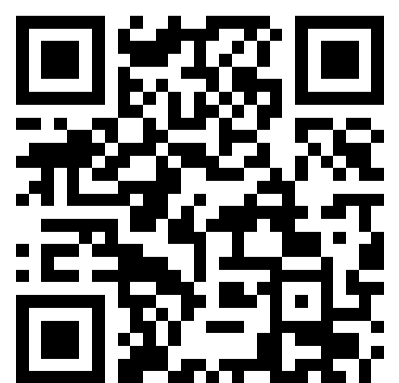
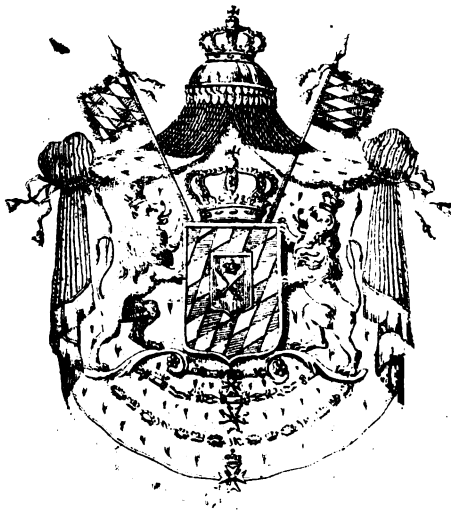

This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google™ books

<https://books.google.com>



2° Brit. 52.-29



BIBLIOTHECA
REGIA
MONACENSIS.

T H E
JOURNALS
O F T H E
HOUSE *of* COMMONS.

VOL. 29.

Vol. 29.

A

JOURNALS
OF THE
HOUSE *of* COMMONS.

From MAY the 19th, 1761,

In the First Year of the Reign of

KING GEORGE the Third,

To OCTOBER the 30th, 1764,

In the Fifth Year of the Reign of

KING GEORGE the Third.

Re-printed by Order of the House of Commons.

1803.

ber, and summon the Members there to attend the Service of the House.

And he went accordingly.

And being returned;

Abuses
in the
Post Office.

Mr. *Dyson* reported from the Committee appointed to inquire into the several Frauds and Abuses in relation to the sending or receiving of Letters and Parcels free from the Duty of Postage; and to consider of the most proper Methods of preventing the same; and to report their Opinion thereupon, from Time to Time, to the House; That the Committee had considered the Matter to them referred; and had come to several Resolutions; which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place; and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table: Where the same was read; and is as followeth; viz.

The Committee for their better Direction in the Prosecution of this Inquiry, thought it proper to begin with a careful Examination of all such Proceedings of the House as they could find upon the Journals, relative to this Subject, particularly of the several Resolutions and Orders of the House of the 9th of *September* 1715, and of the Report from the Committee appointed, in the Year 1734, to consider of the King's Warrant for permitting Letters to pass free from the Duty of Postage; together with the Resolutions then passed by the House; which, at the same Time that they were calculated for preserving the Privilege of the House, were declared to be also intended to guard the Revenue against any unlawful Diminution.

In order, in the next Place, to judge how far those, or any other Regulations hitherto introduced, have been effectual for the Security of the Revenue, your Committee proceeded to examine the Account referred to them by the Order of the House, "of the gross Produce of the General Inland Postage of *Great Britain and Ireland*; together with an Account of the Deductions for Inland Franked Letters in *Great Britain and Ireland*; from the Year 1715 to the Year 1763; distinguishing each Year."

And by the said Account it appears, that the total Deduction for Inland Franked Letters, which, for the Year 1714, amounted only to £.23,812 11s. 10d. and for the Year 1734, to £.49,776 6s. 7d. did, for the Year 1762, amount to no less than £.170,727 16s. 6d. and that the Increase made in the Deduction for Franks, during the Years 1761 and 1762, is nearly equal to their Increase during the whole Term of Twenty Years, from 1714 to 1734.

Your Committee, in the next Place, in order to judge how far this amazing Increase of Franks could be accounted for them any general Increase of the Correspondence by Letters, called for an Account of the gross Produce in the particular Years above mentioned of such Letters as paid Postage; which Account is herewith annexed, and marked N° 1.

And by this Account it appears, that while the Produce of the Pay Letters has, in the Space of Fifty Years, increased only in the Proportion of One to One and an Half, the Amount of the Franks is now Sevenfold what it was in the Year 1714.—And while the Franks have, in the Two last Years, increased nearly as much as they formerly did in the Space of Twenty Years, the Pay Letters in the Two last Years have not produced so much as they did in the Two Years immediately preceding.

