER V. (A.)

THE real motives of Lord Tankerville's dismissal from the Post Office are so little known, and the circumstances which attended it are so peculiar and unprecedented, that he thinks it concerns his reputation to lay before the public a detailed narrative of the whole transaction. But, before he takes that necessary step, he deems it proper, as a mark of respect to his Majesty's government, as well as of attention to those members of the Administration for whom he has long borne the highest personal regard, to communicate to Lord Sydney a general state of the case, with copies of letters to which it has given occasion.

It has not been generally understood in this country, that persons entitled by their rank to fill departments of high confidence and importance in the state, would condescend to accept such offices subject to the degrading contingency of being discarded without ceremony or qualification at the arbitrary pleasure of any man, or for the purposes of every occasional arrangement.

A pretension of this sort may have existed in the minds of ministers, but the principle has never been avowed, nor do the temper and spirit of the present juncture seem to favour its admission. In the instance of Lord Tankerville's dismissal, this claim was for the first time asserted in terms.

It was not, however, very strenuously insisted upon; and specific grounds were alledged by the Minister, to justify the measure.

Lord Sydney will naturally be led to conceive that these specific grounds had some connection



with Lord Tankerville's public character and conduct, or at least that they were so consistently stated, and accurately ascertained, as to preclude the possibility of all doubt and contradiction. Yet such is the singularity of this case, that every public consideration strongly and distinctly opposed the measure which has been adopted; and every circumstance of a private nature which arose in the course of the transaction, or has been referred to in the annexed correspondence, is obscured by contradictory declarations, and involved in the grossest personal inconsistencies.

An application from Lord Carteret to the Minister complaining of a personal disagreement with his colleague, insisting upon a new arrangement, and holding out a menace of resignation in case of a refusal, was the professed cause of Lord Tankerville's dismissal.

A disagreement between Lord Carteret and Lord Tankerville had indeed taken place, and the Minister well knew from what source it sprung. The following detail will enable Lord Sydney to judge of the decency of Lord Carteret's application, and of the propriety of the measure to which it gave rise.

When Lord Tankerville had the honour to be appointed Joint Post Master General in the great ministerial revolution of 1782, he found Lord Carteret in office, and he left him there upon the change of Administration in the beginning of the succeeding year. During this whole period, the most perfect cordiality had subsisted between the Post Masters General; and they parted with all the forms of personal civility and regret. In the course of that period, Lord Tankerville had indeed observed, and had

had endeavoured to apply a remedy to the gross mismanagement which had long disgraced the Post Office; and very early in that period, one transaction of long standing had been brought to the notice of Lord Tankerville, which tended to fix some degree of reproach upon the official conduct of his colleague. It was nothing less than a bargain for an appointment to a situation of the highest trust in the patronage of the office. But as the terms of the stipulation appeared to include the parties only who were concerned in the succession, and who are men of unblemished character and honour, and as the result of the bargain was evidently in favour of a person \* who was known to be connected with the other Joint Post Master General of that date, Lord Tankerville, though he was sensible of the great impropriety of the measure, yet willingly attributed it to a mistaken compliance, and did not allow himself to entertain any suspicion of improper intentions on the part of Lord Carteret. The transaction, however, stands recorded in the minutes of the office; the faith of the department was pledged to the ostensible terms of the bargain: and government has lately been unavoidably burthened with a payment of £.400 a year in order to make it good.

But in a short time after the last change of administration, when Lord Tankerville returned to the Post-Office, and Lord Carteret still continued in it, a new and unexpected light was thrown upon this transaction, which led to a direct impeachment of Lord Carteret's official integrity.

It appeared that the agreement which stands upon the Minutes, and has occasioned a charge of

\* Lord Le Despencer.

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£.400 a year upon the public, was but a part of the business; and that the appointment alluded to, was in fact disposed of, for an additional consideration of a remote payment of £.500 a-year, of which annual sum £.350 was to go to the benefit of a *nominee* of Lord Carteret. In the information which was laid before the Post Master General, the party who is to receive the profit of this last stipulation, is no otherwise described than by the letters "A. B." It is but fair to observe, that, according to the information, the annuity is not "personally" for the benefit of Lord Carteret. Different surmises were formed upon the occasion; but Lord Tankerville was led by high authority to conclude, that the bond was in favour of a very close connection of Lord Carteret.

Lord Sydney may be assured that no private connection of Lord Carteret would have been introduced into this narrative, if that connection had not been permitted to have too much influence in the Office.

His Lordship must perceive to what an excess of malversation an influence of that kind might be extended.—If it is in any degree to be measured by the abuses actually subsisting in the Office, and is supposed to be connected with them, it is indeed an object of the most serious public consideration.

Enough has been said, at least, to give weight and importance to general rumours, upon that topic, and to account for the suspicious vigilance which this discovery excited in Lord Tankerville.

It is not meant to go into a review of the administration of the Post-Office. That enquiry will call for great diligence and no small degree of firmness, if ever the Commissioners of Accounts should be permitted to enter upon it. Nor is it necessary now

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to give a particular detail even of the abuses which may naturally be supposed to flow from improper interests or influence: such as the constant protection afforded to the person who is the chief gainer by the actual state of the office, or indecent and incompetent appointments to some of the most efficient situations. It will be sufficient to specify two cases only, in which the influence in question was clear and indisputable, and which gave occasion to the personal misunderstanding between the Post Masters General.

The cases alluded to, are those of a Mr. Staunton, and of a person lately appointed house-keeper to the office. In the first instance, the revenue was to a certain degree taxed by surprise; and, but for the inflexible opposition of Lord Tankerville, sanctioned by the minister himself, would have been much more considerably burthened in favour of an inefficient individual, who is loaded with lucrative appointments, without rendering the slightest service to the public.

In the second instance an attempt was made to create a new precedent of official expence. The immediate charge upon the public was not very considerable: but the case was so totally unexampled in the office, that Lord Tankerville offered to subscribe half the sum, rather than suffer such a precedent to be established.

The principle, as Lord Sydney has seen, was important; and the measure was effectually resisted for that time, at least by Lord Tankerville.

It was upon this occasion that Lord Carteret forgot his ordinary caution, and lost his usual command of temper. The expressions which escaped him, and still more the tone and manner in which they

they were delivered, produced a formal remonstrance, in the course of the same day, on the part of Lord Tankerville.

To this remonstrance Lord Tankerville received as conciliatory and condescending an answer as could be dictated in an occurrence of that nature.

Lord Sydney will be surprised to learn, that within two days from the date of these peaceful professions, Lord Carteret waited upon the Minister with the personal complaint against Lord Tankerville, which occasioned his removal; still less will his Lordship be prepared to hear that the Minister was well apprized of every essential circumstance which has been stated, when he yielded to Lord Carteret's request, alledging to Lord Tankerville, "that he "could not enter into the merits of the question." Least of all would Lord Sydney suspect, that in the representation of what passed in private interviews between persons of such high consequence and situation, the whole business is involved in a degree of inconsistency and contradiction, that must fix (without a sort of elucidation which the annexed correspondence has not produced) the most indelicate personal imputations upon one or other of the parties.

However conveniently a vacancy in the Post-Office might be adapted to some late arrangements, yet Lord Carteret's application to the Minister could not fail to embarrass him. To be brought forward as the avenger of a private quarrel, was a situation altogether new. To decide the matter upon the public merits, would oblige him to choose between a sacrifice of character on one side, and the resentment of Lord Carteret's connexions on the other. He appeared, in Lord Tankerville's first conference upon  
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this occurrence, to be fully sensible of the distress of this dilemma.

Lord Tankerville was so conscious of his own rectitude, and had so much confidence in that of the Minister, that he placed his honour in his hands, and “ offered to resign in perfect good humour, if he, the Minister, would pronounce him to have been in “ the wrong.”

The Minister replied that he could make no such declaration, and said, that nothing could be handsomer than Lord Tankerville’s conduct. He rejected the idea of making any change in the office, and expressed a strong desire that a reconciliation might be effected.

Lord Tankerville was induced by these circumstances, with the participation of the Minister, to write to Lord Carteret, in terms of the greatest *personal* civility, in answer to the conciliatory letter above-mentioned.

In reply, Lord Carteret declared, “ that every “ thing that had passed was *on his part buried in “ oblivion.*” He added, indeed, that he was in expectation of an answer to the application he had made to the Minister : but Lord Tankerville did not think himself at liberty to annex to this latter declaration a meaning which would make it incompatible with what immediately preceded in the same letter ; nor could he conceive that the Minister, in the professed disposition in which he had left him, and in the extreme delicacy of the case, would be inclined to take a further step in the business, without an urgent renewal of Lord Carteret’s application, supported by the whole force of his Lordship’s connections.

Some new event was necessary, in order to main-

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tain the credit of the Minister's consistency, if he should come to a sudden resolution respecting Lord Tankerville's dismissal.

Accordingly, at the decisive interview, the Minister informed him, "*that he had seen Lord Carteret again*, and found that they were not "likely to go on well together." He gave Lord Tankerville to understand, that his resolution was taken, and said, "he could not go into the "merits."

Lord Sydney will observe, that in the course of the annexed correspondence, Lord Carteret has positively and distinctly asserted, "*that he saw the Minister but once*". Mr. Pitt declared "*that he had seen him again*." So direct a contradiction may call for some explanation between the parties, but it requires no comment.

In reality, the whole transaction is a series of contradictions. On the one hand, Lord Carteret making the strongest professions of a desire for peace, applies to the Minister for vengeance. Repeating these professions, and even protesting that every thing was *buried in oblivion*, he either renews or persists in his application. Lastly, in the midst of the most solemn declarations, that he had "no hostile intentions," he leaves the Minister no alternative, but to accept his resignation, or to determine upon the removal of Lord Tankerville.

On the other hand, the Minister, after exciting the jealousy of Lord Carteret, by confining almost exclusively his confidence, and every important official communication, to his colleague, is governed by the personal resentment of the former, in a business of so much delicacy as Lord Tankerville's dismissal; and to sum up the whole, after the  
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most boastful professions of a determination to promote official oeconomy and reform, he, in effect, by his final preference of Lord Carteret, gives the sanction of his authority and approbation, in the gross, to all the abuses which have been here stated, which were perfectly and specifically known to him, and which he had uniformly condemned in the detail.

Lord Tankerville has no satisfaction in reflecting on such topics: on the contrary; he wishes it were possible for him to separate the proper points of public discussion from so many circumstances of personal imputation. It is enough for him, if, in repelling the indignity of an unprecedented and unqualified dismissal, he shall be able to shew that it was incurred by an inflexible resolution to acquit himself with fidelity in his station, and by a conscientious regard to the obligation of his official oath.

TANKERVILLE.

No. V. (B.)

*Lord Tankerville to Lord Carteret.*

*June 14th, 1786.*

MY LORD,

I have only to desire, in case Mr. Rose should seem not to recollect the substance of the conversation at Brighton, relative to the Comptroller's house, that you will acquaint me of it, as it is my intention to remind Mr. Pitt of what passed, being determined to stand on clear ground, and finding it necessary to act with every caution, in the very peculiar circumstances of the present moment.

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I should not have troubled your Lordship on this matter, had you not seemed to doubt my assertions, which made me question you at the time on a mode of conduct which no man shall dare to hold towards me; and I cannot help observing, that there seemed to be something bordering on personal disrespect, which I feel much disposed to resent, and desire to have explained,

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) TANKERVILLE.

*Lord Carteret to Lord Tankerville.*

*Curzon Street, June 15th, 1786.*

MY LORD,

I assure your Lordship that I did not mean to doubt any assertions made by you in our conversation of yesterday, neither did I intend shewing any personal disrespect to your Lordship. I am, therefore, sorry that you should for a moment have considered it in that light. If you please, I will call upon you between one and two o'clock.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) CARTERET.

*Lord Tankerville to Lord Carteret.*

*Portman Square, June 15th, 1786.*

Lord Tankerville presents his compliments to Lord Carteret, and is extremely sorry he cannot  
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have the honor of seeing his Lordship at the time he mentions, being obliged to go out of town.

*Lord Carteret to Lord Tankerville.*

*Curzon Street, June 17, 1786.*

MY LORD,

When I wrote to your Lordship t'other day, that I would, if you pleased, call upon you, it was my intention to have informed you, that I should desire Mr. Pitt would make an arrangement for me, which might in future prevent any offence to your Lordship, even unintentionally.

I am now leaving town, and am this moment come from him, and have requested him to make it for me, either in the Post Office, or elsewhere, as may best suit his convenience. Had I seen your Lordship t'other day, I should not now have troubled you ; but I think it fair to give you this information, as your Lordship may possibly wish to talk to Mr. Pitt upon the subject.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) CARTERET.

N. B. The following letter was written in conformity with the wishes of Mr. Pitt, and with a view to relieve *him*: it relates only to Lord Carteret's *personal* apology, to which Lord Tankerville had not before returned an answer.

*Lord*

*Lord Tankerville to Lord Carteret.*

*Walton, June 24th, 1786.*

MY LORD,

I am extremely sorry not to have had an opportunity of seeing your Lordship before I left town, as I flatter myself you would have been convinced, that so far from retaining any resentment, after the very handsome letter I received from you, I was anxious to meet you upon terms of the most perfect reconciliation, and I shall be very glad to hear that your Lordship feels the same disposition towards me.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) TANKERVILLE.

*Lord Carteret to Lord Tankerville.*

*Haynes, June 29, 1786.*

MY LORD,

I am extremely glad to find that your Lordship is fully satisfied with my letter on the 15th instant, and beg to assure your Lordship, that every thing which passed at that time, is on my part also buried in oblivion.

My request to Mr. Pitt (which I then acquainted your Lordship with) is still before him; and he informed me, that as soon as he shall have made any arrangement, I should hear from him.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) CARTERET.

*Lord*

*Lord Tankerville to Lord Carteret.*

*September 1st, 1786.*

MY LORD,

Had your Lordship been in town, to give me an opportunity of a personal explanation, I should have preferred it for many reasons to the necessity I am now under of writing to you on so disagreeable a subject.

You may easily conceive my surprize, when I heard from Mr. Pitt, that an application from your Lordship, stating differences between the Post Master General, had given rise to a new arrangement, by which I, with the greatest injustice, was to lose my office.

After the letters which passed, and your Lordship's assurances that every thing was *buried in oblivion*, it behoved your Lordship to acquaint Mr. Pitt with that fact; for having asserted to him, that there were differences of such magnitude, as to make a new arrangement necessary, it was incumbent on your Lordship, when those differences were reconciled by an amicable explanation, to have communicated it to Mr. Pitt without loss of time. And if your Lordship had done so, Mr. Pitt would not have pretended, which he did, upon the grounds of *what fell from your Lordship when he saw you last*, "that we were not likely to go on well together;" a thing necessary, he said, for the good of the public service.

I must also acquaint your Lordship, that when I saw Mr. Pitt after your *first interview*, his language was very different; and when I stated to him  
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the points upon which we disagreed, I offered to resign, in perfect good humour, if he would only say he thought me wrong. He would give me no such opinion, but acknowledged that nothing could be handsomer than my conduct. He assured me he did not wish to make any change in the office, and that your request was very distressing to him.

The more extraordinary your Lordship's original application to the Minister was, (for it amounted to this, either remove Lord Tankerville, or make another arrangement for Lord Carteret) the sooner you should, in candour to me, on our amicable explanation, have either withdrawn your request, or confined it to your own change of situation (in case your Lordship still wished to leave the Post Office).

Does your Lordship mean to contend, that by adding a paragraph to your letter of reconciliation, making mention that *your request to Mr. Pitt was still before him*, that I had notice of your Lordship's abiding by your former opinion, of the necessity of one of us going out? If you do, I profess I had too good an opinion of your sincerity, to give to this paragraph so unfavourable an interpretation; and I venture to say, that no fair man whatever would have construed such paragraph, following the strongest assurances of reconciliation, in an adverse sense.

But if, in positive contradiction to your assurances, your Lordship really meant to convey to my mind, that you still harboured the same hostile intentions towards me, you ought to have been more direct; so direct that I could not have mistaken your meaning; and yet I begin to suspect,  
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from the event; that your Lordship was determined, even then, to bring it to that issue; and that at a time you were declaring to me that all differences were "buried in oblivion," you were contributing to make the pretence of such differences the grounds of my removal.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) TANKERVILLE.

*Lord Carteret to Lord Tankerville.*

*Haynes, Sept. 7, 1786.*

MY LORD;

SINCE my receiving your Lordship's last letter, I have read over my letter to you of the 29th of June, in answer to your Lordship's of the 24th; and I cannot help thinking it informed your Lordship, that I then remained in the same intention as before, relating to an arrangement being made for me; for after saying, I am very glad to find your Lordship fully satisfied with my letter of the 15th, and that every thing which had past at that time was on my part also buried in oblivion; had I meant to give up thoughts of the arrangement, I certainly should not have added, that my request to Mr. Pitt (which I had before acquainted your Lordship with) was still before him, and that he had promised I should hear from him when he had made an arrangement.

