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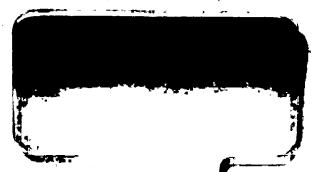
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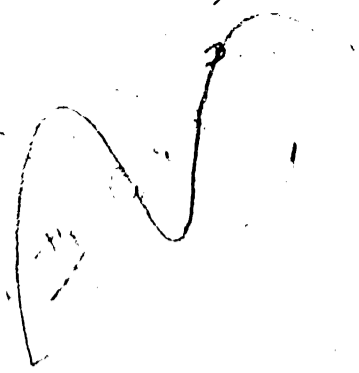
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THE  
TEN REPORTS

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS appointed to enquire into  
the FEES, GRATUITIES, &c. received at the several  
PUBLIC OFFICES therein mentioned.

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M. DCC. XCIII.



# TENTH REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS appointed by an Act of Parliament,  
to enquire into the Fees, Gratuities, Perquisites, and  
Emoluments, which are or have been lately received in  
the several PUBLIC OFFICES therein mentioned.

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POST OFFICE.

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LECTURE 10

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To the KING's Most Excellent MAJESTY, in Council.

**THE TENTH REPORT** of the Commissioners appointed by an Act of Parliament, to enquire into the Salaries, Fees, Gratuities, Perquisites, and Emoluments, which are or have been lately received in the several PUBLIC OFFICES therein mentioned; to examine into any Abuses which may exist in the same; and to report such Observations as shall occur to them, respecting the Business transacted in the said Offices.

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**U**PON the 11th of December last, we received Your Majesty's Order in Council, directing us "to proceed upon an Enquiry in the Office of Your Majesty's Postmaster General; to examine and report what Officers and Clerks are employed in the same; what is the Nature of their Duty, Services, and Attendance; what are the Salaries, Fees, Gratuities, Perquisites, and Emoluments, received by each of them, or their Substitutes; and what they may and ought lawfully to have and receive; adding such Observations as may occur to us."

We immediately issued our Precept to the Postmaster General for the necessary Returns; which being received, we proceeded to examine Anthony Todd, Esquire, the Secretary; Daniel Braithwaite, Esquire, Clerk to the Postmaster General, and the Officers and Clerks in the Secretary's Office; John Palmer, Esquire, Surveyor and Comptroller General, Mr. Charles Bonnor, his Deputy and Resident Surveyor, and the Officers, Clerks, and others in the Comptroller General's Office; Samuel Potts, Esquire, Comptroller of the Inland Office, Mr. John Watts, his Deputy, and the Officers, Clerks, and others, employed in the Inland Department; Augustus Pechell, Esquire, Receiver General, and the Officers and Clerks in his Office; William Fauquier, Junior, Esquire, Accountant General, and the Officers and Clerks in his Office; John Maddison, Esquire, Secretary, Charles Jackson, Esquire, Comptroller of the Foreign Office, Mr. John Starr his Deputy, with the Officers, Clerks, and others employed in the Foreign Department; John Stanton, Esquire, Comptroller, William Ward, Esquire, Collector, and Mr. Thomas Hyett, Accountant of the Bye and Cross Road Office, with the Officers and Clerks in that Office; Charles Walcot, Esquire, Comptroller, Mr. John Painter, Collector, and Mr. Thomas Dilkes, Accountant of the Penny Post Office, with the Officers and Clerks belonging to that Office; John Walcot, Esquire, Agent at Dover; Charles Cox, Esquire, Agent at Harwich; Benjamin Pender, Esquire, Agent at Falmouth; and Henry Penton, Esquire, Court Post; together with Samuel Palmer, Esquire, Solicitor to the Office, and Anthony Parkin, Esquire, his Deputy or Assistant.

From whom, and the Papers, Returns, and Accounts transmitted to us, we have obtained the following Information.

By an Act of Parliament, passed in the Ninth Year of the Reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne, One General Letter Office and Post Office was erected and established in London, for the Receipt, Conveyance, and Distribution of all Letters and Packets whatsoever, to or from any Part of the British Dominions or Territories, or to and from any other Kingdom or Country beyond the Seas; by the said Act her Majesty, her Heirs and Successors, were empowered to constitute and appoint from Time to Time, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain, One Master of the said General Letter Office and Post Office, by the Name and Stile of Postmaster General, which Officer and his Deputy and Deputies, by him thereunto duly appointed, and his and their Servants and Agents, and no other Person or Persons whatsoever, were authorized from Time to Time, and at all Times, to receive, take up, order, dispatch, send Post, carry and deliver, all Letters and Packets whatsoever, which

which should be sent to and from all and every Part of the British Dominions, and also to and from all and every the Kingdoms and Countries beyond the Seas, where he shall settle, or cause to be settled, Posts or Messengers for that Purpose.

The present Establishment of the General Post Office is—the Postmaster General, which Office is at present executed by Two Persons; a Secretary and Clerk to the Postmaster General; Six Clerks in the Secretary's Office; a Surveyor and Comptroller General, his Deputy and Resident Surveyor; a Clerk to the Comptroller General; a Resident Surveyor on the old Establishment; Seven Riding Surveyors; an Accountant for the Deputy Postmaster's Accounts of Salary and Riding Work, &c.; Two established and Three Extra Clerks; a Letter Bill Clerk and his Assistant; a Superintendant of Mails and Mail Coaches, and his Assistant; a Messenger and Office Keeper; those all belong to the Surveyor and Comptroller General's Department.

In the Inland Department, there are a Comptroller of the Inland Office, and his Deputy; a Comptroller of the Bye Nights, and his Deputy; Eighteen Senior Clerks, and Eighteen Assistants, Twenty Junior Clerks, a Deputy Window Man, a Sorter to the Pan, a Mail Maker, a Bag Maker, Bag Man, Four Inspectors of Carriers, Coachmen and Watermen, Four established Messengers, Four Supernumerary and Two Extra Messengers, a House Keeper and Chamber Keeper to the Postmaster General, an Inspector of the Sorting Duty, and Superintendant of the London Delivery; an Inspector of Inland Letter Carriers, and his Deputy; an Alphabet Man; One hundred and Ten established Letter Carriers; Twelve Supernumerary Letter Carriers: One of the Senior Clerks, and One of the Assistants act as Inspectors of Franks; One of the Seniors also acts as Window Man, and One of the Juniors as his Deputy, and Eighteen of the established Letter Carriers act likewise as Sorters.

In the Foreign Department there are, a Secretary, a Comptroller, and his Deputy, Seven Clerks, a Messenger, and Twelve Letter Carriers.

A Receiver General and Two Clerks, an Accountant General, his Deputy, and Four Clerks.

A Comptroller, an Accountant, and Collector in the Bye and Cross Road Office, with Four Clerks, an Inspector of Dead Letters, and an Office Keeper.

A Comptroller, Accountant, and Collector for the Penny Post Office, with Five Chief Sorters, Twelve other Sorters, Four Office Men, Forty-three Town Letter Carriers, Six Couriers, Thirty-three Country Letter Carriers, and Seven Supernumeraries.

Three Agents for Packet Boats, a Solicitor, and Court Post, with a Number of Deputy Postmasters and Agents at Home and Abroad.

The Duty of the Postmaster General is, to regulate and settle Inland Posts in any Part of Great Britain, and to and from any Part of Your Majesty's Plantations, and from Place to Place within the same, or any of them; to manage, cause to be collected, received, and levied, all and every Rates, Sum or Sums of Money, which have or shall grow due or payable by virtue of the several Acts of Parliament for that Purpose; and to do or cause to be done all other lawful Matters and Things which belong to the Office of Postmaster General to execute by virtue of the said Acts; to cause an Account to be kept of all the Monies as the same shall from Time to Time arise; to observe, obey, and perform all such Rules, Instructions, Orders, and Directions, in relation to the said Revenue, pursuant to the said Acts, as he shall from Time to Time receive under Your Majesty's Royal Sign Manual; and touching the Management, Ordering, and Government of the Revenue in the said Office, he is to observe such Orders and Directions as the Commissioners of Your Majesty's Treasury shall from Time to Time think fit to give him for Your Majesty's Service, pursuant to the Intent and Meaning of the said Acts: He is to appoint such Deputy Postmasters, Substitutes, Accountants, Comptrollers, Supervisors, Collectors, Clerks, Sorters, Window Men, Letter Receivers, Letter Carriers, Messengers, and other Officers and Servants, as the Commissioners of the Treasury shall think fit and necessary for the Service; he is authorized to suspend, remove, and displace the said Persons, or any of them, and to take such Security from all as he shall think fit for the faithful Discharge of their Duty, and of their respective Trusts; he is to establish such Salaries and Allowances to the said Officers for their respective Services as the Commissioners of the Treasury shall approve; he is also to allow such Incident and Contingent Charges as may arise in the Management of the said Office, or of the Revenue accruing thereby, as hath been usually allowed, or as in his Discretion he shall find necessary to be allowed for the better carrying on of the Service of the said Office, and to cause the said Salaries and Incident Charges to be paid by the Receiver General out of the Revenues of the said Office.

The Office of Postmaster General being at present executed by Two Persons, they have each a Salary of One thousand Pounds a Year, and an Allowance of One thousand Two hundred Pounds a Year, in lieu of the Share of Freight on Money, formerly enjoyed by the Postmaster General; they have also certain Fees on Commissions and Deputations, which in the Year 1784 produced One hundred and Eighty-four Pounds Three Shillings and Three Pence, making the Annual Income of each Two thousand Three hundred and Eighty-four Pounds Three Shillings and Three Pence; out of which the Land Tax, Two hundred and Twenty-five Pounds, being deducted, makes the Net Receipt of each Two thousand One hundred and Fifty-nine Pounds Three Shillings and Three Pence, with an unfurnished House for their Residence in the Office, and an unlimited Allowance of Coals, Candles, Oil, and Tin Ware; they have the whole Patronage of the Office, the Receiver General, his Clerks, and the Court Post, excepted.

£. 1,000. £. 1,200.

£. 184. 3. 3.

£. 2,384. 3. 3.

£. 225.

£. 2,159. 3. 3.

The Duty of the Secretary is to carry on the general Correspondence of the Office, and under the Direction of the Postmaster General to superintend the whole Business of the Office; to attend the Board, take Minutes of the Proceedings, and to give Directions for carrying into Execution the Orders of the Postmaster General. Appendix, N<sup>o</sup> 1.

His Attendance is constant, and at all Hours, when required.

He has a Salary of Two hundred Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes to One hundred and Fifty-five Pounds; an Allowance of Seventy-five Pounds a Year from the Bye Letter Office; One hundred Pounds a Year for Coach Hire, and certain Fees on Commissions and Deputations, which amounted in the Year 1784 to One hundred and Thirty-eight Pounds Twelve Shillings; he has a Gratuity of One hundred Pounds a Year from the Master of Lloyd's Coffee House, and a Commission of Two and a Half *per Cent.* on the whole Amount of the Expenditure for Packet Boats employed at Dover, Harwich, and Falmouth; this he receives as Agency from the Captains or managing Owners of the Packets, for receiving the Hire, &c. due to them, and paying the same to their Order; this Agency amounted in the Year 1784 to One thousand One hundred and Sixty-nine Pounds Eleven Shillings and Four Pence (but in a Year of War it has amounted to upward of Two thousand Pounds); the above Sums, making together One thousand Seven hundred and Thirty-eight Pounds Three Shillings and Four Pence, was the Net Amount of his Income in the Year 1784; besides which, he has an unfurnished House in the Office for his Residence, Twenty Chaldrons of Coals, Sixty-four Dozen Pounds of Tallow Candles, and Twelve Dozen Pounds of Wax Candles, Annually; with Two Dozen of Arrack, and Eight Pounds of Tea, from the East India Company.

He was likewise Secretary to the Foreign Office until July last, when he resigned that Employment.

He is Part Owner of several Packet Boats employed in the Service of the Post Office on the Falmouth Station, but he has declined taking any new Concern for the last Ten Years.

The Duty of the Clerk to the Postmaster General is to assist the Secretary in carrying on the general Correspondence of the Office; to prepare Fair Drafts of the Board's Minutes for entering in the Journals; to enter all Remittances on Account of the Revenue, from the Country Postmasters, or from the Postmasters and Agents Abroad, and in the Absence of the Secretary to acknowledge the Receipt of them to the Parties; and to deliver such Remittances to the Accountant or Receiver General, and to take their Acknowledgment for the same; and generally to assist in all the Business of the Secretary's Department. N<sup>o</sup> 2.

His Attendance is constant, and at all Hours.

He has a Salary upon the Establishment of Sixty Pounds a Year, reduced by the Civil List Deduction to Fifty-eight Pounds Ten Shillings; he has likewise a Net Salary of Eighty Pounds a Year paid out of Incidents, and Fifteen Pounds a Year from the Bye Letter Office; the whole Amount therefore of his Annual Salary is One hundred and Fifty-three Pounds Ten Shillings; he has certain Fees upon Commissions and other Instruments issued from this Office, and upon every private Express passing through or sent from the Office, which Fees amounted in the Year 1784 to Three hundred and Twelve Pounds Six Shillings; and he has an Allowance of One Pound Seventeen Shillings a Year for what is called Feast and Drink Money, making together Four hundred Sixty-seven Pounds Thirteen Shillings; out of which he paid to his Predecessor during his Life Four Pence Halfpenny out of every Shilling received for Fees on Expresses, and retained the Remainder for his own Use; he has besides an Allowance of Ten Chaldrons of Coals, and Thirty-two Dozen Pounds of Candles, Annually.

He is Agent to the Person who supplies the Office and the Clerks of the Roads with News-papers, from whom he receives Two hundred Pounds a Year for transacting the Whole of that Business, the Principal doing no Part of it himself.

He is Part Owner of Three Packet Boats employed in the Service of the Post Office on the Falmouth Station.

There are Six Clerks employed in the Secretary's Office; the Duty and Attendance of Five of N<sup>o</sup> 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; them, One being vacant, are set forth in the Appendix.

Their Salaries, Allowances, Fees, Gratuities, and Emoluments are as follows:

Stations.	Salaries on the Establishment.	Salaries out of Incidents.	Salaries from the Bye Letter Office.	Allowances.	Fees and Gratuities.	Emoluments.	Total.	Deductions.		Net Receipt.
								Taxes paid thereout.	Other Payments thereout.	
1 <sup>st</sup> Clerk - -	£. 130 - -	- -	12 10 - -	3 14 - -	132 - -	8 16 - -	287 - -	17 10 - -	10 - - & 7	248 18 4½
2 <sup>d</sup> Clerk - -	100 - -	- -	- -	1 17 - -	18 - -	8 19 6	128 16 6	17 10 - -	20 1 7½	110 16 6
3 <sup>d</sup> Clerk - -	80 - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	7 6 - -	87 6 - -	- -	- -	87 6 - -
4 <sup>th</sup> Clerk - -	80 - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	80 - -	- -	- -	80 - -
5 <sup>th</sup> Clerk - -	70 - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	5 5 - -	75 5 - -	- -	- -	75 5 - -
6 <sup>th</sup> Clerk - -	60 - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	60 - -	- -	- -	60 - -

N<sup>o</sup> 8.

The Duty of the Surveyor and Comptroller General is to superintend the Whole of the Office, including the Bye and Cross Road Office, and Penny Post Office; to direct the Management of the various Post Offices, and proper Conveyance of the Mails all over the Kingdom; to correspond with and give Directions to the several Riding Surveyors, and Deputy Postmasters, the Contractors for conveying the Mails, and to all Persons who are employed in the Conveyance, Sorting and Delivery of Letters; to receive and determine, with the Approbation of the Postmaster General, upon all Representations or Applications for establishing new Posts, or Alterations in those already established; to attend to and redress all Complaints of Irregularity in the Persons employed in the several Departments; to regulate the Mode of conducting the Business in general, and of stating the Accounts of the Deputy Postmasters, both for their Salary and Riding Work, and attend that the Charge against them be accurately made out, and delivered to the Accountant General, and that the Account of the Missent and Dead Letters be properly examined and stated; to contract for the Conveyance of the Mails all over Great Britain, attend that they be properly guarded, and generally to superintend all the Duties relative to the Correspondence of the Kingdom.

His Attendance is constant, and the Performance of the Duties of his Office occupies his whole Time.

£. 1,500.

He has a Salary of One thousand Five hundred Pounds a Year clear of all Deductions; out of which however he is to defray his Travelling and other Expences; he has an unfurnished House for his Residence adjoining to the Post Office; he has Coals and Candles for his Use therein; besides which he has an Allowance of Thirty Chaldron of Coals Annually.

He also considers himself entitled to Two and a Half *per Cent.* Annually upon such Sum as the Revenue of the Post Office shall net above Three hundred thousand Pounds a Year, or an Equivalent thereto, although the same is not expressed in his Appointment from the Postmaster General.

N<sup>o</sup> 9.

The Duty of the Resident Surveyor and Deputy to the Comptroller General, is to assist that Officer in every Part of his Duty, and in his necessary Absence to perform his Duty at the General Post Office, where he is to reside for that Purpose.

His Attendance is constant, and at present from Six in the Morning until Nine at Night, and frequently later.

£. 500.

He has a Salary of Five hundred Pounds a Year Net, and House Rent and Taxes paid for him, there not being at present a House at the Post Office for his Residence; he has an Annual Allowance of Fifteen Chaldron of Coals, and Forty-eight Dozen Pounds of Candles, with sundry small Articles of Turnery for Household Use, as customary to the Officers in this Office.

N<sup>o</sup> 10.

The Duty of the Clerk to the Surveyor and Comptroller General is to execute such confidential Business as may be required of him; his Attendance is constant, and he has a Salary of Eighty Pounds a Year Net.

N<sup>o</sup> 11.

The Duty of the Resident Surveyor on the old Establishment is, or rather was, to examine all Applications to the Postmaster General for Alterations in the Course of the Post, or for the Establishment of new Branches, and to report to the Board the Advantages or Disadvantages that in his Opinion might probably arise to Correspondence, or the Revenue, from such Alterations or Establishments; to consider and report upon all Petitions from Deputy Postmasters for Increase of Salaries for Office Duty, or for Allowances for Riding Work; to attend that proper and correct Way Bills were provided for all the Roads and Branches, and to fix as near as possible the Time necessary for the Performance of the Riding Work of each Stage, in order to ascertain the Time of the Day or Night that the Mails ought to arrive at every Office in the Kingdom; this Duty he executed until the Establishment of the present Comptroller General's Plan, and the several Appointments made in consequence thereof, since which he has not been called upon to execute any Part of the said Duty.

His Attendance while in the Execution of his Office, was constantly Three Days a Week, about Five Hours each Day, and at all other Times when the Business required it.

£. 300. £. 232. 10.

£. 334. 7.

He has a Salary of Three hundred Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes to Two hundred Thirty-two Pounds Ten Shillings, and an Allowance out of Incidents of One hundred Pounds a Year Net; and One Pound Seventeen Shillings as his Share of Feast and Drink Money; making together Three hundred and Thirty-four Pounds Seven Shillings, besides which he has Ten Chaldrons of Coals, and Thirty-two Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually.

N<sup>o</sup> 12, 13.

The Duty of the Riding Surveyors is to inspect into the Management of the Country Postmasters; to enquire into the Circumstances of every Deputy, and his Securities; to examine whether he is in Arrear, and require him to remit; to instruct the several Deputies how to sort, tax, charge, and circulate the Letters received at their Offices; to explain to them the Manner of keeping their Accounts; to keep them up to their Discipline, in conveying the Mails at such a Number of Miles *per Hour* as their Instructions direct; to check and report any Impropriety in their Conduct; to endeavour to detect all Coachmen, Carriers and others, who shall collect, carry, or deliver any Letters or Packets contrary to Law, that they may be prosecuted; and when any Alteration is made in the Course of the Post, or new Branch established in their Districts, to direct the Operations and regulate the same.