But as Part of this very extraordinary Increase in the Amount of Franks might probably be owing to an increased Circulation of Newspapers, your Committee called for an Account of the Difference between the Amount of the Franks, Inwards and Outwards, at the *London Office*, for the Three last Years mentioned in the gross Produce of the Inland Postage; which Account is herewith annexed, N° 2. And if it may be presumed that the Difference between the Amount of the Franks from and to *London*, is to be placed to the

Account of Newspapers, the whole Deduction to be allowed for that Article will not amount to £.30,000 *per Annum*; and, upon that Supposition, the Sum of £.110,000. will remain chargeable to the Account of Franked Letters only from the *London Office*.

The Committee likewise procured an Account to be taken of Newspapers franked from *London* for One Week, from the 6th to the 13th of *March* 1764; which is herewith annexed, N° 3. And if it be supposed that the same Number of Newspapers are sent in each Week throughout the whole Year, the Amount of the Newspapers franked by Members of Parliament and Public Offices, besides those of the Post Office, which are not included in the Amount of Deductions for Franks, would amount to £.40,000. *per Ann.*—which Sum, however, in order to shew the present Amount of the Franked Letters, should have been deducted, not from the gross Amount for the Year 1762, which is only £.140,000 but from the Amount of the present Year which cannot yet be stated. At any rate, your Committee conceive, that the Amount of Franked Letters and Packets only, at the *London Office*, exclusive of Newspapers, cannot be less than £.100,000 *per Annum*.

That so prodigious and disproportionate an Increase of Franks could not have happened without the Intervention of various fraudulent and unwarrantable Practices, your Committee are fully convinced.

And although they have not yet been able to carry their Inquiries far enough, to detect, and lay before the House, a complete and adequate Account of all the Frauds and Abuses which may have contributed thereto; yet such of those Frauds and Abuses as are already sufficiently discovered, and ascertained, to admit of a speedy and effectual Redress, they have thought it their Duty to lay immediately before the House.

And of these the most scandalous in itself, as well as the most fatal to the public Revenue, if it be not immediately restrained, is the Practice of counterfeiting the Hand of Members of Parliament, in franking Letters; to what an excessive Height this Practice has of late been carried, has in some measure already appeared to the House: The Committee will therefore only add, upon this Part of the Subject, that in the further Examination into those Practices, it appeared to the Committee, that One Man had, in the Course of Five Months, counterfeited 1,200 Dozen of Franks of Members of Parliament; and that a regular Trade of buying and selling Franks had been actually established with several Persons in the Country: That a List was produced to the Committee, by Mr. *Todd*, Secretary to the Post Office, of the Names of 27 Members of this House, and of several Members of the other House of Parliament, which had been counterfeited in the Course of this Session of Parliament; and that the Method of counterfeiting the Names of Members upon Franks, as explained by One of the Persons, who had been concerned therein, appeared so easy to be practised, and so likely to succeed, as to render it very improbable that the Practice could ever be prevented, while the present Method of Franking by Members shall continue to be used.

Another Fraud practised for the conveying of Letters free from Postage, your Committee found to be, by directing Letters to Members of Parliament, at Places where such Members never came to receive them, but where they were taken up by other Persons, without the Knowledge of such Members. This Liberty, the Officers of the Post Office informed your Committee, that they apprehended had been taken, of directing Letters to Members, at a Number of different Places at the same Time, without their Leave; but that for fear of giving Offence to the Members, it was found difficult to make the Discovery: And several Members of the House being present, did inform your Committee, that such Practices had been attempted with

Abuses
in the
Post Office.

with respect to themselves, by Persons unknown to them.

Your Committee in the next Place proceeded to inquire into the State of Franking, as exercised by the several Persons who have enjoyed the same, in respect of their Offices; and with that View, called for an Account of all the Persons who are at present allowed to send or receive Letters or Packets free from Postage: Which Account is annexed, N^o 4.

And upon which your Committee observe, that the Allowance of sending and receiving Letters free in respect of Offices, has been extended to a great Number of Persons, besides those enumerated in the Warrants usually granted by the Crown, for permitting Letters to pass free of Postage.

And your Committee, for their better Information, as to the Manner in which the Franking of Letters, by the several Persons mentioned in the said Account, is exercised, and the Extent to which it is carried on, examined Mr. *Masfall* the Inspector of the Franks at the Post Office, who informed them, "That the Letters and Packets from the Office of each of the Secretaries of State, are brought to the Post Office in Bags sealed up; that in those Bags are included Newspapers Franked by the Clerks in the Offices of the Secretaries of State; that those Clerks Frank in their own Names; that they are also allowed to Frank Letters about their own private Concerns; but that of such Letters, they were required to write the whole Supercription."

And being asked, What Cheque there was upon them, to prevent their Franking the Letters of other People? He said, "That if the Supercription was written by a different Hand, or if they appeared to contain Inclosures, he made it a Rule to charge them; but that single Letters directed by them to whatever Extent, are allowed to pass free." He also said, "That there might be Letters put up with the Newspapers."