As to any hostile intentions to your Lordship, I declare I had none; I never was with Mr. Pitt but once; I immediately informed your Lordship of what had passed with him, that you might take

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your measures accordingly; and I am sure that Mr. Pitt will do me the justice to say, that my request to him was to *put me* in a situation that I might have no further difference with your Lordship; and that I was ready to *take any other situation* he pleased: and from that day, till a short time before Lord Clarendon kissed hands, I did not know whether I was to continue in the Post-Office or not. Whatever difference of opinion there may have been between your Lordship and me, I have always felt myself incapable of acting otherwise than fairly and openly; and if your Lordship has considered my last letter in any other light, I do assure you, when I wrote it, I did not think it could bear that interpretation.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) CARTERET.

*Lord Tankerville to Lord Carteret.*

*Sept. 10th, 1786.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE received your Lordship's letter of the 7th. In this, you assure me, that you had no "hostile intentions" towards me, in the request you made to Mr. Pitt; at the same time, your Lordship acknowledges, that you never meant to give up thoughts of an arrangement, which, by a reference to your letter of the 17th of June, appears to be an alternative "either in the Post Office, or elsewhere." Now, my Lord, whether I am injured or not by this request, will be decided by  
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the fair and obvious meaning of the words, and by your subsequent conduct. And as there is some ambiguity in the words, and mystery in your conduct, I am warranted to ask your Lordship, not only what was your intention in putting the alternative, but likewise what you conveyed to the mind of Mr. Pitt, when you saw him on the business? and as you saw him but *once*, what any body else did declare in your name, during your absence?

Had a clerk in the Office solicited us, when Joint Post-masters General, for an arrangement, because he and his colleagues did not agree, we should have understood his meaning to be, either our interference to make peace in the Office, or his removal to another department. But how does a request in this language apply to the situation of Post Master General, who in the Office can have no other department? Unless, therefore, I am much mistaken, your request meant, and could mean nothing else, than the removal of one of the Post Masters to another department in the State. Here then I make my stand; and to this point I have had no satisfactory answer.

Your Lordship had a right to tender your own office, by requesting an exchange; but neither directly or indirectly to bargain for mine.

If by the word arrangement, you meant the interference of the Minister to reconcile differences between the Post Masters General, (which, indeed, is a forced construction, and probably was not in your contemplation) I must say, that such proposal to a third person was both improper and unnecessary: and this brings me again to repeat my complaints to your Lordship, that you saw Mr.

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Pitt



Pitt but once, and that you did not seek an opportunity to declare to him the satisfaction you felt in the reconciliation which had taken place; and if you did not please to express a readiness to go on with me in the Office, that you did not at least limit your request to your own change of situation. Something was due to me in fairness, considering the ground you had taken, and still abide by, that some arrangement was necessary for your sake; and it is now clear beyond a doubt, both from what has happened, and from Mr. Pitt's language at my first interview with him, soon after the receipt of your letter, that your Lordship having distressed him by your request, it was in your power, had you been willing, to have relieved him from that distress, by an explanation in time. The not doing it (and I do not find by your Lordship's last letter, that you ever meant to do it) has been an essential injury to me, and tended to transfer a quarrel, which began between you and me, to me and another person.

What, therefore, is still due to me, I leave to your Lordship's consideration.

(Signed) TANKERVILLE.

*Lord Carteret to Lord Tankerville.*

*Haynes, Sept. 15, 1786.*

MY LORD,

I, from regard, do not omit acknowledging your Lordship's letter of the 10th instant; but considering myself liable to no accusation, and the contents principally affecting what may have passed between

Mr.

Mr. Pitt and your Lordship, since my having seen him, I have thought it most becoming to refer them to him, not thinking myself answerable for a public measure I was unacquainted with.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) CARTERET.

*Lord Tankerville to Lord Carteret.*

*Sept. 17, 1786.*

MY LORD,

IF the transaction, for some explanation of which I have repeatedly applied to your Lordship, could come under the description of "a public measure you were unacquainted with," you would have been spared the trouble of the present correspondence.

The subject of my complaint is a complicated personal injury, very singular in its kind; and since an extraordinary step taken by your Lordship has been stated to have given *rise* to the transaction, you will, I trust, perceive that your own honor is not less concerned than mine in the explanation I am compelled to require.

Your Lordship makes profession of fairness and openness. Surely nothing can be more fair than that I should be acquainted with the detail of what passed between Mr. Pitt and your Lordship on this occasion; that I should be informed explicitly "what was your intention in putting the alternative of an arrangement *either in the Post Office, or elsewhere?* what you conveyed to the mind of Mr. Pitt, when you saw him on the business; and

“and if you saw him but once, what any body else may have declared to him in your name, or with your knowledge?”

It is surely fair that I should be informed upon what principle your Lordship suffered your application for an arrangement in the office to remain before Mr. Pitt, or neglected to explain to him that your request extended *only* to your own situation, after your declaration to me that what had past was on your part buried in oblivion?”

If your Lordship will do me the favour to give my last letter a second reading, you cannot avoid seeing that it refers almost wholly to these inquiries, and very little to “what passed between Mr. Pitt and me.” Your Lordship will, I think, admit that every branch of these inquiries must be of some importance to yourself. With respect to me, you will doubtless perceive, that an unexampled arrangement which may affect me so materially, calls for the minutest investigation on my part; that an application from me, for lights and information on this subject, neither can nor ought to be evaded by any person connected with the transaction; and that I have claims upon your Lordship, in particular, for communications of this sort, founded on other grounds than your Lordship’s condescension, or the regard you so obligingly profess for me.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) TANKERVILLE.

Lord

*Lord Tankerville to Lord Carteret.*

*September 28, 1786.*

MY LORD,

I THINK it highly unfortunate, both for your Lordship and myself, that I have not been able to satisfy you, that the enquiries which have formed the subject of my late letters, relate to points that personally, and in the most delicate manner, affect your Lordship. You would readily conjecture, and I have distinctly explained to you, how far my own feelings are engaged in those questions. They cannot ultimately be evaded. In my opinion character is the first object in life; and I will not suffer mine to remain subject to imputation or to doubt.

The more important subjects which at this moment occupy my attention, prevent me from dwelling on matters of ceremony, or insisting upon my right to expect regular answers to my letters. I cannot suppose that you intend to offer me a personal affront; and your Lordship's silence may be differently explained. But whether it is to be interpreted into an admission of the inconsistencies which struck me in your accounts of this transaction, or whether you are embarrassed by the contradiction in which Mr. Pitt's statement of this business seems to stand with the representation given of it by your Lordship; it is equally important to me, and I still add to your Lordship, that this silence should be broken by some explicit

explicit declaration; which may direct me to the source of the injury I have sustained, and enable me to determine upon the conduct it may be expedient for me to adopt, without recurring to measures that ~~must~~ prove, in the highest degree, distressing to your Lordship.

I shall take the liberty to suggest to you some of the inconveniencies that must result to yourself from your present silence.

If Mr. Pitt had thought proper to dispossess me of my situation by a mere stretch of power, it would have given occasion to a discussion, in which your Lordship might justly have maintained that you could have no concern. But since he has condescended to assign the grounds of this measure, and has ascribed it to the urgent application and repeated representations of your Lordship, you are become a principle in the business; and you cannot but foresee that, in consequence of your present reserve, you will unavoidably be reduced to the serious dilemma either of contradicting this state of the case in the face of the public, or of reconciling the fact with your Lordship's declaration to me, that "*all that had passed between us*" was on your part buried in oblivion."

Your Lordship will at the same time naturally reflect upon the prejudice which must necessarily be excited in the public mind by an avowed reference on the part of your Lordship to ministerial authority, and by the invocation of ministerial vengeance in an occurrence of so delicate a kind as a personal misunderstanding between two individuals.

The manner in which your Lordship received the remonstrance which gave occasion to this extraordinary

traordinary application to a minister, did not carry with it so vindictive an appearance.

The circumstances that led to our altercation, and those which drew from me that remonstrance, had doubtless at the moment their due effect upon your Lordship's feelings, and your Lordship is consequently the best judge of the impression which a disclosure of those circumstances is likely to produce upon the opinion of the public.

For my own part, I cannot look forward without sincere and sensible concern to the embarrassments in which your Lordship is involving yourself, by compelling me to have recourse, in the first instance, to a public explanation of the whole transaction. The injury and the indignity which I so strongly resent, are supported by pretences that do not deserve to be combated, and can only be exposed. But I call upon your Lordship to bear in mind, that the consequences will not be imputable to me, if, in pursuing the only course which is left open, for the vindication of my conduct and character, I should be obliged to bring forward a variety of particulars of a very delicate nature, and of remote as well as recent dates, by which your Lordship will be more sensibly affected than even by the points to which I have already alluded.

If the disagreements between your Lordship and me are admitted to be the cause of my removal, it is a duty I owe myself, to trace those disagreements to their source, without considering what persons or connections may be affected by the enquiry. I will venture to say they will be found to have originated from a determination on my part to adhere to a conscientious discharge of  
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my

my duty, and to counteract a species of influence which is understood to have pervaded the Office, before I had the honour to be connected with it.

Upon the whole, your Lordship must perceive, that you can derive no advantages from the most stubborn silence, that will not be overbalanced by circumstances of humiliation, which an honourable mind cannot easily endure.

You see, my Lord, with what candour and openness I have put you in possession of my sentiments and determinations; and I am not without hope that your Lordship will feel the propriety of being equally communicative with respect to the subject of my enquiries.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) TANKERVILLE,

*Lord Carteret to Lord Tankerville.*

*Albury-Hall, Sept. 29th, 1786,*

MY LORD,

THOUGH I feel myself extremely desirous of giving your Lordship every light you could wish on the subject you have written to me upon, yet I find it impossible to explain my conversation with Mr. Pitt in a fuller manner than I have already done, in my first letter to your Lordship, on the day that I had the honour of seeing him. And as your Lordship, in your answer to that, was pleased to say, that you were fully satisfied, I must confess I did not expect, at so great a distance of time, to have heard further on the subject, in consequence of your last interview with Mr. Pitt, the substance of which,  
being

being unacquainted with the decision, cannot be imputed to me. I have only to repeat my assurances that no personal disregard was meant to your Lordship, and that

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) CARTERET.

*Lord Tankerville to Lord Carteret.*

*October 5th, 1786.*

MY LORD,

IF your Lordship had favoured me with an earlier acknowledgment of my letter of the 17th of last month, it would in one particular have abridged the very long letter with which I troubled your Lordship some days since. I cannot, my Lord; conceal my surprize, that you should attempt to torture my conciliatory letter of the 24th of June, into an approbation of the step you had taken, in preferring a complaint against me to the Minister, in a matter purely personal. Mr. Pitt, I am persuaded, bears in mind with what little reserve or respect I treated that proceeding, when I learned from him that your Lordship had not produced against me the slightest charge of official misconduct, but that your complaint turned wholly upon personalities, on the subject of which you had not scrupled to make ample private explanations.

At the same time Mr. Pitt declared himself *distressed* by your application for an arrangement in the office, and as he expressed his wishes that *no change might take place, but that we might go on well together*, I immediately determined to write a con-



ciliatory letter to your Lordship. I acquainted Mr. Pitt with my intention, and on the following day, the 24th of June, I sent your Lordship the letter, the purport of which is so entirely perverted and misrepresented in that which I last received from you.

The letter in question was intended as an answer to the *very handsome* letter I had received from your Lordship, *before I left town*, and by no means to the very offensive one, dated two days later, to which I studiously forbore to allude; it was intended to express my general wish for a reconciliation, and my perfect satisfaction with your explanatory letter of the 15th June, and by no means to convey an approbation of a proceeding, which must ever impress my mind with sentiments of a very different nature.

An accurate deduction of facts and dates may perhaps obviate all future misapprehensions, or misrepresentations; and whatever contradictions such a detail may tend to expose, whether in the same persons, or between different persons, it will at least shew that my conduct in this transaction has been clear and consistent.

The personal dispute took place on the 14th of June, and my expostulatory letter to your Lordship bore the same date.

On the 15th, you wrote to me in the most explicit terms, disclaiming all intention of personal disrespect, and expressing much concern that I should have considered what had passed as having that tendency. You added, that if *I pleased*, you would call on me.

The manner in which this proposal was introduced, led me to conclude, that you only wished to confirm in person what you had declared in your letter, and, as I did not wish for any farther apology, and was  
then

then going out of town, I wrote word that I could not have the honor to see you that morning.

On the 17th, however, you thought proper to write me another letter, which assigns a different object to that proposed visit; and informs me, that if you had seen me, it was your intention to impart to me your resolution of applying to Mr. Pitt, to make an arrangement for you *in the Post Office*, or elsewhere.

On the 23d I waited upon Mr. Pitt. I have already stated to you the material part of what passed in that interview; and I have accounted for my letter of reconciliation, which you are pleased to consider as an acknowledgment of full satisfaction, on my part, upon the subject of your complaint to Mr. Pitt, when, in truth, by the strongest internal evidence, it clearly and solely refers to your apology of the 15th.

But to confute this pretence by a testimony which you will hardly controvert, in your letter of the 29th, you admit the very point which you now think proper to deny. You expressly say “you are extremely glad to find that I am fully satisfied with your letter of the 15th instant,” without conceiving it to refer to your letter of the 17th.

Your Lordship will no longer, I believe, contend, “that I am now, *at so great a distance of time*, renewing a dispute upon a subject, respecting which *I had been pleased to declare myself fully satisfied*,” or that I ever *answered*, or even alluded to the *first* letter you wrote to me on the business of your *interview* with Mr. Pitt, until the contradictions which arose in the subsequent stages of the business obliged me to bring the whole matter to a point.

I have entered with this minute detail into the solution

lution of an imputed inconsistency in my own conduct (although in an instance of no real importance; and although the imputation brought in your last letter is contradicted in a preceding one), in order to furnish an example of that fair, open, and satisfactory mode of proceeding which I have in vain expected from your Lordship.

The long letter with which I have very lately troubled your Lordship, makes it unnecessary to pursue this deduction any farther at present. That letter will convince you, that my dissatisfaction does not arise from any supposed violation of politeness or respect, to which your Lordship seems to restrain it, but that the explanations I require, refer to points, which, in my opinion, are intimately connected with character and situation. It will also shew you that my enquiries are not confined to the objects of *one interview*, and of *one conversation*, you may have had with Mr. Pitt, but that a considerable part of my difficulty arises from the suppression of what has passed in subsequent conversations, and at subsequent interviews, if not between Mr. Pitt and your Lordship, at least between Mr. Pitt and some other person representing you.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) TANKERVILLE.

*Lord Carteret to Lord Tankerville.*

*London, Oct. 5th, 1786.*

MY LORD,

YOU will before this time have received my letter of the 29th, in which I have told your Lordship

ship that it is my desire to give you every light in my power upon the subject of our correspondence. I could do no more than repeat what I have already said passed between Mr. Pitt and me at the time I acquainted you with it. Your Lordship, I find, expects a public explanation from me. Whenever I shall be called upon for it, I shall be able to shew, under Mr. Pitt's hand, that I have had no further share in this business than making a request to him for an arrangement that would prevent any further difference of opinion between your Lordship and me; and that in case he should find that impracticable, I was ready to resign my present employment.

I cannot think myself inconsistent, in not acquainting Mr. Pitt, that every thing that had passed was buried in oblivion; because at the same time I made that declaration, I told your Lordship that I was in expectation of an arrangement taking place.

If your Lordship should not hear from me again upon this subject, unless you think proper to bring it before the public, I must beg the favour of you not to impute my silence to disrespect, but to its true motive, which is that of having given every information to your Lordship that has come to my knowledge.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) CARTERET.

*Lord*

*Lord Tankerville to Mr. Pitt.*

*Brighton, Oct. 10th, 1786.*

SIR,

IT is peculiarly painful to me, to be reduced to the necessity of drawing your attention to a continuation of a very tedious correspondence between Lord Carteret and me, at a juncture when your mind must be deeply affected by a domestic affliction, in which, I can assure you, that I take a very sensible share.

I have already intimated to you, that it is my fixed determination not to submit in silence to a treatment that has no precedent, and which was certainly not incurred by any provocation, except what may have arisen from an inflexible resolution on my part to discharge conscientiously the duties of my office.

But, Sir, while I renew this declaration to you, I persuade myself you will easily believe, that I should not have thought of recurring to you, in a matter of private dispute with Lord Carteret, if his Lordship had not, in a late instance, transmitted to you some letters of mine of a very delicate nature and tendency, upon the same principle, no doubt, though not exactly in the same circumstances, as, at the opening of this business, he implored the interference of your ministerial power in an occurrence equally personal.