10.

Their

Their Attendance is as Occasion may require, in Town or Country.

One of them has a Salary of Four hundred Pounds a Year, another of Three hundred and Fifty Pounds, but no Allowance for Travelling Charges; the others have each a Salary of One hundred Pounds a Year, and an Allowance of One Guinea *per* Day when travelling, and they all have Stationary for their Use. £. 400. £. 350.

The Duty and Attendance of the Accountant, Clerks, and others, employed in the Comptroller General's Office, are stated in the Appendix. N<sup>o</sup> 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22,

Their Salaries and Allowances are as follows :

23, 24.

Stations.	Salaries on the Establishment.	Salaries out of Incidents.	Salaries from the Bye Letter Office.	Allowances.	Fees and Gratuities.	Emoluments.	Total.	Deductions.		Net Receipt.
								Taxes paid thereout.	Other Payments thereout.	
Accountant	No	Salary.	—	£. 100 —	By Warrant,	specified	to be for Extra Service.	—	—	—
1 <sup>st</sup> Clerk	£. 100 —	—	—	—	—	—	£. 100 —	—	—	£. 100 —
2 <sup>d</sup> Clerk	60 —	—	—	—	—	—	60 —	—	—	60 —
Senior Extra Clerk	80 —	—	—	—	—	—	80 —	—	—	80 —
2 <sup>d</sup> Extra Clerk	80 —	—	—	—	—	—	80 —	—	—	80 —
3 <sup>d</sup> Extra Clerk	80 —	—	—	—	—	—	80 —	—	—	80 —
Clerk of the Letter Bills, and Keeper of the Cheque Book	54 12 —	—	—	—	—	—	54 12 —	—	—	54 12 —
Assitant to D <sup>o</sup>	46 16 —	—	—	—	—	—	46 16 —	—	—	46 16 —
First Superintendent of Mails	Has hitherto received	no Salary.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assitant to D <sup>o</sup>	54 12 —	—	—	—	—	—	54 12 —	—	—	54 12 —
Messenger	46 16 —	—	—	—	—	—	46 16 —	—	—	46 16 —
House-keeper	—	—	—	18 15 —	—	—	18 15 —	—	6 6 —	12 9 —

The Duty of the Comptroller of the Inland Office is to see that all the Officers, Clerks, Sorters, and Letter Carriers attend at the proper Hours for Dispatch of Business, and, if necessary, to enforce such Attendance, and to keep them to their Duty; to receive the Charge of every Mail from the Sorters, cast up the Deputy Postmaster's Bills, to see how far they agree therewith, and to compare such Charge with that reported to him by the Letter Carriers; when agreed, to transcribe the same, and deliver it to the Receiver General, that he may receive the Amount from each Letter Carrier, and previous to the late Arrangement under the Comptroller General to regulate the whole Business relative to the Letter Carriers, hear Complaints, and suspend such as he found necessary; but this Duty is now performed by the Comptroller General, or his Deputy; His Attendance is Three Mornings and Three Evenings in the Week on what are called the Grand Days, namely Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the Mornings, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday in the Evenings. N<sup>o</sup> 25.

In this Duty he is assisted by a Deputy, who attends at the same Time with him.

N<sup>o</sup> 26.

He has a Salary of Two hundred Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes to One hundred and Fifty-five Pounds; also a Salary from the Bye and Cross Road Office of Seventy-five Pounds a Year Net; he has an Allowance of Three Pounds Seventeen Shillings, as his Share of Feast and Drink Money, and a Gratuity of One hundred Pounds a Year from the Master of Lloyd's Coffee House; he likewise did receive in the Year 1784 Three hundred Pounds, being Fifty Pounds from each of the Clerks of the Roads from their Profits on News-papers; out of which he paid his Deputy One hundred and Thirty Pounds, but such Allowance and Out Payment have since been discontinued, and he derived a Net Profit in that Year from the Circulation of News-papers of Four hundred and Seventy-seven Pounds Ten Shillings and Ten Pence, making his Net Receipt for the said Year Nine hundred and Eighty-one Pounds Seven Shillings and Ten Pence; besides which he has Two unfurnished Rooms in the Office, with Coals and Candles for his Use therein, and also an Allowance of Ten Chaldron of Coals and Thirty-two Dozen Pounds of Candles, Stationary for his own Use, Five Evening Papers and Two Gazettes, and Two Dozen of Arrack Annually from the East India Company. £. 200. £. 155. £. 300. £. 130. £. 477. 10. 10. £. 981. 7. 10.

At present the Allowance from the Clerks of the Roads having been discontinued, and his Profits from News-papers decreasing, his Annual Income is reduced to Seven hundred and Sixty-two Pounds Eight Shillings and Ten Pence.

His Deputy has a Salary upon the Establishment of One hundred Pounds, reduced by Taxes to Eighty-two Pounds; and an Allowance out of Incidents of One hundred and Thirty Pounds a Year formerly paid him by the Comptroller; One Pound Seventeen Shillings as his Share of Feast and Drink Money; making together his Net Annual Receipt Two hundred and Thirteen Pounds Seventeen Shillings; besides which he has an unfurnished House in the Office for his Residence, Five Chaldron of Coals, and Twenty Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually. £. 213. 17.

The Duty and Attendance of the Comptroller of the Bye Nights and his Deputy, are the same on the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings, and on the Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Mornings, as those of the foregoing Officers. N<sup>o</sup> 27, 28.

The Comptroller has a Salary of One hundred Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes to Eighty-two Pounds Ten Shillings, and an Allowance of Two Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Eight Pence, as his Share of Feast and Drink Money; he has an unfurnished Room in the Office, Ten Chaldron of Coals, and Thirty-four Dozen Pounds of Candles, and certain Articles of Stationary for his Use, with Two Dozen of Arrack Annually from the East India Company; he has the Privilege of franking Newspapers, and the Profits arising from the Circulation thereof, which are so much reduced, and the Payments thereof such, that in the Year 1784 he was a Loser thereby of about Six Pounds, which reduced his Net Receipt in that Year to Seventy-nine Pounds Eight Shillings and Two Pence, although he has cleared formerly about Six hundred Pounds a Year from that Privilege: Being now relieved from the Out Payments, his Income last Year was Three hundred and Eight Pounds and Eight Pence.

£. 308. — 8.

His Deputy has a Salary of Sixty Pounds a Year, reduced by the Civil List Duty to Fifty-eight Pounds Ten Shillings; an Allowance of Two Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Eight Pence for his Share of Feast and Drink Money; he has a Room in the Office, Fourteen Pounds of Candles, and Stationary for his Use; he has likewise the Privilege of franking News-papers into the Country; which in the Year 1784 produced him a Profit of One hundred and Ninety-three Pounds Five Shillings and Ten Pence, although he has gained formerly by that Privilege about Five hundred Pounds a Year; his Net Receipt therefore in 1784 was Two hundred and Fifty-four Pounds Fourteen Shillings and Six Pence; but some of the Out Payments having been since discontinued, his Income has encreased.

£. 193. 5. 10.

£. 254. 14. 6.

N<sup>o</sup> 29, 30, 31, 32,  
33, 34, 35, 36, 37,  
38, 39, 40, 41, 42,  
43, 44, 45, 46, 47,  
48, 49, 50, 51, 52.

The Duty and Attendance of the Eighteen Senior Clerks, their Assistants and Juniors, is set forth at large in the Appendix; they are properly Sorters; the Kingdom being now divided into Nine Divisions, a Senior and his Assistant are attached to each, and attend together alternate, Mornings and Nights, and the Juniors act as occasional Assistants to those Seniors who are employed on other Duty, such as Window Men, Inspectors of Franks, &c.

Their Salaries, Allowances, Fees and Gratuities are as follows:

Stations.	Salaries on the Establishment.	Salaries out of Incidents.	Salaries from the Bye Letter Office.	Allowances.	Fees and Gratuities.	Emoluments.	Total.	Deductions.		Net Receipt.
								Taxes paid thereout.	Other Payments thereout.	
Clerk of the West Road	60	—	—	—	396 19 10	—	456 19 10	1 10	164 8	291 1 10
— Bristol Road	60	—	—	2 18 8	133 15	—	196 13 8	1 10	—	195 3 8
— Kent Road	60	—	—	2 18 8	241 8 8	—	304 7 4	1 10	—	302 17 4
— Yarmouth Road	60	50	—	1 17	190 7	—	302 4	1 10	50	250 14
— of the Bye Nights	60	20	—	111 17	—	—	191 17	1 10	—	190 7
Assistant to Clerk of the Chester Road	60	—	—	117 2	—	—	177 2	1 10	—	175 12
Assistant to Clerks of the North, West, and Bristol Roads	60	—	—	81 17	—	—	141 17	1 10	—	140 7
	60	—	—	81 17	—	—	141 17	1 10	—	140 7
	60	—	—	81 17	—	—	141 17	1 10	—	140 7
Assistants to Clerks of the Roads	50	—	—	61 17	—	—	111 17	—	—	111 17
	50	—	—	61 17	—	—	111 17	—	—	117 17
Clerks in the 6th, 7th, and 9th Divisions	50	50	—	1 17	—	—	101 17	—	—	101 17
	50	50	—	1 17	—	—	101 17	—	—	101 17
	50	50	—	1 17	—	—	101 17	—	—	101 17
	50	40	—	1 17	—	—	91 17	—	—	91 17
Window Man	60	40	—	—	20 12 1	—	120 12 1	1 10	—	119 2 1
Window Man on Bye Days	50	50	—	4 7	28 2 1	—	132 9 1	—	—	132 9 1
Senior Sorters	50	—	—	1 17	—	—	51 17	—	—	51 17
	50	50	—	1 17	—	—	101 17	—	—	101 17
	50	50	—	1 17	—	—	101 17	—	—	101 17
	50	50	—	1 17	—	—	101 17	—	—	101 17
Assistants at the 2d and 8th Divisions	50	30	—	4 9	—	—	84 9	—	—	84 9
	50	20	—	14 9	—	—	84 9	—	2 12	81 17
Assistants at the 3d, 4th, 7th, and 8th Divisions	—	50	—	29 8	—	—	79 8	—	—	79 8
	—	50	—	12 12	—	—	62 12	—	—	62 12
	—	50	—	12 12	—	—	62 12	—	—	62 12
	—	50	—	12 12	—	—	62 12	—	—	62 12
Acting Assistant at the 6th Division	50	—	—	13 13	—	—	63 13	—	—	63 13
Assistants at the 4th and 6th Divisions	50	—	—	10	—	—	60	—	—	60
	50	—	—	10	—	—	60	—	—	60
Assistants at the 2d, 4th, 7th, and 9th Divisions	50	—	—	6 6	—	—	56 6	—	—	56 6
	50	—	—	6 6	—	—	56 6	—	—	56 6
	50	—	—	6 6	—	—	56 6	—	—	56 6
	50	—	—	6 6	—	—	56 6	—	—	56 6
One of the Inspectors of Franks	50	—	—	6 6	—	—	56 6	—	—	56 6
Assistants at the 1st, 3d, 5th, and 9th Divisions	50	—	—	6 6	—	—	56 6	—	—	56 6
	50	—	—	5	—	—	55	—	—	55
	50	—	—	5	—	—	55	—	—	55
	50	—	—	4 14	—	—	54 4	—	—	54 4
	50	—	—	4 4	—	—	54 4	—	—	54 4
Assistant to the Bye Day Window Man	50	—	—	7 10	20 5	—	77 15	—	—	77 15
Tellers and Sorters	50	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
	50	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
	50	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
	50	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
	50	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
Tellers at the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 7th Divisions	50	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
	50	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
	50	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
	50	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
Junior Sorters	50	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
	50	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	50
	40	—	—	—	—	—	40	—	—	40
	40	—	—	—	—	—	40	—	—	40
Assistant to 1st Window Man	80	—	—	2 10	20	—	102 10	—	—	102 10



N<sup>o</sup> 53, 54, 55, 56, 57.

The Duty and Attendance of the Sorter to the Pan, or Inspector of Blind Letters, of the Mail Maker, Bag Maker, Bag Man, and Inspectors of Carriers, Coachmen, and Watermen, are stated in the Appendix.

Their Salaries, Allowances, and Emoluments, are as follows :

Stations.	Salaries on the Establishment.	Salaries out of Incidents.	Salaries from the Bye Letter Office.	Allowances.	Fees and Gratuities.	Emoluments.	Total.	Deductions.		Net Receipt.	
								Taxes paid thereout.	Other Payments thereout.		
Inspector of Blind Letters	Has received no Salary or Allowance in his present Situation.										
Mail Maker	£. 150	—	—	226 10 6	—	5	376 15 6	Amount of Materials and Workmanship.	—	—	
Bag Maker	100	—	—	542 3	—	—	642 3		—	464	178 3
Bag Mender, and Sorter of Bags, &c.	59 8	—	—	103 12 8	—	—	163 8		—	40	123 8
Inspector of Coachmen, Carriers, and Watermen	52	—	—	—	—	—	52		—	—	52

N<sup>o</sup> 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67.

The Duty and Attendance of the Messengers, Inspector of the Sorting Duty, Inspector of the Inland Letter Carriers, his Deputy, Alphabet Man, Chamber Keeper, and House Keeper, are stated in the Appendix.

Their Salaries, Fees, Gratuities and Emoluments, are as follows :

Stations.	Salaries on the Establishment.	Salaries out of Incidents.	Salaries from the Bye Letter Office.	Allowances.	Fees and Gratuities.	Emoluments.	Total.	Deductions.		Net Receipt.					
								Taxes paid thereout.	Other Payments thereout.						
Established Messengers	31 4	7 16	—	13 2	120 19	—	173 1	—	7 16	165 5					
	31 4										13 2	120 19	173 1	7 16	165 5
	31 4										13 2	120 19	173 1	7 16	165 5
	31 4										13 2	120 19	173 1	26	147 1
Supernumerary Messengers	39	—	—	28 16	2 6	—	67 18 6	—	—	67 18 6					
	39										24 16	2 6	63 18 6	63 18 6	
	39										23 16	2 6	62 18 6	62 18 6	
	39										19 16	2 6	58 18 6	58 18 6	
Extra Messenger	—	28 12	—	104	—	—	132 12	—	30	102 12					
Assistant to the Keeper of the Cheque Book	30	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	15 12	14 8					
Inspector of Sorting Duty	36 9	—	—	—	20	43 11	100	—	20 16	79 4					
Inspector of Letter Carriers	60	—	—	11 16	—	—	71 16	4 10	—	70 6					
Deputy Inspector	56 8	—	—	—	18	26 5	100 13	—	25 6	75 7					
Alphabet Man	49 8	—	—	—	30	—	79 8	—	—	79 8					
Chamber Keeper	65	—	—	43 7 6	33 14	—	142 1 6	—	42 1 6	100					
House Keeper	20	80	—	153 3 8	—	—	253 3 8	—	153 9 8	99 14					

The established Letter Carriers have each Fourteen Shillings a Week Wages, besides the Perquisites of Bell Money, Quarterly Acknowledgments, and Christmas Boxes. The Supernumerary Letter Carriers have Eight Shillings a Week; and a further Allowance from the established Carriers when employed.

The Letter Carriers employed as Sorters, have an Addition of One Shilling and Six Pence a Day for that Duty, and the like Allowance for their Attendance in the Evening, in the Newspaper Office.

N<sup>o</sup> 68.

The Duty of the Secretary in the Foreign Department is to write all Letters, and to keep a regular Correspondence with all Foreign Post Masters, relative to the Business of the Department. His Attendance is Daily.

He has a Salary of Fifty Pounds a Year upon the Establishment, and another of One hundred Pounds out of Incidents; he has an Allowance of Six Shillings a Week, being Fifteen Pounds Twelve

Twelve Shillings a Year, for Coach Hire; and One Pound Seventeen Shillings, being his Share of Drink and Feast Money, making the Whole of his Net Annual Receipt One hundred and Sixty-seven Pounds Nine Shillings; besides which he is allowed Ten Chaldron of Coals, and Thirty-two Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually. £. 167. 9.

The Duty of the Comptroller of the Foreign Office is, to superintend the whole Business of the Office, and to see that every Officer and Letter Carrier do his Duty; to attend the Sorting, Taxing, and Delivery of the Letters by the Foreign Mails; to tell up and charge his Deputy with the Amount of all Letters delivered at the Office Window; to charge the several Letter Carriers with the Amount of the Letters delivered to them, and to transmit Weekly a fair State of both, together with an Account of the Money received on Post Nights, to the Receiver General, and a Copy thereof to the Accountant General; to enter the Number of Letters which are received from the Countries beyond Scotland, France, and Flanders, and see that they agree with the Lifts transmitted; to enter all Letters and Packets for any Part of Great Britain or Ireland, which come registered from Abroad, and on which a Fee is received; to keep an Account of such Postage as the Country Post Masters have neglected to receive, with Foreign Letters, and transmit the same to the Accountant General, that they may be charged therewith in their Quarterly Accounts; to examine the Quarterly and general Accounts from Paris and Amsterdam; and attend that all Missent Letters are returned, and the proper Rebates allowed. No 69.

Every Tuesday Night it is his Duty to attend the Sorting and Dispatch of the Letters for that Night's Mail, and to tell up the Letters which have been paid for at the Window that Evening, as a Check upon the Window Man, the Postage of which sometimes amounts to near Two hundred Pounds; to see the whole be properly sorted, tied up, put into their respective Bags, and dispatched; to enter all Packets of Value which are registered, and seal them up in their proper Bags.

His Attendance is constant, on Account of the Uncertainty of the Arrival of the Mails; he is obliged to be always in Waiting, and on the Arrival of the Mails never leaves the Office until the Window is opened, and the Letter Carriers dispatched. On Tuesday Nights he remains in the Office from Five o'Clock in the Evening until every Mail is dispatched, which seldom happens until near Two, sometimes Three, Four, or Five o'Clock next Morning; he also attends several Hours on Friday Evening, which is his Deputy's Night.

He has a Salary of One hundred and Fifty Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes to One hundred and Fifteen Pounds Two Shillings and Four Pence; an Allowance of Sixty Pounds a Year from Government, and the Benefit of circulating News-papers Abroad, which in the Year 1784 produced him net Eight hundred and Ninety-five Pounds Four Shillings and Six Pence; he receives a Moiety of the Fees paid on registering Packets of Value, sent to, and coming from, Foreign Parts, which in that Year amounted to One hundred and Forty Pounds Eighteen Shillings; and a Share of the Christmas Gratuities, which amounted to Thirty-four Pounds Five Shillings and Eight Pence; he is also allowed a certain Number of News-papers, to the Value of Forty-two Pounds Sixteen Shillings a Year, and One Pound Seventeen Shillings as his Share of Feast and Drink Money; making together One thousand Two hundred and Ninety Pounds Three Shillings and Six Pence; out of which he paid about Thirty Pounds Annually for Foreign Postage and News-papers; and the Remainder, being One thousand Two hundred and Sixty Pounds Three Shillings and Six Pence, was the Net Amount of his Income in the Year 1784; besides which he has an unfurnished House for his Residence in the Office, Ten Chaldron of Coals, and Thirty-two Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually, and Stationary for his Use. £. 150. £. 115. 2. 4. £. 895. 4. 6. £. 140. 18. £. 1,290. 3. 6. £. 1,260. 3. 6.

The Duty of the Deputy Comptroller is to assist the Comptroller in the general Business of the Office; to take in Charge all the Letters delivered at the Office Window, and those sent by the Penny Post; receive and account for the Amount, and pay the same, together with the Money received on Post Nights, to the Receiver General Once a Week. Every Friday Night he attends the Sorting and Dispatch of the Letters by the Mail of that Night, in like Manner as the Comptroller does on Tuesday Nights; he has the Care of registering all Packets of Value sent on that Night, and remains in the Office until the Mail is dispatched, and the whole Business finished, which sometimes is not until Two, Three, Four, or Five o'Clock next Morning. No 70.

