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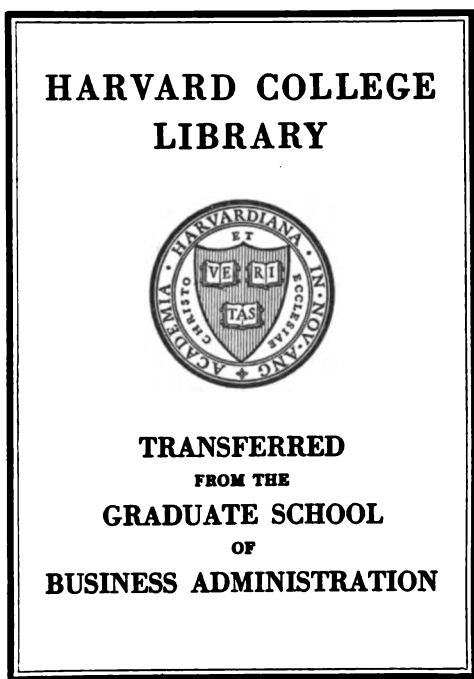
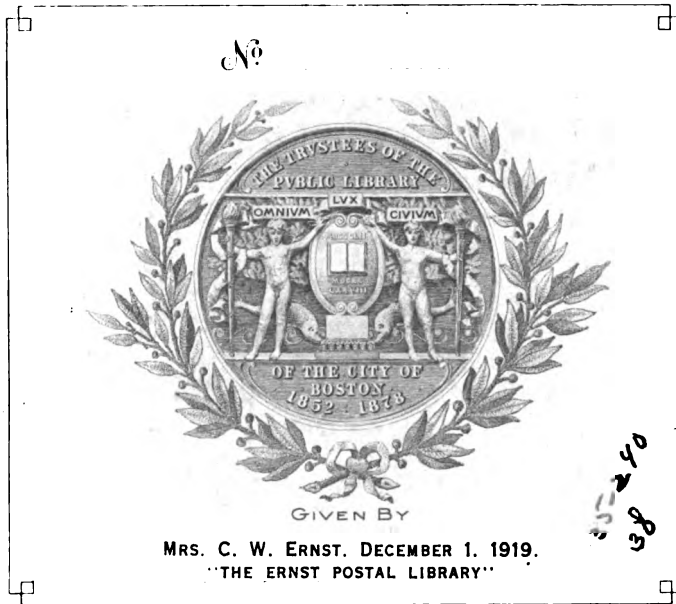
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WIDENER



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- Life, Diary, & Correspondence of Sir W<sup>m</sup> Dugdale, ed. W<sup>m</sup> Hamper, 1827,  
 vols. in traffic stems  
 204. Feb. 26. 1647/8 complains of postal delays, mentions the Post House (London)  
 & its delays  
 212. Dec. 20. 1647/8 copy on "High 209 (Warw.): "Leave this letter at ye  
 Post-house in Manchester"  
 213. Dec. 8. 1647/8 "Leave by the next return of the Post received these notes against  
 the w<sup>ch</sup> I sent you" orders letter to be at a "Station in Manchester (the letters  
 to same person - W<sup>m</sup> Storrard, Shakerley, Lanc.)  
 238. Dec. 22, 1650 same to same: "For my worthy friend Mr. William Vernon  
 at Shakerley in Lancashire. Leave this Letter at the Post House in Man-  
 chester, to be sent as above said. Manchester, J<sup>ms</sup> Colshill, post paid,  
 4d." R. 167 Due to be paid to by letter, coach (stage c.)  
 245. 1650/1650 (to a woman, etc?) "I send you a Letter from Thomas ...  
 account of the post delays ... (last week)"  
 253. Dugdale's request to Vernon "to give a letter to Colshill, Warw." "Leave  
 this letter with the person in Manchester, to be paid from Colshill."  
 (Hamper, p. 260)  
 279. In London, Trenton, 1 April. 54 "To my much honour'd friend  
 William Dugdale, Esq<sup>r</sup> at his Chamber in the Herald's Office West  
 there. London. Post p'd."  
 331. 4 letters of Vernon (Hamper, 1657/8). "I am very glad to find Mr. W<sup>m</sup>  
 Dugdale, at his Lodging in the Herald's Office in London. Leave this  
 with ye Porter of the sayd Office to be given him. The Porter is  
 paid in bringing it." Hamper, p. 337  
 367. In London, Hamper, Dec. 26, 1657 "To my honour'd friend William  
 Dugdale, Esq<sup>r</sup>, at his Lodging in the Herald's Office, West. Lon-  
 don Post paid, 6"  
 413. Lord Hutton, Lond., Feb. 22. 1647 (or 1646/7): "To Mr. W<sup>m</sup> Dugdale at his  
 house at Blith-hall, neere Asill in Warwickshire. Leave this  
 with the postmaster at Asill in Warwickshire?"  
 453. Dugdale for South Lambeth 25 Feb 1655 "For Mr. Vernon living at the  
 Herald's Office in London. Ps Penny Post."  
 (page back of copy of letter in my red Pitt's book 11)

The following letters in it ... and ... which is comparative  
 England ... but ...  
 & as an average had more, the Pitt had no antiquary like Dugdale.











It is difficult to exaggerate the value of this Report. In the best form and with approximate completeness it offers the papers of the English Postal Service from 1252 to the Restoration, and on the black cabinet to 1844.

On the latter topic the report is complete, and no other Government has ventured to be as frank. The present document shows what regard Edward II, Wolsey, and the Commonwealth had for the sanctity of private correspondence; how they lied when the Venetian ambassador found them out.

Sir F. Palgrave, Mr. Lechmere, Mr. Reeve, and the secret committee rendered an invaluable service to postal history when they collected the early ordinances, patents, and official papers bearing upon the English Post-Office, and printed them with scrupulous fidelity. Here we have the official record from the early nuncios and cokinus - the modern cockney; originally one supplied from the royal kitchen; then a courtier, and a fop- to Sir Brian Tuke, the first Magister nunciorum, and Daniel O'Neil, the first Postmaster-General, commissioned as such (fol. 85) in 1663. The account ends where the American Postal Service begins. The Report, then, is the introduction to the history of the American posts.

The early chapters in Mr. Joyce's History of the [British] Post-Office rest upon the present Report. I am of opinion that Mr. Joyce has not availed himself of all that lies in this great collection. He alone has a right to be thought an historian of the post, American or English, who has mastered every word in the present collection. I cannot name a postal work of greater interest and value.

25 June, 1894.

C. W. Ernst.  
*For additional items, especially as to mails going from England to her dependencies or foreign countries, see the several sets of English State Papers, also other papers published by Parliament.*

**R E P O R T**

FROM THE

**SECRET COMMITTEE**

ON THE

**P O S T - O F F I C E ;**

TOGETHER WITH

**THE APPENDIX.**

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
5 August 1844.*

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**[Price 1s. 3d.]**

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*Martis, 2<sup>o</sup> die Julii, 1844.*

*Ordered, THAT a Committee of Secrecy be appointed "to inquire into the State of the Law in respect to the detaining and opening of Letters at the General Post-office, and into the Mode under which the Authority given for such detaining and opening has been exercised, and to Report their Opinion and Observations thereupon to The House."*

Committee nominated:

Viscount Sandon.  
Mr. Wilson Patten.  
Mr. Thomas Baring.  
Sir William Heathcote.  
Sir Charles Lemon.

Mr. Warburton.  
Mr. Strutt.  
O'Conor Don.  
Mr. Ord.

*Ordered, THAT the said Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.*

*Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the said Committee.*

REPORT	- - - - -	p. 3
APPENDIX	- - - - -	p. 21

GIVEN BY  
MRS. C. W. ERNST  
DEC. 1, 1919

## R E P O R T.

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THE COMMITTEE OF SECRECY appointed to inquire into the State of the Law in respect of the DETAINING and OPENING of LETTERS at the GENERAL POST-OFFICE, and into the Mode under which the AUTHORITY given for such Detaining and Opening has been exercised, and to Report their Opinion and Observations thereupon to The House, and to whom several PETITIONS were referred ;—HAVE examined the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT :

**Y**OUR Committee, in performance of the duty which The House has devolved upon them, of inquiring into the State of the Law respecting the detaining and opening of Letters at the General Post-office, beg to state in the outset that although the wording of the 33d and 36th chapters of the 1st of Victoria, which now mainly regulate the Post-office, is, in respect of the matter in hand, somewhat different from that of the 10th chapter of the 9th of Anne, for which they were substituted, yet that there appears to be no such variance between the Statutes of those two periods respectively, as to prevent Your Committee from assuming, for the convenience of their inquiry, that the same powers are conveyed or recognized in all.

The inquiry, therefore, what the state of the law now is respecting such detention and opening, is reduced to the inquiry what the state of the law was, respecting the same matter, immediately on the passing of the Statute of Anne, unless, in the intervening period, the principles which regulate the interpretation of Acts in general, should have undergone modification, or cases should have been decided in the superior courts of law which might have a bearing on the construction to be given to this particular Act. With that reservation, the law on the matter in question was the same in 1711 that it is in 1844.

In preference to discussing the purely legal question, how far the Statute of Anne, in recognizing the practice, on the part of the Secretaries of State, of issuing Warrants to open Letters, rendered it lawful for the Secretaries of State to issue such Warrants, Your Committee propose, so far as they have materials for that purpose, to give the history of this practice, prior and subsequent to the passing of that Statute: these materials being such as ought not to be overlooked in investigating the grounds on which the exercise of this authority rests.

In these early researches, Your Committee will have occasion to inquire into the condition of the Posts in this country at various periods of our history, and into the connexion that subsisted between them and the supreme authorities of the country. In these inquiries Your Committee have been assisted by Sir Francis Palgrave, of the Rolls Office, by Messrs. Lechmere and Leman, of the State Paper Office, and by Mr. Reeve, of the Council Office.

It does not appear at what precise period the Crown undertook to be the regular carrier of Letters for its subjects. The Crown, doubtless, found it necessary, at a very early period, to the exercise of the functions of Sovereignty, to be able to convey with speed and security its own despatches from one part of the realm to another, and from and to parts beyond the seas; and for that purpose it appointed certain messengers or runners, called the Posts. These Posts were also employed for the personal convenience of the Sovereign, and the individuals composing the Royal Court. In course of time, a Master of the Posts was appointed, and the first of these on record was Brian Tuke, Esq. afterwards Sir Brian Tuke, Knight, who held that office in 1516, and whose letter to Thomas Cromwell, respecting the performance of its duties, dated 17th August 1533, is given in the Appendix. The joint successors of Sir Brian Tuke, were Sir William

Paget, Knight, Privy Councillor, and one of Henry the Eighth's Chief Secretaries, and John Mason, Esq., Secretary for the French Tongue. The Letters Patent, dated 12th November 1545, conveying to them this office, grant to them, during their lives and the life of the survivor, the office of Master of the Messengers, Runners, or Posts, as well within the Kingdom of England as in parts beyond the seas in the King's dominions, together with the wages or fee of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* a year, to be held by themselves or their sufficient deputy or deputies, &c.; but besides his fee, the Master of the Posts received from the Crown the amount of his expenses for conveying Letters, of which he rendered in an account, many samples of which are given in the Appendix. There is a succession of Patents (including recitals of Patents), granting the same office, at the same fee, to other parties for life, in the times of Elizabeth, James 1, and Charles 1.

With regard to correspondence conveyed by other Messengers than their own, our Monarchs viewed it with great suspicion; but it was especially towards Letters arriving from or going to parts beyond the seas that their vigilance seems to have been directed. The frequency of disputed successions to the Crown, and the constant jealousy entertained of the Court of Rome, will assist in explaining their desire to prevent such correspondence. All Letters coming from beyond the seas were directed to be seized; but, in the time of Edward the Second, to whose reign the first record of this kind belongs, the King's Bailiffs, in assisting the Admiral of the Fleet to search for Letters, were forbidden, under pretext of such powers, to attack or oppress any Merchants or others crossing the seas. The open seizure by Wolsey, in 1525, of the Despatches sent from this country by the Ambassador of the Emperor Charles the Fifth, is a proof of the extraordinary jealousy with which foreign correspondence was regarded, and of the vigilance with which it was watched.

After the grant of the Office of Master of the Posts to any new person, a Royal Proclamation always followed, to notify the new appointment. Consequent on the grant of the Office by Queen Elizabeth, in the year 1590, to John Stanhope, Esq., there is a Proclamation, prohibiting all persons whatsoever from gathering up, receiving, bringing, or carrying out of the Realm any Letters or Packets, without the allowance of the Masters and Comptrollers of the Posts, or their Deputies. "All Mayors, Bailiffs, &c. are ordered to make diligent search for all Mails, &c. of all such disavowed carriers, &c. or suspected persons, coming into or going out of the Realm with packets of Letters; and all such to apprehend, &c., keeping them in safe custody, until, by the view of their writings, sent up to the Privy Council, it be seen and advised what further shall be done with them." Exception is made of the Despatches of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries, of Ambassadors, and of others sufficiently authorized. Similar prohibitions are contained in the Proclamations announcing the appointment of new Postmasters in the two subsequent reigns.

The practice probably began at an early period, and afterwards grew into a regular custom, of allowing private persons to avail themselves of the King's Posts for transmitting their correspondence. This probably became a perquisite to the Postmasters, while, at the same time, it gave to Ministers of State the power of narrowly inspecting the whole of the written communications of the country.

The employment of the Posts for carrying the Letters of the subjects of the Crown is recognized in a Proclamation, dated 1591, consequent on the before recited grant by Queen Elizabeth to John Stanhope, Esq. of the office of Master of the Queen's Posts. The Lord Treasurer and others are thereby directed to notify to all Merchants, both strangers and others, in the City of London, that they are not to take upon them to employ any disavowed persons to convey their Letters, but are to use such only as are lawfully appointed for that purpose. The same direction is repeated in a Proclamation of James 1, dated 1609. In the year 1628, in an Address from the House of Commons to Charles 1, it is stated that the Deputy of the King's Postmaster, appointed to carry the Letters for the Crown beyond the seas, was likewise employed for the same purpose by the English Merchants.

With regard to Inland Letters, in a document obtained from the State Paper Office, and dated 1635, it is stated that the King's Postmasters carried the subjects' Letters, but up to that time had never reaped any benefit from it.

The officer who has been hitherto mentioned as the King's Postmaster, was the Master of the Posts within the King's dominions, at home or beyond the  
seas.

seas. To him, however, had hitherto belonged the transmission of letters both at home and abroad ; but in 1619 a new Patent Office was established by James I, called that of the Postmaster of England for foreign parts *out* of the King's dominions. This Patent gave rise to a long legal contest between Lord Stanhope, who held the former of these two offices, and Matthew de Quester, the new Patentee. During these proceedings, lest the Merchants of London should sustain inconvenience from interruption to their foreign correspondence, an order was issued permitting them to convey their Letters to and from parts beyond the seas, by messengers of their own choosing ; and moreover, the Lords of the Council, to whom the dispute had been referred, advised De Quester, by letter, not to give any interruption to the conveyance and reconveyance of the Merchants' Letters. On the subject of this letter, the Secretary of State, Sir John Coke, wrote to his Co-Secretary of State, Lord Conway, calling the power of sending foreign letters a branch of the Royal authority, affirming that no place in Christendom can be named where Merchants are allowed to send their Letters by other posts than those authorized by the State ; that his colleague best knew what account they shall be able to give in their places of that which passeth by Letters in or out of the land, if every man may convey Letters, under the covers of Merchants, to whom and what place he pleaseth, &c. The order, "upon weighty reasons of State," was afterwards limited to the Company of Merchant Adventurers alone, and they were only to convey their Letters to the towns of Hamburgh and Delf, and they were to give bond to carry no other Letters than those concerning the Company ; no one was to be appointed messenger to the Company unless approved of by the Secretaries of State ; the other Companies of Merchants were to send their despatches by De Quester only ; and, in times of war and danger to the State, the said Company, and all other Companies of Merchants, if required, were to acquaint the Secretaries of State, from time to time, with their Letters and Despatches into foreign parts. In the end, by the influence of the Crown, Lord Stanhope was made to surrender his Patent. De Quester's Patent came into possession of one Thomas Witherings, who suggested to the Crown a plan for the entire re-organization of the Inland Posts, which, instead of producing at that time any revenue to the State, were a burthen to it of 3,400*l.* per annum. The plan proposed consisted essentially of three parts : the establishment of fixed Rates of Postage ; substituting Horse Posts, which were to travel at the rate of 120 miles in 24 hours, instead of Foot Posts, which travelled at the rate of 18 miles ; and giving to the Public generally the use of the Post-office. This plan was adopted ; Witherings was appointed to the office ; and thus became centered in the same person the offices of Postmaster for Inland and for Foreign Letters. In 1635 and 1637 appeared two Proclamations, to notify and give effect to the new plan of Mr. Witherings ; and in both these there were clauses prohibiting any other than Mr. Witherings, or his Deputies, from carrying Letters.

In 1640, on a charge of divers abuses and misdemeanors committed by Witherings in the execution of his said two offices, they were sequestered into the hands of Philip Burlamachi, of London, merchant, who was to execute the same under the care and oversight of the Principal Secretaries of State ; and without tracing at this day the disputes which the conflicting pretensions of different individuals to the possession of these offices gave rise in the year 1642, it will be sufficient to say that, shortly afterwards, the management of the affairs of the Post-office fell into the hands of Mr. Prideaux, who was chairman of the Committee appointed by The House to consider the Inland Department of the Post-office, and was afterwards, under the Commonwealth, Attorney-general to the State. Mr. Prideaux was appointed Master of the Posts, in 1644, by the authority of both Houses of Parliament.

The validity of the clause in the grant to Witherings, of the Inland Letter-office, prohibiting any but the persons appointed by the Patentee from receiving or delivering Letters at any place where the Patentee should settle Posts, was brought in question, in 1646, before a Committee of the House of Lords. Two of the Judges were appointed Assistants to the Committee, and were expressly ordered to Report their opinion as to all such particulars concerning the validity of the Patent as the Committee might think fit to ask them ; and they reported, "That the Inland Letter-office Patent was well erected ; that the clauses of restraint, in the said Patent, are void, and not good in law ; that, notwithstanding these clauses be void, yet the Patent is good for the rest." The



Foreign Letter-office Patent was not referred to the consideration of the Committee.

According to the law as expounded by the two Judges, no person, under the authority of Letters Patent from the Crown, could, without an Act of Parliament, lawfully set up any exclusive title to carry Mails of Letters from one part of the kingdom to another. It appears that in 1650 the Common Council of the city of London, not satisfied with the footing on which Mr. Prideaux, then Attorney-general, had placed the Posts, of conveying Letters into all parts of the nation only once a week, endeavoured of their own authority to settle Posts on the several roads, which were to run twice a week; and this they had actually done in the whole line of the road to Scotland. On a Report to that effect from the Council of State, the Parliament resolved, "that the offices of Postmasters, inland and foreign, are and ought to be in the sole power and disposal of the Parliament;" and they referred it to the Council of State to consider how those offices might best be settled; and in the meantime to take orders for the present management thereof.

These offices continued, until 1653, to be managed by Mr. Prideaux. They were farmed in 1653, and in 1655 the management of them was entrusted to Mr. Secretary Thurloe, on his giving security for the then present rent of 10,000*l.* a year.

In 1657, a Bill for the settling of the Postage of England, Scotland, and Ireland was laid, by order of the Protector, before his Parliament, and passed with some amendments. It provided for the establishing one General Post-office, and one Postmaster-general, to be appointed under Letters Patent by the Lord Protector and his successors, such officer and his deputies (with certain reservations) to have exclusively authority to carry inland and foreign Letters; and of horsing all thorough Posts, and persons riding by Post to and from any places upon any of the Postroads, with power to levy certain Rates for conveyance of Letters and horsing of Posts; imposing penalties on any persons other than the Postmaster-general or his deputies, who shall set up Posts for the conveying of Letters or horsing of Posts; providing for the forwarding by Post of Ship Letters, for the exercise of superintendence over the Postmaster by the Lord Protector and his successors, and giving power to the Lord Protector and his successors to farm the Post-office for life, or for any term not exceeding 11 years.

After the Restoration, Charles 2 granted, by Letters Patent, 14th August 1660, to Henry Bishopp, for the term of 7 years, the office of the Master of Running Messengers, formerly held by Lord Stanhope and others, &c.; and by a separate indenture, dated September 1, agreed to farm to the said H. Bishopp, for the term of 7 years, all powers and profits expressed in the "pretended" Act of 1657, for the annual rent of 21,500 *l.*, payable quarterly. The said Bishopp agreed, at the rates stated in the said "pretended" Act of Parliament, and no higher rates, to defray the whole charges of maintaining the said office; the King agreeing that the Parliament shall be moved speedily and effectually to pass an Act of Parliament, in the due and usual form, for settling the said postage and the profits thereof on his Majesty, as part of his said Majesty's revenue.

On the 12th of September 1660, it was ordered by the Lords and Commons, in Parliament assembled, that the office of Postmaster, and the postage and carriage of Letters, domestic and foreign, should continue to be exercised by the same persons now employed therein by his Majesty, their agents and servants, according to the same rates and rules now practised, and without the interruption of any person or persons whatever, until the 6th day of November next ensuing. And in December 1660, an Act was passed, agreeing nearly, *mutatis mutandis*, in its enacting clauses with that of 1657.

The passing of this Act was followed by a proclamation for quieting Bishopp in the execution of his office. On his surrendering it in 1663, it was granted to Daniel O'Neale, one of the Grooms of the Chamber, who farmed it for the remainder of Bishopp's original term, and on the same conditions. A Proclamation followed O'Neale's appointment. An Act passed in 1663, for settling the profits of the Post office on the Duke of York and his heirs male; and two Proclamations followed, one in 1669, the other in 1683, for enforcing the due execution of the said Acts. On the expiry of O'Neale's lease, in 1667, Lord Arlington was appointed Postmaster-general, and a Proclamation followed for quieting him in the execution of his office. No Statute for altering the management

ment of the Post-office, or the rates of Postage, was passed during the reign of James 2 and William 3; nor until the 9th year of Anne.

In reviewing that period of the history of the country, which commences with 1641, Your Committee beg to notice the following incidents, as bearing on the subject of their inquiry.

Repeated stoppages of the Foreign Mails were made by the orders of the Two Houses, and Committees were appointed, composed of the Members of both Houses, to open and read the Letters stopped. On one of those occasions Mr. Pym reported the answer of the Lords to a message from the Commons to stop the Foreign Mails, "that they did yield to the opening of Letters; but it would be very inconvenient if often used."

The opening and detention of the Letters coming from France and Antwerp in November 1641, led to a complaint to the King and to the Lords from the Ambassador of the Republic of Venice.

The Preamble to the Act of Cromwell's Parliament for settling the Postage of England, Scotland, and Ireland, enumerates among the advantages of the Post, that it is the best means "to discover and prevent many dangerous and wicked designs which have been and are daily contrived against the peace and welfare of the Commonwealth, the intelligence whereof cannot well be communicated, but by Letter of Escript."

It scarcely needed this evidence to prove that during the Protectorate recourse was had to the expedient of opening Letters. This fact is sufficiently apparent from the number of Letters designated as "Intercepted Letters," in the State Correspondence of Secretary Thurloe.

No preamble similar to that which the Act of Cromwell contains, appears in the Statute of Charles 2, for erecting and establishing a Post Office. But in the lease granted to Bishopp, of the profits to arise from the Post Office under the Act, which Parliament was to be moved by His Majesty speedily and effectually to pass, it is agreed that the lessee shall permit and suffer the said Secretaries of State for the time being, or either of them, from time to time, and at all times during the proposed term, to have the survey and inspection of all Letters within the office or offices aforesaid, at their or either of their discretion. And the same power is reserved to the Secretaries of State in the lease granted to Bishopp's successor, O'Neale.

In the Proclamation which immediately followed the passing of the Statute of 1660-1, the practice of opening, by authority of the Secretary of State, Letters lawfully conveyed, is not mentioned; but in the Proclamation which followed the appointment of Bishopp's successor, O'Neale, the words occur which correspond to those afterwards introduced into the Statute of Anne:

"And we do further charge and command that no Postmasters or other officers, that shall be employed in the conveying of Letters, or distributing of the same, or any other person or persons of quality or condition soever they be, except by the immediate Warrant of our Principal Secretaries of State, shall presume to open any Letters or Packets not directed unto themselves, or that they, or any other persons whatsoever, do stop any Mayl in the passage to or from London, or any other place whither the same is consigned and directed, but shall truly and faithfully deliver the same, without any opening, concealing, or retarding the delivery thereof." These words are not repeated in the subsequent Proclamations of 1667, 1669, 1683, and 1685.

As to Letters unlawfully conveyed, it is directed in the Proclamations of 1660-1, and 1667, that they be seized and sent to the Privy Council; in those of 1669, 1683, and 1685, that they be considered as Letters of dangerous consequence, and be seized and sent to one of the Secretaries of State, or to the Privy Council, to the end that the persons conveying or sending them may be proceeded against, according to law: in that of 1663, that they be seized and carried to the General Post-office, "there to be disposed of for the benefit of all such of his Majesty's loving subjects as may be concerned therein."

Although, after quoting the cited clauses from the leases granted to Bishopp and O'Neale, and the words from the Proclamation of 1663, no reasonable doubt can be entertained that the Governments of the different Monarchs who reigned between 1660 and 1711, had frequently recourse to the practice of opening Letters, yet the only instance during that period that has come under the notice of Your Committee, is that of Coleman, one of the victims to the Popish Plot.

Your Committee now come to the period subsequent to the passing of the 9th of Anne, the first Statute which recognized the practice of opening Letters, now under consideration.

Before they proceed to avail themselves of the information laid before them, which has proved to them that the 40th and 41st sections of this Act did not remain a dead letter, they will notice several occasions in the last century on which, both in Parliament and in Courts of Judicature, this practice was brought distinctly under public attention.

About 11 years after the passing of the Act, viz. in the year 1722-3, in the course of the proceedings had on passing the Bills of Pains and Penalties against the Bishop of Rochester, and his two associates, Kelly and Plunket, the principal evidence adduced against the parties accused was that of Post-office Clerks and others, who, in obedience to Warrants from the Secretary of State, had detained, opened, copied, and deciphered Letters to or from those parties. In the Committee on the Bill against Atterbury, in the House of Peers, the clause of the Statute of Anne was referred to and commented on by the Bishop's counsel, who raised a doubt whether the copying of a Letter were sanctioned by the Act; but in no one of these three cases was any question raised as to the legality of the Warrants.

In 1735, complaint being made in the House of Commons by certain of the Members, that their Letters had been opened and read by the Clerks of the Post-office, on the pretence of ascertaining whether or no the franks of those Members were counterfeited, and a copy of his Majesty's Warrant, whereby Letters of Members and certain Public Functionaries were permitted to pass free from postage, being read, it was ordered, that the copy of the said Warrant be referred to the consideration of a Committee, and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their opinions thereon, to The House: and on the Committee making its Report, The House resolved, *inter alia*, "That it is a high infringement of the privilege of the knights, citizens, and burgesses, chosen to represent the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament, for any postmaster, his deputies or agents, in Great Britain or Ireland, to open or look into, by any means whatsoever, any Letter directed to or signed by the proper hand of any Member, without an express Warrant in writing, under the hand of one of the principal Secretaries of State, for every such opening and looking into; or to detain or delay any Letter directed to or signed with the name of any Member, unless there shall be good reason to suspect some counterfeit of it, without an express Warrant of a principal Secretary of State, as aforesaid, for every such detaining or delaying."

Sir Robert Walpole and Mr. Pelham are said to have agreed to the appointment of this Committee, on an understanding that it should not inquire into anything that might tend to discover the secrets of Government. In 1742, however, the secrets of Sir Robert Walpole's Government were somewhat rudely pried into by the Secret Committee appointed "to inquire into the conduct of the Earl of Orford, during the last 10 years of his being First Lord of the Treasury, and Chancellor and Under Treasurer of his Majesty's Exchequer."

That Committee in its Report gave a description of the establishment for inspecting Letters, as maintained by the Governments over which Sir Robert Walpole had presided; but abstained from stating on what particular occasions that establishment had been made available.

It appears from the information laid before Your Committee, that under the pressure of the rebellion of 1745, which followed almost immediately on the downfall of the Administration of Sir Robert Walpole, his successors issued Warrants for stopping and opening Post Letters of a very general and unlimited character.

In the year 1758, Dr. Hensey, a physician, was tried on a charge of high treason, being accused of treasonable correspondence with the enemy. The principal evidence on which he was convicted, was that of a Letter-carrier and a Post-office Clerk, the latter of whom had opened Dr. Hensey's Letters, and delivered them to the Secretary of State.

In 1764, a Select Committee of The House was appointed to inquire into the abuses of franking Letters; and the Chairman, Mr. Dyson, was directed by the Committee to move The House, "That it be an instruction to the Committee, that they have power to inquire into the abuses committed at the Post-office, by opening Inland Letters:" the motion, however, was negatived.

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The last instance that has come to the knowledge of Your Committee, in which this power was exercised under circumstances of public notoriety, is that of the trial of Horne Tooke for high treason, in 1795. A letter written to him by Mr. Joyce, a printer, was intercepted at the Post-office, and was stated by the prisoner to have been the immediate occasion of his apprehension. On his requiring its production, it was produced in Court by the Crown officers, and given in evidence.

It is now so long since any public trial has taken place, in which facts ascertained by opening and detaining Letters at the Post-office have been adduced in evidence, that it seems to have been nearly forgotten by the public that such a practice ever existed.

Your Committee, having gone through the proofs, of a more public character, that the Governments of past times have authorized the detaining and opening of Post Letters, and given notoriety to the exercise of that authority, and that the fact has, on several occasions, been brought under the notice of Parliament and Courts of Law, proceed now to show (from evidence of a more secret and confidential nature) to what extent this practice has been carried on, by the same authority, during the past and present centuries. Before entering, however, on this head of inquiry, they consider it proper to observe, that they have had before them, with a few exceptions, every person now living who has held the seals of Secretary of State, for Home or Foreign Affairs, since the year 1822, as well as two noblemen who have discharged the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and several persons who have held confidential situations under them; and they have further examined the present Postmaster-general, the Secretaries of the Post-office for England and Ireland, together with several of the most confidential officers in every branch of the Foreign-office, the Home-office, and the Post-office; and that all these witnesses, without exception, have made to Your Committee the most full and unreserved disclosures; so much so as to have rendered it superfluous for Your Committee to examine any other witnesses.

Of the number and nature of Warrants for opening and detaining Post Letters issued by Secretaries of State, from the year 1712 to the year 1798 inclusive, Your Committee are able to render only a very incomplete account, compiled partly from the books of the Home Department, partly from the Records at the State Paper Office. It appears that, during that term of years, it was not the practice to record such Warrants regularly in any official book.

That this account is what the Committee describe it to be, very incomplete, is manifest from the small number of Warrants that enter into it, considering the length of the term of years. From 1712 to 1798 inclusive, a term of 87 years, the number of Warrants, of which any account has been obtained, is but 101; and of that number 11 only belong to the last 20 eventful years of the term, including the period of the French Revolution. In this account, moreover, certain cases are not included, in which it is known, from reports of public trials, and other independent sources of evidence, that Letters were opened and detained, such as those of Atterbury, Plunket, Kelly, Hensey, and Horne Tooke.

From the commencement of the present century, if not from an earlier period, down to the present time, the practice has been, with very few exceptions, for such Warrants to issue only from the Home Office, although another Secretary of State has occasionally signed the Warrant in the absence of the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

From 1799 inclusive to the end of the year 1805, a record has been preserved of the Warrants issued from the Home Office, which, from the circumstance that the annual average which it exhibits, agrees nearly with the annual average of the Warrants issued in subsequent years, appears to the Committee to be nearly a complete record; they have, however, no other mode of testing its accuracy. It was not until the period, in the year 1806, when the late Earl Spencer became Secretary of State for Home Affairs, that the practice was introduced at the Home Office of recording the issuing of every such Warrant in a private book belonging, not to the Head of the Department, but to the Office, and always accessible to the two Under Secretaries of State and the Chief Clerk of the Domestic Department: and that practice has been continued, the Committee believe, without interruption, till the present time. Still, there is no check by which to test the completeness of the entries made in that book until the close of the year 1822, from which period the original Warrants themselves are

## REPORT FROM THE

preserved at the Post-office; the earlier Warrants having been destroyed on the removal of the Post-office from Lombard-street to its present site in St. Martin's-le-Grand.

After these explanations of the authenticity of the lists which have been submitted to their consideration, they proceed to give, first, an abstract of the Warrants, so far as they have been able to make up an account, from 1712 to 1798 inclusive; secondly, an abstract of the Warrants for detaining and opening Letters, issued by the Home Department from the commencement of the year 1799 to Midsummer 1844.

ANNUAL NUMBER of WARRANTS in each Year, from 1712 to 1798, so far as an Account of the same could be made up.

YEAR.	NUMBER OF WARRANTS.	YEAR.	NUMBER OF WARRANTS.	YEAR.	NUMBER OF WARRANTS.
1712	- - 1	1744	- - 3	1768	- - 1
1713	- - 2	1745	- - 7	1770	- - 3
1723	- - 1	1746	- - 1	1772	- - 1
1730	- - 1	1749	- - 1	1773	- - 1
1731	- - 2	1751	- - 1	1774	- - 2
1734	- - 3	1752	- - 1	1776	- - 1
1735	- - 4	1753	- - 6	1777	- - 2
1736	- - 3	1754	- - 1	1778	- - 2
1737	- - 3	1755	- - 1	1782	- - 3
1738	- - 7	1756	- - 1	1783	- - 1
1739	- - 5	1763	- - 3	1784	- - 1
1740	- - 1	1764	- - 1	From - 1788	} 6
1741	- - 4	1765	- - 1	to - 1798	
1742	- - 2	1766	- - 4		
1743	- - 4	1767	- - 2	Total Number	101

The above WARRANTS classed under certain heads.

Bank of England	- - - - -	8
Bankruptcy	- - - - -	5
Murder, theft, fraud, &c.	- - - - -	14
Prisoners of war	- - - - -	1
Revenue	- - - - -	10
Foreign correspondence	- - - - -	35
Treason, sedition, &c.	- - - - -	5
Libel	- - - - -	2
Forgery	- - - - -	1
Debtor absconding from creditors	- - - - -	2
Private case	- - - - -	1
Uncertain	- - - - -	17
Total	- - - - -	101

SECRET COMMITTEE ON THE POST OFFICE.

11

ANNUAL Number of WARRANTS in Each Year from 1799 to 1844.

YEAR.	NUMBER.	YEAR.	NUMBER.	YEAR.	NUMBER.
1799	-	1815	2	1831	17
1800	-	1816	0	1832	5
1801	-	1817	11	1833	4
1802	-	1818	9	1834	6
1803	-	1819	6	1835	7
1804	-	1820	6	1836	7
1805	-	1821	1	1837	4
1806	-	1822	12	1838	8
1807	-	1823	7	1839	16
1808	-	1824	2	1840	7
1809	-	1825	6	1841	18
1810	-	1826	8	1842	20
1811	-	1827	8	1843	8
1812	-	1828	4	1844	7
1813	-	1829	5		
1814	-	1830	14		
					<b>372</b>

Total Number of Persons named in the above Warrants - - - 724

This would give a little more than 8 Warrants, on the average, per year, and about 2 persons, on the average, for each Warrant. Among the Warrants there are 8, applied each to some particular object, but not restricted to any definite number of persons.

The above WARRANTS classed under certain Heads.

Bank of England	-	-	-	-	-	13
Bankruptcy	-	-	-	-	-	2
Murder, theft, fraud, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	144
Treason, sedition, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	77
Prisoners of war	-	-	-	-	-	13
Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	5
Foreign correspondence	-	-	-	-	-	20
Letters returned to writers	-	-	-	-	-	7
Address copied	-	-	-	-	-	1
Forged frank	-	-	-	-	-	1
Uncertain	-	-	-	-	-	89
						<b>372</b>

The Secretaries of State who have signed the Warrants referred to in the two preceding Abstracts, are named in the following List, arranged in the order of Date :

- 1712-13. The Earl of Dartmouth.
- 1713. The Right Hon. W. Bromley.
- 1722. Lord Viscount Townshend.
- 1730-46. Lord Harrington.
- 1735-1754. Duke of Newcastle.
- 1749. Duke of Bedford.
- 1752-3. The Earl of Holderness.
- 1755. The Right Hon. Sir T. Robinson.
- 1756. The Right Hon. H. Fox.
- 1763. The Earl of Halifax.
- 1765-7. The Right Hon. General Conway.
- 1766. Duke of Richmond.
- 1766-7. The Earl of Shelburne.
- 1770. The Earl of Sandwich.
- 1770-4. The Earl of Rochefort.
- 1776-7. Lord Viscount Weymouth.
- 1778. The Earl of Suffolk.
- 1782-3. The Right Hon. T. Townshend.
- 1782. The Right Hon. C. J. Fox.
- 1784. Marquis of Carmarthen.
- 1799-1801. Duke of Portland.
- 1801-3. Lord Pelham.

- 1803. Right Hon. Charles Yorke.
- 1804-6. Lord Hawkesbury, and 1807-9.
- 1806-7. Earl Spencer.
- 1807. Right Hon. C. W. W. Wynn.
- 1809-12. The Right Hon. R. Ryder.
- 1812-21. Lord Viscount Sidmouth.
- 1822-30. The Right Hon. Sir R. Peel.
- 1822-3. Right Hon. G. Canning.
- 1823. Earl Bathurst.
- 1827. Lord Viscount Goderich.
- Right. Hon. W. Sturges Bourne.
- Marquis of Lansdown.
- 1830-4. Lord Viscount Melbourne.
- 1833-40. Lord Palmerston.
- 1834. Lord Viscount Duncannon.
- Duke of Wellington.
- 1834-5. Right Hon. H. Goulburn.
- 1835-9. Lord John Russell.
- 1838. Lord Glenelg.
- 1839-41. The Marquess of Normanby.
- 1841-4. The Right Hon. Sir James Graham.
- 1844. Earl of Aberdeen.

Among the Warrants of the last century some few have been discovered that were issued on grounds which would now be considered highly objectionable, and would not be sanctioned by recent practice. We proceed to give some specimens of the earliest Warrants.

The earliest, dated September 20, 1712, is as follows :

To the Postmaster-general : Her Majesty is pleased to order that all Letters directed to Mr. Thomas Perrin (and three others named) be sent to the Commissioners of the Customs for their perusal, as is desired by the enclosed Letters from Mr. Carkess. This method is taken, in order to discover their effects ; and you are to comply with it as far as is consistent with law and the duty of your office.

*Dartmouth.*

In 1741, at the request of A., a warrant issued, to permit A.'s eldest son to open and inspect any Letters which A.'s youngest son might write to two females, one of whom that youngest son had imprudently married. Two Warrants, in 1734, are issued, each at the instance of the creditors of a party who has absconded, it not being alleged that any positive fraud had been practised. One, issued in 1735, appears to have arisen out of a political libel ; another, in 1755, concerns a noted political libeller of the day, Dr. Shebbeare. One, in 1746, arises out of a robbery of bank-bills, the property of the Chamberlain of the City of London : all Letters sent by Post to Holland are to be examined ; and if any Letter appears to contain any of the stolen bills, it is to be opened ; and on suspicion of any Letter containing anything that may lead to a discovery, that Letter is to be stopped, opened, and inspected. Two Warrants, in 1738, and one in 1741, concern the practice, then in constant operation, of enlisting recruits in Ireland for the Irish Brigade in France.

The following two General Warrants, to which the Committee before made allusion, were issued in the eventful year, 1745 :

Secretary the Duke of Newcastle to the Postmaster-general, Sept. 20, 1745 :—To open and detain all (such) Letters, Packets, or Papers, printed or otherwise, as shall come to the General or other Post-office, suspected to contain matters of a dangerous tendency ; and to transmit them to the office of the Secretary of State.

Secretary the Duke of Newcastle to the Assistants of the Yarmouth and Chester Roads, Oct. 8, 1745 :—To open, inspect, and detain all such Letters and Packets as shall come to their offices, suspected to contain treasonable correspondence ; and to transmit them to the Secretary of State.

In 1783, the following Warrant was issued :

Whitehall, 10th February 1783.

To His Majesty's Postmasters-General.

My Lord and Sir,

I AM to desire, and do hereby authorize you, to stop and open all such Letters as are, or shall come to your hands, addressed to Lord George Gordon, at least such as may be supposed to come from the                    regiment, now on their march from                    to the northward, and any Letters from his Lordship to that quarter ; and to send me all the said Letters as soon as possible after you shall have so stopped and opened them ; and for so doing this shall be your Warrant.

*Thomas Townshend,*

Secretary of State for the Home Department.

To Lord Tankerville and the Right Hon.  
Henry Frederick Cartwright, Joint  
Postmasters-General.

Coming to the Warrants of the present century, Your Committee have noticed among them, issued during certain periods of the last war, some few of a very general nature. In 1800 and 1801, orders were given to the Postmaster-general to open all Letters addressed to persons in France, Flanders and Holland, and all Letters addressed to Dover, supposed to contain Letters addressed to France, Flanders, and Holland.

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As regards intestine commotion, Your Committee found that a Warrant was issued in 1799, to open the Letters of 17 persons at Manchester and Birmingham; one, in 1809, to open the Letters of 18 persons in Manchester and Liverpool. In 1812, Warrants were directed to the several Postmasters of Nottingham, Manchester, and Glasgow, directing them to open all such Letters, passing through these several post-offices, as should appear to *A. B.* (naming in each Warrant some particular individual) to be of a suspicious nature, and likely to convey seditious and treasonable information; or to contain money intended to be applied to the purpose of promoting seditious or other disturbances. A Warrant, nearly similar to the preceding, was issued, in 1813, to the Postmasters of Wareham and Weymouth, in Dorsetshire; and one, to the same purpose, in 1817, to the Postmaster of Nottingham. Among the names of persons, not now living, whose Letters were directed to be opened previously to the year 1822, are found those of Despard, Thistlewood, and Watson; and that of Mr. Hunt, once Member of Parliament for Preston.

With regard to the Warrants issued during the last 22 years and a half, Your Committee have not observed among them a single Warrant indefinite as to the number of persons coming within its scope. In every case the names are specified, and in one instance only does the number exceed 6. As regards this period, Your Committee would have abstained from giving particular information concerning any Warrant, and from naming a single individual whose letters have been directed to be opened, but for the notice which has been taken of the mode of executing certain Warrants, and the mention which has been made of the names of the parties included in certain others: these being the circumstances which have mainly led to the inquiry which Your Committee has been appointed to conduct. On these cases, therefore, Your Committee consider it their duty to report particularly.

The Warrants referred to are the following:

1. During the outbreak in the manufacturing and mining districts, which took place in August 1842, in the week of the greatest anxiety, a clerk was sent down from the London Post-office, with directions, under the authority of a Secretary of State's Warrant, to open the Letters of six parties named therein, all taking a prominent part in the disturbances of that period. In the same week, the same clerk was directed, under authority of two other such Warrants, to open the Letters of 10 other persons named, and a fortnight later to open the Letters of one other person; making 17 in all. Most of the persons whose Letters were ordered on this occasion to be opened, were indicted, and many both indicted and convicted, before the special commission appointed to try the parties concerned in those disturbances. With one exception, these Warrants were issued between the 18th and the 25th of August 1842, and they were all cancelled on the 14th of October.

About the same time, two clerks were sent down, to two provincial towns, each with directions under authority of a Secretary of State's Warrant, to open and examine the Letters addressed to one individual in each town: but in one of these cases there were no Letters to open. One clerk employed on this duty returned to his ordinary business after a week's absence, the other after an absence of 5 weeks.

2. In the autumn of 1843, during the disturbances which took place in South Wales, two clerks were sent down from the Post-office, into the disturbed districts, with directions, under authority of a Warrant from the Secretary of State, one to inspect the Letters of one person at a particular town, the other to inspect the Letters of another person at another town; and subsequently, under authority of a different Warrant, this second clerk was sent to a third town, there to inspect the Letters of a third person. In all three instances the persons whose Letters were to be inspected, were specifically named in the Warrant. One of these Warrants was in force 18, the other 7 days.

It is these facts, probably, that have given rise to the report of a Commission or Commissions having visited the manufacturing districts, charged with a general authority to open and inspect Letters.

3. The third of these cases is that of a Warrant to open and detain the Letters addressed to Mr. Mazzini. This Warrant was issued on the 1st of March, and cancelled on the 3d of June, in the present year. Throughout that period the intercepted correspondence was transmitted unread from the Home-office to the



Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The facts of the case, so far as Your Committee feel themselves at liberty to disclose them, appear to be as follows :

Representations had been made to the British Government, from high sources, that plots, of which Mr. Mazzini was the centre, were carrying on, upon British territory, to excite an insurrection in Italy : and that such insurrection, should it assume a formidable aspect, would, from peculiar political circumstances, disturb the peace of Europe. The British Government, considering the extent to which British interests were involved in the maintenance of that peace, issued on their own judgment, but not at the suggestion of any Foreign Power, a Warrant to open and detain Mr. Mazzini's letters. Such information deduced from those letters as appeared to the British Government calculated to frustrate this attempt, was communicated to a Foreign Power ; but the information so communicated was not of a nature to compromise, and did not compromise, the safety of any individual within the reach of that Foreign Power ; nor was it made known to that Power by what means, or from what source that information had been obtained.

4. A Warrant to open and detain all Letters addressed to Mr. Worcell and to Mr. Stolzmann was issued on the 17th of April 1844, and cancelled on the 20th of June.

5. A Warrant to open and detain all Letters addressed to Mr. Grodicki at Paris, and to another foreign gentleman, was issued on the 3d of June 1844, and cancelled on the 13th of the same month.

The last two Warrants rested on grounds connected with the personal safety of a Foreign Sovereign, entrusted to the protection of England. It appears to Your Committee that, under circumstances so peculiar, even a slight suspicion of danger would justify a minister in taking extraordinary measures of precaution. The Committee have not learned that there appeared in the letters that were detained, anything to criminate the gentlemen whom the Committee have very reluctantly named.

The Committee think it may be desirable for them to make known, that the above three Warrants are the only Warrants to open the Letters of foreigners which the present Government has issued.

The Warrants issued during the present century may be divided into two classes :

1st. Those issued in furtherance of criminal justice, and, usually, for the purpose of obtaining a clue to the hiding-place of some offender, or to the mode or place of concealment of property criminally abstracted : and these, for brevity's sake, the Committee will term Criminal Warrants.

2d. Those issued for the purpose of discovering the designs of persons known or suspected to be engaged in proceedings, dangerous to the State, or (as in Mazzini's case,) deeply involving British interests, and carried on in the United Kingdom or in British Possessions beyond the seas.

With regard to both these classes of Warrants, the object in issuing them has been, in many cases, to ascertain the views, not of the party receiving, but of the party sending, the letter.

In issuing these Warrants, the mode of proceeding is as follows :—

1st. In the case of Criminal Warrants, they do not originate with the Home-office. The application is made, in the first instance, to that one of the two Under Secretaries of State who is of the legal profession ; and the usual course is for the applicant to state the circumstances in writing ; but if the case be very urgent, owing to the time being too short, before the departure of the post, to draw out a written statement, that condition is sometimes dispensed with. The general object of this class of Warrants has been already stated ; and the principle which governs the issuing of them appears to be, not to make them subservient to private and family concerns, or to the support of a civil right, where an action only could be maintained, as in many cases of fraud or bankruptcy ; but to reserve the exercise of the power to those cases exclusively where crime has been committed, and in respect to which there is good ground to believe that correspondence is going on with a particular party, which is likely to lead to detection. If the Under Secretary accedes to the application, he submits the case to the Principal Secretary of State ; with whose approval, a Warrant is drawn  
by

by the head clerk of the Domestic Department, under the instructions of the Under Secretary, and is then signed by the Principal Secretary of State. A record of the date of the Warrant is kept under lock and key, in a private book, to which the two Under Secretaries and the above-mentioned head clerk have access. To the applicant information is given, according to circumstances, of the Post-mark or Address merely, or of the Contents of the Letters detained: or, if the case require it, the original Letter is put into his hands.

2d. In the case of Warrants of the second description, they originate with the Home-office. The Principal Secretary of State, of his own discretion, determines when to issue them, and gives instructions accordingly to the Under Secretary, whose office is then purely ministerial. The mode of preparing them, and keeping record of them in a private book, is the same as in the case of Criminal Warrants. There is no record kept of the grounds on which they are issued, except so far as correspondence preserved at the Home-office may lead to infer them.

Your Committee will here notice a statement which has been made, that instances have occurred of sending entire mail-bags with Letters to the Home-office for examination. Your Committee are satisfied that no instance of the kind has occurred. None but separate Letters or Packets are ever sent, out of the ordinary course, from the Post-office to the Home-office, and those never but under a Secretary of State's Warrant; and that Warrant usually directs that a Letter or Letters, directed to certain persons, or written in a certain hand-writing, be detained; and that either a copy of the post-mark, or of the address, or of the contents, or that extracts from the contents, or the Letters themselves be sent to the Principal Secretary of State. In some cases the Warrant directs that some deputy postmaster shall communicate information to the same effect to a magistrate, or some other person, in the country; and when that is the case, the presence of some third person, named in the warrant, is usually required.

It may, perhaps, be necessary to state that, in some very few cases, the Secretary of State has been required to authorize the Postmaster-general to return to the writer a Letter, which has been already posted. Some doubt seems to have existed how far this can lawfully be done. In the year 1795, Holland being in the occupation of the French army, one of the principal Secretaries of State, by Warrant under his hand and seal, detained the entire Mails of the 13th, 16th, and 20th of January, intended for that country; and an Act of Parliament (35 G. 3, cap. 62) was passed to enable the Postmaster-general "to open the Letters contained in those Mails, and return the same to the parties by whom they were written, signed, or sent." A case nearly similar occurred regarding the Ham-burgh Mail (see 47 Geo. 3, session 2, c. 53), in 1807. The number of Warrants issued under this head from 1799 to 1844 is 7, as stated in the Abstract.