After this reference, however, on the part of his Lordship, I think it absolutely incumbent upon me to submit to you the remaining part of this correspondence,

respondence, that you may not be led to form a conclusive judgment upon a partial view of the subject; and that you may see how pointedly Lord Carteret's representation of his application to you contradicts the accounts of that measure, which I have received from your mouth.

His Lordship is indeed engaged in a labyrinth of contradictions, from which I fear it will not be even in your power to relieve him.

How far you may be engaged to extricate him, it may not become me to inquire; but, I confess, the delicacy of my particular situation leads me to expect that you will not be disinclined to throw some light upon the subject.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) TANKERVILLE.

*Lord Tankerville to Mr. Pitt.*

*Oct. 29th, 1786.*

S I R,

THE example of Lord Carteret would not have determined me to trouble you with any part of a correspondence, that turns in a great degree upon personal points, if motives of delicacy towards you, and of justice to myself, had not compelled me to it. The consideration of a direct contradiction between persons *in eminent station, and of such high consequence*, affected me sensibly; and I should not have felt myself justified in bringing before the public a circumstance of so serious a stamp, even in the progress of my own vindication, without affording you, as well as his Lordship, an opportunity

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portunity of accounting for the material differences which occur in your statements of the same transaction. Actuated by these sentiments, I flattered myself, that the communication I lately made to you, would be honoured with some notice; and I was confirmed in this expectation, when I understood that Lord Carteret's application to you, respecting the former part of the correspondence, had seemed to interest you in the question, and induced you to give him some satisfaction upon the subject. Without contesting at present his Lordship's pretensions to superior political merits or importance, I may undoubtedly plead some claim to the ordinary and established forms of attention.

Having said this, Sir, I beg leave to repeat, that it is the circumstance of extreme delicacy affecting yourself, which makes me principally anxious to hear from you on this occasion.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) TANKERVILLE.

*Mr. Pitt to Lord Tankerville.*

*Hollwood, Nov. 18th, 1786.*

MY LORD,

I AM sorry that my having been so much at a distance from town, added to other engagements, has so long prevented my answering your Lordship's letters. I must, however, beg to decline entering into any discussion on the subject to which they relate; as, after the explanation which passed when I had the honor of seeing your Lordship, I can have nothing to add, unless there should be  
any

any particular point misunderstood between your Lordship and Lord Carteret, which it may be in my power to clear up.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) W. P I T T.

*Lord Tankerville to Mr. Pitt.*

*Nov. 27, 1786.*

S I R,

AFTER the very considerable space of time during which my letters have been before you, it is with no small degree of disappointment and surprize I perceive your determination to decline entering into any discussion on the subject to which they relate. My principal object in attempting to renew that discussion, was, that the charge I am preparing to maintain in the face of the public, might be mixed as little as possible with any matter of private or personal imputation.

My astonishment, I confess, was great, when the most material part of the declaration you made to me, at our last meeting, and that which was intended to account for your final resolution with respect to my dismissal, and for the sudden variation in your sentiments upon that point, was directly and peremptorily contradicted by Lord Carteret. I felt myself called upon by the claims of past connection, and by my respect for his Majesty's government, to represent to both parties the full force of the contradiction; and I still feel all the delicacy of the circumstance.

The subject must be publicly, if not privately  
 K 2    discussed;



discussed; and your unwillingness to enter upon the consideration of it, leaves me at liberty to form my own conclusions.

Your present anxiety is confined to the situation of Lord Carteret; and in truth, Sir, his Lordship is in want of your assistance: for, in the course of this business, he is not more in contradiction with you than with himself. The entire state of the case, as far as his Lordship is interested, is comprehended in the correspondence, of which I had lately the honor to inclose copies to you, and in that which I shall transmit to you in a few days.

For myself, Sir, I shall beg leave to lay before you my sentiments of the whole of this transaction, with an openness, of which you have had constant experience, in the course of our official communications.

With whatever submission a certain part of the nobility of this country may chuse to acknowledge the general pretensions of a Minister to displace persons of high rank, however attached to Government, at his own arbitrary discretion, I am ready to defend very different maxims; and I am confident I should find myself supported by the spirit and temper of the present moment, as well as by the examples of all former periods. But, in the present instance, I stand upon particular merits, and shall make my appeal to the public, upon the circumstances of the case. I shall not be obliged to recur to general principles, which some persons might be inclined to contest, nor to assert the general merits of my own services; nor to discuss the propriety of the precise arrangement, to which my removal was made subservient. If a disagreement with my colleague is to be understood to have given  
occasion

occasion to my removal, I will publish to the world the distinct causes of that disagreement.

The general mismanagement which has long disgraced the Post Office, is notorious; but the particular abuses which prevail in that Office cannot be so universally understood.

To you, however, they had been distinctly developed; and it was not more in conformity with my own principles, than in compliance with your wishes, and our common professions, that I uniformly opposed them. You well knew, that this determined opposition on my part was the sole cause of my disagreement with Lord Carteret.

It may perhaps appear to the public, that the harmony of an office would be too dearly purchased by the sacrifice of principles and professions. Allow me, however, to repeat my sincere wishes, that in making this appeal, I may, as much as possible, be spared the painful necessity of blending imputations of personal contradictions with the weighty charges of public injustice, and a detailed series of official misconduct.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) TANKERVILLE.

*Lord Tankerville to Lord Carteret.*

*Nov. 30th, 1786.*

MY LORD,

A PARTICULAR motive has induced me, for some time past, to suspend our correspondence.

The unsatisfactory result of the various applications I have made to you, would indeed have determined

terminated me to desist from all farther private communication with your Lordship, if some matters suggested, and others omitted, in your last letter, had not made it necessary for me to trouble you once more with my sentiments at some length.

You are pleased to say, "that you are desirous to give me *every light in your power*, upon the subject of our correspondence," at the same time that you studiously avoid taking notice of some very material objects of my enquiries. The information you have furnished is confined to what passed at one interview only, and in one conversation with Mr. Pitt: yet you cannot be ignorant upon what grounds I have repeatedly called upon you for an avowal of what passed at subsequent interviews, whether between Mr. Pitt and you, or between Mr. Pitt and any other person, on your part.

You cannot, I think, have overlooked my representations of the flat contradictions between Mr. Pitt and you, which I have frequently, but in vain, required your Lordship to reconcile or explain.

You insinuate that it has been my object to bring our dispute to a public explanation.

I take upon me to assert, that the whole tenor of my correspondence has had a contrary tendency, as far as it was possible to separate what is personal in this business, from what is in itself of a public nature. Grossly injured in the face of the public, I undoubtedly look forward to a public satisfaction.

But with respect to our personal differences, I have given you every opportunity of explaining yourself; and I have done every thing that depended upon me to afford a choice of the various modes of private exculpation.

Your

Your Lordship seems to derive a momentary exultation from the letter you have received from Mr. Pitt. Yet as far as you have made me acquainted with the contents of that letter, it supplies you with little occasion of triumph. It is certainly not calculated to reconcile the contradictions I have stated, nor can it change the original ground of our disagreement, or the merits of the questions that have arisen between us. It can serve no purpose of your defence, if it only certifies the reality of a proceeding, which you have long, and, as it now appears, prudently been unwilling to avow. But if in truth it contains any thing that can operate in your favor, your Lordship should make the communication complete.

The manner in which that letter was produced, and your own professions of fair and open conduct, give me a claim to the inspection of it.

By what you have suffered to escape of its contents, I am at length given to understand, in contradiction to every thing you have said on this subject, that in your application to Mr. Pitt, you made my removal the condition of your continuance in office. You have been long in possession of my sentiments upon a proceeding of such a complexion, in an occurrence of personal dispute, and particularly under the circumstances of the present case.

I know not how to add terms of aggravation to what has been anticipated upon this head, without departing from the decorum I have prescribed to myself; yet when your Lordship maintains there is no inconsistency in persevering in so pitiable a measure, at the very moment you were making  
profession

profession of an absolute oblivion of what had passed, I confess it is with some difficulty I restrain my indignation. You will in vain look for shelter in the equivocal and confused declaration which accompanied those professions. In the letter now before me, you intimate what I have long suspected, that you were even then assured of the safe gratification of an implacable, but accommodating resentment.

In such circumstances, it might be natural enough for your Lordship to talk of an oblivion of the past, and to disclaim all "hostile intentions," whilst you were pursuing the most hostile measure. It may be equally natural for those, who at once supported and condemned the whole system of your conduct, and who perhaps invited the alarming threat of a resignation that could not, in common prudence, be carried into effect, to wish anxiously for the same oblivion of the past.

With respect to myself, I shall, from this moment, yield to your Lordship's wishes in one instance at least, and put an end to all private correspondence. But your Lordship must perceive, that the circumstances of the case, and your own conduct, compel me to involve you in the whole of my public justification; and that I am driven to the necessity of making many painful disclosures, which I would willingly have spared you, and the effect of which you in vain flatter yourself that it will be in your power to resist. The causes of my removal shall be made as public as the injury; and, however gratified your Lordship, or those in concert with you, may at present feel, by the success of your measures, I will take upon me to foretel, that the

the triumph will soon be at an end. *I* have been removed, *others* will be disgraced.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) TANKERVILLE.

*Lord Carteret to Lord Tankerville.*

*Haynes, Dec. 10th, 1786.*

MY LORD,

I TAKE the liberty of troubling your Lordship once more with an answer to a question you think very material—Whether any of my friends, after my interview with Mr. Pitt, applied to him in my favor? I can assure your Lordship, that I never heard that any one of them did, and since I last wrote to your Lordship, Mr. Pitt and my brother have declared to me, that nothing has ever passed between them upon the subject of the late arrangement.

When your Lordship shall think proper to bring this matter before the public, I flatter myself my conduct will be unimpeached.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) CARTERET.

*Lord Tankerville to Lord Carteret.*

*Dec. 21st, 1786.*

MY LORD,

IF your Lordship had thought proper to favor me at an earlier period with the answer I have lately received from you to a very material question, it would

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in some degree have abridged a very long, and to me, at least, a very painful correspondence.

Your Lordship must now perceive, that the contradiction in which your account of the late transaction stands with Mr. Pitt's, is placed in a point of view that will admit of no farther light but from yourselves.

I very sincerely, my Lord, wish you to believe, that I should not easily be induced to bring any matter before the public, that could impeach your Lordship's conduct, if there were any other method of vindicating my own.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed) TANKERVILLE.

## NUMBER VI.

*Statement of neglects, abuses, and frauds, in the management of the packet boats at Falmouth, with propositions for the remedy for the future.*

*General Post Office.*

My Lord,

I BEG leave, in obedience to your Lordship's commands, to state the salary and perquisites to Mr. Pender, as Agent to the Packet Boats and Postmaster of Falmouth, which are as follows:

Salary

APPENDIX.

75

Salary as Agent	-	£.230
Allowance for his clerk	-	40
Perquisites of 4s. a head upon passengers in the packet boats to and from Falmouth for the year ended the 5th of April, 1785, was	-	60 16 0
Salary as Postmaster	-	40
Perquisite of 2s. 6d. upon each express, may be between £.5 and £.10, but say	-	10
An house allowed to the Agent by the Lord of the Manor of Falmouth, it has been let for £.15 a year, is very much out of repair and the tenant going out, and ought not to be valued at more than	-	10
		Total £.390 16 0

Mr. Bell paid as under, and I do not apprehend Mr. Pender can have proper assistance for less, if he can at the same rate.

To his clerk as agent £.30

To the person who assists as Postmaster 10

To which must be added the allowance to be made to Mr. Bell's widow of per ann. 100

Makes to be deducted from his salary and perquisites - - - 140

Which leaves to Mr. Pender per ann. £.250 16 0

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And



And I know of no other emolument whatever to be received by Mr. Pender; but the late Agent, Mr. Bell, had in addition from most of the captains the wages of one man, who, I am afraid, was generally mustered short, which upon 22 packet boats at £.14 6s. a year is £.314 12 0

And I find they each gave him five guineas a year besides, which is	115 10 0
Making together upon 22 packets	430 2 0
Which added to the salary and other perquisites as stated before of	390 16 0
Makes - - - - -	820 18 0
From which deduct the salary he paid to his clerk of £.30, and £.10 to the person who assisted in the business as Postmaster, together	40
Leaves - - - - -	780 18 0

Which I think must have been nearly Mr. Bell's income in money per annum; for though I believe some of the captains did not allow the wages and muster a man short, yet they gave him pretty nearly the amount in money, and during the war there were sometimes more than twenty-two packets.

The mustering a man short of the complement on board each packet, and the agent receiving the wages, and the captains generally saving the victualling, (unless they might carry some little boy in lieu) which appears to have been always a clandestine transaction, I presume your Lordship and Lord Carteret cannot suffer to be continued. The perquisite of £.5 5s. a year from each captain to the agent, which seems first to have been given for the

the trouble of paying the sailors wives or families half pay when the ships are at sea, keeping their accounts, &c. existed so far back as the time of Mr. Banfield: towards the latter part of Mr. Geo. Bell's agency (the father of the late agent), it was increased to ten guineas a year, and was again reduced to five, on the late agent's receiving also the wages of one seaman, or to the amount from each packet; but I do not think the captains will of themselves be inclined to pay to the present agent £.5 5s. a year each, for the purpose of paying their half pay, keeping their accounts, &c. without an expectation of indulgencies from him. But if your Lordships should think this a proper perquisite to be continued, it ought to be by directions of the Board, that the agent might demand it as a matter of right, and not as an indulgence of the captains, and they ought at the same time to be forbid to give and he to receive any further pecuniary gratuity whatever. It would be a matter of little consequence to the captains, who must be obliged to employ somebody to pay the half pay, and it would be a very considerable increase to the agent's income of £.250 16s. a year; which I most humbly beg leave to submit to your Lordships consideration, whether it may not be too small for a place, though of not very much labour, yet is of great consequence; all the Packets at Falmouth, which are an expence to government of about £.46,000 a year, being in a great manner under his management, and which I am afraid have for some time been conducted in a very shameful manner, and that many of them have been more trading vessels than packet boats, and attended more to the taking in and delivering out of goods, and sailing for the accommoda-  
tion

tion of passengers, to the emolument of the captains, than the quick and expeditious conveyance of the mails. To put this service, which has been disgraced principally by smuggling, and from which the other evils in a great measure have arisen, upon a more respectable footing for the future, I beg leave, in the first place, to submit to your Lordship's consideration an hint, given me by a gentleman at Falmouth; which, though very simple, will, in my opinion, put it in the power of the captains, if they are inclined, entirely to put a stop to smuggling in the packets.

Order an iron grating to the hatchway into the hold of each packet, to be locked down and the key kept by the captain only: by this means, none of the officers or seamen could have access thereto without his permission; and whenever there may be occasion for its being opened, it can be no hardship for him to attend and see that no goods are either taken down or brought up. The cabins, cupboards, &c. with which many of the packets are at present crowded between decks, and are used by the common seamen, should be taken away, and the whole made perfectly clear, the same as in a man of war; and the boxes of the seamen, some of whom have more than one, and are very large, should be reduced to a size proper to contain the apparel of a sailor. This, I apprehend, would have the desired effect, if the captains attend and wish to put a stop to it; but if the accusations are true, which are in general terms made against the packets, of their remaining near the shore for a considerable time both in going out and coming in, for the purpose of taking on board and sending on shore goods by boats and other vessels, it is impossible to suppose but that  
many

many of the captains themselves must be concerned either directly or indirectly in this illicit business.

It has, I apprehend, been a practice to carry, in the packets to and from Falmouth, many persons under the denomination of the captain's particular friends, and by this means evade the payment of £.4 an head---the King's passage money, and thereby injuring the revenue. This circumstance I might not have known, had it not been for the arrival of the Halifax, Captain Boulderson, while I was at Falmouth, whom I asked on his bringing the mail to the Agent's Office, if he had any passengers, to which he answered, No; but on my going directly on board to muster the crew, I found Mrs. Antill and two children, Miss Colden, and another lady and gentleman, with their servants. On speaking to captain Boulderson on the subject, he said, they were all his particular friends, and it had been usual for the captains to carry their particular friends without paying the King's passage money.

However, I should suppose your Lordships will not think it right this practice should be continued, and leave it in the power of the captains to diminish the revenue by remitting the passage money to whom they may think fit, but give directions that no persons should be taken to or from Falmouth but such as pay the King's passage money, and distressed subjects home, having proper passes for the purpose; and I also presume that the practice of the agents giving free passes to persons going out in the packet boats, should be discontinued, as I apprehend the revenue has been abused by that means, not only in avoiding the payment

payment of the passage money, but also by being a charge for victualling.

In the late Agent's time, I find that the crews of the packets were almost never mustered by himself, but only by his clerk; and that not immediately upon the sailing and arrival of the packets, but generally some days before the time the mails ought to arrive at Falmouth, and word was first sent to the captain, that the crew should be mustered on such a day: and no muster was ever taken on their return home; but the captains only asked if their crews were the same they sailed with? So that the complement carried on board the packets seem to have been much left to the captains; and it is pretty certain they did not always carry their proper number of hands; and in some of the boats which came home while I was at Falmouth, there were several very small boys.