His Attendance is constant, being obliged to be always in Waiting for the Arrival of the Mails when any are due.

He has a Salary of One hundred Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes to Eighty-two Pounds; an Allowance of Forty Pounds Net from Government; and the Benefit of circulating News-papers to Foreign Parts, and of Foreign Gazettes in this Country, which produced to him in the Year 1784 Seventy Pounds Twelve Shillings and Seven Pence; he has likewise a Share of the Fees on registering of Packets of Value, which amounted in the said Year to Seventy-three Pounds Two Shillings, and his Share of Christmas Gratuities to Thirty-four Pounds Five Shillings and Eight Pence, and of Feast and Drink Money to Three Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Three Pence; making together Three hundred and Three Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Six Pence; out of which he pays an Annuity of Fifty Pounds to his Predecessor in Office, and sustains a Loss of about Fifteen Pounds Annually on the Delivery of Letters at the Window, and on bad Money received; thereby reducing his Net Receipt to Two hundred and Thirty-eight Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Six Pence; besides which £. 70. 13. 7. £. 303. 18. 6. £. 238. 18. 6.

which he has Five Chaldron of Coals, and Sixteen Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually, and a limited Allowance of Stationary for his Use.

N<sup>o</sup> 71, 72, 73, 74,  
75, 76, 77, 78.

The Duty and Attendance of the Clerks and Messengers is stated in the Appendix:  
Their Salaries, Allowances, Fees, Gratuities and Emoluments are as follows:

Stations.	Salaries on the Establishment.	Salaries out of Incidents.	Salaries from the Bye Letter Office.	Allowances.	Fees and Gratuities.	Emoluments.	Total.	Deductions.		Net Receipt.
								Taxes paid thereout.	Other Payments thereout.	
1st Clerk -	50	—	—	3 18 3	134 9 2	—	228 7 5	—	15 1 4	213 6 8
2d Clerk -	80	—	—	13 18 3	147 12 8	—	241 10 11	—	15 1 4	226 9 7
3d Clerk -	70	—	—	3 18 3	55 11 8	—	129 9 11	—	15 1 4	114 8 7
4th Clerk -	60	—	—	3 18 3	55 8 8	—	119 6 11	—	15 1 4	104 5 7
5th Clerk -	50	—	—	3 18 3	52 11 8	—	106 9 11	—	15 1 4	91 8 7
6th Clerk -	40	—	—	3 7 —	44 16 —	—	88 3 —	—	7 — 8	81 2 4
7th Clerk -	50	—	—	—	—	—	50 — —	—	— 8	49 19 4
Door Keeper -	31 4 } 12 s. per Week.	—	—	—	30 — —	—	61 4 —	—	— 8	61 3 4

The Senior Letter Carrier has a Salary of Forty-four Pounds Four Shillings a Year, receives about Thirty Pounds in Christmas Gratuities, and is allowed Three hundred and Twelve Candles, with Paper and Packthread; the other Letter Carriers, the Supernumerary excepted, have each a Salary of Thirty-one Pounds Four Shillings a Year, with Christmas Gratuities, Candles, &c. The Supernumerary has a Salary of Eighteen Pounds Four Shillings a Year, with Candles, &c. and Two Shillings and Six Pence a Week from such of the others whose Duty he executes in case of Sickness.

N<sup>o</sup> 79.

The Duty of the Receiver General is to receive and pay all Monies appertaining to the Revenue of the Post Office; to attend that a proper Account be kept thereof, a Quarterly State of which is transmitted to the Accountant General's Office, and an Annual State, attested by him, to the Office of the Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts, for their Examination. The Inland Letter Carriers and Window Men pay their Receipt into his Office Thrice a Week; the Foreign Once a Week; the Country Postmasters and Agents Abroad remit their Receipt in Bills or Cash to the Secretary, who pays the Cash over to him, and sends the Bills to the Accountant General, from whom he receives them; the Collectors of the Bye and Cross Road and Penny Post Offices pay their Receipt into his Office Once a Week.

£. 3,000.

He pays into the Exchequer Three thousand Pounds every Week, pursuant to Act of Parliament, and at the End of each Quarter the Balance remaining in his Hands, reserving however so much as he may think necessary to answer Incidental Payments in Consequence of the Postmaster General's Warrants.

£. 10,000.

He gives Security to the Amount of Ten thousand Pounds; himself in Five thousand Pounds, and Two Sureties in Two thousand Five hundred Pounds each.

His Attendance is generally Three Days in the Week, namely, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, those being the established Official Days of Receipt and Payment.

£. 300. £. 232. 10.

He has a Salary of Three hundred Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes to Two hundred and Thirty-two Pounds Ten Shillings; he has an Allowance of Seventy-five Pounds a Year from the Bye and Cross Road Office, and a Fee of Half per Cent. upon the Amount of the Pensions paid to the Duke of Grafton and the Heirs of the Duke of Schomberg, which amounts to Forty-three Pounds Ten Shillings Annually. He has likewise a Fee of One per Cent. upon the Amount of the Money remitted to the Postmasters at Paris, Bruxelles, and Amsterdam, which produces to him about Eighty Pounds Annually; he has an Allowance of Thirteen Pounds a Year for Coach Hire, and One Pound Seventeen Shillings for his Share of Feast and Drink Money, making together about Four hundred and Forty-five Pounds Seventeen Shillings; besides which he has Ten Chaldrons of Coals, and Thirty-two Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually, with a limited Allowance of Stationary for his Use; and occasionally derives an Advantage from the Use of the Public Money in his Hands.

N<sup>o</sup> 80, 81.

There are Two Clerks employed in his Office; their Duty and Attendance are set forth in the Appendix.

Their Salaries, Allowances, Fees, Gratuities and Emoluments, are as follows:

Stations.

Stations.	Salaries on the Establishment.	Salaries out of Incidents.	Salaries from the Bye Letter Office.	Allowances.	Fees and Gratuities.	Emoluments.	Total.	Deductions.		Net Receipt.
								Taxes paid thereout.	Other Payments thereout.	
1st Clerk -	£.50 --	100 --	12 10 --	1 17 --	73 --	--	237 7 --	--	--	237 7 --
2d Clerk -	100 --	--	--	--	47 --	--	147 --	--	--	147 --

The Duty of the Accountant General is, to attend that all Accounts relative to the Revenue of the Post Office be properly kept and stated in his Office; to examine, sign, and transmit the Deputy Postmaster's Quarterly Accounts; to examine and sign Tradesmen's Bills, the Solicitor's and other Bills for Services performed, Packet Warrants, &c.; to examine, sign, and attest the Annual General Account of this Revenue; to examine, sign, and attest the Annual Cash Account, and transmit both to the Auditor's Office. N<sup>o</sup> 84.

His Attendance is as Occasion requires; at the Time of making up the Deputy Postmaster's Quarterly Accounts he attends Three Days in the Week, for the Purpose of examining and signing the said Accounts, and at all other Times when necessary.

He has a Salary of Three hundred Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes to Two hundred and Thirty-two Pounds Ten Shillings; he has an Allowance of Seventy-five Pounds a Year from the Bye and Cross Road Office, and of One hundred Pounds a Year for House Rent, and One Pound Seventeen Shillings, being his Share of Feast and Drink Money, making together Four hundred and Nine Pounds Seven Shillings; besides which he has Ten Chaldrons of Coals, and Thirty-two Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually; and Stationary for his Use. £.300. £.232. 10. £.409. 7.

He is allowed a Deputy, and there are Four Clerks employed in his Office.

The Duty of his Deputy is, to assist in examining and stating all the Accounts, and to superintend the Business performed by the Clerks; to keep a Journal of all Accounts; to post the Articles from the Journal into the Ledger; to make out and bring to a correct Balance the Annual General Account of this Revenue, and to prepare an exact Yearly Statement of the Gross and Net Produce thereof. N<sup>o</sup> 85.

His Attendance is Daily from Nine to Two o'Clock; and at all other Times when necessary.

He has a Salary of One hundred and Seventy Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes to One hundred and Fifty-three Pounds Fifteen Shillings; and an Allowance of One Pound Seventeen Shillings, being his Share of Feast and Drink Money; making together One hundred and Fifty-five Pounds Twelve Shillings: Besides which, he has Five Chaldrons of Coals, and Sixteen Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually, and Stationary for his Use; but not having Occasion for the Coals and Candles, he generally commutes them for Money from the Tradesmen who ought to supply them; the Amount of which defrays his Taxes, and thereby makes his Annual Income about One hundred and Seventy-three Pounds. £.170. £.153. 15. £.155. 12. £.173.

The Duty and Attendance of the Clerks are stated in the Appendix.

Their Salaries, Allowances, Fees, Gratuities, and Emoluments, are as follows: N<sup>o</sup> 84, 85, 86, 87.

Stations.	Salaries on the Establishment.	Salaries out of Incidents.	Salaries from the Bye Letter Office.	Allowances.	Fees and Gratuities.	Emoluments.	Total.	Deductions.		Net Receipt.
								Taxes paid thereout.	Other Payments thereout.	
1st Clerk -	£.100 --	--	--	1 17 --	12 --	--	113 17 --	--	--	113 17 --
2d Clerk -	70 --	--	--	1 17 --	--	--	71 17 --	--	--	71 17 --
3d Clerk -	60 --	--	--	--	--	--	60 --	--	--	60 --
4th Clerk -	50 --	--	--	--	--	--	50 --	--	--	50 --

The Duty of the Comptroller of the Bye and Cross Road Office, who is also Resident Surveyor, is to superintend the Conduct of all the Officers belonging to this Office; and of the Deputy Postmasters belonging to it; to receive their Remittances, and deliver them to the Accountant and Collector for this Branch, in like Manner as the Secretary does in the General Office; and to call upon and represent to the Board, when necessary, all Deputies who may be too far in Arrear. N<sup>o</sup> 88.

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His Duty, as Resident Surveyor, was to consider of all Plans for the Alteration and Extension of this Branch, and report thereon to the Postmaster General; but since the Appointment of the Comptroller General, that Officer has taken the Whole of this Duty upon himself.

His Attendance is generally Thrice a Week, about Three or Four Hours each Day, as the Business may require.

£. 500.  
£. 487. 10.

He has a Salary of Five hundred Pounds a Year, reduced by the Civil List Duty to Four hundred Eighty-seven Pounds Ten Shillings; he has also an Allowance of One hundred Pounds a Year for House Rent, and of Eight Guineas a Year for Stationary, making his Net Income Five hundred and Ninety-five Pounds Eighteen Shillings; besides which he has Twenty Chaldrons of Coals, and Sixty-eight Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually.

£. 595. 18s.

N<sup>o</sup> 89.

The Duty of the Accountant is similar to that of the Accountant General in the General Office; he keeps and states the like Accounts for this Branch, receives and enters the Bills from the Deputy Postmasters, examines all Tradesmen's Bills, Warrants for Salaries, and for other Payments, and occasionally assists in the Duty of the Comptroller when he is absent.

His Attendance is Daily from Ten till Two o'Clock, or later, if the Business requires it.

£. 200.  
£. 195.  
£. 199. 4.

He has a Salary of Two hundred Pounds a Year, reduced by the Civil List Duty to One hundred and Ninety-five Pounds, and an Allowance of Four Guineas a Year for Stationary, making his Net Income One hundred and Ninety-nine Pounds Four Shillings; besides which he is allowed Four Chaldrons of Coals, and Thirty-two Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually.

N<sup>o</sup> 90.

The Duty of the Collector is to receive from the Comptroller and Accountant all Bills and Cash remitted on Account of this Branch, and also from all other Persons having Payments to make on Account thereof, and to give Receipts for the same; to pay all Salaries and other Charges relative to this Branch, and to keep regular Accounts of his Receipts and Disbursements, and to make up and attest an Annual Account thereof; to pay over to the Receiver General the Balance remaining in his Hands, which he generally does at the End of each Quarter, reserving from Four to Five thousand Pounds in his Hands, to assist the Receiver General in his Weekly Payments into the Exchequer, and to defray the Current Expences of the Office.

£. 5,000.

He gives Security in the Sum of Two thousand Pounds, himself and Two Sureties.

His Attendance is Daily, from Ten till Two o'Clock.

£. 200.  
£. 195.  
£. 201. 6.

He has a Salary of Two hundred Pounds a Year, reduced by the Civil List Duty to One hundred and Ninety-five Pounds, and an Allowance of Six Guineas a Year for Stationary, making his Net Annual Income Two hundred and One Pounds Six Shillings; besides which he is allowed Four Chaldron of Coals, and Thirty-two Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually.

N<sup>o</sup> 91, 92, 93, 94,  
26, 95.

There are Four Clerks, an Inspector of Dead Letters, and Office Keeper employed in this Office; their Duty and Attendance is stated in the Appendix.

Their Salaries, Allowances, Fees, Gratuities and Emoluments, are as follows:

Stations.	Salaries on the Establishment.	Salaries out of Incidents.	Salaries from the Bye Letter Office.	Allowances.	Fees and Gratuities.	Emoluments.	Total.	Deductions.		Net Receipt.
								Taxes paid thereout.	Other Payments thereout.	
Comptrollers, and First Clerk	100	—	—	—	7 7	—	107 7	2 10	—	104 17
Accountants, and Second Clerk	60	20	—	—	5 10	—	85 10	1 10	—	84
Comptrollers, and Third Clerk	50	20	—	—	2 2	—	72 2	—	—	72 2
Collectors, and Fourth Clerk	60	—	—	—	5 10	—	65 10	1 10	—	64
Inspector of Dead Letters	80	—	—	—	—	—	80	2	—	78
Office and Store-keeper	40	—	—	26	5	—	71	—	26	45

N<sup>o</sup> 96.

The Duty of the Comptroller of the Penny Post is to examine into the Accounts of the Receipts and Payments of the Collector, and attend that the several Officers and Clerks execute properly the Duties of the Office.

This Office is executed by Deputy; the Attendance therefore of the Principal is dispensed with.

He has a Salary of Two hundred Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes to One hundred and Sixty-five Pounds; an Allowance of Thirty Pounds a Year for House Rent, and the Use of a House in Coventry Street; besides which he is allowed Ten Chaldrons of Coals, and Thirty-six Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually: The Coals he commutes for Money at the Yearly Market Price of the Article, which produced him last Year Seventeen Pounds; and a limited Allowance of Stationary, to the Value of Eight Pounds Ten Shillings, which he also receives in Money: His Net Annual Income therefore

is Two hundred and Twenty Pounds Ten Shillings; and he pays his Deputy by giving him the Use of the House in Coventry Street, which the Deputy lets for Twenty-four Pounds a Year. £. 220. 10.

The Duty of the Accountant is to keep an Account of the Receipts at the several Receiving Houses, which being chequed at the Chief Office, he enters in a Ledger, and every Six Weeks makes out Tickets for the Collector of the Money received by each during that Period, deducting from the Amount One Penny in every Ten, which is the Allowance to the Receivers for their Trouble, and strikes the clear Balance to be received from each: He also makes out a Yearly Account of the Whole, which is signed by him, and by which he checks the Annual Amount of the Collector. N° 97.

This Office is at present executed by Deputy, the Attendance of the Principal being dispensed with.

He has a Salary of Seventy Pounds a Year, reduced by the Civil List Duty to Sixty-eight Pounds Five Shillings, and a Share of what is called the Fifths, being the Sum arising from the additional Penny paid on all Country Letters, which is divided amongst the following Five Persons—the Accountant, the Collector, the Chief Sorters at the Chief Office, at the Westminster and South Offices; his Share thereof amounts usually to about Ninety-two Pounds Annually, out of which he pays Ten Pounds a Year to the Clerk of the Chief Sorter at the Chief Office; which reduces his Net Receipt to about One hundred and Fifty Pounds a Year, out of which he pays his Deputy; he is likewise allowed Four Chaldrons of Coals, and Thirty-two Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually. £. 150. N° 98.

The Duty of the Collector is to receive the Money arising from the Carriage of Penny Post Letters; to pay the Salaries, Wages, and other Disbursements appertaining to this Office, and the Balance to the Receiver General, which he generally does Once a Quarter, reserving only in his Hands a few Hundred Pounds for the Current Expences of the Office; he makes out an Account for each Office and Receiving House, from the Tickets sent to him by the Accountant; he sends the several Accounts to the Receivers, who pay the Balance due from them to the Chief Office of their District, from which he receives the Amount every Six Weeks, and charges himself therewith; at the End of the Year he makes out a General Account of his Receipts and Payments, and strikes a Balance, which Account is examined and signed by the Comptroller and Accountant of this Office; it is then transmitted to the Accountant General, examined and signed by him, and afterwards authenticated by the Signature of the Postmaster General; the Collector then attests the Account, and delivers it with the Vouchers into the Office of the Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts.

He gives Security in the Sum of Two thousand Pounds, with Two Sureties: His Attendance is occasional, as the Business requires it.

He has a Salary of Seventy Pounds a Year, reduced by the Civil List Duty to Sixty-eight Pounds Five Shillings; an Allowance of Thirty two Pounds a Year for Horse and Boat Hire, and a Share of the Fifths, amounting to about Ninety-two Pounds; he receives Fees from Tradesmen on paying their Bills, to the Amount of about Nine Pounds Six Shillings a Year; making his Annual Income about Two hundred and One Pounds Eleven Shillings; besides which he is allowed Four Chaldrons of Coals, and Thirty-two Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually; he pays Ten Pounds Ten Shillings a Year to the Five Chief Sorters at the Chief Offices for collecting the Revenue from the Receiving Houses, and Ten Pounds a Year to the Clerk at the Chief Office, and One hundred and Thirty Pounds a Year to his Predecessor Mr. Caldwell during his Life, thereby reducing his Net Annual Receipt to Fifty-one Pounds One Shilling; he makes Fifteen Pounds to Twenty Pounds a Year from the Use of the Public Money in his Hands. £. 201. 11

The Duty of the Chief Sorter at the Chief Office is to superintend the Whole of the Business of the Penny Post in general, as well as the special Duties of his particular District; all the Inland and Foreign Letters which are to be delivered by the Penny Post are sent to this Office, and he is accountable for the Amount of the Postage, which he pays to the Receiver General, that of the Inland Thrice a Week, and of the Foreign Once a Week, which Postage he pays in Advance, not receiving it so soon from the other Offices and Receiving Houses; he examines all Dead Letters before they are returned to the Dead Letter Office; he appoints the Letter Carriers to their respective Walks, and takes proper Security from them; he receives and distributes the Stationary amongst the several Offices, and pays the Wages of the Clerks and Letter Carriers belonging to his District, and collects the Revenue arising in the said District, which he pays to the Collector. N° 99.

His Attendance is constant, and at all Hours when required.

He has Eighteen Shillings a Week as Wages, making Forty-six Pounds Sixteen Shillings a Year; an Allowance of Ten Pounds a Year for sorting the General Post Letters, and of Ten Pounds more for advancing the Postage thereof; he has a Share of the Fifths, which, being One Penny in every Ten Pence received, amounted last Year to One hundred and Ninety Pounds Eleven Shillings and Ten Pence; he likewise receives a Share of the Fees paid by the Letter Carriers on filling up their Bonds, which amounted in that Year to Five Pounds; he has a Shilling on every Birth Day of the Royal Family, which amounts to One Guinea a Year; he has a Gratuity from the East India Company of Five Guineas a Year for taking Care of their Letters; he receives Three Guineas a Year from the Collector, for collecting the Revenue in his District; and derives an Emolument of about Sixteen Pounds a Year from the Sale of Candles, more being issued to him than he distributes or consumes; out of the above Sums he pays his Clerk Twenty Pounds a Year; and the Remainder, being

£. 265. 14. 10.

being about Two hundred and Sixty-five Pounds Fourteen Shillings and Ten Pence, is the Net Amount of his Annual Income; besides which he has unfurnished Apartments in the Office, Ten Chaldrons of Coals Annually, and a limited Allowance of Stationary.