He also informed the Committee, "That from the War Office, and the Admiralty Office, the Letters and Packets are brought in like manner, in a sealed Bag; but that the Clerks in those Offices Frank only by setting the Names of the Secretary at War, and Secretary to the Admiralty, respectively: That they are not understood to have the Allowance of Franking Newspapers; but that as to single Letters, about their own private Concerns, there is no other Cheque upon them, than upon the Clerks in the Office of the Secretaries of State."

With respect to the Franking, or receiving Letters free, by the Offices of the Post Office, Mr. *Todd*, Secretary to the Postmaster General, informed your Committee, "That all the established Officers under the Postmaster General, Frank and receive free Letters relating to the Business of the Office, and to their own private Concerns.—That the Postmasters in the Country are allowed to Frank and to receive free One single Letter, by each Post."

"That the Six Clerks of the Roads are also allowed to Frank Newspapers from the *London* Office."

"That the Newspapers franked by them are not included in any of the Accounts of Deductions, in respect of Franks: That the Profit arising from their Franking Newspapers, may amount to £.3,000, or £.4,000 per Annum, and that a considerable Allowance is made thereout to the Comptroller, Deputy Comptroller, Bye Night Clerk, and Six Assistants: All of whom, as well as the Six Clerks of the Roads, would, without such Advantage, be very insufficiently provided for."

"That with respect to the Franking of Letters for other People, by the Officers of the Post Office, he does not believe, that any considerable Abuse of that sort can have been carried on, the strictest Injunctions to the contrary having been constantly given by the

Postmaster General, and the Facility of discovering and chequing any such Abuse in their own immediate Officers being so much greater than it can be with respect to any other Persons whatsoever."

And your Committee having observed, that in the Account of Franks at the *Dublin* Office, the Amount of the Franks for the Year 1762, during Part of which Year the Privilege of Franking by Members of the *Irish* Parliament was out, is £.15,000 less than for the Year 1761, when Privilege continued throughout the whole Year: And being desirous of seeing what Effect so great an Abatement in the Article of Franking had upon the actual Produce of the Revenue of that Office, called for an Account of the gross Produce of the Inland Postage, and Charge of Management, Incidents, and all Deductions in the Post Office of *Ireland*, for the Years ending at *Lady Day* 1762 and 1763, which is hereunto annexed, N^o 5. By which it appears, that when the Amount of the Franks was lessened by the Sum of £.15,000, the Produce of the Revenue was increased by above Half that Sum.—And having thereupon called for an Account of the gross Produce of Inland Postage, Charges of Management, Incidents, and all Deductions in the Post Office of *Ireland* for the Eight Years preceding, which is hereunto annexed N^o 6; they find by the said Account, that in every Year during that Period, when Privilege was out, as the Number of Franks was of Course lessened, so the Revenue of the Office was constantly increased beyond what it amounted to in the intermediate Years.

Upon the whole Matter, your Committee came to the following Resolutions:

Resolved, That it appears to this Committee, That the Practice of Counterfeiting the Hands of Members of this House upon Letters, in order to prevent their being charged with the Duty of Postage, is become extremely frequent and notorious.

Resolved, That it appears to this Committee, That the buying and selling of Covers for Letters, commonly called Franks, signed with the Names of Members of this House, is also become frequent, and is openly practised.

Resolved, That it appears to this Committee, That the Practice of directing Letters to Members of this House, at other Places than the Places of their usual Residence, or where they actually are at the Time, in order to convey Letters to other Persons free from the Duty of Postage, is also become extremely frequent.

Resolved, That it appears to this Committee, That under Colour of the special Privilege or Allowance belonging or granted to, or exercised by certain Persons, not being Members of either House of the Parliament of *Great Britain*, of sending and receiving their Letters and Packets free from the Duty of Postage, great Numbers of Letters and Packets, which ought to be charged, do escape being charged with the Duty of Postage.

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, That by the continued Increase of these and the like Frauds and Abuses, the Revenue of the Post Office hath been greatly defrauded, and if a speedy and effectual Stop be not put thereto, is likely to suffer still further Loss.

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, That the most effectual Method of preventing a Practice so derogatory to the Honour of this House, and at the same Time so injurious to the Public Revenue, as the Counterfeiting the Hands of Members of this House, in order to avoid Payment of the Duty of Postage, would be, that no Member of this House should Frank any Letter, unless the whole Supercription be of his own Hand-writing, except such printed Votes and Proceedings in Parliament, or printed News Papers as shall be sent without Covers, or in Covers open at the Sides.

Resolved,

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, That, for preventing Abuses in relation to the directing of Letters to Members of this House, the Privilege of receiving such Letters free of the Duty of Postage, should be confined to Letters directed to such Members at One of the usual Places of their Residence, or where they actually are at the Time.