The general conclusion which the Committee draw from the Returns before abstracted is, that in equal intervals of time these Warrants have been issued in nearly equal number, by the several Administrations which have been in power from the commencement of 1799 until now. For although in certain years, in consequence of internal commotion, it happened that the number of Warrants issued by certain Secretaries of State, was unusually great, yet in other years, if they continued sufficiently long in office, the number of Warrants they issued for similar purposes proved to be unusually small; so that the annual average of all the Warrants they issued, during the whole period of their continuance in office, did not rise materially above the general annual mean.

The general average of the Warrants issued during the present century, does not much exceed 8 a-year. This number would comprehend, on an average, the Letters of about 16 persons annually; but how many Letters to and from each person coming within the scope of these Warrants, have, on an average, been opened, Your Committee have no means of estimating, since no record of the number of Letters detained and opened under Warrant has been kept by the Post-office; but there is no reason to believe that number to be great; and the Committee have ascertained that, in the case of many Warrants, no Letters whatever have been opened. Those which do not appear to relate to the object for which the Warrant is issued do not undergo particular examination. Of the average number of days for which a Warrant is in force, the Committee cannot form any just estimate. It was only as regards the Warrants issued from 1822 to 1844 that any Return was made to Your Committee, showing how long they continued in operation; and in the early part of this period, there appears to have

been some inattention in seeing to their timely revocation; it is probable that many a Warrant had become inoperative long before the period when it was cancelled. In that respect there is a marked improvement in the practice of the present Home Secretary as compared with that of his predecessors; since the average duration of the Warrants issued since September 1841, does not exceed 40 days; and in many cases it is as low as 3 or 4 days.

From the Abstract that has been given of the Warrants issued in the present century, it appears that about two-thirds of them were Criminal Warrants; for by far the greater portion of those marked "Uncertain," appears to belong to this class.

So far as the Criminal Warrants go, no suspicion arises that unfairness or partiality has directed their issue. With regard to the other class of Warrants, though there have been some few issued by different Administrations that have been in power during the last 22 years, in regard to which it is obvious that on a subsequent review of the facts, a difference of opinion might arise, as to the discretion exercised in each particular case, yet Your Committee see no reason to doubt that the conduct of the Secretaries of State belonging to each of those Administrations, has been guided by no other motive than an anxious desire to preserve the public peace, with the maintenance of which they were charged.

It does not appear to Your Committee necessary to follow the Warrant from the time of its reception at the Post-office, to that of its execution. The Letters which have been detained and opened are, unless retained by special order, as sometimes happens in criminal cases, closed and resealed, without affixing any mark to indicate that they have been so detained and opened; and are forwarded by post according to their respective superscriptions.

There are other cases, under the 33d and 36th chapters of the 1st of Victoria, besides the case we have been considering, in which Post Letters may lawfully be detained, or delayed, or opened, by an officer of the Post-office. These excepted cases are the following: when the person consents, to whom the Letter is directed; when the Letter is returned for want of due direction; when the person to whom it is directed is dead or cannot be found, or shall have refused it, or shall have refused or neglected to pay the Postage thereof. If any Letter not included in the above exceptional cases be opened, delayed, detained, or abstracted at the Post-office, through the malpractices of any officers of that department, such offenders are liable to severe punishment under the latter of these Acts.

With regard to all other Inland Letters, Your Committee are assured by the Postmaster-general, by the Secretary of the Post-office, and by the President of the Inland Department at the General Post-office, that the secrecy of correspondence is inviolate; and this assurance they have seen no reason to doubt.

Your Committee will here notice a statement which has been made, that Letter-bags from Dublin, Brighton, and other places, have of late, before being opened, been taken, out of the usual course, into an inner room of the Inland-office at the General Post-office, for the purpose of being there examined. The allegation of fact is correct, so far as counting the Letters, and observing their external appearance, goes. This is frequently done, in order to ascertain the condition of the bags on their arrival, before their contents are delivered over to be sorted, it having been found a necessary check upon the commission of irregularities by the subordinate functionaries of the Post-office; but this examination has no connexion whatever with the opening of Letters under Warrant, and it is not the method practised when Letters are detained and opened by authority of the Secretary of State.

On the subject of the Foreign Department at the General Post-office, the secrecy of private correspondence, Your Committee are assured, is kept inviolate. Certain Warrants bearing respectively the signatures of the Right hon. Charles James Fox, when Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in 1782, and of his successor, the Marquis of Carmarthen, were laid before Your Committee; which, being of a very comprehensive nature, have, in conjunction with other information, induced Your Committee to believe that diplomatic correspondence, when posted in ordinary course, incurred in this country and in the other great States of Europe nearly equal risk of inspection. How long similar Warrants continued, and when they were finally recalled, Your Committee have no information, nor do they think it their duty to report as to any practice which may have existed in reference to this part of the subject. Of this they are satisfied,

satisfied, that no such Warrants or practices now exist; and that public as well as private correspondence, foreign as well as domestic, passing through the Office in regular course, now enjoys complete security, subject only to the contingency of a Secretary of State's Warrant, directed for special reasons against a particular Letter or Letters.

In making the above statement, however, it is right to observe that there exists another channel of communication with foreign countries, by means of the King's Messengers and Foreign-office bags. This is not under the control of the Postmaster-general, but of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. It is conducted by officers appointed and paid by the latter, from whom alone they receive their orders, and to whom alone they are responsible. Some years ago no inconsiderable number of private Letters, passing between this and foreign countries, was sent and received by these bags; but this abuse (for such it was, as payment of postage was thus evaded) has been almost entirely discontinued; and Your Committee believe that at present the bags contain little more than the official correspondence of our own diplomatic agents, and of the Ministers of such foreign states as may choose to avail themselves of that mode of transmitting their despatches. The authority of Your Committee extends no farther than to inquire how correspondence is dealt with, while remaining in the custody of the Post-office.

It remains for your Committee, after treating of the correspondence in Great Britain, to make a brief statement as to the law and practice regarding the same matters in Ireland. The Statute of Anne extended to that country, and whatever legal force the Warrants of the Principal Secretaries of State, directing the opening of Letters, had in Great Britain, the same force those Warrants had in Ireland. But previously to the passing, in 1783, of the Irish Statute, the 23d & 24th of Geo. 3, c. 17, intituled, "An Act for Establishing a Post-office in this Kingdom," the Principal Secretaries of State were in the habit of delegating to the Lord Lieutenant authority for this purpose. Nor was this all, for by a Warrant, dated October 31st, 1740, Secretary the Duke of Newcastle directs Sir Marmaduke Wyvill, the Postmaster-general for Ireland, to open and detain all such Letters as the Duke of Devonshire, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, or any other person appointed by him, should authorize and direct: copies to be sent to the Duke.

The necessity for having recourse to a twice-delegated authority was removed by the Statute above referred to, which gave the same indemnity to persons in Ireland, opening Letters by authority of the Lord Lieutenant, that the Statute of Anne gave to persons in Great Britain and Ireland, opening Letters by authority of a Principal Secretary of State.

Your Committee here submit an Abstract of the Warrants issued by the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, to the Postmaster-general for Ireland, for every year, from 1832 to the present time, being a period of years 12  $\frac{1}{2}$ . They have added another Abstract arranging the Warrants under different heads, according to the grounds whereon they were issued:—

YEAR.	NUMBER OF WARRANTS.	Number of Persons Comprehended in the said Warrants.
1832 - - - - -	1	1
1833 - - - - -	0	0
1834 - - - - -	3	3
1835 - - - - -	1	1
1836 - - - - -	2	4
1837 - - - - -	4	8
1838 - - - - -	1	1
1839 - - - - -	9	16
1840 - - - - -	2	11
1841 - - - - -	3	9
1842 - - - - -	3	3
1843 - - - - -	2	3
1844 - - - - -	0	0
<b>TOTAL - - -</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>60</b>

## REPORT FROM THE

Crimes, murder, robbery, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Ribbonism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Sedition, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bankruptcy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Forging a Post-office stamp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Letter returned to the writer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>31</u>

The Lords Lieutenant and others who have signed these Warrants are arranged in the following List, according to date :—

Year.	
1832	- Marquis of Anglesey.
1834	- E. J. Littleton (Secretary)
—	- Marquis Wellesley.
1835	- Earl of Mulgrave.
1836	- Ditto.
—	- T. Drummond (Secretary).
1837	- Ditto.
—	- Lord Plunkett (one of the Lords Justices).
—	- Archbishop of Dublin - (ditto).
1838	- Lord Morpeth (Secretary).
1839	- Marquess of Normanby.
—	- Lord Viscount Ebrington.
—	- Gen. Sir T. Blakeney (one of the Lords Justices).
1840	- Lord Viscount Ebrington.
1841	- Chief Justice Bushe (one of the Lords Justices).
—	- Earl de Grey.
1842	- Ditto.
—	- Sir E. Sugden (one of the Lords Justices).
1843	- Earl de Grey.

The Warrants issued in Ireland do not exceed 3 per annum, on the average. Each Warrant comprehends, on the average, about two persons.

The only Warrant which bears the signature of the late Chief Justice Bushe, one of the Lords Justices, was issued with a view to obtain a clue to a murder; but it appearing that the magistrate to whom it was sent had applied for it for another purpose, that of ascertaining the state of the country, this was not assented to, and the Warrant was not acted upon.

There are no data to show how many Letters were opened under each Warrant; nor how long each Warrant remained in force: 4 of the 31 Warrants bear the Signature of only the Secretary for Ireland. More than a third of the Warrants concern Ribbonism, which wore a peculiarly threatening aspect in one particular year. The Letters in Ireland are not opened by the Postmaster-General, but by a confidential clerk in the Office of the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

The Committee have, in conclusion, to lay before The House the following observations for their consideration, arising out of the facts which it has been their duty to state.

1. With regard to the utility of the Warrants issued in furtherance of Criminal Justice, their annual average in Great Britain does not exceed 6, and this number of Warrants does not extend to the Letters of more, on an average, than 12 persons a year. There is no evidence whatever to show in what proportion of cases these Warrants lead to discovery. On the one hand therefore it will be doubted by some, taking into account the strong moral feeling which exists against the practice of opening Letters, with its accompaniments of mystery and concealment, whether it is worth retaining in this class of cases. On the other hand it must be admitted that these are not the cases in favour of which public feeling is most enlisted; and that of all that give rise to the exercise of this power, they present the least temptation to abuse.

2. With regard to the utility of such Warrants, for the detection of seditious conspiracies, or other practices endangering the public safety, or the discovery of the views entertained by those who engage in them, it would be unreasonable to deny that, in certain cases, this practice may have aided the Executive Government, in various ways, and, amongst others which are more obvious, by informing them of the real strength of the conspirators and extent of their combinations, and thus preventing the Ministers of the time from taking exaggerated views of the

the force arrayed against the State, and claiming extraordinary powers to meet apprehended danger. Still, however, the argument derived from the smallness of the number of Warrants as compared with the number of persons who may be supposed to entertain such criminal designs, is not to be lost sight of; while, on the other hand, it must be admitted that the number of those to whom this class of Warrants would apply, as being the chosen leaders of multitudes would not be very great. The Warrants of this class have amounted, on the average, to little more than 2 a year, which would extend to little more than 4 persons. The greatest number of Warrants of this description, issued in any year within the present century, is about 16, extending in these cases to between 40 or 50 persons. In addition to the argument derived from the smallness of the number affected, it must not be forgotten that, after the publicity given to the fact, that the Secretary of State has occasionally recourse to the opening of Letters as a means of defence in dangerous and difficult times, few who hereafter may engage in dangerous designs, will venture to communicate their intentions by the medium of the Post; and the importance of retaining the power, as a measure of detective police, will consequently be greatly diminished. The last argument, however, supposes that there is no absolute certainty that a letter may not be intercepted; and it may appear to some, that to leave it a mystery whether or no this power is ever exercised, is the way best calculated to deter the evil-minded from applying the Post to improper uses. It must also be remembered that if such a power as this were formally abolished, the question would not be left quite in the same condition as though the power had never been exercised or disputed; by withdrawing it, every criminal and conspirator against the public peace would be publicly assured that he should enjoy secure possession of the easiest, cheapest, and most unobserved channel of communication, and that the Secretary of State would not under any circumstances interfere with his correspondence. It must not be forgotten, however, that at present other rapid means of communicating their views are of easy access to the evil intentioned, and that, as far as internal order is concerned, the same rapid means afford the Government unexampled facilities for suppressing tumult.

If the result of this Inquiry had been such as to impress Your Committee with a conviction of the importance of the frequent use of this power in the ordinary administration of affairs, they would have been prepared to recommend some Legislative measures for its regulation and control; and it might not be difficult to devise Regulations which would materially diminish the objections to its exercise; as, for example, that no Criminal Warrant should be issued except on a written information on oath; that a formal record should be preserved in the Secretary of State's Office of the grounds on which every Warrant had been issued, of the time during which it has remained in force, of the number of Letters opened under it, and of the results obtained. It is, however, on the other hand, to be considered whether any legislative measure of this kind might not have an indirect effect in giving an additional sanction to the power in question, and thereby possibly extending its use.

Under these circumstances it will be for Parliament to consider whether they will determine upon any legislative regulation, or whether they will prefer leaving the power, on its present footing in point of law, in the hands of the Secretary of State, to be used, on his responsibility, in those cases of emergency in which, according to the best of his judgment, its exercise would be sanctioned by an enlightened public opinion, and would appear to be strongly called for by important public interests.

5 August 1844.

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**LIST OF APPENDIX.**

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**DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF THE POST-OFFICE.**

**Abstract of the Documents given in by Sir F. Palgrave, Deputy Keeper of the Records - pp. 21-25**

**Abstract of Documents from the State Paper Office, relating to the Office of Postmaster-General, Conveyance of Letters, &c. delivered in by Mr. Lechmere, Deputy Keeper of State Papers - - - - - pp. 26, 27**

**List of Documents relating to the Office of Postmaster, &c. delivered in by Mr. Reeve, from the Council Office - - - - - p. 28**

**List of Miscellaneous Documents relating to the Office of Postmaster, &c. included in the Appendix - - - - - p. 28**

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**DOCUMENTS SPECIALLY RELATING TO THE SEARCH AND EXAMINATION OF LETTERS.**

**Abstract of the Documents specially relating to the Search and Examination of Letters, given in by Sir F. Palgrave, Deputy Keeper of the Records - - - - - p. 95**

**Abstract of Documents from the State Paper Office, relating to the intercepting of Letters, delivered in by Mr. Lechmere, Deputy Keeper of State Papers - - - - - p. 96**

**List of Miscellaneous Documents relating to the intercepting of Letters, &c. - - - - - p. 96**

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## APPENDIX TO THE REPORT

FROM THE

## SECRET COMMITTEE ON THE POST-OFFICE.

## DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF THE POST-OFFICE.

ABSTRACT of the DOCUMENTS given in by Sir *F. Palgrave*, Deputy Keeper of the Records.—(1 to 19.)

THE Royal "Nuncii et Cursores" constituted a very important branch of the Royal Establishment, and the payments to them form a very large and important item in the Household and Wardrobe Accounts from the earliest period when those accounts exist. Specimens are herewith given of such payments from Hen. 3 to Hen. 4, viz. 36 & 37 Hen. 3, 13 & 14 Edw. 1, 18 Edw. 2, 27 Edw. 3, 50 Edw. 3, and 4 & 5 Hen. 4. These Messengers were employed both in England and in foreign parts, and as well on affairs of State as what may be considered as the private and confidential business of the Crown and Royal Family, and the individuals attached to or composing the Royal Court. These Messengers, so attached to the Court, became the foundation of the establishment, which, about the time of Hen. 8, (or somewhat earlier, assumed the form of the regular establishment of the Post; and the information connected with them is important, as showing that the institution was intimately connected with the person of the Sovereign, and that, in the first instance, it was his convenience that was sought. Those servants who, by usage, were more particularly employed upon State affairs, probably became those who are now specially termed the "Queen's Messengers." *Post office messengers*

1 to 6.  
App. i. to vi.

## Patent Roll, 37 Hen. VIII. Part 36, m. 10.

12 November 1545.—The King, in consideration of the good services of his beloved Councillor, William Paget, knight, one of his Chief Secretaries, and John Mason, esq. the Secretary for the French Tongue, grants to them, or the survivor of them, the office of Master of the Messengers, Runners, or Posts, as well within the kingdom of England as in parts beyond the seas in the King's dominions, together with the wages or fee of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for the exercise and occupation of the said office; to hold and enjoy the same to them during their lives and the life of the survivor, by themselves or their sufficient deputy or deputies, and also receiving the said fee of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* during their lives and the life of the survivor annually, from the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel then last, at the four usual days of payment in the year, in as full and large a manner as Brian Tuke\*, knight, or any other person held the same office.

7.  
App. viii.

\* It appears from a letter in the Cottonian Collection (Galba, B. iv. 43 b.), that Sir Brian Tuke was Postmaster of England in 1516, but his appointment is not found upon the Rolls, though many other appointments and grants to him are enrolled.

## Patent Roll, 9 Eliz., Part 11, ms. 8, 28.

4 May 1567.—The Queen, in consideration of the good services of Thomas Randolph, gentleman, grants to him during life the office of Master of the Messengers and Runners, commonly called the Queen's Posts, as well within the kingdom of England as in parts beyond the seas in the Queen's dominions\*, together with the wages or fee of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for the exercise and occupation of the said office; to hold and enjoy the same to him by himself or his sufficient deputy or deputies, and also receiving the said wages or fee of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* annually, from the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel then last, at the four usual days of payment within the year, in as full and large a manner as John Mason, knight, or any other person held the same office.

8.  
App. xi.

\* The form of "parts beyond the Seas" is merely repetition of the clause in the grant to Mason, where it applied to Calais.

## Records of the Pipe Office.

17 Dec. 15 Elizabeth, 1572.—Account declared by Thomas Randolphe, as Master of the Posts, as is usual, setting forth his Patent in the heading, from the 1 Oct. 8 Elizabeth, to the 30 Sept. 13 Elizabeth; setting forth the disbursements for the wages and entertainment of the ordinary Posts as well as the Court, and between London and Berwick as between Berwick and Carlisle, and other places within the realm, for the conveyance of the letters of the Queen and her Councillors, and for other Her Majesty's service.

This document sets forth as well the ordinary and extraordinary Posts, the latter during the Queen's progresses, and like the earlier accounts, shows the connexion between the Post Establishment and the Sovereign.

9.  
App. xii.



## Patent Roll, 32 Eliz. Part 8. m. 40.

10.  
App. xiii.

20 June 1590.—The Queen, in consideration of the services of John Stanhope, esq<sup>r</sup>. grants to him the office of Master of the Messengers and Runners, commonly called the Queen's Posts, as well within the kingdom of England as in parts beyond the seas within the Queen's dominions, together with the wages of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for the exercise and occupation of the said office; to hold and enjoy the same to him during his life, by himself or his sufficient deputy or deputies, and also receiving the said wages of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* annually, from the Feast of the Annunciation then last, during his life, at the four usual days of payment within the year, in as full and large a manner as John Mason, knight, or Thomas Randolphe, lately deceased, or any other person, held the same office.

## Patent Roll, 5 James I. Part 23.

11.  
App. xix.

26 July 1607.—Letters Patent reciting the grant of the 20 June, 32 Eliz. to John Stanhope, knight, Lord Stanhope of Harrington, the King's Vice-Chamberlain, of the office of Master of the Posts, which grant the said Lord Stanhope had surrendered to the King, who had accepted such surrender.

The King therefore grants to the said Lord Stanhope of Harrington, and to Charles Stanhope, his son and heir apparent, the said office of Master of the Messengers and Runners, commonly called the King's Posts, as well within the kingdom of England as in parts beyond the seas within the King's dominions, together with the wages or fee of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for the exercise and occupation of the said office; to hold and enjoy the same to him the said Lord Stanhope, by himself or his sufficient deputy or deputies during his natural life from the time of the sealing of the said Letters Patent, and after the decease, surrender, or forfeiture of the said Lord Stanhope, to hold the same to the said Charles Stanhope, by himself or his sufficient deputy or deputies, during his natural life, in the same manner as John Mason, knight, Thomas Randolph, late deceased, the said John Stanhope, or any other person, held the same; with a proviso that if the said Lord Stanhope should surrender the said Letters Patent, the same Letters Patent should be void, as well against the said Charles Stanhope as against him the said Lord Stanhope.

25 April, 13 Car. I. 1637.—Memorandum of the surrender of the Letters Patent by Charles Lord Stanhope, and the enrolment is cancelled on the Roll accordingly.

Pell Enrolments, Vol. 3. pp. 12<sup>b</sup>, 28<sup>b</sup>.12.  
App. xxi.

26 Oct. 18 Jac. I. 1620.—Privy Seal directed to the Lords and others of the Treasury, &c., noticing that by another Privy Seal, dated 21 March, 8 Jac. I. the King had discharged certain stages of posts which had not been beforetime usually maintained and were not necessary but only in time of war, the stage of London serving for the western parts, the stages of Staines, Hartford Bridge, Basingstoke, Andover, Salisbury, Shaftesbury, Sherborne, Crookhorn, Honington, Exeter, Ashburton, and Plymouth: and that inasmuch as the necessary dispatch of letters and packets required the re-establishment of the said stages from London to Plymouth, they are commanded to pay Lord Stanhope, as Master of the Posts, the rates of the posts so re-established, as set forth in the schedule.

5 June, 19 Jac. I. 1621.—Privy Seal addressed to the Treasurer of the Exchequer, directing, amongst other things, that the service and employment of the posts in divers parts of the kingdom should be continued for the sending of letters and packets, by commandment of the King and Privy Council, and that the wages and allowances for each of the posts should be from time to time paid quarterly, according to the list or schedule annexed to the Privy Seal, amounting in the whole to 3,404*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* per annum.

The list of the Posts in the Schedule is the following:

Towards *Berwicke*.—London, Waltham, Ware, Royston, Baberham, Newmarket, Caxton, Huntingdon, Stilton, Stamford, South Wytham, Grantham, Newark, Tuxford, Strooby, Doncaster, Ferrybriggs, Tadcaster, York, Wetherby, Burroughbryggs, Cathericke, Bowes, Burghe, Perith, Northallerton, Darnton, Durisme, Newcastle, Hexam, Thurlwall, Carlisle, Morpeth, Alnwick, Belford, Berwick.

Towards *Dover*.—London, Dartford, Gravesend, Rochester, Seddingborne, Canterbury, Margate, Sandwich, Dover.

Towards *Hollihead*.—London, Barnet, St. Alban's, Breckhill, Tocester, Dayntry, Coventry, Bremigham, Bewdley, Colshill, Lichfield, Stone, Nantwich, Chester, Northupp, Rutland, Conway, Beamoris, Holyhead.

Towards *Plymouth*.—London, Staines, Hartford-bridge, Basingstoke, Andover, Salisbury, Shaftesbury, Sherborne, Crookehorne, Honiton, Exeter, Ashburton, Plymouth.

## Patent Roll, 7 Charles I, Part 28, no. 4.

15 March 1634.—Letters Patent, reciting certain Letters Patent,\* dated 30 April, 17 Jac. 1, whereby James I, appointed that there should be one office or place called Postmaster of England for foreign parts, being out of the King's dominions; that the office should be a sole office of itself, and not member or part of any other office or place of Postmaster whatsoever, and that there should be one sufficient person or persons to be by the King from time to time nominated and appointed, who should be called the Postmaster or Postmasters of England for foreign parts, being out of the King's dominions, unto which person or persons the King appointed full powers and authority, by himself or themselves, or his or their deputy or deputies, servant or servants, to have the sole taking up, sending, and conveying all packets and letters concerning the service of the King, and of all other packets and letters, the conveying whereof had been taken to have been incident or properly belonging to any Postmaster into the said foreign parts; and for the considerations therein mentioned the King appointed Mathew de Quester, and Mathew de Quester, his son, to the said office; to hold to them the said Mathew de Quester, the father, and Mathew de Quester, the son, as well by themselves, or either of them, as by their or either of their sufficient deputy or deputies, during the natural lives of Mathew de Quester, the father, and Mathew de Quester, the son, the said office or place of Postmaster of England for foreign parts, for their natural lives and the life of the survivor.

Further noticing the grant to Lord Stanhope and his son, and the complaint made by Lord Stanhope, the decision against him by the referees, the death of Mathew de Quester, the son, and that Mathew de Quester, the father, was yet living; the King therefore declares his will and pleasure, that the office shall have perpetual continuance, and grants unto William Frizell and Thomas Withering, gentlemen, the office or place of Postmaster of England for foreign parts out of the King's dominions, to do all things to the said office belonging and appertaining, to hold, exercise, and enjoy the said office of Postmaster of England for foreign parts out of the King's dominions, together with all powers, &c. by themselves or either of them, or their or either of their sufficient deputies, during their natural lives and the life of the survivor, from and after and as soon as the said office shall become void by the death, surrender, forfeiture, or other determination of the estate of Mathew de Quester, the father. The King prohibits all persons other than the said William Frizell and Thomas Withering, from intruding themselves in the said office after the determination of the estate of Mathew de Quester, and the Lord Chamberlain, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Secretaries of State, &c., in their several jurisdictions and places are not only to be aiding and assisting the said Frizell and Withering, but to the utmost of their power to repress all intruders.

## Patent Roll, 12 Charles II, Part 23, m. 26.

14 August 1680.—The King, in consideration of the services of Henry Bishopp, of Henfield, in the county of Sussex, esq., grants to him the office of Master of the Messengers and Runners, commonly called the King's Posts, as well within the Kingdom of England as in other the King's dominions in other parts beyond the seas, to hold and enjoy the same, by himself or his sufficient deputy or deputies, from the 25th June then last to the end of the term of seven years, in the same manner as John Stanhope, knt., Lord Stanhope, of Harrington, Mathew de Quester, William Frizell, Thomas Withering, or any one else, held the same, together with various clauses for the greater security of the patentee.

## Pell Enrolments of Letters Patent, &amp;c. vol 3, pp. 54—62.

1 Sept., 12 Charles II.—Indenture between the King of the one part, and the before-mentioned Henry Bishopp of the other part, reciting the Letters Patent of the 14th August, and that it is intended that Bishopp, his Executors, &c., and his and their deputy and deputies, should use, exercise, and enjoy all and every the powers, privileges, profits, and advantages expressed in a pretended Act of Parliament made in the year 1656, for the settling the Postage of England, Scotland, and Ireland: It is witnessed, that in consideration of the rents and covenants thereafter mentioned to be paid and performed by Bishopp, his Executors, &c.; and in consideration of 5,375 *l.* paid into the receipt of the Exchequer in advance of the yearly rent thereafter mentioned, the King covenants to and with Bishopp, his Executors, &c., that Parliament should be moved speedily and effectually by His Majesty to pass an Act of Parliament in the due and usual form for the settlement of the said Postage and the profits thereof on his said Majesty as part of the revenue of his said Majesty; and that from and after the passing of the Act it should be lawful for Bishop, his Executors, &c., and for no other person or persons during the said term of seven years, to have, hold, use, exercise, and enjoy all and every the powers, &c. which shall be mentioned in the intended Act.

Covenant from Bishop for payment at the Receipt of the Exchequer of the yearly rent of 21,500 *l.* upon the four usual quarterly days of payment, excepting the last quarter, which is to be abated in respect of the advance so made by him.

Proviso for re-entry, and making void the Letters Patent or Grant, as well as the lease, in case of the non-payment of the rent for more than 30 days.

13.

App. xxxiii.

\* Search has been made for this Patent, but no enrolment is found, nor is it amongst the Privy Seals of the year.

14.

App. lvi.

15.

App. lviii.

That is to say, that the Royal Service should be performed by the Postmaster, in the same manner as if the grant of the 14 August had not been controlled by the lease, the grant and the lease having become an entire transaction.

This clause was probably inserted, *ex abundante cautela*, to prevent the Royal Prerogative being affected by the lease which placed the Postmaster in a situation, that of being a carrier for hire.

Covenants from Bishopp that he, his Executors, &c. shall, at the rates mentioned in the pretended Act of Parliament, defray the whole charges of carrying and re-carrying packets and mails of letters and other things, and all other charges whatever in maintaining the office; and that all letters, packets, and dispatches, ordinary and extraordinary, from or to the King, the Lord High Admiral, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Treasurer, or Commissioners of the Treasury, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, or any of them, and all single inland letters only of the members of the then Session of Parliament, should be conveyed and carried either by the common and ordinary mail, or other speedy and safe passage, free from the payment of any rates or portage.

And that in case any complaint shall happen concerning the management of the office, Bishopp, his Executors, &c. shall submit the same to the hearing and determination of the Secretaries of State for the time being, or either of them; and shall permit the Secretaries of State for the time being, or either of them, from time to time, and at all times during the term, to have the survey and inspection of all letters within the office at their or either of their discretion.

And further, that Bishopp, his Executors, &c. shall give and deliver to the Secretaries of State, or one of them, a list of all Postmasters and other officers employed by Bishopp, his Executors, &c., in and about the executing of the office; and in case any just and reasonable exception shall be taken by the Secretaries of State, or either of them, against any person or persons so employed by Bishopp, &c., he, Bishopp, will remove such person or persons.

Further, that Bishopp, his Executors, &c., shall offer unto the Secretaries of State for their approbation all alteration of the then settled Post stages, and all such erections of new stages as should be thought fit by Bishopp, his Executors, &c., to be altered and erected for the better management and advantage of the Office, which alterations shall not be made unless the same be first approved by the said Secretaries, or one of them.

Provisos for abatements in the rent in case of plague in London, or in any other inland city to which the Postage of letters is usual; or civil or foreign war; or if the grant should prove to be ineffectual in part or in whole by reason of any precedent, right of any person or persons unto any part or parts of the said Office; or through any defect in the Act of Parliament intended to be passed as before-mentioned, or through any other defect in the grant of the said Office.

Proviso in case of insufficient abatements and allowances being made to Bishopp, &c., that he may, on three months notice to the Secretaries of State, or one of them, and payment of all arrears of rent, surrender his office, and that the Crown should accept the office; and that from the time of such surrender all covenants and agreements on the part of Bishopp shall be null and void.

Covenant from Bishopp not to take any greater rates than such as in the pretended Act are limited.

Covenant from the Crown for quiet enjoyment and further assurance.

Pell Inrolments, vol. 3, pp. 62-66.

16.  
App. LVII.

14 February 1660/1. Certificate of Sir Edward Nicholas and Sir William Morice, the two Principal Secretaries of State, stating, among other matters, that Bishop had made it appear to them that he could not enjoy part of his profits by reason of his having been unable to compel the due payment by Members of Parliament, for packets of letters carried to and from London for them, over and above the single letters, according to the indenture.

Farthermore, that he had made it appear that, for want of the passing of the intended Act of Parliament, and for want of a legal power to restrain all other posts from running or riding posts, according to the intention of the indenture of covenants, there are several posts which constantly run to and from London, beside those appointed by him.

Also, that Bishop had sustained loss by carrying letters and packets for the commissioners for the government of Ireland, residing in Ireland, not having had any pay or allowance for the same; and that they themselves had, by special command of the king, appointed Bishop to carry several letters and packets sent to the Post-office, from time to time, by the Commissioners of the Army in England, without demanding or receiving anything for the same.

Auditor's Privy Seal Book, No. 2, pp. 146-149.

17.  
App. LVIII.

22 January, 13 Charles II., 1661/2. Privy Seal addressed to the Treasury, &c. reciting, among other things, the appointment of Thomas Parnell, esq. to be the King's own letter-carrier, to attend the court or place of residence of the King, to receive and deliver at and from the Post-office, or such stage thereof as should happen to be next the court or Royal place of residence for the time being, the King's public letters and despatches for the King's immediate service.

Patent Roll, 15 Charles II., Part 9, m. 9.

18.  
App. LIX.

29 April. The King, for divers good causes and considerations, grants to Daniel O'Neile, esq., one of the grooms of the chamber, the office of master-general of the messengers and runners, commonly called the office of Postmaster-general, and also the office, called

called by the name and style of his Majesty's Postmaster-general, and also the office of Postmaster-general; and also appoints the said Daniel O'Neile Master-general of the King's Messengers and Runners, called in English our Postmaster-general, and also the office called by the name and style of His Majesty's Postmaster-general; to hold and enjoy the same, by himself or his sufficient deputy, from the 25th of March then last past, for the term of four years and one quarter, together with all wages, fees, &c. belonging to the office, in the same manner as John Stanhope, knight, Lord Stanhope of Harrington, Matthew de Quester, William Frizell, Thomas Withering, or Henry Bishop, or any one else, held the same; together with various clauses for the greater security of the patentee.

Patent Roll, 15 Charles II. Part 9, m. 8.

29 April, 15 Charles II. 1663. Indenture between the King, of the one part, and the before-mentioned Daniel O'Neile of the other part, reciting the letters patent to Bishop, of the 14th August, 12 Car. II., and that Bishop, by deed poll, dated 6th April instant, and duly inrolled in Chancery, had surrendered all his estate and interest in the office.

19.  
App. lx.

Also reciting the grant to O'Neile, and also reciting that it was intended that O'Neile, his executors, and his and their sufficient deputies, should exercise and enjoy all the powers, privileges, profits, and advantages, given, granted, or expressed in the late Act of Parliament for erecting a Post-office.

It is witnessed, in consideration of the rents and covenants thereafter reserved and contained, to be paid and performed by O'Neile, &c., the King grants to O'Neile, his executors, &c., that it shall be lawful for O'Neile, his executors, &c., and for no other person or persons whatsoever, during the said term of four years and a quarter, to have, hold, use, exercise, and enjoy, all the powers, privileges, profits, and advantages, given, granted, or expressed in the said Act of Parliament.

Covenant from O'Neile for the payment, at the Receipt of the Exchequer, of the yearly rent of 21,500 *l.* upon the four usual quarter-days of payment, excepting the last quarter, which is to be abated in respect of the advance of 5,375 *l.* paid in advance by Bishop, for one quarter's rent beforehand.

Proviso for re-entry, and making void the letters patent or gran, as well as the lease, in case of non-payment of the rent for more than 30 days.

Covenant from O'Neile, that he, his executors, &c. shall, at the rates mentioned in the said Act of Parliament, defray the whole charge of carrying and recarrying the packets and mails of letters, and other things, and all other charges whatsoever in maintaining the office; and that all letters, packets, and despatches, ordinary or extraordinary, from or to the King, the Lord High Admiral, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Treasurer, or the Commissioners of the Treasury, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and the Secretaries of State, and all the single inland letters only of the Members of the then present Parliament, during the continuance of the Session of Parliament, should be conveyed and carried either by the common or ordinary mail, or other speedy and safe passage, free from the payment of any rates or portage; and that in case any complaints shall happen concerning the management of the office, O'Neile, his executors, &c., shall submit the same to the hearing and determination of the Secretaries of State for the time being, or either of them; and shall permit the Secretaries of State for the time being, or either of them, from time to time, and at all times during the term, to have the survey and inspection of all letters within the office or offices aforesaid, at their or either of their discretion.

And further, that O'Neile, his executors, &c. shall give and deliver to the Secretaries of State, or one of them, a list of the Postmasters and other officers employed by O'Neile, &c. in and about the executing of the office; and in case any just and reasonable exception shall be taken by the Secretaries of State, or either of them, against any person or persons so employed by O'Neile, he (O'Neile) will remove such person or persons.

Further, that O'Neile, his executors, &c. shall offer to the Secretaries of State for their approbation, all alterations of the then settled post-stages, and all such erections and new post stages as should be thought fit by O'Neile, his executors, &c. to be altered and erected for the better management and advantage of the office; which alterations shall not be made unless the same shall be first approved by the said Secretaries or one of them.

Provisoes for abatement of the rent, in case of plague in London or any other city, inland or foreign, into which the postage of letters is usual, or civil or foreign war; or if the grant should prove to be ineffectual, either in part or in whole, by reason of any precedent, right of any person or persons into any part or parts of the office, or through any defect in the grant of the office.

Proviso, that in case of insufficient abatement or allowances being made to O'Neile, &c., he may, on three months' notice to the Secretaries of State, or one of them, and payment of all arrears of rent, surrender his office; and that the Crown will accept the surrender; and from the time of such surrender all the covenants and agreements on the part of O'Neile shall be null and void.

Covenant from O'Neile, that he shall not take any greater rates than such as are limited in the Act of Parliament.

Covenant from the Crown for quiet enjoyment and further assurance.

ABSTRACT of the DOCUMENTS in the State Paper Office, relating to the Office of Postmaster-General, Conveyance of Letters, &c., delivered in by Mr. *Lechmere*, Deputy Keeper of State Papers.—(1 to 34.)

## JAMES I.

- App. xvii. 1. PROCLAMATION by the Privy Council for dispatch of Pacquets between London and Berwick ; dated at Whitehall, 8 April 1603.
- App. xviii. 2. Orders for Thorough Posts and Couriers riding in post on the Kings' Affairs, 1603.
- App. xx. 3. Proclamation against the unauthorized conveyance of Letters ; dated Greenwich, 15 May 1609.
- 1616: July 14. 4. WARRANT for issuing 50 *l.* on account to Lord Stanhope, Postmaster-general, for the expense of expresses during his Majesty's intended journey to the north. Original signed by King James I. (Sig. Man. Vol. 6, No. 34.)
- 1616-17: Mar. 8. 5. Warrant to imprest to Lord Stanhope 50 *l.* for extra stages during the King's journey into Scotland. Orig. signed by the King. (Sig. Man. Vol. 7, No. 12.)
- 1618: July 15. 6. Warrant to imprest to Lord Stanhope 50 *l.* for extraordinary posts in the west of England during the King's progress there. Orig. signed by the King. (Sig. Man. Vol. 9, No. 33.)
- 1619: July 12. 7. Warrant to imprest to Lord Stanhope 50 *l.* for extraordinary posts from the north of England during the King's progress. Orig. (Sig. Man. Vol. 10, No. 24.)
- 1620: July 4. 8. Warrant to pay Lord Stanhope 50 *l.* for extra posts during the King's progress. Orig. (Sig. Man. Vol. 11, No. 8.)
- 1623: July 14. 9. Warrant to pay Lord Stanhope 50 *l.* for extra posts during the King's progress in the west of England. Orig. (Sig. Man. Vol. 15, No. 35.)
- App. xxiii. 10. Proclamation confirming Matthew de Quester and Matthew de Quester his son in the office of Postmaster-general of England for Foreign Parts ; dated Westminster, 19 December 1623.
- 624: July 11. 11. Warrant to imprest to Lord Stanhope 50 *l.* for extra posts during the King's progress in the north. Orig. (Sig. Man. Vol. 16, No. 17.)

## CHARLES I.

- 1627-8: Feb. 19. 12. ACCOUNT of Matthew de Quester for conveyance of various pacquets to ambassadors and other agents abroad, from the 1st November 1627 to 19th February 1627-28, amounting to 51 *l.* 18s. (Domestic.)
- 1627-8 Feb. 26. 13. *Copy of the Order made by the Lords Referees, on petition of the merchants of London, advising Matthew de Quester and his son not to interrupt the conveying or reconveying merchants' letters.* [Inclosed in No. 14.]
- 1627-8: Feb. 30 (29th). 14. Secretary Sir John Coke to Secretary Lord Conway, sends copy of an order served on De Quester, the Postmaster for Foreign Parts, the effect of which would be to supersede that office which was held under patent, to revoke Proclamations, and to annul the Order made at a full Council Board on that subject. Censures the conduct of Billingsley, who thus attempted to force the conveyance of foreign packets from the proper authority constituted by Royal prerogative, which it was most necessary to preserve in the Crown. (Domestic.)
- App. xxix. 15. Warrant to Sir William Uvedale, Treasurer of the Chamber, to pay Matthew de Quester, for his care and expense in giving conveyance of several packets of letters to and from his Majesty's ambassadors and agents in foreign parts. (Domestic.)
- 1628: March 29. 16. Address of The House of Commons to King Charles the First, to give directions for the enlargement and setting at liberty of Henry Billingsley, who had been imprisoned at the suit of Matthew de Quester, for conveying packets abroad, under the authority of Lord Stanhope, the Postmaster-general, who questioned De Quester's patent. (Domestic.)
- 1628: June 27. 17. Petition of all the Posts in England, being in number 99 poor men, to the Privy Council, praying to be paid their salaries, which had been long unpaid, and now amounted to 22,626 *l.* 19s. 3d., and many of them were lying in prison. (Domestic.)
- App. xxxi. 18. Warrant to pay Lord Stanhope 50 *l.* for extra Posts during the King's progress. Orig. signed by King Charles the First. (Sig. Man. Vol. 8, No. 13.)
- 1628: June 30. 19. Sir Robert Naunton, Master of the Court of Wards, to Secretary Lord Conway. Has met with an intercepted letter of an Irish priest, which he had opened himself the night before, and now sends it to him, to make such use of it as he thinks proper. (Domestic.)
- App. xxxii. 20. "A Proposition for settling of Staffets or Pacquet Posts betwixt London and all parts of His Majesties dominions, for the carrying and recarrying of his subjects' letters, the clere proffitt whereof to goe towards the payment of the Postmasters of ye roades of England, for wch his Matie is now chardged wth 3,400 *l.* per annum." (Domestic.)
- 1635: June ? 21. This is indorsed by Secretary Sir John Coke, and it is very probable on this Proposition the Letter-office was established, as appears by the important proclamation of 31st July 1635.
- App. xxxv. 21. Order in Council authorizing John Wytton, Deputy Postmaster of the Court, to lay sufficient stages for conveyance of pacquets during his Majesty's progress this summer. Signed by ten of the Privy Council. (Domestic.)
- 1635: July 1.

INTERREGNUM.

## INTERREGNUM.

From the Registers of the Council of State.

22. Ordered, That Sir Henry Vane, Mr. Heveningham, Mr. Holland, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Alderman Wilson, or any two of them, be a Committee to consider how the posts for letters, both within England and out, may be best managed for the service of the Commonwealth. (Vol. 1, p. 131.) 1649: March 29.
23. Ordered, That the paper given in to the Councill by Mr. Attorney-generall, concerning the posts, be reported to the Parliament; and that it is the opinion of this Councill that, as affaires now stand, they conceive it safe and fitt that the office of Postmaster shall be in the sole power and disposeall of the Parliament. (Vol. 3, p. 90.) 1649-50: March 14.
24. Resolutions of the Council of State relative to the posts, carriage of inland letters, rates of postage; postmasters to be godly and well affected; posts to be settled on certain lines of roads, &c. (Vol. 16, pp. 34-36.) 1653: May 7.  
App. XLV.
25. Ordered, That power be given to the Committee appointed for the business of the posts, to dispose both of the Inland and Foreign Post-offices, for the best advantage of the Commonwealth. (Vol. 16, p. 284.) 1653: June 13.
26. Ordered, That Mr. John Manley be authorised to carry all pacquets, both publique and private, inland and foreign; resolutions thereon, &c. (Vol. 16, pp. 457, 458.) 1653: June 30.  
App. XLVI.
27. Authority to Mr. John Manley to enter upon the execution of his office for the postage of letters, foreign and inland. (Vol. 16, p. 462.) 1653: June 30.  
App. XLVII.
28. Order of the Council of State to the postmasters on the road to Yarmouth, to hold themselves in readiness during the fleet's being upon the northern coast, to have always ready in the stable a convenient number of horses, &c. (Vol. 17, p. 199.) 1653: Aug. 8.
29. Colonel Jones presents a Report from the Committee of Council for consideration of the whole business of the Post-office; ordered, that the management of the Post-office be performed by Mr. Secretary Thurloe, giving security for the present rent of 10,000 *l.* per annum. (Vol. 21, p. 42.) 1655: April 24.  
App. XLVIII.

## CHARLES II.

PROCLAMATIONS in Her Majesty's State Paper Office, relating to the Postmaster's Office, Posts, &amp;c.

30. A PROCLAMATION for quieting the Postmaster-general in the execution of his office (Coll. No. 39). Henry Bishop, esq., being appointed Postmaster-general according to the powers in a late Act of Parliament, prohibiting all persons from conveying letters, except the said Henry Bishop and his deputies; and all mails, packets, &c. illegally conveyed, to be seized and sent to the Privy Council. 1660-1: Jan. 16.  
Whitehall.  
App. LVI.
31. A Proclamation for the better quieting the Postmaster-general in the execution of his office, and for his future encouragement therein (Coll. No. 145). Daniel O'Neale, esq., appointed Postmaster-general on resignation of Henry Bishop; prohibiting any but authorized persons to carry letters; letters or packets so carried to be sent to the General Post-office, and there disposed of. *No person to open any letters, except by immediate warrant of the Secretary of State.* 1663: May 25.  
Whitehall.  
App. LXI.
- N. B.* This is the earliest instance where public notice is given, by Proclamation, of this power of the Secretary of State.
32. A Proclamation for quieting the Postmaster-general in the execution of his office (Coll. No. 245). Henry Lord Arlington constituted Postmaster-general. All letters illegally conveyed to be seized and sent up to the Privy Council. 1667: July 26.  
Whitehall.  
App. LXII.
33. A Proclamation for enforcing the due execution of the Act of Parliament, intituled, "An Act for settling the profits of the Post-office on his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and His Heirs Males;" and for prevention of the inconveniences arising by the infringement of the said Act (Coll. No. 270). To prevent the illegal carriage of letters; all letters so conveyed to be considered letters of dangerous consequence, and to be sent up to one of the Secretaries of State, or to the Privy Council, to be opened and inspected. The Postmaster-general to establish posts in every principal market town. 1669: June 21.  
Whitehall.
34. A Proclamation for enforcing the due execution of the Act of Parliament, intituled, "An Act for settling the profits of the Post-office on his Royal Highness the Duke of York," &c. (Coll. No. 426). The same in effect, and nearly verbatim with the preceding. 1683: Aug. 25.  
Windsor.  
App. LXIV.

DOCUMENTS relating to the Office of Postmaster, &c., delivered in by Mr. *Reeve*, from the Council-office, &c.

- App. x. 1. ORDER with reference to the Postes; 29 July 1556.  
 App. xiv. 2. Proclamation for redress of Disorders in Postes; 1591.  
 App. xv. 3. Letter to Sir John Stanhope, Knt. Master of Her Majesty's Postes, with reference to the Postes towards Ireland; 24 February 1598.  
 App. xvi. 4. Letter to all the Postes between London and Chester; 16 August 1601.  
 App. xxvi. 5. Orders of Council with reference to the Controversy between Lord Stanhope and Matthew de Quester: 5th October 1626 and 10th November 1626.  
 App. xxvii. 6. Order of Council restricting the liberty given by the Order (22d November 1626) to all Companies of Merchants to convey their despatches by messengers of their own choosing, to the Company of Merchants Adventurers, &c.: 24th October 1627.  
 App. xlv. 7. Proclamation for enforcing the due execution of the Acts of Parliament for erecting the Post-office, and for settling the Profits thereof on his Majesty, his heirs and successors; 1685.

## MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS relating to the Office of Postmaster, &amp;c., included in the APPENDIX.

- App. vii. 1. LETTER from Brian Tuke, Esq. Master of the Posts, to Thomas Crumwell; 17th August 1533.  
 App. ix. 2. Ordonnances with reference to the Postes; about 1555.  
 App. xxv. 3. Report of Action, "Stanhop v. Equester;" 1625.  
 App. xxxiv. 4. Proclamation concerning the Postmaster of England for Foreign Parts; 19th July 1632.  
 App. xxxvi. 5. Proclamation for the settling of the Letter-office of England and Scotland; 31 July 1635.  
 App. xxxviii. 6. Proclamation concerning the carrying and recarrying of Letters as well within his Majesty's Realms and Dominions as into and from Foreign Parts; 1637-8.  
 App. xxxix. 7. Proclamation concerning the Sequestration of the office of Postmaster for Foreign Parts and also of the Letter-office of England into the hands of Philip Burlamachy; 6 August 1640.  
 App. l. 8. Act 1657, "Postage of England, Scotland and Ireland settled."  
 App. lv. 9. Abstract of Act 12 Car. II. for erecting and establishing a Post-office.  
 App. xxiv, xxx, xl, xli, xlii, xliii, xliv, xlix, li, liv, lxiii, lxvi. 10. Extracts from Journals of Lords and Commons.

*Note.*—The Documents delivered in by Sir *Francis Palgrave*, Mr. *Lechmere*, and Mr. *Reeve*, and those obtained from other Sources, are arranged in the order of Date.

## — I. —

(Sir *F. Palgrave*, 1.) A. D. 1252.

AMONGST the Records late of the Queen's Remembrancer preserved in the Branch Public Record Office, Carlton Ride, in the custody of the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Master of the Rolls, pursuant to the Statute 1 & 2 Vict. c. 94, to wit, amongst the Wardrobe Accounts; it is thus contained:

ROTULUS Roß de Chaury cont<sup>a</sup> Walß de Brad de expñs nuncioꝝ post comptu fcm ad festum sc̄i Joh̄is Bap̄t̄ an̄i xxxvj usq̄ festu eiusd̄m an̄i xxxvij.

36-37 Hen. 3.