N<sup>o</sup> 100, 101, 102, 103.

The Duty and Attendance of the other Four Chief Sorters are stated in the Appendix. Their Wages, Allowances, and Emoluments, with those of the Sub-Sorters or Clerks, are as follows:

Stations.	Salaries on the Establishment.	Allowances.	Fees and Gratuities.	Emoluments.	Total.	Deductions.		Net Receipt.
						Taxes paid thereout.	Other Payments thereout.	
Chief Sorter of Westminster District	46 16 —	22 12 —	2 2 —	41 1 —	112 11 —	—	—	112 11 —
Chief Sorter of the St. Clement's District	46 16 —	—	3 2 —	30 1 —	79 19 —	—	—	79 19 —
Chief Sorter at the South Division	46 16 —	16 12 —	2 2 —	6 1 —	71 11 —	—	—	71 11 —
Chief Sorter at the Hermitage Division	46 16 —	—	1 1 —	7 1 —	54 18 —	—	—	54 18 —
At 18 s. per Week.								
Chief Office.								
Sorter of General Post Letters	10 — —	40 — —	— 10 6	— 10 6	51 1 —	—	—	51 1 —
Senior Sub-Sorter	46 16 —	—	— 5 —	— 10 6	47 11 6	—	— 8 8	47 2 10
Sub-Sorters	39 — —	—	— 5 —	— 10 6	39 15 6	—	— 8 8	39 6 10
	39 — —	—	— 5 —	— 10 6	39 15 6	—	— 8 8	39 6 10
	39 — —	—	— 5 —	— 10 6	39 15 6	—	— 8 8	39 6 10
Office Man	28 12 —	—	7 16 —	— 3 —	36 11 —	—	— 4 4	36 6 8½
Westminster Office.								
Senior Sub-Sorter	46 16 — at 18 s. a Week.	—	—	— 10 6	47 6 6	—	— 8 8	46 17 10
Junior Sub-Sorter	39 — — at 15 s. a Week.	—	—	— 10 6	39 10 6	—	— 8 8	39 1 10.
Office Man	28 12 — at 11 s. a Week.	—	—	— 2 7½	28 14 7½	—	— 4 4	28 10 3½
St. Clement's Office.								
Senior Sub-Sorter	46 16 — at 18 s. a Week.	—	—	— 10 6	47 6 6	—	— 8 8	46 17 10
Junior Sub-Sorter	39 — — at 15 s. a Week.	—	—	— 10 6	39 10 6	—	— 8 8	39 1 10
Office Man	28 12 — at 11 s. a Week.	—	—	— 2 7½	28 14 7½	—	— 4 4	28 10 3½
South Office.								
Senior Sub-Sorter	46 16 —	—	—	— 10 6	47 6 6	—	— 8 8	46 17 10
Sub-Sorter	46 16 —	—	—	— 10 6	47 6 6	—	— 8 8	46 17 10
Office Man	— —	41 1 2	—	— 2 7½	41 3 9½	—	— 4 4	40 19 5½
Hermitage Office.								
Sub-Sorter	46 16 —	—	—	— 10 6	47 6 6	—	— 8 8	46 17 10

The Letter Carriers are paid Eleven Shillings a Week, have the Benefit of Christmas Gifts, and an Allowance of Twenty-six Pounds of Candles Annually.

N<sup>o</sup> 1:

The Duty of the Agent for Packets at Dover is to receive and forward the French and Flanders Mails; to forward all Dispatches transmitted to him from the Principal Secretaries of State, or from any of Your Majesty's Ministers Abroad; to superintend the Conduct of the Captains of the Packet Boats, regulate their Sailing, and attend that they duly perform their Duty; to execute all such Orders as he may from Time to Time receive from the Postmaster General, or from the Secretaries of State.

This Duty is at present executed by a Substitute appointed and paid by the Agent, and for whose Conduct he is responsible, the Agent however does attend occasionally.

£. 123. 13. 8.

He has a Salary of One hundred and Fifty Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes, &c. to One hundred and Twenty-three Pounds Thirteen Shillings and Eight Pence; he has an Allowance of Two

Two hundred Pounds a Year for providing Extra Boats when the Service requires; reduced by Agency in London to One hundred and Ninety-four Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Eight Pence; and an Allowance of Ten Pounds a Year for Stationary; he likewise derives certain Emoluments from Agency on the Passage, which is at the Rate of Ten Shillings in every Guinea on what is called Allowed Freight; the Average of which, from the 5th July 1775 to the 5th January 1787, being Eleven Years and a Half, was Nine hundred and Forty-one Pounds Eighteen Shillings, making the Average of his Net Annual Receipt One thousand Two hundred and Seventy Pounds Ten Shillings and Four Pence, which he now receives for his own Use; but previous to the Death of Mr. Barham, which happened in October last, he paid to him Eight hundred Pounds a Year as a Compromise for the clear Annual Income of this Office, which by Order of the Postmaster General, dated 16th November 1774, he was directed to pay to him during his Life; to indemnify him for such Payment; he was to receive from Mr. Lees, his Successor in Ireland, the clear Annual Income of his Office; as Secretary to the Post Office there, during the Life of Mr. Barham, which was likewise compromised for a Net Payment of Seven hundred and Fifty Pounds, during the Life of Mr. Barham, and of One hundred and Fifty Pounds Annually after his Death; which Engagement is now in Force; and will add so much to his Annual Receipt.

£. 194. 18. 4.

£. 941. 18.

£. 1,270. 10. 4.

The Duty of the Agent at Harwich is to receive and forward the Mails, and other Public Dispatches, to and from Holland; likewise all Dispatches to and from the Northern Parts of Europe; to direct the Sailing of the Packets; and attend that the Captains perform their Duty properly; to prevent any Persons from embarking in any of the Packets without his Knowledge and Approbation; to receive the Post Office Proportion of all Passage Money and Freight of Money, and to account for the same Quarterly to the Postmaster General; and to make such Payments as are necessary at Harwich.

No 105.

His Attendance is constant, and at all Hours when required.

He has a Salary of One hundred and Fifty Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes to One hundred and Thirty-one Pounds; and an Allowance out of the Passage Money, amounting on an Average to about Fifty Pounds a Year; also Ten Pounds a Year for Stationary, making his Annual Income about One hundred Ninety-one Pounds.

£. 191.

He is not allowed either a House, Office, Coals, Candles, or Assistant; all which he finds at his own Expence.

The Duty of the Agent at Falmouth is to receive and forward the Public Dispatches to and from Lisbon, the West India Islands, and America; to muster the Men on Board the Packets before they sail, and on their Arrival to send Copies of the said Musters to the Postmaster General; to keep a Journal of the Winds and Weather, of the Arrival and Sailing of each Packet, the Names and Condition of those in the Harbour, and to transmit the same every Post to the Postmaster General; also of the Number of Mails at Falmouth; to keep an Account of all Money received for Freight or Passage; to pay the necessary Disbursements, send an Account of the same to the Postmaster General Once a Quarter, and at the End of the Year to attest the said Account; and generally to superintend the Whole of the Service relative to the Packets at Falmouth.

No 106.

His Attendance is constant.

He has a Salary of Two hundred and Thirty Pounds a Year, and an Allowance of Forty Pounds for a Clerk, reduced by the Civil List Duty to Two hundred and Sixty Pounds Fifteen Shillings; he has also an Allowance of Four Shillings out of every Four Guineas, paid by Passengers going from or arriving at Falmouth; which last Year amounted to Seventy-one Pounds Twelve Shillings. He has likewise an Allowance of Thirty-six Pounds a Year for Coals, Candles, and Stationary; he receives certain Gratuities from the Captains of the Packets for keeping their Accounts, and for paying Money to the Families of the Seamen during their Absence on the Voyage, which Allowance amounted in the last Year to One hundred and Forty-seven Pounds; but as this is optional, the Continuance of it is uncertain; he also receives from the Owners of the Waggons in which Money from the West Indies or America is conveyed to London, Ten *per Cent.* on the Net Amount of the Carriage paid to them, which he estimates at Fifty Pounds a Year; but this too is optional, consequently uncertain. The above Sums, making together Five hundred and Sixty-five Pounds Seven Shillings, is the Whole of his Annual Income; out of which he pays by Order, and during the Pleasure of the Postmaster General, One hundred Pounds a Year to the Widow of the late Agent, Forty Pounds a Year to his Clerk, and also Forty Pounds Annually to a Mr. Pellow, of Penryn, during his Life; which Payment he engaged to make at the Requisition of those by whose Interest he obtained the Appointment of Agent: His Net Income is therefore Three hundred and Eighty-five Pounds Seven Shillings.

£. 260. 15.

£. 56. 7.

£. 38. 7.

He is allowed a House for his Residence, but being inconveniently situated, he hires another, for which he pays about Twenty Pounds a Year more than the Rent of the other produces.

He gives Security in the Sum of Three thousand Pounds, with Three Sureties.

The Duty of the Solicitor is to commence, carry on, and defend all Actions that concern the Revenue of the Post Office; to carry on all criminal Prosecutions; to prepare Bonds from every Person appointed to Offices under the Postmaster General; and to register the Names and Residence of their Sureties, and in general to execute all Law Business relative to the Post Office.

No 107.



N<sup>o</sup> 108.

The present Solicitor performs no Part of this Duty himself, the Whole is executed by a Deputy.

£. 154.

The Solicitor has a Salary of Two hundred Pounds a Year, reduced by Taxes to One hundred and Fifty-four Pounds; he has also a Net Salary of Fifty Pounds a Year from the Bye and Cross Road Office, and an Allowance of One Pound Seventeen Shillings a Year, as his Share of Drink and Feast Money; making together Two hundred and Five Pounds Seventeen Shillings, which is the Amount of his Annual Income; he has besides Ten Chaldrons of Coals, and Thirty-two Dozen Pounds of Candles Annually.

£. 205. 17.

His Deputy has no Salary, but derives his Emoluments from the Fees on the Bonds, and from the Law Charges arising in the Department, about One Third of which is generally his Profit; he estimates the Net Amount of his Emoluments in the Year 1784 to have been Three hundred and Fifty Pounds; besides which he is allowed Five Chaldrons of Coals, Sixteen Dozen Pounds of Candles, Annually, and Stationary for his Use; he has likewise an unfurnished Room in the Office.

£. 350.

N<sup>o</sup> 109.

The Duty of the Court Post is to carry all State Letters and Dispatches from Your Majesty's Palace of Residence, and from the Offices of the Principal Secretaries of State to the First Post Stage, or to the Post Office of the Postmaster General.

This Duty he is authorized by his Patent to execute by himself or his sufficient Deputy or Deputies, it hath therefore always been executed by Deputy, whom he appoints and pays.

£. 580.

He has a Salary of Two Pounds a Day, reduced by Taxes to about Five hundred and Eighty Pounds a Year; out of which he pays to his Deputy Fifty-eight Pounds a Year; his Net Annual Income therefore is Five hundred and Twenty-two Pounds.

£. 522.

The Salaries paid to the Officers belonging to the Post Office at Edinburgh are as follows:

	<i>per Annum.</i>
Deputy Postmaster General	£. 400
Secretary and Clerk	240
Solicitor	50
Accomptant and Clerk	130
Clerk to the Irish Correspondence	30
Surveyor of Bye Letters	150
Assistant	50
Principal Clerk	75
Assistant	30
Clerk of the West Road	70
Assistant	50
Clerk of the North Road	70
Assistant	40
Clerk of the English Road	70
Assistant	60
Inspector of Dead and Missent Letters	40
Letter Sorter	25
Letter Stamper	30
Letter Carrier	27 6
Ditto	27 6
Ditto	27 6
Ditto	27 6
Ditto	27 6
Ditto	27 6
Messenger	27 6

Not having an Opportunity of examining the Parties, we are not enabled to state their Duty, Attendance, Fees, and Emoluments.

£. 48,135. 0. 3.

The Deputy Postmasters at Home and Abroad are numerous; by the Returns made to us it appears that there was paid to those in Great Britain, for Salaries and Riding Work in the Year 1784, the Sum of Forty-eight thousand One hundred and Thirty-five Pounds Eight Shillings and Three Pence.

The Salaries and Allowances to those in the Plantations, and in Foreign Parts, are as follows:

Agent at New York	£. 150	—	—	He has also a Pension, as late Deputy Postmaster General of North America, £. 150.
Deputy Postmaster General of Canada, £. 20 per Cent. on the Net Revenue	—	—	—	He has also a Pension, as late Deputy Postmaster General of North America, £. 150.
Deputy Postmaster General of Jamaica and for Clerks, Salaries, and Maintenance, £. 160	150	—	—	
Currency, or	114	6	—	
Deputy Postmaster General at Barbadoes	50	—	—	
Ditto - - - - St. Vincent's	50	—	—	
Ditto - - - - Grenada	50	—	—	
Ditto - - - - Dominica	50	—	—	
Ditto - - - - Antigua	50	—	—	
Ditto - - - - Tortola	50	—	—	If the Internal Postage amounts to as much.
Ditto - - - - St. Christopher's	50	—	—	
Ditto - - - - Halifax, £. 20 per Cent. on the Net Revenue				
Ditto - - - - Port Roseway, £. 20 per Cent. on the Net Revenue				
Ditto - - - - New Brunswick, £. 20 per Cent. on the Net Revenue				
Ditto - - - - Cape Breton, £. 20 per Cent. on the Net Revenue				
Agent at Lisbon	60	—	—	And Two per Cent. on the Remittances he makes to the Office.
Agent at Helvoetfluis	120	—	—	

The Number of Packet Boats at present employed in the Service of the Post Office is Thirty-nine; viz.

- 5 at Dover
- 4 at Harwich
- 5 at Holyhead
- 5 at Milford Haven
- 20 at Falmouth

The present Annual Expence of which is Forty-five thousand Nine hundred and Twenty-seven Pounds Six Shillings and Four Pence. £. 45,927. 6. 4.

The Amount of the Incidental Expences for the General Office in the Year 1784 was, including Stationary, Twelve thousand Six hundred and Eighty-four Pounds, Eighteen Shillings and Two Pence. For the Bye and Cross Road Office for the same Year Eight hundred and Seventy-seven Pounds Two Shillings and Seven Pence; and for the Penny Post Office One thousand Four hundred and Thirty-five Pounds Two Shillings and Eleven Pence.

The Amount of the Incidental Expences, including Stationary, for the Post Office in Edinburgh for the Year 1786 was Two thousand One hundred and Ten Pounds Eight Shillings and Ten Pence. £. 2,110. 8. 10.

That the whole Annual Expence of this Establishment may be seen at One View, we have annexed in the Appendix a Table, composed from the several Documents in our Possession, by which it appears that the Total of the said Expence is One hundred Forty-nine thousand and Twenty-nine Pounds Seventeen Shillings; of which the Sum of One hundred and Forty-one thousand and Nineteen Pounds Ten Shillings and Ten Pence was paid by the Public; and Eight thousand and Ten Pounds Six Shillings and Two Pence by Individuals.

Such is the State in which we found the Office of Your Majesty's Postmaster General; and such the Duty, Attendance, Salaries, Allowances, Fees, Gratuities, and multifarious Emoluments of the Officers, Clerks, and others belonging thereto.

Considerable Alterations and Improvements have been lately effected in this Department, by the Ability, Ingenuity, and Industry of the present Comptroller General; who has not only accelerated the Conveyance of the Mails, improved the Revenue, but established many useful and necessary Regulations in the Interior of the Office, which previous to his Appointment appears to have been in a very relaxed State of Discipline, and in much Disorder. To trace his Plans and Improvements, to recite the Whole of the Disorder he found in many of the Branches, and the Obstacles he had to encounter, would far exceed the Bounds we have prescribed for our Reports; we shall however notice some of the Inconveniences and Evils he has remedied; Inconveniences which affected Individuals, and Evils which diminished the Revenue.

Formerly the Persons employed in the Inland Office were obliged to attend from Six or Seven o'Clock in the Morning until Noon, and sometimes late in the Afternoon, preparing the Letters Inward

ward for Delivery; and again from Seven or Eight at Night until One, sometimes Four o'Clock in the Morning, preparing for the Dispatch of the Mails.

Now the Hours of Morning Attendance are from Six to Nine, or sometimes Eleven in very bad Weather, and from Five to Eight in the Evening.

The Letter Carriers Walks were many of them so extensive as to take up from Three to Five and Six Hours in delivering, after they were dispatched from the Office; the Time is now reduced to Two Hours, or Two Hours and a Half at the utmost, including the Walk from the General Post Office to the Commencement of their Delivery.

The Letters Inwards were sorted by the Junior Clerks in the Office, who being ignorant of the Town Delivery, the Letters were taken into the Letter Carrier's Office in a State that rendered it necessary to re-sort One Third of them; which made it often from Four to Five Hours from the Arrival of the last Mail to the going out of the Letter Carriers.

By appointing some of the most intelligent Letter Carriers to sort the Letters in the First Instance, the Time is now reduced to an Hour, or an Hour and a Half on extraordinary Occasions, from the Arrival of the last Mail; besides the Advantage gained by the former Sorters being employed in opening and examining the Contents of the Bags as the Mails arrive.

The Duty in the Office was much neglected, and no proper Subordination prevailed; the Mode of performing the Duty was not well calculated either for Dispatch or the Benefit of the Revenue.

An entire new Constitution is introduced; the Officers are classed according to their Seniority; the most experienced are entrusted with a limited Controul over the Juniors; and Rules laid down for effecting a proper Subordination, and for enforcing Punctuality in Attendance.

The Irregularity with which the Charges were made upon the Deputy Postmasters gave an Opportunity to those fraudulently inclined of returning their Bills, and of requiring Deductions for Overcharges, without Detection, for Want of a proper Check; near Four hundred Postmasters Bills have been returned in One Week for Correction, the Charges not agreeing, or said not to agree, with the actual Amount of the Letters sent, and the Deductions allowed. Many Instances too have occurred of their Bills being considerably undercharged. The Entry of the Amount of the Charges on the Deputy Postmasters was much neglected; sometimes the Amount for many of the Post Towns not entered for Days together.

Proper Checks are established, and the Nightly Charges on such Postmasters as frequently return their Bills are Twice told; and the Senior of each Division being responsible for the due Performance of all Duties belonging to it, the Bills are now regularly and accurately entered, and every mischarged Letter Bill and Missent Letter posted up every Monday in the Public Office.

A very considerable Expence was incurred under the Head of Extra Duty performed by the Persons in the Inland Office; much of which was occasioned by granting extra Pay to those who attended in the Place of others, who ought, but did not attend; this Allowance for extra Duty has amounted to Five hundred Pounds a Quarter; it is now entirely abolished; and if One Officer attends for another, it is either as his voluntary Substitute, or he is paid by the Person for whom he acts.

These are some of the principal Regulations for the Interior of the Office lately established by the Comptroller General; who has hitherto chiefly confined his Attention, where indeed it was most wanted, to the Inland Department.

Much has been done, but much still remains to be done, in order not only to simplify the Duties of the Officers, but the Compensation for the Performance thereof.

The Office of Surveyor and Comptroller General is altogether new; the Appointment appears to have been made to enable the present Officer to execute his Plans for the Improvement of Correspondence, and of the Revenue.

He has, under the Postmaster General, the whole Direction of the Office, and its Dependencies.