Resolved, That it appears to this Committee, That the Allowance of sending and receiving Letters and Packets free of the Duty of Postage, heretofore granted to or customarily enjoyed by certain Persons in respect of their Offices, has not been sufficiently confined to such Letters and Packets only, as should relate to the Business of their respective Offices.

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee,

That such Allowance in respect of Offices ought not to be continued, without some further Restrictions and Limitations.

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, That the Counterfeiting of the Hand-writing of any Person in the Superscription of any Letter or Packet, in order thereby to defraud the Revenue of the Post Office, be made more penal.

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, That, for a further Discouragement to the Practice of Counterfeiting the Hands of Members of this House, the buying or selling of Franks signed with the Names of Members of this House, should be declared a Breach of the Privilege of this House.

Abuses in the Post Office.

— (N^o 1.) —

CALCULATION upon FRANKING.

Years ending at Lady Day.	Gross Amount of General Inland Postage in Great Britain and Ireland.	Amount of General Inland Franked Letters in Great Britain and Ireland.	Gross Produce of General Inland Pay Letters in Great Britain and Ireland.	Proportion between D ^o .
1715	145,200	23,600	121,800	above $\frac{1}{2}$
1733	175,200	44,800	130,400	above $\frac{1}{2}$
1735	185,500	49,700	135,800	above $\frac{1}{2}$
1740	199,600	66,700	132,900	above $\frac{1}{2}$
1745	198,200	53,900	144,300	nearly $\frac{1}{2}$
1750	233,600	87,600	146,000	above $\frac{1}{2}$
1755	249,100	97,700	151,400	nearly $\frac{1}{2}$
1760	327,500	143,700	183,800	nearly $\frac{1}{2}$
1761	331,700	137,900	193,800	nearly $\frac{1}{2}$
1762	353,500	169,600	183,900	above $\frac{1}{2}$
1763	357,200	170,700	186,500	nearly $\frac{1}{2}$

N. B. Computed by Weight, not by Tale.

N. B. To be deducted Rebates, for returned Dead and over-charged Letters.

N. B. These Rebates in the Year 1763, amounted to upwards of £.4,100, which Deduction brings the Estimate, still too favourable, of Franked Letters, compared with the Produce of Pay Letters for the Year 1763, nearly to the Proportion of 17 to 18.

N. B. In Fifty Years Franks have increased from 1 to 7, whilst in D^o Pay Letters have increased but from 2 to 3; or, in other Words, Franks have increased 700 per Cent. whilst Pay Letters have increased but 50 per Cent.

— (N^o 2.) —

FREE LETTERS Outwards and Inwards, as near as can be computed.

	In 1761.	1762.	1763.
From January inclusive, To July inclusive, Free Letters, { Outwards -	40,500	43,400	43,600
{ Inwards -	26,300	28,600	27,300
From July inclusive, To January inclusive, Free Letters, { Outwards -	35,500	41,200	41,600
{ Inwards -	26,700	28,200	28,100
TOTAL { Outwards -	76,000	84,600	85,200
{ Inwards -	53,000	56,800	55,400
	23,000	27,800	29,800

— (N° 3.) —

Abuses
in the
Post Office.

An ACCOUNT of News Papers Franked from London, for One Week, from the 6th to the 13th of March 1764.

		£.	s.	d.
MEMBERS.	Monday Night	16	12	4
	Tuesday Night	163	5	4
	Wednesday Night	10	13	—
	Thursday Night	125	11	4
	Friday Night	13	10	8
	Saturday Night	135	13	—
	Total £.	465	5	8
STATES.	Monday Night	7	17	4
	Tuesday Night	98	3	4
	Wednesday Night	6	4	8
	Thursday Night	92	7	—
	Friday Night	7	13	—
	Saturday Night	98	10	—
	Total £.	310	15	4
POST OFFICE CLERKS.	Monday Night	33	14	8
	Tuesday Night	314	2	—
	Wednesday Night	34	10	8
	Thursday Night	305	14	—
	Friday Night	36	3	4
	Saturday Night	331	6	—
	Total £.	1,055	10	8

— (N° 4.) —

STATE of FRANKING in March 1764.