The merchants of London have often complained that the captains of the packets have not taken every opportunity they might of sailing; and I have heard the same observations, though in general terms, made at Falmouth, with how much justice I will not take upon me absolutely to determine; but as these packets are frequently detained for many days, and the detention of those on the other stations are comparatively very small indeed, I should imagine that the complaints are either well founded, or that Falmouth is not the most convenient harbour to sail from: indeed it is said, (though I myself doubt it,) that at low water, some of the largest cannot get over the bar, and on that account may lose opportunities of sailing when the wind is fair; but this might be remedied by their going into the Road with the tide at least a day before their  
respective

respective mails ought to arrive from London, and there remain, with the full complement of hands on board, till their sailing; and the officers and seamen being obliged to be on board, would be the strongest inducement not to lose any opportunity; and I apprehend they might be in the Road with the greatest safety, and get to sea, and make their passage in moderate weather with almost any wind: but in this case, it would be right that moorings should be laid down in the Road, and perhaps it would be right also that the agent should be allowed a boat to carry off the mails, to be manned, without any additional expence to Government, from the packets which remain in harbour.

I also humbly beg leave to observe to your Lordship, that, in my opinion, there are more packets than are necessary to carry on the present service at Falmouth, by three, if not four; and that unless a regular establishment of packets is intended to Quebec and Halifax, the present number of twenty-two may be reduced to nineteen, if not to eighteen, which will be a saving to the Revenue of 6000l. or 8000l. a year.

The present packets are of very different tonnage, some of them not exceeding 150 or 160, and others upwards of 300 tons; but they are all navigated with the same number of hands. Which may be the properest size for a packet-boat, is a dispute amongst seamen; but I should presume, there can be no difficulty in determining, that if thirty men is sufficient for a vessel of 300 tons, they must be considerably more than necessary for a vessel of 150 or 160 only; and your Lordship and my Lord Carteret will be of opinion, that this matter ought to be put upon a more consistent footing,

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and

and perhaps the crews of some of the packets ought to be reduced, and probably one or two of the largest ought to have some additional hands; and the properest way might be to allow one man to so many tons, throughout the service.

The pension fund seems to have been most shamefully abused, both by being granted to improper objects, by the names of persons being continued upon the list after they were dead, and also the names of some persons being upon the list who never had received pensions; and this money must have been pocketed by the late agents. If it was judiciously and uprightly administered, it might be a good and proper charity; but I am far from thinking it is of the least use in answering the end of its establishment—the procuring real good and able seamen for the service at all times, on reasonable wages: for whoever knows the character of an English sailor, must, I think, be satisfied that he will not, for the expectation of four or five pounds a year, when worn out, be induced to serve twenty or thirty years of the prime of his life for wages of two or three shillings a month below the common price.

I further beg leave to observe to your Lordship, that I apprehend the warlike stores of the packets belonging to Government, should either be collected into one magazine, under the care of the agent, or that they should be in the charge of the captains of the respective packets, an inventory taken thereof, and directions given that they should be kept in proper order, which I think might be done by the sailors of each packet when at Falmouth; or else they ought to be sold. But I am afraid, a great part are already either lost or spoilt; and I know, that the late agent sold twelve long six-pounders, before

before the conclusion of the war, which were sent to Falmouth for the use of the Speedy, as well as some belonging to private owners, and never appears to have accounted for the money for either.

The practice of the captains in general discharging the greatest part of their crew on their arrival at Falmouth, and neither paying them wages nor victualling, while in harbour, though both are allowed from Government, ought to be put a stop to, as it compels the seamen to take to the practice of smuggling, to get a livelihood for themselves and families.

I do not know that I have any further remarks to make at present, except on the frequency of the captains staying on shore, which the sailing prints sent from Falmouth will sufficiently testify; and if they are themselves so innocent of the charge of smuggling as they pretend, it must be carried on in their absence, and therefore it is the more necessary they should attend their duty in person; and that ample authority for this and every other purpose should be given to the present agent, who with the fullest he can receive from the Board, will have but a troublesome task in putting the service upon a proper footing, as it has for such a length of time been in so very relaxed a state: and perhaps nothing would tend more to effect it, than either putting an end to what is called the Committee of Captains to determine disputes amongst themselves and officers, or else ordering the agent to be Chairman of that Committee, and make minutes of all their proceedings, to be sent to the Board; for though in the present state it may prevent your Lordships being troubled with some frivolous circumstances, it is also a means of keeping from



your knowledge many things you ought to be acquainted with.

I have the honor to be,  
My Lord, &c.

THOS. TODD.

## N U M B E R VII.

*Proposals for Instructions to the Agent at Falmouth, to prevent the neglects, abuses, and frauds, that had been practised at Falmouth.*

**INSTRUCTIONS** for the Agent for managing and directing the packet-boats employed between Falmouth and Lisbon, the West Indies, and America.

You are to take care that the several packet-boats employed between Falmouth, Lisbon, the West India Islands, and the Continent of North America, have constantly their full complement of men according to their establishment, and likewise that all the vessels in our service be British built and navigated with British seamen, pursuant to act of Parliament; as also that such vessels be at the owners charge well and duly careen'd, and kept clean and fit for the service, provided and furnished with good, sufficient, and substantial ground tackle, standing and running rigging, shrouds, cables, anchors, and all other materials fit and convenient; and upon any neglect or failure, you are from time to time to give us notice thereof.

You

You are to keep an exact journal, wherein you are to enter the time of your receiving and delivering the mails and expreffes, how the wind and tide serve at the time, as alfo the time of the failing and arrival of each boat; and to inform us if any commander fhould refufe, or neglect to put to fea the firft opportunity, after the difpatches have been delivered to them, and if any vefiel whatever has failed before them whilft he had the mails on board.

You are not to make, or fuffer to be made, any private collection of letters; but if any letters, or packets of letters, come to your hands or power, or to the hands or cuftody of any of the officers or failors of any of the packet-boats, or to the hands of any paffenger on board, other than what may or fhall be in his Majefty's mails or packets, you are to ufe your utmoft diligence in the difcovery thereof, that the poftage may be fecured to this revenue.

Befides the foregoing general inftructions, you are diftinctly to attend to the following. And, in the firft place, as the fervice has been fhamefully difgraced by fmuggling, which the captains pretend they cannot prevent the feamen from practifing; in order effectually to put a flop thereto, you are to order a clofe iron grating to the hatch-way into the hold of each packet, to be locked down, and the key kept by the captain only; and by this means none of the officers or feamen can have accefs thereto, but by his permiffion; and, whenever there may be occafion for its being opened, he muft attend to fee that no goods are taken down or brought up; and you are to order the cabins and cupboards between the decks to be taken away, and the whole made perfectly clear, the fame as on board a man o' war; and you are to give

give strict orders to the captains not to suffer their seamen to have on board more than one box each, for containing their apparel, which shall not exceed  
in length in  
breath, and in depth.

As there has been much abuse by persons going from and to Falmouth in the packet boats without paying the King's passage money, you are yourself to take care, and also to give strict orders to the captains, not to carry out or bring home any persons whatever without the King's passage money, except distressed subjects coming home, who may be furnished with free passes.

As it appears that false musters have formerly been made, and the packets sailed without their full complement, as well as numbers of boys have been mustered as able seamen, you are yourself to muster the crews of each packet immediately before their sailing, and on their arrival, and not to trust this business to your clerk, but in cases of necessity, and to see that each packet has the full complement of good and able seamen; not allowing more boys on board any ship than four under the age of seventeen, and two under the age of fourteen, that is, four in the whole under seventeen; and if at any time any of the crews should leave the packet before sailing, or during the voyage, and not be replaced, you are to send us an account thereof, that the wages and victualling for the time may be deducted from the hire of the vessel, and placed to the pension fund: and, besides your muster, you are to direct each captain, on his return to Falmouth, to certify in a book to be kept for the purpose in your office, whether he had the whole complement during the voyage, or from what period any of his crew

crew left the ship; and for the purpose of mustering the packets on their departure and arrival, or as often as may appear necessary, you are to order four seamen from the packets in harbour always to be in readiness to attend upon you.

You are also to order the packet boats, in turn of sailing, out into the Road, at least the day before the arrival of their respective mails from London, with their full complement on board, and there to continue till sailing, that no time may be lost in their departure the moment the mails arrive, and the wind is fair.

And as complaints have been made by some of the common seamen, that they are discharged from the packets immediately on their arrival at Falmouth, and receive neither wages nor victualling till they proceed on the next voyage, you are to give the strictest directions to the captains, to continue their pay while they remain in harbour, for the maintenance of their families, without having recourse to the practice of smuggling, and as an encouragement for the constant wages to remain in the service; but that the captains may not be imposed upon by paying the wages, when in harbour, to seamen who may leave them before they sail again, the wages which may become due while in Falmouth harbour, are not to be paid till the return from the succeeding voyage, which you will make known to them all, that they are then to be paid them; but if any of them should not proceed on the succeeding voyage, the wages and victualling, till they are replaced by other seamen, are to be carried to the pension fund, and you are to send us an account of it, for that purpose.

At all the meetings of the Committee of Captains,

tains, whether it may be for settling the disputes amongst themselves and officers, or any other business, you are to preside as chairman, and from time to time send up the copies of the minutes of the meeting for our information.

You are to send us an immediate account of all the remarkable occurrences, that we may communicate the same, if necessary, to his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State; and you are to observe all such further instructions as you may from time to time receive from us, or by our directions, and likewise to use your utmost skill and ability, to promote his Majesty's service in general, according to the trust reposed in you.

Given at the General Post Office, &c.

N U M B E R VIII.

C O A L S.

	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>
To Lord Tankerville from the 5th July 1782, to 5th April 1783, inclusive, 1 year	549 7 3	
To Lord Carteret for the same period	352 7	
	<hr/>	897 0 3
To Lord Tankerville from the 5th of April 1784, to 10th October 1786, 2 years and 3 quar- ters	1,221 7	
To Lord Carteret for the same period	1,008 10	
	<hr/>	212 17

Lord Tankerville more than Lord Carteret. 409 17 3

T I N

T I N W A R E, &c.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
To Lord Carteret, from 5th July 1784, to the 10th October 1786, 2 years and an half	105 12 7	
To Lord Tankerville for the same period	44 4 6	
	61 8 1	

C A N D L E S.

	£. s.	£. s.	£. s. d.
To Lord Carteret, from 5th July 1784, to the 10th October 1786, 2 years and an half.	414 12		
To Lord Tankerville for the same period.	279 7		
	135 5		
			196 13 1
			213 4 2

N. B. By the above comparison of coals, tin ware, &c. and candles, supplied to the Post-Master General, there appears upon the whole an excess of 213l. 4s. 2d. on the part of Lord Tankerville.

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## NUMBER IX.

*Mercurij, 16° die Maij 1787.*

## POST-OFFICE COMMITTEE.

MR. GREY.

MR. FRANCIS.	MR. WYNDHAM.
LORD MAITLAND.	MR. ANSTRUTHER.
MR. FOX.	MR. ST. JOHN.
MR. COURTENAY.	MR. LAMBTON.
MR. ADAM.	

Ordered,

THAT there be laid before this Committee copy of the Narrative of Facts respecting Mr. Lees' original appointment and present situation, as Secretary of the General Post Office of Ireland, dated the 15th day of November, 1774.

Ordered,

That there be laid before this Committee copy of Two Letters from Mr. John Lees to Mr. Todd, dated one Dublin, 20th December, 1784, and the other Dublin, 23d November, 1784.

Ordered,

That Anthony Todd, Esquire, Secretary to the General Post Office, do attend this Committee tomorrow morning.

Mr. John Walcott examined.

What office do you hold?

Am Postmaster General Agent at Dover.

When

When was you appointed?

In April 1775, or thereabouts.

On what terms was that office granted to you?

Of paying the whole salary, and the whole emoluments, to Mr. Barham, the then Agent, and afterwards Mr. Barham and myself agreed to consider the salary and emoluments at £.800 per annum, and that I should pay that sum annually, at quarterly payments, during Mr. Barham's life.

Was there any other condition?

None with respect to my appointment to that office—Mr. Barham is still living.

What office did you hold before this?

The office of Secretary and Comptroller of the said office in Ireland.

Who succeeded you in that office?

Mr. Lees.

Were any conditions annexed to your resignation of that office to him?

Yes.

What were they?

The conditions on the appointment were the same as those of Dover, namely, that the whole salary and emoluments should be paid to me, during the life of Mr. Barham, but that I should allow Mr. Lees £.300 a year during that time, for doing the duties of the office, and this was also afterwards altered to a payment of £.750 per annum to me, to be considered as the amount of the salary and emoluments, and to be paid to me quarterly in the same manner; and after the death of Mr. Barham, £.350 a year to a person described by the letters A. B. together with £.150 a year to be paid to me, provided the employment should exceed the value of £.1000 per annum, and so in proportion, between the sum of £.800 and 1000.

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By



By what authority was that condition of a payment to a person called A. B. annexed to this transaction? By Mr. Lees' consent to the payment.

By whom was such consent required of Mr. Lees?

When the thing was in agitation, Mr. Lees was content to make that payment.

Was it the condition on which the office was given him?

It was one.

By whom was the office given him?

The Postmaster General for the time being.

Whether was it any proposal of Mr. Lees, in the first instance, in order to obtain that employment?

Certainly not.—Lord Le Despencer and Lord Carteret were Postmasters General at that time.

Where is the person described A. B.?

In the narrative Mr. Lees has sent over here stating the business.

Have you seen that narrative?

I have now a copy of it sent to me, by Mr. Lees?

Did you know of it before you had seen this narrative of Mr. Lees?

Yes.

Do you know whether Mr. Lees entered into any legal agreement to pay the £. 350 a year to A. B.?

Yes, he did.

To whom was it to be paid?

The agreement was made to me and A. B. but his own name Treves was mentioned in it, and then the security to Mr. Treves was given him in his own name.

By whom was the security given to A. B.?

By Mr. Lees and myself.

Who is A. B.?

Mr.

Mr. Treves.

Why was he called A. B.? Why was his name concealed?

Can't say why Mr. Lees described him A. B. in his narrative. In the agreement with me, he is described by his own name.

Did you ever know A. B. used as the description of the person to receive the annuity of £.350 any where but in Mr. Lees' narrative?

There were letters passed on the subject; whether it was used there, or any where else, or not, I can't tell. I do not recollect at present.

Do you know on what account this engagement was made to Mr. Treves?

As a friend of Lord Carteret's.

Withdrew.

Ordered,

That there be laid before this Committee, a copy of the memorial from the Post Master General to the Treasury, relative to granting a pension of £.400 a year to Mr. Lees, to indemnify him for losses which he had sustained by the separation of the Irish and English Post Offices.

Ordered,

That there be laid before this Committee, a copy of a warrant from the Treasury, authorizing the Post Master General to grant Mr. Lees a pension of £.400 a year.

Ordered,

That there be laid before this Committee, an account of all articles furnished to the Post Master General, under the head of Oil and Lamps, between the 25th of March, 1784, and the 25th of March, 1787, distinguishing what was furnished to each Post Master General.

Ordered,

Ordered,

That there be laid before this Committee, an account of all articles furnished to the Post Master General, under the head of Candles, between the 25th of March, 1784, and the 25th of March, 1787, distinguishing what was furnished to each Post Master General.

Ordered,

That there be laid before this Committee, copy of a bill for furnishing the apartment of the House-keeper to the Post Office; presented to Lord Tankerville for his signature, and which he refused to sign.

Ordered,

That there be laid before this Committee, an account of all articles, under the head of Coals, furnished to the Post Master General, between the 25th of March, 1784, and the 25th of March 1787, distinguishing what was furnished to each Post Master General.

Ordered,

That the Chairman do move the House to have leave to sit, notwithstanding any adjournment; and that they may have leave to proceed with a quorum of five.

Adjourned to twelve to-morrow.

*Jouis,*

*Jovis, 17<sup>o</sup> die Maij, 1787.*

COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE.

Mr. FRANCIS.

Mr. GREY.	Mr. WILBRAHAM.
LORD MAITLAND.	Mr. ANSTRUTHER.
Mr. LAMBTON.	Mr. ADAM.
Mr. WYNDHAM.	

Ordered,

That there be laid before this Committee, an account of the arrival at, and sailing from, Falmouth, of each separate packet-boat, with an account of the deductions that have been made from the hire of such as have been under repair, seizure, or otherwise unemployed, since the war.

Ordered,

That Mr. Cumming, Inspector of Tradesmen's Bills at the Post Office, do attend this Committee.

Ordered,

That Mr. Charles Walcott do attend this Committee.

The Earl of Tankerville attending, and declaring he has no objection to being examined by the Committee, on the subject of their appointment, he is examined accordingly.