The Island was formerly divided into Six Districts, to each of which was attached an Officer called Clerk of the Road; it is now divided into Nine, to each of which Two Senior Clerks and Two Assistants are appointed, with Juniors under them; some of the Seniors are employed in other Duty, such as Inspectors of Franks, Window Men, &c. and their Places supplied by their Assistants; the Arrangement seems very proper, but an additional Number of Juniors appears necessary, in order to afford proper Relief, and to guard against Absence by Sickness, or other Causes; there are now Twenty Juniors, including the Deputy Window Man, and Sorter to the Pan; the Addition of Six more will in our Opinion be sufficient; there are Two Inspectors of Franks, a Third is necessary, who should be selected from the Juniors.

The Comptroller of the Inland Office and his Deputy are no longer necessary, their Duty being now performed by the Officers in the Comptroller General's Department, and by the Letter Bill Clerk and his Assistant; these Officers therefore should retire, and the Offices be abolished.

The Comptroller of the Bye Nights and his Deputy may rank and perform the Duty of Senior Clerks, and their nominal Employment as Comptrollers should cease.

The Duty of the Resident Surveyor on the Old Establishment, being now altogether performed by the Comptroller General and his Deputy, who is now the Resident Surveyor, that Officer should also retire.

The

The Number of extra Clerks in the Comptroller General's Office may in our Opinion be now reduced to One; and the Office Keeper is unnecessary, her Duty may be executed by One of the Messengers.

As much of the former Business of the Secretary's Office is now executed in that of the Comptroller General, the Number of Clerks may be reduced to Four, whose Duty ought to be entirely confined to that Office, and the Examination of the Dead Letters allotted to the other Two, by which Means that Business, now considerably in Arrear, would be properly executed and kept up. The Three Juniors in the Secretary's Office should attend in Turn the Night Duty for Expresses. The Riding Surveyors ought all to be put upon the same Footing, and we would recommend certain Annual Salaries, which we shall specify hereafter, with an Allowance of One Guinea a Day when travelling, to be chequed by the Accountant from their Journals, which ought to be transmitted Monthly to the Comptroller General's Office, for that Purpose,

The Accountant in this Office should at the End of every Quarter transmit an exact State of their Accounts, as well as those of the Deputy Postmasters, to the Accountant General, to enable him to ascertain correctly the Balance due from each Deputy.

We find that the Deputies usually insert in their Accounts, and claim Credit for, under the Article of Dead Letters, sundry Payments made by them for Law Charges, Chaise Hire for Officers belonging to the Department, Taxes on Salaries, Pensions to private Persons, and other incidental Expences, amounting to upwards of One thousand Four hundred Pounds a Year, which are stated in the General Account as for Dead Letters returned, a Practice we highly disapprove, as very liable to Abuse, and tending to cover Expenditures under a Head to which they do not belong. We are of Opinion that all such Payments should be stated in a separate Account, which ought to be examined and certified by the Surveyor of the District, subject to the Approbation and Allowance of the Postmaster General, previous to their being admitted to the Credit of the Deputy.

The Mail Maker and Bag Maker have each Annual Salaries; that of the former is deducted from the Amount of his Bills for Materials and Workmanship: Such an extraordinary Mode of Compensation is improper, and ought to be discontinued; the fair Advantage of his Business should be allowed him, but he ought not to be permitted to claim an exclusive Right, unless upon equal Terms, and equal Convenience to the Office. As the present Mail Maker has been long in Office, very attentive to his Duty, and his Emoluments considerably diminished by the new Mode of Conveyance, we would recommend his being employed in some other Situation in the Office where Attendance is only required at such Hours of the Day as will afford sufficient Leisure for his Mail Making; his Bill for Mail Making, being first properly examined, should be paid every Quarter.

The Bag Maker ought to be put upon the same Footing, and the Bag Man, who is properly only a Journeyman to the Bag Maker, abolished; the Sorting of the Bags may be performed by One of the Messengers.

The Number of Messengers at present on the Establishment is not sufficient for the Duty required; many extra Persons are Daily employed at a considerable Expence, and without any Security, to assist in performing the various Duties belonging to this Class.

The Morning Duty appears to require Twelve, and the Evening Duty Sixteen Daily, and on the General Nights, viz. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, Four and sometimes Six more are necessary to bring in the Letters from the different Receiving Houses.

The Number of Persons of this Description therefore necessary is Twenty-two, without allowing for Sickness, or other Causes of unavoidable Absence.

To render this Part of the Establishment compleat, and to obviate the various Evils arising from the present irregular Conduct of the Business, we are of Opinion there should be Twenty-four Persons appointed to perform these Duties, who ought to be divided into Four Classes; viz.

Six Senior Messengers.

Six Junior Ditto.

Six Assistant Ditto.

Six Supernumerary Ditto.

All new Appointments to be to the last Class, and the Men to rise by Seniority, as Vacancies happen.

This Arrangement will not exceed the present Expence, and the various Duties will be sufficiently provided for by Persons known, and proper for the Execution thereof.

The Persons called Inspectors of Carriers, Coachmen, and Watermen, are unnecessary, and ought to be abolished, it does not appear they are of any Use; the Duty will be much more effectually performed by the Riding Surveyors in the Country, and by the Letter Carriers in Town, who should be vigilant in detecting all Persons conveying Letters contrary to Law, and have a Moiety of the Penalty for their Encouragement; the Deputy Postmasters in the Country should have the like Emolument, upon the Conviction of any Person detected by them; this and this only will check a Practice for which there is now no Excuse, from the accelerated Conveyance of the regular Mails, and by which the Revenue is materially injured. Great Care should be taken to prevent any clandestine Conveyance of Letters by the Mail Coaches.

The Deputy Postmasters are subjected to a Triennial Expence, for renewing their Deputations, for no other Purpose, that we can perceive, but to accumulate Fees to the Office; they ought to be relieved therefrom, and the First Appointment should suffice.

The Bye and Cross Road Office is properly a Branch of the Inland Office, though, on Account of its original Constitution, it has hitherto been kept distinct; the Revenue therefrom has increased very rapidly of late, and by the Extension of the Post to a greater Number of Towns, and establishing Daily Posts to many, instead of Three Times a Week, appears still capable of further Improvement; since the Year 1764 it has been extended to above One hundred Towns; the Number of Towns to which this Post reached in that Year was Two hundred and Thirty-two, and only a Post Thrice a Week to each; the Number of Towns is now Three hundred and Thirty-four, and most of them a Daily Post.

The Net Amount of the Annual Revenue, previous to the Death of Mr. Allen, was Six thousand Pounds *per Annum*; in the Year 1764 it was Eighteen Thousand Seven hundred and Eighty Pounds; and is now Eighty-nine thousand Five hundred Pounds.

A special Comptroller for this Office is now altogether unnecessary, the Duty of Superintendance and Regulation being performed by the Comptroller General and his Deputy; we are therefore of Opinion the Office of Comptroller of the Bye and Cross Roads ought to be abolished, and the Remittances from the Country Postmasters transmitted to the Secretary, as those from the Inland Deputies now are, and go through the same Process; with this Difference, that the Bills, and an Account of the Cash remitted, should be sent to the Accountant for this Office, that the Accounts for this Branch may be kept distinct; at the End of the Quarter the Accountant should transmit a State thereof to the Accountant General, in order to his inserting the Balance in the Quarterly Accounts of the respective Deputies; that there may be One General Account for the Whole, the Accountant however should send to each Deputy a particular State of his Quarterly Account for this Branch as usual.

The Office of Collector for this Branch is also unnecessary, and ought to be abolished; he only serves as a Channel, and that not wanted, to convey the Money to the Receiver General, to whom it should be paid over at once when remitted by the Deputies, in like Manner as that for the General Post now is, and the necessary Payments thereout made by him; thus the Receipt will be simplified, and a Balance now always remaining in the Collector's Hands avoided; this Arrangement will also save the Expence of Three Clerks in the Office, those belonging to the Comptroller and Collector may be discontinued; One Clerk, with the Assistance of the Inspector of Dead Letters, will probably be sufficient for the Accountant, whose Salary however ought to be increased, as his Duty is very much so within the last Twenty Years, although the Salary now remains as it was then.

The Office Keeper should be abolished, and his Duty performed by One of the Supernumerary Messengers.

The present Comptroller of this Branch being but lately appointed, and having another Office in this Department, producing upwards of Two hundred Pounds *per Annum*, which he executes by Deputy, we are doubtful whether any Compensation should be made to him for the Loss of the Office; but the Collector, having been long an efficient and able Officer, ought to have a proper Provision for Life.

The Office of Secretary to the Foreign Department is in our Opinion not necessary; the Duty has always been performed, until last July, by the Secretary to the Postmaster General, to whom it ought again to revert.

The Allowance of News-papers to the Comptroller of this Office, which costs the Public Annually Forty-two Pounds Eighteen Shillings, ought to be abolished.

Previous to January last the Annual Expence for News-papers to the different Departments belonging to the Post Office was Three hundred and Nineteen Pounds Four Shillings and Three Pence; since which Time it has been reduced to One hundred and Thirty-four Pounds Eight Shillings and Two Pence; but it ought still to be further reduced.

The due Execution of the Duty in the Foreign Office requires the Assistance of Two more Clerks, and of One of the Supernumerary Messengers, who ought to be added to this Establishment.

The Receiver General now pays into the Exchequer Three thousand Pounds Weekly, and at the End of the Quarter such further Sum as the expected Demands upon him will admit of, for which he reserves full sufficient, and is thereby enabled to derive some Advantage from the Public Money remaining in his Hands, which is improper.

The Public Money should be lodged in the Bank in the Name of the Receiver General, who should specify in his Drafts the Service for which it is drawn, in like Manner as the Paymaster General of the Forces and Treasurer of the Navy now do. The Weekly Payment into the Exchequer being first provided for, such further Payments ought to be made as the Balance of Cash will admit of.

From an Investigation of his Weekly Receipts and Payments, we are satisfied that the Amount of the Postage received Weekly in Town will be sufficient, or very nearly so, for the regulated Payment into the Exchequer; the Remittances from Country Postmasters, particularly when the Receipt of the Revenue from those of the Bye and Cross Road Office is added to his present Receipts, will supply sufficient for the Current Expences of the Office, and leave at Times a considerable Balance, which ought to be paid immediately into the Exchequer; a Weekly Account of his Receipts, Issues, and Remains, examined and signed by the Accountant General, should be laid before the Postmaster General, and a Copy thereof transmitted to the Treasury, which Account ought to contain the actual Receipts

and Payments during the Period; at present he does not charge himself with many Articles of Receipt until the End of the Quarter, neither does he take Credit for several Payments until that Period, though made prior thereto; we are of Opinion that the Account in future should be a Current Cash Account, by which the actual State of the Balance in the Bank will appear, that at the End of the Quarter a Sum equal to the Amount of the Quarterly Salaries to the Officers should be retained, and immediately paid to them respectively, and that the Postmaster General's Warrants for other Services should be paid out of the Current Receipts of the ensuing Quarter; or, if the Amount of such Demands is known, a Sum equal thereto may also be left in the Bank to satisfy such Warrants. Was the Postmaster General to make it a Rule to grant all such Warrants within One Week after the End of each Quarter, the Whole would be simplified; and as the principal Receipt from the Deputies is generally in Cash about the End of the Quarter, there would be Money sufficient for all such Services; and after the First Week the Payment of the Weekly Balances into the Exchequer might again take Place.

The Business of the Receiver General's Office being increased by that of the Bye and Cross Roads transferred to it, may render the Addition of another Clerk necessary.

The Office of the Accountant General ought to form a Check upon that of the Receiver General; that Officer ought to have Knowledge of all his Receipts and Payments, for which Purpose not only the Bills remitted by the Deputies should be entered by him, but the Cash Remittance also Daily, as it is made; and the Letter Bill Clerk in the Inland Office, and Deputy Comptroller in the Foreign, ought to transmit to this Office the Amount of the Payments made from Time to Time by the Letter Carriers and Window Men; this will not only enable the Office to check the Receiver General's Weekly Receipts, but be the Means of more regularly substantiating the Remittances from the Deputies, which at present are chiefly taken from the Receiver General's Books—a very disorderly Mode of proceeding.

All Warrants from the Postmaster General should be entered in this Office previous to Payment; which will establish a Check upon the Credits of the Receiver General. This Officer is required to examine and sign all Bills for Articles supplied, or Services performed, previous to their being laid before the Postmaster General; but such Examination only extends to the same being right cast, for he is not empowered to call for the Authority for the Expenditure, nor for the Vouchers of its being duly made.

As the Expenditure in the various Departments of this Office amounts to a very considerable Sum Annually, we are of Opinion that it should be subjected to a very strict Controul; and that there ought to be a Power vested in the Accountant General for the special Purpose of examining, certifying, and reporting upon all Bills before Warrants are granted for Payment thereof: He should have Power to call for the Authority, and to judge of the Reasonableness of the Charge made, and of the Vouchers exhibited to support it, upon all which he should report his Opinion to the Postmaster General for his Information previous to his granting Warrants for the Amount. We deem such a Controul absolutely necessary, and we conceive that the Accountant General is the proper Person to perform this Duty: We are however of Opinion that this Officer should be independant of the Post Office, and his Appointment originate from the Commissioners of Your Majesty's Treasury.

The Deputy to the Accountant General appears to be a very efficient Officer, and at present not sufficiently paid for the Services required of him.

We do not apprehend that the Controul being joined to that of Accountant General will require any Addition to the Establishment, or at most a Junior Clerk; as the Duty ought to be chiefly performed by the principal Officer, who must be responsible for the due Execution thereof.

In the Penny Post Office a Special Comptroller is in our Opinion unnecessary, and ought to be abolished; the Place is a Sinécure, and has been so for a long Time; the Accountant ought to be an efficient Officer, and to execute the Duty in Person, not, as at present, by Substitute: He ought to be a Controul upon the Offices and Receiving Houses, and attend occasionally at all, as a Check upon their Account of Receipts; the Business appears to us to be done in too loose a Manner; when a Reform of this Branch takes Place, we have no Doubt but that proper Checks for the Benefit of the Revenue will be established.

The Collector is an Officer not wanted; the Money is now collected by the Chief Sorters at the principal Offices, and paid to him; it ought to be paid at once to the Receiver General, in like Manner as we have recommended the Revenue from the Bye and Cross Road Office, and the necessary Disbursements made by him; thus there will be but One Office of Receipt and Issue instead of Three.

The Number of Chief Offices may certainly be reduced, and the principal Officer at each ought to form the Check upon the Receiving Houses in his District, as the Accountant should upon them.

The Agents for Packets at Dover, Harwich, and Falmouth ought to execute their Duty in Person; which indeed they all do, the Agent for Dover excepted; who only attends occasionally; but is responsible for the Instruments he employs.

Upon examining this Officer, we found that he had formerly been Secretary to the Post Office in Ireland, and upon his present Appointment was succeeded there by Mr. Lees, with whom a special Agreement was made with respect to Emoluments as before stated; it appeared however that Mr. Lees was subjected eventually to an Annual Payment out of his Emoluments to Mr. Treves.

Mr.

N<sup>o</sup> 114.

£. 350.

Mr. Lees and his Office being out of our Jurisdiction, we could not call for an Explanation of this Circumstance from him; but we thought it our Duty to examine Mr. Treves, who informed us that from the Friendship of One of the Joint Postmasters General he received, in August 1774, an Engagement from Mr. Lees to pay him an Annuity of Three hundred and Fifty Pounds during their joint Lives and his Continuance in Office, which Annuity was to commence on the Death of Mr. Barham, then Agent for the Packets at Dover, and at that Time in a bad State of Health; but having recovered, and lived until last October, he has not yet received any Part of such Annuity.

£. 200.

Mr. Barham living longer than had been expected, Lord Carteret procured also for Mr. Treves, in October 1782, an Engagement from Mr. Dashwood, the Deputy Postmaster at Jamaica, to pay him an Annuity of Two hundred Pounds, during their joint Lives and Mr. Dashwood's Continuance in Office, which Annuity he has regularly received, and apprehends it was given him as a Compensation for the unexpected Delay of the other from Mr. Lees: He receives, and is to receive, both those Annuities for his own Use entirely; he gave no Consideration whatever, directly or indirectly, for the same, neither does he perform any Duty or Service whatsoever to the Public on Account thereof, and considers these Emoluments to have proceeded altogether from the Friendship of Lord Carteret.

Whatever may have been the Motive, it is our Duty to state that such Measures are extremely reprehensible, improper, and ought to be discontinued.

In a former Report we have given our Opinion that if the Salary of a public Officer is too much for the Duty required of him, it should be diminished, but that he ought not to be loaded with Payments thereout to those who perform no public Service whatever.

For the Reason before mentioned we think it improper for us to offer any Regulation relative to the Annuity payable by Mr. Lees; but with respect to that paid by Mr. Dashwood, we are of Opinion it ought immediately to cease; by the Return made to us, his apparent Annual Emoluments do not amount to the Sum he is charged with the Payment of; we must therefore conclude he is permitted to avail himself of indirect Means to enable him to perform his Engagement; probably by retaining in his Hands a considerable Balance of Public Money, of which we shall have Occasion to take further Notice hereafter, when we come to observe upon the Balances due from the Deputy Postmasters.

The Office of Solicitor to this Department is a Sinecure; the Whole of the Business is executed by a Deputy, who derives his Emoluments from the Quantum of the Charges incurred: This Mode of Compensation may be an Inducement to increase those Charges improperly, to the Injury of the Public and of Individuals; Expences may have been incurred in Prosecutions which might have been avoided, and Deputy Postmasters have been subjected to vexatious Applications and Charges on Failure of their Payments, not always from their Default, but from Irregularity in the Accounts transmitted from the Office.

The Solicitor ought to perform his Duty in Person; his Salary is intended as a Compensation for his Attendance, and his Account of Charges strictly examined by the Accountant General, in which Account every Charge incurred in the Execution of his Duty ought to be inserted; at present the Deputy Postmasters pay sundry Charges for Chaise Hire, Tavern Bills, and other Travelling Expences on Prosecutions, which are covered, as before observed, under the Article of Dead Letters.

N<sup>o</sup> 107.

The whole Duty being at present executed by One Person, it is evident that One efficient Officer is sufficient; that Officer ought to be the Solicitor himself, otherwise the Public are put to an unnecessary Expence of near Two hundred and Fifty Pounds a Year for an Officer who from his own Acknowledgment is of no Manner of Use.

The Office of Court Post is a Sinecure, and altogether unnecessary; the Duty may be very properly performed by any of the Messengers in Waiting at the Secretary of State's Offices; we are therefore of Opinion, that on the Demise or Resignation of the present Patentee this Office ought to be abolished.

It was impossible for us to extend our Examination to the numerous Class of Deputy Postmasters individually; we therefore contented ourselves with general Returns of their Salaries, the Regulation of which must in general be left to the Judgment of the Postmaster General; but we must recommend that they be established and ascertained; after which no Alteration or further Allowance should be made without his Knowledge and Approbation.

£. 10,000.

Upon examining the General Quarterly Accounts transmitted by the Deputy Postmaster General at Edinburgh, we find that he constantly retains in his Hands a Balance of upwards of Ten thousand Pounds, although the Amount of his Quarterly Disbursements never exceeds Three thousand Pounds, which his Current Receipts will always supply; we are therefore of Opinion no Balance whatever should be permitted to remain in his Hands, but that he ought to remit Weekly the Balance of his Receipt, and transmit at the same Time a Weekly State of his Receipts and Payments, examined and certified by the Accountant; in the last Week of the Quarter he may reserve sufficient to pay the Quarter's Salaries, and the Incidents should be paid out of the Current Receipt of the ensuing Quarter.

His

His present Practice is to remit the specific Sum of Seven thousand Pounds at the End of each  $\text{£. 7,000.}$  Quarter, upon which he constantly charges Two *per Cent.* Exchange, by what Authority does not appear; the Revenue is thus charged with the Annual Expence of Five hundred and Sixty Pounds,  $\text{£. 560.}$  which ought not to be permitted: The Par of Exchange between Edinburgh and London seldom exceeds a Half *per Cent.*; but there is no Occasion to pay any Exchange whatever.