- The Lords and Commons of both Houses of Parliament in *Great Britain and Ireland*.
 - The Principal Secretaries of State.
 - The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, and their Secretaries.
 - The Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, and his Secretaries.
 - The Secretary at War.
 - The Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations.
 - The Secretary of the Admiralty.
- So far the King's Warrant.
- The Lords of the Admiralty.
 - The Clerks of the Admiralty all Frank in the Secretary's Name, but do not receive Letters Free.
 - The Under Secretaries of State.
 - The Clerks in the Secretaries of States Offices all Frank, and receive Free.
 - The Four first Clerks of the Treasury receive their Letters Free, but do not Frank.
 - The Under Secretary at War Franks in the Secretary at War's Name, and receives Letters Free directed to himself.
 - Six Clerks Frank in the Secretary at War's Name, but do not receive Letters Free.
 - The Two Auditors of the Imprest Frank, and receive Free.
 - The Deputy Auditors Frank in the Auditors Names, but do not receive Letters Free.
 - The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod,
 - The Clerk of Parliament in the House of Lords,
 - The Clerk of the House of Commons, and his Assistant,
 - The Serjeant at Arms, and his Deputy,
 - The Secretary of State for *Ireland*, Mr. *Tisdall*.
 - The Secretary to the Lords Justices in *Ireland*, Mr. *Waite*.
 - The Under Secretaries, } Mr. *Meredith*, and
 } Mr. *Rofengrave*.

The

The Chamber Keepers to the Secretaries of States Offices receive single Letters Free, but do not Frank. Abuses in the Post Office.
 The Upper Door-keeper to the House of Commons Franks, and receives Free single Letters; and
 also, The Upper Chamber-keeper to the Lords of the Treasury.
 The Lord Justice Clerk for *Scotland*, *Charles Arskine*, Esquire, } All Frank, and receive Letters Free.
 The Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of *Great Britain*; when Sir *Robert Henley*;
 The Paymaster General of His Majesty's Forces; first in Time of War, but still continued;
 The Commander in Chief in *Scotland*, Lord *George Beauclerk*.
 The Postmaster General, and all Established Officers under them, Frank and receive Letters Free, on the Office Business, and their own private Concerns.

— (N^o 5.) —

THE GROSS PRODUCE OF INLAND POSTAGE, and Charge of Management, Incidents, and all Deductions in the Post-Office of *Ireland*, for the Years ending at

Lady Day { 1762.
1763.

YEARS Ending at <i>Lady Day</i> .	Gross Produce of Inland Postage in <i>Ireland</i> , including Franks.			Charges of Management, Incidents, and all Deductions, including Franks.			Difference.								
							More than the Produce.			Less than Ditto.					
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.			
1762 - - -	Midsummer			11,388	—	5	11,581	2	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	193	2	6 $\frac{1}{2}$			
	Michaelmas			12,877	10	10	14,094	12	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,217	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$			
	Christmas			13,335	16	1	14,593	18	10	1,258	2	9			
	Lady Day 1762.			14,238	3	7	15,350	11	4	1,112	7	9			
				51,839	10	11	55,620	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,780	14	5 $\frac{1}{2}$			
1763 - - -	Midsummer			13,230	13	2	14,039	6	7	808	13	5	—		
	Michaelmas			13,214	13	7	13,591	14	8	377	1	1	—		
	Christmas			8,411	2	3	5,614	6	4	-	-	-	2,796	15	11
	Lady Day 1763.			9,825	6	11	7,621	7	6	-	-	-	2,203	19	5
	£.			44,681	15	11	40,866	15	1	1,185	14	6	5,000	15	4

Examined by *Thomas Pitches*, Accomptant.

— (N^o 6.) —

THE GROSS PRODUCE OF INLAND POSTAGE, Charges of Management, Incidents, and all Deductions in the Post Office of *Ireland*.

	Gross Produce of Inland Postage in <i>Ireland</i> .			Charges of Management, Incidents, and all Deductions.								
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1753	36,468	19	9	37,910	17	— $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	1,441	17	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
1754	32,394	7	3	27,548	19	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,845	8	— $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-
1755	47,846	1	1	50,262	13	7	-	-	-	2,416	12	6
1756	45,543	5	7	43,912	17	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,630	8	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-
1757	47,616	4	4	48,770	9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	1,154	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
1758	41,861	12	6	39,167	3	2	2,694	9	4	-	-	-
1759	48,238	18	2	50,659	11	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	2,420	13	— $\frac{1}{2}$
1760 and to 5th April 1761	44,890	8	2	41,307	18	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,582	9	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-

Examined per *Thomas Pitches*.

Abuses
in the
Post Office.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, That the said Report be printed;

It passed in the Negative.

Then the Five First Resolutions of the Committee being severally read a Second Time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

The Sixth Resolution of the Committee, being read a Second Time;

An Amendment was proposed to be made thereto, by leaving out the Words, "unless the whole Supercription be of his own Hand-writing."

And the Question being put, That those Words stand Part of the said Resolution;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Then the said Resolution was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

The Seventh Resolution of the Committee being read a Second Time;

An Amendment was proposed to be made thereto, by leaving out the Word "One," and inserting the Word "any," instead thereof.

And the Question being put, That the Word "One," stand Part of the said Resolution;

It passed in the Negative.

And the Question being put, That the Word "any," be inserted instead thereof;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Another Amendment was proposed to be made to the said Resolution, by adding at the End thereof these Words, "except such printed Votes and Proceedings in Parliament, or printed Newspapers, as shall be sent without Covers, or in Covers open at the Sides."