DOMINICA p̄xima post festum sc̄i Joh̄is Bap̄t̄e, anno xxxvj<sup>o</sup>, Roß nunçō eunti ad comitissam Cornub̄ cum nunçō Comitisse P̄uinç, xij d̄. Witto cokino\* eunti ad dñam Aliç de Burgo, vj d̄. Gilemino de Valeres eunti in Susex ad dñm P. de Sabaud, vj s̄. Cheueř cokino eunt apud Ambresbūr, iij d̄. Walßo nunçō fr̄is W. de Tharenē venienti ad curiam cum lr̄is dñi sui, ad expñs suas, iij d̄. Cheueř cokino eunt ad comitissam Cornub̄, iij d̄. Roß de Gaugi nunçō eunti in Susex ad dñm P. de Sabaud, xij d̄. Gilloto nunçō Comitisse P̄uinç, x s̄. de dono. Bartholom̄ de Eßle eunti ad comitissam Lincoln̄, vij d̄. oß. Witto de Gardinis eunti ad dñm Joh̄em Mansellū, xv d̄. Cheueř cokino eunti apud Wynton, iij d̄. Radō de Gorgeß valleĭ Regine Scoç def̄nti lias Regine ex pte dne sue, xx s̄. de dono. Simōi nunçō eiusd̄m regine, vj s̄. viij d̄. de dono. Roß nunçō eunti apud Hereford ad dñm G. de Seg<sup>a</sup>ue, ix d̄. Joh̄i Torlewein nunçō fruñ ninoꝝ Reding, de dono Regine, ij s̄. Walßo le Waleis cokino eunti a M<sup>o</sup>leburġ usq̄ Londoñ ad dñm W. de Bradeleġ, ix d̄. Riç cokino eunti ad maḡm Pet<sup>o</sup> de

\* *Note by the Editor.*—The word Cokinus, in the Wardrobe accounts of the latter half of the 13th century, is used to signify a messenger: but in what the Cokinus differed from the Nuncius and the Garcio, the other terms employed in those accounts to signify the bearers of letters or messages, does not appear. The same three terms are used in the Wardrobe account of the 28th Ed. I. A. D. 1299-1300, published in the year 1787 by the Society of Antiquaries. The chapter in that account, relating to messengers, is headed, "Titulus de Expensis Nunciorum et Cokinorum Regis Edwardi, filii Regis Henrici, &c."

de Alpibz pñicū, viij d. Jordano cokino eunti Londoñ ad dñm Joheñ Mansellum, ix d. Johi cokino eunti ad Comitissam Leycestr, ix d. Wiffo sometař Isabelle eunti cum someř suo London a Clarendoñ p negociis regine, ij s. vj d. Jordano cokino eunti ad magřm Reymund Pñicum, ix d. Eidm eunti ad frēm W. Bellum, vj d. Perceuent cokino eunti in Canč vj d. Jordano cokino eunti ad dñam Alic de Burgo, vj d. Eidm eunti ad Eustachium de Boeles, iij d.

Suma lvij s. ix d. ob.

Dominica pxima ante festum sđi Laurenč, apud Wodestok, Walfo nuncō dñe Matiff de Cantilupe, de dono, ij s. Roř de Gaugy nuncō eunti ad magřm Alex Pñicum, vid. Roř Longo nuncō eunti ad magřm Petr de Alpibz Pñicum, vj d. Simoni nuncō fris de Marisco, vj d. de dono. Cheueř cokino eunt apud Oxōn, iij d. Roř nuncō eunti apud Simplinghā, xv d. Hugoñ cokino eunti apud Tharenč, ix d. Jordano cokino eunti ad Comitissam Lincolñ ix d. Roř de Gaugy eunt apud Kenilworth ix d. Jordano cokino eunt ad Comitissam Deuoñ, vj d. Johi nuncō Regni Francie defenti liřas Regine de statu tre sče, xx s. de dono. Cheueř cokino defenti liřas regine in Kanč ad magřm Henř de Kand, vj d. Russello cokino eunt ad regem, vj d. Reymund Bouet pñendinanti apud Messenden de mandato dñi Regis, ij s. de dono. Roř nuncō eunt in Sabaud ad Archiepřm Cañt, xvj s. Heř Pech eunt ad Regem ad sčm Eadmund, x s. Jordano cokino eunt Lond, iij d. Roř de Gaugy eunt ad dñam Johām de Valenč vj d. Edm eunt apud Hereford xv d. Simoñ nuncō eunt Londoñ, iij d. Johi Tartar eunt ibidm, iij d. Nuncō Comitisse Cornub, xij d. de dono. Wiffo de Gardinis eunti ad Regem, iij s. ix d. Thoñ Golafř eunt ad eundm apud sčm Eadmund, vj s. viij d. Willo de Gardinis eunt ad dñm Joheñ Mansell, vj d. ob. Roř de Gaugy nuncō eunti ad eundm, vj d. Simoni nuncō eunti apud Boloñ pcepto Regine cum mensura filii dñe M. de Lacy, vj s. Johi Tarthař eunt Londoñ & cōmoranti ibidm p duas noctes, vj d. et p portag cere qam quesierit ibidm a novo templo usq, ad hospiciū suum, j d. Wiffo cokino eunti ad dñm Petr de Sabaud, ix d. Roř de Gaugy eunt apud Corsham ad Comitam Cornub, ix d. Russello cokino eunt apud Tykehuř ad Iuonem cñicum constabular castri illius, xv d. Walfo nuncō dñi Guidoñ de Russiloñ, ij s. de dono. Jordano cokino eunti ad dñm Comitē Cornub apud Corsham, ix d. Roř cokino eunti ad magřm Henř de Cand, ix d.

Suma iij li. v s. vj d. ob.

Dominica in festo sđi Michaelis, Walfo cokino eunti apud Tykehuř ad Iuonem cñicum, xv d. Cheueř cokino eunti ad frēm W de Tharenč, xij d. Colino sometař lecti Regine p areragiis suis, de suo, cum someř lecti apud London, ix d. Petro barbatori comitis Leycestr deferenti rumores de ptu eiusdm Comitisse, xl s. Wiffo cokino eunti ad Comitissam Deuoñ, xv d. Johi Tarthař eunti London & cōmoranti ibidm p tres dies, ix d. Simoni nuncō eunt in Norf ad Comitam Lincolñ, xv d. Rogo de Capella defenti rumores de ptu dñe Mabiř de Insulaz, xx s. de dono. Simoni cokino eunti ad dñm Roř Walsrand, iij d. Johi Tartharino eunti Londoñ & cōmoranti ibidm p tres noctes cum someř Garderob, ix d. Walfo de Coston valletto Regine Scoč, xij s. iij d. de dono. Cheueř cokino eunti ad magřm Henř de Cand, ix d. Roř de Gaugy nuncō eunti ad dñm I. Mansellū, vj d. Roř longo nuncō eunti apud Corsham ad Comitam Cornub, ix d. Nicho nuncō Epi Lugduñ, vj s. viij d. de dono. Gilemino nuncō Epi Tharenč, ij s. de dono. Wiffo garčoni dñe Alic Nutrič eunti apud Kenylworth ad Comitam Leycestr, xij d. Wiffo de Albyniaco pinčene Regine eunti in Scoč, ad expñs suas, liij s. iij d. Simoñ nuncō eunti ad Comitē Rič, iij d. Cheueř cokino eunti London, iij d. Wiffo cokino eunti apud Oxōñ Reymundū Bernardi cñicum cum roba sua ad acquietand fenū & auenam ad someř suum, vj d. Roř de Bradet nuncō eunti ad Comitissam Lincolñ in Lindeř, xv d. Roř de Gaugy nuncō eunti ad dñam M. de Cantelup, ix d. Johi Thartař eunt Londoñ, iij d. Jordano cokino eunti London ad Abbissam de Therenč, vj d. Johi Walleñs cokino eunti apud Cantuar ad freñ Gregoř, ix d. Johi nuncō dñi P. de Sabaud, xij d. de dono. Gilemino de Valer eunt ad dñm P. de Sabaud, ad expñs suas, ij s. Heř Pech eunti ad Curiam, ij s. Simoni nuncō eunti ad magřm Eustach de Leu, xij d. Scoto cokino eunti Londoñ, iij d. Jordano cokino eunt ad dñm P. de Sabaud, vj d. Tartarino p arerag suis de itisřbz suis London, vj d. Walfo scissori Regine Scoč defenti liřas ex pte dñe sue, xl s. de dono. Reymundo menestallo dñm Galfř de Geinuiř, de dono regine, xx s. p manū Retent micatoris.

Suma x li. xvij s. iij d.

Suma de expñs nuncōz & denař datis a compoto fco ad festum Natitatis sđi Johis Bapř [anno xxxvj] usq, festum Aploz Simonis & Jude anno incipiente xxxvj; xvij li. xx d.

Suma totalis xvij li. xx d.

— II. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 2.) A. D. 1284-5.

CONTRAROTULUS expñ Nunč equite & ped miřs ad diřsas partes tam tansmař quam cismař cū iris dñi Edwardi illustř Regis Angř a festo sđi Edmundi Reğ anno r. r. Edwardi predčci incipiente xij<sup>o</sup> vsq, ad idm festum anno revoluto.

13-14 Ed. 1.

\* \* \* \* \*  
D Matr xxvij die Augi, Bannebuř cokino defeř iras R. Almarico de Ponte Exon p vinis, p suis expñ p vj dies, xij d. Cuidam garcoñ defeř iras Theř Johi de Reda, ad suas expñ, vj d. Haukeno de Ottokeshar defeř iras R. Pet<sup>o</sup> de la Mare constab Bristoff, ad suas expñ, viij d. Thome Bost defeř iras R. ballis Dorcestř, p expñ suis p iij dies q, festin, viij d. Walto Wolle



*2. H. ... Fredua vol 2, part 1 (p. 1818) p. 582 unless the instructions of ... the ship ... letters ... the ... and send the letters to the King ... (Delus. ... prepared ... France). Order addressed to ... of ... applied to ... for ... publication ... 18 Dec. 1324*

Wolle defēr tras R. Eþo Dunoim, p expñ suis p iij dies, xij d. Hankino de Ottokeshaf defēr tras R. Matho de Coluþ, p expñ suis, iij d. D M'cuř, v<sup>o</sup> die Septembř, Thome Sauauag defēr tras R. Reginald de Grey, p expñ suis p x dies; ij s vj. d. Bannebuř cokino defēr tras R. Maĝro Henř de Neuwerk Archido Richem, ad suas expñ, iij s. Cuidam cokino defēr tras R. Venatoribz R., de nocte p veñ ad R. p suis expñ, iij d. Ð Venř, xiiij die Sept, apud Wodmancote, Ade de Baywrth nuncō defēr tras R. Vič Suthm Wiltē Dorset Somis Deuoñ. & Cornuþ, p milicia, ad suas expñ, ij s. Eodem die, Roĝo, de Windeš nuncō defēr tras R. Vič Bedford & Buk, Norff. & Suthff, Roĝo Louedai & Robo de Ludham, Vič Cantebř Ć Hunt, Johi de Louetot & Roĝo de Leycestr, Essex & Hertford, p assis & milicia p suis expñ p xij dies, iij s. Eodem die, Walto Wolle nūco defēr tras R. Viceubz Surr & Suthseř, Kanč & Midd, Theš & Baroñ de Scacio, p milicia & assis, p suis expñ p iij dies, xij d. Johi de Barneby nuncō defēr tras R. Vič Oxon & Bark Ć Norff Westm Northubr Linč Ebor Rotteland Noč & Derb Cumbř, Nicho de Stappelton & Elie de Berkingham, Johi de Reygař & Galfro Aguillon, de mit & asš, p suis exp, iij s. Radō de la Porre scūt defēr tras R. dño Johi de Britanñ tunc exūt in Arragoñ, ad suas expñ, iij li. x s. Rañ Scoto defēr tras R. Vič Cantebř, p suis expñ ad iij<sup>o</sup> dies, xvij d.

Sm<sup>a</sup> C. xij s. vij d.

D Venř, pđco xiiij die Septembř, Roĝo le Neucomen cokino defēr tras R. Vicetubz Salop Stafford Hereford Glouč Wigorñ, & Johi filio cteri de record milič & assis, p suis expñ p vij dies, xxj d. Eodem die Haukino de Hottokeshaf cokino defēr tras R. Vič Warř Leič Cestr Lanč, dño Regiñ de Grei Justič Cestr, de milicia & asš, p suis expñ p vij dies, ij s. Wilto de Baywrth cokino defēr tras R. dño Henř de Whetel Lond, p suis expñ iij d. Ð. Lune xvij die Sept Boñ nuncō defēr tras R. dño Cantuar Archepo p suis expñ p iij dies, xij d. Ð. Jov, iij die Octobr, Walto Wolle eunti cū iris R. ad quē Johēm de Bykenor & socōs suos, p expñ suis, xij d. Ade Attenesse defēr tras dño Hamoi de la Legh, p suis expñ, vij d. Gervaš nučō defēr tras R. sb magno sigillo Justič R. de Banco Johi de Rameš, Ade de Lemynĝ chico Salam de Roff & Johi de Šca Helena & fri suo de record & pcesš, & de veñ ad R, p expñ suis p iij dies, xij d. Walto Treuet defēr tras R. Vič Suth Dorš & Deuoñ, p suis expñ p iij dies, xij d. Bannebuř cokino defēr tras R. Majori Ballis & pñ hōibz Exon, p expñ suis p iij dies, xij d. Ð M'cuř, x die Octobr, Thome Sciret cokino defēr tras R. dño Johi de Kirk Vič Suth, p suis expñ p iij dies, xij d. Walto de Blakeford defēr tras R. Vič Northit & Wilto custodi canū, ad suas expñ, xiiij d. Wilto Sage defēr tras R. Radō de Sandwico, ad suas expñ, vij. d. Ð Dñica, xiiij die Oct, Thome de Hereford defēr tras R. Ričō de Boyland de veniendo, p suis expñ p iij dies, xij d. Adineto le Eskermessur scūt defēr tras R. in Arragoñ dño Johi de Britanñ, ad suas expñ, lx s.

Sm<sup>a</sup> Lxxij. s. vij. d.

[Fourteen such entries in all.]

— III. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 3.) A. D. 1324.

ROTULUS EXPENSARUM IN GARDEROBA.

\* \* \* \* \*

18 Ed. 2.

Johi de Stratton deferenti lras R sub puato sigillo Custodi Foreste de Claryndon vel eius locum tenenti, p expens suis apud Porcestř, xv<sup>o</sup> die Julii, iij d. Et Ade Wraister deferenti conš lras R com Cestr & Ričō de Skene, p expens suis ibidem, eodem die, xij d. - Sm<sup>a</sup> xvj d.

Ade Fycais deferenti lras R sub puato sig Eþo Norwyceñ dño de Sully, p expens suis apud Porcestř, xij die Julii, - - - - - vij d.

Michi de Newenham cursori defēr lras R sub puato sigillo dño Johi de Insula de Wyght, p expens suis apud Porcestř, xiiij<sup>o</sup> die Julii, iij d. Et Robto de Cestr ěsori defēr lras conš R Abbati de Tychefeld Priori de Suthewyk & Ričō de Borhunt militi, p expens suis ibidem, eodem die, ij d. - - - - - Sm<sup>a</sup> vi d.

Roberto de Blakerle deferenti lras Regis sub priuato sigillo & lras dñi Huĝ le Despens maĝro Johi de Redeswell, p expens suis apud Porcestř, xv<sup>o</sup> die Julii, - - - - - vj d.

Ade Lyrreis ěsori deferenti lras R sub puato sigillo Eþo Norwyceñ cū suñma festinacōde, p expens suis apud Porcestř, xvj<sup>o</sup> die Julii, xvij d. Alano de Grendon deferenti conš lras R Johi de Crombweř, p expens suis ibidem, eodem die, vij d. - - - - - Sm<sup>a</sup> ij s. ij d.

*1. ... the ... the ... (Rome ... 1315). ... (Sir F. Palgrave, 4.) A. D. 1353.*

COMPOTUS Johis de Bukyngham Custodis Garder Reg de eadē gardeř, anno. xxvij<sup>o</sup> Reg E. řcij a Conquestu.

Nuncii.

27 Ed. 3.

Wilto Page deferent lras Regis Robto Baildoñ vsq London, p expens suis, xix<sup>o</sup> die Marč, xij d. Johi Mustard defēr lras R Ć Eþo Wynton, p expens suis, xxvij<sup>o</sup> die Marč. xij d. Johi Oldman defēr tras R Ć vicař de Eton Ć Henř Fiss, p expñ suis, eodm die, xx d. Johi Mustard misso cū tris R Ć Eþo Wynton, p expñ suis, vij<sup>o</sup> die Aprilis, vij d. Paulo de Mau defēr

defer̄ tras Rē sub secreto sigillo dno com̄ Arundel̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ s̄, eodem die, xvj d. Johi Oldman misso p̄ Robto Papeiay querend̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodm die, xij d. Jacobo de Suthwyk misso in neḡ dne R<sup>ae</sup> dno Johi de Lukenore vsq̄ Wyndesore, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodem die, vj d. Johi Grom deferenti tras Rē de Wyndesore vsq̄ Londoñ, p̄ exp̄n̄ s̄, xxix<sup>mo</sup> die April, vj d. Johi Porto<sup>o</sup> misso in negoç Rē de Stretford vsq̄ Cherteš, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, xij d. Johi Oldman misso in neḡ Regis de Mortelaç vsq̄ Thistelworth l̄ Actoñ, p̄ exp̄n̄ s̄, l̄cio die Maij, xij d. Johi Porto<sup>o</sup> misso in negoç Rē de Londoñ vsq̄ Sař, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, p̄mo die Julij, vj s̄. vj d. Johi Malman misso in negoç Rē secret̄ de Wyndeš vsq̄ Londoñ, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodem die, vj s̄. Johi Curro<sup>o</sup> misso in neḡ Rē de Sař vsq̄ Londoñ, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, xiiij<sup>o</sup> die Jul, viij d. Johi Port misso de Londoñ vsq̄ Sař in negoç Rē, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, xxiiij<sup>o</sup> die Julij, vj d. Raço Arblas̄ defer̄ tras custod̄ de Londoñ vsq̄ Sař p̄ neḡ Rē, p̄ exp̄n̄ s̄, xxv<sup>o</sup> die Julij, ij s̄. Riço de Actoñ misso dne R<sup>ae</sup> matri vsq̄ Htford cū venaç, p̄ exp̄n̄ s̄, iiij<sup>o</sup> die Auḡ, ij s̄. iiij d. Riço Walshman misso in negoç Rē vsus Glouç, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, q̄nto die Auḡ, ij s̄. Riço de Waltoñ misso in neḡ R<sup>is</sup> vsq̄ Londoñ, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, vj<sup>o</sup> die Auḡ, ij s̄. vj d. Wilto de Huntynghdoñ misso in neḡ Rē de Glouç vsq̄ Norhit, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, xxj<sup>o</sup> die Auḡ, vj s̄. viij d. Johi de Hampsted mis̄ in neḡ R<sup>is</sup> vsq̄ Wynd, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, xxvj<sup>o</sup> die Auḡ, xij d. Thome Kelby misso cū viç Norffl vsq̄ trim Londoñ, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodem die, vj s̄. viij d. Johi de Staff misso in negoç Rē vsq̄ Thurrok, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, iiij<sup>o</sup> die Septembr̄, ij s̄. viij d. Nicasio de Faucoñ misso in negoç Rē secret̄, p̄ cons̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodem die, x s̄. Jacobo Dautre mis̄ p̄ dno Leonello queř, p̄ exp̄n̄ s̄, eod̄ die, vj s̄. viij d. Henř Messağ miss in neḡ Rē cont̄rot̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ s̄, eodm die, xij d. Wilto Ailsy misso in negoç Rē, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodem die, vj d. Thom̄ Kelby misso Johi de Staunford, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodem die, x s̄. Johi Brakland misso vsus Londoñ cū tall de sc̄acio p̄ deñ assignat̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ hospic̄ Rē, xxiiij<sup>o</sup> die Septembr̄, vj s̄. viij d. Johi Curro<sup>o</sup> misso in neḡ Rē de Norhit vsq̄ Londoñ, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, xxv<sup>o</sup> die Octobr̄, ij s̄. Paulo de Aquar misso de Norhit vsq̄ Wodestok̄ p̄ soluçoe ibm̄ p̄clamand̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, p̄mo die Nouembr̄, vi s̄. viij d. Wilto de Allerthorp misso cū nouo vino dne Isabelle R<sup>ae</sup>, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, sc̄do die Noū, ij s̄. Henř Curro<sup>o</sup> misso dne R<sup>ae</sup> Phe. noctant̄ cū tris R<sup>is</sup> vsq̄ Wodestok̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodem die, ij s̄. iiij d. Eidem misso cū tris Rē Señ l̄ Theš, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eod̄ die, ij s̄. Johi Oldman misso cū tris Rē Reginaldo de Ferrers, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodm die, xij. d. Johi de Wyndesore misso cū tris R<sup>is</sup> de Mortelaç vsq̄ Norhit p̄ p̄sonibz ibm̄ querend̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodem die, ij s̄. iiij d. Thome Kelby misso cū tris R<sup>is</sup> dno Duci Britan̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodm die, ij s̄. iiij d. Johi Curro<sup>o</sup> misso de Mortelaç vsq̄ Rutherhuth̄ p̄ Señ queř, p̄ exp̄n̄ s̄, iiij<sup>o</sup> die Noū, xij d. Wilto de Nortoñ misso cū tris Rē sec̄ de Mortelaç vsq̄ Wodestok̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eod̄ die, ij, s̄, ij d. Wilto de Bernes misso cū tris Rē vsq̄ Insulam Vect̄ p̄ Wilto Dale queř, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodem die, ij s̄. iiij d. Henř de Alman l̄ Waltō Whithors mis̄ in neḡ Rē sec̄ vsq̄ Wodestok̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, iiij<sup>o</sup> die Noū, xiiij s̄, iiij s̄. iiij d. Thome le Ferro<sup>o</sup> misso in neḡ Rē sec̄ de Mortelaç vsq̄ Wodestok̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodem die, ij s̄. iiij d. Rico de Pipplington misso vsq̄ Kerdif in Wall̄ p̄ deñ Rē ibm̄ queř, q̄nto die Decembr̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, xij s̄. Walto Cardinal̄ defer̄ tras Rē sub secreto sigillo dn̄is Ēpo Wynton l̄ com̄ Arundel̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, vltio die Dec̄, vij s̄. Stepho Cook defer̄ tras Rē Archiepo Cantuar̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodem die, v s̄. Henř Curr<sup>o</sup> misso cū tris Rē dne R<sup>e</sup> Isabelle, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, iiij<sup>o</sup> die Januār, ij s̄. iiij d. Andř de Carsbrok̄ nunc̄ misso Londoñ cū tris Rē consist̄ ibm̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodm die, vj s̄. viij d. Wilto de Mokkyngl̄ mis̄ cū tris Rē dno custod̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ s̄, eod̄ die, xij d. Johi Pdhām mis̄ cū tris Rē dno de Somuyll Hastoñ l̄ p̄ papeiay quer, p̄ exp̄n̄ s̄, eod̄ die, iiij s̄. iiij d. Hugoni de Steuyntoñ falcoñ miss ocū tris R<sup>is</sup> Priori Scī Ed̄i Abbis, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, eodem die, ij s̄. iiij d. Johi Oldman misso in neḡ Rē p̄ diuš vices, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, iii<sup>o</sup> die Januār, ij s̄. Johi Port defer̄ tras Rē sub signo dn̄is Archiepo Cantuar̄ Ēpo Wynton l̄ Johi de Bello Campo, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, xv<sup>o</sup> die Febř, ij s̄. iiij d. Robto Tailfer defer̄ tras Rē com̄ Warr̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, xvij<sup>o</sup> die Febř, v s̄. Johi Curro<sup>o</sup> defer̄ tras Rē com̄ Huntynghdoñ, p̄ exp̄n̄ s̄, eodem die, ij s̄. Edm̄o de Londoñ defer̄ tras Rē com̄ Arundel̄, p̄ exp̄n̄ s̄, eod̄ die, ij s̄. Nicho Cony defer̄ tras dno custodi, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, xx<sup>mo</sup> die Febř, ij s̄. vj d. Johi de Parys nunc̄ defer̄ tras dno custod̄ vsq̄ Eltham̄ p̄ negoç R<sup>is</sup>, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, xiiij<sup>mo</sup> die Januār, xij d.

Sūm nunc̄ ix li. xix s̄. vj. d. p̄.

— V. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 5.) A. D. 1376.

P̄ticle comp̄i Ricardi de Beūlee nup̄ custodis garderobe hospicij Regl̄ l̄ l̄cij, aui Regl̄ hui<sup>o</sup>, de reç lib̄acoilz l̄ exp̄n̄s in eadem garderoba f̄cis a xxv<sup>o</sup> die Nouembr̄ anno d̄ci aui l̄o finiente, quo die d̄cm officiū com̄issū fuit eidem Riço p̄ ip̄m auū oretenus vsq̄ xxj<sup>m</sup> diem Jul̄ p̄x̄ seq̄n̄, quo die idem auus obiit et ab eodem xxj<sup>o</sup> die Jul̄ vsq̄ xxvj<sup>um</sup> diem Jul̄ p̄x̄ seq̄n̄.

50 Ed. 3; 1 R. 2.

Nuncij.

Wilto valto Blacomore misso de Shene vsq̄ Hamptoñ in negoç Regis p̄ p̄ceptū Duç Lancast̄, p̄ exp̄n̄s suis l̄ eq̄ conduct̄, xv die Januār, xiijs̄. iiij d. Simoni de Burgh̄ l̄ Wilto Blacomore misso de Shene vsq̄ Douē in negoç Regis, p̄ exp̄n̄s suis cū eq̄ conduct̄, xxj die Jul̄, lx s̄.

## —VI.—

(Sir F. Palgrave, 6.) A. D. 1402-3.

45 Hen. 4.

Pūcte comp̄i Thome More dīci custodis Garderobe hospicii dñi Regis Heñr, quarti post Conq̄m Angl̄, de re<sup>u</sup>s libacōibz custubz ē expeñ in eadem Garderoba fact̄, ab ultimo die Septem̄br, anno iiii<sup>o</sup> incipiente eodem die, vsq̄ vltimū diem Septem̄br, p̄x seq̄ p̄ vnū annū integrum p̄ visum v̄ testioñ Thome Brounflete c̄hr controtulatoris hospicii p̄d̄ci p̄ idem tempus.

## Nuncii.

Willmo Carleton messenger misso de Redyng vsq̄ Londoñ vna vice ē alfa vice vsq̄ Sarz cum diūsis lr̄is sub secreto sigillo Regis direct̄ Theſ Anglie ē aliis, pro expensis suis, xiiij s. iij d. ē consimilit̄ miss̄ de Wygorn vsq̄ diūsos comitatus infra Angl̄ cum diūsis lr̄is Regis sub priuato sigillo suo direct̄ diūsis Ep̄is Abbatibz Prioribz decanis ē aliis ecclie psonis p̄ conuocacōē tenend̄ apud sc̄m Paulū London, p̄ expens̄ suis, [xiiij s. iij d.] eundo ē redeundo, in toto, xxvj s. viij d. Ričo Reynald Robto Raufeson ē Rado Thomas garcionibz diūsoz officioz hospici miss̄ p̄ vices de hospicio dñi Regis vsq̄ Londoñ cum etis lr̄is Regis sub secreto sigillo suo direct̄ Cancellar̄ Theſ Angl̄ ac aliis de consilio Regis, London int̄ essentibz, cuit capient̄, p̄ expens̄ suis eundo ē redeundo, vjs. viij d. in toto xx s. Willō May vni valettoz cam̄e Regis miss̄ vna vice de Eltham cum lr̄is Regis vsq̄ March Scocie, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, vj s. viij d. ac alias miſs̄ de castro Pountefract̄ cum diūsis lr̄is ē br̄ibz Regis ad ptes Kanč, p̄ exp̄n̄ suis, xiiij s. iij d. et consimilit̄ itum miss̄ cum sep̄alibz lr̄is patentibz dñi Regis de Hereford vsus Ep̄m Exoñ Petrum Courtenay militem maiōr ē vicec̄ Bristoll, capient̄ p̄ exp̄n̄ s, x s. in toto xxx s. Thome Delahowe Nuncio de cam̄a Regis miss̄ de Wyndesore p̄ vices cum diūsis lr̄is dñi Regis ad Comitem Som̄s apud Cales, p̄ expensis suis, xliij s. iij d. et itum miss̄ cum consimilibz lr̄is ē br̄ibz Regis de ibm̄ vsus ptes Cornub̄ ē Deuoñ, capient̄ p̄ expensis suis, xxvj s. viij d. in toto lxx s. Guidoni messenger ē Nicho Darnon miss̄ p̄ vices de hospicio dñi Regis cum etis lr̄is ē br̄ibz Regis direct̄ vicecoitibz Rutilan d̄Essex Nortolk ē Suff, vtr̄iz eoꝝ capienti, p̄ expensis suis, xiiij s. iij d. in toto xxvj s. viij d. Willmo Rukke garcōi aule hospicii Regis miss̄ de Stafford cum diūsis lr̄is de priuato sigillo Regis direct̄ diūsis vicecoitibz infra regnū Anglie, capient̄ p̄ expensis suis eundo ē redeundo ad dc̄m hospiciū, xx s. -

Allo p̄ sacm̄ ip̄ius custodis v̄ testioñ controtul Regis p̄d̄ci put in a<sup>is</sup> p̄ced̄ allocari consuevit.

(Miscellaneous, 1.)

TUKE to CRUMWELL; 17 August 1533.

[State Papers, published under the authority of the Royal Commission, Vol. I. p. 405.]

Right Worshipful Sir,

In my best manner I recomende me unto you. By your letters of the 12th of this moneth, I perceyve that there is grete defaulte in conveyance of letters, and of special men ordeyned to be sent in post; and that the Kinges pleasure is, that postes be better appointed, and laide in al places most expedient; with commaundement to al townshippes in al places, on payn of lyfe, to be in suche redynes, and to make suche provision of horses, at al tymes, as no tract or losse of tyme be had in that behalf.

Sir, it may like you to understonde, the Kinges grace hathe no moo ordinary postes, ne of many days hathe had, but bitwene London and Calais; and they in no wages, save the post of London in 12 d. and Calais 4 d. by day; but riding by the journey wherof, most part, passe not 2 in a moneth; and sens October last, the postes northwarde, every one at 12 d. by day. These in wages be bounde but to on horse; which is inough for that wages, albeit som of them have moo. I never used other ordre, but to charge the townshippes to lay and appoint suche a post, as they wol answer for. And Butler, the Kinges messenger, for these northwarde, was sent, when I laide them, to see them sufficient; and surely the postes northward, in tyme, past have been the most diligent of al other. Wherefore, supposing by my conjecture that the default is there, I incontently sent, thorough them, a writing, sharpe inough, shewing their defaultes, the Kinges high displeasure, and the daunger. I also wrote to all the townships that way, semblaby towching obeying of placardes and other writings, sent for provision of post horses. Nowe, Sir, if the default be elleswhere, where postes lye, I, upon knowledge had from you, wol put to it the best remedy I can; but if in any other wayes like ordre shal be taken, I pray you advertise me. For, Sir, ye knowe well, that except the hakney horses bitwene Gravesende and Dovour, there is no suche usual conveyance in post for men in this realme as is in the accustomed places of France and other parties; ne men can kepe horses in redynes withoute som way to bere the

*Tuke is the earliest English magistrate post-1500, and he had had such a commission from Henry VII. Magistrate post-1500 was a head of the King's messengers, and had authority to do with sending the public, or with postal history. William the Englishman might be a lack an officer, taking him magister multorum or laurocum. The office came with Henry VIII.*

the charges: but when placardes be sent for suche cause, the constables many tymes be fayn to take horses oute of plowes and cartes, wherein can be no extreme diligence. This I write, lest the tract shulde be imputed there it is not. But, Sir, not taking upon me to excuse the postes, I wol advertise you that I have knowen in tymes past folkes whiche, for their own thanke, have dated their letters a day or 2 more bifore they wer written, and the conveyers have had the blame. As to postes bitwene London and the Courte, there be nowe but 2; wherof the on is a good robust felowe, and was wont to be diligent, evil intreated many tymes, he and other postes, by the herbigeours, for lak of horse rome, or horsmete, withoute whiche diligence can not be. The other hathe ben the most payneful felowe, in nygt and day, that I have knowen amongst the messengers. If he nowe slak, he shalbe changed, as reason is. He sueth to the Kinges Grace for some smal living for his olde service, having never had ordinary wages, til nowe, a moneth or litle more, this postes wages. It may please you to advertise me, in whiche of them 2 ye fynde default, and he shal be changed. I wrote unto my Lorde of Northumberlande, to write on the bak of his pacquettes the houre and day of the depeche, and so I did to other; but it is seldome observed. I wol also desire you to remember that many tymes happen 2 depeches in a day, on way, and somtyme moo; and that often seasons happen cowntre postes, that is, to ride both northwarde and southwarde; this is much for on horse, or on man. My Lorde of Northumberlande hathe sent a post, my Lord Dacre an other in the neck of hym; they of Berwick a 3de, and somtyme Sir George Lawson aparte, an other; and, in the same tyme, depeches from hence northwarde. Nowe I have advertised you of the premysses, it may please you I may knowe the Kinges further pleasure; and I shal, according to my bounden duetye, diligently obeye the same, by Goddes grace, who preserve you. At my poore house, the 17th day of August, 1533.

At al your commaundement,

(signed) Brian Tuke. *Page 33*

Sir; I have also received other your letters, of the 12th and 13th, the on concernyng ordre for letters of the Frenche Ambassadour, northwarde, whiche shal be perfourmed; and the other for 300 l., for W. Gonson, whiche shalbe paid. Sir, it is shewed me the Kinges grace reckneth I receyved 4,000 l. in thExchequier the last Terme. Sir, it was but 2,000 l., whereof Gonson had 900 l., and the rest, with moche more, was assigned by warrantes, or ever it was received; and I have paid sens litle lak of 5,000 l.

Superscribed  
To the Right Worshopful Mr. Thomas Cromwell, Squier,  
Counsailour to the Kinges Hignes, and  
Master of his Joyels.

— VIII. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 7.) A. D. 1545. *R. Tuke d. 1545 (ab. 1. 1. 1. 1.)*

SEPTODECIMO PARS PATEN<sup>r</sup> DE ANNO RR HENRICI OCTAVI TRICESIMO SEPTIMO.—m. 10.

D con' p Rex Omnibus ad quos ꝑc Sal<sup>m</sup>. Sciatis qđ nos, de grā nra spīali ac ex Willo Pagett } et a sciencia ꝑ mero motu nris, necnon in consideraōe boni veri ꝑ fidelis } ꝑ Johē Mason } ꝑvicij quod dilcū conciliar' n̄r Willo Pagett Miles, alter primarioꝝ nroꝝ ad vitam. } Secretarioꝝ, et Johes Mason Armig, Secretarius n̄r ꝑ lingua gallicana \*, in dies impendunt ꝑ durante vita sua impendere intendunt, Dedimꝰ ꝑ Concessimꝰ ac ꝑ ꝑsentes Damꝰ ꝑ Concedimꝰ eisdem Willo ꝑ Johi, seu eoꝝ alfi diucius vivent, Officin' Magistri Nūcioꝝ Cursoꝝ sive postaz tam infra Regnū n̄m Angl qam in quibuscumq, alijs partibꝝ tansmarinis in nro Dominio existentibꝝ, Necnon Vad ꝑ Feod sexaginta sex Libraz tresdecim solidoz ꝑ quatuor Denarioꝝ ꝑ exlucione ꝑ occupac' officij ꝑdici, hēnd Occupand ꝑ Gaudend' officin' ꝑdict ꝑfatis Willo ꝑ Johi, seu eoꝝ alteri diucius vivent', ꝑ se vel ꝑ sufficientem deputatum suu' sive deputatos suos sufficientes, durante vita eoꝝ ꝑ eoꝝ alius diucius vivent', ac hēnd ꝑ ꝑcipiend' dict' sexaginta sex Libras tresdecim Solidos ꝑ quatuor Denarios ānuos a Festo S̄ci Michis Archi ultimo ꝑfito, durante vita eoꝝ sive eoꝝ alius diucius vivent', de Thezaurar' nro ad Recept' Sc̄cij nri ꝑ manus Thes' Camerar' nroꝝ ejusdem ꝑ tempore existen', ad quatuor anni tminos usuales videl' ad Festum Natalis Dñi, Festum Annūc' Bē Marie Virginis, Festum Divi Johis Bapt, ꝑ Festum Divi Michis Archi ꝑ equales ꝑcōdes, unacum omibꝝ alijs ꝑficuis comōditatibꝝ ꝑ advauntag' dict' officio ꝑtinen' sive spectan' in tam amplis ꝑ largis modo ꝑ forma ꝑut Brianus Tuke Miles, sive aliqua alia ꝑsona aut alique alie ꝑsone, dict' officin' ante hac occupantes hūit ꝑ ꝑcepit huerunt vel ꝑceperunt in ꝑ ꝑ exercicio ejusdem Eo qđ expressa mencio ꝑc In cujus rei ꝑc T. R. apud Westm' xij die Novembr' Anno Regni nri Tricesimo septimo.//

ꝑ ipm Regem.

\* Note by the Editor.—Concerning the offices of King's Secretary, and of King's Secretary for the French tongue, see the preface, by Sir Harris Nicolas, to the 6th volume of Proceedings and Ordinances of the Privy Council of England, from p. xvii. to p. cxi.

*Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including names like 'Palgrave' and 'Tuke'.*

— IX. —

(Miscellaneous, 2.)

FROM a Collection of PROCLAMATIONS in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries, London.

About 1555 (no date), Phil. & Mary.

ORDONNANCES devised by the King and Queen's Majties for th' ordre of the Postes and Hacquenymen betweene London and Dover. (Col. 159.) An attested copy from the original, signed by the King and Queen. This relates principally to the supply of horses for the service of the posts in conveying pacquets to Dover.

— X. —

(Mr. Reeve, 1.)

At Eltham, the 29th day of July 1556.

THIS daye it was ordered by my l̄s of the Counsaill that the Poste betweene this and the Northe should eche of them keepe a booke, and make entrye of every lr̄e that he shall receive, the tyme of the deliverie thereof unto his hands, w<sup>th</sup> the p̄tes names that shall bring it unto him, whose handes he shall also take to his booke, witnessing the same note to be trewe, which Ordre was also cōmaunded to be given here at the Courte, and the Wardeyns of the Marches towards Scotland were required to do the like.

— XI. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 8.) A. D. 1567.

UNDECIMA PARS PATEN' DE ANNO R Rm̄' ELIZABETH NONO.—m. 8. [28.]

Ð Con' Offic' } REGINA om̄ibz ad quos ꝑc Sal̄m. Sciatis qđ nos, de gr̄a n̄ra sp̄iali ac  
Magri Nuncioz } ex ęta sciencia et mero motu n̄ris, necnon in consid'acōe boni veri ꝑ  
p̄ Thoma } fidelis ęvic quod dilcus nob̄ Thomas Randolphe Genosus nob̄ impendit  
Randolphe. } et duran' vita sua impendere intendit, Dedim' et Concessim' ac p̄  
p̄sentēs p̄ nob̄ hered' et successoribz n̄ris Dam' et Concedim' eidem Thome Officin' Magri  
Nuncioz et Cursoz, com̄uniť vocat' Postaz nostroz, tam infra Regnũ n̄rm Angl' qm̄ in  
quibuscumq; alijs ptibz transmarinis in n̄ro Dñio existen', Necnon Vad' et Peod' sexaginti' sex  
libraz tresdecim solidoz et quatuor denarioz p̄ exercicō et occupacōe Officij p̄dci, hend'  
occupand' et gaudend' officin' p̄dcm p̄fato Thome Randolphe, p̄ se vel p̄ sufficient' Deputat'  
suo' sive Deputat' suros sufficien', duran' vita sua, a festo S̄ci Michis Archi ultimo p̄lito, Ac  
hend' et p̄cipiend' d̄cas sexaginti' sex libras tresdecim solid' ꝑ quatuor denarios a dicto festo S̄ci  
Michis Archi ultimo p̄lito, duran' vita sua, de Thesauro n̄ro hered' et success' n̄roz ad Recept'  
Sc̄cij n̄ri hered' ꝑ success' n̄roz p̄ manus Thesarar' et Camioz iđm p̄ tempore existen' ad  
quatuor anni ęminos usuales, videlt' ad fest' Natalis Dñi, Anũnciacōis B̄te Marie Virginis,  
Divi Johis Bap̄te, et Divi Michis Archi p̄ equales portiones, unacum om̄ibz alijs p̄ficiis  
com̄oditatibz et advauntagijs dicto officio ptinen' sive spectan', in tam amplis modo ꝑ forma  
put Johes Masone Miles aut aliquis ats dict' Officin' ante hac occupans hũic ꝑcepit in ꝑ  
exercicō ejusdem Eo qđ exp̄ssa mencio ꝑc In cujus rei ꝑc T. R. apud Westm' quarto die  
Maij. l.

ꝑ B̄re de Privato Sigillo.

— XII. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 9.) A. D. 1572.

AMONGST the Records of the Court of Exchequer (Pipe Office), in the Public Record Office, in the Custody of the Right Honourable the Master of the Rolls, pursuant to the Statute 1 & 2 Vict. c. 94, to Wit.

The Office of } THE Accompte of Thomas Randolphe esquier, Maister of the Postes, there-  
the Maister } unto appoynted by the l̄res patentes of or most gratiose souveraigne Lady  
of the Postes. } the Quenes Majtie that nowe is, bering date at Westm' the iijij<sup>th</sup> daie of  
Marche in the ix<sup>th</sup> yere of hir Ma<sup>tie</sup> Reigne. The tenor whereof hereafter followeth. Eliz.  
dei gr̄a Anglie, Frauncie, et Hibnie regina, fidei defen̄s ꝑc. Omnibus ad quos p̄sentēs L̄re  
p̄venerint sal̄m. Sciatis qđ nos, de gr̄a n̄ra sp̄iali ac ex ceri sciencia et mero motu n̄ris,  
Necnon in consideracone boni veri et fidelis servič qđ dilcus noster Thomas Randolphe  
generos, ꝑc.

That is to saye, aswell of all and singler such some and somes of money of hir Ma<sup>tie</sup> Treas-  
sure, as he by hymselfe or his deputie hath received and had of Sr Fraunce Knolles Knight,  
late Treasurer of Chamber, and Thomas Henneage esquier, nowe Treasurer of the same, to  
hym imprested by virtue of divers of hir Ma<sup>tie</sup> Warr<sup>ants</sup> to the saide Treasurers in that  
behalf directed, As also of the yssuyng and defrayment owte of the same, aswell for the  
wages of the ordinarie postes laide betweene London and Barwicke and elles where within  
hir Ma<sup>tie</sup> Realme of Englande, As also for the wages of divers extra ordenarie postes laide  
in divers places of the Realme in the tyme of hir Ma<sup>tie</sup> severall progresses, and also to divers  
postest or cariage of packets of l̄res frome Sittingborne, Dertforde, Rochester, Cantorbury,  
and Dover for hir Ma<sup>tie</sup> service and affayres, as occasion frome tyme to tyme did requier, and  
for

her extra ordery payments incident to the said office. Of all wch premisses the saide  
Randolphe dothe yelde and make this his pñte Accompte frome the firste daye of  
the eight yere of o<sup>r</sup> most graciouse sovereigne Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of  
of Englande, Fraunce and Irelande, defendo<sup>r</sup> of the faithe, &c. untill the last  
mbre in the xiiij<sup>th</sup> yere of hir Ma<sup>ty</sup> Reigne, both daies included, that is to saye  
five whole yeres, wch accompte was declared before the right Honorable the  
Lorde Highe Treasurer of Englande, and Sr Walter Mildmay Knighte  
ourte of Thexhequer, the xvij<sup>th</sup> daie of Decembre in the xv<sup>th</sup> yere of the  
reigne Lady the Quene as hereafter followeth :

Acts King Council Eng. ch. J. R. Dares 1, 1542-7 (1670)  
p. 12. 1546 "Nicholas the Currier sent with letters into Flaunders, 6l. 5s."  
"the post of Calce for his charge is by daye of post to laye  
houses to Berwyck" for much in hand  
p. 20. 1542 wnts Lnd. - New. to her I. Louis instead of 6, = 2s. day instead of 11.  
1164. 1545 post-houses 1d. a mile  
p. 20 "houses by waye of posts, horses & other of account."  
182. 1545 "William Amode, who came to post from St. Lucar,  
Coles, Valedolite and Bilbois" and 30l.  
212. 1545 "Francisco the currier"  
Judge died after 19th. 1545 (p. 259), Lpton & New. 267  
267. Withdam Gasconne to remain "in the Office of the postship of  
Scarbrye" "in his father's  
the Duke to whom copy of the Statute of Duke his father's  
issued the wnt of the Statute" "Master of Posts was like  
the fragments, the Duke & them had many houses besides.  
The posts was not by under their control. I think  
27. 1546 "to Nicholas the currier for my daye in post with letters  
two to Berwyck" to Berwyck & back 6l. 5s.

ertue of the Councelles Warrante, Dormaunte, dated at Richemonde,  
when and as often as the Q. Matie shall contynue hir Progresse, or be  
ones Houses of accesse, excepte Westm<sup>r</sup>, St. James, or any House in

dounslowe, Bagshot, Sittingbourne, Darteforde, Rochester, Gravesende, Can-  
Jover, Baldocke, Welwynne, Barnette.

1546-79 p. 454. Rich. Hamer, total 1546-79, discharged with a byp. my called Her. Ham.

1546-79 p. 454. Rich. Hamer, total 1546-79, discharged with a byp. my called Her. Ham.  
under long (to some part a doublet's (Hamer).)

1573 Cal. Dom. 1516-79 p 453 R. allance of Burghle an. ... of the posts & clew ...  
degnam. ... for ...

— IX. —

(Miscellaneous, 2.)

FROM a Collection of PROCLAMATIONS in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries at London.

About 1555 (no date),  
Phil. & Mary.

ORDONNANCES devised by the King and Queen's Majesties for the ordering of the Hacquenymen between London and Dover. (Col. 169.) An attested original, signed by the King and Queen. This relates principally to the posts of conveying packets to Dover.

1573  
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1600

**FARMING'S DARK SIDE**

From the Country Gentleman.

"My advice to the young man set out in life is to learn a trade—try anything but farming," says a man who has been a successful farmer. "There is no money in farming today." And what is to be better—next month, or next year, or the year after? Have politicians and politicians anything to do with the present depression? I'm afraid not! There are men about here who have made a fortune by farming. They gathered in a good harvest while the sun shone. It does not shine as propitiously today.

1) Let us figure out a few stern figures.

1 Cent N J g m 5s coup 119½.  
 9 Ches & O cn 5s 111¼-111¾.  
 14 Chi Bur & Q 7s 120½-120¾; 7 do coupon 5s 109; 10 do deb 5s 103½-104.  
 11 Chi & E Ill g 5s, 103¼-103¾; 170 do coupon 105½-107; 18 do inc 33¾-34.  
 27 Chi & N P 1st trust receipt 48.  
 38 Chi R I & Pac ext 5s, 106-106½; 10 do deb 5s 99¾-100.  
 6 Chi St L & N O 5s 121.

late Treasurer of Chamber, and Thomas Henneage esquier, now hym impressed by virtue of divers of hir Ma<sup>ty</sup> Warr<sup>ants</sup> to the behalf directed, As also of the yssuyng and defrayment owte of the wages of the ordinarie postes laide betwene London and Barwicke an hir Ma<sup>ty</sup> Realme of Englande, As also for the wages of divers extra ord in divers places of the Realme in the tyme of hir Ma<sup>ty</sup> severall progresses, a postest or cariage of packets of lres from Sittingborne, Dertforde, Rocheste. and Dover for hir Ma<sup>ty</sup> service and affayres, as occasion frome tyme to tyme did

for other extra orderly payments incident to the said office. Of all wch premisses the saide Thomas Randolphe dothe yelde and make this his pite Accompte frome the firste daye of Octobre in the eight yere of o<sup>r</sup> most graciouse soveraigne Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Quene of Englande, Fraunce and Irelande, defendo<sup>r</sup> of the faithe, &c. untill the last daye of Septembre in the xiiij<sup>th</sup> yere of hir Ma<sup>tie</sup> Reigne, both daies included, that is to saye by the space of five whole yeres, wch accompte was declared before the right Honorable the Lorde of Burghley, Lorde Highe Treasurer of Englande, and S<sup>r</sup> Walter Mildmay Knighte Chauncellor of the Courte of Thexhequer, the xvij<sup>th</sup> daie of Decembre in the xv<sup>th</sup> yere of the Reigne of o<sup>r</sup> saide soveraigne Lady the Quene as hereafter followeth :

That is to saye,  
The saide Accomptante is charged with,  
Arrerages.

Ready money by him hadde and receyved of.

(The sums of money, with the total thereof, and the names of the officers of whom they were received, are here set forth).

The saide Accomptante is allowed for.

Money by hym yssued and paide, aswell for the wages of the ordenarie Postes, dayly serving hir Ma<sup>tie</sup>, as for divers extra ordenarie paymentes to sundrie postes serving in hir Ma<sup>ties</sup> progresses and otherwise for hir Highnes Affayres, videlt.

“ Wages and enterteiment of the ordenarie Postes, layde betwene London and Barwicke and elles where for hir Ma<sup>ties</sup> service, viz. to

“ Extraordenarie paymentes, made to divers postes for cariage of lres for hir Ma<sup>ties</sup> affayres, and for service in the tyme of hir grace pgresses.”

First the said Accomptante is allowed for money by hym paide within the tyme of this Accompte for the wages and enterteiment of the ordenarie Postes, aswell at the Courte, and betwene London and Barwicke, as betwene Barwicke and Carlisle and other places within the Realme, for convey<sup>ance</sup> of hir Highnes lres and hir Councelles, and for other hir Ma<sup>tie</sup> service, at sundrie rates by the daie, as thimport<sup>ance</sup> of their service requireth, and as hathe in the precedent Accomptes bene allowed.