We also observe a considerable Sum, Four thousand Three hundred and Ninety-four Pounds  $\text{£. 4,394. 17. 8\frac{1}{2}.}$  Seventeen Shillings and Eight Pence Halfpenny, always carried forward as the Amount of Balances due from Deputy Postmasters in Scotland, at and preceding the 5th of January 1764, without any Diminution thereof.

Payment of such Balances should be enforced from those who are solvent, and the desperate Debts expunged from the Account.

The Quarterly Accounts of the several Deputy Postmasters ought to be regularly transmitted to them by the Accountant General, and a List of the respective Balances sent at the same Time to the Surveyors of the several Districts, in order that they may admonish the Deputies to remit; and whenever there is Occasion to prosecute a Deputy for Non-compliance, he ought to be immediately dismissed, and his Securities applied to.

The Accounts of the Deputy Postmasters in North America, and the West India Islands, are at present very imperfect and irregular; upon calling for a State of the Balances due from them we could only be furnished with an Estimate thereof, which we have inserted in the Appendix; and by which it appears that the Sum estimated to be due from those of the West India Islands, to the 5th of April last, is Twenty thousand Six hundred and Twenty-four Pounds; nearly One Half of which is due from Mr. Dashwood, the Deputy Postmaster of Jamaica before mentioned; this calls for immediate Attention and Regulation; for which Purpose we are of Opinion a proper Person should be sent out, in Quality of Surveyor, to inspect their Accounts, and to regulate their Proceedings. The Inland Revenue in the Islands may certainly under due Regulation be made very productive; and proper Checks ought to be established here, particularly at Falmouth, to ascertain the Number of Letters to and from America, the West India Islands, and Lisbon, which do not pass through London; their Accounts from the General Office here should be sent to them every Quarter, and they ought to transmit a Quarterly Account of the Produce of the Inland Revenue, attested before the Governor of the Island, which will be some Check upon such Accounts. No 115.  
 $\text{£. 20,624.}$

Having thus offered such Observations as have occurred to us on the several special Heads of Service in this Department, we come now to add some general Observations upon Circumstances not appertaining to any particular Class.

Since the accelerated Conveyance of the Mails, very few Expresses have been used; the Mail Coaches out-running them so much, by travelling at the Rate of Eight Miles an Hour, while the Expresses go only at the Rate of Six, according to the old Custom of the Post; so that a Letter dispatched by Express from London at 12 o'Clock at Noon, to any Place at the Distance of Two hundred Miles, will not reach so soon as a Letter by the Mail dispatched at Eight at Night; this requires Regulation; for unless Measures are adopted to accelerate the Conveyance of Letters by Express, great Inconvenience and Prejudice may accrue to the Public and to Individuals, especially in Time of War; there can be no Reason why an Express should not go at the same Rate the Mail Coaches now do; it may however be necessary to advance the Price from Three Pence to Four Pence Halfpenny *per Mile*, and One Shilling *per Stage* to the Rider, as a Compensation for the increased Speed required, which should be enforced by the Forfeiture of the Allowance for the Stage, if not performed at the Rate of Eight Miles an Hour.

The Practice of permitting the Clerks in the Dead Letter Office to receive for their Use the Postage of such returned Letters as are afterwards delivered, we very much disapprove; such Postage ought to be applied to the Revenue, and not to the Use of Individuals.

Several of the Officers and Clerks in this Office are Part Owners of the Packets employed in the Service of the Post Office.

The Custom of giving certain Annual Feasts to the Officers and Clerks in this Office at the public Expence, ought to be abolished; as also what is called the Feast and Drink Money; and as the Inland Office now shuts at an early Hour, the Allowance of Lodging Money to some of the Officers, and of Apartments to others, ought to be discontinued: But of all Allowances, those of Coals and Candles are the most enormous; for besides those consumed in the Official Apartments, there are allowed to sundry Officers, for their private Use in Town or Country, above Three hundred Chaldrons of Coals, and Twenty thousand Pounds of Candles; which several of them commute with the Tradesmen for Money, or other Articles; the Amount of the Sum paid for these Two Articles in the Year 1784 was Four thousand Four hundred and Eighteen Pounds Four Shillings and One Penny.

This immense Expenditure ought to be checked, and may now be very considerably reduced, as the Night Duty is so much decreased; there are also other Allowances of Tin and Turnery Wares, &c. all of which ought to be totally abolished.

By an Account transmitted to us, and inserted in the Appendix, of the Amount of Coals, Candles, Oil, Tin Ware, &c. delivered for the Use of the Postmasters General, in One Year, from the 5th of January 1784 to 5th of January 1785, it appears that such Articles cost the Public in that



£. 1,336. 8. 3. Year, and for their Use alone, One thousand Three hundred and Thirty-six Pounds Eight Shillings and Three Pence.

We shall propose the Abolition of all such Allowances, as very liable to great Abuse, and certain Annual Salaries in lieu of all Emoluments whatever.

There are many Articles in the Annual contingent Account which will require the strict Examination of the Accountant General, such as the Charges for the Petty Incidents, which amount to a very considerable Sum, and are now we find paid by the Comptroller General or his Deputy, who also pay the Mileage, that is, the regulated Price for conveying the Mails by the Coaches upon the new Plan; the Guards are now also paid by them, and Warrants are issued to the Comptroller or his Deputy, for the Amount, according to an Account exhibited by them, without any Check or Controul, except that of one for the other, and without sufficient Evidence of all the Payments being actually made to the Parties; a Copy of the Mileage Bill, and Account of Incidents, for the Quarter ending the 5th of January last, together with a Warrant for the Pay of the Guards, are inserted in the Appendix. A Comptrolling Officer ought not to have the Disburse of any Money whatever; the Reason assigned for this Practice is, to render the Contractors as dependant as possible upon those under whose immediate Direction they act: At first setting out this might have been necessary; it is now no longer so, and may be subject to Abuse, therefore ought to be discontinued.

N<sup>o</sup> 117.

We shall hereafter propose a proper Officer to pay the Incidents; the Mileage and Wages of the Guards should be paid by the Deputy Postmasters, and Credit given in their Quarterly Accounts for the same when the Payments are duly vouched.

All Tradesmen's Bills should be carefully examined, both as to Quantity and Price of the Articles supplied or Service performed; and previous to the Allowance of any Article, a proper Authority for incurring the Expence exhibited.

The Comptrolling Officer ought in every Instance to check the Expenditure, where in his Judgment it exceeds the Necessity of the Service, and by his Report draw the Attention of the Postmaster General thereto; this appears the more necessary as the Contingent Expences of this Office are very considerable, and may be subject to Abuse.

The Stationary for this Office is supplied by Patent, which being near expired, a considerable Saving will be produced in this Article, when furnished from the Public Repository.

Much Expence is Annually incurred for Rent, Repairs, and Purchases of additional Houses and Ground, yet after all the Official Conveniencies are too confined; they may however be increased by diminishing a little those of Individuals, some of which, as before stated, are now unnecessary, and Part of the Houses allotted to the Postmasters General, who never reside, may be converted to Office Use. It were to be wished that a more extensive Building could be found, of equal Situation with the present Office, which is in the very Centre of Commercial Intercourse.

The Compensation to the Officers and Clerks for the Duty done in this Office arises from a Variety of Sources, viz. Salaries on the Establishment, Salaries out of Incidents, Salaries from the Bye and Cross Road Office, Allowances, Fees on Commissions, Deputations and Expresses, Agency, *Per Centage* on Payments, Gratuities, Profits on News papers, &c. by which the Accounts are not only intermixed and confused, but many of the Officers paid in a Manner inapplicable to the Duties they perform: Our Purpose is to simplify the Mode of such Compensation, and to recommend certain fixed Salaries adequate to the Trust reposed, and Service required, and a general Abolition of all Fees, Perquisites, and Gratuities whatever, for the immediate Benefit of the Officers employed.

£. 2,500.

In Conformity to this Principle, we proceed to propose that the Postmasters General should have a clear Salary of Two thousand Five hundred Pounds a Year each, free from all Deductions, and in lieu of Allowances for Freight of Money, Fees on Commissions and Deputations, House Rent, Coals, Candles, Tin and Turnery Ware, &c.

We would also recommend that a Board should be held regularly Once a Week at least, for the Purpose of effectually superintending the Management of this great Branch of the Revenue, and of checking the Expenditure thereof: The Trust reposed is great, so is the Patronage attending it, and it is not unbecoming those of the highest Rank to see to the Improvement and due Regulation of so productive a Source of Revenue, over which they are appointed to preside. No material Alteration should be made in the Course of the Posts, or Conveyance of the Mails, without their Approbation, nor any Expence incurred without their Knowledge and Concurrence; as Payment cannot be made for any Service without their Warrant, before such is granted they should be perfectly satisfied of the Propriety of the Expenditure, and that it has been made with due Attention to the Public Interest, to which End the Accountant General will be found a most useful Assistant, who ought to be responsible for his Reports, and for the Correctness and Authenticity of the Accounts which he certifies.

£. 800.

The Duty of the Secretary being much diminished since the Appointment of the Comptroller General, his Salary should be Eight hundred Pounds a Year, clear of all Deductions, and in lieu of every Allowance whatever, with a House in the Office for Residence, and Coals and Candles for his Use therein only; he ought not to be permitted to act as Agent to any Person employed in the Service of the Post Office, as it gives him an Interest in the Amount of an Expenditure, the Excess of which it is his Duty to check; the enormous Expenditure upon the Packet Service last War was a fruitful Source of Emolument to the present Officer, which ought not to have been permitted, being subject

subject to Abuse, of which we shall take further Notice when we come to treat of that Service. As the Remittances from the Deputy Postmasters and others must necessarily pass through his Hands in the Absence of the Postmaster General, to whom they always are or ought to be addressed, he should give Security in the Sum of Five thousand Pounds.

£. 5,000.

When such Remittances are received, they ought to be forthwith entered, and paid over to the Receiver General, and at the same Time an Account of the Particulars transmitted to the Accountant General.

The Salary of the Clerk to the Postmaster General, who is properly the Secretary's Assistant, should be Six hundred Pounds a Year; and the Salaries of the other Four Clerks in the Secretary's Office as follows :

1st Clerk	-	-	-	-	£. 300 a Year.
2d Clerk	-	-	-	-	200
3d Clerk	-	-	-	-	150
4th Clerk	-	-	-	-	100

free from all Deductions, and in lieu of every other Emolument whatever.

The Salary of the Surveyor and Comptroller General should continue to be One thousand Five hundred Pounds a Year clear, with a House in the Office for his Residence, and Coals and Candles for his Use therein only.

£. 1,500.

The present Officer claims a further Compensation, for having suggested and carried into Execution the Plan for extending and improving the Posts, and for the more safe, expeditious, and regular Conveyance of the Mails, by which the Correspondence of the Kingdom is improved, and the Public Revenue increased.

His Merit certainly entitles him to Reward; he states that he understood his original Agreement with Government to be, that his Expences should be paid to August 1784; that an Average should be struck of the Net Revenue of the Office to that Time, or the Month of April preceding; and that he should be allowed Two and a Half *per Cent. per Annum* on the future Increase of such Revenue, which Allowance was to include his Salary, and every Expence for Travelling, &c. &c.

It appears however, by the Warrant from the Commissioners of the Treasury to the Postmaster General for his Appointment, that their Lordships did not understand it exactly in the same Light; for by that Warrant they direct, that he shall be paid a Salary of One thousand Five hundred Pounds a Year, together with an Allowance of Two and a Half *per Cent. per Annum* on such Part of the Net Revenue of the Post Office as should at any Time exceed the Annual Sum of Three hundred thousand Pounds; with a Proviso that this Poundage should not be affected on the one Hand by a Diminution thereof, occasioned by any future Grants or Pensions, nor on the other by any Augmentation of the Revenue, occasioned by any additional Rate of Postage, or by any Reforms not connected with the Conveyance of the Mails within the Kingdom of Great Britain: This Warrant is dated the 5th of August 1786; no Mention is made therein of any Allowance for past Expences.

£. 1,500.

On the 11th of October following, the Postmasters General issued their Warrant for his Appointment to the Office of Surveyor and Comptroller General, with a Salary of One thousand Five hundred Pounds a Year, clear of all Deductions, to include all Travelling and other Expences whatsoever, incidental to the said Office, but take no Notice of the Allowance of Two and a Half *per Cent.* on the Excess of the Revenue—for what Reason does not appear; but we understand there were Doubts how far they were legally authorized to grant such Allowance; however on the same Day they granted a Warrant to Mr. Palmer for Two thousand Pounds on Account of his Expences for carrying his Plan into Execution, and another Warrant on the 27th of the same Month, for the like Sum and Purpose. In this Manner has the Matter rested; Mr. Palmer now claims the promised Reward for his Services, and states, if it should not be thought proper to confirm the original Agreement, that he is willing to farm the Cross Posts or Penny Post for his Life on certain Conditions, as a Remuneration for his Services. That his Proposals may be clearly understood, we have annexed in the Appendix a Copy of his Letter to us on the Subject.

£. 1,500.

The Opposition which Mr. Palmer experienced from the oldest and ablest Officers in the Service, who represented his Plan not only to be impracticable, but dangerous to Commerce and the Revenue, induced us to examine and to weigh with great Attention the numerous Documents and Information which have been furnished us by both Parties, in Opposition and in Support of the Measure.

No 118.

In Consequence thereof we are enabled to state that Mr. Palmer has exceeded the Expectations which he held forth in his First Proposal, with regard to the Dispatch and the Expence, at the same Time that the Revenue is augmented; Answers are returned to Letters in less than Half the Time, and with a Degree of Punctuality never experienced before; the Expence is at a less Rate *per Mile* than upon the old Plan, and has been effected for Twenty thousand Pounds *per Annum* less than the Sum first proposed by Mr. Palmer; and the Accounts of the Post Office are undeniable Proofs of the Revenue having increased.

£. 20,000.

In Addition to the general Opposition which Mr. Palmer experienced, he states that a Competition was attempted, by endeavouring to convey the Mails upon the old Plan with greater Dispatch,

but

but after increasing the Expence from about Three Pounds a Year *per* Mile to Nine Pounds, the Attempt was abandoned.

As an Engagement had been entered into about the Year 1720, by the Postmasters General for the Time being, with the late Ralph Allen, Esquire, for farming the Cross Posts, and which met with the Approbation of the Public, we were induced to enquire into the Particulars, by which we found that those Improvements were of a limited Nature; that Mr. Allen did not disclose his Plan and Mode of conducting it for above Forty Years; and that the Profit which he derived therefrom was very large: Whereas the Improvements suggested and already accomplished by Mr. Palmer are far more extensive; and of so much Importance to the Commerce of this Country as to have justified the Measure, although it had been accompanied with additional Expence—at the same Time Mr. Palmer has acted with Openness, and without Reserve, nor is it probable he will ever reap the Benefit which Mr. Allen obtained.

We must further observe, that Mr. Allen met with none of those Difficulties that Mr. Palmer has experienced, and which required all his Activity and Perseverance, aided by the firm and liberal Support of Government, to surmount, against a most powerful Opposition, and every Obstruction that could be thrown in his Way by Officers in this Department.

N<sup>o</sup> 119.

The Account inserted in the Appendix will shew the Produce of the Post Office Revenue for the last Thirty Years, and which has been increased in Consequence of Mr. Palmer's Plan. The Improvement of this Revenue by the Extension of Commerce, and growing Prosperity of the Country, had been materially checked by the slow Progress of the Post, as the Speed with which the Stage Coaches travelled had induced great Numbers to prefer that Conveyance for their Letters, although at the Risk of incurring the Penalty in case of Discovery, and also at an Expence of Two Shillings and Six Pence and Three Shillings for every Letter or Packet; most of those Letters are now sent by the Post, and if the same Dispatch, Safety and Punctuality (which are the great Features of Mr. Palmer's Plan) continue, the Conveyance of Letters by other Means will be prevented.

Under these Circumstances, we are of Opinion that Mr. Palmer is justly entitled to the Compensation he claims, and which is a very small Part of that Revenue, which his Ingenuity, Activity, and Zeal has created, over and above the Convenience and numerous collateral Advantages which the Public, and more particularly the Commerce of this Country, reap from the safe and speedy Conveyance of the Mails.

We cannot recommend that the Alternative proposed by Mr. Palmer for farming the Cross Posts or Penny Post should be accepted, because we think it absolutely necessary, for the Purpose of securing to the Public hereafter the Benefit already derived, and what may be further expected from his Plan, that Mr. Palmer should be interested in the Productiveness of the Whole of the Post Office Revenue, and which might otherwise fall back into its former State of Delay, Irregularity, and Confusion.

The Fatigue and Anxiety of Mr. Palmer previous to the Month of August 1784, must have been immense, and we think it just that his Expences to that Time should be reimbursed. The Compensation of Two and a Half *per Cent.* which he claims, should commence when the Net Revenue of the Post Office shall exceed Three hundred thousand Pounds a Year; and until that *Per Centage* commences, his Expences ought to be paid.

£. 500.

The Salary of the Deputy Comptroller General and Resident Surveyor, should continue to be Five hundred Pounds a Year, with a House in the Office for his Residence, and Coals and Candles for his Use therein.

The Salary of the Accountant in the Comptroller General's Office should be £. 200 a Year.

Of the 1st Clerk	- - - - -	£. 100
Second D <sup>o</sup>	- - - - -	80
Extra D <sup>o</sup>	- - - - -	70
Clerk of the Letter Bills	- - - - -	80
Assistant to D <sup>o</sup>	- - - - -	70
Superintendent of Mails	- - - - -	100
Assistant to D <sup>o</sup>	- - - - -	80
Inspector of Dead and Missent Letters	- - - - -	80
His Assistant	- - - - -	70
Riding Surveyors, each	- - - - -	100

with a Guinea *per* Day when travelling.

The Clerks in the Inland Department have been chiefly compensated for the severe Duty formerly required of them by the Profits arising from the Privilege of sending News-papers into the Country free of Postage; this Privilege was annexed to the Six Chief Clerks, commonly called the Clerks of the Roads, whose Emoluments thereby were Once such as not only to enable them to make a good Provision for their Families, but to pay thereout the Annual Sum of One thousand Three hundred Pounds to Officers and Clerks in this Department, in Aid of their Salaries, which on that Account were proportionably small from the Public; and this Situation of Clerk of the Roads was looked up to as the Reward of their long and arduous Labour in the subordinate Stations of the Office.

£. 1,300.

By a Reference to the State of the Inland Office Twenty Years back, it appears that about the Sum of Eight thousand Six hundred and Sixty Pounds was appropriated to the Payment of the Thirty-nine Offices

£. 8,660.

§

Offices then employed in that Department, of which Two thousand and Sixty Pounds was paid by £. 2,060. the Public, and Six thousand Six hundred Pounds from the Profits on the Circulation of News-papers £. 6,600.

The Produce of this Privilege has long been decreasing, and is now reduced to about One Third of the above Sum, from the Operation of an Act of Parliament passed in the Year 1764, by which Members of both Houses of Parliament were empowered to have News-papers, Votes, and all other printed Parliamentary Papers, sent by Post in their Names, free from Postage, upon a written Notice of the Direction of such Papers being sent to the Postmaster General by the respective Members, whose Names were to be used instead of the former Mode of franking News-papers the same as Letters.