During the time you was at the head of the Post Office, did you discover any abuses in the administration of that department?

I found

I found the inland department in a very bad state; various abuses existed there, and such as came to my knowledge, I endeavoured to correct.

State to the Committee any of these abuses?

I had reason to think, some of the young men had absented themselves from duty, on frivolous pretences, which appeared very evident from the excuses which they made to the Comptroller for leave of absence: I therefore sent to the Comptroller, and desired to see the account of hire; it appeared to be very considerable, and upon examination, it was discovered that some of these young men had been absent many months in the course of the year, by two or three days at a time; in consequence of which, other persons in the Office were hired to do their duty, some of whom were paid at the rate of five shillings a night, and 2s. 6d. in the morning; others only 2s. 6d. at night, and 2s. 6d. in the morning, while these young men enjoyed their full pay from the Office. Upon enquiry into their characters, and finding them very negligent of their duty, with the concurrence of Lord Carteret and the Office in general, I thought it necessary to make an example of them, and dismissed two.

When I was first appointed to the Office, a person by the name of Peers, a window-man, was brought before the Board, upon a complaint of not having paid in the money received by him, at the usual time. He was reprimanded for it then, but not dismissed. On the last day I was at the Office, on my first appointment, he was brought before the Board again, on a similar complaint; and I then said, if I continued in the Office, he should  
be

be dismissed. When I returned to the Office again, I found Mr. Peers in the same situation ; and very soon after, a similar complaint was made against him for not having paid in his money according to the rules of the Office. He was excused again ; but not long after, it appeared that he was still more in arrears than usual ; and not being able to make his payment, I insisted on his being dismissed, which was accordingly done.

What passed on the subject of an allowance to Mr. Staunton, in lieu of a house ?

Lord Carteret proposed to me to allow him £. 100 a year, in lieu of a house, which I rejected.

Why did you ?

In consequence of a conversation between Mr. Pitt and me. Upon the death of Mr. Allen, who was Comptroller to the Bye and Cross Road Letter Office, Lord Carteret appointed Mr. Staunton ; but immediately on that appointment, we received a letter from Mr. Rose, desiring that the house belonging to that Office might not be occupied : and on having an opportunity of seeing Mr. Pitt, I represented to him, that I thought the Comptroller's house ought to go to the person appointed to the office ; and if Mr. Pitt wanted a house for any of the persons who were to carry on the mail-coach plan, he might reasonably put the Revenue to the expence of a house for that purpose. I represented to him, that I had understood that the apartments of the clerks were connected with the Comptroller's house, and that the house ought to be occupied by him. Mr. Pitt said, he should want the house ; he knew he could put the Revenue to the expence of a house, if he thought proper ; but he thought the expence of a house might be saved.

O

I did

I did not, on any ground whatever, think Mr. Staunton entitled to that allowance.

Do you know whether Mr. Allen, on his first appointment to the situation, had, or had not, a house in the office?

I have understood, Mr. Allen had an allowance for a house, till his house was finished. I have understood he had £.100 allowed him; and that was quoted as a precedent.

Do you know if there was any other person who ever filled that office but Mr. Allen?

There never was---Being in possession of Mr. Pitt's sentiments on the affair, I did not think myself at liberty to concur in any such proposal as the allowance to Mr. Staunton.

Do you know of any engagement entered into by Mr. Lees, Secretary to the Post Office, Dublin, for the payment of £.350 a year from the emoluments of his office to a person unknown, described by the letters A. B.?

A letter was written to the Post Office, being a narrative of facts stating that whole transaction, which was brought over by Mr. Orde, as appears by Mr. Lees' letter.

Did you ever communicate this transaction to Mr. Pitt?

I did, but found him not ill-informed on the subject in general.

What sentiments did he express to you on that occasion?

He concurred with me in thinking that it was not a proper transaction.

What was done in consequence of the discovery made by Lees' narrative?

No steps were taken to set that transaction aside,

Do

Do you recollect when you first knew that such an agreement subsisted with A. B. ?

The first intimation I had of it was from that narrative of facts.

Do you know who A. B. is ?

I can't say I do.

Did you ever represent to Mr. Pitt any other of the abuses which you state to have existed in the Post Office, or propose to him any means for their correction ?

I acquainted him from time to time with what I had done, and spoke to him very particularly on the subject of the packets---I had reason to think, from some information I had received, that there were great abuses in the management of the packets, and having occasion to send a person to Falmouth soon after I had received this information, in order to settle and inspect the agent's accounts, I ordered him to furnish me with every information he could on that subject, which on his return he did---he stated very gross abuses: in consequence of which, we prepared a code of instructions for the captains, and I took an early opportunity of leaving it with Mr. Pitt, and explained to him several matters by word of mouth, which I considered of importance. I told him that the service was in such a state; that there was a necessity for something being done, and if the Commissioners of Accounts were not soon to go into the Post Office, I desired he would give me authority to take the matter up, and lay before him a plan of regulation and reform.---He told me he had reason to think the Commissioners of Accounts would soon be in the office, in which case he should certainly call on me for my assistance.



I wish to have it understood, that as soon as ever I heard of any abuses, I took the most effectual steps to have them corrected.

Did Lord Carteret shew any inclination to prevent your wish of reforming abuses?

I don't recollect any particular instance---he seemed unwilling to consent to the dismissal of Mr. Peers, probably from a mistaken lenity; and I had some difficulty in effecting it.

Did you understand from Mr. Pitt that no steps were to be taken for the reform of abuses in the Post Office till the Commissioners of Accounts should go into that office?

I always understood that it was Mr. Pitt's wish that I should regulate and reform abuses; at the same time, it was impossible to go into any general system of reform, as the new plan was then under trial.

Do you understand that no abuses could be reformed till the trial of the new plan was completed?

Partial abuses certainly might and were.

What were the abuses which Mr. Pitt, as mentioned by your Lordship, wished to defer till the Commissioners came into that office?

Abuses respecting packets, and others not depending on the new plan.

What was the general nature of the abuses relating to the packets?

Sometimes sailing without their complements of men, receiving full pay while unemployed, delaying their sailing improperly, and others of a similar nature.

Do you recollect any instance of an unprecedented expence attempted to be introduced into the

the Post Office by Lord Carteret, to which you objected?

I was at the office holding a Board by myself, when several bills were laid before me, and one in particular, an upholsterer's; and as I never signed a bill without some examination, I observed several articles which I could not conceive ought to be allowed for the office. Mr. Brathwaite presented the bill. I asked him for whom these articles had been furnished---he said, he really could not tell---I asked if he thought they were right---he seemed to doubt whether they were, but said, he would enquire of Mr. Cummings.---He returned in a short time, and said, they were ordered for the housekeeper's apartments.---I told him I had my doubts as to the propriety of signing for the payment, and that I would not do it unless I knew that such allowances were preceded in the office. I therefore rejected the bill for that time. Some time after, Lord Carteret and I met at the office, and we had some discussion on this subject. Lord Carteret took occasion to observe, if Postmasters were to look into such accounts with such minuteness as that, the situation did not suit him.---I replied, I thought it would be disgraceful to me to authorize bills to be paid which the office did not allow.---In a short time after I wrote to Mr. Todd, desiring he would enquire into the circumstances of the case, and if he would report to me that there were precedents for the payment of such bills, and that it ought to be paid out of the Revenue, I was ready to sign it; if not, considering myself in a situation of public trust, I thought it my duty to look to every article of public expenditure, and not wantonly create a new precedent of official expence.

Mr.

Mr. Todd never made any report that it ought to be paid out of the Revenue. Some time after it was laid before me again, and I again rejected it; and on the 14th of June, when the last discussion was had on the subject, when I came to the office I found Lord Carteret, who had signed the bill; and when it was presented to me again, I asked Mr. Todd if it contained the articles for the house-keeper's apartments which I had objected to—He told me it did—I observed, I thought he was guilty of a gross impropriety in laying the bill before me in the same state, as I never would sign it unless he reported to me that it was preceded.—This produced some altercation between Lord Carteret and me, in which I took occasion to observe, that I would do no jobs, and if a good understanding with Lord Carteret could only be procured by those means, I would rather continue upon the terms that we were.

Did you, in your letter to Mr. Todd, state that you would pay the bill, provided he found it preceded, or simply, provided he reported he thought it right and proper to do?

I think my letter to Mr. Todd was, that if he found it preceded, and would report to me that he thought it right to be paid, I would sign it—but I wish to refer to the letter if it be in Mr. Todd's possession.

Do you wish to add any thing to what you before said, of your conversation with Lord Carteret on the 14th of June?

I observed to Lord Carteret, that there were two subjects on which we disagreed, the housekeeper, and Mr. Staunton—that in regard to Mr. Staunton, out of kindness to Lord Carteret, I had requested  
Mr.

Mr. Pitt to let him take possession of the Comptroller's house, but as to making him the allowance of £.100 per annum (being in possession of Mr. Pitt's sentiments on that head), I could not concur in that proposal.—Lord Carteret, from his manner, seemed to doubt my having had such conversation with Mr. Pitt, which made me question him at the time with some warmth.—However, Lord Carteret disclaimed having had any such doubts; but there was some further altercation that day, which produced a remonstrance in writing from me to him.

At what time did you quit the office of Postmaster General?

The 11th of August last.

Did you consider yourself as dismissed, or did you resign?

I considered myself as dismissed.

What reason was assigned for your dismissal?

A complaint from Lord Carteret to Mr. Pitt.

Was you charged in that complaint, or otherwise, with any failure in the discharge of your duty?

No: Mr. Pitt told me the whole turned on a personal misunderstanding between Lord Carteret and me.

What were the causes of that misunderstanding?

Mrs. Burrows the housekeeper's bill, and the affair of Mr. Staunton.

Was Mr. Pitt acquainted of the causes of that misunderstanding?

Yes, by me.

Was there no official difference, and consequent misunderstanding, between you and Lord Carteret, previous to the difference about the housekeeper's bill, and Mr. Staunton?

There had been a difference of opinion respecting

ing the appointment of a surveyor, but we had never had any altercation on the subject, nor had it ever made the smallest impression on my mind.

Did you receive a letter from Mr. Secretary Todd, of which this is an extract ?

Yes, I remember this letter perfectly.

In regard to that letter, I must observe, that there was not, at that time, any difference between Lord Carteret and me, that could have made such a letter necessary, or have given occasion for it: there was a difference of opinion, but not the smallest altercation on the subject. As a proof that there was no ill will subsisting between us, subsequent to this period, I desire the letter may be read.

[Letter produced and read.]

Did you, on receiving that letter of Mr. Todd's, express your surprise, either by letter, or in conversation, that he should have stated such a difference, when it did not exist ?

I do not recollect any answer that I returned to that letter.

Was Mr. Dashwood ever appointed to the situation which you intended for him ?

No, nor any other person; and the reason was, that as a new system was expected to be soon introduced to the office, Mr. Todd thought it would be as well not to appoint any additional surveyor.

Do you imagine that Mr. Todd's suggesting that was the sole reason for not appointing surveyors, or do you conceive that they were not appointed partly to avoid forcing a discussion on Mr. Dashwood's being advanced to that situation ?

There was a doubt about the appointment of two additional surveyors in the first instance, and,

as

as well as I recollect, one of the established surveyors being then in a better state of health, Mr. Todd seemed to think that they were not so necessary; and partly, perhaps, as we were not agreed about the choice of them; but the principal reason that weighed, was the introduction of the new plan, and the consideration that the public service would sustain no injury.

Did you make any objection to the person proposed as an additional surveyor by Lord Carteret?

Don't recollect that I did.

Do you recollect the objections stated to the appointment of Mr. Dashwood?

I recollect, that he was by my Lord Carteret charged with a fraud, but I do not believe that the fault he had been guilty of deserved so harsh an imputation, as well as I recollect the circumstances of the case.

Was he not dismissed by Lord Carteret and Lord Foley, on account of having set his men ashore, subsequent to their being mustered, and proceeding on the voyage with less than his complement?

I understand some such charge as that had been brought against him; but when I first promised to appoint him, I did not actually know he had been in the Post Office, and was totally unacquainted with him—had never seen him—when I was informed he had been in the Post Office, and dismissed in consequence of some fault, I enquired if he was considered, by the office in general, as under any circumstance of disqualification, and I was assured not.

Did you never hear of any other charges against Mr. Dashwood?

Never did, till a considerable time after the proposed

posed appointment, and those were very questionable, as I understood they were brought against him by his mate, who had treated him with very great insolence, as is testified by two officers of credit, who came passengers in the same ship.

Did you apply to Mr. Todd, to know whether there was any precedent of appointing a man to an office of trust under the Post Master General, who had been dismissed from his situation upon account of a fraud.

I did not apply to Mr. Todd for any precedent; but I never heard that the supposed fraud was substantiated, or that he was even admitted into the room, when he was dismissed.

How soon after the time that the first proposal was made for appointing Mr. Dashwood, was it agreed that he should not be appointed?

Can't say; I considered the matter as settled on my Lord Carteret refusing him.

What discussion or correspondence took place between you and Lord Carteret on that subject?

Two letters, and as soon as Lord Carteret's objections were made known to me, I do not recollect pressing the affair any further, but I let it drop.

Has any correspondence in writing taken place between you and Mr. Pitt, and Lord Carteret, on the subject of abuses in the Post Office, or on the subject of differences between you and Lord Carteret, relative to any transactions in the office?

Yes.

Do you think them necessary or useful for the information of this Committee in their present enquiry?

I think they would tend to throw some light on the subject.

Have

Have you any objection to lay them before the Committee?

None.

[Produces correspondence between Mr. Pitt, Lord Carteret, and himself.]

Adjourned for ten minutes.

Committee again met.

Mr. Wilbraham in the chair.

Withdrew.

Mr. JOHN CUMMINS, Chamber Keeper, and Inspector of Tradesmen's Bills at the Post Office, examined.

I examined all the bills.

Did you ever examine a charge of oil and lamps, set to the account of Lord Carteret?

Yes.

Did you ever observe any improper articles charged in those accounts?

There has appeared a number of articles of tin wares charged in the tinman's bill, who furnishes the Office with oil and lamps.

What sort of tin wares?

Tea-kettles, saucepans, candlesticks.

Do you conceive those articles improperly introduced?

They were articles which had not been before so frequently in the tinman's bill for the use of the Post Master General.

Did you ever see such articles charged under the head of oil and lamps, to the account of any other Post Master General?

Yes; Lord Le Despencer.

Did you ever see any such charged to the account of Lord Tankerville?

No.



What might be the amount of those articles thus charged?

Can't say.

Ordered,

That there be laid before this Committee, an account of all articles, under the head of Coals, furnished to the Post Master General, between 5th April, 1782, and the 5th of April, 1783, distinguishing what was furnished to each Post Master General.

Ordered,

That there be laid before this Committee, an account of the tin wares delivered to the use of his Majesty's Post Master General, between the 25th of March, 1784, and the 25th of March, 1787, distinguishing each article.

Ordered,

That Peregrine Treves, Esq. do attend this Committee to-morrow morning.

Ordered,

That Mr. Peasly, the coal-merchant, do attend.

Ordered,

That Mr. Charles Walcot do attend.

Adjourned to twelve to-morrow.

*Veneris,*

*Veneris, 18<sup>o</sup> Die Maij, 1787.*

COMMITTEE, POST OFFICE.

Mr. LAMBTON.

Mr. GREY.

Mr. FRANCIS.

Mr. WILERAHAM.

Mr.

Ordered,

That Mr. Thomas Todd, Clerk in the Secretary's Office, do attend this Committee.

Ordered,

That Mr. Anthony Parkins, Solicitor to the Post Office, do attend this Committee.

[Mr. Grey produces a paper, desired by Lord Tankerville to be laid before the Committee.]

[And also a letter from Mr. Dashwood to Lord Tankerville.]

ANTHONY TODD, Esq. Secretary to the Post Office, examined.

Do you know any thing of an engagement entered into by Mr. Lees, on his appointment to the Secretaryship of the Dublin Post Office, for the annual payment of £.350 a year to A. B. ?

I do; that it was between Mr. Walcot, then Secretary to the Post Office, Dublin, and Mr. Lees. Mr. Walcot was desirous of coming to succeed Mr. Barham, as agent of the packet-boats at Dover—  
that

that he was to allow Mr. B. the whole profits of his office, and that Mr. Lees was to succeed him at Dublin, on the same terms; but upon Mr. Barham's death, Mr. Lees was to allow £.350 a year to Mr. Treves.

Was this transaction entered on the minutes of the Post Office, at the same time with the superannuation of Mr. Barham?

Nothing of the £.350.

Why was it not?

I don't know; it was not entered: it was in the time of Lord Le Despencer and Lord Carteret. It was not known officially in the Office, though it transpired at the time the narrative of facts was given in by Mr. Lees, or before.

Why is Mr. Treves there described only as A. B.?

That is Mr. Lees absolutely. I knew him by the name of Treves at first.