That is to saye.

Post of the Courte, for his ordenarie wages of ij s. p diem, serving hir Ma<sup>tie</sup> the space of five whole yeres, conteyning m. viij. xxvj. daies, begynning the first daie of Octobre, Anno viij. dne nre Regine nunc Elizabeth, and ending the last daie of September, Anno xij. ejusdm dne Regine, bothe daies included, amounting to the some of c. iiij. ij. li. xij. s.

Poste of London, for his ordenarie wages of iij s. p diem, for p diem, for iij. iij. viij. daies, begynning the first of Octobre, Anno viij<sup>to</sup> predco and ending the last of January, anno x<sup>mo</sup>, &c.

- Poste of Waltham.
- Poste of Ware.
- Poste of Royston.
- Poste of Caxton.
- Poste of Huntington.
- Poste of Stilton.
- Poste of Stampforde. 38<sup>an</sup>
- Poste of Sowthwitham.
- Poste of Grauntham.
- Poste of Newarke. 10
- Poste of Tookesforde. 10
- Poste of Scrowby. 7<sup>an</sup>
- Poste of Dancaster. 7<sup>an</sup>
- Poste of Ferebrigge. 7

- Poste of Wetherby.
- Poste of Borobrigge. 12
- Poste of Northalderton. 12
- Poste of Derneton. 10
- Poste of Durham. 14
- Poste of Newcastle. 14
- Poste of Morpeth. 12
- Poste of Hexham.
- Poste of Hawtewesell.
- Poste of Carlisle.
- Poste of Alnewicke. 12
- Poste of Belforde. 12
- Poste of Barwicke.

1589 up to these posts the Post. app. 1585-1625 p. 270

Amounting in all, &c.

Extraordenarie paymentes made to divers postes for cariage of lres hir Ma<sup>ties</sup> affayres, and for service in the tyme of hir grace pgresses.

Also allowed to the saide Accomptante, for money by hym likewise paid to Rob<sup>t</sup> Gascoigne, poste of the Courte, for his wages of ij s. p diem, over and besides his ordenarie wages aforesaide, by vertue of the Councelles Warraunte, Dormaunte, dated at Richemonde, v<sup>to</sup> die Augustii 1565, when and as often as the Q. Matie shall contynue hir Progresse, or be at any of Hir Highnes Houses of accesse, excepte Westm<sup>r</sup>, St. James, or any House in London, &c.

Postes of Hounslowe, Bagshot, Sittingbourne, Darteforde, Rochester, Gravesende, Cantorburye, Dover, Baldocke, Welwynne, Barnette.

582. ... 2<sup>nd</sup> year ...  
 ... 1566-79 p. 45 ... discharged with a ...  
 ... 16 under long ...



... the first order of the ... of the ...  
... Office, ... 1580 ...  
... 1580-1625 p. 25 ...  
Randolph died 8 June 1580 (Hist. P., ... p. 352)

**APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM THE**

... 1580-1625 p. 25 ...  
... 2 or 3 horses, ...  
... XIII. ...  
... (Chel) ...

(Sir F. Palgrave, 10.) A. D. 1590.

**OCTAVA PARS PATEN' DE ANNO R. ELIZABETH TRICESIMO SECUNDO.—m 40.**

De coñ ad } REGINA om̄ibz ad quos Er Saltm̄. Sciatis qđ nos, de gr̄a n̄ra sp̄iali ac  
vitam p̄ Johe } ex c̄ta sciencia l̄ mero motu n̄ris, necnon in considerac̄oe boni fīi l̄ fide-  
Stanhoppe Ar. } lis Svicij qđ dilc̄us Svicens nos? Johe Stanhopp Armiḡ nob̄ impendit  
l̄ durāñ vita sua impendere intendit, Dedim̄ l̄ Concessim̄ ac p̄ p̄sentes p̄ nob̄ heredibz l̄  
successoribz n̄ris Dam̄ l̄ Concedim̄ eidem Johi Officiū Maḡi Nuncioꝝ l̄ Cursoꝝ, com̄uni  
vocañ Postaz nost̄r, tam infra Regnū n̄rm Anglie qm̄ in quibuscunq; alijs partibz transmar̄  
in n̄ro Dñio existen̄, Necnon Vad̄ l̄ Feod̄ sexagint sex libraz tresdecim solid̄ quatuor denar̄  
p̄ ex̄cicio l̄ occupac̄oe Officij p̄dict, h̄nd occupand̄ l̄ gaudend̄ Officiū p̄dict p̄fat Johi  
Stanhopp, p̄ se vel p̄ sufficiēñ deputat̄ suū sive Deputat̄ suos sufficiēñ, durāñ vita sua, a festo  
Annunaciāc̄ Bē Marie Virginis ultim̄ ante dat̄ p̄senciu p̄lito, Ac h̄nd l̄ p̄cipiend̄ dicit̄ sexa-  
gint sex libras tresdecim solid̄ l̄ quatuor denar̄ a d̄co festo Annunaciāc̄ois Bē Marie Virginis  
ultimo p̄lito, durāñ vita sua, de Thesauro n̄ro hered̄ l̄ successoz n̄roz ad recept̄ Sc̄c̄ij n̄ri  
hered̄ l̄ successoz n̄roz p̄ manus Thesaurar̄ l̄ Cam̄ar̄ nost̄r ibidem p̄ tempore existen̄ ad  
quatuor anni l̄minos usual̄, videt̄ ad fest̄ sc̄i Johis Baptē, Michis Arch̄i, Natalis Dñi, l̄ An-  
nunciāc̄ois Bē Marie Virginis p̄ equal̄ porc̄oes, unacum om̄ibz at̄ p̄r fīc̄ Com̄oditat̄ l̄ Advantaḡ  
dicit̄ Officio p̄tineñ sive spectañ, in tam amplis modo l̄ forma put̄ Johe Mason Miles Thomas  
Randolph nup̄ defunct̄ sive aliquis alius d̄cm Officiū antehac occupans h̄uit l̄ p̄cepit in l̄ p̄  
exercicio ejusdem **Bo qđ exp̄ssa mencio Er In cujus rei Er T. R. apud Westm̄ xx die Junij.**

... 1250 a year for regular ...  
... patent 4/25/1607

p B̄re de Privat̄ Sigill. p. 40

**— XIV. —**

(Mr. Reeve, 2.) A. D. 1591.

**BY THE QUEENE.**

**A PROCLAMATION for Redresse of Disorders in Postes which convey and bring, to and out of the Parts beyond the Seas, Packets of Letters.**

WHEREAS heretofore sundry wayes have bene devised to redresse the disorders among the postes of our realme in generall, and particularly to prevent the inconveniences, both to our owne service and the lawfull trade of the honest merchantes, by prohibiting that no persons whatsoever should take upon them, publicely or privately, to procure, gather up, receive, bring in, or carry out, any packets or letters to or from the countreys beyond the seas, except such our ordinarie postes and messengers for those parties as, eyther by our Master of the Postes, or the Masters of the Postes Generall of those countreys reciproquely, should be found nominated by that kind of service, or otherwise be able to shewe sufficient warrant for their voyages and dispatches under the hands of our principall secretaries, any ambassadors, or others sufficiently authorized: which notwithstanding, divers disavowed persons have used to intrude themselves, contrary to all good order: In consideration of which inconveniences past, we doe hereby straightly prohibit and forbid all persons whatsoever, directly or indirectly, to gather up, receive, bring in, or carie out of this realme, any letters or packets, without the allowance, or ordinarie addressse and dispatch, of the sayde masters and comptrollers of the postes reciproquely, or their deputies, or shall be sufficiently authorized as aforesayde: And therefore our will and pleasure is, that you, the Lord Treasurer of England, and the Lord Warden of the Cinque Portes, together with our trustie and welbeloved servant John Stanhop, Esquire, Master and Comptroller-generall of all our Postes, cause publike knowledge to be given hereof unto all merchants, both strangers and others of our citie of London, and all others whom it may or ought to concerne, that neither they, nor any for them, doe hereafter take upon them, openly or underhand, to employ any such disavowed persons in the carrying of their letters, but to use such onely as shall be found lawfully appoynted for that service. To which effect, also, we do expressly wil and command, by these presents, all maiors, sheriffes, justices of peace, bailiffes, and all special commissioners, and more especially all searchers, customers, and comptrollers of our postes, and all other our officers and ministers wheresoever, in their severall jurisdictions and offices, to make diligent search of all males, bougets, and other cariages of all such disavowed carriers, messengers, or suspected persons, coming in or going out of the realme with packettes or letters; and all such, so discovered, to apprehend and stay, keeping them in safe custodie, until by the viewe of their writings, sent up to our Privie Counsaile, it be seene and advised what shall be further done with them. Signed at our Mannor of Greenwich, the 26 day of Aprill 1591, in the 33 yere of our reigne.

God save the Queene!

SECRET COMMITTEE ON THE POST-OFFICE.

37

1582 *Intro of post. Ireland discharged by Secy of State (Cal. Dom. 1581-90 p. 62)*

—XV.—

(Mr. Reeve, 3.)

At the Court at Richmond, 24th February 1598.

*1599 what is owing to the sd. Decant wch. sh. for 1597-8  
11. 24. 00, post et clerks, 1579 (Cal. Dom. 1572-30 p. 62)*

A lre to Sir John Stanhope, knight, Mr of her Majesty's Postes. Whereas, upon the last discharge of the postes towards Ireland, it was thought necessarie by the L<sup>s</sup> then in Counsaile to continew the service of Will<sup>m</sup> Mayo, esq. poste of West Chester onlie, and by private composi<sup>o</sup>n to allowe him the wages of ij<sup>s</sup> by the daie, five markes for every journey to the Courte w<sup>th</sup> lres from Ireland, and ten groates for every daies attendance after the first two daies staye for answer, payable by the Treasurer of Her Majesty's Chamber, by warrant from their Lt<sup>s</sup>, so longe as it should be founde convenient for Her Highness service; which fee by daie, together w<sup>th</sup> the other allowances, was afterwarde, by Her Maties graunte, continued unto Peter Proby, as poste of West Chester, only during Her pleasure: Now, forasmuche as the affaires of that kingdom are grown to that importance as necessarilie require oftner dispatches and more expedi<sup>o</sup>n then by the former composi<sup>o</sup>n can be performed w<sup>th</sup>out hinderance and hazarde to Her Highnes service and disturbance of Her good subiects; Her pleasure is, that the former allowances being from henceforth suspended, you take order forthwith for the speedie appointinge and layinge of the standinge and ordinarie postes againe, as was betweene the Courte and Hollyheade, as by the waie of Bristoll towards Ireland, at suche places and distant stages as are needfull and have been accustomed for the furtherance of Her Highnes speall service and the ease of the , accordinge to a note or schedule of stages hereinclosed, and at such severall rates of wages, by the daie, as are specified in the said schedule subscribed by the L. Buckhurst and Sir John Fortescu, and the same to continue duringe Her Majesty's pleasure. And so requiring you to take speedie order herein, Wee bidd you, &c.

Postes towards Ireland, by waie of Hollyheade.

Stages.	p' diem.
The Courte	ij <sup>s</sup>
London	xxd
Barnett	xxd
St. Albons	xxd
Brickhill	xxd
Tocester	xxd
Dayntree	xxd
Coventrie	xxd
Colsell	xxd
Litchfielde	xxd
Stone	xxd
Nantwiche	xxd
West Chester	ij <sup>s</sup> iiiid
Rudland	xxd
Conwaye	xxd
Beaumois	xxd
Hollyheade, allowance as well for serving the packett by lande as for entertaining a bark to carie over and to returne the packet, at xlii the moneth, accomping xxviii daies to the moneth, is yearlie	cxxxli

Postes towards Ireland, by Bristoll.

Stages.	p' diem.
London	xxd
Houndslowe	xxd
Maidenheade	xxd
Readinge	xxd
Newberry	xxd
Marleborough	xxd
Chipnam	xxd
Marsfield	xxd
Bristoll	xxd
Sum p'annum	ccclxxiiij xv

*Earlier mention of post office, there must have been equally early posts to Calais, as the s began prior to 1500, with Bert. de Calais as 1525/6. Henry VIII. (1511-1547)*

*the home packet was discharged by Secy of State (Cal. Dom. 1581-90 p. 62)*

(Mr. Reeve, 4.)

At the Court at Reading, 16th August 1601.

An open lre to all the Postes betweene London and Chester: Whereas there are two exchanges appointed at the citties of Chester and Bristoll, where Sir George Carry, Knt., Treas<sup>r</sup> at Warre, in the realme of Ireland, hath deputies to attend the s<sup>r</sup>vise, and also an other at London, to have correspondencies with them; by reason whereof they have occasion to send lres in expedi<sup>o</sup>n, bothe for matters concerninge the exchange and the speediour advertizinge us the state of the same; these shalbe therefore in Her Majies name, to will and command you, all the postes from Chester to London, and from London to Chester, not to faile to see the packette or lres that shalbe delivered unto you, or any of you, by the deputies of the said Sir George Carry, that are at Chester, directed to Thomas Watson, gent., or any other other his servauntes in London, in the absence of the said Watson, or from the said Thomas Watson, unto the deputies of the said treas<sup>r</sup>, at Chester, to be conveyed from poste to post, and safelie delivered (as they are directed), beinge for Her Majies service, so as they doe put their handes to the said packette, affirmynge they are for the occasions of her Majesty's service: Whereof see you faile not.

— XVII. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 1.)

PROCLAMATION by the Privy Council for dispatch of Pacquets between London and Berwick; dated at Whitehall, 8 April 1603.

State Paper Office, Book of Proclamations, p. 7.

A PROCLAMATION for the dispatch of Pacquets betweene London and Berwicke, for the service of the King:

To all Maiors, Shiriffes, Justices of Peace, Postmasters, Bailiffes, Constables, Hedboroughs, and all other the King's Majestie's Officers and Subjects whatsoever, to whom it shall or may appertaine, and to every of them.

FORASMUCH as there is present occasion of speedy dispatch of pacquets by poste, for the speciall and important service of our Sovereigne Lord the King's Majestie to and fro betweene London and Berwicke, and for that purpose it is fit and convenient, in this time so full of busines, that the postmasters of every stage be aided and assisted with fresh and able horses, as necessitie shall require, by the magistrates of towns and villages neere adjoining, for the quicke dispatch of the said pacquets, until his Majestie's businesse bee better settled upon his arrivall into these southerne parts: And whereas also the King's most excellent Majestie doth shortly intend to begin his journey from Berwicke toward his citie of London: We hold it very necessary to give present order that such provision be made of poste-horses and carriages for his Majesty and his traine in all places where he shall passe. We have therefore made choise of Thomas Mylles, esquire, paymaster of all the postes, and Rowland White, gent., postmaster of his Majestie's court, to see the services abovesaid well performed; willing and requiring, and in his Majestie's name charging and commanding all sheriffes, deputie-lieutenants, justices of peace, mayors, bayliffes, and all other his Majestie's officers and loving subjects, to take such special order and care in aiding and assisting al constables and postmasters, and other under officers where the occasion of service shall require it, that such number of horses may be provided from time to time, and from place to place, during his Majestie's journey, as well for the pacquets as otherwise, as Master Thomas Mylles and Rowland White shall give direction for, and that those numbers of horses you send in, be able and sufficient horses, and well furnished with saddles, bridles, girts, and stirropes, with good guides to looke to them, who, for their said horses, shall demaund and receive of such as shall ride on them, the prices accustomed. And further you are to see the said gentlemen and their servants, that now are employed, and travell about this service, furnished, in doing thereof from place to place, of good and able postmasters, at reasonable prices. Whereof faile yee not, as ye tender his Majestie's pleasure, and will answeere to the contrary at your uttermost perill.

From the King's Majestie's Pallace of Whitehall, the Eight of Aprill, Anno Dom. 1603.

- |                     |                    |                  |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Jo. Cant.           | Ga. Kildare.       | Fr. Norrys.      |
| Notingham.          | Anth. Cirencester. | Ro. Cecil.       |
| Pembrok.            | Ro. Rich.          | E. Oxenford.     |
| Jo. Norwycen.       | T. Darcy.          | Ro. Sussex.      |
| Tho. Lawarre.       | Jo. Popham.        | Ro. Hereford.    |
| Hen. Windsor.       | T. Buckhurst.      | R. Morley.       |
| Ed. Wotton.         | E. Worcester.      | Will. Sandys.    |
| Tho. Egerton, c. s. | Ri. Londoñ.        | William Knollys. |
| Will. Derby.        | Jo. Roffens.       |                  |

— XVIII. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 2.)

ORDERS for THOROUGH POSTS and COURIERS, riding Post on the King's Affaires. 1603/4

ORDERS for Thorow-Posts and Carriers riding in Post in our Affaires.

THE Lords of the Privie Counsell, endeavouring heretofore the like furtherance of the service of the State, as well in horsing such as ride on their Prince's affaires, as the speedy dispatch of packets in all places where Posts were erected and ordeined, considering that, for the service of the one, a daily fee is allowed, and, for the other, no certaine wages at all, but the hire of the horses let out, and that often ill paide, whereby they stand not so bound to the one, as to attend the other: And that the townes and countreys besides became many wayes vexed and perplexed, by the over great libertie of riders in poste, specially by such as pretend publike service by speciall commission, contrary to the King's meaning or their lordships' orders: who, minding nothing more then the particular good of his servants and subjects, for the benefite of the one, reliefe of the other, and more regard to the good usage of all owners of horses and the beasts themselves, did thinke it expedient to digest and set downe sundry necessary orders, indifferent for all parties to observe and follow. Which orders, being by us reviewed and considered, are now, according to the necessitie of the times, thought meete to be eftsoones allowed and published. The execution thereof we seriously recommending to the Master and Controller of all our Posts, for the better warranting and directing of Posts,

State Paper Office, Book of Proclamations, p. 67.

so farre as this service may concerne them, Wee do hereby straightly charge and command, all and every lieutenants of shires, deputie lieutenants, justices of all assizes and peace, sheriffes, maiors, bailiffes, constables, headboroughs, and all other his officers, ministers, and loving subjects, to be ayding and assisting to the same, with their utmost helpe, authoritie and countenance, where need shall require, as they tender the furtherance of the service of the State, and our displeasure. *18<sup>th</sup> of Oct.*

1. First it is ordered, That in all places where Posts are layde for the packet, they also, as persons most fit, shall have the benefit and preheminance of letting, furnishing, and appointing of horses to all riding in poste (that is to say) with horne and guide, by commission or otherwise; and to that end shall keepe, and entertaine of their owne, or have in a readinesse under their direction, such and so many able and sufficient post-horses, with convenient furniture, as their owne abilities will beare, or that the contributory provision of the townes and countreys shal enable them unto, or afford. And if it fall out that carriers or throw-posts, riding in our affaires by speciall commission, come so thicke, or in such numbers, that their ordinary provision will not suffice, then the constables of the places where they dwell, with the assistance of the chiefe magistrates there, and of the countreys adjoining (being required in our name) shall take up, bring in, and supply the Posts with horses where they may be had or hired.

2. And, like as in the orders for the carrying of the packets, the furtherance of our service and the State is only aymed at, so in this it is intended, that none be holden to ride on publique affaires but with speciall commission, and the same signed either by one of our Principall Secretaries of State, or sixe at the least of our Privy Counsell, or the Master and Comptroller-generall of the Posts, for all journeys outwards, and from the Court onely. And, to the Court, the Lords of the Privie Counsell of Scotland, any lieutenant, deputie, or governours in Ireland, the presidents of counsels, or vice-presidents established in the North, or in the marches of Wales, the governour of Barwicke, any ambassadours, governours o. townes, or agents beyond the seas, the warden of the Cinque Ports, or his lieutenant, of Dover, specially sending to the Court, to the body of the Counsel, or Secretaries of State, or any packet so directed that it may appeare the party dispatched therewith rideth in our speciall affaires, (the ambassadors of forreine princes within this our realme, and the ordinary Posts for France and Flanders allowed, and by their badges sufficiently commissioned, excepted), and of all such so riding in publique affaires, it shall be lawfull for the Posts, or the owners of the horses, to demand, for the hire of ech horse, after the rate of twopence halfe-peny the mile, (besides the guides groats). But of all others riding poste with horne and guide, about their private businesses, the hire and prices are left to the parties discretions, to agree and compound within themselves.

3. It shal not be lawfull for any person whatsoever riding in post, by commission or otherwise, to take and ride away the horse or horses of any man, post or other, not having first and aforehand fully payd and satisfied for the price and hire unto the owners or the Post for them, nor ride them further than the next immediate stage without changing, without the knowledge and consent of the Post of the stage by whom he rideth in post, nor charge any horse so taken to ride in poste with any male or burden (besides his rider), that exceedeth the weight of thirtie pounds: Neither shall any man, so riding in poste, offer to ride any man's horse above seven miles the houre in summer; viz. from the first of April till the last of September; nor above sixe in winter, which shall bee accounted the rest of the yeere. And if any shall wilfully disobey herein, or in any point hereof, to the manifest hurt or hinderance of the horse or his owner, the officers and magistrates of the place, upon complaint made, shall stay the parties offending, untill they have given present satisfaction, or sufficient securitie to repay the damage.

4. Finally, as it is onely intended that our service in this kind be at all hands furthered, and the Posts to that end, to all their wants and wrongs to right themselves by the helpe and authoritie of the magistrates, townes, and countreys as abovesaide: so, if the service shall seeme unto any Post a burden overgreat for his private state to beare and undertake, and the towne and countreys (notwithstanding the ease and quiet they reape thereby) no way willing to countenance, encourage, or enable him thereto; or otherwise, in regard of yeeres or indisposition, shall not see reason to underlie the charge and trouble of the service, as being a hinderance to his speciall duetie in the service of the packet; the Post in such case attending his peculiar charge, the constables and magistrates of the places shall take order, from time to time, that horses be provided for all riding in Post by commission, or specially sent in our affaires as beforesaid, in such sort as they were subject to doe before there were any Posts there, and as in places where are yet no standing Postes at all, unto whom also our pleasure is, that these orders shall bee in force and availeable (being delivered them from the Master and Comptroller of the Posts) so farre as they and any branch of them may concerne the furtherance of publike service or their owne reliefe.

ORDERS for the Posts of our Realmes, and for all Men to observe and obey in the speedy Carriage of Packets directed for our Affaires. *1603*

WHEREAS heretofore the Lords of the Privie Counsell to the Queene, our sister deceased, for great and weighty causes concerning the State, have endeavoured to set downe and publish sundry Orders and generall directions for matters of Posting, especially for the speedy despatch of Packets and Letters importing the Prince's immediate affaires, the colour whereof, serving private turnes, hath greatly frustrated their endeavours:

582. *It is the privilege of a subject to be absent from the court on private business.* *It*

It is now, therefore, for the better warrantise and direction of our Posts, thought meet and convenient, that the former Orders be revived, and (according to the necessity of the times) renewed and published in our name in manner as followeth :

1. First, every Post receiving a dayly fee, and entertained specially for the packet, according to the proportion of his wages by the day, shall keepe certaine horses, to the number of two at the least, with furniture convenient, and those alwayes to have at hand in a readinesse to run with our packets onely in Post, so soone as the same are brought to his hands. He shall have also two bags of leather at the least, well lined with bayes or cotton, to carry the packet in, and hornes to sound and blow, as oft as he meets company, or foure times in every mile.

2. Every Post, thus furnished, shall at all houres receive and cary or send away all packets or letters brought unto him, directed for our speciall affaires, dated on the outside with the time and place of their first delivery, and subscribed by the hands of our Principall Secretaries and Master and Comptroller-generall of the Postes ; and, for matters of the Navy, or to the maritime forts upon the sea-coast, or principall port townes, by our Admirall of England ; for matters of the Cinque Ports, by our Warden ; for matters of Scotland, by our Treasurer and Secretary of Scotland ; and for Ireland, by our Lieutenant, the L. Mountjoy ; or addressed to them in the proper businesse of their places, or to the body of our Counsell, from what persons or places whatsoever, of whose names and addresse onely the Posts shall take notice, according to the first institution and originall use of their service, and of none other.

3. Every Post, so receiving our packets, directed and subscribed as abovesaid, shall, within one quarter of an houre at the most after they come to his handes, dispatch them away in Post, and shall runne therewith in sommer (that is, from the first of April to the last of September) after seven miles the houre ; and in winter (which shall be esteemed the rest of the yeere) after five miles the houre at the least, as the wayes affoord and the weather fall out.

4. And that it may appeare from time to time (when and as often as it shall be required) with what care and diligence the service is at al hands applyed and performed, every Post shall keepe a large and faire leger paper booke, to enter our packets in as they shalbe brought unto him, with the day of the moneth, houre of the day or night, that they came first to his handes, together with the name of him or them, by whom or unto whom they were subscribed and directed, taking and entering onely such for our packets as come warranted as aforesaid, and all others to passe as by-letters.

5. Lastly, to the end that the Posts generally may the better attend their severall services, and performe their duties in that behalfe, our pleasure is, that they and every of them shall brooke and enjoy the benefit of all former favours allowed them ; namely, that they and their servants be holden free and exempted from all prests and attendances at assizes, sessions, inquests, and musters.

Signed by his Majestie, and subscribed by Sir John Stanhop\*, Knight, Master and Comptroller-generall of his Highnesse Postes. Anno Dom. 1603.

— XIX. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 11.) A. D. 1607.

VICESIMA OCTAVA PARS PATEN' DE ANNO RR̄ JACOBI QUINTO.

Dñi Con' ad vit' } REX omibz ad quos &c Saltm. Cum nup p̄charissima Soror n̄ra Elizabeth, 36 sup.  
Johi Stanhope } nup Regina Anglie, p̄ L̄ras suas Patentes sub Magno Sigillo Angl, geren  
Milit' Dño Stan- } dat' apud Westm' vicesimo die Junij Anno Regni sui Tricesimo sc̄do, p̄  
hope & al } consideraçõibz in eisdem L̄ris Paten' sp̄ficat', Dederit & concesserit p̄ditco

& fideli consiliar n̄ro Johi Stanhope Mil, Dño Stanhope de Harington, Vicecam̄ar' n̄ro, p̄ nomen Johis Stanhope ar', duran' vita sua, (inl at) officiu' Magri nunciõz & cursoz, cõiter vocat' Postaz suarz, tam infra Regnũ suũ Anglie q̄am in quibuscunq; alijs

ptibz tansmarinis in suo Dño existen', Quas quidem L̄ras Paten', ac p̄dict' offic', ac omia vad feod p̄fic' comodat' & advantag' dco officio p̄tinen' sive spectan', ac tot' jus stat' titul' intesse benefic' clam' & demaund' p̄dict' Johis Stanhope Milit' Dñi Stanhope de Harington, de in exta vel rone p̄dict' offic' & ceter' p̄miss' vel eoꝝ aliquoz vel alicujus rone vel p̄textu p̄dict' L̄raz Paten', p̄dict' Johis Stanhope Miles, Dñs Stanhope de Harington, reddidit concessit sursumreddidit & resignavit nob, q̄am quidem reddiçõem concession' sursumreddiçõn' & resignaçõem acceptavim', & p̄ p̄sentes acceptam': Sciatis qđ nos, de gr̄a n̄ra sp̄iali ac ex ãta sciencia & mero motu n̄ris, Dedim' & concessim' ac p̄ p̄sentes p̄ nob herediçibz & successoribz n̄ris Dams & concedim' p̄fat' ditco & p̄q̄am fideli consiliar n̄ro Johi Stanhope Mil, Dño Stanhope de Harington, Vicecam̄ar' n̄ro, & Carolo Stanhope, filio & hered' apparen' p̄dci Dñi Stanhope, p̄dict' offic' Magri Nunciõz & Cursoz, cõil' vocat' Postaz n̄raz, tam infra Regnũ n̄rm Anglie q̄am in quibuscunq; alijs ptibz tansmarinis in n̄ro Dño existen', necnon vad & feod sexaginta sex Lib̄ tresdecim solid' quatuor Denar' p̄ exercitio & occupaçõe officij p̄dict', unacum omibz alijs p̄ficuis regard' diett' comodat' & advantag' dco officio spectan' sive p̄tinen', h̄endum Occupand' et Gaudend' officiu' p̄dict' & ceter' p̄miss' p̄fat' Johi Stanhope Mil, Dño

5.67 Memorand. — qđ vicesimo quinto die Aprilis, Anno Regni Caroli R. decimo tertio, Carolus Dñs Stanhop venit coram Thoma Dño Coventry, Magni Sigilli Angl Custod', & sursum reddidit has L̄ras Paten', easq; in Cancellariam Dñi Regis restituit cancellandas, una cum statu, jure & titulo ipius Dñi Stanhope in officio in hijs L̄ris 'aten' mençonat'.

Chāles Stanhope.  
Tho. Coventrye.

\* Created Baron Stanhope, of Harrington, 4th May 1605. Ob. 1620.  
Charles, Baron Stanhope, 1620. Ob. 1675.

Dño Stanhope de Harington, p se vel p sufficien' Deputatu' suu' sive Deputatos suos sufficien', duran' vita sua naturali a tempore sigillaçõis hæz Lřas nřas Paten', ac post decessum sursumreddicõem vel forisfeur' dçi Johis Stanhope Mit, Dñi Stanhope de Harington, tunc hend occupand' e' Gaudend' offic' pdict' e' ceter' pmiss' pfat' Carolo Stanhope, p se vel p sufficien' deputat' suu' sive deputat' suos sufficien', duran' vita sua naturali, ac hend e' picipiend' dçõs sexaginta sex libr' tresdecim solid' e' quatuor denar' a festo Nativitatis Sçi Johis Bapře ultim' pfit' eidem Johi Stanhope Mit, Dño Stanhope de Harington, duran' vita sua naturali, et post decessum sursumreddicõn' vel forisfeur' pfat' Johis Stanhope Mit, Dñi Stanhope de Harington, hend e' picipiend' eidem Carolo duran' vita sua, de Thesauro nřo hered' e' successoz nřoz ad Recept' Sc'acij nři hered' e' successoz nřoz p manus Thesaurar' e' Camar' nřoz ibm p tempore existen', ad quatuor anni terminos usual', videt' ad fest' Sçi Michis Archi, Natalis Dñi, Anũciacõis Bē Marie Virginis, e' Sçi Johis Bapře p equales porções, in tam amplis modo e' forma put Johes Mason Miles, Thomas Randolpe nup defunct', pfat' Johes Stanhope Mit Dñs Stanhope de Harington, sive aliquis alius dict' offic' antehac occupans fuit e' pcepit in e' p exercitio ejusdem, et hoc absq' compo seu aliquo alio pinde nob' heredibz vel successoribz nřis quoquo modo reddend' solvend' vel faciend': Proviso tamen semp qd si pdict' Johes Stanhope Miles, Dñs Stanhope de Harington, ad aliquod tempus post hac has Lřas nřas Paten', seu jus vel inesse in seu p easdem Lřas nřas Paten', nob' hered' seu successoribz nřis sursumredderit cancellan, daut irrotulam ejusdem cancellari pcuravit, pd' tunc he Lře nře Paten' e' omes e' singul' concession' in eisdem, tam quoad pfat' Carolum qam quoad eundem Johem Stanhope Mit Dñu Stanhope de Harington, vacue erunt e' nullius vigoris seu effçs Eo qd expssa mençõ e' In cujus rei e' T. R. apud Westm' xxvjº die Julij.

¶ Bře de Privato Sigillo &c.

— XX. — *of xviii*

(Mr. Lechmere, 3.) *Foreign*

PROCLAMATION against the unauthorized Conveyance of Letters; dated Greenwich, 15 May 1609. *15 May 1609*

State Paper Office,  
Book of Proclama-  
tions, p. 204.

A PROCLAMATION forbidding any Person to cary Pacquets or Letters to or from any City or Towne, by Foot or on Horsebacke, except such as are allowed by Authoritie.

WHEREAS heretofore sundry wayes have bene devised to redresse the disorders among the Postes of our realme in generall, and particularly to prevent the inconveniences both to our owne service, and the lawfull trade of the honest merchants, by prohibiting that no persons whatsoever should take upon them, publicly or privately, to procure, gather up, receive, bring in, or carry out any pacquets or letters, to or from any port, city or towne, by foot or on horsebacke, within the realme, and to or from the countreyes beyond the seas, except such our ordinary foot-postes, posts, and messengers for those uses, as either by our *36* Master of the Postes, or the Masters of the Postes generall of those countreys reciproquely, should be found nominated for that kinde of service, or otherwise be able to shew sufficient warrant for their voyages and dispatches, under the hands of our Principal Secretaries, any ambassadors, or others sufficiently authorized; which notwithstanding, divers disavowed persons have used to intrude themselves, contrary to all good order: In consideration of which inconveniences past, we do hereby straitly prohibite and forbid all persons whatsoever, directly or indirectly, to gather up, receive, bring in or cary out of this realme, any letters or pacquets, without the allowance or ordinary addresse and dispatch of the said Masters and Comptrollers of the Postes reciproquely, or their deputies, or shall be sufficiently authorized as is aforesaid. And therefore, our will and pleasure is, that you, the Lord Treasurer of England, and Lord Warden of our Cinque Ports, together with our Master and Comptroller-generall of all our Posts, cause publique knowledge to bee given thereof unto all merchants, both strangers and others of our city of London, and all others whom it may or ought to concerne, that neither they, nor any for them, doe hereafter take upon them, openly nor underhand, to employ any disavowed person in the carrying of their letters, but to use such onely as shalbe found lawfully appointed for that service. To which effect also we doe expresly will and command, by these presents, all maiors, sheriffes, justices of peace, bailiffes, and all speciall commissioners, and more specially all searchers of our ports, and all other our officers and ministers wheresoever in their severall jurisdictions and offices, to make diligent search of all males, bougets, and other carriages, of all such disavowed carriers, messengers, or suspected persons, coming in or going out of the realme with pacquets or letters, and all such so discovered, to apprehend and stay, keeping them in safe custody, untill by the view of their writings, sent up to our Privie Counsell, it be seene and advised what shalbe further done with them.

Given at our Mannor of Greenwich, the 15th day of May, in the 7 yere of our reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland. An. Do. 1609.

*Handwritten notes:*  
 this document is his like paper (Hist. MSS. Comm. XII vol 2 p. 171), signed Charles Stanhope  
 and Stanhope, "master & captives general of his highness postes", may have been issued at any  
 time 1607-1619 ✓

*H.B.*

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM THE

ORDERS decreed upon for the furtherance of our service, as well in writing as riding in Post; specially set downe and commanded to be observed, where our Postes are established within our Countie of Kent.

FORASMUCH as, amongst the sundry consultations and provident cares taken for the maintenance of the quiet peace of the State, it hath not bene the least, that our predecessors heretofore, and the Counsell of this realme, have had to meete with the dangerous and secret intelligences of ill-affected persons, both at home and abroad, by the over-great liberty taken both in writing and riding in poste, specially in and through our countie of Kent, for the usuall and frequent passage that way falling out to and from all forraine parts beyond the seas, the ground whereof still rising from disorders offered by certaine persons called hackney-men, tapsters, hostlers and others, in hiring out their horses, to the hinderance of publike service, danger to our state, and wrong to our standing and settled Postes in their several stages: We have now thought it meete, with the advise of our right trustie and well-beloved cosins and counsellors Robert Earle of Salisbury, our High Treasurer of England, Henry Earle of Northampton, our Lord Privie Seale and Lord Warden of our Cinque Ports, and of our trustie and right well-beloved counsellor, John Lord Stanhope of Harrington, our Vice-Chamberlaine and Master of our Posts, to set downe and establish certain orders, as well for the packet as thorough postes, the due execution whereof we likewise command and recommend to all maiors, portreeves, bailiffes and other head officers in the cities, towns and ports of our said countie of Kent, where the stages of our standing posts, are now established and appointed, and to the justices of our peace next residing, as they or any of them doe tender our service, the safety of our state, and will answer the neglect or contempt hereof at their perils.

ORDERS FOR THE PACQUET. *in mail*

First, that no pacquets or letters shall be sent by Poste, or binde any Poste to ride therewith in post, but such as shal be directed, first, for our speciall affaires, and subscribed by the writer's name or sender thereof; neither shall it be holden for our affaires, but as the same shal be directed and subscribed by our High Treasurer, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Lord Admiral, Principall Secretarie of State, Lord Lieutenant of the said countie, or Master of our Posts writing from the Court, or otherwise to the Court, subscribed by any Admiral, or Vice-Admiral from the Narrow Seas, lieutenant of Dover Castle, or maior, or his deputie, of any port towne, ambassadors, or agents beyond the seas for the time being, or deputie lieutenant of our saide countie, writing to any of these personages aforementioned, or to the bodie of our Privie Counsell.

2. All pacquets or letters, so directed, shall bee carried by the Postes in poste from stage to stage onely, and not otherwise nor further, being dated first, on the outside, by the sender or writer, and afterwards by the Postes themselves, as they come to their hands, with the houre and place of their delivery; who shall runne therewith in summer, viz. from the first of April to the last of September, after seven miles the houre, and five miles the houre in winter, which is the rest of the yeere, as the wayes and weather afford.

3. And that it may appeare from time to time (as oft as shall be needful) with what expedition the service is by our Posts performed, every Poste shall keepe a faire paper booke, to enter the pacquets in, being so brought unto him, with the day, moneth, and houre they came to his hands, two leather bagges, lined with cotton or bayes, to carry the pacquet in, and hornes to sound, as oft as he meets and sees company coming, or foure times in every mile.

4. And to the end our Postes, attending thus our speciall service, may performe their severall dueties in that behalf, our pleasure is, that they, and every of them, shall brooke and enjoy the benefit of all former favours and immunities by our predecessor allowed them, namely, that they and their servants be holden free and exempted from all summons, prests, and personall attendances at assizes, sessions, inquests and musters.

ORDERS FOR THE THOROUGH POSTES. *in low official style, using post horses*

First, as the service of the pacquet, so the horsing of al through-posts, and persons riding in poste with horne or guide, by commission or otherwise, shall be performed by our standing Postes in their several stages; who, to that end, shall keepe, and have in a readinesse under their directions, a sufficient number of poste-horses, with saddles, bridles and furniture convenient; and if it shall fall out that, by the repaire of ambassadors, or other accidents of service, men riding in poste, that is to say, with horne or guide, come so thicke, or in such numbers that their ordinary provision will not suffice, then the constables of the places where they dwell, with the aide and assistance of the chiefe magistrates there and the countreys adjoining, (being required in our name) shall take up, bring in, and supply the Postes with horses and with carriages, where they may be had or hired.

2. And that it be not, any way, a let or impeachment to the libertie of any man riding on his owne or ordinary affaires, within the realme, at his or their pleasure, it is hereby meant, that all strangers, specially riding with horne or guide, by themselves or in company of our ordinary messengers or Postes for the Low Countreys or France, all Ambassadors riding or sending in their Princes affaires, and all other whatsoever riding with horne or guide, shall take and change their horses onely of the Postes of that place, or with his consent and appoyntment, they taking for each horse after the rate of iii d. the mile, beside the guide groat.

3. And

3. And to prevent all advantages of unconscionable dealing, by such as keepe horses to hire, in the horsing of strangers beyond the ordinary stages, to the wronging of our Postes, and injury of the beast or the ryder, it is found expedient, and our will and pleasure is, that all strangers borne, as well going fourth of the realme as comming into the same through our shire of Kent, although it be about their owne and private affaires without horne or guide, shall likewise be horsed by our ordinary Posts from stage to stage, or with the Posts knowledge and consent, not taking for each horse above ii d. ob. [ $2\frac{1}{2}$  d.] the mile.

4. It shall not be lawfull for any so riding in Poste, to take and ride away the horse or horses of any man, not having first and aforehand fully payd and satisfied the hire, nor ride them further then the next stage, without the knowledge and consent of the Poste of that stage; nor charge any horse, taken to ride Poste, with any male or burden (besides the rider) that exceeds the weight of 30 pound: And if it shall happen any to disobey these our commandements and orders, to the manifest wrong of any our Posts, injurie of any owner, or hurt of his beast, the officers or magistrates of the place, upon complaint thereof made, shall stay the partie offending till satisfaction be made, or sufficient security given to repay the damage. But if it so fall out, that the obstinacie of any herein offending require further punishment then the ordinary power of the magistrate of the place can or may conveniently inflict, then we require our said Master and Comptroller of the Posts, upon notice thereof given him, to send for the partie or parties to answer their contempt before our Privie Counsell.

5. This being in generall our will and command, for the speedie, safe and orderly expedition of our publike dispatches and occurrents, as well in writing for our affaires as riding in poste, whatsoever besides shall fall out more particularly to the behoofe of our said Postes, or ease of their horses, that in these kinde of services are most subject to abuses, our like care is to bee specially respected: and, to that end, wee doe hereby eftsoones recommend both the one and the other to the wisdom and protection of our sayd Master of the Postes, and the aide of all magistrates and others, that love the furtherance of our service, or regard our safetie or pleasure.

Given at Our Mannor of Greenwich, the 15th day of May, in the seventh yeere of our reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland. Anno Dom. 1609.

— XXI. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 12.) A. D. 1620-1621. *with note London - Plymouth - 1620 - 1621*

AMONG the Records in the Public Record Office, Rolls House, and in the custody of the Master of the Rolls, pursuant to Statute 1 & 2 Vict. c. 94; to wit, in the Book of Inrolments of Letters of Privy Seal belonging to the late Office of Auditor of the Receipt of the Exchequer, No. 3\*, it is contained as follows.

\* A.D. 1620-1625.

Fol. 12 b.

JAMES, by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defend<sup>or</sup> of the faith, &c. To o<sup>r</sup> right trusty and right welbeloved the Lords and others our Comissioners for o<sup>r</sup> Treasury, and to o<sup>r</sup> Treasurer of England, and the Chamberlaines and Under-tre<sup>r</sup> of o<sup>r</sup> Excheq<sup>r</sup> for the tyme being, Greeting. Whereas wee have thought fitt heretofore to discharge certaine Stages of Postes, we<sup>ch</sup> had not beene before tyme usually maintained, and not necessary but onely in tyme of warr, viz. the Stage of London serving for the Westerne part<sup>e</sup>, the Stage of Stanes, Hartford bridg, Basingstoke, Andevor, Salisbury, Shaftesbury, Sherborne, Crookehorne, Honington, Excester, Ashburton, and Plymouth, as by o<sup>r</sup> l<sup>res</sup> of Privy Seale, dated the one and twentieth of March, in the eight yeare of o<sup>r</sup> Raigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the foure and fortith may appeare; Now, forasmuch as the necessary dispatch of l<sup>res</sup> and pacquets, for and about the speciall affaires of us and o<sup>r</sup> Realme, doth require a new Establishment of the foresaid Stages from o<sup>r</sup> City of London to Plymouth: These are to will and comaund yo<sup>u</sup>, out of o<sup>r</sup> Treasure remayning in the Receipt of o<sup>r</sup> Excheq<sup>r</sup>, to cause to be paid to o<sup>r</sup> right trusty and right welbeloved Councillor the Lord Stanhopp, M<sup>r</sup> of o<sup>r</sup> Postes, or to his Deputy or Assignee, such severall rates of wages as is hereafter sett downe under the names of the said severall stages, amounting in all to the some of twenty-three shilling<sup>e</sup> by the day, and the same to be paid, from the date hereof, quarterly by even portions, as it shall growe due, during o<sup>r</sup> pleasure: And these o<sup>r</sup> l<sup>res</sup> shalbe yo<sup>r</sup> sufficient warrant in that behalf. Given under o<sup>r</sup> Privy Seale att o<sup>r</sup> Pallace of Westm<sup>r</sup>, the six and twentieth day of October in the eighteenth yeare of o<sup>r</sup> raigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the foure and fiftith.

26 October 1620.

Jo: Castle dep<sup>t</sup> Ed: Reynoldes.

London, p diem	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Sherborne	-	-	-	-	j <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Staines	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Crookehorne	-	-	-	-	j <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Hartfordbridge	-	-	-	-	j <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	Honington	-	-	-	-	j <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Basingstoke	-	-	-	-	j <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	Excester	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
Andevo <sup>r</sup>	-	-	-	-	j <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	Ashburton	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
Salisbury	-	-	-	-	j <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	Plymouth	-	-	-	-	j <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Shaftesbury	-	-	-	-	j <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	Total p diem	-	-	-	-	j <sup>li</sup> iij <sup>s</sup>

JAMES, by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defend<sup>or</sup> of the faith, &c. To the Tre<sup>r</sup> and Undertre<sup>r</sup> of o<sup>r</sup> Excheq<sup>r</sup> now being, and to the Tre<sup>r</sup>, Under-tre<sup>r</sup>.

Fol. 28 b.



tr̄er, and all other the Officers and ministers of o<sup>r</sup> Excheq<sup>r</sup> that hereafter for the time shalbe, and to e<sup>v</sup>y of them to whom it may appertayne, greeteing. Whereas there is due unto the Master of the Post<sup>l</sup>, upon a Remaine of one Thousand foure hundred Ninety and two pound<sup>l</sup>, foure shillings, and two pence, for one halfe yeare ended the last of March, one Thousand sixe hundred and nineteene, the some of nine hundred and seaventeene pound<sup>l</sup>, eleaven shillings, foure pence halfepenny; and for arrerages for two whole yeares, begun the first of Aprill 1619 and ended the last of March 1621, after the yearely allowance of Two Thousand nine hundred fourescore and foure pound<sup>l</sup>, eight shillings, fower pence, the some of five thousand, nine hundred, three score and eight pound<sup>l</sup>, sixteene shillings, eight pence; and also, for arerages upon the new encrease of Twenty and three shillings p diem for the stages layd betwixt London and Plimouth, making p annū foure hundred and nineteene pound<sup>l</sup>, fiteene shillings, due for one hundred and fifty-sixe dayes, begunne the seaven and twentieth day of October one Thousand sixe hundred and twenty, and ended the last day of March now last past, the some of one hundred sixty and foure pound<sup>l</sup>, eight shillings, amounting in the whole to the some of seaven thousand and Fifty pounds, sixteene shillings, halfepenny: And forasmuch as it is o<sup>r</sup> pleasure that the service and employ<sup>m</sup>t of the Post<sup>l</sup>, in divers partes of this o<sup>r</sup> Kingdome, shalbe still continued for sending of l̄res and Packet<sup>l</sup> by Comaundment of vs and o<sup>r</sup> Privy Councill, and that the wages and allowances unto each of the sayd Posts<sup>l</sup> shalbe from time to time quarterly payd during o<sup>r</sup> pleasure, according to a list or schedule of the Stages and allowances signed by us and hereunto annexed, w<sup>ch</sup> doth amount unto the some of Three thousand fower hundred and fower pound<sup>l</sup>, three shillings, fower pence, by the yeare: Wee doe hereby will and comaund yo<sup>u</sup>, out of o<sup>r</sup> Treasure w<sup>ch</sup> is and shalbe remayning in the Receipt of o<sup>r</sup> Exchequer, to pay or cause to be payed unto o<sup>r</sup> right Trusty and welbeloved Charles Lord Stanhope, now Master of o<sup>r</sup> Post<sup>l</sup>, or his Assignes, as well the sayd Arerages of Seaven Thousand and Fifty pound<sup>l</sup>, sixteene shillings, halfepenny behind and unpayed as afforesayd, as also that according to the sayd List or Schedule of the Stages now setled and agreed upon, or that hereafter shalbe by any occasions increased or diminished by warrant signed by us or sixe of o<sup>r</sup> Privy Councill (whereof o<sup>r</sup> Tr̄er of England for the time being to be one) yo<sup>u</sup> cause paym<sup>t</sup> to be made out of o<sup>r</sup> Treasure afforesayd, unto the sayd Lord Stanhope or his Assignes, of such some or somes of money, from time to time, as the Charge of the sayd Post<sup>l</sup> shall amount unto, the same to be payed from three moneths to three moneths q<sup>u</sup>terly, by equall porcōns, for the satisfacōn of the ordinary charges incident and belonging to the sayd office of M<sup>r</sup> of o<sup>r</sup> Post<sup>l</sup>, and according to the List or List<sup>l</sup> afforesayd; the first paym<sup>t</sup> thereof to beginne (the sayd Arrerages of Seaven thousand and fifty pound<sup>l</sup>, sixteene shillings, halfepenny, first cleared and satisfyed) from the last day of March last past before the date hereof, and so to be continued untill yo<sup>u</sup> shall receive further Direcōn from us to the Contrary. And these o<sup>r</sup> l̄res shalbe yo<sup>r</sup> sufficient warrant & discharge. Given under o<sup>r</sup> Privy Seale, at o<sup>r</sup> Pallace of Westm<sup>r</sup>, the fiveth day of June, in the Nineteenth yeare of o<sup>r</sup> Raigne of England, Fraunce, and Ireland, and of Scotland the fower and fiftieth.

Jo: Castle dep<sup>t</sup> Ed: Reynolds.

Signed JAMES R.

A LISTE of all the severall Stages, their Rates of Wages p Diem, & other Allowance<sup>l</sup> to the Office of M<sup>r</sup> of o<sup>r</sup> Post<sup>l</sup>, payable by o<sup>r</sup> l̄res of Privy Seale beareing date the fiveth day of June, in the Nineteenth yeare of o<sup>r</sup> Raigne of England, Fraunce, & Ireland, &c.