The Printers, News Sellers, and others, availing themselves of this Privilege, have obtained numerous Orders, readily granted, under the Persuasion of increasing the Stamp Revenue: The present Number of Orders in the Office is Six thousand Seven hundred and Fifty-one; and the Number of News-papers sent Weekly by the Post in Consequence thereof is Forty-seven thousand and Seventeen; these Dealers are enabled to supply their Customers in the Country at a cheaper Rate than the Clerks in the Office can, who are loaded with Out Payments from their Profits, and are obliged to purchase their Papers at an advanced Price from an Officer appointed by the Postmaster General to supply them; under such Disadvantages, and with such a Competition, the Decrease of this Emolument is not to be wondered at; it has indeed diminished to such a Degree, that Clerks who used to make from Five to Six hundred Pounds a Year clear, after all Expences paid, do not even now, when relieved from the Out Payments, clear Half that Sum; nay, One of them, who has been Forty-six Years in Office, received only Seventy-nine Pounds Eight Shillings and Two Pence, in the Year 1784, for his whole Official Income; the Charges on his Emolument from News-papers amounting to more than he received thereby.

The Postmasters General, sensible of this Diminution, lately directed the Payments thereout to the other Officers and Clerks in the Office to be discontinued, and reimbursed some of them out of the Revenue; but this is not the only Expence to which the Public is subjected by the Increase of those Orders; the Number of News-papers to be forwarded every Night is now so great, that, in order to prevent the Confusion and Delay attending the Sorting of them with the Letters, a separate Office is allotted for that Purpose, and Eighteen Extra Persons employed, at an Annual Expence of Four hundred Pounds, to perform the Duty of sorting and packing up the News-papers; besides, it is in Proof, that Letters and written Papers are frequently enclosed in them, by which the Revenue is defrauded, without a Possibility of Prevention, while the present Mode continues, as the Number is by far too great to admit of a general Search for Enclosures.

This is an Evil which certainly requires Correction, and relative to which we shall hereafter offer some Regulations; at present, we proceed to observe, that in our Opinion, the Privilege of franking News-papers by the Clerks of the Inland Department ought to be entirely abolished, and certain fixed Salaries allotted to them in lieu of every other Emolument whatever.

In proposing such Salaries we must, in Justice to the present Eighteen Senior Clerks, recommend larger Sums than their Successors can be entitled to; those have been many Years in Office, and have been looking up to the Emoluments heretofore attending the Six Clerks of the Roads, through a long Period of hard and unwholesome Duty, with a scanty Income.

Since the Establishment of Mr. Palmer's Plan, the Duty of the Clerks in the Inland Office is neither so severe nor so detrimental to Health as formerly; we therefore recommend that those who may be appointed to succeed the present Eighteen Seniors, be reduced One Fifth in the Amount of the Salaries: We shall now propose for that Class,

The First	6	-	-	each	-	£. 500 a Year.
The next	4	-	-	each	-	400
	4 more	-	-	each	-	350
The other	4	-	-	each	-	300

All to rise in Rotation upon Vacancies, and the Successor to the lowest Class to enter at the reduced Salary of £. 240 a Year.

The Salaries of the Eighteen Assistants should be as follows:

4	-	-	-	each	-	£. 150 a Year.
4	-	-	-	each	-	130
4	-	-	-	each	-	120
6	-	-	-	each	-	110

The Salaries of the Twenty-six Juniors should be,

9 as Tellers	-	-	-	each	-	£. 100 a Year.
4	-	-	-	each	-	90
4	-	-	-	each	-	80
9	-	-	-	each	-	70

The Inspector of Franks and Window Man for the General Nights, should be chosen from the Seniors; the Inspector of Franks and Window Man for the Bye Nights, from the Assistants; and their Deputies from the Juniors.

£. 100.  
£. 80.  
£. 70. £. 80.  
£. 100. £. 100.

The Salary of the Inspector of the Sorting Duty and London Delivery should be One hundred Pounds a Year; and that of the Inspector of the Letter Carriers Eighty Pounds a Year, and of his Deputy Seventy Pounds a Year; the Salary of the Alphabet Man Eighty Pounds; of the Chamber Keeper One hundred Pounds; and of the House Keeper One hundred Pounds a Year.

The Salaries of the Messengers should be,

6 Seniors	-	-	each	-	£. 100 a Year.
6 Juniors	-	-	each	-	60
6 Assistants	-	-	each	-	50
6 Supernumeraries	-	-	each	-	40

£. 250.

The Salary of the Accountant to the Bye and Cross Roads should be Two hundred and Fifty Pounds a Year, and that of his Clerk One hundred and Fifty Pounds; of the Inspector of Dead and Missent Letters Eighty Pounds.

The Comptroller of the Foreign Office derives a considerable Emolument from circulating Newspapers Abroad; his Deputy and some of his Clerks have likewise Advantages therefrom, and from the Circulation of Foreign News-papers in Great Britain: Although we have proposed that this Emolument should be abolished in the Inland Department, yet we think it may be continued in the Foreign; but there is another Species of Emolument received in this Office, namely, the Fees on registering Packets of Value, which ought no longer to be applied to the Use of Individuals, but to that of the Public. The Salary of the Comptroller therefore should be Two hundred Pounds a Year, with such Emoluments as he may derive from the Circulation of News-papers in Foreign Countries, and a House in the Office for his Residence; the Salary of his Deputy One hundred and Fifty Pounds a Year, with the Advantage of News-papers for Abroad.

The Salary of the 1st Clerk	-	-	-	£. 120
2d D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	100
3d D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	80

These Three to have the Benefit of circulating News-papers.

4th D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	£. 90
5th and 6th D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	80
7th, 8th, and 9th D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	70
Office-keeper	-	-	-	50

The Gratuities given by the Merchants at Christmas for the Personal Attention and Civility of the Clerks in this and in the Inland Office, may still, we think, be received for their Use, and they have been so considered in apportioning the Salaries.

£. 600.

The Salary of the Receiver General should be Six hundred Pounds a Year, clear of all Deductions; the *Per Centage* on the Remittances to Paris, Amsterdam, and Bruxelles to cease, and the Fees paid on the Pensions of the Duke of Grafton, and the Heirs of the Duke of Schomberg, to go in Aid of the General Office Fund hereafter mentioned.

The Salaries of his Clerks as follows:

1st Clerk	-	-	-	£. 300 a Year.
2d D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	150
3d D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	100

The Second Clerk to the Receiver General may in our Opinion be the proper Officer to pay all the Contingencies of the Office, not now paid by Warrant on the Receiver General, and to receive the Fees appointed to be taken in Aid of the General Fund; for this Service he ought to have an Addition of Fifty Pounds a Year to his Salary, and give Security to the Amount of One thousand Pounds; he should render an Account Quarterly, which being examined and certified by the Accountant General, must be laid before the Postmasters General for their Approbation and Allowance, and at the End of the Year incorporated in the Receiver General's Account. The Clerks in the Offices from whence Instruments issue liable to Fees, must keep a Check on the Receiver, and send Weekly to the Accountant General a List of the Instruments issued on which Fees are payable.

£. 700.

The Salary of the Accountant General, in Consideration of his additional Duty, should be Seven hundred Pounds a Year, but no Allowance for House Rent: He ought to have Power to suspend and discharge any of his Clerks upon Negligence and Misconduct; being responsible for the Execution of the Duties of his Office, his Instruments should be under his Controul.

The Salary of his Deputy to be £. 300 a Year, and of his Clerks as follows:

1st Clerk	-	-	-	-	£. 120
2d D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	-	100
3d D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	-	80
4th D <sup>o</sup>	-	-	-	-	70
If another necessary	-	-	-	-	60

The Salary of the Accountant for the Penny Post Office should be One hundred and Fifty Pounds a Year; the Salary of the Chief Sorter at the principal Office One hundred and Fifty Pounds a Year, with a House for his Residence at the Office, and Coals and Candles for his Use therein only.

The Salaries of the other Chief Sorters should be in Proportion to the Duty at each Office; if the Offices are reduced to Three, the Salary of the Chief Sorters should be One hundred Pounds a Year each; if they remain Five, then Ninety, Eighty, Seventy, and Sixty Pounds a Year will be sufficient. The Salary of the Senior Sub-Sorter at each should be Sixty Pounds a Year, and of the Juniors Fifty Pounds a Year; the Office Men and Letter Carriers should have Twelve Shillings a Week Wages, in which we include the Country Letter Carriers, who ought not, as at present, to be paid by the Second Penny, but by settled Weekly Wages.

The Second Penny is that demanded on the Delivery of all Penny Post Letters without the Bounds of the General Post Delivery; which at present is appropriated to the Payment of the Country Letter Carriers and other Officers: The Letter Carriers retain Four Fifths of the Produce for their Wages, and account for the other Fifth to the Chief Sorter at the principal Office, who divides such Fifth as follows: One Quarter to the Collector, One Quarter to the Accountant, and retains a Half to himself; out of which he pays Twenty Pounds a Year to an Assistant.

The Produce of this Second Penny is about Two thousand Pounds a Year; the Whole of which ought to go to the Revenue, and the Officers and Carriers paid by Salaries.

Was a Second Penny to be also demanded on the Delivery of all Letters within the Bounds of the General Delivery, which have been put into Receiving Houses beyond them, it would much increase the Revenue, and be equally just.

The Salaries we have recommended to be paid to the Officers and Clerks in the respective Offices, are intended to be in lieu of every other Emolument whatever; Christmas Gratuities from Merchants to the Clerks of the Inland and Foreign Office, and the Benefit of circulating News-papers Abroad, and Foreign Gazettes at Home, to the Officers and Clerks of the Foreign Office, excepted, We must also except the Six Pencees paid to the established Messengers with Letters brought to the Office after the regulated Hour of shutting the Gates, and previous to the closing of the Mails; this Interval is now so short that the Perquisite cannot amount to much, and may be divided between the Six Senior and Six Junior Messengers.

Every Officer and Clerk ought to take an Oath of Fidelity, and enter into a Bond, containing the like Engagements and subject to the same Penalties as recommended in our Fifth Report; they should also be entitled to a proportionate Annuity or Superannuation, upon the Conditions therein mentioned.

An Account of the Arrival and Sailing of Ships from all Parts is transmitted to the Postmaster General, and sent immediately on the coming in of the Mails to the Master of Lloyd's Coffee House for public Information; for which the Sum of Two hundred Pounds is paid Annually, which Sum is at present divided equally between the Secretary and the Comptroller of the Inland Office.

The Intelligence should be continued, but as from the early Delivery of the Letters the Master of the Coffee House cannot avail himself so much thereof as formerly, we are of Opinion the Sum of One hundred Pounds *per Annum* only should now be paid for such Indulgence, which Sum ought to go in Aid of the General Fund.

The Salary of the Solicitor should continue to be Two hundred Pounds a Year; but he ought to execute the Duty in Person, and his Salary compensate for all Attendances, a Charge for which should never be permitted in his Bills.

The Salaries at present allowed the Officers belonging to the Post Office at Edinburgh appear to us very proper, and may be continued, but they ought to have no other Emolument whatever.

The Salaries of the Deputy Postmasters in Great Britain must be regulated as before mentioned.

The Salaries and Allowances of the Deputy Postmasters and Agents in the Plantations and Foreign Parts appear sufficient; but we must remark that the Pensions allowed to the present Agent at New York, and to the Deputy Postmaster in Canada, for the Loss of Office, are unnecessary, as they are both now employed in the Service of the Post Office with suitable Appointments.

Although we have recommended the Abolition of Fees for the particular Benefit of Individuals in this Department, yet we think it fit that Fees should continue to be paid upon certain Instruments issuing from this Office, and Business done therein, according to a Table annexed in the Appendix, the Produce to be carried in the Credit of the Revenue, in Aid of the Expence incurred by the Augmentation of Salaries; the Annual Amount however cannot be great, nor near equal to the increased Expence by Salaries, unless assisted by the Circulation of News-papers, which formerly enabled the Service in this Office to be carried on at a very moderate Expence to the Public.

It has already been stated that the Operation of what is called the Franking Act, passed in the Year 1764, has not only deprived the Officers of Emoluments which went in Aid of the Public Expence, and which the Public must now compensate, but occasioned an Annual Addition thereto, by the Necessity of establishing an Office for the sole Purpose of receiving, sorting, and packing up of News-papers for the Benefit of Printers, Bookfellers and Dealers, who availing themselves of the known Impossibility of examining every Cover sent, on Account of the large Number and late Hour at which they are sent, have frequently conveyed therein Letters and written Papers, otherwise liable to Postage."

Thus has the Intention of the Act been frustrated which was expressly made "for preventing Fraud and Abuses in Relation to the sending and receiving of Letters and Packets free from the Duty of Postage."

Before we proceed to offer the Regulations which have occurred to us for the Prevention of such Frauds and Abuses, it may be proper to state, that by the above mentioned Act it is enacted, "that printed Votes and Proceedings in Parliament, News-papers sent without Covers, or in Covers open at the Sides, and signed on the Outside by a Member of Parliament, or directed to a Member at any Place, whereof he shall have given Notice in Writing to the Postmaster General, shall go free."

Previous to the passing of this Act, all News-papers sent free were enclosed in a complete Frank.

For several Years after the passing of the Act, the Defalcation arising from the written Notices or Lists was not felt; but since the Year 1771 it has increased to such a Degree as to become highly detrimental to the Public Revenue.

The Printers and Dealers in News-papers have created to themselves a new Branch of profitable Trade, at the Expence of the Public, which they have almost drawn a Monopoly of into their Hands; being enabled to supply their Country Customers at a much lower Rate than the Clerks of the Post Office, who are not only subjected to an Extra Expence of Three Half Pence *per* Dozen to the Officer appointed by the Postmaster General to supply the Office with News-papers, and deprived by him of One Paper in every Quire, but also to contribute considerable Sums out of their Profits, towards the Salaries of other Officers in this Office.

The Price charged by the Officers of the Post Office is Two Pounds Sixteen Shillings *per Annum* for a Paper Three Times a Week; that by the Printers and Dealers is Two Pounds Six Shillings *per Annum*, being Ten Shillings a Year Difference; and yet the Advantage to the Public in general of receiving their Papers from the Post Office is so evident, that the Clerks of the Post Office still retain a Quarter Share of the Business. In order to promote the Circulation of News-papers, the Accommodation of the Public, and Increase of the Revenue, we would recommend that a regular Newspaper Office be established in the General Post Office, under the Direction of a competent Officer as Superintendant, with One Clerk for his Assistant, the Eighteen Letter Carriers at present employed as Sorters, and Six Boys as Lappers.

To this Office the Printers and Dealers in News-papers should transmit their Lists, and the Papers in Sheets, which are to be forwarded, where each Paper should be put under a Cover addressed to the Person for whom it is intended, which Address may be ready written or printed on the Cover, with the Office Stamp of *News-paper* affixed thereto, and the Postage of One Penny to all Parts of Great Britain charged, upon the Supercription of each, to be paid upon Delivery, the same as the Postage of Letters, and carried to the Revenue; this will prevent improper Enclosures, and will yield a considerable clear Revenue after paying every Expence, including that of the increased Salaries to the Clerks deprived of the Privilege; and yet the Customer may be supplied at less Expence than what is now paid to the Clerks of the Post Office for Papers sent from thence: To evince this, it is necessary to state, that although the Retail Price of News-papers is Three Pence each, the Printers sell them at Two Pence Halfpenny, and give One Paper *gratis* in every Quire of Twenty-four.

60,000.

£. 13,000.

£. 20,000.

About Sixty thousand Papers are at present circulated from the Post Office Weekly by the Dealers, and those entitled to frank them officially, which at One Penny *per* Week will produce Thirteen thousand Pounds *per Annum* from the General Post Office at London alone, besides what may be obtained from the Circulation of the Country News-papers from the Towns where they are published; which, for Want of the necessary Returns, we are not enabled to estimate; but we are informed it may fairly be taken at One Half, which together will produce an Annual Revenue of about Twenty thousand Pounds.

The Deputy Postmasters at the Country Towns where Papers are published may forward them in the same Manner, and at the like Rate as from the General Office, and should have a small additional Allowance *pro rata* for their Trouble.

The Expence of the Establishment proposed at the General Post Office will be in Addition to the present one, for the Eighteen Seniors, which is <i>per Annum</i>	-	-	£. 421 14 —
A Superintendant	at	-	150 — —
His Assistant	at	-	70 — —
Six Boys, at Twenty Pounds each	-	-	120 — —
			<hr/>
			£. 761 14 —
Suppose the Extra Allowances to the Country Postmasters may amount to	-	-	238 6 —
			<hr/>
Total Expence of the Plan	-	-	£. 1,000 — —

The Produce therefore to the Revenue will be about Nineteen thousand Pounds Annually  $\text{£. } 19,000$ ; from which the Amount of the increased Salaries to the Clerks being deducted, the Surplus will be Net Gain.

We have Reason however to believe the Sum estimated as the Produce of the Circulation of Country News-papers is so much under-rated, that the Excess of that will be sufficient to defray the Expence of this Establishment, and thus leave a clear Annual Addition of Twenty thousand Pounds  $\text{£. } 20,000$  to the Revenue.

The News-papers for Members of Parliament should be forwarded to their Place of Residence in Town or Country, under Covers addressed to them, and those sent by them under complete Franks.

The Officer employed to furnish the Office with News-papers, and to transmit the Advertisements to the Press, for which he is allowed One Shilling each every Day they are inserted, is and always was unnecessary, and therefore ought to be discontinued, with an Annuity during his Life.

In the Course of this Enquiry we have found some Offices Sinectures, others rendered unnecessary by the Arrangements in consequence of Mr. Palmer's Plan, and others we have recommended to be abolished; we are however of Opinion that the present Possessors of such Offices ought not to suffer in their Income from Regulations made for the Public Benefit, but that they should be compensated for the Loss of Office, by an Annuity during their Lives, unless otherwise provided for in the Service of Government.

The very superior Advantages which the internal Commerce of this Country enjoys at present over all others by the rapid Conveyance of Letters, induces us to recommend every reasonable Endeavour to surmount those Obstacles which Nature has thrown in the Way of a more quick and regular Communication with the Continent.

The Mails by the Way of Dover and Harwich, are dispatched only Twice a Week, and at Midnight; accompanied with much of the former Delay and unnecessary Expence; we therefore recommend that Mails should be dispatched Six Days in every Week, if proper Regulations can be formed upon the Continent for their Receipt, and due Dispatch on their Arrival; and likewise that at all Events the Foreign Mails should be made up at the Post Office at Seven o'Clock in the Evening, and sent by the same Conveyance with the Inland Mails for Harwich and Dover; by which Means Letters from hence would reach Amsterdam and Paris in One Fourth, and probably in One Third less Time than they do at present.

In recommending this Plan we have duly considered the Expence attending it; which we are persuaded may be compensated by proper Regulations, in which Case the Postage arising from a more frequent Correspondence will be an additional Revenue to the Public.

The material Expence which will be incurred from a Six Days Post for the Delivery of the Letters at Helvoet, Ostend and Calais, is a greater Number of Packet Boats; those at Harwich cost Four hundred and Seventy Pounds each Annually at present, and One or at most Two more upon that Station  $\text{£. } 470$  will be sufficient, and very probably obtained at a reduced Price; the Benefit which the Packets at Dover derive from Passengers is such, that we are persuaded a Contract may easily be made to carry the Mails Six Days in the Week, at the same Price which the Post Office now pays for Two Mails; There will be some further Expence for Clerks and Assistants in the Foreign Office, but which cannot be considerable, as the Change of Office Hours, and the Regulations already established for the Delivery of the Inland Letters, will facilitate the Business of both Departments.

To reimburse this Expence there will be a Saving arise, by dispatching the Mails by the Coach at Seven o'Clock, with the Abolition of the Appointment of Agent for the Packets at Dover and Harwich, who receive, in Addition to their Salaries, a Part of the Money paid by every Person who takes his Passage in the Packet; and the Duty of the Agents at those Places may very well be performed by the Deputy Postmasters, with a trifling Addition to their present Salary; for if the Passage Money (at a Price to be limited by the Postmaster General) is received solely for the Benefit of the Owners of Packets, as a Consideration for carrying the Mails upon cheaper Terms, there will remain very little Duty for the Agents to perform, but the Advantages which will arise, from a more frequent and accelerated Communication with the Continent, are so numerous and important, that we recommend the Establishment we now propose, even if it should be attended with additional Expence to the Public.