And the said Amendment was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Resolved, That the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution so amended. That for preventing Abuses, in relation to the directing of Letters to Members of this House, the Privilege of receiving such Letters free, of the Duty of Postage, should be confined to Letters directed to such Members at any of the usual Places of their Residence, or where they actually are at the Time, except such printed Votes and Proceedings in Parliament, or printed Newspapers, as shall be sent without Covers, or in Covers open at the Sides.

The subsequent Resolutions of the Committee being severally read a Second Time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, postponed.

Ordered, That from and after this present Session of Parliament, no Member of this House, do Frank any Letter or Packet, except such printed Votes and Proceedings in Parliament, or printed Newspapers, as shall be sent without Covers, or in Covers open at the Sides, unless the whole Supercription be of his own Hand-writing.

Ordered, That from and after the End of this present Session of Parliament, no Member of this House do authorize or permit any Letters or Packets, other than such printed Votes and proceedings in Parliament, or printed Newspapers, as shall be sent without Covers or in Covers open at the Sides, to be directed to him at any Places besides those of his usual Residence, or where he shall actually be at the Time, or at the Lobby of this House.

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords, to acquaint them, That this House having taken into Consideration the great Scandal and Mischief arising from the excessive Increase of the Practice of counterfeiting the Hand, and fraudulently making use of the Names of Members of Parliament, in the Supercription of Letters and Packets, hath come to Resolutions, That from and after the End of this present Session of Parliament, no Member of this House shall Frank any Letter or Packet, unless the whole Supercription be of his own Hand-writing, or permit any Letter or Packet

to be directed to him at any Place, besides those of his usual Residence, or where he shall actually be at the Time, or at the Lobby of this House, with an Exception only to such printed Votes and Proceedings in Parliament, or printed Newspapers, as shall be sent without Covers, or in Covers open at the Sides.

Ordered, That Mr. Dyson do go to the Lords with the said Message.

Then the Resolutions which had been postponed being again read, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, That all Committees be revived.

Committees.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to explain and amend an Act, passed in the Second Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, An Act to explain, amend, and reduce into One Act of Parliament, the several Laws now in being relating to the Raising and Training the Militia within that Part of Great Britain called England.

Militia
Laws.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Jenkinson took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr. Jenkinson reported from the Committee, That they had gone through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto; which they had directed him to report, when the House will please to receive the same.

Ordered, That the Report be received To-morrow Morning.

The other Order of the Day being read;

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the Report which was made from the Committee, to whom the Petition of the Agents for the Colonies of South Carolina and Georgia, on behalf of their respective Colonies, and of several British Merchants and Owners of Ships trading to those Colonies, was referred.

Exportation
of Rice.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Rice took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr. Rice reported from the Committee, That they had come to a Resolution; which they had directed him to report, when the House will please to receive the same.

Ordered, That the Report be received To-morrow Morning.

And then the House adjourned till To-morrow Morning, Nine of the Clock.

Jovis, 29° die Martii;

Anno 4° Georgii III^{mi} Regis, 1764.

PRAYERS.

ORDERED, That Mr. White, do attend at the Table, during the Absence of the Clerk Assistant.

Absence of
the Clerk
Assistant.

A Petition of the Persons thereunder named, being Proprietors of Lands within the District of Bridgend, in the County of Glamorgan, was presented to the House, and read; Taking Notice, That a Bill is depending in the House, for amending, widening, and keeping in Repair several Roads leading from the Town of Cardiff, and several other Towns and Places in the County of Glamorgan; and representing to the House, that if Provision was made in the said Bill, for repairing the old Road, from the South End of the Village

Cardiff
Roads.

The said Resolutions being severally read a Second Time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

Ordered, That the said Report and Appendix, together with the Proceedings of the House thereupon, be printed; and that Mr. Speaker do appoint the Printing thereof; and that no Person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

Militia
Laws.

Mr. *Jenkinson*, according to Order, reported from the Committee of the whole House, to whom the Bill to explain and amend an Act, passed in the Second Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, An Act to explain, amend, and reduce into One Act of Parliament, the several Laws now in being relating to the raising and training the Militia within that Part of *Great Britain* called *England*, was committed, the Amendments which the Committee had made to the Bill; and which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place; and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table: Where the Amendments were once read throughout; and then a Second Time, One by One; and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House; and several Amendments were made, by the House, to the Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill, with the Amendments, be ingrossed.

A Message from the Lords, by Mr. *Bonner* and Mr. *Browning*:

Mr. Speaker,

Abuses
in the
Post Office.

The Lords have taken the subject Matter of the Message from this House into Consideration; and have come to the following Resolutions:

Resolved, Nemine contradicente, by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled, that it appears to this House, That the Practice of counterfeiting the Hands of Members of this House, upon Letters, in order to prevent their being charged with the Duty of Postage, is become extremely frequent and notorious.