Towards Barwicke :

The Courte	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Wetherby	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
London	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	Burrough briggs	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
Waltham	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	Cathericke	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
Ware	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Bowes	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup> vj <sup>s</sup>
Royston	-	-	-	-	iiiij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	Burghe	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup> vj <sup>s</sup>
Baberham	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Perith	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
Newmarkett	-	-	-	-	iiiij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	Northalerton	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>
Caxton	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Darnton	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>
Huntingdon	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Durisme	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>
Stilton	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Newcastle	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
Stamford	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Hexam	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
South Wytham	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Thurlwall	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
Grantham	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Carlile	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
Newarke	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	Morpeth	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
Tuxford	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	Alnwicke	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
Strooby	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Belford	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>
Doncaster	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>	Barwicke	-	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>
Ferry Bryggs	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>							
Tadcaster	-	-	-	-	xx <sup>d</sup>							
Yorke	-	-	-	-	ij <sup>s</sup>							

Towards

Towards Dover :

The Courte - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Seddingborne - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>
London - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Canterbury - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup> vjd
Dartford - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup> vjd	Margat - - - - - xij <sup>d</sup>
Gravesend - - - - - vjd	Sandwiche - - - - - xvjd
Rochester - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Dover - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>

Towards Holihead :

The Courte - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Colshill - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>
London - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Litchfeild - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>
Barnett - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Stone - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>
St. Albones - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Nantwch - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>
Breckhill - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Chester - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup> iiijd
Tocester - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Northupp - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>
Dayntry - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Rutland - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>
Coventry - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup> viijd	Conway - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>
Bremigham - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Beaumontis - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>
Bewdley - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	

Hollyhead, for keeping a Barke w<sup>th</sup> furniture to transport the Pacquett to Ireland, and serving the Post by land, at x<sup>li</sup> p menš after 28 daies to y<sup>e</sup> month, cxxx<sup>li</sup> yearly.

Towards Plymouth :

The Court - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Shaftesbury - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>
London - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Sherborne - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>
Staines - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>	Crookehorne - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>
Hartford bridge - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>	Honiton - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>
Basingstoke - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>	Exceter - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>
Andever - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>	Ashburton - - - - - ij <sup>s</sup>
Salisbury - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>	Plymouth - - - - - xx <sup>d</sup>

All wch sōmes, by the day, together w<sup>th</sup> the allowance of 50<sup>li</sup> p annū for extraordinary Post<sup>l</sup> in tymes of Progresse, and otherwise, and five sūm<sup>ing</sup>l p diem to John Stronge, gent., Paymaster to the Post<sup>l</sup>, being cast up, amount to the yearly some of 3,404<sup>li</sup> 3<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>.

Charles Stanhope.

Jo: Castle dep<sup>t</sup> Ed: Reynoides.

— XXII. —

30 April, 1619.

*Book 61, fol. 24, de B. in expens. "over the hagg parts, some beyond seas, for life", as recorded in Silvester Book etc. had succeeded Charles Sherborne as "one of the King's messengers" on post, for life" on Aug 8, 1604. J. W. 2, 1608 ch. d. 2. in exp. "a post, for life"*

LETTERS Patent of King James I, granting the office of Postmaster-General of England for Foreign Parts out of the King's Dominions, to Mathew de Quester and Mathew de Quester his son.

N. B.—This patent is known only from its recitals in Nos. XXIII. and XXXIII.

*John Strong, paymaster of the posts" 7 Spt. 1623 (State Paper, Hist. MSS. Comm. Xii, 148)*

— XXIII. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 10.)

PROCLAMATION of Patent of King James I., confirming Matthew de Quester, and Matthew de Quester, his Son, in the office of Postmaster-general of England for Foreign Parts; dated Westminster, 19 December 1623.

State Paper Office, Procs., Coll. No. 118<sup>o</sup>.

BY THE KING.

JAMES, by the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defendour of the Faith, &c., To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting. Whereas, in and by certaine Letters Patents, sealed with our Great Seale of England, bearing date at Westminster, the thirtieth day of April, in the seventeenth yeere of our reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth, it is mentioned, that forasmuch as Wee were given to understand that there was no settled place, or office of Postmaster of this kingdome for Foraine Parts, being out of our dominions, for the performance of our services in such foraine parts; but that the services of that kinde had beene a long time performed by our welbeloved servant, Matthew de Questor, esq., who had humbly petitioned Us, in respect of his many yeeres service in sending packets in foraine parts, and for that he had beene often occasioned to send speciall messengers beyond the seas in matters of more

importance concerning our services, for which purpose he had trained up one of his sonnes, who had beene divers times employed therein, and was able and willing to doe Us service, to grant unto them our Letters Patents, for the exercise of those our services in forraine parts, out of our dominions: and for tha twe had beene certified, under the hands of many of the Lords and others of our Privie Councell, that in all the time the said Matthew de Questor had served Us, he had discharged the trust committed unto him with much fidelity, discretion, and diligence, and had greatly advanced our service, by settling speedie meanes of conveyance, and with much lesse charge then any other formerly did: Wee were graciously pleased, for those considerations, to condescend unto his humble petition: and we did, therefore, by our said Letters Patents, of our speciall grace, certaine knowledge, and meere motion, will, ordeine, constitute and appoint, that for ever thereafter there should be one office or place, which should bee and should be called the Office of Postmaster of England for Forraine Parts, beeing out of the dominions of Us, our heires and successours; and that the said office should be for ever a sole office of itselfe, and not member, or part of, or belonging unto any other office or place of Postmaster whatsoever; and that there should be for ever thereafter one or more sufficient person or persons, by Us, our heires and successours, from time to time to bee nominated and appointed, which should be, and should be called the Postmaster or Postmasters of England for Forraine Parts, being out of the dominions of Us, our heires and successors; unto which person and persons, so to be from time to time nominated and appointed, we did, by the said Letters Patents, for Us, our heires and successors, give, grant, limit, assigne and appoint full and sole libertie, power and authoritie, by himselfe or themselves, or his or their deputie or deputies, servant or servants, to have the sole and onely taking up, sending and conveying of all packets and letters concerning the service of Us, our heires and successours, and of all other packets and letters, the carriage or conveying whereof, was or had beene accompted, deemed, or taken to be incident, or properly or accustomedly belonging, to any Postmaster into the said forraine parts, or any of them, and the sole doing and executing of all other matters and things incident or belonging to the office or place, of a Postmaster, which should any wayes concerne any service or businesse to be dispatched into, or from, any the said forraine parts, in as large and ample manner as any other Postmaster within our realme of England thentofore had done, or might doe the like, for or within this our realme of England, or any our dominions; and to have the sole nominating, appointing, and establishing of posts and carriers, necessary and convenient, aswel within this our realme as in any forraine parts, for the conveying, exporting, and importing such letters and packets, as aforesaid: And our further will and pleasure was, and Wee did by the said letters patents, for Us, our heires and successors, grant, that it should and might be lawfull for, and Wee did thereby give power and authoritie unto, the said person and persons, so to be nominated and appointed as aforesaid, by himselfe or themselves, or his or their deputie or deputies, servant or servants, from time to time, to demande, aske, receive, and take for the execution of the said office, and for his and their labour and paines to be taken therein, of the partie or parties which should employ him or them or any of them to any the purposes aforesaid, all and the like summe and summes of money, benefits, allowances, payments, rewards, rates, and emoluments respectively, as then were, or thentofore had beene, lawfully or usually taken for or in respect of the doing or performing of the same: and further, Wee (for the considerations in the said letters patents expressed) did thereby for Us, our heirs and successors, give and grant unto the said Matthew de Questor, and Matthew de Questor his sonne, the aforesaid office or place of Postmaster of England for Forraine parts, being out of the dominions of Us, our heirs and successors; and then the said Matthew de Questor, the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, the first and present Postmaster and Postmasters of England for Forraine Parts, being out of the dominions of Us, our heires and successours, to doe, execute and performe all and singular things to the said office in manner aforesaid belonging or appertaining, or, by vertue of the said letters patents, to be done, executed, or performed, Wee did, for Us, our heires and successours, nominate, appoint, make, create, and ordaine by the said letters patents; to have, hold, use, exercise, and enjoy the said office of Postmaster of England for Forraine Parts, being out of the dominions of Us, our heires and successours, with the appurtenances, together with the aforesaid powers, priviledges, authorities, summe and summes of money, benefits, allowances, payments, rewards, rates, and emoluments beforementioned, to the said Matthew de Questor the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, as well by themselves, or either of them, as by their or either of their sufficient deputie or deputies, servant or servants, for and during the natural lives of the said Matthew de Questor the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, and for and during the naturall life of the longer liver of them; and, therefore, we did, by the said letters patents, for Us, our heirs and successors, require and command the said Matthew de Questor the father and Matthew de Questor the sonne, and the longer liver of them, that he and they should, from time to time, diligently attend and intend the same our service, as by our said letters patents more at large appeareth. And whereas, sithence the making of our said letters patents, our right trustie and right welbeloved Charles Lord Stanhope of Harington made complaint unto Us, that the said grant, made to the said Matthew de Questor the father and Matthew de Questor the sonne, did trench into the office which the Lord Stanhope holdeth for Postmastership within our dominions, by virtue of our letters patents made, in the fifth yeere of our reigne of England, unto John, late Lord Stanhope, father of the said Charles Lord Stanhope, for his life, and afterwards unto the said Charles, now Lord Stanhope, during his life; which complaint, being by Us referred to our right trustie and right welbeloved cousin and consellour, William Earle of Pembroke Lord Chamberlaine of our Houshold, and to our right trustie and welbeloved counsellour,

Sir

*Handwritten notes:*  
 of foreign mail  
 p. 48  
 in manner Engl. mail  
 for a 12th for 1200  
 in line to manage  
 the mail of the  
 the King, the King  
 the King

Sir George Calvert, knight, one of our Principal Secretaries of State, and to our trustie and welbeloved Sir Thomas Coventry, knight, our Attorney-generall, Sir Robert Heath, knight, our Solicitor-general, Wee have received from them a certificate under their handes, that the said Lord Stanhope's grant of the office of Master of our Posts did extend but to such services as were to be done in our realme of England, and other our dominions; and that our grant to the said Matthew de Questor, the father and the sonne, did extend onely to services to be done in forraigne parts out of our dominions; and that the said Lord Stanhope had not showed them anything materiall to impeach that latter grant, made unto the said Matthew de Questor, the father and the sonne; but that both grants might well stand together, being of distinct places; and that, therefore, the said Lord Stanhope, or any other deriving any authoritie from or under him, ought not to give any interruption to the said Matthew de Questor, in the execution of his service: And whereas we are credibly informed, that, aswell depending the said reference, as of late, and since the making of the said certificate unto Us, the said Lord Stanhope, and some others pretending to be authorized under him, have, aswell by setting up of bills and writings in publique places within our citie of London, as otherwise, endeavoured to interrupt the execution of our said grant and letters patents, made to the said Matthew de Questor, the father and his sonne, in derogation of Us, and to the hinderance, disturbance, and distraction of the service to be executed in forraigne parts.

Know ye, that We, to the end such distractions, which by the meanes aforesaid have arisen, or may hereafter arise, to the disturbance of our service, may bee quieted and prevented for the time to come, have thought meet to signifie, and doe hereby signifie, publish, and declare the premisses, to all to whom the same doe or shall in anywise appertaine; and that Wee doe well approve and allow the certificate and opinion before mentioned; and therefore it is our will and pleasure, that the said letters patents, bearing date the said 30th day of April, and all the powers, priviledges, services, and authorities therein contained, or thereby required to bee done, bee, from henceforth, in all points, and to all intents, constructions, and purposes, effectually put in execution by the said Matthew de Questor the father and Matthew de Questor the sonne, or either of them, their or either of their deputies or assignes, according to the true intent or meaning of the same, without the let, impediment, hinderance, impeachement or disturbance of any person or persons whatsoever. And, for the better effecting of this our pleasure, Wee doe by these presents, for Us, our heires and successours, prohibit all and singuler person and persons whatsoever (other then the said Matthew de Questor the father and Matthew de Questor the sonne, and his and their deputies, servants, and assignes), directly or indirectly, to doe, execute, performe, or intrude themselves, to have any employment in or about anything which shall or ought to bee done by them, the said Matthew de Questor the father and Matthew de Questor the sonne, or his or their deputies, servants, or assignes, without the deputation, licence, or allowance of them, or the longer liver of them, upon paine of the indignation and displeasure of Us, our heires and successours, and upon such paines and penalties as may bee inflicted upon the offenders for contempt of this our Royall commandement. And our will and pleasure is, and we doe hereby, for Us, our heirs and successours, charge and command, that the Lord Chamberleine of our Houshold, the Lord Warden of our Cinque Ports, our Secretaries of State, and all mayors, sheriffes, justices of peace, bayliffes, and all speciall commissioners, and all searchers of our ports, and all other the officers and ministers of Us, our heires and successours wheresoever, in their several jurisdiction, offices, and places, not onely to be ayding and assisting unto the said Matthew de Questor the father and Matthew de Questor the sonne, their servants, deputies, and assignes, and every of them, in the execution of the same letters patents, and the service and businesse thereby required or appointed to bee done or performed by them, but also, to their uttermost powers, to repress, stay, and hinder the proceedings of all intruders and disavowed persons which shall presume to attempt, or goe about, directly or indirectly, to doe, performe, or execute any matter or thing whatsoever contrary to our pleasure herein expressed; although expresse mention of the true yeerely value, or certaintie of the premisses, or any of them, or of any other gifts or grants by Us, or any of our progenitours or predecessours, to the said Matthew de Questor the father and Matthew de Questor the sonne, or either of them, before this time made in these presents, is not made, or any statute, act, ordinance, provision, proclamation, or restraint heretofore had, made, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever, to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding. In witsnesse whereof We have caused these our letters to be made patents.

Witnessse Ourselpe at Westminster, the 19th day of December, in the one and twentieth yeere of our reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the seven and fiftieth.

God save the King!

Per Breve de Privato Sigillo.  
Yong and Pye.

— XXIV. —

(Commons' Journals, 1624.)

The Postmasters to be sent for, to attend the Committee for Grievances.

A warrant to be made for the Postmaster of Warwick to attend the Committee of Grievances.

582.

F 4

1 Com. Journ. 22 Jan. 1.  
23 April 1624, p. 689.  
23 April 1624, p. 774.

## — XXV. —

(Micellaneous, 3.) A. D. 1625.

LATCH'S REPORTS of CASES Adjudged in the Court of KING'S BENCH during the three first Years of the Reign of the late King Charles the First.—*London, 1661* ; p. 87.

Signior *Stanhop* versus *Ecquester*.—Easter Term; 1st Charles I.

Le Seignior Stanhop port un Action sur le Case versus Matthew De l'Ecquester, concernant les Fees del Postmaster.

*Doderidge*.—Sont trois Exceptions pris al Declaration; Premierement, que l'office del Postmaster fuit un ancient office, et la fuere divers Fees perteynont aceo pur carrying letres ausi bien de London al partes transmarinas, comme de partibus transmarinis al London; et ne prescribe que fuere temps dont &c. et il dit, que ne besoigne. Premierement, quia monstre, que l'office doit porter letres hors de London al parts transmarine, et del parts ouster le mere al London, except tiels letres queux sont mise per lour amyces; et servants; et c̄ appert al office; et il ne postera ove (avec) letres pur riens et donc il monstre, que l'officers ont pur lour fees de London al Amsterdam 8*d.* per letter, et tant al Antwerp, et Hamburg, et tant pur le return de ceux al London. Et pur c̄ il ayant declare que est ancient office, et que tels Fees apperteyne al office, il ne mitter de prescribe.

2. Le second Exception est, Il declare, que est un ancient office, et que ad le carriage de tout letres (except &c.) de London al parts ouster le mere, generalment aliquibus partibus transmarinis; mes quant vint al grant del office, ne dit que grant idem officium cum omnibus Feodis, &c. mes que le Roy dederit, et concesserit pro se, et heredibus et successoribus suis, Johanni Stanhop Mil. & Domino Harrington, officium nostrorum nuntiorum, communiter vocatum un Poster, tam infra regnum nostrum Angli quam aliquibus partibus transmarinis en les Dominions del Roy. Ilsint les grants straignent c̄ al partes ouster le mere en Dominions le roy; et n'est bone Argument la est un Ancient Office pur carriage des letres (vocat le Postmaster) de London al parts ouster le mere, &c. Ore de provere tiels Fees, le Roy ad grant al moy l'office de Postmaster pur les lettres de London al parts ouster le mere en de dominions le Roy; ergo, jeo aye un ancient office.

3. Le tierce Exception, quia ne monstre les Letres Patents le Roy; si le office soit en demand, doit dire, Protulit hic in Cur.: mes ne icy l'office esteant demand, mes l'Action port pur proportion des Fees; et c̄ esteant en un Action sur le Case, n'admit de monstre les Letres Patents; si le Defendant ne demand oyer, le Plaintiff n'est lye a monstre ceux. Et ici fuit un case adjudge M. 21. Jac. concernant le Hospital de Greenwich; et ils ont meesons en St. Giles; et la fuit un Prescription d'aver un voy del Meesons al Thames; et le Farmer esteant interrupt del voy, port un Action sur le Case, et prescribe, que il et toutes ceux queux Estate il ad, ont Use d'aver un voy del mese al Thames; et un exception prise, que corporation ne poyet grant sans fait, et pur c̄ il ne puit prescribe en luy et tous ceux, queux Estate, &c. Mes adjudge, que l'Action sur le Case fuit bien.

Crew, Chief Justice, agree ove (avec) Doderidge en le primer poynt: mes, en les darrein poynts il disagree: Quia, quand il clayme les Profits del Office, est tout un, si come ad il clayme l'office mesme; quia les Profits sont l'office mesme. Et quand un home fait Title all un office par Letters Patents, et c̄ est ground de son Title, doit monstre eux. Whitlock agree ove (avec) le Chief Justice en tout: Jones fuit en le Chancery. Le Verdict fuit pro Querente, et c̄ matter fuit move en arrest del Judgement.

Nota, per l'Attourney del Roy, lou (la ou) un chose estoit ove (avec) common droit, come en le Case de Common Appendant, a dire que ad common purticls avers, partant suffist, sans alleading Prescription; Mes auterment en case de common appurtenant, que est encounter common droit, 18 H. 6, 25, p. prier ayd del Roy.

## — XXVI. —

(Mr. Reeve, 6.)

At Whitehall, the 5th October 1626.

## PRESENT,

Lord Treasurer.	Master of the Wards.
Lord President.	Mr. Sec. Coke.
Lord Vic. Grandison.	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.
Lord Conway.	Master of the Rolls.
Mr. Frer.	Mr. Chancellor of the Duchy.
Mr. Comptroller.	

UPON a reference from His Majesty to their Lordships, the matter in controversie betwixt the Lord Stanhope and Matthew de Questir, concerning the office of Postmaster-general, being this day heard and debated at the Board with counsel on both sides, their Lordships did

did forbear to make any final conclusion in the whole business, by reason that there was not a full Board; and did defer the further hearing thereof till some other more convenient time. But concerning the suite of the Marchante Adventurers, to have a post of their owne choice to carrie and receive their owne letters to and from their market towns, as they alledge they were wont to have in times heretofore, their Lordships, reserving always the right of the Lord Stanhope, did think it very reasonable and fitt, so that the partie who should be elected by them, be approved also by his Majesty's principal Secretaries; and thereupon their Lordships did order that the said company should proceed to the election of some fitt person in that place (untill the difference above mentioned between the Lord Stanhope and Matthew de Quester should be finally determined), and present him to his Majesty's principal Secretaries, by them to be approved as aforesaid. Whereof all the parties interested are by these presents to take notice, and to govern themselves accordingly.

At Whitehall, the 10th of November 1626.

PRESENT,

Lord Keeper.	Earle of Rollie.
Lord Treasurer.	Lord Conway.
Lord President.	Lord Vis. Grandison.
Lord Privie Seale.	Mr. Treasurer.
Lord Steward.	Mr. Sec. Coke.
Earl of Carlisle.	Master of the Wards.
L. of Bridgewater.	Master of the Rolles.
L. Cheymer, of Scotland.	Mr. Chancellor of the Duchie.

WHEREAS the difference in question betweene the Lord Stanhopp and Matthew de Quester, touching the place of Postmaster for dispatches from home into forraigne partes without the King's dominions, was this day fully heard and debated at the Board, upon hearing of counsell learned on both sides, each of them claymeing by letters pattents from his Majesty, and insisting upon the validity of the same: and the counsell on the Lord Stanhopp's parte standing lykewise upon poynt of prescription, for that the forraigne service had bene performed by those that formerly had the lyke letters pattents as that by which his Lordshipp now claymed; as alsoe that the said office had bene an ancient office tyme out of mynde, and soe made pretence thereunto by prescription, howbeit noe patent or proofs of such usage was shewed at the hearing more ancient than the tyme of Henry 8: Their Lordshipp, haveing well weighed the reasons and allegations on both sides, and taking into consideration both the said pattents, as also that allegation of prescription; and considering that the ordering of that poynt, of dispatches into forraigne parts without the King's dominions, was very considerable in relation to his Majestie's Service and reason of State, and that most of the forraigne posts were now well settled by the labor and industrie of the said De Quester, did think fitt and order, that he, being a person well approved of his experience, fidelitie, and industrie, for divers years together, in the discharge of the said employment, should be continued and quietly established in the execution of the same, without interruption of the said Lord Stanhopp, or any claymeing by or under him, and without suffering any suite to be commenced on either side to trie the validity of their said severall pattents, untill that the Board shall be further satisfied, on the Lord Stanhopp's parte, touching the poynt of prescription, and should thereupon fynd cause to give way for a trial to be had upon the said pattents: and it is further thought fitt and ordered, that the Marchants Adventurers and other Marchants should, upon notice thereof, attend the Board on Wednesday next, and shewe cause why the said Matthew de Quester should not be lykewise employed by them for their dispatches into forraigne parts without the King's dominions.

*provisio Rex Henrici VIII  
de magis proferre*

— XXVII. —

(Mr. Reeve, 6.)

At Whitehall, the 24th October 1627. *P. 24. 1627*

THEIR Loppes this day taking consideraçon, as well the Lres pattents from His Matie to Mathew de Questor for the constituting of him Postmaster for the conveying of all Lres and dispatches from hence into forraigne parts without the Kinge's Dominions, as likewise well weighing that the due ordering and governing of the same was very considerable in relaçon to His Maties Service and reason of State, specially as the condiçon of affaires now stand both at home and abroad, and knowing well that most of the forraigne posts were heretofore well settled by the labour and industrie of the said De Questor, did thinke fitt that he, being a person well approved of for his experience, fidelitie and industrie for divers yeares together in the discharge of the said employment, shall be continued and quietlie established in the execution of the same according to his said lres patents; and upon reviewe now taken of their Order of the 22<sup>th</sup> November 1626, wherein libertie was given as well to all other Compnies of Merchants as to the Merchants Adventurers to send their lres and dispatches by Messenrs of their own choosing, Their Loppes, upon weightie reason of State, doe hereby

revoke and annull there said Order, and doe give libertie only to the Comp<sup>nie</sup> of Merchant Adventurers, and not to any other Comp<sup>nie</sup> of Merchants, to conveye their owne lres and dispatches only, by a Messen<sup>r</sup> of their owne choosing, into forraigne parts—viz<sup>t</sup> to the City of Hamborgh and Towne of Delph where the Staples of Cloth are now fetched, or to such other place or places whether the same shall happen to be removed; w<sup>ch</sup> Messen<sup>r</sup> is likewise to enter into sufficient Bond with good Sureties to His Mat<sup>tes</sup> use, to be taken by the Clarke of the Councell attendant, not to carry or convey any other lres but those only w<sup>ch</sup> concerne the said Comp<sup>nie</sup> of Merchants Adventurers: And that the said Messen shall not keepe any publick Office, nor hange up any tables, or weare any Badge, w<sup>ch</sup> are the Characters and Markes of a publick Postmaster, and w<sup>ch</sup> are to be allowed only to the saide Mathew de Questor, as being Postmas<sup>r</sup>, G<sup>n</sup>all for forraigne dispatches, by approba<sup>cion</sup> of the State and Lres Pattents from His Mat<sup>te</sup> as aforesaid: And it is further hereby thought fitt and Ordered, that all other Comp<sup>nies</sup> of Merchants, and every of them, shall send their lres and dispatches by the said Mathew de Questor only, as heretofore they have bin accustomed; Hereof as well the said Merchants Adventurers as all other Comp<sup>nies</sup> of Merchants, and every of them, are to take knowledge and to conforme themselves, as they will answer the contrary at their pills: Provided nevertheless, accordinge to the aforesaid Order of the 22<sup>th</sup> of November last, that the said Comp<sup>nie</sup> of Merchants Adventurers doe acquaint His Mat<sup>tes</sup> Secretaryes of State from tyme to tyme what person they shall make choice of to be their Messen<sup>r</sup>, that in case they shall finde iust cause to except against the choice made by the said Comp<sup>nie</sup>, that then the Comp<sup>nie</sup> should proceed to the Election of some other that may be without exception; And Provided also that, in tymes of warre and danger to the State, the said Comp<sup>nie</sup> of Merchant Adventurers, and all other Comp<sup>nies</sup> of Merchants, doe acquainte the Secretaryes of State from tyme to tyme (if they shall require it) w<sup>th</sup> their said Lres and dispatches into forraigne parts.

## — XXVIII. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 13.) A. D. 1627-8.

ORDER made by the Lords Referees (inclosed in the Letter of Secretary Sir John Coke to Secretary Lord Conway).

WHEREAS, upon the generall and humble Petition of the Marchants of London, it hath pleased His Ma<sup>ty</sup> to referr unto us the considera<sup>cion</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> differences betweene y<sup>e</sup> Petitioners and Matthew de Quester and his sonne, concerning y<sup>e</sup> carrying and recarrying of the said Marchants Lres unto and from the partes beyond the seas, and that in y<sup>e</sup> meane while the Marchants should not be interrupted in their necessarie and urgent affaires; But because we cannot for y<sup>e</sup> psent give a finall dispatch to that busines, but purpose w<sup>th</sup> all convenient speed to meete and heare the parties, and finallie to determine theis differences according to His Mat<sup>tes</sup> commaund unto us; and least in the meane tyme the Marchants might suffer some inconvenienc<sup>e</sup> by interrup<sup>cion</sup> of their trade or intercourse, Wee have thought fitt to advise you, that you doe not any way interrupt the conveying or reconveying of the Marchants Lres, untill wee shall have y<sup>e</sup> oppertunity to settle and compose this busines. And this to be done w<sup>th</sup>out any p<sup>ri</sup>udice to the p<sup>re</sup>sentences of either p<sup>ar</sup>ty. Dated at Whitehall, this 26<sup>th</sup> of February, 1627.

H. Manchester.  
E. Dorset.  
Carlisle.  
Grandison.  
Ro. Heath.

To our loveing friends M<sup>r</sup> Mathew de Quester and his sonne, and all others for him or them, M<sup>r</sup> John Robinson, and Mr. George Tucker, His M<sup>tes</sup> Principal Searchers at Graves-End, and to all others whome theis p<sup>ar</sup>ts may apperteine.

## — XXIX. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 14.) A. D. 1627-8.

Secretary Sir John Coke to Secretary Lord Conway. (Domestic).

State Paper Office.

Right honourable,

Secretary Sir John Coke  
to Secretary Lord Conway;  
29 Feb. 1627-8.

I SEND unto you a copie of an order w<sup>ch</sup> this day was served uppon de Questor, his M<sup>tes</sup> Postmaster for foren parts; and it is no lesse in effect then a prohibition or supersedeas fro<sup>m</sup> the execution of that place w<sup>ch</sup> hee enioyeth, under the broad seale of England, from King Jearns & King Charls: and is also a revocation of manie proclamations made by Queen Elizabeth & by the said Kings, and a nullifying of that order, made at a ful councel boord, w<sup>ch</sup> his M<sup>te</sup>, at the motion of the Lord Chamberlen, your Lordship & myself (to whom by vertu of the said proclamations the protection of that office is referred) com<sup>an</sup>ded to bee no more questioned nor altered in anie sort. I confess it trobleth mee to see the audacitie of men in theis times, & that Billingsley, a broker by trade, should dare to attempt thus often to question the Kings service, and to derive that power of foren letters

unto  
to the Secretary of State for the same of the 24<sup>th</sup> of Feb. 1627 (12<sup>th</sup> of Mar. 1627) (p. 330) (with out the name of the Secretary)

unto merchants, w<sup>ch</sup> in al states is a branch of regal authoritie; nether can anie place in Christendom bee named w<sup>her</sup> merchants are allowed to send their letters by other body or posts, then by those only w<sup>ch</sup> are authorised by the state. And though, in favor, the merchants adventurers here, for their mart towns, have been suffred to send their letters to and from those towns only, and concerning their merchants affairs and no other, by a man of their own choise; yet that this man of theirs should bee suffred to carie al letters from other places, and from al merchants in general, and much less the letters of strangers or ambassadors, was never thought fitt, nor durst anie attempt to do it. Indeede the merchants purse hath swayed verie much in other matters in former times, but I never heard that it inroched upon the Kings prerogatives till now. Your Lordship best knoweth what accompt wee shal bee hable to give in our places of that w<sup>ch</sup> passeth by letters in or out of the land, if everie man may convey l<sup>rs</sup>, under the covers of merchants, to whome & what place hee pleaseth. Whether this reference were obtained frō his M<sup>te</sup> by Mr. Attorney (who is one of the referries joynd w<sup>th</sup> the four Lords) or by whom els, I can not learn: but I p<sup>re</sup>sume, who soever gott it, hee farbare to informe his M<sup>te</sup> how much it concerned his own service, and how unfit a time this is to give libertie to everie man to write & send what hee list; and what wrong was donne to the Lord Chamberlen & Secretaries (to whom the Proclamations referre the businesses of this office) to bee altogether excluded. I presume your Lord<sup>sh</sup> wil find it fit to acquaint his M<sup>te</sup> w<sup>th</sup> the progress of theis things, & then what hee pleaseth to comānd, must be obeyed. But if, upon your Lordships true relation of his own interest in this business, hee shal thinck fit to resent it, & to reforme this appeale frō him self by proclamation and patent, and frō the order of al his Council, to a few, though worthie Lords, yet not al particularly acquainted w<sup>th</sup> foren affairs and the importance of governing Posts for his M<sup>ty</sup>s best service; then your Lords<sup>sh</sup> may move his M<sup>te</sup> for a revocation of this reference, at least of this order made before the cawse bee hard; wherby the service is put to a stand, so as the merchants wil never solicit further hearing, when they enjoy their ful desire w<sup>th</sup>out anie debate. This I leave to your Lordships wisdom, & w<sup>th</sup>al send herewith a bil for his M<sup>ty</sup>s signature concerning the Bishop of Landaf, reco<sup>m</sup>ended by the Lord Thrērs marck. So humbly resting

Your Lordships

humble servant,

(signed) *John Coke.*

London, 30 Feb. (29th qu?) 1627.

*Order of Lord President etc, dated 26 Feb, 1627, in Dom. Cl. S. 1. vol. 94 no. 82, in Cl. 1. 1627-28 p. 591*  
*Billingsley to carry letters (see Mercurius notice of 5 Jan. 1627 & same effect l. c. p. 6*  
*20 Jan. 1628 Proclam. for De Questor, Cal. Dom. Cl. S. 1. 1627-8 p. 522*  
 (Commons' Journals, 1628).

Privilege granted to Henry Billingsley, to go abroad with his keeper, to instruct his counsel and prosecute his petition.

May 1, 1628.

1 Com. Journ. p. 891.

Mr. Earle reporteth from the Committee, concerning Billingsley and De Questor.—Use for the Lord Stanhop's Patent for 80 Years; a Verdict for it, 1<sup>o</sup> Caroli.

June 24, 1628.

1 Com. Journ. p. 918.

The opinion of the Committee, that this Patent to De Questor [is] a grievance to the subject, in the execution; and that he was unduly procured, by De Questor's means, to be imprisoned, and without cause. That the opinion of the Committee, that a Petition should be framed to the King, for his enlargement.

Upon question, this Patent to De Questor, for the sole carrying Letters out of the kingdom and into it, a grievance in the execution; and that a Petition be framed to the King, for Billingsley's enlargement out of prison.

The same Committee to draw this Petition to-morrow morning, seven clock, Court Wards.

— XXXI. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 16.) 27 June 1628.

ADDRESS of the HOUSE of COMMONS to KING CHARLES the FIRST. (Domestic.)

To the King's most Excellent Ma<sup>tie</sup>.

MAY it please yo. Ma<sup>tie</sup> to be informed, that whereas Charles Lord Stanhope of Harrington, havinge the office of Postmaster within yo<sup>r</sup> dominions, did depute one Henry Billingsley for the carriage of L<sup>rs</sup> and Packetts beyond the seas out of yo<sup>r</sup> dominions, who likewise was imployed by the Marchants in the dispatch of their L<sup>rs</sup>; yet nevertheless, of late, one Mathew de Quester, clayming to have the sole carrying of L<sup>rs</sup> in the parts beyond the seas out of yo<sup>r</sup> dominions, by color of a Patent made unto him in the 17th yeere of the raigne of yo<sup>r</sup> Royall Father, interrupted the Lord Stanhope and the Marchantes in sending of L<sup>rs</sup> by Billingsley; whereas formerly, time out of minde, the carriage of L<sup>rs</sup> and pacquets beyond the seas, out of your M<sup>ties</sup> dominions, belonged to the Lord Stanhope's office: And the said de Quester, by collo<sup>r</sup> of his said patent, hath taken to himselfe the sole carriage of all L<sup>rs</sup> and packetts beyond the seas out of yo<sup>r</sup> dominions, and from thence hither; whereupon the Lord Stanhope questioned his soe doeing by suite in lawe, and of late had a verdict against de Quester for the same: Since which tyme the Lord Stanhope and the Marchants, havinge imployed the said Billingsley in carrying of L<sup>rs</sup>, as formerly they had done, the saide de Quester of late, by a warrant from some of yo<sup>r</sup> M<sup>ties</sup> most ho<sup>ble</sup> Privey Councell, procured Billingsley to be imprisoned in the Marshallsea, where nowe hee hath been 13 weekes a prisoner, and

State Paper Office.  
(Domestic.)



1632 the de Quester in was dead the other appointed Frizell and W. ...  
de Quester, the King approved. ...  
15 March 1632/33

soe remayneth, for carrying of lres and packetts beyond the sea; and upon complaint made before us by the Marchants in generall, and by the said Billingsley of the same, and of other misdemeano<sup>rs</sup> committed by the said de Quester, wee doe finde the imprisonment of Billingsley to be procured by the undue suggestion of de Quester:

Wherefore wee, yo<sup>r</sup> dutifull and loyall Comons assembled in this p<sup>re</sup>sent Parliam<sup>t</sup>, doe humblie beseech yo<sup>r</sup> M<sup>aj</sup><sup>ty</sup>, that of yo<sup>r</sup> Royall grace and clemencie, you will voutsafe to give order and direction for the enlargement and setting at libertie of the said Billingsley out of prison.

By the Lord President *Manchester*.

My Lord,—I think it were fitt, after so many weekes' imprisonment, that this party, Billingsley, were now discharged, except yo<sup>r</sup> Lord<sup>sh</sup> know other cause to the contrary.

Yo<sup>r</sup> Lo<sup>rd</sup>s servant,  
(signed) *H. Manchester*.

27 Junij 1628.

— XXXII. —

(Mr. *Lechmere*, 17.) 30 June 1628.

PETITION of all the Posts in England.

To the Right Honoble the Lords of His Maties most honorable Privy Councill.

State Paper Office.

The humble petition of all the Posts of England, being in number 99 poore men.

Sheweth

(Domestic.)

THAT whereas divers of these poore men lye now in prison, to the utter undoing of themselves, their poore wives and children, and many of the rest daily threatened to bee arrested by reason of their great debts w<sup>ch</sup> they are in for want of their enterteynment, they beeing unpaid ever since the last of November 1621 till this present time, which some, till the last day of June 1628, ariseth to 22,626£. 19<sup>s</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup>. notwithstanding the great charge they are at in keeping of many servants and horses to doe His Ma<sup>ty</sup>s service. And whereas they have, to their great charge and trouble, procured severall References from the Kings Ma<sup>ty</sup>s and the Commissioners of the Revenue to the Lo. Tresorer, and Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, whereof they have hitherto had no benefit.

They most humbly beseech yo<sup>r</sup> LL<sup>ps</sup>, that you would bee pleased to take them (amongst the rest of His Ma<sup>ty</sup>s servants) into your consideration for their present supply, and setting of a certeyne course of payment hereafter, as in yo<sup>r</sup> grave wisdomes shall seeme fitt.

And they will ever pray for yo<sup>r</sup> LL<sup>ps</sup>.

160. by 26 Pnts ordered to pay a percentage (2 1/2 to 5) ...  
162. by 19 Pnts ...  
1622-3. 11  
XXXIII. — 1622-3. 11  
(Sir F. Palgrave, 13) 1621-2.

VICESIMA OCTAVA PARS PATEN' DE ANNO R<sup>EG</sup> CAROLI SEPTIMO.

15 March 1632/33.

D. Con<sup>tra</sup> Offic<sup>ium</sup> } CHARLES, by the Grace of God, &c.: To all to whome this present<sup>e</sup>  
p<sup>ro</sup> Wiffo Frizell, } shall come, greeting. Whereas our late Royall father, King James of  
& al. } blessed memorie, in and by 8ten lres patent<sup>e</sup>. sealed with the greate

1609

Seale of England, bearing date at Westm<sup>on</sup>, the thirtieth day of Aprill, in the seaventeeth yeare of his raigne of England, Fraunce, and Ireland, and of Scotland the twoe and fiftieth, reciting as therein is recited, for the causes and considera<sup>ti</sup>o<sup>ns</sup> therein expressed, willed, ordayned, constituted, and appointed, that for ever then after there should be one office or place, which should be, and should be called the Office of Postmaster of England for forraigne partes being out of the Domynions of our late father, his heires or successors: And that the said Office should be for ever a sole office of itselfe, and not member or parte of, or belonging vnto any other office or place of Postmaster whatsoever: And that there should be then after one or more sufficient pson or psons, by our said late deare father, his heires and successors, from tyme to tyme to be nomynated and appointed, which should be, and should be called the Postmaster or Postmasters of England for forrayne partes being out of the Domynions of his Majestie, his heires and successors; unto w<sup>ch</sup> pson and psons, soe to be from tyme to tyme nomynated and appointed, our said father did by his said lres patent<sup>e</sup> for him, his heires and successores, give, graunt, lymitt, assigne, and appoint full and sole liberty, power, and authoritie by himselfe or themselves, or his or their deputie or deputies, servant or servant<sup>e</sup>, to have the sole and only taking vpp, sending, and conveying of all packet<sup>e</sup> and lres con<sup>du</sup>cyng the s<sup>er</sup>vce of our said late father, his heires and successors, and of all other packet<sup>e</sup> and lres, the carriage or conveying whereof then was or thentofore had been accompted, deemed, or taken to have been incident or pperly or accustomedly belonging to any Postmaster, into the said forrayne part<sup>e</sup> or any of them, and the sole doeing and executinge of all other matters and things incident or belonging to the Office or place of a Postmaster which should any waies con<sup>du</sup>cne any service or busines to be dispatched into or from any the saide forraigne part<sup>e</sup>, in as large and ample manner as any other Postmaster within the Realme of England thentofore had done or might doe the like for or within the Realme of England, or any other our said ffather's Domynions, and to have the sole nomynating, appoynting, and establishing of Post<sup>e</sup> and Carriers necessary and convenient, as well within the Realme of England as in any forraigne part<sup>e</sup> for the conveying, exporting, and importing such lres and packet<sup>e</sup> as aforesaide. And our said late ffather did in and by his said lres patent<sup>e</sup>, for hym, his heires and successors, graunt that it should and might be lawfull

p. 45

lawfull for, and did thereby give power and authority vnto the saide pson and psons soe to be noiāted and appoynted as aforesaide, by himselfe or themselues, or his or their deputy or deputies, servant or servant℄, from tyme to tyme to demand, aske, receave, and take for the execuōn of the saide Office, and for his and their labor and paynes to be taken therein, of the party and parties which should imploy hym or them, or any of them, to any the purposes aforesaide, all and the like sōme and sōmes of money, benefitt℄, allowance℄, payment℄, reward℄, rates and emolument℄ respectively as then were or thentofore had bene lawfully or vsually taken for or in respect of the doeing or pforming of the same or the like busines. And the same being soe receaved, taken, and had by the said pson or psons soe to be noiāted and appoynted, or his or their deputies or servant℄ as is aforesaide, to vse, enioy, and convert to his and their owne pper vse and vses, without any accompt or any other thinge theretofore to our saide ffather, his heires or successors, or to any others, to be rendered, paid, made, or given: And further, our saide late ffather, for and in consideraōn of the aforesaide good service thentofore done vnto hym by the saide Mathewe de Quester, did by the saide lres patent℄, for him, his heires and sucesors, give and graunte vnto the said Mathewe de Quester, and Mathewe de Quester his sonne, the aforesaide office or place of Postmaster of England for Forraigne part℄ beinge out of the Domynions of our saide ffather, his heires and successors: and them the first and p̄sent Postn.asters of England for forraigne part℄ beinge out of the Domynions of the saide late Kinge, his heires and successors, to doe, execute, and pforme all and singuler thing℄ to the saide office in manner aforesaide belonging or apperteyning, or by vtue of the said lres patent℄ to be done, executed, or pformed, did thereby create and ordeyne, to have, hold, vse, exercise and enioy the saide office of Postmaster of England for forraigne part℄ beinge out of the Domynions of our saide ffather, his heires and sucesors, with the appurteñac℄, together with the aforesaide powers, priuiledg℄, authorities, sōme and sōmes of money, benefitt℄, allowance℄, payment℄, reward℄, rates and emolument℄ in the saide lres patent℄ menōned, to the saide Mathewe de Quester the ffather and Mathewe de Quester the sonne, as well by themselves or either of them as by their or either of their sufficient deputy or deputies, servant or servant℄, for and during the naturall lives of the saide Mathewe de Quester the ffather and Mathewe de Quester the sonne, and for and during the naturall life of the longer liver of them, as by the saide lres patent℄, amongst other powers and priuiledges therein conteyned, more at large it doth and may appeare: And whereas in certen other his saide late Majesties lres patent℄ vnder the great Seale of England, bearinge date the nyneteenth day of December in the one and twentieth yeare of his rainge of England, &c., it is menōned that sithence the makeinge of the saide recited lres patent℄, Charles Lord Stanhope of Harrington made complaynt vnto his saide late Majesty that the said graunt, made vnto the said Mathewe de Quester the father and Mathewe de Quester the sonne, did trench into the office which the saide Lord Stanhope held for Postmastership within his saide majesties Domynions, by vertue of his Maiestys lres patent℄ made in the fife yeare of his rainge of England vnto John late Lord Stanhope, father of the saide Charles Lord Stanhope, for his life, and afterwards vnto the saide Charles nowe Lord Stanhope, duringe his life; which complaint his Majestie referred vnto William late Earle of Pembroke, then Lord Chamberlayne of his Majesties househeld, and to Sir George Calvert, knight, then one of his Maiesties principall Secretaries of State, nowe Lord Baltimore, and to Sir Thomas Coventry, knight, then his Majesties attorney geñall, nowe Lord Coventry and Keeper of our great Seale of England, and to Sir Robert Heath, knight, then his Majesties sollicitor geñall, nowe Lord Chiefe Justice of our Courte of Coñon Pleas at Westminster, and from them had receaved a certificate vnder their hande that the saide Lord Stanhope's graunt of the office of master of his Majestie's posts did extend but to such service as were to be done in the realme of England and other our saide father's Domynions, and that his Maiesties saide graunt to the said Mathewe de Quester the father and Mathewe de Quester the sonne did extend only to services to be done in forraigne part℄ out of his Maiesties Domynions, and that the saide Lord Stanhope had not shewed them any thinge materiall to impeach that latter graunt made vnto the saide Mathewe de Quester the ffather and Mathewe de Quester the sonne, but that both graunt℄ might well stand together, being of distant places, and that therefore the saide Lord Stanhope, or any other deriving any authority from or vnder him, ought not to give any interrupōn to the saide Mathewe de Quester in his service: And whereas his Maiesty, beinge informed that, as well depending of the saide reference as then of late, and since the makeinge of the said certificate vnto his saide late Maiesty, the saide Lord Stanhope and some others, ptending to be authorized vnder hym, had, as well by setting vpp of Bills and Writing℄ in publique places within the City of London as otherwise, indeavored to interrupt his Maiesties saide graunt and lres patent℄ made to the said Mathewe de Quester the ffather and Mathewe de Quester the sonne, in derogaōn of his saide Maiesty, and to the hindrance, disturbance, and distracōn of the service to be executed in forraigne part℄, his saide late Maiesty, to the end such distracōns which by the meanes aforesaide had arisen, or might then after arise to the disturbance of his Maiesties service, might be quieted and p̄vented for the tyme to come, thought meete to signify, and did thereby signify, publish, and declare the p̄mises to all to whome the same did or should in any wise appertayne, that his Maiesty well approved and allowed the certificate and opinion before menōned: And therefore it was his Maiesties will and pleasure that the saide lres patent℄ bearinge date the saide thirtieth day of Aprill, and all the powers, priuiledg℄, service℄, and authorities therein conteyned or thereby required to be done, to be from thenceforth in all point℄, and to all intent℄, construcōns, and purposes, effectually put in execuōn by the saide Mathewe de Quester the ffather and Mathewe de Quester the sonne, or either of them, their or either of their Deputies or Assignes, according to the true intent and meaninge of the same, without the lett, impediment,

Examined.

hindrance, impeachment, or disturbance of any person or persons whatsoever: And for the better effecting of that his Maiesties pleasure, his Majesty did by the same lres patent phibite all and singuler person and persons whatsoever, other then the saide Mathewe de Quester the ffather and Mathewe be Quester the sonne, and his and there Deputies, Servant, and assignes, directly or indirectly to doe, execute, pforme, or intrude themselves to have any employment in or aboute any thing which should or ought to be done by them the saide Mathewe de Quester the ffather and Mathewe de Quester the sonne, or his or there Deputies, Servant, or Assignes, without the deputacōn, licence, or allowance of them or the longer liver of them, vpon payne of the indignacōn and displeasure of his Maiesty, his heires and successors, and vpon such paynes and penalties as might be inflicted vpon the offenders for contempt of that his Maiesties royall comaundement, as by the last men- cōned lres patents, amongst other thing therein conteyned, more at large it doth and may appeare: And whereas the saide Mathewe de Quester the sonne is dead, and the saide Mathewe de Quester the ffather is yet livinge: Know ye, that it is our pleasure that the saide Office shall have ppetuall contynuance; and that we, reposing trust in the fidelities, discrecōns, care, and diligence of our welbeloved subject William Frizell and Thomas Withering, gent, of our especiall grace, stayne knowledge, and meere mo- cōn, have given and graunted, and by these p- sent for vs, our heires and successors, doe give and graunt vnto the saide William Frizell and Thomas Withering the foresaide office or place of Postmaster of England for forraigne part beinge out of the Domyions of vs our heires and Successors; and them the saide William Frizell and Thomas Withering the Postmaster and Postmasters of England for forraigne parts being out of the Domyions of vs, our heires and Successors, to doe, execute and pforme all and singuler things to the saide Office in manner aforesaide belonginge or apperteyninge, or that by any Officer or Officers, by vtue of the said lres patent or either of them, or by vertue of the saide Office, can, may, might, could or ought to be done, executed or performed, we for vs, our heires and suc- cessors, nomynate, appoynt, make, create and ordeyne by these p- sents; To have hold, vse, exercise and enioy the saide Office of Postmaster of England for forraigne part being out of the Domyions of vs, our heires and successors, with the app- tenanc, together with the aforesaide powers, priviledges, authorities, some and some of money, benefitt, pay- ment, allowance, reward, rates and emoluments before men- cōned in the saide recited lres patent, to the saide William Frizell and Thomas Withering, as well by themselves or either of them as by there or either of there sufficient deputy or deputies, servant or servant, assignee or assignes, for and duringe the naturall lives of the saide William Frizell and Thomas Witheringe, and for and duringe the naturall life of the longer liver of them, ymediately from and after and as soone as the saide Office and pmisses graunted or ordeyned by the said lres patent or either of them, by death, surrender, forfeiture or other determynacōn of the state and int- est of the saide Mathewe de Quester the ffather, shall become voide. Wherefore we doe by these p- sents, for vs, our heires and successors, require and comaund the said William Frizell and Thomas Withering, and the longer liver of them, that he and they doe from tyme to tyme diligently attend and intend this our service: And to he end the said William Frizell and Thomas Withering may the better have, vse and exercise the saide Office, and take and enioy the benefitt of this our graunt, we doe hereby for vs, our heires and successors, phibit all and singuler person and persons whatsoever other then the said William Frizell and Thomas Withering, and his and their deputies, servant and assignes directly or indirectly, from and af- er the determynacōn of the estate and inter- est of the saide Mathewe de Quester the father, to doe, execute or pforme, or intrude themselves to have any employment in or about anything which shall or ought to be done by them the said William Frizell and Thomas Withering, their deputies, servant or assignes, without the deputacōn, licence or allowance of them or the longer liver of them, vpon payne of the indignacōn and displeasure of vs, our heires and successors, and vpon such paynes and penalties as maie be inflicted vpon the offenders for contempt of this our royall comaundement. And our further will and pleasure is, and wee doe hereby for vs, our heires and successors, charg and comaund, that the Lord Chamberlaine of our Houshold, the Lord Warden of our Cinque Portes, our Secretaries of State, and all Maiors, Sheriffs, Justices, Bayliff, and all speciall Comissioners and all Searchers of our portes, and all other the officers and ministers of vs, our heires and successors, wheresoever, in their severall Jurisdicōns, offices and places, not only to be aiding and assisting vnto the said William Frizell and Thomas Withering, their servant, deputies and assignes, and everie of them, in the execu- cōn of the said office, and the service and busines thereby required or appointed to be done or pformed by them, but alsoe to their utmost powers to repress, staie and hinder the p- ceedings of all intruders and disavowed persons and others which shall presume to attempt or goe aboute, directlie or indirectlie, to doe, pforme or execute any matter or thing whatsoever, contrarie to our pleasure herein declared. And our will and pleasure is that theis our lres patent, or the Inrollment thereof, shall be in all thinges firme and availeable in lawe to all contrucōns and purposes for the benefitt and on the behalfe of the said William Frizell and Thomas Withering and the longer liver of them, and his and their deputies and assignes, notwithstanding the not reciting or not rightly reciting or misreciting of any lres patent, graunt or certificat concerning the pmisses, and notwithstanding the not pticular namyng, setting downe or men- cōnyng, or not rightly men- cōnyng of the some of money, allowances, benefitt, reward, rates or payment aforesaide, or any of them, or of any matter or thing to be done by vertue hereof; and notwithstanding any other defects in their p- sent whatsoever, Although expresse men- cōn, &c. In witness, &c. Witness our selfe at Westm the fifteenth daie of March. P B- re de privato Sigillo, &c.