The immense Expenditure for the Packet Service has been a principal Object of our Attention; the



the Magnitude of which, together with the Respect due to the Public Voice, has led us to a minute Investigation of the Management of that Service, not only in its present State, but during the late War, when the Expence incurred was so enormous as almost to surpass Credibility—One Million Thirty-eight thousand One hundred Thirty-three Pounds Four Shillings and Nine Pence was the Sum paid by the Public for the Expence of Packet Boats from the 5th of April 1770 to the 5th of April 1787, as appears by an Account thereof, which we required from the Post Office, and have inserted in the Appendix.

N<sup>o</sup> 122.

Upon inspecting this Account, the Expence for Captures, Repairs, and Hire, naturally attracted our Attention, especially as we found many of the Officers of the Post Office were Owners of such Packet Boats, even down to the Chamber Keeper; and that the principal Officer in this Department (the Secretary) was not only interested as an Owner in several, but had an Emolument of Two and a Half *per Cent.* as Agency upon the Amount of the whole Expenditure, which Agency upon the Sum above mentioned must have amounted to very near Twenty-six thousand Pounds; add to which the Annual Gain, as Part Owner of sundry Packets, and the Emolument to this Officer for the above Period from the Packet Service alone, exclusive of his Official Appointments, could be little less than Fifty thousand Pounds.

So considerable an Advantage, obtained from a Service over which it was in Part his Duty to superintend, and to check every improvident Expence, needs no Comment; it is only surprizing the Continuance of it should have been permitted even to this Day.

The various other Abuses which have occurred in this Service appear to us to have arisen from a too relaxed Examination of the Expenditure, and too great Indulgence to those entrusted with the Execution.

Before we proceed to state Particulars, it may be necessary to set forth the Manner in which the Service is conducted.

N<sup>o</sup> 123.

N<sup>o</sup> 124, 125, 126.

£. 45,927. 6. 4.

£. 412. 1.

£. 469. 15. 4.

£. 350.

£. 2,129. 8.

To ascertain this, we required a List of all the Packets at present employed, their Tonnage, Number of Men, and the Conditions on which they were hired; together with the Establishment of a Packet Boat on the Dover, Harwich, and Falmouth Stations; by which it appears that there are Thirty-six Packet Boats now employed, at the Annual Expence of Forty-five thousand Nine hundred and Twenty seven Pounds Six Shillings and Four Pence.

The Hire of those on the Dover Station is Four hundred and Twelve Pounds One Shilling *per Annum*; of those on the Harwich, Four hundred and Sixty-nine Pounds Fifteen Shillings and Four Pence; of those on the Holyhead, Three hundred and Fifty Pounds; and of those on the Falmouth Station, Two thousand One hundred and Twenty-nine Pounds Eight Shillings each *per Annum*: Passing over for the present the former, we shall advert to the latter, where above Three Quarters of the whole Expence is incurred.

By the Establishment of a Packet on the Falmouth Station, they are or ought to be of Two hundred Tons Burthen, and navigated with Thirty Men; the Estimate of their Wages and Victualling is not unreasonable if borne the whole Year round; the Profit to the Owners is estimated at Fifteen *per Cent. per Annum* on the Prime Cost, supposed to be Four thousand Pounds. We apprehend Vessels of this Burthen can, and have been purchased considerably under that Sum; we understand however, that the Annual Sum of Six hundred Pounds is paid Net to the Owners by the Captain, who for the Remainder of the Hire takes the whole Risk and Charge of manning, victualling, Wear and Tear, and ordinary Repairs upon himself; the Owners therefore receive the Annual Sum of Six hundred Pounds, clear, as their Profit, be the Prime Cost of the Vessel what it may, and the Advantage to the Captain must be what he can save in Men's Wages, Victualling, and Repairs, which must be considerable, as it is notorious, that they discharge their Men on arriving from a Voyage, and re-ship them when ordered to Sea; the Packets are also kept in constant Pay the whole Year, even while under Repair, or under Seizure for Smuggling; nay, some of them have entered into Pay while building, when no possible Expence could have been incurred. Upon the Whole, the Sum paid for Hire of the Packets upon the Falmouth Station, under all the Circumstances of such Payment, is in our Opinion much too high. We shall hereafter propose a Mode of carrying on this Service more advantageous to the Public.

£. 1,529. 8. 6.

Of the Twenty Packets now upon the Falmouth Station, Five are the Property of the Public, which are paid at the same Annual Rate with those hired from private Owners, deducting only Six hundred Pounds *per Annum*, estimated to be the Owner's Profit on those hired; the Sum therefore of One thousand Five hundred and Twenty-nine Pounds Eight Shillings and Six Pence is paid Annually to the Captain of each, for the Charge of manning, victualling, &c.

Rumours of Imposition by going to Sea with less than the regulated Number of Men, withholding from the Public their Proportion of the Freight of Passengers, &c. &c. have reached us; but though they create Suspicion of some concealed Management, they are not ascertained to us in such a Manner as to ground the serious Charge of having defrauded the Public.

From Circumstances which had come to our Knowledge, we judged it expedient to call for the following Returns:

N<sup>o</sup> 127.

1<sup>st</sup>. An Account of the re-fitting and repairing of Packet Boats belonging to private Owners on the Falmouth Station, from the 5th of April 1775 to the 5th of April 1788, distinguishing the Names and Tonnage of the Packets; the Names of the Captains and Owners, with their respective Shares; the Day of their Arrival at Falmouth the Voyage preceding the Repair; the Day they received the First Mail on Board after the Repair; the Deductions from the Hire during the Time they were under

under Repair; the Sum (if any) paid for Hire while under Repair, the Total Sum paid for each Packet while under Repair at different Times.

2nd. An Account of Packet Boats belonging to private Owners taken during the last War, distinguishing when taken and where; whether any Hire was paid after they were taken, and up to what Time; if any, the Amount thereof; the Sum paid to the Captains for the Loss of Provisions, and at what Rate; the Sum paid to the Captains for the Loss of private Property; the Sum paid to the other Officers and Seamen for the Loss of their Property; the Sum paid on the Capture of each Packet for the Value of the Vessel, &c. N° 128.

3d. An Account of Packet Boats built and purchased by Government for the Falmouth Station, distinguishing the Amount of the First Cost and Outfit of each; when the Allowance to the Captain for Wear and Tear, Wages, and Victualling, commenced; when each received the First Mail on Board; the Sum paid for such Allowance before the First Mail was received on Board; whether any of the Packets were taken, and when; whether any Allowance was paid for Wear and Tear, &c. after they were taken; the Amount, if any, of such Allowance to each; the Sum paid to the Captains for the Loss of Provisions; the Sums paid to the Captains for the Loss of their private Property; the Total Amount of Allowances paid on each Packet after taken; the Day of Arrival at Falmouth preceding any Repair; the Day the First Mail was received on Board after the Repair; the Deductions made from the Allowances for Wear and Tear, &c. while under Repair; the Sums paid for such Allowance while under Repair; the Sum paid for the Repairs of each Packet; the Total Amount of the Repairs and Allowances for each Packet; under whose Inspection the Repairs were carried on; and on what Terms the Inspectors were paid. N° 129.

4th. An Account of Packets seized for Smuggling, from the 5th of April 1780 to the 5th of April 1783, distinguishing the Names of the Captains and Owners, with their respective Shares; when seized; the Time under Seizure; when released, and upon what Conditions; whether any and what Sum it cost Government to procure their Release; whether any of the Officers were dismissed in Consequence of the Seizure. N° 130.

We called for those Returns in order to ascertain whether there had been any improvident Expenditure, and to what Amount.

By the Account N° 127 in the Appendix, it appears that no Deduction whatever was made from the Hire of Packets belonging to private Owners during the Time they were under Repair, although they were then of no Service to the Public, nor any Expence to the Owners for Wages, Victualling, &c.; it is further observable, that the Allowance for Hire paid for several of them at different Times, while in this unserviceable State, amounted to considerably more than the estimated First Cost of the Vessel: The Grantham Packet is a remarkable Instance of this; no less than the Sum of Seven thousand and Fifty-nine Pounds Fifteen Shillings and One Penny was paid to the Owners of that Vessel while under Repair; who those Owners were, may be seen by inspecting the Account above mentioned. £. 7,059 15. 1. N° 1.

The Total Amount of Hire paid to the Owners of Packets while under Repair, and consequently in an unserviceable State, from the 29th of June 1775 to the 8th of December 1787, a Period of Twelve Years and a Half, was Fifty-one thousand Seven hundred and Thirty Pounds Nine Shillings and Four Pence, the Whole of which was in our Opinion an Overcharge upon the Public, and an improper Advantage allowed to the Owners. £. 51,730. 9. 4.

By the Account N° 128 in the Appendix, it appears that the Hire for Packets taken by the Enemy was paid in every Instance; Two excepted, beyond the Time of their Capture; to many of them for several Months thereafter, the Total Amount of the Hire so overpaid was Six thousand Seven hundred and Thirty-seven Pounds, Eleven Shillings, besides the Value of the Packet at her original Valuation when taken into the Service; and an Allowance to the Captains for the Loss of Provisions and of their private Property: The Provisions were generally estimated at the Rate of Six Months Stock; and the Captain's Property according to his own Valuation, without any Document to vouch either; the Impropriety of paying the Hire beyond the Day of the Capture is apparent, when every other Loss was made good by the Public, upon too liberal Terms. £. 6,737. 11.

By the Account N° 129 in the Appendix, it appears that the First Cost and Outfit of Fifteen Packets built and purchased by the Post Office, between the Years 1778 and 1784 was Seventy-eight thousand and Seventy-four Pounds Nineteen Shillings and Two Pence, and that the Sum paid for the Repairs of the said Packets, besides the Allowance to the Captains for the ordinary Wear and Tear, was Twenty-four thousand Four hundred and Eleven Pounds Nine Shillings and Four Pence; together One hundred and Two thousand Four hundred and Eighty-six Pounds Eight Shillings and Six Pence for First Cost, Outfit and Repairs. £. 78,074. 19. 2. £. 24,411. 9. 4. £. 102,486. 8. 6.

The Allowance paid for Wear and Tear, Wages, and Victualling, previous to their receiving the First Mail on Board, amounted to Four thousand Three hundred and Forty-nine Pounds Eleven Shillings and Five Pence. £. 4,349. 11. 5.

Seven of those Packets were taken by the Enemy, and the Sum paid for Wear and Tear, Wages, and Victualling, beyond the Day of their Capture, was Two thousand Three hundred and Seventy-one Pounds Eleven Shillings, besides Two thousand Seven hundred and Seventy-one Pounds Six Shillings paid to the Captains for the Loss of Provisions and of their private Property. It is worthy of Notice that the Sum paid for such Allowances and Losses to the Captains of the Speedy and Swift Packets, both taken on the 15th of July 1782, was Nine hundred and Forty-two Pounds Eight Shillings to each; the Circumstances attending the Capture did not merit so liberal an Allowance, and the Surmises relative thereto would have justified an Enquiry which was never made. £. 2,371. 11. £. 2,771. 6. N° 129. £. 942. 8.

£. 4. 191. 12. 11.

The Amount paid for the Repairs of the Packets belonging to the Public has been stated; such Repairs were done under the Inspection of the respective Captains; who had an Allowance of Five *per Cent.* on the Amount thereof for their Trouble; no Deduction whatever was made from the Allowance for Wear and Tear, Wages, and Victualling during the Time the Packets were under Repair, although no Expence of the Kind could have been incurred, except for the Attendance of the Captain, who was fully compensated by his *Per Centage*; the Sum paid for the Allowance on the Head of Wear and Tear, &c. during the above Period was Four thousand One hundred and Ninety-one Pounds Twelve Shillings and Eleven Pence—an unnecessary Expence to the Public, and a clear Gain to those who received it.

Here we must remark that an Inspecting Officer having an Interest in the Amount of the Expenditure which he is appointed to controul, is highly improper, and ought never to be permitted.

It appears by the Account N<sup>o</sup> 130 in the Appendix, that no Deduction whatever was made from the Hire of Packets while under Seizure for Smuggling; but that the Sum of One thousand and Seventy-nine Pounds Three Shillings has been paid for such Hire; during a Period when they could not be employed in the Public Service, nor has any Officer or Seaman been dismissed until lately for illicit Practices.

To sum up the Whole of this improvident Expenditure, it is necessary to repeat, that the Amount of Hire paid to Owners of Packets while under Repair was	- - -	£. 51,730	9	4
Of Hire paid for Packets taken, beyond the Day of their Capture	- - -	6,737	11	—
Of Allowance for Wear and Tear, Wages, and Victualling of the Packets belonging to the Public before the First Mail was received on Board	- - -	4,349	11	5
Of such Allowance for Packets taken, beyond the Day of their Capture	- - -	2,371	11	—
Of such Allowance for Packets while under Repair	- - -	4,191	12	11
Of such Allowance for Packets while under Seizure for Smuggling	- - -	1,079	3	—
Total	- - -	£. 70,459	18	8

From which we shall deduct, as an Allowance for the Expence which might have been incurred for Wages and Victualling of the Packets belonging to the Public before they received the First Mail

- - - - - 2,459 18 8

£. 68,000 — —

And then we shall venture to pronounce the Sum of Sixty-eight thousand Pounds (on these Heads of Expenditure only) to have been an unnecessary Expence—which might and ought to have been saved.

Such is the Consequence of permitting Public Officers to be interested in the Amount of an Expenditure which it is their Duty to check and controul; for, we are persuaded, had the Circumstances now disclosed been represented to the Postmasters General by those whose Duty it was to draw their Attention to them, the Evil would have been corrected as soon as known; but the Public Interest has, we fear, been frequently sacrificed to private Emolument.

Having thus stated the present Management of this Branch of Service, we proceed to offer such Plans as have occurred to us for Improvement therein.

The Number of Packets at present employed on the several Stations appears necessary for the effectual Execution of the Service; but the Expence of those on the Falmouth Station may, in our Opinion, be very considerably reduced.

The Tonnage for the Packets at Dover, Harwich, and Holyhead, seems very proper; we shall therefore, as to those, only recommend that Care be taken the Tonnage is not exceeded, which has in some Instances happened for the greater Convenience of Freight to the Captains; the Consequence is, that more Men are required to navigate Packets than the Captain, from the Rate of his Hire, can afford to pay, and therefore he permits them to pay themselves by Smuggling—a Practice which ought to be effectually checked, as disgraceful to the Service, and prejudicial to the Revenue.

With respect to the Packets on the Falmouth Station, which are the Source of great Expence to the Office, we would recommend an entire new Establishment, and that the Number should not exceed Twenty; *viz.* Four for the Lisbon Service, and Sixteen for North America and the West Indies; the Whole should be hired by the Year, and when under Repair or under Seizure for Smuggling, the Hire ought to be stopt until the Agent grants a Certificate that the Vessels are again ready for Sea.

Their Burthen ought to be One hundred and Fifty Tons, and their Complement Eighteen Men: Vessels of this Description are fit to go to any Part of the World, and may be navigated at small Expence—every Idea of Defence should be relinquished, and they should owe their Safety to fast Sailing, for which they ought to be particularly fitted.

The Freight of Money sent by the Packets is divided into Thirds; One to the Revenue, One to the Owners, and the other to the Captain. The Revenue also receives a Proportion of the Freight of all Passengers; and an Allowance is made to the Owners, at a certain Rate *per Head*, for victualling them.

We are of Opinion that the Share of Freight of Money at present allowed should be continued; but that

that the Proportion of the Freight for Passengers should be relinquished to the Owners, and of course the Allowance for victualling them to cease.

By this Arrangement the Accounts will be simplified, the Advantage to the Owners increased, and the Revenue not liable to Imposition.

From the Advantage to the Owners, by the whole Benefit of Passengers being given up to them, we apprehend Packets of the above Description may be hired for about One thousand Two hundred Pounds *per Annum* in Time of Peace, and for about One thousand Eight hundred Pounds *per Annum* in Time of War, according to an Estimate annexed in the Appendix.

The Profit to the Owners will chiefly arise from the Share of the Freight of Specie, and from Passage Money; the Rate of which, however, must be fixed, and a Reserve made for British Subjects in Distress Abroad, who may require a Passage to their Native Country *gratis*.

Those Advantages we are satisfied will induce responsible Persons to undertake the Service, and to take upon themselves the Risk of Capture in Time of War, which should be insisted upon in order to prevent Abuse.

Contracts should be made by Public Advertisement, and sufficient Security required for the due Performance thereof; the Conditions ought to be, to keep the Vessels in perfect and constant Repair, with their full Complement of Men on Board, who must be paid their Wages and victualled while the Packet is in Harbour, as well as when at Sea; their Wages to be paid in Presence of the Agent, who is to hear and determine upon all Complaints of the Mariners; the Crew to be mustered by the Agent immediately before the Sailing, and on the Arrival of each Packet from Sea, and at all other Times when the Agent shall think fit; the Hire to commence when the First Mail is received on Board, and cease while under Repair, Seizure for Smuggling, or otherwise in an unserviceable State, until certified by the Agent to be again ready for Service; the Hire to be paid every Quarter, provided the Vessel is in Port; if not, immediately upon her Arrival after the Expiration of the Quarter; if lost or captured, the Hire to be paid up to the Day of such Loss or Capture, but no longer; and no Allowance for Loss of Provisions or private Property.

The Packets belonging to the Public should be sold, and every Person employed in the Department of the Post Office strictly prohibited from being concerned directly or indirectly in the Packets, or as Agents for the Owners thereof.

The Compensation to the Agent at Falmouth should be a fixed Salary, not dependent upon Contingencies, nor upon Gratuities from the Captains or Owners of the Packets, which ought to be totally prohibited; such Salary ought to be Four hundred Pounds a Year clear; he should be allowed a Boat for boarding the Packets, which may be Manned from the Crews of the Packets in the Harbour; he should also be allowed a Clerk at Fifty Pounds a Year, and be relieved from the Out Payments he is at present burthened with.

The Pension to the Widow of the late Agent should be paid out of the Revenue, and the Pensions and Allowances payable to worn-out Seamen, their Widows and Relatives, should be regulated so that those only duly entitled be benefited thereby; the Alteration in the System of the Packets will very soon occasion a Deficiency in the Fund appropriated for the Payment of such Pensions, which ought to be made good out of the Revenue during the Lives of the present Annuitants; after their Decease the Public Expence on this Head should cease.

The Agent ought to attend that the Contractors for the Packet Service comply duly with their Contract; for which Purpose he should frequently muster the Men on Board each Packet, and always immediately on their Arrival from Sea; he should examine the Vessels from Time to Time that they be fitted according to Contract; see the Mariners receive their Wages, and attend to their Complaints; he ought to keep a regular Journal of every Transaction and Occurrence, which shall be transmitted Weekly to the Postmasters General.

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HAVING now completed the Enquiries directed by Your Majesty's Orders in Council of the 26th August 1785, and 30th of November last, and the Act by which we are constituted expiring in a few Days, we trust it will not be deemed unbecoming in us, humbly to assure Your Majesty that we have endeavoured to exercise the Powers vested in us by the Legislature with Moderation, and to execute the Task allotted to us with an exact and impartial Attention to the Rights of Individuals, the Interest of the Public, and with an ardent Zeal for the Honour of Your Majesty's Government.

Office of Enquiry,  
30th of June 1788.

JOHN DICK, (L. S.)  
W<sup>m</sup> MOLLESON, (L. S.)  
F. BARING, (L. S.)

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