Do you conceive such a transaction to have been regular or precedented?

I know of no precedent in the books: as to whether it is regular or not, I rather wish not to give my opinion.

Did you give any opinion at the time?

Yes, I did; I disapproved of it in conversation.

To whom did you express that disapprobation?

To both Lord Le Despencer and Lord Carteret, in conversation.

Had Mr. Treves performed any public service in the department of the Post Office?

None, that I know of.

What were the grounds upon which a pension of £.400 a year was granted to Mr. Lees?

On his representation of having lost more than that

that amount per annum, by the separation of the Offices.

Have you any reason to think Lord Tankerville was anxious for, and active in the procuring this pension?

Lord Tankerville, in a letter to me of the 5th December, 1784, said, "I have copies of every thing delivered to our Office from Mr. Lees, and will exert my best endeavours to serve him, from a full persuasion he is an honourable and deserving man." And in another letter of 27th April, 1785, he says, "I herewith enclose the warrant for the payment of Lees, to which I think him justly entitled."

Is there any connection between the original engagement, relative to A. B. and the compensation granted to Mr. Lees in the year 1784?

The memorial to the Treasury on the subject, shews it was merely a compensation of the loss of £400. a year and upwards, by the newspapers.

Do you know any thing of an upholsterer's bill presented to Lord Tankerville, with articles charged in it for furnishing the housekeeper's apartments at the Post Office?

Yes.

Was the bill objected to by Lord Tankerville?

Yes.

For what reason?

That it was too much; I think he assigned that reason.

Did he not object to the articles of furniture for the housekeeper's apartments, as the introduction of an unprecedented expence?

He did object to it. To be sure, it was unprecedented,

cedented, because for many years no housekeeper had resided.

Did not Lord Tankerville positively refuse to sign the bill, unless you would declare that these articles were properly charged ?

Lord Tankerville, in a letter of 25th May, 1784, says to me, " If, therefore, after proper examination " and enquiry, you will report that this bill is reasonable and fair, it may induce me to pass it for " payment."

Did you ever make such report ?

I made it sufficiently to imply it was reasonable, though, upon the whole, some of the things were perhaps rather too good, but recommended the signing it.

Did Lord Tankerville still persist in his refusal ?

Yes.

Has that bill been paid since he left the Office ?

Yes, signed by Lord Clarendon, who looked over every article before he signed it.

Did Lord Tankerville's refusal to sign that bill create any misunderstanding between him and Lord Carteret ?

I cannot say create ; it increased one which subsisted before.

Was there any housekeeper resided at the Post Office, previous to the appointment of Mrs. Burrows ?

None, since 1740.

State to the Committee the origin of that official difference, which created a misunderstanding between Lord Tankerville and Lord Carteret ?

By Lord Carteret refusing to sign the appointment of Mr. Dashwood, as Riding Surveyor, who had been

been dismissed from the command of the Dashwood packet-boat.

Why was he dismissed ?

For discharging a considerable part of his crew, after they had been mustered at Falmouth, before he proceeded on his voyage to St. Augustine.

On the said Office being informed of this, did they not communicate it to the agent at Falmouth, and desire to be informed of the truth of it ?

Yes, as appears by his answer.

[Delivers in the answer, dated 18th August, 1783.]

Did Mr. Dashwood's guilt admit of any dispute; or do not you know that he himself confessed it ?

He did confess it.

Did you state to Lord Tankerville, on his proposing to make him a Riding Surveyor, that he had so confessed it ?

I did.

Was not the agent for the packets privy to his sailing without his full complement ?

It appears in the letter I just delivered in, that the agent was then in London.

By whom was the complaint laid against Mr. Dashwood ?

By Mr. Paddy, the mate, whom he had discharged.

Do you know whether that Mr. Paddy was not discharged for mutinous behaviour ?

Mr. Dashwood said he was.

Was Mr. Dashwood suffered to be heard in his own defence ?

I heard him in his own defence over and over.

Was he ever heard before the Board ?

I don't know.

Q

Did

Did Mr. Dashwood desire to be heard before the Board?

I can't recollect.

Is it usual to dismiss officers in the service of the Post Office on complaint, without being heard at the Board in their justification?

They are generally heard.

Do you recollect whether Lord Carteret and Lord Tankerville were ever on good terms, subsequent to Lord Tankerville's proposition of appointing Mr. Dashwood a Riding Surveyor?

Never on good terms after that.

Do you recollect writing a letter to Lord Tankerville, dated 8th November 1784, of which this is an extract?

I do, and this is the answer which I received, dated 10th.

[Produces it.]

I received another letter from Lord Tankerville, dated 23d October 1784.

[Produced and read.]

I wrote a letter in consequence of that to Lord Tankerville, of which this is a copy.

[Produced and read.]

I likewise received this letter without a date from Lord Tankerville.

[Produces it.]

This is copy of a letter which I wrote to Lord Carteret the evening I received the last note from Lord Tankerville subsequent to the holding a Board.

[Produced and read.]

I wrote a letter to Lord Tankerville, of which this is a copy.

[Produced

[Produced and read.]

Did Lord Tankerville ever assign it as a reason for appointing Mr. Dashwood to the office of Riding Surveyor, that he had not been heard before the Board in his own justification, and had not been convicted of the fraud, which was assigned as the reason for his dismissal?

I do not believe he did.

Do you remember receiving a letter from Lord Carteret of 19th December 1754, of which this is a copy, long subsequent to the proposal of appointing Dashwood Riding Surveyor?

Yes.

[Read.]

I recollect it perfectly well.—

Had not you for some time previous to that endeavoured to permit their meeting at a Board?

Yes, and I believe they both did the same.

Was £.100 a year granted to Mr. Staunton in lieu of a house after Lord Tankerville quitted the office?

Yes.

Will you state to the Committee, if you do not know that since the establishment of the office which Mr. Staunton held, an allowance of £.100 a year, has been uniformly granted for a house as often as the person holding that office was not provided with a house in the office?

It was done in the case of Mr. Allen.

Do you not know that the house was refused to Mr. Staunton and given to Mr. Palmer, by the directions of Mr. Pitt, in order to save expence to the public?

By the desire of Mr. Pitt it was; for what reason I cannot tell.

Q 2

Do



Do you know any thing of any other payment, allowance, or grant, except the £. 350 a year already mentioned, which has been made, given, or promised to Mr. Treves out of any office under the department of the Postmaster ?

Yes.

What is it ?

£.200 a year given him by Mr. Dashwood, the Post Master General of Jamaica.

What is the nature of it ?

It is between themselves, not in the office.

When did that agreement commence ?

With the appointment of Mr Dashwood.

Was my Lord Carteret Postmaster when Mr. Dashwood was appointed ?

Yes, and he was appointed by Lord Carteret.

Was it a condition of Mr. Dashwood's appointment ?

Yes---he agreed to it.

By whom was that condition annexed to it ?

By Lord Carteret.

Does that condition, or any thing relating to it, appear on the books of the Post Office ?

It does not.

Is it usual to annex such conditions to the appointment of Post Masters ?

I know of no more than these two cases.

Do you know of any other Post Master but Lord Carteret that ever annexed such conditions on the giving away appointments ?

I do not recollect any other.

Do you know any thing of the appointment of Mr. Molyneux to be Agent for the Packets at Helvoetsluys ?

Yes.

Was

Was he at the time of his appointment in a situation to perform the duties of that office?

I cannot say as to the time of the appointment, he has been since at times in a French prison.

Has he not since been permitted to resign in consequence of his inability to perform the duties of his office?

Yes.

Was he not permitted to name his successor?

I believe he was permitted to recommend his successor.

Was Mr. Hutcheson appointed in consequence of such recommendation?

Yes---and is now at Helvoetsluys in that capacity.

Was it understood that Mr. Hutcheson was to pay a sum of money to Mr. Molyneux on succeeding him in his office?

Mr. Hutcheson was to raise a sum of money to get him out of prison---he engaged to do it, but it has not yet been paid.

Are there not very great complaints against Mr. Hutcheson for mal-administration of his office?

Last week I received such information from Thomas Todd, one of my clerks, and on the same day I caused a strict enquiry to be made into it by a letter to the Agent at Harwich.

Are these the first complaints which have been received?

I am not sure.--I believe I have wrote before, but I cannot charge my memory.

Was there not about the beginning of February last an intention of dismissing him?

There was a letter written, that if he did not fulfil

fulfil his engagement in getting Molyneux re-leafed, that Molyneux must have his place again.

What was the sum to be raised by Mr. Hutcheson?

I do not know.

Do you know the account of the debt for which Mr. Molyneux was in prison?

I do not.

Does the agreement appear in the books of the office?

No.

Did the Post Master General know of the agreement?

Lord Carteret did, and I do not know but the other might.

When the intention of dismissing Mr. Hutcheson was known, did not Mr. Smith apply for the place?

I never heard he did---I know nothing of who he is.

Do you know whether any condition was annexed to Mr. Molyneux's original appointment?

I know of none.

Do not you receive  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on all money paid for packets?

I do.

Did not Mr. Lees express a surprize and dissatisfaction at having such a condition as a reverend annuity being annexed to his appointment to succeed Mr. Walcot?

The very contrary; I apprehend he courted it; the whole was between Mr. Walcot and him.

Question repeated.

I know nothing of it.

Was not Mr. Lees made to understand that the annexed

annexed condition was indispenfable, and that otherwise the bargain between him and Mr. Walcot could not take place?

I know nothing of it---Mr. Walcot can answer that beft.

On Mr. Lees being appointed Secretary at War in Ireland, did not Mr. Armitt fucceed to his appointment of the Post Office?

Yes.

Were not the fame conditions annexed to Mr. Armitt's appointment?

I believe they were, but refer again to Mr. Walcot.

Was not Mr. Lees afterwards re-appointed to the office by Lord Tankerville and Lord Carteret?

Yes.

Upon his re-appointment did not the condition revive?

I believe it did, but I know it not.

Have the Commissioners appointed by an act of 25th of George the Third, made any enquiries at the Post Office?

They have not.

Withdrew.

PEREGRINE TREVES, Esq. examined.

Are you the person described by the letters A. B. in Mr. Lees' narrative?

I am.

Are you to receive the annuity of £. 350 a year solely for your own behoof?

Yes, on the death of Mr. Barham.

Do you receive any annuity, or sum of money, from Mr. Dashwood, the Postmaster of Jamaica?

I do

I do.

Do you receive it for your own behoof solely?

Entirely so—it is £. 200 a year.

Had Lord Carteret, or any person connected with him, directly or indirectly, any consideration for the annuity paid you by Mr. Dashwood, or the one to be paid to you by Mr. Lees?

None.

Are not you a Jew, and a foreigner?

Yes.

In consideration of what services did you receive these grants?

From friendship entirely.

Withdrew,

Mr. JAMES DASHWOOD examined.

Was not you formerly Captain of a packet in the service of the Post Office?

Yes.

Was not you dismissed in consequence of a complaint against you, for having discharged a great part of your crew after having mustered them, and sailing without your complement?

I believe so.

Did you ever confess to Mr. Todd the offence with which you was charged?

I told Mr. Todd, as a private gentleman, and my particular friend, that I had not my full complement.

Did you say this before or after your dismissal?

I believe it was before.

Was not the agent for the packets at Falmouth present at the muster, and afterwards privy to your sailing without your complement?

The

The agent's clerk muttered, I believe, but I was in town at the time, and he knew also that the ship had not her full complement before I failed.

Was there any reason assigned for your dismissal?

I never was dismissed.

Are you still in the service?

Not having been dismissed, I do not know whether I ought to consider myself as so or not.

When did you cease to be employed?

They paid me up to the 10th October, 1783.

Did you ever desire to be employed again?

Yes—fifty times.

Was any reason ever assigned for not employing you?

None.

Did you ever solicit a hearing at the Board, in order to justify yourself?

Several times.

Was it granted?

No.

Had you any justification or excuse to urge for your conduct?

Yes.

From whom did you learn that any complaint was made against you?

Mr. Todd.

Who was the author of that complaint?

I suspect Mr. Paddy, but don't know.

Had not Mr. Paddy been guilty of mutinous behaviour, during the time he was under your command?

This letter is the best answer to that.

[Produces a letter from Judge Ludlow to Mr. Todd, dated 15th October, 1783.] Read.

R

What

What reason can you assign for having discharged part of your crew, and sailing without your complement?

Because I was in hourly expectation of receiving orders so to do, and Mr. Todd told me I had better endeavour to go to sea as soon as I could, in order to keep on the war establishment, conveying to my mind that it would be of advantage to me.

Question repeated.

It was generally considered throughout the service as an advantageous opportunity, and another reason was, that they reduced the packets at a moment's warning; and another reason for my discharging my men was, that I had advanced the crew a month's wages, and if I had received the order to reduce at a moment's warning, I must have lost their pay; also that I have paid higher wages in war time to seamen, than allowed by the Post Office.

On your return, when the packet was discharged, was any objection made to giving you the full pay of the war establishment on account of any fraud which you was said to have committed?

I was paid on the war establishment to the day I returned on my voyage, and after---the Post Master General knew I had sailed short of men.

Did you know of any other captains of packets, in the service of the Post Office, in similar situations with you, who took the advantage of sailing without their full complement, in order to be paid on the war establishment?

It was the current report at Falmouth that many others were in the same situation, and I told Mr. Todd as a private gentleman that the report was so also.

What

What answer did Mr. Todd make?

He would hear nothing I had got to say—I believe he asked me if I meant to accuse any body.

Did not Mr. Todd tell you that if you would substantiate that fact with regard to any other individual, that he would share the same fate?

I believe he said when I told him the report of others being in the same situation, “Then they will all be dismissed?”

Did you write any letters to be heard at the Board?

Yes, both to Mr. Todd and the Post Masters. Did you ever receive any written answer?  
No.

Withdrew.

Adjourned for ten minutes.  
Committee again met.

Mr. Courtenay in the chair.

Mr. THOMAS TODD examined.

I am Clerk to the Secretary of the Post Office. Have any abuses come to your knowledge in the regulation of packets?

Several I have considered as abuses—I have stated several to Lord Tankerville, and Mr. Todd has seen the papers.

Do you ever see any of the Post Master General's bills?

Yes—I have seen many.

Did you ever see any tinman's bills charged to the account of Lord Carteret?

Yes.

Did you ever see any improper articles charged?

R 2

I have



I have seen a great many articles of kitchen furniture charged in the tinman's bills.

What was the amount of such articles?

There was a bill delivered lately in which there was a charge of that kind to the amount of about £.100 or more.

Do you know any thing of the dismissal of Mr. Dashwood from the Post Office?

Yes.

What was the cause assigned for his dismissal?

His having dismissed a part of his crew before he failed.

Do you conceive he was blameable in that transaction?

Yes, I conceived him to have been blameable, but hardly to have deserved so severe a punishment as his dismissal, and that if he deserved the dismissal, the Agent, who was privy to the whole transaction, ought to have been dismissed also.

Who was the Agent?

A Mr. Bell, of Falmouth, who had been guilty of a great many abuses, and afterwards shot himself in consequence of the enquiries I was sent down to Falmouth to make.

How long was it subsequent to Mr. Dashwood's dismissal that Mr. Bell shot himself?

I think Mr. Dashwood was dismissed in 1783, and Mr. Bell shot himself in 1785.

Did he continue in his office till his death?

Yes.

Did the Post Masters and Mr. Todd know, that he must have been privy to Mr. Dashwood's failing without his complement?

I told Mr. Todd myself he did, and though Mr. Bell denied it in strong terms, by letter, I still told  
Mr.

Mr. Todd, that I was well satisfied he did know of it, and I wrote a letter myself for Mr. Todd's signing, though he had been before ordered to town, that he Mr. Bell might give an answer in writing to that letter.

Do you, as one of the clerks in the Secretary's office, conceive, that when you write a letter which is signed by Mr. Todd, that it is Mr. Todd's letter or your own?

Mr. Todd's—but that letter is not entered on the books, though I understood from Mr. Todd, that he gave it to Mr. Bell, and that Mr. Bell then confessed he knew of Mr. Dashwood's sailing without his complement.

Is it not usual to enter copies of all official letters in books?

It is.

Was that an official letter?

I conceive it to be so.

Why do you suppose that was not entered?

I can't tell.

If it had been entered in the books, would it not have appeared as an official charge against Mr. Bell for neglect of duty?

It would.

By its not being entered, was not Mr. Bell screened from that charge?

By that means Mr. Bell's neglect does not appear on record.

Did you ever submit the paper which you mean to give the Committee to the Board?