Patent & Privilege & Liberties dated 15. Jan. 1572/3. (Stat. in the former, 144. p. 22)

**ORDRE SUMMARIO DE LAS CARRERAS**

place or neere thereunto; to take port for them as is now pd to the Carriers, w<sup>ch</sup> is Two pence a single lre, and so accordinglie as they shalbe in bignes. At Cambridge a foot-post to be provided, w<sup>th</sup> a knowne badge of his Ma<sup>ty</sup> Armes, whome upon the markett daies

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*Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including "the port for them" and "13400 & 10000".*

*Vertical handwritten notes on the right margin, including "144. p. 22" and "1572/3".*

The Packet-Boat.

From the Coke Papers (Earl Cowper's) in Hist. Mss. Comm. XII, app. 2, page 6 (publ. 1838):-

1833, April 8 (N. S.). Calais.- Thomas Withrings (no address). *7 Sec. Coke*

Right Honourable and my good patron, I found here the Countess Taxis Secretary with the Postmaster of Ghent, they having settled stages betwixt Antwerp and Calais for the speedy conveyance of letters; they have placed a postmaster at Dunkirk, having dismissed all their couriers, and seven days hence they intend to begin by the way of staphetto (estafette) from Antwerp to London: their request is we shall do the like, which accordingly I have ordered my man to do, having taken order at Dover for the passage. The Governour of this place promiseth me all favour. The boatmen of this place who take their turns for Dover I find unwilling to be obliged to depart upon the coming of the Portmantell. But upon the advice of Mr. Skinner and other merchants of our nation in this place, I have found out a very sufficient man who will oblige himself with security that for 40 shillings he will wait upon the coming of the packet, upon sight wherof he will depart, engaging himself to carry nothing but the said packet. Asks directions, and will stay till the first packet shall come by staphetto from Antwerp."

London

P. 12, May 22, 1833, Richard Poole to Sir John Coke encloses "packets come by the posts of Antwerp and France for Sir J. Coke, my Lord Treasurer" . . .

15 Mar. 1832 o. s. [25 Mar. 1833 n. s.] Frizell and Withering ~~had been appointed~~ had been appointed "postmaster of England for forraigne parts," vice Stanhope. The immediate result appears above.

P. 92, 1835, Spt. 9, Dover, William Waad to "Thomas Withering, His Majesty's Postmaster-General for Foreign Parts. The packet has now seasonably made a return in some recompense of the last tardiance."

P. 144. 1838, Oct. 6. Dover Castle to Coke, reports French robbing the English "but the packet boat being now again newly robbed I thought it convenient to acquaint you withal." Encloses deposition of [p. 145] "W. Smith, servant to the master of His Majesty's packet boat." The P. B. was robbed at Dunkirk, "there being eight merchants in the boat," one losing £ 250. *Earl of Suffolk, gov.*

Inference: The p. b. was establ. in 1833 by Withrings (previously they hired expresses), and the word packet-boat was current in 1835. Evelyn did not originate it in 1641.

of money, and whatsoever, and notwithstanding any other defects of any matter or thing to be done by vertue hereof; and notwithstanding any other defects in their present whatsoever, Although expresse mention, &c. In witness, &c. Witness our selfe at Westm the fifteenth daie of March. P Bre de privato Sigillo, &c.

— XXXIV. — *Rymer 3, 243 Hague ed.*

(Miscellaneous, 4—Rymer xix. 385.) 19 July 1632.

A PROCLAMATION concerning the Postmaster of England for Forraigne Parts.

19 July 1632.

*witherings accepted*  
*W. Frizell*

Whereas his Majestie's Father, King James, of happy memory, for urgent causes did constitute an office, called the Office of Postmaster of England for Forraigne Parts, being out of his dominions, to be exercised by some meete persons, to be appointed by the King's Majesty, that should have the sole taking up, sending, and conveying of all packets and letters concerning his service, and of all other packets and letters the carriage and conveying whereof had been belonging to any postmaster into forraigne parts, with power to take moderate salaries, and graunted that office to Mathewe de Quester, and Mathewe de Quester his son, for their lives.

And by occasion that others intromitted in the execution of the said place, taking upon them to take up letters and to send them into forraigne parts, it was resolved by his late Majestie's Councill, that they ought not therein to intermeddle; and thereupon his Majesty did publicly prohibite all others, that they should not, directly or indirectly, exercise or intrude themselves to have any employment in or about anything which ought to be done by the said officers, and commaunded those of his Honourable Councill, and others, to be ayding to the said postmasters and their deputies, and to hinder the proceedings of all intruders and disavowed persons, which should presume to attempt or go about, directly or indirectly, to do or execute any thing contrary to his Majestie's pleasure therein declared;

Sithence which the said Mathewe, the sonne, dyed, and the said Mathewe de Quester, the father, his Majestie's postmaster for forraigne parts, being aged and infirm, did make and substitute William Frizell and Thomas Witherings his deputies, to do all things apperteyning to his office;

And his Majesty, taking notice of the abilities and trustiness of the said deputies in the execution of their said office, hath been well pleased to accept and approve of that substitution; and the said William Frizell and Thomas Witherings have faithfully and diligently attended the execution of the said office, as well as in taking up, receiving, carefull and just delivery, and dispersing of letters sent from parts beyond the seas, as in transmitting them into these parts;

And divers principall merchants of the English nation, under their hands, have made certificate to his Majesty, that they conceive them fit and able for that place, praying his Majesty to continue them, not suffering strangers to make their choice, which would be to their great prejudice.

Our said Sovereign Lord the King, affecting the welfare of his people, and taking into his Princely consideration how much it import his state and this realm, that the secrets thereof be not disclosed to forraigne nations, which cannot be prevented if a promiscuous use of transmitting or taking up of forraigne letters and packets should be suffered, which will also be no small prejudice to his said merchants in their trading;

His Majesty therefore doth straightly charge and command all his people, as well aliens as denizens, that none of them, other than the said William Frizell and Thomas Witherings, presume to take up or transmit such forraigne packets or letters, or exercise that (which) to the office of Postmaster for Forraigne Parts, out of his Majestys dominions, in any sort pertaineth; and that none of them, in receiving, taking, or transmitting such letters, [or] shall exercise that which to the office of such postmaster pertaineth, at their utmost perils.

Sic.

Given at the Court at Oatlands, the 19th day of July, in the 8th year of the Raigne of Our Sovereigne Lord, Charles, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c.

Per ipsum Regem.

— XXXV. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 20.) June 1635.

*See the interesting computation in Cal. State Papers, Dom. 1633 p. 366. Under the 512 market towns of England a total of 84,500 letters were carried on an average 50 miles each to the State Paper Office. In London 4,000 letters were computed at 137 miles each and 1,150,000 miles were travelled for the purpose of carrying letters to the State Paper Office. (Domestic.)*

A PROPOSITION for setting of Staffets or packet posts betwixt London and all parts of his Maiesties dominions, for the carrying and recarrying of his subjects lres. The cleere proffitt whereof to goe towards the payment of the Postm<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> Roades of England, for w<sup>ch</sup> his Ma<sup>ty</sup> is now chardged w<sup>th</sup> 3400£. p a<sup>n</sup>m.

*of the R. Cal. Apr. 1633 p. 29 for staffets or packet posts*

IN the first place, a certen office or compting house to be by his Ma<sup>ty</sup> appointed w<sup>th</sup>in the cittie of London, of purpose for carrying out & receiving in of all lres to be conveyed from y<sup>e</sup> cittie of London into all p<sup>ts</sup> w<sup>th</sup>in his Ma<sup>ty</sup> dominions & answers thereof returned to the said Cittie of London, according as occasion shall serve.

Inprimis, for the Northerne and Scotland roade, All lres to be put into one Portmantle that shalbe directed to Edenburgh in Scotland, and for all places of the s<sup>d</sup> roade, or neere the s<sup>d</sup> roade, to be accordinglie put into y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Portmantle, w<sup>th</sup> pticular baggs directed to such Postm<sup>r</sup> as live upon the Road neere unto any Cittie or Towne Corporate.

As for Example.

One Bagge to be directed to Cambridge w<sup>th</sup> such lres therein as shalbe directed to that place or neere thereunto; to take port for them as is now pd to the Carriers, w<sup>ch</sup> is Two pence a single lre, and so accordinglie as they shalbe in bignes. At Cambridge a foot-post to be provided, w<sup>th</sup> a knowne badge of his Ma<sup>ty</sup> Armes, whome upon the markt daies

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*See the interesting computation in Cal. State Papers, Dom. 1633 p. 366. Under the 512 market towns of England a total of 84,500 letters were carried on an average 50 miles each to the State Paper Office. In London 4,000 letters were computed at 137 miles each and 1,150,000 miles were travelled for the purpose of carrying letters to the State Paper Office. (Domestic.)*

is to goe to all Townes w<sup>th</sup>in 6: 8: or 10 miles, there to receive & deliver all such lres as shalbe directed to those places. The lres that the s<sup>d</sup> footpost shall then and there receive, hee is to bring them to the s<sup>d</sup> Towne of Cambridge before the retorne of the Portmantle out of Scotland, w<sup>ch</sup> is to retorne at a certen daie & houre, by w<sup>ch</sup> meanes they maie be upon the verie instante cominge back of the s<sup>d</sup> Portmantle, as before, put into a litle bagge, w<sup>ch</sup> s<sup>d</sup> bagge is to be put into y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Portmantle as aforesaid. It is alwaies to be understood that upon the verie instant cominge of the Portmantle to Cambridge, the bagge of lres for that place & thereabouts ymmediatly to be tooke out of the s<sup>d</sup> Portmantle; the s<sup>d</sup> Portmantle being presentlie to goe forwards, night and day, w<sup>th</sup>out stay, to Huntingdon, w<sup>th</sup> fresh horse & man. At w<sup>ch</sup> place the like rule is to be observed as before at Cambridge, & so the s<sup>d</sup> Portmantle is to goe from Stage to Stage, night & day, till it shall come to Edenburgh. The bags of lres to be left at all Stages as at Cambridg and Huntingdon, as before.

Only it is to be understood, that the further the lres shall goe, the port thereof is to be advanced, as to 3<sup>d</sup>, 4<sup>d</sup>, & 6<sup>d</sup>, & to Scotland more. By this way of carrying and recarrying of lres, his Ma<sup>ty</sup> subjects shall, once in 6 daies, receive answer from Edenburgh in Scotland, and so consequently from all p<sup>ts</sup> betwixt London & Scotland.

The daie and howre of the cominge and going of the s<sup>d</sup> Portmantle to and from London to be alwaies certaine. By w<sup>ch</sup> meanes all Stages upon the Road will knowe at what certen howre the Portmantle is to come to y<sup>t</sup> place.

It is truth it maie be alledged, that some Citties & Townes of noate will lye so farre from any of the mayne Roads of England, as Hull & other Townes of noate upon the Sea coasts, as that it wilbe impossible for a footman to carry and recarry the s<sup>d</sup> lres w<sup>th</sup>in such time as shalbe limited: for remedie thereof a horse is to be provided for the s<sup>d</sup> footpost, for the execucon of the s<sup>d</sup> service w<sup>th</sup> more expedicon.

The like rule is to be observed to Westchester & so to Ireland.

The like rule is to be observed to Oxford, Bristoll, & so to Ireland.

The like rule is to be observed to Worcester, Shrewesbury, and so to y<sup>e</sup> Marches of Wales.

The like rule to be observed to Exceter, & so to Plymouth.

The like rule to be observed to Canterbury, & so to Dovo<sup>r</sup>

The like rule to be observed to Chelmsford, Colchester, and so to Harw<sup>ch</sup>.

The like rule to be observed to Newmarket, Bury, Norw<sup>ch</sup>, and so to Yarmouth.

In the first place, it wilbe a great furtherance to the correspondency betwixt London & Scotland, & London & Ireland, and great help to Trades, & true affeccon of his Ma<sup>ty</sup> subjects betwixt theis kingdomes, which, for want of true correspondency of lres, is now destroyed, & a thing above all things observed by all other nations.

#### As for example.

If anie of his Ma<sup>ty</sup> subjects shall write to Madril, in Spain, hee shall receive answer sooner & surer then hee shall out of Scotland or Ireland. The lres being now carried by carriers or footposts 16 or 18 miles a day, it is full two monthes before any answer can be received from Scotland or Ireland to London, w<sup>ch</sup> by this Conveyance all lres shall goe 120 miles at y<sup>e</sup> least in one day & night.

It will Secondlie be alledged, that it is a wrong to the Carriers that bring the said letters. To which is answered, a Carrier settis out from Westchester to London on the Mundaie, w<sup>ch</sup> is 120 miles. The s<sup>d</sup> Carrier is 8 daies upon the Road, and upon his cominge to London delivers his letters of advise for his relodunge to Westchester againe, and his forced to staie in London two daies at extraordinary charges before he can get his loding redy.

By this Conveyance lres wilbe frō Westchester to London in one day & night, so that the s<sup>d</sup> Carriers loading wilbe made ready a weeke before the s<sup>d</sup> Carriers shall come to London, and they no sooner come to London but maie be redy to depte againe.

The like will fall out in all other pts.

Besides, if at any time there should be occasion to write from anie of the coast Townes in England or Scotland to London, by this Conveyance lres wilbe brought ymmediatly; & from all such places there wilbe weekly advise to & from London.

#### As for Example.

Anie fight at Sea; any distress of his Ma<sup>ty</sup> shippis, (w<sup>ch</sup> God forbidd), anie wrong offered by anie other nation to any of y<sup>e</sup> Coastes of England, or anie of his Ma<sup>ty</sup> forts; the Posts being punctually paid, the newes will come sooner then thought.

It wilbe, thirdlie, alledged that this service maie be ptended by the Lo: Stanhope to be in his graunt of Post M<sup>r</sup> of England. To w<sup>ch</sup> is answered, neither to Lo: Stanhope, nor anie other that ever enjoyed the Postm<sup>s</sup> place of England, had any benefitt of the carrying and recarrying of the subjects Lres: besides, the profit is to paie y<sup>e</sup> Posts of the Road, w<sup>ch</sup> next unto his Ma<sup>ty</sup>, belong to y<sup>e</sup> office of the s<sup>d</sup> Lo: Stanhope, and upon determinacon of any of the s<sup>d</sup> Posts places, by death or otherwise, the Lo: Stanhope will make as much of them as hath heretofore bin made by this said advancement of all theire places.

The Lord Stanhope now enioying what either hee or any of his Predecesso<sup>s</sup> hath ever heretofore done to this day.

(Indorsed by Sec. Coke.)

“ Proposition for Missive Letters.”

Herewith sent down on the English post... previous inland parts... royal messengers only. See the earlier French postage table, 12 1576 (P. l. c. 46). The proclamation remained a dead letter for years

- XXXVI. - P Rymer 4, 137 Reg. 151. = 19, 649 Lond. 2 d. c. l.

(Miscellaneous, 5—Rymer, xix. 649.) 31 July 1635.

A PROCLAMATION for the settling of the Letter-office of England and Scotland.

WHEREAS to this time there hath been no certain or constant intercourse between the Kingdoms of England and Scotland, his Majesty hath been graciously pleased to command his servant, Thomas Witherings Esquire, his Majesties Postmaster of England for foreign parts, to settle a running post or two, to run, night and day, between Edinburgh in Scotland and the City of London, to go thither and come back again in six days, and to take with them all such letters as shall be directed to any post-town, or any place near any post-town in the said road, which letters to be left at the post-house, or some other house as the said Thomas Witherings shall think convenient; and by-posts to be placed at several places out of the said road, to run and bring in and carry out of the said roads the letters from Lincoln, Hull, and other places, as there shall be occasion, and answers to be brought again accordingly, and to pay post for the carrying and re-carrying of the said letters, 2 d. the single letter, if under fourscore miles; and between fourscore and 140 miles, 4 d.; if above 140 miles, then 6 d. and upon the Borders of Scotland and in Scotland 8 d.; if there be two, three, four, or five letters in one packet, or more, then to pay according to the bigness of the said packet after the rate as before; which money for post, as before, is to be paid upon the receiving and delivery of the said letters here in London. The like rule his Majesty is graciously pleased to order the said Thomas Witherings to observe to Westchester, Hollyhead, and from thence to Ireland, according to a provision made by the Lord Deputy and council there, and to take post betwixt the City of London and Hollyhead as before to the northward, and to go thither and bring answers back to the City of London from all the places in that road in six days, which is constantly hereafter to be observed, and to settle by-posts in the said road as there shall be occasion, for the benefit of all his Majesties loving subjects. His Majesty is pleased further to command the said Thomas Witherings to observe the like rule from the City of London to Plymouth, and to provide sufficient messengers to run night and day to Plymouth, and to return within six days to the City of London, and for the carriage of the said letters to Plymouth, Exeter, and other places in that road, his Majesty doth order the said Thomas Witherings to take the like post that now is paid, as near as possibly he can; and further his Majesty doth command and order the said Thomas Witherings, as soon as possibly may be, to settle the like conveyance for letters from Oxon, Bristol and other places on the road, for the benefit of all his subjects; and the like the said Thomas Witherings is to observe with all convenient speed to Colchester, and so to Norwich and divers other places in that road, the three first conveyances from London to Edinburgh, from London to Westchester and Hollyhead in Wales, and from London to Plymouth and Exeter, are to begin the first week after Michaelmas next.

Now, for the better enabling the said Thomas Witherings to go forward with this service, and for the advancement of all his Majesty's subjects in their trade and correspondence, his Majesty doth hereby command and order all his Postmasters, upon all the roads of England, to have ready in their stables one or two horses, according as the said Thomas Witherings shall have occasion to use them, to carry such messengers, with their postmantles, as shall be employed in the said service, to such stage or place as his present occasions shall direct him to: if the said messenger shall have occasion but for one horse, then to leave him at the place where he shall take fresh horse, paying for him 2 1/2 d. for every mile; if two horses, then to take a guide, and pay 5 d. a mile.

And that the said postmasters may be provided for this service, his Majesty doth hereby order and command, that such horses as shall be proper for the said service, shall not, upon that day the messenger shall be expected, let or send forth the said horses so provided upon any other occasion whatsoever. And his Majesty's further will and pleasure is, that, from the beginning of this service or employment, no other messenger or messengers, footpost or footposts, shall take up, carry, receive, or deliver any letter or letters whatsoever, other than the messengers appointed by the said Thomas Witherings, to any such place or places as the said Thomas Witherings shall settle the conveyances aforesaid, except common known carriers, or a particular messenger to be sent on purpose with a letter by any man for his own occasions, or a letter by a friend; and if any post-messenger or letter carrier whatsoever shall offend contrary to this his Majesty's Proclamation, his Majesty, upon complaint thereof made, will cause a severe exemplary punishment to be inflicted upon such delinquents. And his Majesty doth hereby strictly require and command all his loving subjects whatsoever duly to observe and perform his royal pleasure herein declared, as they will answer the contrary at their perils.

And, lastly, his Majesty doth hereby charge and command all justices of peace, mayors, sheriffs, bailiffs, constables, headboroughs, and all other his officers and ministers whatsoever to be aiding and assisting to the said Thomas Witherings in the due accomplishment of this his Majesty's will and pleasure.

Given at our Court at Bagshot, the last day of July.

Per ipsum Regem.



## — XXXVII. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 11.) 25 April, 1637.

Charles, Lord Stanhope, surrenders his Patent. *Vide supra* XIX.*Patent passed to the Secretary of State, Clerk & Windham*

## — XXXVIII. —

(Miscellaneous, 6—Rymer, xx. 192.) 11 February, 1637-8.

*of Rymer ii, 130 Hague ed.  
del. from the French version***A PROCLAMATION** concerning the Carrying and Re-carrying of Letters, as well within his Majesty's Realms and Dominions as into and from Foreign Parts.

WHEREAS heretofore, by direction of his Majesty, an agreement was made betwixt Thomas Witherings, Esquire, his Majesty's Postmaster for Foreign Parts, and Monsieur Denoveau, Postmaster to the French King and his Commisseees, bearing date at Calais, on the 11th day of May, A. D. 1636;—That as well all letters or packets which should be exported out of this realm into the kingdom of France, and all such letters as should be imported out of the same kingdom into the realm of England, should pass by the way of Dovor, Calais, Bulleyne, Abbeville, and Amiens, and by no other way or road whatsoever; and that all private posts, messengers, carriers, and letter carriers, other than such posts, carriers, and messengers as should be nominated and appointed by the said Thomas Witherings and Monsieur Denoveau, should be prohibited to carry or re-carry any letter or letters between either of the said kingdoms; which agreement, being afterwards conceived to be beneficial to both States and advantageous in their commerce, was both by his Majesty and the French King reciprocally allowed of, and in pursuit whereof the French King did, by a proclamation dated at Paris the 13th day of April, A. D. 1637, prohibit all the said posts and carriers accordingly: Now his Majesty, likewise, in pursuance of the said agreement, and taking into his princely consideration how much it imports the state and this whole realm, that the secrets thereof be not disclosed to foreign nations; which cannot be prevented if promiscuous use of transmitting or taking up of foreign letters by these private posts and carriers aforesaid should be suffered, which will also be no small prejudice to his merchants in their trading: And forasmuch as there hath lately been complaint made to his Majesty's ambassadors in France, that the said carriers or letter carriers do continually pass by the way of Rye and Diepe, as formerly they did, to the great prejudice of correspondences: his Majesty doth therefore straightly charge and command, and hereby declare his royal will and pleasure to be, that from henceforth no letters or packets whatsoever shall pass by the way of Rye and Diepe, but all shall be transmitted by the way of Dover, Calais, Bulleyne, Abbeville, and Amiens, according to the said agreement; and his Majesty doth hereby prohibit all the said messengers and French posts, and all other posts and letter carriers whatsoever, that have formerly gone by the way of Rye and Diepe, or any other posts, carriers, or messengers, except such as shall be appointed by the said Thomas Witherings, that they do not presume to take up, transmit, carry, or re-carry any letters or packets whatsoever into or from any foreign parts, by the said way of Rye and Diepe, or by any other way or road whatsoever, upon pain of his Majesty's high displeasure, and the pains and penalties which may ensue:

And his Majesty, taking further into his consideration that the mutual commerce and correspondency of his subjects within his Majesty's own dominions will be as advantageous and beneficial as the trade with foreign nations, and that nothing will more increase and advance the same than the safe and speedy conveying, carrying, and re-carrying of letters from one place to another, and for the settling and confirming of a letter-office, to that end and purpose erected and constituted by his Majesty's letters patent, bearing date the 22d day of June, in the 13th year of his Majesty's reign:

Now for avoiding of all questions and scruples which might hereafter arise in disturbing of the said officer in the said service, and for restraining of several and sundry abuses and miscarriages which have been and daily are committed, to the prejudice of the said officer, and in contempt of his Majesty's royal grant and proclamation in that behalf, his Majesty's royal will and pleasure therefore is, and he doth hereby straightly charge and command, that no post or carrier whatsoever within his Majesty's dominions, other than such as shall be nominated and appointed by the said Thomas Witherings, shall presume to take up, carry receive and deliver any letter or letters, packet or packets whatsoever, to any such place or places where the said Thomas Witherings shall have settled posts, according to the said grant, except a particular messenger sent on purpose with letters by any man for his own occasions, or letters by a friend, or by common known carriers, who are hereby permitted to carry any letters, above eight hours, after their carts, waggons and packhorses travelling with the same, the ordinary known journeys that common carriers use to travel; provided always that they, nor any of their servants, at no time stay at the place from whence they carry any letters, above eight hours after their carts, waggons, or packhorses are departed, nor bring any letters to London or elsewhere above eight hours before the said carts, waggons, or packhorses shall come there; and if any post, messenger, or letter carrier whatsoever shall offend contrary to his Majesty's Proclamation, upon complaint thereof made, his Majesty will cause a severe and exemplary punishment to be inflicted upon the offenders therein. And his Majesty's further pleasure is, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the

*Attended  
to the  
1637-8**to the mail  
1637 (no date)**1637**1637*

the said Thomas Witherings and his deputies that do or shall execute the said office, to have, receive, and take for the postage and conveyance of all letters that he or they shall receive, carry and re-carry in England as aforesaid, 2 d. a single letter, and 4 d. a double, and for bigger 6 d. the ounce, if under 80 miles; and from 80 miles to 140 miles 4 d. the single and 8 d. the double letter, and for bigger 9 d. the ounce, and for 140 miles above 6 d. the single letter, 12 d. the double letter, and if bigger 12 d. the ounce; and for letters of Ireland, he or they shall take, according to a Proclamation published by the Lord Deputy and Council there, 9 d. the single letter, and if bigger, after two ounces, 6 d. the ounce, according as the same are limited in his Majesty's letters patents aforesaid: and if any post-boy or other servant to the master of the said letter office, his deputies or assigns, shall receive or take any post or postage twice for any letter or packet which he or they shall carry or re-carry as aforesaid, contrary to the true meaning hereof, then his Majesty doth hereby authorise, will and require, that the next justices of the peace, upon complaint thereof made to him or them, do punish the parties so offending according to their deserts in an exemplary way, that others may be deterred from abusing his subjects in like kind and manner. And his Majesty doth further require and command all his subjects, as well aliens as denizens and others, that they shall not deliver, or cause to be delivered any letters or packets to any of the said French posts, or other foreign or inland post messengers or letter carriers whatsoever, to be carried from any of the places where the said Thomas Witherings shall have settled posts within his Majesty's dominions, or to be carried out of his Majesty's realms into any foreign parts, upon pain of his high indignation, and such punishment as may be further inflicted.

And lastly, his Majesty doth hereby charge and command the mayors of Rye, Dover, Canterbury, Ipswich, Yarmouth, Norwich, Berwick, Newcastle, York, Chester, Exeter, Plymouth, Salisbury, Bristol, and all other justices of peace, mayors, sheriffs, bailiffs, constables, headboroughs, and all other his Majesty's officers, ministers, and loving subjects whatsoever, to be aiding and assisting to the said Thomas Witherings, and to take care to see the due execution of his said Majesty's proclamation, and that they suffer none within their liberties to offend against the same, as they will answer the contrary at their uttermost perils.

Witness Ourselves at Westminster, the 11th day of February.

Per ipsum Regem.

*30. of letters to the Postmaster for Foreign Parts in Hyde, Postmaster's Office, 118-119*

— XXXIX. —

*2d Lond. Ed.*

(Miscellaneous, 7—Rymer, xx. 429.) 6 August 1640. *In q Rymer III, 24 Hague vol. 1104*

A PROCLAMATION concerning the Sequestration of the Office of POSTMASTER for Foreign Parts, and also of the Letter Office of England, into the hands of Philip Burlamachy, of London, Merchant.

WHEREAS we have received information of divers abuses and misdemeanors committed by Thomas Withering, in the execution, as well of the office of Postmaster for Foreign Parts, as also of the Letter-office within Our own dominions, and thereupon have been pleased to sequester the said offices into the hands of Philip Burlamachy, of London, merchant, who is to execute the same under the care and oversight of Our Principal Secretary of State, till We shall signify Our pleasure to the contrary; and have accordingly declared the same under Our Royal Hand and Signet, and commanded Our said Secretary to see the sequestration put in speedy execution, and to take such course that neither Our service, nor the business of the merchants, nor Our other subjects, might thereby receive any prejudice or interception: And whereas Our said Secretary, in pursuance of Our said command, hath not only affixed papers upon the Old Exchange, to give notice of this Our pleasure to all Our subjects herein concerned, but hath also given advice thereof, as well into the parts beyond the seas, as also into all places of Our own dominions, to the end that the service itself might continue in the same course wherein it was formerly, and nothing at all changed or altered therein, but only the house where the said offices are to be kept:

But, because we understand that the said Thomas Withering hath since caused certain proclamations, heretofore made and published by Our command, concerning the said offices, to be set up and affixed upon the Exchange, which may be a great distraction to this service, and may likewise raise such doubts in many of Our subjects, as may cause them to make difficulty to conform themselves to this Our pleasure:

We do, therefore, hereby supersede Our said former proclamations concerning this business, or such part of them and every of them as may be contrary to or different from this our sequestration, till We shall signify Our pleasure to the contrary; and do straightly charge and command all Our subjects, whom it doth or may concern, to conform themselves thereunto, and to the directions given by Our said secretaries for the ordering and managing of the said offices, as they tender Our pleasure, and will answer the contrary at their perils; hereby promising and declaring, that as We will defend and save harmless all and every person and persons, that by conforming themselves to this Our sequestration, and the orders thereupon given, shall contravene Our said proclamations, or incur the penalties of them, so We shall cause all such as shall oppose or disobey this Our Royal will and pleasure, to be punished according to their demerits.

Given at Our Court at Oatlands, the 6th day of August.

Per ipsum Regem.

-- XL. --

(EXTRACTS from LORDS' and COMMONS' JOURNALS, 1641, 1642, 1643.)

CONTEST between the Earl of *Warwick* and Mr. *Prideaux* for Possession of the Post-Office.2 Com. J. 16 Cha. 1,  
Wednesday, 10 Feb.  
1640-1, p. 81, 82.

Ordered, That the Sub-committee, formerly appointed for the Committee of Grievance, to consider of the complaints of the inland posts, foreign carriers, carriers and foot-posts, be made a Committee from The House, with power to send to parties, witnesses, papers, records; and they are likewise to take into consideration the rates and prices for carrying packets and letters, and the several abuses of Mr. *Witherings*, and the rest of the post-masters, and have power to prepare a Bill for the preventing and remedying of the like inconvenience and abuses for the future; and are to meet to-morrow, in the afternoon, at two of the clock, in the Court of Wards, and, by order, these following are added to this Committee:

Mr. Treasurer, and 45 others.

Wednesday, 3 March  
1640-1, p. 95.

Ordered, That the Committee for postmasters shall have power to name and consider of all petitions that every way concern the complaints expressed in the former order respecting postmasters.

Commons' Journals,  
22 March 1641-2,  
p. 498.

Ordered, That Mr. *Glynn* do report to-morrow the matter concerning the sequestration of the letter-offices, produced by Secretary *Windebanke*.

18 Cha. 1, 28 March  
1642, p. 500.

Mr. *Glyn* reports the case concerning the foreign postmasters'-office.

Resolved on the question, that this sequestration of the office for foreign postmasters from the possession of Mr. *Wytherings*, is a grievance, and illegal, and ought to be taken off and repealed.

That the proclamation for putting Mr. *W.* out of possession of the exercise of his place of postmaster for foreign parts, is a grievance, and illegal, and ought not to be put in execution.

That Mr. *W.* ought to be restored unto the possession of his place, as postmaster for foreign parts, and to the mean profits received since he was out of possession, deducting the reasonable and usual charges of execution.

That for the legality of this patent, it shall be referred to a trial at law.

Ordered, That the Committee concerning postmasters, where Mr. *Prideaux* hath the chair, be revived, to sit on Friday next, at two o'clock, in the Exchequer Chamber; and the petitions of the Earl of *Warwick* and the Lord *Stanhope*, and John *Castlon* and Edward *Hutchins*, &c., are referred to that Committee; and this Committee is to have power to consider what rates are fit to be laid upon the inland letters.

28 March 1642, p. 501.

Ordered, That a conference shall be desired to-morrow morning with the Lords, concerning the master's office for the postage of foreign letters; and Mr. *Glynn* is to manage the conference, and to propose the reasons and the grounds that induced this House to pass their votes.

7 July 1642, p. 658.

Ordered, That Mr. *Weston* do make his report this afternoon at four o'clock, concerning the Letter-office.

12 July 1642, p. 668.

The question being put, whether the report, now tendered by Mr. *Western*, shall be now made; it passed with the negative.

Resolved (on the question), That the committee for the postmasters shall meet to-morrow, P. M., in the Exchequer Court, and that the report concerning the patent touching the Letter-office be made on Friday morning next at nine o'clock, by Mr. *Weston*; and that Mr. *Prideaux* do at the same time report such matters as shall be passed at the committee by that time.

19 July 1642, p. 681.

Ordered, That the report concerning the Letter-office, be made by Mr. *Weston*, on Friday morning next; and Mr. *Prideaux* is to make his report on the posts at the same time.

22 July 1642, p. 685.

Ordered, That the report on the business concerning the Letter-office, be made by Mr. *Weston*, and Mr. *Prideaux* on Friday morning next.

29 July 1642, p. 695.

Ordered, That on Friday next, at eight o'clock, peremptorily, the report concerning the Letter-office be made by Mr. *Weston*; and that Mr. *Prideaux* be here present then, and make report of that which belongs unto him; to report concerning that business, at the same time.

2 August 1642, p. 700.

Resolved (on the question), That the report of the Letter-office be made by Mr. *Weston* and Mr. *Prideaux*, on Thursday morning next, peremptorily.

Ordered,

Ordered, That on Saturday morning next, at 10 o'clock, peremptorily, the report concerning the Letter-office, shall be made by Mr. Weston and Mr. Prideaux. 5 August 1642, p. 703.

Ordered, That the report concerning the Letter-office be made to-morrow, according to former orders. 15 Aug. 1642, p. 720.

Mr. Ellis reported from the Committee to whom the business of the Letter-office was referred. Tuesday, 16 Aug. 1642, p. 722.

Resolved, upon the question,

1. That the sequestration of the Inland Letter-office to Philip Burlamacchy is illegal and void, and ought to be taken off.

2. That Philip Burlamacchy and his deputies shall forthwith bring in an account of the profits of the office received by him or his deputies since the said illegal sequestration [to the Committee for the accounts, where Mr. Trenchard has the chair]. (*The words in [ ] omitted in the Lords' Journals, 8th Sept. 1642.*)

3. That the proclamation in pursuance of the sequestration is illegal and void.

Upon Mr. Prideaux his report from the Committee for the postmasters, it was resolved, upon the question,

1. That the taking of the several letters in this case from the several carriers, and the several restraints and imprisonment of Groves, Chapman, Cotton, and Mackerill, is against the law, and liberty and freedom of the subject.

2. That these several persons ought to have reparation and damages from Sir John Coke and Sir F. Windebanke, then Secretaries of State, and Mr. Witherings, respectively.

3. That Sir John Coke, Sir F. Windebanke, and Mr. Witherings, are delinquents.

Ordered, That the report of the patent concerning the Letter-office be made on Wednesday next. 19 Aug. 1642, p. 728.

Resolved, That the votes that passed this House concerning the Letter-office, and the sequestration of the profits, shall be transmitted to the Lords. 6 Sept. 1642, p. 753.

Ordered, That Mr. Ellis do carry up the votes concerning the Letter-office, without any further orders, so soon as the Lords shall be sit. 7 Sept. 1642, p. 755.

A message was brought from the House of Commons by Mr. Ellis, "That they have made some votes concerning the postmaster's office, which was taken out of Mr. Witherings' hand by an Act of Parliament, and put into Mr. Barlamachie's hand, by way of sequestration; upon the which matter the House of Commons have made these votes following, wherein they desire their Lordships' concurrence."

5 Lords' J. 8 Sept. 1642, p. 343.

(See Resolution of Commons, 16th August 1642.)

The answer returned to the messenger was, That this House agrees with the Commons in their votes now brought up.

Mr. Ellis reports, that the Lords do agree to the votes concerning the Letter-office.

Commons' Journals, 12 Sept. 1642, p. 753.

Upon reading the petition of the Earl of Warwicke, desiring that their Lordships would be pleased to settle the possession of the Letter-office of England, according to the Resolution of Parliament, until it shall be evicted by law, and that such punishment may be inflicted upon Phillip Burlamachi, Henry Robinson, Job Allibant, and the rest of his deputies, as their Lordships shall think fit for the contempt of the Orders of Parliament; and that the said persons aforesaid may be ordered to bring in their accompts upon a day.

Lords' Journals, 5 Oct. 1642, p. 387.

Ordered, That the Earl of Clare, Earl of Bollinbrooke, Lord Grey, and the Lord Bruce shall look back and take an account of the progress of this business, and what hath been done thereupon, and report the same to this House; their Lordships, or any two of them, to meet when and where they please.

The Lord Grey reported from the Committee for the Earl of Warwicke's petition, that since the three votes of both Houses, there hath been nothing done concerning the sequestration of the Letter-office. 6 Oct. 1642, p. 388.

Hereupon this House ordered, That Phillip Burlamachie and his deputies shall show cause, this day sevensnight, at this Bar, why the sequestration, which is voted by both Houses to be illegal, should not be taken off, and he be discharged thereof; and that he bring into this House an accompt of the profits of the said office, received by him or his deputies since the said sequestration.

- 13 Oct. 1642, p. 399. Ordered, That the cause concerning the Earl of Warwicke, about the Letter-office, shall be put off until this day sevensnight.
- 20 Oct. 1642, p. 410. Ordered, That the cause concerning the Letter-office is deferred until Saturday next.
- 22 Oct. 1642, p. 415. A message was brought from the House of Commons by Sir Henry Mildmay.
2. They desire their Lordships' concurrence in this vote concerning the Earl of Warwicke; videlicet:
- Resolved, upon the question, "That this House doth nominate and approve Robert, Earl of Warwicke, to be Captain-general of the forces to be raised in these parts, for the defence of the Parliament, the city of London, and the counties adjacent, without any diminution or derogation of the authority and power granted to the Earl of Essex."
- The answer returned was, that
2. And that their Lordships do concur with the House of Commons in the resolution concerning the Earl of Warwicke.
- Ordered, That the cause concerning the Letter-office, shall be put off until this day sevensnight.
- 25 Nov. 1642, p. 450. The votes of both Houses of Parliament were read, dated 8th September 1642, declaring the sequestration of the Letter-office to be illegal, and that Burlamachi, &c., should give an account of the profits; and then it was moved, "That the possession should be settled on the Earl of Warwicke, which else would be \* \* \* \*"
- Ordered, That the possession of the said Letter-office shall be presently delivered unto the Earl of Warwicke by Phillip Burlamachi and his deputies, or others; that they presently give a just and true accompt, upon oath, unto the Earl of Clare, Lord Grey, of Warke, Lord Bruce, of all the profits received by them by virtue of the illegal sequestration; and their Lordships are to make report of the said accompts to this House; and then the Earl of Warwicke is to have the said profits paid unto his Lordship.
- 1 Dec. 1642, p. 460. Upon reading two affidavits, that the Order of this House, for the giving the possession of the Letter-office to the Earl of Warwicke, is disobeyed by Phillip Burlamachi, Job Alibond, and James Hickes; hereupon this House ordered, that they shall be sent for, to appear here to-morrow morning, to show cause why they have not obeyed the said Order.
- 1 Dec. 1642, p. 470. Richard Poole maketh oath, and saith, that, on the 26th of November last, he, this deponent, served Mr. Phillip Burlimachie and Pompey Calandrini with an Order of the Lords in Parliament, of 25th of same month, for delivering of the possession of *the Inland Letter-office* to the Right honourable the Earl of Warwick; and that on Monday, the 28th of the said month of November, there came one James Hickes to the place appointed by the said Earl or his deputies (for receiving of the mails of letters according to the said Order), with a message from Mr. Prideaux, who, as he said, was then at Mr. Burlimachie's house, to Mr. Pulley and myself, and to require the delivery of *the Letters of Chester Road*, which were come to our hands, to him; and that he would receive, not only them, but all other that came, notwithstanding the Order of the Lords; whereupon the deponent went to the said Mr. Prideaux, to know by what order he required the letters, who refused to show any; and desiring him to take notice of the Order of the Lords, which this deponent delivered to him, the said Mr. Prideaux answered, "he had seen a copy thereof," and demanded whether I did serve him therewith; to whom I answered, that if he did claim anything to do in the office, I did serve him: whereupon he required John Castlon, Edward Hutchins, and Job Alibond, then present, to bear witness.—*Jurat.* 1st December 1642. *Ro. Rich.*
- Fulke Hughes maketh oath, and saith, That upon the 27th of November last past he served an Order of the Lords in Parliament, of the 25th of the same month, upon Edward Hutchins, *postmaster at Charing Crosse*, and Job Alibond, a servant in the Inland Letter-office during the sequestration, who confessed that they knew of the said Order before their serving therewith; and that, notwithstanding the said Order, the mail of letters for *the Western Road* was delivered at Mr. Burlimachie's house upon the 28th day of the same month, and were there distributed by Job Alibond and James Hickes; and the letters of the other roads were delivered in by them at the said Burlimachie's house, and sent away by the several posts of the said roads upon the night following; and the said Alibond and Hickes do execute the said office in Burlimachie's house, in the same manner as they and others had formerly done, during the time of the sequestration.—*Jurat.* 1st December 1642. *Ro. Rich.*
- 2 Dec. 1642, p. 471. Mr. Burlamachi was called, and demanded a reason why he disobeyed the order of this House of the 25th November in not delivering the present possession of the Inland Letter-office to the Earl of Warwicke? He answered, that he is not in possession of the said office, nor

nor interest, since the sequestration was taken away, but the office is kept at his house, and one Mr. Prideaux, a Member of the House of Commons, hath hired his house and servants, and disposes of the letters.

The Earl of Warwicke hath a title to the said office, under the Great Seal of England.

Ordered, That this House confirm the Order of the 25th of November last, and that the postmasters shall bring the mails of letters to the Earl of Warwicke, or his deputies; and if they refuse, the Earl of Warwicke shall have power to seize upon the mails, and to put them out of their places until they conform themselves thereunto; and if Mr. Prideaux do interpose, then this House holds it fit to have a conference with the House of Commons, and to represent the particulars to them.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Holles be desired by this House, to take upon him the command in chief of the forces of the Western parts: And that the gentlemen of the Western parts do confer with him about the accommodation of that command and that service: And that the propositions from Manchester, for raising of dragoons, be referred to the Committee for Dispatches: And that it be likewise referred to that Committee, to consider of some convenient way for the safe conveyance of letters into the several parts of this kingdom; and to appoint by what hands they shall be conveyed; and to displace such Postmasters, or their agents, as shall not be conformable to their directions.

3 Dec. 1642.  
Com. Journ. p. 748.

Complaint was made, That whereas the Order of this House was, the 2d of this instant, that the mails of letters should be brought unto the Earl of Warwicke, and that a man of Mr. Prideaux, contrary to the Order of this House, hath seized upon the mails, under pretence of an Order of the House of Commons.

Lords' Journals,  
5 Dec. 1642, p. 473.

An affidavit was read as followeth:

Robert Brisco maketh oath and saith, That John Brisco, this deponent's father, postmaster at Barnet, together with this deponent, having received a warrant made by the Lords in Parliament, the 2d day of this month, to bring the mails of letters to such place as the Earl of Warwicke or his deputies of the Letter-office should appoint, and having also received warrant from the deputy of the said Earl to seize the mails with letters *coming from Chester*, did, upon the 4th of this month, meet with the said mail at St. Albans, in the custody or possession of one James Hickes, now or late Mr. Burlamachie's servant, Edward Roden, who affirmed himself to be the servant of one Mr. Prideaux, and one Edward Johnson, a servant to John Castlon, postmaster at Barbican, and did show them the said Order of the Lords, and required them to deliver unto them, this deponent's father and himself, the said mail with letters which the said Hickes, Roden, and the other refused to do, but showed unto this deponent and his said father an Order of the House of Commons, dated the 3d of this month, which did order the said mail to be carried unto the said Mr. Prideaux, commanding all justices of the peace and others to permit the said mail to pass without any restraint or hinderance.—*Jurat*, 5 Dec. 1642. *Robt. Aylott*.

Also, a state of the whole cause was read.

The Letter-office was granted to Thomas Witherings, for his life, anno 1637. That he enjoyed the same office until August 1640; and then it was sequestered, by a warrant under the King's hand, and the hands of Sir Henry Vane and Sir Francis Windebanck, principal Secretaries of State, into the hands of Burlamachy.

This patent was afterwards assigned, by the said Witherings, unto the Earl of Warwick, who petitioned the House of Commons against the said sequestration, which was referred to a Committee. That, upon full hearing, the Committee voted [*recites the three Resolutions of 16 August 1642*].

These votes were reported, by the Committee, unto the House of Commons. These votes were voted by the House of Commons, and transmitted to the Lords; and the Lords joined with the House of Commons in the said votes. That, the 25th of November last, the Lords, in pursuance of the said votes, did order, that the possession of the said Letter-office should, upon sight of that Order, be delivered unto the said Earl of Warwicke, or his assigns, by the said Burlamachi, and all others claiming the possession thereof; and that Burlamachi should, within eight days, bring an account, upon oath, of all the profits of the said office since the sequestration. That Burlamachy and divers others were served with this Order, as appeareth by affidavits now remaining in the Lords' House; and yet Burlamachy did yield no obedience to the same.

That, upon Thursday the 1st of this month, the Lords ordered that Burlamachi and others should appear the next day to show cause why they did not obey the Order of the Lords. That Burlamachi did appear and deny that he intermeddled in the execution of the said office, but that Mr. Prideaux did execute the said office in his house for the post. That thereupon it was ordered, that the Order of the 25th of November should be confirmed in all points; and it was further ordered, that the posts, after the sight of this Order, should bring all mails of letters to such place as the Earl of Warwicke, or his deputies, should appoint; and also to attend to carry such mails of letters as should be delivered unto them. That it should be lawful for the said Earl to seize all mails of letters. That if any of the posts should refuse to bring the mails of letters to such place as should be appointed, or to receive and carry

63

the mails back, the said Earl should have power to displace such postmasters, until he or they conform themselves unto the Order of this House. That, notwithstanding these votes of both Houses and Orders, whereof Mr. Prideaux, Burlamachi, and the posts have taken knowledge, yet James Hickes and Edward Roden, servants, as they pretend, to Mr. Prideaux, have seized the mail of letters for Chester Road, upon pretence of an Order made in the House of Commons on Saturday last, and have refused to obey the Order of the Lords, and have carried the said mail to Mr. Burlamachi's house.

The House, taking this business into consideration, in regard Mr. Prideaux is a member of the House of Commons, this House resolved to have a conference with the House of Commons, and acquaint them with the other carriage of this business, and to know of the House of Commons whether they have given any such order, to supersede the order of this House; and, if they have not, then to desire that they would order the Earl of W. to have satisfaction herein.

A message was sent to the House of Commons by Serjeant Glanville and Dr. Aylott, to desire a present conference touching the Inland Letter-office.

The messenger returns this answer from the House of Commons: That they have considered of their Lordships' message, and they will return an answer by a messenger of their own in convenient time.

Commons' Journals,  
5 Dec. 1642, p. 875.

A message from the Lords by Serjeant Glanville and Dr. Aylott. The Lords desire a present conference, by committees of both Houses, presently, in the Painted Chamber, if it may stand with the convenience of this House, touching the Letter-office.

Answer returned by the same messengers, this House has considered their Lordships' message, and will return an answer by messengers of their own.

Lords' Journals,  
6 Dec. 1642, p. 476.

A message was brought from the House of Commons, by Sir Gilbert Gherrard, to let their Lordships know that the House of Commons are ready to give a present conference touching their Lordships' message concerning the Letter-office. The answer returned was, that this House will give a present conference in the Painted Chamber.

Commons' Journals,  
6 Dec. 1642, p. 877.

Sir Gilbert Gerrard went up to the Lords, to acquaint them that this House is ready, when their Lordships shall please, to give them a meeting on the conference yesterday desired concerning the Letter-office.

Sir Gilbert Gerrard brings answer, that the Lords are willing and ready to give a meeting at this conference, touching the conference yesterday desired concerning the Letter-office.

6 Dec. 1642, p. 878.

Prideaux, Knightly, Whitlock, Barryter, are appointed reporters of this conference.

8 Dec. 1642, p. 881.

Mr. Whitlock reported the second part of this conference, That it was concerning the Letter-office; that it had long depended in the House of Peers; it concerned a person of honour, and one that had expressed much affection to the Commonwealth; that he delivered three papers of Orders concerning this business, and one of the Orders (said to be an Order of this House) which doth cross an Order made by their Lordships concerning the Letter-office; and an affidavit also was delivered by his Lordship, that the Lords desired this House to give their speedy Resolutions herein, because it concerned a person of so much honour.

Lords' Journals,  
9 Dec. 1642, p. 483.

The Lord Grey reported, from the Committee appointed to take the accompt of the Inland Letter-office,

"That Phillip Burlamachi had brought an accompt which was somewhat intricate and imperfect; therefore the Committee think fit that they may be audited by an auditor."

Hereupon this House ordered, that the Committee shall hereby have power to call such persons as they shall think fit to audit the said accompts; and also shall have power to give orders for the bringing the books of accompts, to give a full understanding of the business, and in case they shall be denied, that then they shall have authority of this House to seize them.

10 Dec. 1642, p. 485.

A letter of Mr. Prideaux, a Member of the House of Commons, to one John Brisco, was read, concerning the Inland Letter-office, taking upon to expound and interpret the intentions of the Lords' Order, for giving the possession of that office to the Earl of Warwick.

Ordered, That this letter shall be sent to the House of Commons, which was presently done by Robert Rich and Mr. Page.