Resolved, Nemine contradicente, by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled, that from and after the End of this present Session of Parliament, no Member of this House do Frank any Letter or Packet, except such printed Votes and Proceedings in Parliament, or printed Newspapers, as shall be sent without Covers, or in Covers open at the Sides, unless the whole Supercription be of his own Hand-writing.

Resolved, Nemine contradicente, by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled, That from and after the End of this present Session of Parliament, no Member of this House do authorize or permit any Letters or Packets, other than such printed Votes and Proceedings in Parliament, or printed Newspapers, as shall be sent without Covers, or in Covers open at the Sides, to be directed to him at any Places, besides those of his usual Residence, or where he shall actually be at the Time of delivering such Letters or Packets.

And then the Messengers withdrew.

And the said Message was read.

The House was moved, that the Resolutions which were Yesterday reported from the Committee appointed to inquire into the several Frauds and Abuses in relation to the sending or receiving of Letters and Parcels free from the Duty of Postage, and to consider of the most proper Methods of preventing the same; and to report their Opinion thereupon, from Time to Time, to the House; and which were, with an Amendment to One of them, agreed to by the House; might be again read.

And the same were, as agreed to by the House, read accordingly; and are as followeth; viz.

Abuses
in the
Post Office.

Resolved, That the Practice of counterfeiting the Hands of Members of this House, upon Letters, in order to prevent their being charged with the Duty of Postage, is become extremely frequent and notorious.

Resolved, That the buying and selling of Covers for Letters, commonly called Franks, signed with the Names of Members of this House, is also become frequent, and is openly practiced.

Resolved, That the Practice of directing Letters to Members of this House, at other Places than the Places of their usual Residence, or where they actually are at the Time, in order to convey Letters to other Persons, free from the Duty of Postage, is also become extremely frequent.

Resolved, That under Colour of the special Privilege, or Allowance, belonging or granted to, or exercised by, certain Persons, not being Members of either House of the Parliament of *Great Britain*, of sending and receiving their Letters and Packets free from the Duty of Postage, great Numbers of Letters and Packets, which ought to be charged, do escape being charged with the Duty of Postage.

Resolved, That by the continued Increase of these and the like Frauds and Abuses, the Revenue of the Post Office hath been greatly defrauded; and, if a speedy and effectual Stop be not put thereto, is likely to suffer still further Loss.

Resolved, That the most effectual Method of preventing a Practice so derogatory to the Honour of this House, and at the same Time so injurious to the public Revenue, as the counterfeiting the Hands of Members of this House, in order to avoid Payment of the Duty of Postage, would be, That no Member of this House should frank any Letter, unless the whole Supercription be of his own Hand-writing, except such printed Votes and Proceedings in Parliament, or printed Newspapers, as shall be sent without Covers, or in Covers open at the Sides.

Resolved, That to the directing of Letters to Members of this House, the Privilege of receiving such Letters free of the Duty of Postage, should be confined to Letters directed to such Members at any of the usual Places of their Residence, or where they actually are at the Time, except such printed Votes and Proceedings in Parliament, or printed Newspapers, as shall be sent without Covers, or in Covers open at the Sides.

Resolved, That the Allowance of sending and receiving Letters and Packets free of the Duty of Postage, heretofore granted to, or customarily enjoyed by, certain Persons, in respect of their Offices, has not been sufficiently confined to such Letters and Packets only as should relate to the Business of their respective Offices.

Resolved, That such Allowance in respect of Offices ought not to be continued, without some further Restrictions and Limitations.

Resolved, That the counterfeiting of the Hand-writing of any Person, in the Supercription of any Letter or Packet, in order thereby to defraud the Revenue of the Post-Office, be made more penal.

Resolved, That a further Discouragement to the Practice of counterfeiting the Hands of Members of this House, the buying or selling of Franks, signed with the Names of Members of this House, should be declared a Breach of the Privilege of this House.

Ordered,

Ordered, That a Bill be brought in, upon the Debate of the House, for ascertaining and regulating, in what Cases, and under what Restrictions, Letters and Packets shall be sent and received free from the Duty of Postage; and for preventing Frauds and Abuses in relation thereto: And that Mr. Dyson, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Edmonstone, and Sir Charles Mordaunt, do prepare, and bring in, the same.

Supply Bill; Duties on Beaver.

Mr. Rice, according to Order, reported from the Committee of the whole House, to whom the Bill for repealing the Duties now payable upon Beaver Skins imported, and for granting other Duties in lieu thereof; and for granting certain Duties upon the Exportation of Beaver Skins and Beaver Wool; and for taking off the Drawback allowed on the Exportation of such Skins; was committed; the Amendments which the Committee had made to the Bill; and which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the Report in his Place; and afterwards delivered the Bill, with the Amendments, in at the Clerk's Table: Where the Amendments were once read throughout; and then a Second Time, One by One; and, upon the Question severally put thereupon, were agreed to by the House.