Never formally to the Board; but Lord Tankerville directed me to state on paper the abuses I observed in the packet boats at Falmouth, which I accordingly did, and gave the paper to Lord Tankerville.

kerville. After keeping it about a month, or some such time, he brought it me again, saying, there were numbers of abuses indeed at Falmouth, and that when the Commissioners of Accounts came to the Post Office, he would take care the abuses in the packet boats should be thoroughly examined into—he desired me to draw out regulations for the present Agent, to prevent the abuses which had existed, I accordingly drew out instructions, which I submitted to Mr Todd's perusal, with the papers stating the abuses, and told him for what purpose I had made them—I afterwards sent fair copies to Lord Tankerville, and then heard nothing more of the business till after Lord Tankerville left the office, when I wrote to Lord Tankerville to desire him to return the instructions, and his Lordship wrote me back, that he had delivered them to Mr. Pitt.

Withdrew.

Mr. CHARLES WALCOT, examined.

Do you recollect having had at any time any conversation with Mr. Williams, late Coal Merchant to the Post Office, relative to Lord Carteret's Coal Bills?

I do not recollect any particular conversation with regard to Lord Carteret.

Did you ever hear him make any complaints relative to Lord Carteret or any other Post Master?

I did not any particular complaints—All the complaint I ever heard, was generally, that he got very little by his place in the Post Office—never heard him say he had bills drawn on him.

Withdrew.

Re-

Resolved,

That the chairman do move for leave to sit to-morrow.

Adjourned to 12 to-morrow.

*Sabbati, 19<sup>o</sup> die Maij, 1787.*

POST-OFFICE COMMITTEE.

Mr. ANSTRUTHER in the Chair.

Present,

Mr. GREY.	Mr. WILBRAHAM.
Mr. COURTENAY.	Mr. COLHOUN.
Mr. ADAM.	Mr. FRANCIS.

Ordered,

THAT there be laid before this Committee, a state of the gross amount of all articles furnished to the Post Masters General, under the heads, coals, tin-ware, and candles, during the two periods that Lord Tankerville and Lord Carteret were Post-Masters General, distinguishing the gross amount furnished to each.

Ordered,

That there be laid before this Committee, copy of the Minutes of Dismission of Captain Dashwood, and also a copy of the Minutes of Dismission of Captain Peters,

Mr.

## Mr. DANIEL BRATHWAYTE.

Do you recollect any instance during the war, of a packet appointed to go to America, being found in so rotten a condition that the men refused to go to sea in her?

No.

Do you recollect any thing about a small vessel being hired to go a voyage, instead of another, on that account?

I do recollect a vessel being hired to go on some occasion, in lieu of another packet.—I cannot recollect whether she was smaller—there was no difference in the pay, she was paid on the same terms as the other would have been, though smaller.

Do you recollect any instance of any packet being captured out of her course?

No.

Was any inquiry made into the conduct of any captains whose vessels had been captured?

Yes, on many occasions; I can't say it was always done.

Do you know any instance in which such inquiry was omitted?

No.

Did you ever hear of any complaint being made against Mr. Bell, for misconduct in his office?

I think I never heard of any complaint; but suspicion of his mismanagement having arisen in the office, frequent inquiries were made—I can't recollect when the first inquiry was made.

Had any suspicions of his misconduct arisen, previous to the sailing of Mr. Dashwood?

Yes,

Yes, I believe there might.

Was any inquiry made at that time into the causes of those suspicions?

The books of the Post Office will shew.

Did he continue in the enjoyment of his office to the time of his death?

Yes.

Was he supposed to be privy to the circumstance of Mr. Dashwood's failing without his complement?

No—not till after the return of the packet.

Was there ever any suggestion that Mr. Bell was privy to it, and were there any letters wrote in consequence of it?

There was not any such suggestion; but an information being given at the Office, that Dashwood had failed without his complement of men, an enquiry was made by letters to Falmouth.

[Produced copies of two letters from Mr. Todd to Mr. Bell, and one from Mr. Todd to Captain Dashwood.]

Was it any part of Mr. Bell's official duty, to know whether the masters of packets had their full complement of men when they failed?

A very essential part of his duty.

Do you know that Mr. Todd, and many other persons in the Post Office, had a personal regard for Mr. Dashwood?

Yes; he was brought up in the Office under me from a lad, and every body had a real regard for him.—Mr. Todd treated him as his child, and it was a matter of general regret, that it happened, that he was the man pitched upon to make an

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example

example of ; and I believe there was no captain in the service, whom it would have given Mr. Todd more pain to make an example of.

Did you ever hear Mr. Dashwood confess his being guilty of what he was charged with ?

Yes.

Was it not rather conceived as a matter of delicacy to him, as he had generally confessed it, not to bring him before the Board on his dismissal ?

Yes.

Who was appointed to succeed Mr. Dashwood ?  
Captain Drake.

Do you know the reason of his appointment ?

He was appointed by Lord Carteret to ease the revenue of £100 per annum, which he had while unemployed by way of pension, and because it would at the same time provide for a friend of Lord Tankerville's.

Do you know what sum was paid in 1784 for hire of extra officers to perform the duty in the inland office ?

It might be about five hundred a year—the books will shew—it increased, till in 1786 it amounted to upwards of £.2000

Does the practice of hiring officers to perform such duty continue ?

No; it ceased the beginning of 1787, pursuant to Lord Carteret's orders.

Was Mr. Thomas Todd sent to Falmouth to enquire into the abuses in the Post Office, by Lord Tankerville only, or by the Post Master General, and by whom was he rewarded ?

By the Post Master General, and rewarded by the Board ; and in consequence of the information so  
procured

procured by him, he was ordered to draw up instructions for the new agent, to prevent any irregularities in the service for the future.

Do you think Lord Tankerville being in office prevented Lord Carteret from adopting the æconomical regulations above-mentioned, and which he carried into effect after his removal?

By no means; both one and the other were always complaining of the expence.

Do you know that Lord Tankerville ever, in any one instance, opposed an æconomical regulation?

No, by no means.

Do you suppose, that the increase in the expence for hire, above-mentioned, was in any degree owing to Lord Tankerville's administration of that Office?

By no means.

To what was that increased expence owing?

Chiefly to the new arrangement that was about taking place.

How comes it, then, that that expence has ceased since the new arrangement has taken place?

The officers who had been paid for doing extra duty, are all of them on duty now, morning and evening, every day, instead of three times a week, alternately, as they were before; for which extra duty, the clerks are in expectation of some small addition to their salary.

Do you know any instance of the same offence for which Mr. Dashwood was dismissed the service, being overlooked in any other captain?

No. Captain Peters has since been dismissed for the same offence.

Withdrew.



Mr. JOHN SLACK examined.

I am an Attorney.

Do you know Mr. Parkins, Solicitor to the Post Office?

I had transacted some business with him for the Post Office.

When and where did you transact that business with him?

At his chambers, about a fortnight ago.

Did you then inform him, that you was the Attorney for Mr. Peasley; that he was the Coal-merchant to the Post Office, and the appointment was given him by Lord Tankerville?

There was a writing produced to me, with the name of George Peasley to it, concerning a contract for some ground in Abchurch-lane, sold to the Post Office. I observed to him, that he was a son of an old client of mine. Mr. Parkins told me, that he had got a contract; I said, I had heard so, and believed that Lord Tankerville had been his friend; but that I understood he had got a partner in it.

Did you inform Mr. Parkins, that you had been at any time employed by Peasley to prepare a bond, or some instrument or agreement, whereby he was to engage to pay a sum of money annually, or otherwise, to any person, in consideration of that appointment given him by Lord Tankerville?

No. My conversation was, that he had a partner. Some instrument I did prepare; but what it was, at this distance of time, I cannot say.

Did you understand from Mr. Peasley, that Lord Tankerville knew any thing of the existence of the bond?

Not the least in the world.

[Bond

[Bond from Peasley to Mitchell, dated 9th May, 1785, produced and delivered in.]

Is that the bond to which you allude above ?

Yes.

Did you conceive that bond to be given as a condition of Mr. Peasley's appointment ?

Not at all.

Was it previous to, or after the date of Peasley's appointment ?

I believe it was afterwards.

Withdrew.

**Mr. GEORGE PEASLEY, Coal Merchant to the Post Office, examined.**

At what period was you appointed to supply the Post Office with coals ?

Early in May 1785, by Lord Tankerville.

Did you supply Lord Tankerville's family with coals, previous to his being appointed Post Master General ?

Many years.

At the time of his first appointment, had you any bill upon him for coals previously delivered to him ?

Yes, without doubt.

How was that bill discharged ?

By Lord Tankerville.

Was it not paid by Mr. Williams ?

It was not.

Is it to be understood, that a bill from you to Lord Tankerville, for coals sold to him, was afterwards stated in the Post Office account ?

Certainly. I was ordered to serve Lord Tankerville after his appointment, and my bill to be carried to Mr. Williams to be put in the Post Office bill ;

bill; and it went, signed by Lord Tankerville, to the Post Office.

Had Mr. Williams any share of the profits?

Certainly not of my bill.

Did you continue to furnish Lord Tankerville, during all the time he was in the Post Office?

Yes.

Did Mr. Williams never express to you any murmur or complaint, that notwithstanding his being coal merchant to the Office, you should be allowed to furnish the Post Master with coals, and enjoy the whole of the profits upon the coals so furnished?

When I told Mr. Williams that I was to serve Lord Tankerville, I stated to him how long I had served his Lordship: he said, he did not think it an unreasonable thing; it was no more than he would have asked himself. He also said, he would direct me in the methods of making out my bills, and that Lord Tankerville must sign the bill, before he, Williams, could put it in his account.

If Lord Carteret, Mr. Todd, and all the other officers who have allowances of coals from the Office, were to employ their own coal-merchants, and direct them to carry their bills to you, would you not conceive it a subject of complaint?

I should certainly think it a hardship—I should not think it an injustice.

Did you agree to furnish coals at the same price to Lord Tankerville, at which Mr. Williams, the Office coal-merchant, did, and would furnish him?

Yes.

Did you serve him so?

Yes.

The account being submitted to Mr. Peasley, and it being observed by a member of the Committee  
to

to him, that on the 9th of May, 1782, it appears that the coals were charged as delivered to Lord Tankerville, at the rate of £. 3 3s. and on the 11th, at the rate of £. 3; and that the intermediate day, being the 10th, Lord Carteret was served at 46 shillings, by Mr. Williams, coal-merchant to the Office; he was desired to explain it.

Mr. Williams certainly deceived me, if it is so— I certainly would have charged the same price as he did, had I known it.

At what time was you appointed coal-merchant to the Office?

The beginning of May, 1785.

Was there any proposal made to you, on your being appointed coal-merchant to the Post Office, to enter into partnership with any person?

I was then, and had been for 18 or 19 years, in partnership with Mr. Mitchell, who is servant to Lord Tankerville.

What was the firm of your house ten years ago?

I made out my bills sometimes as George Peasley and Co. sometimes as George Peasley and William Mitchell.

What share of the profits had Mr. Mitchell?

Before my appointment to the Post Office, he had one third, and I had two.—Since my appointment to the Post Office, Mitchell has half.

How came Mitchell's name not to be joined with yours, in the appointment to the Post Office?

I was told at the Post Office, that the appointment could not be in two names.

Who told you so?

I cannot recollect.

What security did you give to Mr. Mitchell, that he should have the half?

A bond.

A bond.

Did you understand that Lord Tankerville knew that such a bond was given?

No.

Did you understand that your giving a bond to Mr. Mitchell, not for one third of your profits, which you state to have been his share in the partnership, but for one half, was on condition of your being appointed?

Certainly not as a condition from Lord Tankerville.

Was the bond given previous to the appointment?

No—afterwards.

Do you conceive then, that no tradesmen who are in partnership, and who serve the Office, have different shares of the profits, according to the articles of their partnership?

No doubt but they may.

Have you had any conversation about this subject within the last three days?

No.

Have you had, directly or indirectly, any message from Lord Tankerville, within these three days?

Question objected to.

Witness withdrew.

Called in again.

Yes.

Did you, in consequence of that message, personally attend Lord Tankerville?

Yes.

Are you in a habit of receiving messages from Lord Tankerville, which require your personal attendance on him, and communication with him?

Certainly

Certainly---because I do a great deal of business for him, besides serving him with coals. I was a servant to his father.

In the communication that you had with him, did any thing pass on the subject of the bond granted by you to Mitchell, or which any way related to his connection with you?

Nothing about the bond, nor any thing relative to Mr. Mitchell, or his connection with me.

Did Lord Tankerville, in any way, endeavour to influence the evidence you was to give at this Committee?

Certainly not---nor any other person whatsoever.

Did you regularly carry in your bills, before you was appointed to the Post Office, to Mr. Williams?

Certainly.

Did he inspect them?

I certainly suppose he did.

Did he ever make any objections to any of your charges, as being too high?

No.

Withdrew.

### Mr. WILLIAM MITCHELL.

Are you in partnership with Mr. Peasley?

Yes---I have been so 20 years.

On his appointment to the Post Office, did he enter into a bond, to give to you, for your life, and to continue to your family, after your death, half the profits of his trade?

Yes.

Was that bond considered as a condition of his appointment?

T

No.

No.

Was Lord Tankerville privy to it?

He never knew of it till last night.

Withdrew.

Mr. THOMAS TODD.

Did you ever hear Lord Clarendon express any opinion on the subject of Mr. Dashwood's dismissal?

No---not myself.

Did you ever hear from any other person, that he had expressed any opinion upon that subject?

Yes---I heard from Mr. Saverland, that his Lordship considered his dismissal as a very hard case, under all the circumstances, and wished for an opportunity to have served him.

Did you ever know any instance of a captain who had been guilty of the same offence, being continued in the service?

I have known instances of captains that have failed without their full complement of men, and have afterwards remained in the service.

Do you know any instances of captains being continued in the service, who had not their full complement of men, whilst Lord Carteret was in office, the fact being known to the Board?

Yes---and that correspondence had been between the Secretary and the Agent at Falmouth, and the fact clearly proved from that correspondence; and I suppose Lord Carteret must, of course, have known it.

Was that correspondence laid before the Board?

I dare say it is on the Minutes of the Board.---

I con-

I conceive it was the duty of the Secretary to lay that correspondence before the Board.

Can you specify what captains?

I remember Captain Grove.

Can you state any thing relative to the capture of any packets during the war?

A great many were taken.

Were the captures of such packets, and the conduct of the captains who commanded them, regularly enquired into?

I have not thought, in my own opinion, that they were, in many instances.

Was it not the duty of the Board to make such inquiries?

In my situation, it is not for me to say what was the duty of the Board.

Was there at any time a suspicion of any packets having been captured, in consequence of having gone out of their course?

I have heard insinuations of that kind, and no longer than two days ago, a sailor, who was captured on board the Swift packet, in company with the Speedy, in the year 1782 or 3, called at the office, to say, that he had not received the 40s. smart money, allowed for the sailors taken.—On examining him myself, with regard to this capture by two French frigates, I told him I had heard that those frigates had marked their ports, and that those two packets took them for Virginia tobacco ships—chased them in order to take them, and so were taken themselves:—the man would not admit that the packets had chased, but said, if they had known what they were when they first saw them, they might easily have escaped.



Was the conduct of those two captains inquired into?

I do not know that any particular inquiry was made into it, but I had mentioned my suspicion that they were taken when out of their proper latitude, and that they ought not to have sailed so long in company together, according to their respective destinations.

Has not Mr. Todd a profit of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the indemnification allowed by Government to the captains and owners of such packets as were captured or damaged by the enemy during the war?

I believe he has—of two that I had shares in he had.

Do you know, on any occasion, an instance of a small vessel being employed instead of a packet, which was in so bad a condition as not to be able to put to sea?

The *Anna Theresa*, at the beginning of the war, was in so rotten a state, that the sailors refused to go in her, and a vessel of about 70 tons was substituted for her, with a small number of hands.

Was she paid at the same rate as the packet, in the room of which she was substituted?

Yes.

What was the size of the *Anna Theresa*?

About 230 tons.

Did the Secretary forbid you to enter the letter, which you wrote to Mr. Bell, in the books?

No—I left it with Mr. Todd, and never heard of it since.

Withdrew.

Adjourned to Monday.

*Luna,*

*Lunæ, 21<sup>o</sup> Die Maij, 1787.*

COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE.

Mr. FRANCIS.

Mr. GREY.

Mr. ADAM.

Mr. ANSTRUTHER. LORD MAITLAND.

Mr. SHERIDAN. Mr. COURTENAY.

Mr. WYNDHAM.

Mr. CHARLES MARTIN examined.

What do you know relative to the appointment of Mr. Hutcheson to Helvoetsluys ?

In spring, or early in the summer, last year, Mr. Hutcheson was in town, and acquainted me with the negociation between him and Mr. Molyneux: he said, he was soliciting the office of agent at Helvoetsluys from Lord Tankerville and Lord Carteret; and if he succeeded, as, from the recommendations he had to those noblemen, he hoped he should, he was to give Mr. Molyneux a sum of money, which was to enable him to get himself discharged from a French prison, where he was confined.—To raise this money, he proposed to sell his commission of adjutant to the Middlesex militia.—He was appointed to the agency, as I understood, with the concurrence of both Post Masters, as he mentioned them both, as equally disposed to befriend' him.