14 Dec. 1642, p. 400.

Upon reading the affidavit of Gregory Isham, that he hath served Job Alibond with an Order of the Lords' Committees for the Inland Letter-office, requiring him and others to bring in, and deliver to their Lordships, a particular and true accompt of all profits of the said office since the sequestration; and further this deponent saith, that the said Job Alibond still continueth the execution of the same office, notwithstanding the Order of the Lords in Parliament of the 25th of November, which required him and others to deliver the possession of the said office to the Right Hon. the Earl of W., or his deputies; to which he, the

the said Alibond, hath not yielded obedience, but still persists in the execution of the said office.—*Jur.* 14 Dec. 1642.

Upon consideration of this contempt of the Order of this House, it is ordered, that the Gentleman Usher, attending this House, shall attach the body of the said Job Alibond, and keep him in safe custody, and bring him before this House to-morrow morning, to answer the said contempt.

Ordered, That the matter of the late conference, concerning the Inland Letter-office, be taken into consideration on Monday morning next. Commons' Journals,  
15 Dec. 1642, p. 889.

Ordered, That all the persons that have disobeyed the Order of this House, concerning the Inland Letter-office, shall be sent for as delinquents. Lords' Journals,  
16 Dec. 1642, p. 404.

Upon reading of three affidavits, showing that the mails of the letters from Chester and Plymouth were violently seized upon, and taken away by force, by troopers, from the servants or agents of the Earl of Warwick, contrary to the Orders of this House. Lords' Journals,  
21 Dec. 1642, p. 508.

Ordered, That a warrant be granted to bring Hickes, Martin, Gee, and Roden, and Mr. Burlamachi, before The House to-morrow morning; and because Burlamachi refuses to give accompt of the profits of the Inland Letter-office, and refuses to bring in the accompts and acquittances; it is Ordered, that the Sheriff of London shall seize the said books of accompts and acquittances, and bring them to this House.

Robert Briscoe and Gregory Isham, gentlemen, depose, that they, being appointed by the Right Honourable Robert, Earl of Warwick, for seizing the West Chester letters, and to bring them to his Lordship's office near the Exchange, in London, did, on the 19th of this December, in Barnett, seize the said letters, then in the custody of one James Hicks, who had them behind him in a cloak-bag, who came with these deponents unto the foot of the hill beyond High-gate; at which place then met these deponents and the said Hicks five persons unknown to these deponents, on great horses with pistols, habited like troopers, and demanded of these deponents, Who had the letters? saying, they must have them: and so, these deponents, with the said Hicks with the letters behind him, and the five troopers came together into Highgate town, and then met with Edward Rodden, Mr. Prideaux's man, who with Hicks and the troopers rode into a yard, these deponents following them: and the said Rodden said, He did seize the said letters by virtue of an order of the House of Commons, and that his master would be there presently to receive them; and these deponents said, that they had seized them by virtue of an order from the House of Lords; and then deponents demanded of the said troopers by what authority they came to take the letters from them; who answered, They did belong to Captain Mainwaring's troop; and one of them confessed he was Mr. Prideaux's man; but refused to tell these deponents their names; and the said Rodden, and the said trooper that affirmed he was Mr. Prideaux's man, took the cloak-bag with the said letters, and carried them away from these deponents.—*Uterque Jurat*, 20<sup>o</sup> die Decembris.

*Tho. Benet.*

Fulke Hughes maketh oath, that upon Monday the 19th of this instant December, he, being appointed by the Right Hon. the Earl of Warwick to receive and dispose of the Inland letters at his Lordship's office, near the Royal Exchange, in London, and he, this deponent, seeing the Mail of Plymouth letters coming by the said office, did, by virtue of an order of the Lords in Parliament, seize the same; and that immediately one Mr. Prideaux, a Member of the House of Commons, together with one . . . Marten, and one . . . Gee, and others, servants of Mr. Burlimachi, did, by a strong hand, take away the said mail of letters from this deponent, and carried them to the House of Burlimachi; and this deponent further saith, that Mr. Prideaux said he would carry them to his House; and that they were his goods.—*Jurat*, 20th Decembris, 1642.

*Tho. Bennett.*

Matthew Dexter maketh oath, that upon the 19th of this instant December, he, being at the office of the Right Hon. the Earl of Warwick, did assist one Fulke Hughes in seizing the Mail with Plymouth letters, according to an order of the House of Lords; whereupon immediately one Mr. Prideaux, together with one . . . Marten, and one . . . Gee, and others, servants of Mr. Burlimachi, did, by a strong hand, force the same into Mr. Burlimachi's house; Mr. Prideaux saying he had an order of the House of Commons, whereof he was a Member, to take them; at which instant, also, a gentleman, whom this deponent knoweth not, in Mr. Prideaux's company, said, "An order of the House of Commons ought to be obeyed before an order of the House of Lords."

Ordered, That the matter of the late conference and Message, concerning the Inland Letter-office, and the whole state of that business, be referred to the consideration of the Committee for Despatches; and likewise the Breach of Privilege, in committing the servant Commons' Journals,  
22 Dec. 1642, p. 899.



of Mr. Prideaux; and that the Contempt of the House of Commons, and the Breach of Privilege, and abuse of Mr. Prideaux and his servants, by Mr. Witherings and others, be referred to the said Committee.

23 Dec. 1642, p. 900.

A message from the Lords by Sir \* \* \*

The Lords desire a conference presently in the Painted Chamber by Committees of both Houses, if it may stand with their conveniency, concerning some carryers in the Letter-office that concern the Earl of Warwick.

The House will send answer by messenger of their own.

Lords' Journals,  
23 Dec. 1642, p. 512.

Complaint was made to this House, that whereas, by warrant of this House, one Hickes was to be attached as a delinquent, for not obeying the Orders of this House, concerning the Letter-office; and being attached, and in the custody of the officer of this House, upon a pretence that this Hickes is a servant of one Mr. Prideaux, a Member of the House of Commons, he hath been released and taken away, by Order of the House of Commons; therefore it was ordered, to have a conference with the House of Commons, and to acquaint them with the affidavits upon which this person was attached, and to acquaint them with the whole business; and it is ordered, that the said Hickes shall be again taken into custody, by Order of this House.

A message was sent to the House of Commons by Sir Robert Rich and Mr. Page, to desire a conference.

2. Concerning the Inland Letter office.

24 Dec. 1642, p. 514.

Upon reading of the petition of Phillip Burlamachi, showing, that whereas he was apprehended, and remains a prisoner, by their Lordships' Order, for not attending and bringing in the books of accompt concerning the Inland Letter-office; and in regard, he thereto delivered in the books of accompt, he claimed that liberty may be granted him for his body, considering his old age and infirmities.

Hereupon, this House being informed that some books of accompts were brought, but not all, it is ordered, that the said B. shall deliver in all the books of accompt concerning the Inland Letter-office, and perform the order of this House concerning this business; and then this House will take the same into consideration.

26 Dec. 1642, p. 515.

A message was sent to the House of Commons by Sir E. Leech and Dr. Bennett, to desire a present conference.

2. And something concerning the Inland Letter-office, because they are matters of consequence.

Commons' Journals,  
26 Dec. 1642, p. 902.

A message from the Lords:

The Lords do now claim that this House will give a present conference concerning these matters.—This House is now in debate on great business.

Lords' Journals,  
31 Dec. 1642, p. 519.

Ordered, That Mr. Burlamachi shall have liberty, and be permitted to go to his own house, until the further pleasure of this House be further known; and that the accompts concerning the Inland Letter-office shall be audited by the auditor of the City of London, who is a sworn officer.

2 Jan. 1643, p. 523.

Ordered, That the books of accompts, now in the hands of the clerk of the Parliament, concerning the Inland Letter-office, shall be delivered to the Earl of Warwicke, to the intent he may cause copies to be made thereof, before they shall be delivered to the auditor, and that Mr. Burlamachi shall, according to the Order of the 9th of December, within two days, deliver to the clerk of the Parliament, upon oath to be made before a Master of the Chancery, all other books, accompts, writings or papers whatsoever, that concern the Letter-office; and that the said Earl of Warwicke may likewise take copies thereof; and that the said Earl of Warwicke shall have power to point interrogatories, for such to be examined upon as have not yielded obedience to the Orders of this House; and that they be ordered to answer thereto accordingly.

10 Feb. 1643, p. 597.

Ordered, That this House appoints Dr. Aylott to take the examinations in the Earl of Warwicke's business, concerning the Letter-office.

3 Com. J. 28 Mar. 1643,  
p. 22.

A letter of the 25th March, from the committee at Coventry, complaining of the diversion of the ordinary posts and the letters, occasioned by Mr. Burlemachi, as is conceived; and referred to Mr. Hill to consider of this and other abuses of the postmasters, and to consider of some means of redressing them.

— XLI. —

(Commons' Journals, 1644.)

Mr. *Prideaux* appointed Postmaster-General.)

The Lords and Commons, in Parliament assembled, finding by experience that it is most necessary for keeping good intelligence between the Parliament and their Forces, that post stages should be erected in several parts of the kingdom; and the office of Master of the Posts and Couriers being at present void, and none to take care thereof; and having had good and sufficient testimony and assurance of the diligence and careful endeavours of Edmond Prydeaux, Esq., a Member of the House of Commons, in erecting and settling post-stages for the service of the State, do ordain that the said Edmond Prydeaux, Esq., a Member of the House of Commons, shall be, and is hereby constituted and appointed Master of the Posts, Messengers, and Couriers; and Mr. Solicitor-general is to prepare a patent, to be passed under the Great Seal of England, by which the Master of the Posts, Messengers, and Couriers, together with all fees and profits therewith usually passed and enjoyed, shall be granted unto him, during the pleasure of both Houses of Parliament, in such manner as formerly hath been used and accustomed; and the Commissioners of the Great Seal are hereby authorized and required to pass the same under the Great Seal of England accordingly.

Commons' Journals,  
7 Sept. 1644, p. 621.Message to the Lords, to make Mr. *Prideaux* Master of the Posts.

9 Sept. 1644, p. 622.

*Dep. Master Post. + Manly, Count Oxbridge (Joyce 29. 32)*

— XLII. —

(Lords' Journals, 1646.)

The Earl of *Warwick's* Petition respecting the Inland Letter Office.

The Earl of Warwick petitions the Lords, that the Inland Letter-office was, by letters patent, granted to Thomas Witherings, and since assigned to the said Earl, and that the same, about 1640, was sequestered into the hand of Phillip Burlemachy, who, by colour thereof, received the profits; that afterwards, on a petition preferred to the House of Commons, the said House voted the said sequestration illegal and void, and that it ought to be taken off, and that the said Burlemachy and his deputies, should forthwith bring in an accompt of the profits of the office, received by him or his deputies, since the said illegal sequestration; which votes being transmitted to this House, 8th September 1642, were accordingly resolved by the Lords in Parliament; in pursuance of which resolution, it was, 25th November 1642, ordered by the Lords in Parliament, that the possession of the said Letter-office should, upon sight of that Order, be delivered to the petitioner and his assigns, by the said Burlemachy and all others having or claiming the possession thereof; and that the said Burlemachy, his deputies, agents, posts, and postmasters, and such others as had received any profits out of the said office, should, within eight days, bring in an accompt, upon oath, of all the profits of the same since the said sequestration; which Order was afterwards, upon hearing, 2d December 1642, confirmed; and it was further ordered, that the posts and others, claiming the possession of the said office, after sight of that Order, should bring all mails of letters to such place as the petitioner, or his deputy, should appoint; and also (to) attend to receive the mails of letters as should be delivered unto them; and that it should be lawful for the said petitioner to send all mails of letters; and that, if any of the posts should refuse to bring the mails of letters to such place so appointed, or to receive and carry the mails back, that the petitioners should have power to displace such postmaster, without he or they should conform themselves to the said Order; and the said Earl set forth, that by reasons of the distractions of the times, and his public employment, he had not any fruit of the said Orders, and desires relief herein.

Petition set forth,  
8 Lords' J. 27 Nov.  
1646, p. 580.

- p. 63. 64

Upon reading the petition of Robert, Earl of Warwick, concerning the Letter-office, it is ordered to be referred to these Lords following, to state the matter of fact;

7 Lords' J. 9 July 1646.  
p. 424.Earl of Manchester.  
Earl of Sarum.  
Lord Bruce.Lord Robertes.  
Lord Willoughby.  
Lord Mountague.

Mr. Justice Pheasant and Mr. Justice Rolls to assist. Any three to meet to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

It was reported from the Committee that the Lords have met, according to Order of this House, concerning the Letter-office, and have called to their assistance Mr. Justice Rolls and Mr. Justice Pheasant, whom they have desired to peruse the patent of the Letter-office, now assigned to the Earl of Warwick, and to report to them their opinion concerning many particulars of the validity thereof; but finding the Order in that part not so full concerning the validity of the patent, their Lordships desire that this House would be

7 Lords' J. 22 July  
1646, p. 438.

pleased to make an Order for Mr. Justice Rolls to report his opinion to all such particulars thereof as the Committee shall think fit to ask him, concerning the validity of the patent; and that the said Mr. Justice Rolls deliver such opinion to the said Committee, as Mr. Justice Pheasant hath left with him to deliver.

This Order quoted  
8 Lords' J. 27 Nov.  
1646, p. 580.

Ordered, That Mr. Justice Rolls do report his opinion to all such particulars, concerning the validity of the said patent, as the Committee shall think fit to ask him; and do likewise deliver such opinion as Mr. Justice Pheasant hath left with him to deliver.

8 Lords' J. 27 Nov.  
1646, p. 579.

The Lord Willoughby made report from the Committee concerning the Letter-office, which the Earl of Warwicke holds; it being the state of the matter of fact.

Idem, p. 580.

A Report of the State of the Inland Letter office.

[After reciting the Petition, and the Orders of The House, in respect of the same, of the 9th and 22d of July, 1646, the Report proceeds as follows:]

Idem, p. 580.

We have examined the said orders set down in the petition, and we do find them truly recited; and that, 22d July, 13 Caroli, the King granted the Inland Letter-office to Thomas Witherings for life; and that, in 1640, the said office was sequestered into the hands of Burlamachi; whereupon the Order of both Houses was made, that the sequestration was illegal and void, and ought to be taken off; and the orders, as they are recited in the petition.

Upon the perusal of the said patent we desired the opinion of Mr. Justice Pheasant and Mr. Justice Rolls concerning the same.

And Mr. Justice Rolls did deliver his opinion, and that Mr. Justice Pheasant was of the same opinion, that the Inland Letter-office patent was well created; that the clauses of restraint in the said patent are void, and not good in law; that, notwithstanding these clauses be void, yet the patent is good for the rest; that, notwithstanding the negative clauses, the patentee may execute the office.

The Committee are of the same opinion with the judges, and are of opinion that the Orders of 25 November and 20th December ought to be ratified and confirmed, and in all things observed; and that it should be decreed and adjudged that the said Earl and his assigns, and his and their deputies, should from henceforth enjoy and execute the said office for the term in the letters patent expressed.

Idem, p. 580.

Ordered, That this business be laid aside, until an answer be put in to the Lord Stanhope's petition, depending in this House.

— XLIII. —

(Lords' Journals, 1646.)

*Charles, Lord Stanhope's* Petition respecting his Patent, as Postmaster.

8 Lords' J. 17 Nov.  
1646, p. 568.

A petition of Charles, Lord Stanhope, was read; and ordered, That a copy of it be showed to Witherings, the other party; and to be heard, on both sides, on Tuesday seven-night after this term, at which time the Judges to be present.

Idem, p. 569.

To the Right honourable the Lords now assembled in the High Court of Parliament:

The humble petition of Charles, Lord Stanhope, Baron of Harington, sheweth, That your petitioner, by colour of a grant obtained of King James, by one Matthew Dequester, of what was then in grant, under a patent, of the postmaster's place to your petitioner, so certified to his late Majesty to be, upon a reference by his Majesty to his then Majesty's Counsel-at-Law, wherein a verdict passed for your petitioner's right: all which notwithstanding, and a Report of a Committee in Parliament in the fourth year of his said Majesty's reign for your petitioner, your petitioner, by the oppressive power of the Council Table, was not permitted to enjoy the same, but your petitioner's deputy, for exercising the same (was) imprisoned.

That Dequester, 7th Caroli, assigned such his illegal patent to one Thomas Witherings, who not only protected himself in it by the aforesaid oppressive power, upon a pretence of a service to his Majesty, and upon a contract with the then Secretaries of State, but procured to himself and others a like new grant as that of Dequester's; and by his situation, and in further manifest oppression of your petitioner, to destroy your petitioner's grant, and affirm that procured to himself, prevailed to have your petitioner to attend the Council Table, to bring thither his patent, and then, before he was suffered to depart, to subscribe somewhat then penned upon your petitioner's patent by the Lord-keeper, Coventry, which, whatever the same was, was then enforced by that power, and is since endeavoured to be made [use] of, to destroy the petitioner's patent and right.

Against which high oppression that your petitioner may, according to justice, be relieved against the said Thomas Witherings and his assigns, and he and they to answer the premisses, and that right may be done your petitioner, that he may have and enjoy the benefit of the said patent, is the humble suit of your petitioner.

And for which he shall pray, &c.

Upon reading the answer of Thomas Wytheringes to the Lord Stanhope's petition, it is ordered that the Lord Stanhope shall have a copy of this answer, and put in his reply Tuesday come three weeks. 8 Lords' Journ.  
3 Dec. 1646, p. 588.

The Earl of Warwicke declared, that if the Lord Stanhope would go to trial at law upon the patent, his Lordship would waive his privilege, and go to a trial with him at law.

The humble Answer of Thomas Witheringes to the Petition of Thomas Lord Stanhope.

In obedience to your Lordships' Order of 17th November, 1646, the said Thomas Witherings makes this humble answer unto the petition of Charles Lord Stanhope, and saith, That, about the time in the petition, Matthew Dequester did assign unto the said Thomas Witherings all his estate and interest in the Foreign Letter-office, which he held by letters patent under the King; and that since, the King, by his letters patent, under the Great Seal of England, bearing date 15th March, in the 7th year of his Majesty's reign, did grant unto the said Thomas Witherings the Foreign Letter-office, during the life of the said Thomas Witherings and William Frizell:

And further showeth, that by one deed indented, dated 15th February, in the 17th year of his Majesty's reign, made betwixt the said Thomas Witherings and the Right Hon. Robert, Earl of Warwicke, he hath granted all his estate, right, title, and interest in the said office unto the said Earl of Warwicke; since which time the said Earl of Warwicke hath been in possession thereof, and exercised the same by himself and his deputies; and the said defendant denieth that he knoweth any oppressive courses used against the said Lord Stanhope by the Council Table; or, if any were, that the same were done through the procurement of the said defendant; and the said defendant doth not know any patent the said Lord Stanhope hath concerning the said office, or that there were any undue means concerning the surrender of the said patent; and, if any were, yet the defendant was not privy thereunto. And the defendant is advised by his counsel, that the said Lord Stanhope hath not, nor ever had, any right, or pretence of right, to anything contained in the said letters patents; but the said letters patents, and all the defendant's interests therein, being granted and assigned to the said Earl of Warwick so long since, the said defendant humbly prayeth your Lordships' direction, whether it be your Lordships' pleasure that he shall give any other answer unto the said petition; and humbly prayeth to be dismissed out of the Honourable House with reasonable costs.

*Thomas Witherings.*

Upon reading the petition of the Lord Stanhope, setting forth, that he cannot make a Idem, 31 Dec. 1646,  
p. 637.

*of indent p. 49 l. 2.*

*1649-50*

From Reginald R. Sharpe, London and the Kingdom, II, 322-25, publ. in 1894 by the City of London.

In 1649 the poor-officers of London proposed to raise money for the poor by establishing a postal service. The Common Council acted upon the idea, and on 25 Sept., 1649, appointed a Committee "to wait upon the Earl of Warwick, Prideaux the attorney general, and Witheringe who had the management of the inland post - a government monopoly recently established- and inform them of the desire of the court 'that the President and Governors for the poor of the City of London may use and dispose of the ~~postage~~ said postage for the good of the poor, without any obstructions from them in the work.'" Parliament refused to receive the petition. Nov. 24 the City decided to proceed, and consulted counsel. 3 Feb. 1650 the committee was ordered to "settle stages and other matters connected with ~~the~~ a postal system without delay," and "before another six weeks had elapsed, the City had established a postal system with Scotland and other places." After complaint made, the Commons, 21 March, 1650, resolved "that the offices of postmaster, inland and foreign, are and ought to be in the sole power and disposal of the Parliament," whereupon the posts of the City of London were promptly suppressed. The complaint to Parliament charged that the City had "sent an agent to settle postages, by their [Common Council] authority, on the several roads; and have employed a natural Scot into the North, who is gone into Scotland, and hath settled postmasters other than those for the State on all that road." (Jou. Co. Cou.; Jou. House of Comm.; Proceed. Cou. of State; Cal. State Papers, Dom., 1650, p. 38.)

*The 1624 Leg. established all communications with the continent (p. 46 n. 1)*  
Elisab. claimed monopoly of foreign mails 1601; Charles of domestic mails 1635; Parliam. of both on 21 March, 1650. Council of State affirmed monopoly 7 May, 1653, and this claim was finally settled by the postal Act of 1657.

This Orde:  
8 Lords' J  
1646, p. 54

8 Lords' J  
1646, p. 54

Idem, p. 5

Idem, p. 5

Idem, p. 5

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Upon reading the answer of Thomas Wytheringes to the Lord Stanhope's petition, it is ordered that the Lord Stanhope shall have a copy of this answer, and put in his reply Tuesday come three weeks. 8 Lords' Journ. 3 Dec. 1646, p. 588.

The Earl of Warwick declared, that if the Lord Stanhope would go to trial at law upon the patent, his Lordship would waive his privilege, and go to a trial with him at law.

The humble Answer of Thomas Witheringes to the Petition of Thomas Lord Stanhope.

In obedience to your Lordships' Order of 17th November, 1646, the said Thomas Witherings makes this humble answer unto the petition of Charles Lord Stanhope, and saith, That, about the time in the petition, Matthew Dequester did assign unto the said Thomas Witherings all his estate and interest in the Foreign Letter-office, which he held by letters patent under the King; and that since, the King, by his letters patent, under the Great Seal of England, bearing date 15th March, in the 7th year of his Majesty's reign, did grant unto the said Thomas Witherings the Foreign Letter-office, during the life of the said Thomas Witherings and William Frizell:

And further showeth, that by one deed indented, dated 15th February, in the 17th year of his Majesty's reign, made betwixt the said Thomas Witherings and the Right Hon. Robert, Earl of Warwick, he hath granted all his estate, right, title, and interest in the said office unto the said Earl of Warwick; since which time the said Earl of Warwick hath been in possession thereof, and exercised the same by himself and his deputies; and the said defendant denieth that he knoweth any oppressive courses used against the said Lord Stanhope by the Council Table; or, if any were, that the same were done through the procurement of the said defendant; and the said defendant doth not know any patent the said Lord Stanhope hath concerning the said office, or that there were any undue means concerning the surrender of the said patent; and, if any were, yet the defendant was not privy thereunto. And the defendant is advised by his counsel, that the said Lord Stanhope hath not, nor ever had, any right, or pretence of right, to anything contained in the said letters patents; but the said letters patents, and all the defendant's interests therein, being granted and assigned to the said Earl of Warwick so long since, the said defendant humbly prayeth your Lordships' direction, whether it be your Lordships' pleasure that he shall give any other answer unto the said petition; and humbly prayeth to be dismissed out of the Honourable House with reasonable costs.

*Thomas Witherings.*

Upon reading the petition of the Lord Stanhope, setting forth, that he cannot make a replication to the answer of Witherings, concerning the Letter-office, unless the Earl of Warwick be made a party to the business, therefore desires the Earl of Warwick may be a party to the cause. Idem, 31 Dec. 1646, p. 637.

The Earl of Warwick declared, that if the Lord Stanhope will question his title, he will be ready to answer the Lord Stanhope at the ordinary course of the Common Law, if his Lordship shall think fit to try his right of title there.

It is ordered, that this answer be returned to the Lord Stanhope, that if his Lordship conceives that the Earl of Warwick holds any title, by patent or otherwise, concerning the Letter-office, whereby he conceives he is prejudiced, if his Lordship thinks it fit to try the title at the Common Law, the Earl of Warwick will be ready to answer his suit and so this House refers the said business to a trial at law.

The petition of the Lord Stanhope was read, concerning the patent of the Letter-office; it is ordered that he be left to his course of law or equity, as he shall be advised by his counsel, according to the former Order of this House. Idem, 13 Jan. 1647, p. 670.

— XLIV. —

(Commons' Journals, 1650, 1651, 1652.)

REPORT of COUNCIL of STATE to the House of Commons respecting the Post-office.

Mr. Scott reports from the Council of State a paper given in to the Council by Mr. Attorney-general, concerning the posts; and that it is the opinion of the Council, that, as affairs now stand, they conceive it safe and fit that the office of postmaster shall be in the sole power and disposal of Parliament, in these words; viz. 6 Com. J. 21 Mar. 1650, p. 385.

That, by direction and authority of the Parliament, I erected postages for the service of the State:

That, for defraying the charges of the several postmasters, and easing the state of it, *I published that there should be a weekly conveyance of letters into all parts of the nation:*

That, with the benefit which came by the postage of letters, I have taken off from the State the charge of the postmasters of England, except Dover Road, which is above 7,000*l.* by the year:

That the Committee of the Council of State for Irish affairs have treated with me for taking off the charge of the packet boats for Ireland, which I have consented to do, and will cost nigh 600*l.* a year more:

That the Common Council of London have sent an agent to settle postages, by their authority, on the several roads, and have employed a natural Scott into the north, who is gone into Scotland, and hath settled postmasters (others than those of the State) on all that road:

The pretence of the Common Council is, for another weekly conveyance of letters, for other uses; and though pressed unto it, have refused to come to the Parliament, and to have direction from them in it:

That besides the intrenching on the rights of the Parliament, it will distract that course which is now settled, and by which the charge of all the postmasters of England are taken off from the State; and another way must be thought on for payment of them if continued, and it cannot be longer expected to be done by me:

This I humbly offer and present, in discharge of the trust lying on me, and the duty which may be required of me."

Resolved, That the offices of postmasters, inland and foreign, are and ought to be in the sole power and disposal of the Parliament.

Resolved, That it be referred to the Council of State, to consider of the state of the offices of postmaster, and of the interests of those persons who claim any therein; and to take into consideration how the same may be settled in the best way for the advantage and safety of the Commonwealth, and report their opinions therein to The House; and that they take order for the present management thereof in the meantime.

7 Com. J. 30 Sept. 1651,  
p. 22.

Ordered, That the Order of the 21st of March, 1649-50, touching the offices of postmaster, inland and foreign, be reconsidered; and that the Council of State do report their opinion thereon to the Parliament, forthwith.

Idem, 19 Oct. 1652,  
p. 193.

Mr. Thomas Challenor reports from the Council of State the claim of several persons to the office of postmaster.

Henry Robinson's title to the Letter-office, derived from Charles, Lord Stanhope, by patent, 15 James I.

Sir David Watkins, his claim to the Foreign Post-office.

Mr. Walter Warde's petition.

Mr. Thomas Billingsley's claim.

Mr. Benjamin Moore and Mr. W. Jessop's claim to the Foreign Post-office.

As also, proposals humbly offered for the farming of the Inland and Foreign Letter-office, which was now read.

The question being propounded, that this business be recommitted to the Council of State, to take it into consideration, and present their opinions to the Parliament, how the same may be managed for the best service of the State and ease of the people;

And the question being put that these words, "by contract, or otherwise," be added to the question,

It passed in the affirmative.

And the main question being put, it was

Resolved, by the Parliament, that this business be recommitted to the Council of State to take it into consideration, and present their opinion to the Parliament how the same may be managed for the best service of the State and ease of the people, by contract, or otherwise.

Ordered, That this business be reported to-morrow fortnight.

Idem, 6 Dec. 1652,  
p. 226.

Ordered, That the former order of reference, touching the Letter-office, to the late Council of State, be revived to this present Council, to take the same into consideration, according to the former order; and also the overture touching the advance of a present sum of money upon the same, and report their opinion therein, with all speed, to The House.

— XLV. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 24.)

REG: of the COUNCIL of STATE, Vol. 16, pp. 34-36.

Saturday in the afternoone, 7 May 1653.

Major Gen<sup>l</sup> Lambert.

Major Gen<sup>l</sup> Harrison.

Mr. Strickland.

Sir Gilb: Pickering.

Mr. Carew.

Mr. Stapely.

State Paper Office.

THAT the carrying of all Inland Letters, aswell publiq as private, be managed by such, and such onely, as the State, or others authorized from them, shall appoint.

That all pacquets and letters, outward and inward, shall be carryed free, whether such dispatches are made extraordinarily or ordinarily.

That it be referred to the Committee for the Inland Post to consider what Letters are to be esteemed publiq Letters, and how the sending of private Letters under publiq pacquets may be prevented.

That the Postmasters and others employed by Mr. Prideaux, being godly and well affected, to be continued in their employments, if they will accept thereof, and such others as are placed in the several stages, be approved of by the Generall or Council of State.

That the persons who are to manadge the carriage of Letters, as aforesaid, be such who have given evidence of their good affection, and which shall be responsible for the speedy and safe conveyance of the same.

That the Committee appointed to consider of the Posts, doe particularly set downe the rates that all private letters are to be carryed for.

That

1000  
The  
require  
by  
Branch

Die Saturni 27<sup>o</sup> Junij 1650

These are to write and to give you faithfully to make you are  
 are to some post stage upon the road toward Spoke that is 20 miles  
 from this place, and there you shall see the letter male going outward  
 with all the letters in it, And the letters which shall be  
 upon him that rides with the said male which male with a i the  
 letters in it without opening them and the letters that are taken you  
 shall by one of yourselves take to the town cell, and the other of  
 you shall then ride on to the next stage and there shall say in the  
 manner the letter male coming inward within a few letters broad  
 advise by him that rides with the male as aforesaid and shall also  
 bring them to his quarters And you are also to say your words and  
 outward to search all other reasons and shall ride along with the said  
 male the any reasons that shall ride of shant out subject to war in  
 and shall bring them to the town as they not sitting in the  
 of the Council's appointment of private examination and disposed  
 as they are to judge fit of a law here you are not to fail And for  
 the execution hereof the Council hath given and military and all the  
 marshals are to be assisted to do you for all which this shall be your  
 and their assign, done at what date 27<sup>o</sup> Junij 1650.

21

The line for the road  
and the next stage





Intercepted letters in the Thurloe papers. Remains 9, 3 ... some, begin ... with a former letter from the German ... 1653 ... 172 (= 20, 635)

SECRET COMMITTEE ON THE POST OFFICE.

State Paper Office.

That, to the end a weekly Intercourse may be continued between England and Ireland, the person or persons aformentioned are to maynteyne one or more packet boates, that are to passe and repasse from Milford to Waterford, and the like from Chester to Dublyn.

That there be a Post settled betweene Dover and Portsmouth; betweene Portsmouth and Salisbury; betweene London and Yarmouth, and betweene Lancaster and Carlisle.

That it be referred unto the Committee appointed for the Inland Posts, in pursuance of the aforesaid votes, to receive propositions from any person or persons for farmeing the carrying of the said letters, and to treat with them thereupon, and likewise to consider whether it be more for the advantage of the Commonwealth to manage it by way of Contract or account, and to report the same unto the Councill, with the severall propositions that shall be given to them for farming thereof, and their opinion what sume the State is to insist upon annually, in case it shall be thought fit to manage the said Inland Post by way of a ferme.

— XLVI. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 26.)

REG: of the COUNCIL of STATE, Vol. 16, pp. 457, 458.

Thursday afternoone, 30th of June 1653.

Colonell Jones.  
Coll. Thomlinson.  
M. G. Disbrowe.  
M. G. Harrison.

Coll. Stapeley.  
Lord Generall.  
Mr. Strickland.  
Coll. Sydenham.

THAT Mr. John Manley be authorized to carry all pacquets, both publiq and private, Inland and forraigne, according to the termes agreed upon betweene him and a Coimtee appointed by the Councill for that purpose, and that he doe this night enter upon the execution of the said office, and receive the profits thereof, and that a warrant be drawne to authorize him to that purpose.

That power be given to the said Mr. Manley to stop all Males of Letters which shall be carried by any persons except by such as are authorized from him.

That his Office of Postage of Letters be freed from haveing Taxes layd upon it, in relation to its being a Post Office.

That such Officers, whether under Postm<sup>r</sup> or others, as shall be employed by and under him in the execution of that place, be approved of by the Coimtee for the businesse of the Posts.

That it be referred to the Coimtee for the businesse of the Posts, to adjust the accounts of the new Undertakers, as to their disbursements and receipts in the manninge of the businesse of the postage of Letters, and that they report the state of the same to the Councill.

— XLVII. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 27.)

REG: of the COUNCIL of STATE, Vol. 16, p. 462.

WHEREAS Ma<sup>r</sup> John Manley hath contracted for and farmed of the State the offices for the postage of letters, both Forreigne and Inland, these are therefore to will, authorize and impower him, the said John Manly, this night to enter upon the execution of the said offices, and to receive and carry all pacquets, both publiq and private, and to receive the proffits of the same to his proper use. And all persons whatsoever are hereby required to permit and suffer him, and all others by him employed in this service, to proceed therein, without any interruptions, letts, hindrances or molestations.

Given at the Councill of State, at Whitehall, this 30th of June 1653.

To Mr. Clement Oxenbridge, and all others who are concerned, either in the Inland or Forreigne Post.

— XLVIII. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 29.)

REG: of the COUNCIL OF STATE, vol. 21, p. 42.

Tuesday, 24 Aprill, 1655.

Lo: President Lawrence.  
Earle of Mulgrave,  
Col. Fyennes.  
Mr. Rous.

Colonell Mountagu.  
Col. Jones.  
Col. Sydenham.  
Mr. Strickland.

Colonell Jones offers a report from the Com<sup>tee</sup> of the Councill, to whome it was referred to take consideraçon of the whole busines of the Postage of Letters; on reading whereof, Ordered,

Ordered, That it be offered to His Highness the Lord Protector, as the advice of the Councill, that the manngement of the Post-office be performed by Mr. Secretary Thurloe, security being given for the payem<sup>t</sup> of the present Rent of tenn thousand pounds p Annum to the use of the Commonwealth, and the condiçõns of the contract w<sup>th</sup> the present Farmor observed. The same to be setled by Graunt under the great seale, w<sup>th</sup> the former pow<sup>r</sup>, and for such tyme as His Highness, with the Councill's advice, shall thinke fitt, and to take its commencement from the expiraçõn of the Contract made with Capitaine Manley.

*June 1657. Order's orders "for the packet" & "for throrow posts" in State Papers, Comm<sup>r</sup>s Series  
 1. Some limit provisions for country delivery. — XLIX. — London 1657 3 months 1 week &  
 2. dispatches. Post to make 7 miles in summer, 5 in winter.*

(Commons' Journals, 1657.)

Commons' Journals,  
28 May 1657, p. 541.

A Bill, for the settling of the Postage of England, Scotland, and Ireland, was this day read the first time; and, upon the question, ordered to be read again to-morrow morning.

29 May 1657, p. 542.

A Bill, intituled, An Act for the settling of the Postage of England, Scotland, and Ireland, was this day read the second time; and, upon the question, committed to Sir Thomas Wrath, and 49 others: to meet on Monday, at two of the clock in the afternoon, in the Star Chamber.

1657, p. 549.

Mr. Carey reports from the Committee, to whom the Bill touching the Postage was committed, amendments to the said Bill; which were twice read, and, upon the question, agreed. And the Bill, so amended, was, upon the question, ordered to be engrossed.

June 1657, p. 551.

A Bill for settling the Postage in England, Scotland, and Ireland, was this day read the third time.

A proviso was tendered to this Bill, for freeing Members of Parliament, and other officers of State, from payment of any money for letters: which was laid aside without a question.

The question being put, that these words "or otherwise," do stand in the eighth line of the third page, it passed with the negative.

Resolved, That these words, "or without," be inserted instead thereof.

Another proviso was tendered to this Bill, "That this Bill shall not extend to hinder any person to lett any horses for the better conveniency of travellers."

The question being put, That this proviso shall be read, it passed in the negative.

Another proviso was tendered to this Bill, in these words, viz.:

"Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no person shall have power to take, use, or seize any horses for the service mentioned in this Act, without the consent of the owners, any usage, or custom, or anything in this Act to the contrary thereof, notwithstanding."

Which was read the first and second time.

The question being put, That the word "custom" do stand in this clause, it passed with the negative.

Resolved, That the word "pretence" be inserted instead of the word "custom."

Resolved, That this proviso shall be part of this Bill.

The question being put, That the words, "three pence" do stand in the first line of the sixth page, it passed with the negative.

Resolved, That these words, "twopence halfpenny" be inserted, instead of the words, "three pence."

Which amendments were thrice read;

And the Bill, as amended, with the proviso, was, upon the question, passed.

Ordered, That His Highness, the Lord Protector's consent be desired to this Bill.

9 June 1657, pp. 552,  
553.

The titles of the Bills whereunto His Highness gave his consent this day, were as followeth:

*postal intelligence* "An Act for the settling the Postage of England, Scotland, and Ireland."

— L. —

(Scobell, p. 511.)

ACT 1657, c. 30.

"Postage of England, Scotland, and Ireland settled."

Act 1657.

WHEREAS it hath been found by experience that the erecting and settling of one general Post-office for the speedy conveying, carrying, and re-carrying of letters by post, to and from all places within England, Scotland, and Ireland, and into several parts beyond the seas, hath been and is the best means, not onely to maintain a certain and constant intercourse of trade and commerce betwixt all the said places, to the great benefit of the people of these nations, but also to convey the publique dispatches, and to discover and prevent many dangerous and wicked designs which have been and are daily contrived against the peace and welfare of this Commonwealth, the intelligence whereof cannot well be

be communicated but by letter of escript ; Be it enacted by his Highness the Lord Protector and the Parliament, and it is enacted and ordained by authority thereof, That from henceforth there be one general office, to be called and known by the name of the Post-office of England ; and one officer from time to time to be nominated and appointed by his Highness the Lord Protector and his successours, and to be constituted by Letters Patents, under the Great Seal of England, under the name and stile of Postmaster-general of England, and Comptroller of the Post-office, which said officer and his deputies, by him thereunto sufficiently authorized, and no other, shall have the receiving, taking up, ordering, sending forward, and delivering of all letters and pacquets which shall from time to time come and go to and from all parts and places of England, Scotland, and Ireiand, where be shall settle posts, and from all the said parts and places of England, Scotland, and Ireland unto any the parts and places beyond the seas ; excepting such letters as shall be sent by common known carriers, and by them conveyed, along with their carts, waggons, and packhorses, and letters of advice of merchants which shall be sent by masters of any ship, barque, or other vessel of merchandize, or any of their company or passengers therein, immediately from any port town of England, Scotland, and Ireland, by them to be conveyed along with such ship, barque, or other vessel, to any other port town within any of the same, or into the parts beyond the seas, or from the parts beyond the seas, to any port town of England, Scotland, and Ireland, or members thereof, and no further ; and excepting a letter or more sent by a messenger on purpose for his or their own affairs, who is or are the senders thereof, or by any friend, to any place or places within the said nations of England, Scotland, or Ireland. And also that the said Postmaster-general of England and Comptroller of the Post-office, and his said deputies onely, and no other, shall have the horsing of all thorough-posts, and persons riding in post, by commission or without, to and from all places upon any of the post roads within England, Scotland and Ireland.

§ 1.  
There shall be one general Post-office ; one officer styled Postmaster-general of England and Comptroller of the Post-office.

*monopoly*

He shall have the sending of all letters and pacquets.

Exception.

§ 2.  
This officer shall have the horsing of all thorough-posts and persons riding in post.

§ 3.  
Prices for letters and horses.

And be it further ordained by authority aforesaid, that the said officer, by himself or his deputy or deputies, by him thereunto sufficiently authorized, shall or may demand, have, receive, and take for the postage and conveyance of all or any letters which he shall so convey, carry, and recarry as aforesaid, or for the horsing of any thorow-post or person riding in post as aforesaid, the several rates of postage hereafter mentioned, and no other ; viz.

	IF SINGLE.	IF DOUBLE.
For every Letter—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
To or from any place within four-score miles from London	- 2	- 4
And so proportionably for every pacquet of letters, and for every pacquet of a greater bulk, 8 <i>d.</i> per oz.		
At a further distance than four-score miles - - -	- 3	- 6
And so proportionably ; and for every pacquet of a greater bulk, 1 <i>s.</i> per oz.		
To or from Scotland - - - - -	- 4	- 8
And so proportionably ; and if a pacquet of a greater bulk, 1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per oz.		
To or from Ireland - - - - -	- 6	1 -
And so proportionably ; and for every pacquet of a greater bulk, 2 <i>s.</i> per oz.		
And for such Letters or Pacquets as shall be conveyed or carried within Ireland, for every Letter—		
To or from any place within 40 miles from Dublin - -	- 2	- 4
And so proportionably ; and if a pacquet of greater bulk, 8 <i>d.</i> per oz.		
At a further distance than 40 miles - - - - -	4	- 8
And so proportionably ; and if a pacquet of greater bulk, 1 <i>s.</i> per oz.		
To Leghorn, Genoa, Florence, Lyons, Marseilles, Smyrna, Aleppo, and Constantinople - - - - -	1 -	3 -
And 3 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> per oz.		

	IF SINGLE.	IF DOUBLE.
	s. d.	s. d.
To Bourdeaux, Rochel, Nantes, Byonne, Cadize, and Madrid - - - - -	- 9	1 6
And 2s. per oz.		
<i>Havre</i> To St. Malo, Morlaix and Newhaven - - - - -	- 6	1 -
And 1s. 6d. per oz.		
Hambrough, Frankfort, and Collogne - - - - -	- 8	1 4
And 2s. per oz.		
<i>Königsberg</i> To Danzicke, Lipswich, Lubecke, Stockholme, Copenhagen, Elsnore, and Queenesbrough - - - - -	1 -	2 -
And 4s. per oz.		

And for every thorough-post, or persons riding in post as aforesaid, 2½d. per mile for each horse, besides the guide goat for every stage.

§ 4.  
Letters brought by ship shall be delivered to the Deputy Postmaster.

And whereas, upon the arrival of ships from parts beyond the seas to the outports here, letters directed to several merchants in London have been heretofore frequently delivered by the bringers thereof to loose and uncertain hands, to be conveyed forwards, whereby great prejudice hath accrued to their affairs, as well by the miscarrying of many of the said letters as oftentimes by the opening of the same to the discovery of the correspondence and secrets of the said merchants; be it further ordained and enacted by authority aforesaid, that all letters and pacquets that by any master of any ship or vessel, or any of his company, or any passengers therein, shall be brought to any port town of England or members thereof, and there delivered to be sent forward to the city of London, or any other place in any of the post roads from thence towards the said city (other than such letters as are before excepted, and may be sent by common known carriers as aforesaid, or by a friend as aforesaid), shall by such master, passenger, or other person, be delivered to the deputy or deputies onely of the said officer above ordained, by him appointed for the said port towns, and to none other, by him to be sent forward, according to the direction hereof.

§ 5.  
No other person shall set up or employ any foot posts, horse posts, or packet boats.

And that no person or persons whatsoever, other than such officer as shall be so nominated and appointed by his Highness the Lord Protector, or his successors, and constituted by Letters Patents under the Great Seal of England as aforesaid, and his deputies, shall presume to set up or employ any foot posts, horse posts, or packet boats, for the common conveying, carrying, and recarrying of any letters or pacquets by land, within England, Scotland, and Ireland, or from or to any of the ports of the same by sea, or for the horsing of any thorough-post or persons riding in post as aforesaid, upon pain of forfeiting the sum of one thousand pounds for every moneth that he or they shall so employ and continue the same or any of them; the said forfeiture to be sued for and recovered by action of debt, plaint, or information, in any of his Highnesses Courts of Record, wherein no essoign, privilege, protection, or wager of law to be admitted; and the said forfeiture so recovered to be the one moiety thereof to his Highness the Lord Protector and his successors, and the other moiety to such person or persons who shall or will inform and sue for the same.

Forfeiture.

§ 6.  
Postmaster shall observe instructions to be given by h.s. Highness.

And for the better management of the said office, and that the people of these nations may have their intercourse of commerce and trade the better maintained, and their letters and advices conveyed, carried, and received with the greatest speed, security, and convenience that may be; be it further enacted and ordained by authority aforesaid, that the said Postmaster-general of England, and Comptroller of the Post-office so nominated, appointed, and constituted as aforesaid, and his deputies, shall from time to time observe and follow such further order, rules, directions and instructions for and concerning the settlement of convenient posts and stages upon the several roads in England, Scotland and Ireland, and the providing and keeping of a sufficient number of horses and packet boats, as well for the carrying and conveying of the said letters and pacquets, as for the horsing of all thorough-posts, and persons riding in post by warrant or otherwise as aforesaid, as his said Highness the Lord Protector and his successors shall from time to time in that behalf make and ordain.

§ 7.  
His Highness and successors may grant the said office for life, or any term of years not exceeding eleven.

And that his said Highness the Lord Protector and his successors, may grant the said office, together with the several rates of postage above mentioned, and all profits, privileges, fees, perquisites and emoluments thereunto belonging, or to belong, either for life or for any term of years not exceeding eleven years, to such person or persons, and under such covenants, conditions, and yearly rent, to his said Highness and his successors reserved, as his said Highness and his successors, with advice of the Council, shall from time to time think fit, for the best advantage and benefit of the Commonwealth.

§ 8.  
None may take or seize horses for service without consent of the owner.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person shall have power to take, use, or seize any horses for the service mentioned in this Act, without the consent of the owners, any usage or pretence, or anything in this Act contained to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.

## — LI. —

(Commons' Journals, 1659, 1659-60.)

The humble petition of the several postmasters of England in behalf of themselves, and the rest concerned in that employment, consisting of many families, was this day read.

Commons' Journals.  
10 June 1659, p. 679.

Ordered, That this petition be referred to the Council of State, to take the same into consideration, and to examine the whole matter, and to hear all parties, to consider what is fit to be done, and present their opinions therein to The House.

Ordered, That it be referred to the Council of State forthwith to take the office of postmaster into their hands, and to take care that the said office be managed for the best advantage of the Commonwealth; and to call the persons who have received the profits of the said office, to an account, and report the matter to the Parliament, with their opinion therein.

7 Jan. 1659, p. 804.

Ordered, That the whole business concerning the Post-office, and what has been received by Mr. Prideaux,\* late Attorney-general, out of the same, and what account hath been made thereof, be referred to a committee to examine, and to state matter of fact, and report it to the Parliament, and their opinion therein; viz. Mr. West, and 18 others, or any five, with power to send for persons, papers, and witnesses; and are to meet to-morrow, in the afternoon, in the Speaker's chamber.

2 Feb. 1659-60.

Mr. Dawson is to take care of it.

Ordered, That it be referred to the Council of State to dispose of the Post-office to the best advantage of the Commonwealth.

27 Feb. 1659-60,  
p. 855.

The humble petition of William Witherings, esq. was read.

Ordered, That the said petition of Mr. Witherings be referred to the Council of State to examine the matter of fact, and also to hear all parties claiming interest in the said Post-office, and to examine them respecting interests in the said Post-office, and state matter of fact, and report the same, with their opinion therein, to the Parliament.

## — LII. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 14.)

VICESIMA TERTIA PARS PATEN' DE ANNO RÆ. CAROLI SECUNDI DUODECIMO.