A Clause was offered to be added to the Bill for allowing Re-payment of Part of the Duty upon Exportation of Beaver to Ireland.

And the Question being put, That the said Clause be brought up;

It passed in the Negative.

Ordered, That the Bill, with the Amendments, be ingrossed.

Frauds by Bankrupts, &c.

The Order of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the Bill to continue an Act, made in the 5th Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Second, intituled, An Act to prevent the committing of Frauds by Bankrupts; and for obviating Inconveniences which may arise in the Case of Merchants, Bankers, and Traders, intituled to Privilege of Parliament, and becoming insolvent; and for extending the Laws relating to Hackney Coaches, to the Counties of Kent and Essex;

Resolved, That this House will, upon Tuesday Morning next, resolve itself into the said Committee.

Clandestine Marriages.

The Order of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to repeal an Act, passed in the 26th Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Second, intituled, An Act for the better preventing of clandestine Marriages; and to encourage and facilitate Marriages to be solemnized in Churches or Public Chapels, under a Publication of Banns, or by Licences; and to remove all Doubts which have arisen, or may arise, concerning the Validity of certain Marriages solemnized in that Part of Great Britain called Scotland, or beyond the Seas;

Resolved, That this House will, upon Monday Morning next, resolve itself into the said Committee.

Westminster Paving.

The Order of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill to explain, amend, and render more effectual Two several Acts of Parliament, made in the Second and Third Years of the Reign of His present Majesty, for paving, cleansing, and lighting the Squares, Streets, and Lanes within the City and Liberty of Westminster, the Parishes of Saint Giles in the Fields, Saint George the Martyr, Saint George Bloomsbury, that Part of the Parish of Saint Andrew's Holborn which lies in the County of Middlesex, the several Liberties of the Rolls and Savoy, and that Part of the Duchy of Lancaster which lies in the County of Middlesex; and for preventing Annoyances therein; and for other Purposes therein mentioned;

VOL. 29.

Resolved, That this House will, upon Monday Morning next, resolve itself into the said Committee.

The Order of the Day being read, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the Bill for the Encouragement of the Whale Fishery in the Gulph and River of Saint Lawrence, and on the Coasts of His Majesty's Colonies in America;

Supply Bill; Whale Fishery.

Resolved, That this House will, To-morrow Morning, resolve itself into the said Committee.

The other Order of the Day being read; The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of a proper Encouragement for the Importation of Hemp and Flax from His Majesty's Colonies in America.

Importation of Hemp, &c.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Harris of Christ Church took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr. Harris of Christ Church reported from the Committee, That they had come to a Resolution; which they had directed him to report, when the House will please to receive the same.

Ordered, That the Report be received To-morrow Morning.

And then the House adjourned till To-morrow Morning, Nine of the Clock.

Veneris, 30° die Martii;

Anno 4° Georgii III^{mi} Regis, 1764.

PRAYERS.

An ingrossed Bill from the Lords, intituled, An Act for settling the Estate of Henrietta Rosa Peregrina Townsend, Wife of James Townsend, Esquire, according to certain Articles of Agreement executed before her Intermarriage with the said James Townsend, but subject to the Charges and Incumbrances affecting the same, was read the First Time.

Townsend's Estate.

Resolved, That the Bill be read a Second Time.

Mr. Chauncy Townsend reported from the Committee, to whom the Petition of the Persons thereunder named, being Proprietors of Lands within the District of Bridgend, in the County of Glamorgan, was referred; That the Committee had examined the Matter of the said Petition; and had directed him to report the same, as it appeared to them, to the House; and he read the Report in his Place; and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table: Where the same was read; and is as followeth; viz.

Cardiff Roads.

To prove the Allegations of the said Petition, Mr. Lewis Thomas said; That he knows the Road mentioned in the said Petition; that it is in a ruinous Condition, and cannot be repaired by the Laws now in being.

That the making a new additional Road from the South West Corner of a Field near the West End of Watertown Court House, over certain Lands belonging to Richard Turberville, Esquire, to the End of a certain Lane called Heol y Prior, near to Golden Mile, to join the Road leading from the Town of Cowbridge over Ewenny Bridge to Bridgend, would greatly shorten the Road between the Towns of Bridgend and Cowbridge, and would be of great Advantage to the Inhabitants.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee, to whom the Bill for amending, widening, and keeping in Repair several Roads leading from the Town of Cardiff, and several other Towns and Places in the County of Glamorgan, is committed, That they have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses, for repairing the Road from the South End of the Village of Old Cistle to the South West Corner of a Field or Close near to the West End of Watertown Court