Have

Have you not heard Mr. Hutcheson express his anxiety that the business should be finished previous to Lord Tankerville's going out of office, lest it should not be so easy to manage afterwards?

To the best of my recollection, I frequently heard him express himself to that effect.

Did Mr. Hutcheson ever tell you Lord Tankerville was privy to or favoured this transaction?

The conversations respecting both Post Masters were so general, it was impossible to distinguish.

Can you tell whether the Post Masters General were privy to and favoured this transaction, being acquainted with all the circumstances of it?

Impossible for me to answer.

Did Mr. Hutcheson ever tell you so?

Always mentioned both Postmasters as one.---I always understood from the whole tenor of his conversation, that they were equally acquainted with the negotiation between him and Mr. Molyneux.

Did he tell you so directly?

I cannot recollect.

Had you ever any communication with either of the Post Masters on the subject?

No.

Is Mr. Molyneux a friend of Lord Carteret's or Lord Tankerville's?

I know nothing of his connections.

By whose interest did you suppose that Mr. Hutcheson obtained his appointment?

I understood from him that he was applying equally to both.

Did you ever hear him say he was more favoured by one than the other?

Never.

Withdrew.  
Mr.

Mr. LESLIE GROVE examined.

I am a merchant in London.

Did not you command a packet in the service of the Post Office?

I did.

Do you ever recollect having been at sea without your full complement of men?

Never intentionally, unless men died or deserted.

Do you know that it is generally considered as a great crime for a captain of a packet to sail without his full complement?

I ever considered it so.

Would you not consider it as a fraud to dismiss a number of your men after they had been mustered and before sailing?

Most assuredly.

Did you ever know that either at the conclusion of a war, or at any other time, it had been connived at to allow captains of packets to sail without their full complement?

I never did---nor do I believe it ever was---I never heard of but two instances of its being done, and then the captains were both dismissed.

From your knowledge of every thing that relates to the packets, what do you conceive would be the consequence if they were not to be allowed full pay while refitting or otherwise unemployed?

That their contract must be much larger.---Their allowance of wear and tear must be much larger.---I do not believe there is any service conducted at less expence to the government than the packet service carried on as it is.

Do you conceive, that upon this principle, full pay

pay ought to be continued to packets under seizure for smuggling?

I do not consider their being seized at the period when repairs are necessary, should make any alteration.

When did you quit the packet service?

In 1777 or 1778.

Do you know if there has any material alteration taken place in the management of the packet service since that period?

I do not believe any.---I am satisfied there has been none.

Do you believe that if the contract was to be made in the packet service for their being paid solely for the time they are employed, that the service could be carried on, on more advantageous terms to government?

The contractor would then expect to have so much more as would bring it to the same.

Did you not think that the utmost exertions were made to keep the captains in the service strictly to their duty during the time you was in the service yourself?

Most assuredly they were, and no complaint against any of them ever passed over by the office.

Did you not think there was great attention paid to the conducting of every thing in as economical a manner as possible by the office?

I certainly do---in some cases rather too strictly so.

Do you think that the Secretary of the Post Office receiving  $2\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on the expenditure relating to packets, is an economical measure, or advantageous to the public service?

I cannot

I cannot pretend to say.

Was it not customary for the captains of the packets in general, to discharge the greater parts of their crews on their arrival at Falmouth?

I never did it myself, but when I replaced them as soon after as I possibly could.

Did you ever hear of any other captains doing so?

I do not recollect, unless under the same circumstances.

Did you, during the intermediate time between their discharge, and replacement by new sailors, receive the full allowance for wages and victualling?

Certainly I did---because it was a part of my contract.

Do not you believe that more packets were employed, than were necessary to carry on the service?

I do not believe there ever were more than were absolutely necessary, nor do I think they have a sufficient number at present, for conducting the service with propriety.

Do you mean to declare your opinion to be, that if a packet should be actually employed but three or four months in a year, the full establishment of such packet should be paid by the public for the whole year?

She is always to be considered as ready for the service, therefore her establishment could not, with propriety or justice, be lessened.

Withdrew.

CAPTAIN CLARK examined.

I am Captain of a packet, the Queen Charlotte.

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Is

Is it not generally considered as a crime of a great magnitude, to fail without a full complement of men?

I have always considered it so.

Would you not consider it as a greater crime, to dismiss a number of your men, after they had been mustered, and before sailing?

Certainly.

Do you believe, that either at the conclusion of a war, or at any other time, it has been connived at, to allow the captains of the packets to fail without their full complement?

I believe it never has.

If you had had your men mustered, and afterwards discharged a number of them before you failed, what would you have expected to have been your punishment?

To have been dismissed the service.

From your knowledge of the packet service, do you, or do you not, think that it would have been of the most essential detriment, if the Post Master General, on the knowledge of the fact respecting Captain Dashwood, had neglected to have made an example of him?

I think it would.

What was the general opinion of the service, with regard to his dismissal?

With those I conversed with, it was thought unavoidable.

Did you ever observe any abuses in the regulation of the packet service?

I think there is one thing we want, and that is, military discipline among our men.

Withdrew.

Mr.

Mr. THOMAS TODD examined.

Was the correspondence which you state to have passed between the Secretary and the agent at Falmouth, relative to captains who had sailed without their full complement, entered on the letter-book of the Post Office?

There are certainly several.

Can you state any particular correspondence?

That of Captain Grove.

Did it appear that he sailed without his full complement?

From the West-India isles he did. He said they run away, and he could get no others.

Ought he to have been mustered in the West Indies?

Certainly, if he came from Jamaica.

Is it customary for the Post Masters in the West Indies to send over a muster-roll?

Yes.

Was such muster sent home in the case of Captain Grove?

Can't say; but if there was, it is destroyed before now.

Do you know whether it has been customary for captains, on their arrival at Falmouth, to discharge the greater part of their crew?

Many of them have done it; I believe the greatest part; and I have given full information of that myself to the Post Office, and I believe no steps have been taken to redress them; and I stated it in the paper I gave to Lord Tankerville and Mr. Todd.

Had any representations been made to the Board on the subject of Mr. Bell's misconduct, previous to your being sent to Falmouth?

U 2

Many



Many instances of Mr. Bell's neglect and misconduct had come to the knowledge of the Board.—Neither accounts nor remittances could be got from him; and Mr. Farquier, the Accomptant General, frequently had complained on that head.

Was any inquiry instituted in consequence?

Not that appeared to me sufficient enquiry; for if a proper enquiry had been made into the whole of Mr. Bell's conduct, the various frauds and abuses that appeared after his death, that he had been guilty of, must have come to the knowledge of the Board: and the frauds I mean to state to this Committee were forgeries of receipts for pensions to several persons who had been dead for some years—selling the King's warlike stores belonging to the Post Office, and not bringing the money to account—being in receipt of large sums of money for the Revenue, which he did not bring to account—and though there was no trace of it in his books of the Office, I substantiated a receipt of upwards of £. 2000, which must be lost to the Revenue, as his securities are not, I believe, equal to pay it.

Did not Mr. Todd make the inquiry which substantiated the receipt of the £. 2000, in consequence of being ordered so to do?

Yes.

Were there not complaints against Mr. Bell, and strong suspicions of his improper conduct, which might have warranted an enquiry long prior to that period when enquiry was instituted, and were they not known to the Board?

I think there were suspicions that might demand an enquiry, and I myself had, at various times, represented to Mr. Todd that he was improper for the office.

NUM.

## NUMBER X.

Extract.

General Post Office, Nov. 8, 1784.

I HAVE for some days expected, with a degree of anxiety, Lord Carteret's answer to your Lordship's letter, which I have now the honor to inclose; and his Lordship having thought proper to accompany it with a few lines to me, as having a perfect knowledge of this disagreeable business about Mr. ——— from the first, I should be wanting, at so critical a moment, in my duty to you both, and not at all corresponding with the character I hope through life to maintain, if I hesitated to interpose and freely deliver my opinion to your Lordship, that, as Lord Carteret professes the most hearty desire to live in harmony and confidence with your Lordship, and I know this declaration to be true, but cannot bring himself to sign Mr. ———'s commission, as he has been justly dismissed by him and Lord Foley upon the clearest proof of his guilt, and to my knowledge too under his own confession, your Lordship must at once appoint some other person, which will end the whole affair; and nothing is easier than by an answer of two lines, to say your Lordship did not at first see the matter in so strong a light, and therefore now most readily give it up, as indeed you must both wish and ought to do concerning every person or thing which might not be agreeable to the other.

Your

Your Lordship will never be sorry for this small condescension towards so well disposed a man, as for certain you will experience Lord Carteret to be upon all occasions; and I beg your Lordship will authorize me to propose a day for your meeting at the Board here, and to accept a dinner. I pray your Lordship to allow your letter of reconciliation to pass through my hands, and to believe me, with the greatest respect, &c.

ANTH. TODD.

To the Earl of Tankerville.

NUMBER X. (A.)

Brighton, Nov. 10th, 1784.

I UNDERSTAND from you, that "I must *at once* appoint some other *person, which will end the whole affair*;" and then follows the form of the letter which I *ought to write*. But, as I do not implicitly adhere to all the good advice you are so ready to give, I shall do neither one nor the other; and having stated *the whole affair impartially* to different people, I am infinitely more confirmed in my own opinion than I was, that Lord Carteret has taken up this matter with much too high a hand, and with a degree of unremitting, relentless severity, which the circumstances of the case do not justify.

Yours, &c.

T.

NUM-

## NUMBER X. (B.)

Brighton, Oct. 23d, 1784.

I HAVE not as yet wrote to Lord Carteret, having been a good deal engaged; and indeed I wished to be more reconciled to the negative put upon my nomination, the propriety of which I am by no means convinced of. However, I do not find that *I cool very fast*, or shall be easily prevailed on to believe that this matter has not been taken up with much too *high a band, which ill suits with me*. I really had not the most distant idea that Lord Carteret would have objected to the appointment of Mr. Dashwood, or I should certainly have mentioned it to him; and, whatever may be the result of this business, I have given a *recent and very strong proof of my readiness to concur with him*, much against my opinion, inclination, and duty; which nothing but the most earnest wish to preserve a good understanding should have prevailed on me to have done, as you well know from the letter I immediately wrote you on that subject. You may communicate as much as you please of this, though it is hastily written.

Yours, &c.

T.

## NUMBER X. (C.)

MY LORD,

AS much as I respect and desire to obey your Lordship, I dare not to impart, or even to intimate  
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the purport of your letter of last Saturday to Lord Carteret, unless I receive your Lordship's peremptory commands so to do by return of post, and in that case, though very reluctantly, I must obey you, for I do think your ground is not tenable; for as Lord Carteret has dismissed Mr. Dashwood for an acknowledged fraud, how can he now appoint him to a trust under himself: therefore, my Lord, in whatever else you may be inclined to stand your ground, suffer me to persuade your Lordship, in this case, to write a letter yourself, saying, without particulars perhaps, that you decline the appointment of Mr. Dashwood, which will make all matters smooth until you meet; and indeed, on the present account, I do not urge the holding a Board until that is adjusted; and I may say it is lucky for this time Lord Carteret does not come till towards the end of next month, in his way to Lord Weymouth.

Yours, &c.

ANTH. TODD.

To Earl Tankerville.

N U M B E R X. (D.)

I SHALL not be disposed to talk coolly on the subject of Mr. Dashwood, or hear any thing you may have to say, unless you can *prove* him guilty of fraud, which I do not admit; but now *tell you distinctly*, that I believe Lord Carteret has been indebted to you for that forced construction.

I hope

I hope to find every thing ready, as I must leave the Office at four at latest.

T.

N U M B E R X. (E.)

I AM sorry to say your Lordship is the only Post Master General I have not had the happiness to serve under with their perfect approbation; but I hope on Wednesday, by an open and fair discussion, to have it understood for the future, that whilst I act uprightly, fair, and open, I may be treated with confidence and regard, and not with harshness, which I cannot submit to,

N U M B E R X. (F.)

LORD Tankerville thinks, upon recollection, that the words "*not wantonly create a new precedent of official expence*" do not stand part of his letter to Mr. Todd, but that they were used in the discussion of the question; and therefore wishes they may not be annexed to that letter.—Lord Tankerville cannot, at this distance of time, recollect whether he returned any answer to Mr. Todd's letter respecting Staunton, or not; or whether he ever objected to Staunton; it is possible he might.—Lord Tankerville recollects thinking that injustice had been done Mr. Dashwood, but does not recollect ever proposing to Lord Carteret to concur in his appointment, after his first refusal, though possibly he might, in a letter to Mr. Todd, have questioned

X

the

the propriety of Lord Carteret's refusing to concur in the appointment in the first instance.—Lord Tankerville had received very strong recommendations of Mr. Dashwood, and his case had been represented to him very differently from what it is in Mr. Todd's letter.—Lord Tankerville does not recollect that Mr. Todd stated any objection to Mr. Dashwood when his name was given in, nor till after Lord Carteret's letter to Lord Tankerville at Bighthelmstone: the matter was dropped; and Lord Tankerville does not admit that there was any appearance of misunderstanding between them on that account, or that any consequences resulted from it.—Lord Tankerville states this, lest he should, from want of memory, have been inaccurate in his evidence upon a matter in which he could wish to give the most satisfactory information.

Lord Tankerville omitted to state in his evidence respecting the Housekeeper's bill, that he offered to subscribe half the sum, rather than concur in the payment of it out of the Revenue.

TANKERVILLE.

#### NUMBER X. (G.)

I HAVE had a very unpleasant day of it, his Lordship is so completely jealous, and wrong-headed; so that, without entering into unpleasing particulars, I had better leave him to his own thoughts: only I must beg of your Lordship to write me a short letter, signifying you have received mine of this day, with Lord Tankerville's therein, "that he believed your Lordship has been indebted

“ debted to me for the forced construction of fraud  
“ put on Mr. Dashwood’s conduct;” but that you  
are ready to assure his Lordship, and all the world,  
if it was necessary, that I did not, upon Mr. Dash-  
wood’s being proposed for a Surveyor, point out to  
you his misconduct; for you remembered the  
transaction but too well yourself, which compelled  
you, much against your heart, jointly with Lord  
Foley, to dismiss him; and all men admitted the  
justice of his sentence, as well as himself.

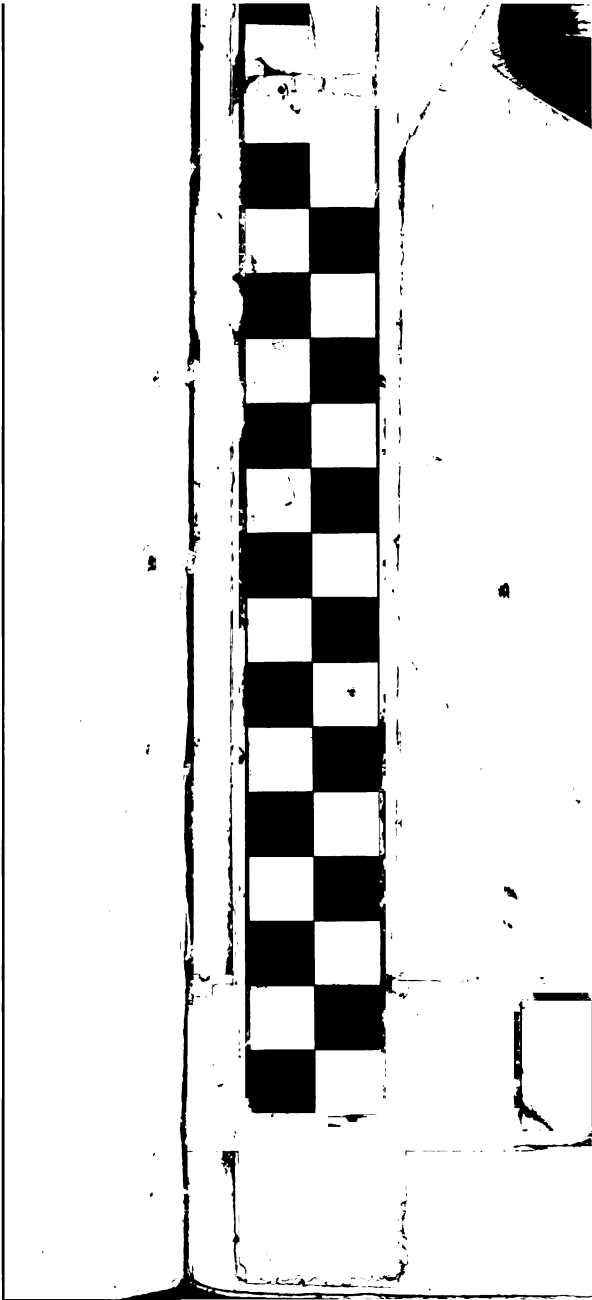
F I N I S.















APPENDIX

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