14 Aug. 1660

D Con' Offic' } REX Om̄ibz ad quos ꝑc. Saltm. Sciatis qđ nos, de gr̄a n̄ra sp̄iali ac  
Henrico Bishopp } ex ęta sciencia ꝑ mero motu n̄ris, Dedimꝰ ꝑ Concessinꝰ, ꝑ ꝑsentes ꝑ  
Ar' } nob̄ hered ꝑ successoribz n̄ris Damꝰ ꝑ Concedimꝰ, ditco subdito n̄ro  
Henr' Bishopp de Henfeld in Com' Sussex Ar', Offic' Magistr' Nuncioꝝ ꝑ Cursoꝝ, cõil' vocat'  
Post' n̄ram, tam infra Regnu' n̄m Anglie ꝑ ceter' Dñia n̄ra qm̄ in quibuscunq; at Partibz  
transmarinis ubicunq; existen', cum om̄ibz Vad Feod ꝑfic' Comoditat' ꝑ Advantag' dco Officio  
ptinen' sive spectan', hēnd occupand ꝑ gaudend Officiu' ꝑdict' ꝑ cetera ꝑmissa ꝑfat' Henrico  
Bishopp executor' administrator' et assign' suis, ꝑ se vel ꝑ sufficien' Deputat' suu' vel Deputat'  
suos sufficien', a vicesimo quinto die Junij ult' ꝑlit' usq; ad finem t̄mini ꝑ ꝑ t̄mino septem  
annoꝝ extunc ꝑx' sequen' ꝑ plenar' complend': Ac hēnd ꝑ ꝑcipiend' Omn' Vad Feod ꝑfic' Comoditat'  
Advantag' ꝑ Advantag' eidem Officio spectan' vel ptinen' ꝑfat' Henr' Bishopp executor' adminis-  
trator' ꝑ assign' suis in tam amplis modo ꝑ forma ꝑut Jofies Stanhope Mit Dñs Stanhope de  
Harrington, Matheus Dequester, Gulielmus Frizell, Thomas Withering, sive aliquis at dict'  
Offic' occupans h̄uit ꝑ ꝑcepit in ꝑ ꝑ ex̄ciōd' ejusd'; Et hoc absq; compo seu aliquo alio ꝑinde  
nob̄ hered vel succ' n̄ris quocunq; modo reddend solvend vel faciend': Et ultius Volumꝰ, ac  
de gr̄a n̄ra sp̄iali ac ex c̄ta sciencia mero motu n̄ris ꝑ ꝑsentes ꝑ nob̄ hered ꝑ successoribz  
n̄ris Concedimꝰ ꝑfat' Henrico Bishopp, executor' administrator' ꝑ assign' suis, qđ he L̄re n̄re  
Patē' vel Irrotulamen' eazdem erunt in om̄ibz ꝑ ꝑ om̄ia firme valide bone sufficien' ꝑ  
effectuat in Lege erga vsus ꝑ cont' nos hered ꝑ successores n̄ros, tam in om̄ibz Cur n̄ris qm̄  
alibi infra Regnu' n̄m Anglie, Non obstan' male nōiand aut non recte aut non ęte nōiand  
ꝑdict' Offic' ꝑ ꝑmiss' ꝑdict' sive aliqu' inde ꝑcell ꝑ ꝑsentes ꝑconcess' aut menconat' fore  
concess'; Et Non obstan' aliquo defc̄u sive defectibz in non recitand vel male recitandaliquam  
Concessionem sive Concessionem de ꝑmissis, vel de aliqua inde parte sive ꝑcell de recordo  
vel non de recordo, vel aliꝑ qualicunq; antehac fact', Et Non obstan' statut' in Parlamento  
Dñi Henr', nup̄ Regis Anglie Sexti, Antecessoris n̄ri, anno regni sui decimo octavo fact' ꝑ  
edit'; Et Non obstan' Statuto in Parlamento Dñi Henr', nup̄ Regis Angl', Octavi, Anteces-  
soris n̄ri, anno regni suis sexto fact' ꝑ edit'; Et Non obstan' aliquo alio defect' sive defectibz  
quibuscunq;, Eo qđ expressa mencon de vero annuo valore, aut de ętitudine ꝑmissoz, aut de  
at Donis sive Concessionibz ꝑ nos seu ꝑ aliquem Progenitor' sive Predecessor' n̄roz antehac  
fact' in ꝑsentibz m̄ie fact' existit; Et Non obstan' aliquo Statuto Actu Ordinaōde ꝑvisione  
ꝑclamāōde sive Restrictōde in contrar' inde antehac h̄it' fact' edit' ordinat' seu ꝑvis' aut  
aliqua alia re causa vel maŕia quacunq; in aliqua non obstan'; In cujus rei ꝑc. T. R. apud  
Westm' xiiij<sup>o</sup> die Augusti.

(26.)

ꝑ ip̄m Regem.

\* Mr. Prideaux died August 1659. See Whitelocke, p. 682.

— LIII. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 15.)

AMONG the Records in the Public Record Office, Rolls House, and in the custody of the Master of the Rolls, pursuant to Statute 1 & 2 Vict. c. 94; to wit, in the Book of Inrolments of Letters Patent and Letters of Privy Seal, relative to the Pell of Receipt, belonging to the late Pell Office of the Receipt of the Exchequer, No. 3, pages 54-62, it is contained as follows:

THIS Indenture, made the First day of September, in the Twelveth yeare of the Raigne of our So<sup>v</sup>aigne Lord Charles the Second, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the faith, &c. Betweene o<sup>r</sup> said so<sup>v</sup>aigne Lord the Kings most excellent Ma<sup>tie</sup> of the one pte, And Henry Bishop of Henfield, in y<sup>e</sup> County of Sussex esq<sup>r</sup>, of the other pte: Whereas the Kings most excellent Ma<sup>tie</sup> by his Letters Patents, bearing date the Fourteenth day of August last past, Hath, for the Considera<sup>co</sup>ns therein expressed, gr<sup>ted</sup> to the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>rs</sup>, ad<sup>o</sup>rs, and assignes, the Office of Postmaster w<sup>th</sup>in the Kingdome of England and the rest of his Dominions, and all other pts beyond the Seas wheresoever, for the terme of Seven yeares from y<sup>e</sup> Five and Twentieth day of June now last past, As by the said L<sup>res</sup> Patents, rela<sup>co</sup>n being thereunto had, it doth and may appeare, And whereas it is intended that the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>rs</sup>\* and assignes, and his and their sufficient Deputy and Deputyes, should have, hold, use, exercise and enjoye all and every the powers, priviledges, p<sup>fit</sup>ts, and advantages expressed in a p<sup>te</sup>nded Act of Parliament, made in y<sup>e</sup> yeare of our Lord God One Thousand Six hundred Fifty and Six, for the settling of the Postage of England, Scotland, and Ireland; Now theis presents Witnes, That the Kings most excellent Ma<sup>tie</sup>, for and in considera<sup>co</sup>n of the yearly Rents and Covenants herein after men<sup>co</sup>ed to be payd and p<sup>fo</sup>rmed by the said Henry Bishop, his Executo<sup>rs</sup>, adm<sup>strato</sup>rs, and assignes, for and during the said Terme, and for and in considera<sup>co</sup>n of the s<sup>u</sup>me of Five Thousand Three hundred Seaventy and Five pounds of good and lawfull money of England, at the Receipt of his Ma<sup>ty</sup> Excheq<sup>r</sup> at Westm<sup>r</sup>, payd by the said Henry Bishop to his said Ma<sup>ty</sup> use, by way of advance of the yearly Rent herein after men<sup>co</sup>ed to be payd to his said Ma<sup>ty</sup>, The Receipt of w<sup>ch</sup> said s<sup>u</sup>me of Five Thousand Three hundred Seaventy and Five Pounds his said Ma<sup>ty</sup> doth hereby acknowledge, and thereof and of every pte and pcell thereof doth acquite, ex<sup>o</sup>ffate, and discharge the said Henry Bishop, his heires, executo<sup>rs</sup>, adm<sup>strato</sup>rs, and assignes, and every of them by these p<sup>se</sup>nts, his said Ma<sup>ty</sup> doth for himselfe, his heires, and Successors, Covenant and graunt to and w<sup>th</sup> the said Henry Bishop, his exec<sup>rs</sup>, ad<sup>o</sup>rs, and assignes, and every of them, That the Parli<sup>am</sup>ent be moved speedily and effectually, by his said Ma<sup>ty</sup>, to passe and<sup>\*</sup> Act of Parliament in the due and usuall forme of Statutes and Acts of Parli<sup>am</sup>ent, for the settlement of the said Postage and of the profitts thereof, on his said Ma<sup>ty</sup>, as parte of the Revenue of his said Ma<sup>ty</sup>; And that from and after the passing of the said Act it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>r</sup> and assignes, and for noe other p<sup>so</sup>n or p<sup>so</sup>ns whatsoever, for and during the said term of seaven years, to have, hold, use exercise and enjoye all and every the powers, priviledges, profitts and advantages w<sup>ch</sup> shal be men<sup>co</sup>ed in the said intended Act. And the said Henry Bishop, for himself, his heirs, executo<sup>r</sup> and Adm<sup>strato</sup>r, and every of them, doth covenant, promise and grant to and w<sup>th</sup> his said Ma<sup>ty</sup>, his heires and successors, That, in considera<sup>co</sup>n of the said Graunt of the said office, and of the priviledges and advantages herein before covenanted to be had and enjoyed by him the said Henry Bishop, his executors and assignes, during the said terme, Hee, the said Henry Bishop, his exec<sup>r</sup> and assignes, shall and will well and truly pay or cause to be payd unto his said Ma<sup>ty</sup>, his heires and successors, at the receipt of his Ma<sup>ty</sup> Excheq<sup>r</sup> at Westm<sup>r</sup>, the yearly rent or s<sup>u</sup>me of Twenty-one Thousand Five hundred Pounds of good and lawfull money of England, upon the Fower most usuall Feasts or dayes of payment in y<sup>e</sup> yeare (that is to say), upon the Nine and Twentieth day of September, c<sup>o</sup>monly called Mich<sup>as</sup> day, The Twenty Fifth day of Dec<sup>ber</sup>, c<sup>o</sup>monly called Christmas Day, the Twenty-fifth day of March, c<sup>o</sup>monly called Lady Day, and the Fower and Twentieth day of June, c<sup>o</sup>monly called Midsomer Day, or w<sup>th</sup>in Thirty days next after or over any of the said Feasts or days, by even and equall Por<sup>co</sup>ns, for and during all the said terme, excepting only the last quarter of the last yeare of the said terme, The Rent of w<sup>ch</sup> last quarter of the said last yeare of the said terme is by these p<sup>se</sup>nts agreed to be abated and is abated in respect of the advance of y<sup>e</sup> said s<sup>u</sup>me of Five thousand Three hundred Seaventy and Five Pounds before men<sup>co</sup>ed, to be the considera<sup>co</sup>n of these p<sup>se</sup>nts which is payd for one Quarter's rent before hand. Provided alwaies, that if it shall happen the said yearly Rent of Twenty-one Thousand and Five hundred pounds, or any pte thereof, to be behinde and unpaid by the space of Thirty dayes next after any of the respective dayes and times herein before lymitted for paym<sup>t</sup> thereof, then it shall and may be lawfull to and for his said Ma<sup>ty</sup>, his heires and Successors, to enter upon the said office, and the same to take, receive, and have againe, unto the use of his said Ma<sup>ty</sup>, his heires and Successors, all and every the p<sup>fit</sup>ts, benefitts, and advantages thereof. And that from and after the expira<sup>co</sup>n of the said Thirty dayes and fayler of payment<sup>t</sup> after any of the s<sup>d</sup> respective tymes w<sup>th</sup> in w<sup>ch</sup> the said severall payments are agreed to be paid as aforesaid, the said recited Letters Patents and Grant of y<sup>e</sup> said office unto the said Henry Bishop and his assignes, and all and every

• (So.)

\* In this and other places the word *administrators* is omitted.

every the powers and privileges therein conteyned and granted, shall cease and determine and be taken and reputed to be absolutely null and voyd, any thing in these p<sup>re</sup>sents or in y<sup>e</sup> said recited Lifes Patents conteyned to y<sup>e</sup> contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. And the said Henry Bishop, for himselfe, his heires, executo<sup>r</sup>, adm<sup>in</sup>strato<sup>r</sup> and assigns, and every of them, doth further covenant, promise & grant to and w<sup>th</sup> his said Ma<sup>tie</sup>, his heires and Successors, That he the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>r</sup> and assignes, shall, at y<sup>e</sup> rates and Prizes for Postage of Lifes and Packetts men<sup>tion</sup>ed and expressed in y<sup>e</sup> said pretended Act of Parliament, defray the whole charge of carrying and recarrying of the said Packetts and mayles of Letters, and other thinges, and all other charges whatsoever in mainteyning the said Office during y<sup>e</sup> said terme before lymitted; and that all and singular Letters, Packetts and dispatches, ordinary and extraordinary, directed or to be directed from or to his said Ma<sup>tie</sup>, his heires or successors, or from or to the Lord high Admirall of England for the time being, or from or to the Lord Chancellor of England for the time being, or from or to the Lord Tr<sup>er</sup> of England, or the Commissioners of the Treary for the time being, or from or to the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports for the time being, or from or to the Secretaries of State, or either of them, for the time being, and alsoe the single Inland Letters only of the members of the p<sup>re</sup>sent Parliament during the continuance of this Session of this Parliament, shalbe conveyed and carryed, either by the Comon or ordinary Male, or other speedy and safe passage, free of and from the Payment of any rates or Portage, and other charges w<sup>h</sup>soever. And that in case any complaynt shall happen concerning the management of the said Office during the said terme, the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>r</sup> and assignes, shall submitt the same to the hearing and determina<sup>tion</sup> of the Secretaries of State for the time being, or either of them, And shall p<sup>ro</sup>mitt and suffer the said Secretaries of State for the time being, or either of them, from time to time and at all times during the said terme, to have the survey and inspec<sup>tion</sup> of all Letters w<sup>th</sup>in y<sup>e</sup> said Office, at their or either of their discretion; and further, that he the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>r</sup> and assignes, shall from time to time during the said terme, give and deliver to the said Secretaries of State, or one of them, a true and p<sup>er</sup>fect list or catalogue of all such Postmasters and other Officers as shalbe at any time during the said Terme employed by the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>r</sup> or assignes, in or about the executing of y<sup>e</sup> said Office; and in case any just and reasonable exception shalbe taken by the said Secretaries, or either of them, against any p<sup>er</sup>son or p<sup>er</sup>sons soe employed, the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>r</sup> and assignes, shall and will remove such p<sup>er</sup>son and p<sup>er</sup>sons, against whom such excep<sup>tion</sup> shalbe taken, out of and from his and their Employment under him or them; and that he the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>r</sup> and assignes, shall offer unto the said Secretaries of State for the time being, or one of them, for their approba<sup>tion</sup>, from time to time, all such altera<sup>tion</sup>s of the p<sup>re</sup>sent settled Post Stages, and all such erec<sup>tion</sup>s of New Stages as shalbe thought fitt by the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>r</sup> or assignes, to be altered or erected for the better managem<sup>ent</sup> and advantage of the said Office, which altera<sup>tion</sup>s shall not be made unlesse the same be first approved by the said Secretaries, or one of them: Provided neverthelesse, that if, at any time during the said Terme, it shall happen any plague to be in the City of London, or any other great Towne or City, Inland or Forraine, under w<sup>ch</sup> the Postage of Letters is usuall; or if Warre, either Civill or w<sup>th</sup> such Forraine Nation w<sup>th</sup> whom there is now Commerce, shall happen, or if the said Graunt of y<sup>e</sup> said Office prove to be ineffectuall, either in p<sup>ar</sup>te or in whole, by reason of any p<sup>re</sup>cedent right of any p<sup>er</sup>son or p<sup>er</sup>sons unto any pt or pts of the said Office, or through defect of the Act of Parliament intended to be passed as aforesaid, or through any other defect in the said Graunt of the said Office, That then such abatement of the yearly Rent hereinbefore reserved shalbe made and allowed unto the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>r</sup> and assignes, propor<sup>tion</sup>able unto the profitts as shalbe proved unto the said Secretaries of State for the time being, or one of them, to have beene made of such part or parts of the said Office w<sup>ch</sup> cannot be enjoyed, and propor<sup>tion</sup>able to the losse w<sup>ch</sup> the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>r</sup> and assignes, shall make appeare to be susteyned through want of any of the aforesaid powers and privileges. And the Com<sup>mission</sup> of the Treasury for the time being, the Lord Tr<sup>er</sup>, Chancellor, Undertr<sup>er</sup>, and Barons of his Ma<sup>tie</sup> Excheq<sup>er</sup>, and other the Officers and Ministers of the said Excheq<sup>er</sup> for the time being, and all other whom it doth or may in this behalfe concerne, shall make or cause to be made to the said Henry Bishop, his exec<sup>uto</sup>r and assignes, from time to time all and every the Defalca<sup>tion</sup>s, allowances, and abatement w<sup>ch</sup>, for all or any the reasons or causes herein before men<sup>tion</sup>ed, shalbe allowed by the said Secretaries for the time being, or either of them, signified by any writing under their or either of their hands. And these p<sup>re</sup>sents, or the Inrollment thereof in the said Co<sup>urt</sup> of Excheq<sup>er</sup>, shalbe to y<sup>e</sup> said Com<sup>mission</sup> for the Treasury for the time being, the Lord Treasurer, Chancellor, Undertr<sup>er</sup>, and Barons of the Excheq<sup>er</sup>, and all other the Officers and Ministers of the said Excheq<sup>er</sup> for the time being, a sufficient Warrant & discharge for making the said Defalca<sup>tion</sup>s, allowances, and abateme<sup>nt</sup> for all or any the causes or reasons herein before men<sup>tion</sup>ed by way of discharge, or otherwise to be made from time to time, as often as the same shall happen, These p<sup>re</sup>sents, or any thing therein conteyned to y<sup>e</sup> contrary thereof in any wise notw<sup>th</sup>standing: Provided neverthelesse, that if the said Secretaries of State for the time being, or one of them, shall not allowe unto the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>r</sup> and assignes, to his and their satisfac<sup>tion</sup>, such abatements of y<sup>e</sup> said yearly Rent as shalbe made appeare to be propor<sup>tion</sup>able to the losse or damage w<sup>ch</sup> the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>r</sup> or assignes, shall at any tyme or tymes susteyne by reason of any the causes or accidents aforesaid, according to the true intent and meaning of these p<sup>re</sup>sents, That then, upon three moneths' notice to be given to the said Secretaries of State, or one of them, and upon the payment of all such Arreare of y<sup>e</sup> Rent reserved in and by these p<sup>re</sup>sents, as shall then happen to be due and payable into his said Ma<sup>tie</sup>, his heires and Successors, accompt-



ing the aforesaid sūme of Five Thousand Three hundred Seaventy and Five Pounds, payd beforehand for the Rent of one quarter of a yeare, It shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Henry Bishop, his execut<sup>o</sup> and assignes, to Surrender up his and their right and Tytle in and to y<sup>e</sup> said Office, and all and every the p<sup>r</sup>misses, and his said Ma<sup>ty</sup> shall and will accept thereof; and, from the tyme of such Surrender, all Covenants and agreements concerning the payment of the yearly Rents or sūmes of money herein before men<sup>c</sup>ōned, shall be null and voyd, any thing in these p<sup>r</sup>sents conteyned to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. And the said Henry Bishop, for himselfe, his execut<sup>o</sup> and assignes, doth further Covenant and Graunt, to and w<sup>th</sup> his said Ma<sup>ty</sup>, his heires and Successors, by these p<sup>r</sup>sents, That he, the said Henry Bishop, his execut<sup>o</sup> or assignes, shall not, nor will at any time or times hereafter, have, receive or take any other or greater price or prices, rate or rates, allowance or allowances, for the carriage or re carriage of any letters, packetts, or mayles of letters w<sup>h</sup>soever, then such as in the said p<sup>r</sup>tended Act are lymitted and appoynted. And his said Ma<sup>ty</sup>, for himselfe, his heires and Successors, doth hereby grant to the said Henry Bishop, his execut<sup>o</sup> and assignes, by these p<sup>r</sup>sents, That he, the said Henry Bishop, his execut<sup>o</sup> and assignes, for and under the payment of the yearly Rents or sūmes of money herein before agreed to be payd in manner and forme aforesaid, and for p<sup>r</sup>formance of the other Covenants and agreem<sup>ts</sup> herein alsoe before men<sup>c</sup>ōned, on his and their p<sup>r</sup>ts, to be p<sup>r</sup>formed, shall and may quietly and peaceably have, hold, and enjoye the said office, with all and every the profits and appurtenc<sup>es</sup> thereunto belonging, and all and singular other the powers and authorities, rights, priviledges, and advantages herein before g<sup>r</sup>ted during the said terme of Seaven years, free and cleere from all manner of former graunt or graunts thereof, or of any p<sup>r</sup>te thereof, to any p<sup>r</sup>son or p<sup>r</sup>sons whatsoever, w<sup>th</sup>out the lett, trouble, disturbance or evic<sup>c</sup>ōn of any p<sup>r</sup>son or p<sup>r</sup>sons w<sup>h</sup>soever for or concerning the same, and that free and cleere, and freely and cleerly acquitted, exofiated and discharged, or otherwise saved and kept harmelesse and indemnified by defalcac<sup>ō</sup>n, abatement, and allowance for the same as aforesaid, from time to time and at all times hereafter during the said terme, by his said Ma<sup>ty</sup>, his heires, and successors, at the sole and prop costs and charges in the Lawe or otherwise of his said Ma<sup>ty</sup>, his heires and successors; and further, that these p<sup>r</sup>sents, and all and singular the grants, matters, and things herein conteyned, shalbe made good, ratified, and confirmed unto him the said Henry Bishop, his execut<sup>o</sup> and assignes, by such other Letters Patents under the Great Seale of England to be had and obteyned, as by the said Henry Bishop, his execut<sup>o</sup> or Assignes, or by his or their Councell learned in the Lawe shall in that behalfe and for that ende be reasonably devised, advised, and required. In witness whereof, to the one p<sup>r</sup>te of this Indenture remayning with the said Henry Bishop, our So<sup>r</sup>raigne Lord the King's Ma<sup>ty</sup> hath caused the Great Seale of England to be affixed; and to the other p<sup>r</sup>te of this Indenture remayning w<sup>th</sup> our said So<sup>r</sup>raigne Lord the King, the said Henry Bishop hath sett his hand and seale the day and yeare first above written.

By the King.

Howard.

— LIV. —

Lords' and Commons' Journals, 1660.

8 Com. Journ. p. 141,  
29 August 1660.

A Bill for constituting and appointing a Postmaster-general, was this day read the first time; and, upon the question, ordered to be read the second time tomorrow morning.

8 Com. Journ. p. 155,  
September 1660.

A Bill empowering the King's Majesty to constitute and appoint a Postmaster-general for life, or years, not exceeding 21 years, was this day read the second time; and, upon the question, committed unto Sir Tho. Clergis, &c.

8 Com. Journ. p. 167,  
12 September 1660.

Ordered, By the Commons, in Parliament assembled, That the office of postmaster, and the postage and carriage of letters, domestic and foreign, shall continue to be exercised by the same persons employed therein by his Majesty, their agents and servants, according to the same rates and rules now practised, and without the interruption of any person or persons whatsoever, until the 6th day of November next ensuing.

The Lords' concurrence is desired herein; and Mr. Annesley is to carry it to the Lords.

11 Lords' Journ. 12 Sept.  
1660, p. 170.

A message was brought from the Commons by Mr. Annesley, &c., who brought up two Orders, wherein they desire their Lordships' concurrence:

1. An Order for continuance of the postage of letters, until the 6th day of November next. (*Vide Commons' Journal, Sept. 12th, supra*).

2. &c.

The answer returned was,

That their Lordships do agree to the Order concerning the postage of letters.

Order concerning the  
Postmaster and Postage  
of Letters.

Ordered, by the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, That the office of postmaster, and the postage and carriage of letters, domestic and foreign, shall continue to be exercised by the same persons now employed therein by his Majesty, their agents and servants, according to the same rates and rules now practised, and without the interruption of any person or persons whatsoever, until the 6th day of November next ensuing.

8 Com. Journ. 12 Sept  
1660, p. 168.

Mr. Annesley reports that he had delivered to the Lords the Order of The House of this day, concerning the Post-office; and the Lords gave answer that they concurred therein.

Mr.

Mr. Tytus reports amendments, and three provisoes, to the Bill for settling the postage of letters : which he read in his place ; and were after read the first and second time by the clerk ; and afterwards were read by parts : and the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th amendments, on questions severally put, were agreed unto. ¶ Com. Journ. p. 198,  
5 December 1660.

Resolved, That the amendments in page 8, line 21 and last ; and in page 9, line 2 ; and the whole clause in the Bill beginning page 8, line 9, and ending page 9, line 13 ; be re-committed to the former Committee ; who are to take care, that the liberty of foot posts be so limited, that the office of postage of letters may not be thereby destroyed.

Resolved, That the said Committee do speak with the Postmaster-general, about the rates of foreign letters ; and endeavour to reduce them to certain and fit rates.

Resolved, That the first proviso reported, concerning the time for furnishing post horses, — be re-committed to the former Committee.

Resolved, That the second proviso reported, concerning liberty to carry letters to or from the next post roads ; and the third proviso, concerning the carriage of the post mail, in other than English ships ; were, upon the question, agreed. — ×

A proviso was tendered to this Bill ; viz. That this Act, or anything therein contained, shall not extend to take away, or prejudice, the right, title, or interest, in law or equity, which George Porter, esquire, hath, or claimeth to have, to the office or offices in this Act mentioned ; or the deputation, execution, or improvement thereof, or of any part thereof ; or to the profits thence arising ; anything in this Act to the contrary hereof in anywise notwithstanding : which was read the first time,

And the question being put, That this proviso be read the second time ;

The House was divided : and the yeas went forth.

Sir John Talbot, Lord Falkland, tellers for the yeas : with the yeas, 126.

Sir Sal. Swayle, Mr. Tytus, tellers for the noes : with the noes, 116.

And so the question, passing in the affirmative ;

Resolved, That this proviso be read the second time.

And it was accordingly read the second time.

And the question being put, That the said proviso be committed ;

The House was divided : and the yeas went forth.

Sir Jo. Talbot, Lord Herbert, tellers for the yeas : with the yeas, 88.

Sir Sal. Swayle, Colonel King, tellers for the noes : with the noes, 96.

And so it passed in the negative.

Resolved, That the Committee for Postage of Letters, do meet this afternoon, notwithstanding the sitting of the Grand Committee ; and make their Report to-morrow morning.

Ordered, That the said Committee do prepare and bring in a clause, for enjoining all persons employed about the Post-office to take the oaths of supremacy and allegiance.

Mr. Titus reports amendments to the Bill for settling the postage of letters : which were first read by him in his place ; and were after read the first and second time by the clerk ; and, on the question, were agreed unto. ¶ Com. Journ. p. 211,  
17 Dec. 1660.

A proviso was tendered to this bill ; viz.

Provided also, and be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that a letter or packet post shall, twice every week, come by the way of Truro and Penrin to the town of Market-jew, alias Marhasien, in the county of Cornwall, and once a week to Kendall, by the way of Lancaster ; and to the town of Penrith in Cumberland, by the way of Newcastle and Carlisle ; and to the city of Lincolne, and borough of Grimsby, in the county of Lincolne ; anything in this Act contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Which was read the first and second time ; and on the question, agreed, and ordered to be part of the Bill.

Another proviso was tendered : “ That this Act, or anything therein contained, shall not extend or be construed to make good or confirm any letters patents, grant, or agreement, heretofore made by the King’s Majesty, to or with any person or persons whatsoever, of or concerning the said office of postmaster, or carriage of letters by post ; but that the King’s Majesty shall and may grant and dispose of the said office, fees, and profits thereof, as he shall think fit ; any such letters patents, grant, contract, or agreement, to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.”

And the question being put, that this proviso be read the second time ;

It passed in the negative.

Another proviso was tendered to the Bill ; viz.

“ Provided also, and be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that such Postmaster-general to be from time to time appointed by his Majesty, his heirs and successors, as aforesaid, shall continue constant posts for carriage of letters to all places, though they lie out of the post roads, as hath been used for the space of three years last past, at the rates hereinbefore mentioned, under pain of forfeitures, for every omission, 5*l.* ; to be recovered by action, suit, or plaint, in any his Majesty’s courts of record ; the one moiety to the use of his Majesty, the other moiety to the use of the informer.” ¶ Com. Journ. p. 212,  
17 Dec. 1660.

Resolved, That this proviso be read the second time.

And it was read accordingly ; and was, on the question, agreed unto ; and ordered to be part of the Bill.

Resolved, That, in the proviso among the amendments, concerning the officers of the Post-office taking the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, these words be added; viz. "Before any two justices of peace, of the respective counties wherein such person or persons are or shall be resident; which said justices are hereby authorized to administer the said oaths accordingly."

Another proviso was tendered to this Bill; viz.

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"Provided also, and it is hereby enacted, that all the letters which at any time hereafter shall be sent by or unto any of the knights, citizens, and burgesses, chosen and continuing to be Members of the Parliament of England, shall be freely, and without any charge unto them, safely carried and conveyed by every letter post established by this Act, according to the directions of the said letter; anything in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding:

Which was read the first and second time, with the addition of these words, in the fourth line, "and sitting the Parliament:" and was, on the question, agreed to be part of the Bill.

8 Com. Journ. p. 212.

Resolved, That such of the persons who have contributed their pains in improvement of the revenue of the Post-office, as the Committee to whom this Bill was referred, shall think fit to be taken into consideration, be recommended to the King's Majesty, for consideration to be had of their pains taken therein, accordingly.

8 Com. Journ. p. 217,  
20 Dec. 1660.

A Bill for erecting and settling a general Letter-office, by the King's Majesty, was this day read the third time.

Resolved, That these words, viz., "As in the said office formerly hath been in use," be omitted in the 4th sheet, line 12th, next after the word "letters."

A proviso was tendered to this Bill; That this Act, or anything therein contained, shall not extend, or be construed, to prejudice the liberties, rights, and privileges, of either of the Universities of this land; but that the said Universities respectively may use and enjoy their former liberties, rights, and privileges, of using carriers to carry and re-carry letters, to and from the said Universities respectively, as formerly they did; and as if this Act had not been made; anything therein contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding: which was this day read the first and second time; and withdrawn.

Another proviso was tendered to this Act; That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed, to prejudice or impeach the ancient rights and privileges of the Cinque Ports, and their Members; but that, as formerly, they shall hold and enjoy the same privilege of sending their own posts to and from London with letters; anything in this present Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding:

And the question being put, that this proviso be read the second time;

It passed with the negative.

Another proviso was tendered to this Bill; That all inland letters, sent by any packet post established by this Act as aforesaid, do and shall pay the rates and prizes before mentioned at such stage where they are last delivered only, unless the party that delivers the letters desireth to pay elsewhere; anything in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding: which was this day read the first, second, and third time; and, upon the question, passed.

Another proviso was tendered to this Bill; That all letters, or other things, may be sent or conveyed, to or from the two Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, in manner as heretofore hath been used; anything therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding: which was this day read the first time:

Resolved, That the proviso do go generally the two Universities.

The said proviso, so amended, was read the second time; and, upon the question, agreed unto.

Another proviso was tendered to this Bill; That this Act, or anything therein contained, shall not extend to take away the profit and benefit belonging to the barges of Windsor and Maidenhead, in the county of Berkes, and all other places, for the carriages of letters and packets; but that they shall carry the same, as formerly they might have done; and as if this Act had not been made: which was read the first time; and laid aside.

And the said Bill, being so amended, being put to the question, passed.

Ordered, That this Bill be sent to the Lords for their concurrence; and Mr. Tytus do carry this Bill to the Lords:

That this be the title of the Bill, An Act for erecting and establishing a Post-office.

8 Com. Journ. p. 223,  
22 Dec. 1660.

The Amendments to the Bill for the Post-office, taking away the proviso about letters to Members of Parliament, were read; being as follows:

The clause in the 43 line, beginning with word "provided," to be wholly left out; ending with the word "notwithstanding," in the 48 line; and, on the question, were agreed unto.\*

\* For the history of the omission of this proviso, concerning the carrying of the letters sent by or unto Members of Parliament, free of postage, see the Report of the Committee on the Privilege of Franking Letters, 16th April 1735. Com. Journ. XXII. p. 462.

— LV. —

(Miscellaneous, 9.) A. D. 1660. *was repealed by Stat. in 1710*

## ABSTRACT OF ACT 12 CAR. II, c. 35, for erecting and establishing a Post-office.

[Preamble.] "WHEREAS, for the maintenance of mutual correspondencies and prevention of many inconveniences happening by private posts, several publique post-offices have beene heretofore erected for carrying and recarrying of letters by posts to and from all parts and places within England, Scotland, and Ireland, and several parts beyond the seas, the well ordering whereof is a matter of general concernment and of great advantage, as well for preservation of trade and commerce as otherwise, To the end therefore that the same may be managed soe that speedy and safe dispatches may be had, which is most likely to be effected by erecting one General Post-office for that purpose:"

§ 1. One general letter office to be erected in some convenient place within the city of London for sending and receiving such letters and pacquets. One master of said office to be appointed by the King's Majesty, his heirs and successors, and constituted by letters patent under the great seal, by name of His Majesty's Postmaster-general, which officer and his deputies and agents, "and no other person, shall have the receiving, taking up, ordering, despatching, sending post or with speede, and delivering of all letters and pacquets whatsoever which shall from time to time be sent to and from all and every the parts and places of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and other His Majesty's dominions, and to and from all and every the kingdoms and countries beyond the seas where he shall settle or cause to be settled, posts or running messengers for that purpose. Except letters sent by coaches, common known carriers of goods by carts, waggons, or packhorses, and shall be carried along with their carts, waggons, and packhorses respectively, and except letters of merchandize, or by any other person employed by them for the carriage of such letters aforesaid, according to the respective directions, and also except letters to be sent by any private friend in their ways of journey or travill, or by any messenger sent on purpose for or concerning the private affairs of any person or persons, and also except messengers who carry and recarry commissions, or the returne thereof, affidavits, writs, process or proceedings, or the returnes thereof issuing out of any court." *more nearly to come America*

§ 2. [Same in substance as § 2, Act 1656.]

§§ 3 & 4. ["Rates for letters."]

§ 5. ["Rates for posthorses."]

§ 6. [Same in substance as § 4, Act 1656.]

§ 7. ["Penalty on any person other than such Postmaster-general and his deputies carrying letters for hire other than before excepted, or setting up posts for the common conveying of letters and horsing posts."]

§§ 8 & 9. [Provisos in case of Postmaster not furnishing sufficient horses.]

§ 10. [Nothing in this Act to be held to prohibit the carrying letters, &c. from any town to next post stage.]

§ 11. ["Penalty on carrying mail out of England in foreign vessels."]

§ 12. ["Officers in Post-office to take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy."]

§ 13. [Provisos as to posts through certain towns.]

§ 14. [Postmaster-general to continue constant posts for carriage of letters to all places, though they lie out of the post roads, as hath been used for the space of three years last past, at the rates hereinbefore mentioned.]

§ 15. [Same preamble and enactment as § 6, Act 1656, substituting "His Majesty, his heirs, &c." for "Lord Protector, &c." and His Majesty may grant said office, with all profits, &c. for life, or term of years not exceeding 21, to such persons and under such covenants and yearly rent reserved as his Majesty, his heirs and successors, shall from time to time think for ye best advantage and benefit of this kingdom.]

§ 16. [Same as § 8, Act 1656.]

§ 17. ["Rates of inland letters to be paid where delivered."]

"Exception."]

§ 18. [Letters, &c. may be sent to and from the two Universities in manner as heretofore.]

— LVI. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 30.) 16 January 1660-1. *Cal. St. Pap., Dom., 1660-1, p. 475, 2 p. 1250-251. of this Proclam. printed by order of C. 15 per p. 1. and distributed*

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION For quieting the Post Master General in the execution of his Office.

Charles R.

WHEREAS We have by Our Letters Patents under Our great Seal, constituted and appointed Our Trusty and Welbeloved Henry Bishop, Esq<sup>re</sup>, Our Post Master General, to perform and execute all and every the powers mentioned in a late Act of Parliament, touching the erecting and setling an Office of Post Master General; And whereas the secret and indirect conveyance of Letters, by ways unlawful and unauthorized, doth not onely tend to the diminution of Our Revenue, by lessening the Office of Post Master General, but may be a means to promote seditious designs and to disturbe the peace of Our Realm;

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16 January 1660-1.  
State Paper Office.  
Collection, No. 39

We have thought fit therefore, by this Our Proclamation, to advertise all and singular Our good subjects of their duty, and to require their obedience accordingly; And We do hereby stricktly prohibite and forbid all and singular person and persons whatsoever (other then the said Henry Bishop, his deputies, servants, or assignes, directly or indirectly) to do, execute, perform, or intrude themselves to have any employment in or about anything, which ought to be done by him the said Henry Bishop, his Deputies, Servants or Assignes, without his the said Henry Bishop's Deputation, License, or Allowance, upon pain of Our displeasure, and such other Penalty as may be inflicted upon the Offenders for contempt of this Our Royal Commandement, and of the said Act of Parliament: And that the said Henry Bishop, his Deputies, Servants, and Assigns, may the better intend the service and duty of the said Office of Post Master General, We do hereby further Declare Our Royal Will and Pleasure to be, That the said Henry Bishop, his Deputies, Servants and Assignes, shall be from henceforth freed, exempted, and discharged of and from serving upon all Juries, Inquests, Musters, or any other Publike Employments or attendances that may any way impede, retarde, or prejudice the execution of his or their duty and service in the said Office, And that he and they shall have and enjoy all such Priviledges as have been formerly granted by any of Our Royal Ancestors unto the Masters of their Posts and servants: And we do further expressly will and command, by these presents, all Maiors Sheriffs, Justices of Peace, Constables, Bailiffs, all Searchers of our Ports, and all other our Officers and Ministers wheresoever, within their several Jurisdictions and Offices, from time to time to make diligent search for all males, bougets, and other carriages of all such disallowed and unlicensed Carriers and Messengers, or other suspected persons carrying Pacquets, or Letters, from place to place within our said Realms and Dominions, or coming in or going out of this Realm, to or from any other kingdoms or countries, contrary to the tenor of the said Act of Parliament, and the Rights and Priviledges of the Post Master General therein declared and established; and to seize all and every such males and pacquets of letters which shall be found in the hands of persons not having lawful warrant or authority from Our Post Master General for the time being to carry the same, and the said Males or Pacquets of Letters, together with the names of the persons so as aforesaid presuming to convey them, immediately to send up, and certifie to Our Privy Council. Given at the Court at Whitehall, the sixteenth day of January, in the twelfth year of His Majesties Reign, One thousand six hundred and sixty.

God save the King.

— LVII. —

(Sir *F. Palgrave*, 16.)

AMONG the Records in the Public Record Office, Rolls House, and in the custody of the Master of the Rolls, pursuant to Statute 1 & 2 Vict. c. 94; to wit, in the Book of Inrolments of Letters Patent and Letters of Privy Seal, relative to the Pell of Receipt, belonging to the late Pell Office of the Receipt of the Exchequer, No. 3, pages 62-66; it is contained as follows:

14 February 1660-1. The humble Certificate of S<sup>r</sup> Edward Nicholas and S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Morrice, Principall Secretaries of State to his Ma<sup>ty</sup>; dated February the 14th, 1660.

WHEREAS by one indenture, bearing date the First day of September last past, made betwene his most excellent Ma<sup>ty</sup> of the one pte, and Henry Bishopp, esq<sup>r</sup> of the other pte, wherein the said Henry Bishop hath covenanted and agreed in consider<sup>on</sup> of his Ma<sup>ty</sup>'s Graunt of the Post Office throughout his dominions, to him the said Henry Bishop, his executo<sup>s</sup> administrato<sup>s</sup> and assignes, for y<sup>e</sup> terme of seaven yeares from the Five and Twentiyth day of June last past, to pay vnto his Ma<sup>ty</sup> his heires and successo<sup>r</sup> the yearly Rent of One and Twenty Thousand and Five Hundred Pounds at the Fower vsuall Feasts in the yeare, by equall por<sup>cion</sup>s: And, in and by the said Indenture, It is agreed by his Ma<sup>ty</sup> and provided, that if the said Grant of the said Office prove to be ineffectuall, either in pte or in whole, through defect of an Act of Parliament to be passed in this present Parliament concerning the said office, as is men<sup>cion</sup>ed in the said Indenture, to be intended to be passed, or through any other defect wsoever in the said Grant, That then abatement of the yearly rent reserved in the said Indenture shall be made and allowed vnto the said Henry Bishop propor<sup>cion</sup>able vnto the profitts that shall be proved to the Secretaryes of State for the time being, or one of them, to have beene made of such pt or pts of the said office, w<sup>ch</sup> cannot be enjoyed, and propor<sup>cion</sup>able to the losse w<sup>ch</sup> the said Henry Bishop shall make appeare to be susteyned through want of any of the powers and priviledges intended to be enjoyed by him, by forse of the said intended Act: And that the Lord Tr<sup>er</sup>, Lord Chancellor, and all Officers of the Excheq<sup>r</sup> for the time being whom it may concerne, shall make or cause to be made to the said Henry Bishop from time to time all and every the defalca<sup>cion</sup>s, allowances, and abatements w<sup>ch</sup> for all or any the causes aforesaid shalbe allowed by the Secretaryes of State for the time being, or either of them, signified by any writing vnder their or either of their hands: And that the said Indenture shalbe to the Lord Tr<sup>er</sup> and all other a sufficient warrant and discharge for making the said allowances and abatements: And whereas the said Henry Bishop hath made it appeare vnto vs that, from the Five and Twentieth day of June last past vnto the Nine and Twentieth day of September last past, he the said Henry Bishop could not enjoye pt of the profitts of the said office; that is to say, soe much of the said profitts as ought to have been payd for the due port

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of the pacquetts and pcells carryed to and from the City of London for the severall Members of the late Parliament over and above all their single letters agreed in and by the said Indenture to be carryed w<sup>th</sup>out any port for the same, the said Henry Bishop having no effectuall meanes to compell the due payments of the said profits of the said office by the said Members of Parliament, through want of the said intended Act of Parliament, and by reason of the priviledge of Parliament, The w<sup>ch</sup> said profits of the said Office which he could not enjoye for the reasons aforesaid, betweene the said Five and Twentieth day of June and the Nine and Twentieth day of September have been proved before vs, to amount to the sūme of Five hundred Fifty eight pounds Nineteen shillings and Tenne pence of lawfull money of England: And whereas the said Henry Bishop hath alsoe made it appeare vnto vs that, for want of the passing of the said intended Act of Parliament, and for want of a legall power to restraine all other posts from riding or running post w<sup>th</sup> letters, according to the intençons of the said Indenture of Covenants, There are sefall posts that constantly ride and runne w<sup>th</sup> letters to and from the City of London besides those appoynted by the said Henry Bishop; And it hath beene proved before vs, That the damages the said Henry Bishop has susteyned by reason of the sefall posts riding w<sup>th</sup> letters w<sup>th</sup>out authority from the said office, doth amount vnto the sūme of Five hundred pounds of like money: And whereas it hath been also proved before vs, That the said Henry Bishop hath w<sup>th</sup>in y<sup>e</sup> time aforesaid susteyned One hundred and Sixteene pounds damage more by carryng of severall letters and packquets for the Comissioners for Governm<sup>t</sup> of Ireland residing in Ireland, not having had any pay or allowance for the same: And whereas alsoe wee have our selves, by speciall comānd from his Ma<sup>tie</sup>, appoynted the said Henry Bishop to carry several Pacquetts and Letters sent to the Post Office from time to time by the Comission<sup>rs</sup> of the army here in England, w<sup>th</sup>out demanding or receiving anything for the same, promising him y<sup>t</sup> the port of the same should be allowed and abated out of the Rent payable vnto his Ma<sup>tie</sup> by him for the same office; And it hath been also proved before vs, That w<sup>th</sup>in the time aforesaid he hath carryed letters and pacquetts for the said Com<sup>rs</sup> w<sup>th</sup>out demanding any thing for the same, the Port whereof, according to y<sup>e</sup> rates for carriage of Letters sett by Act of Parliament, hath amounted vnto the sūme of One hundred Ninety Six pounds sixteene shillings and Tenne pence more, and that he is thereby damned the said sūme of One hundred Ninety Six pounds sixteene shillings and Tenne pence; For all w<sup>ch</sup> pticlers he hath demaunded our allowance, and prayed our certificates according to y<sup>e</sup> tenor and purport of the said Indenture of Covenants: Vpon due consideraçon had of the said allowances and abatements demanded by the said Henry Bishop to be made vnto him out of the rent due and payable to his Ma<sup>tie</sup> for the said Office vpon the Nine and Twentieth day of September last, or w<sup>th</sup>in Thirty dayes after the same, according to the said proviseo in the said recited Indenture, and of the proofes, reasons and causes for the said abatem<sup>ts</sup>, Wee doe hereby Certifie vnto the right hon<sup>ble</sup> Thomas Earle of Southampton, now Lord high Trer of England, That it doth appeare vnto vs that there ought to be allowed and abated vnto the said Henry Bishop, for all the causes and reasons aforesaid, the sūme of Five hundred pounds, w<sup>ch</sup> said sūme of Five hundred pounds wee do hereby certify vnto yo<sup>r</sup> Lordshipp ought to be accounted as part of the Rent of the said Henry Bishop due and payable by him to his Ma<sup>tie</sup> for the said Post Office vpon the Five and Twentieth day of December last past, or w<sup>th</sup>in Thirty Dayes after the same; And that one or more tallies ought to be struck and delivered to him the said Henry Bishop out of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> Excheq<sup>r</sup> for the said sūme of Five hundred pounds as part of his said Rent accordingly.

*Edw. Nicholas. Will. Morice.*

Let an order be drawne & a Tally thereupon levyed for defalcaçon to be made of the sūme of Five hundred pounds vnto Henry Bishop esq<sup>r</sup> or his assignes out of his M<sup>ty</sup> Rent for the Post Office, upon the Quarter's Rent due at the Feast of the birth of our Lord last past, according to the tenor of an Indenture vnder the great Seale of England, bearing date the First day of September last past; And for soe doing this shalbe yo<sup>r</sup> warr<sup>t</sup> dated y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 1660, and in the Thirteenth yeare of his Ma<sup>ty</sup> Raigne over England, &c.

*T. Southampton.*

To S<sup>r</sup> Robert Pye, Kn<sup>t</sup>, Auditor of the Receipt of his Ma<sup>ty</sup> Excheq<sup>r</sup>,  
William Wardour. esq<sup>r</sup>, Clerk of the Pells, and to the rest of the  
Officers there whom it may concerne.

— LVIII. —

(*Sir F. Palgrave, 17.*)

AMONG the Records in the Public Record Office, Rolls House, and in the Custody of the Master of the Rolls, pursuant to Statute 1 & 2 Vict. c. 94; to wit, in the Privy Seal Book of the Auditor of the Receipt of the Exchequer, Paper Series, No. 2, fol. 146-149; it is contained as follows:—

CHARLES the Second, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To our right trustie and right welbeloved Cousin and Cuncello<sup>r</sup> Thomas Earle of Southiton, our high Threr of England, and to our right trustie and welbeloved Cuncello<sup>r</sup> Anthony Lord Ashley, Chauncello<sup>r</sup> and Under Threr of our Excheq<sup>r</sup>, And to the high Threr of England, the Threr, Chauncello<sup>r</sup>, Under-Threr, Cham-

20 January 1661-2.

Blaines, and Barons of the Excheq<sup>r</sup>, of us our heires and successo<sup>rs</sup> for the time being, And to all other the Officers and Ministers of us our heires and successo<sup>rs</sup> of the same Court, and of the Receipt thereof for the time being, And to our trustie and welbeloved Henry Bishop, of Henfeld in the Countie of Sussex, Esq<sup>r</sup>, our now Post Master geñall & Farmer of the Profitts of our geñall Lre Office or Post Office, and to all others to whom it shall or may apperteyne, or to whom these p<sup>re</sup>sents shall come greeting. Whereas, for certaine causes us moving, wee did, by certaine our Letters und<sup>r</sup> o<sup>r</sup> Privie Seale, bearing date att Westm̄ the xxxj<sup>th</sup> day of October now last past, sett apart and assigne, or mençon to sett apart & assigne, the rents & profitts of our said geñall Letter Office or Post Office not therein & thereby mençoned to have been otherwise disposed of, and charged or to be charged by us: And whereas (amongst other sūmes & payments in our said Lres und<sup>r</sup> our said Privie Seale specified) the sūme or payment of two hundred and Fiftie pounds quarterly of lawfull money of England is excepted, and thereby declared to be payeable, and to be paid out of the Rents and profitts of the said Office, unto our right trustie and welbeloved John Lord Berkeley of Stratton, in our Countye of Glouc<sup>r</sup>, in trust and for our owne use and especiall service, And alsoe the sūme or payment of tenne shillings p diem of like money payeable, and to be paid out of the rents & profitts aforesaid, to such person and persons for the tyme being as we had already then appointed, or then after should appoint, to attend att our court or place of residence from tyme to tyme, to receive and deliver att & from our said Post Office, or such stage thereof as should happen to be next our Court or our place of residence for the tyme being, our owne publique Letters and other Dispatches for or owne imediate service, As by our said Lres under our said Privie Seale, relation being thereunto had, amongst other things more fully may appeare: And whereas alsoe wee did heretofore nominate and appoint our trusty and welbeloved servant Thomas Parnell esq<sup>r</sup> unto the office or Place of Carryer of all our owne Letters, Into which place, according to our warrant & direcçons in that behalfe, he hath been sworne and admitted, and hath ever sithence attended us therein, and of whose service and attendance wee doe well approve; And are therefore pleased that the said sūme or payment of x<sup>s</sup> p diem soe excepted, amongst others, out of the rents and profitts of our said Post office, upon our assignem<sup>t</sup> thereof, to or for the use of our said dearest Brother, be duly satisfied, and alsoe quarterly paid to the said Thomas Parnell or his Assignes, out of the same rents and profitts of our said Post Office: To the end, therefore, that the aforesaid se<sup>ve</sup>ral sūmes or payments of two hundred and fiftie pounds quarterly & of x<sup>s</sup> p diem may be quarterly paid by the said Henry Bishop and his Assignes out of the quarterly rents or payments by him and them payeable and reserved to be paid to us, our heires and successo<sup>rs</sup>, for and in respect of the said Post Office, and the profitts thereof to him the said Henry Bishop, by severall our Letters Patents under our great Seale of England, in that behalfe demised for soe long tyme as he or they shall by vertue thereof hold & enjoy the said Post Office and the profitts thereof as aforesaid, Our will and pleasure is, And wee doe hereby authorize and require the said Henry Bishop and his Assignes to pay or cause to be paid unto the said John Lord Berkeley, or to such other pson or psons as he shall appoint to receive the same, the said quarterly sūme of ccl<sup>li</sup>, in trust for us & for our owne use and especiall service as aforesaid; And alsoe the said sūme or paym<sup>t</sup> of x<sup>s</sup> p diem to the said Thomas Parnell or his Assignes by quarterly paym<sup>ts</sup> quarterly\*, together with all Arreage & Arreages of the said se<sup>ve</sup>ral sūmes & quarterly paym<sup>ts</sup> already due and incurred, att or upon the Feast-day of the Birth of our Lord now last past, that is to say, for one whole quarter of a year then ended, and soe from tyme to tyme quarterly and on every succeeding quar<sup>ter</sup> day next followeing or to ensue from and after the said Feast-day of the Birth of o<sup>r</sup> Lord now last past as aforesaid, for and during soe long tyme as he the said Henry Bishop or his Assignes shall hold and enjoy the said Post Office and the profitts thereof as aforesaid, or untill wee shall otherwise declare our royall will and pleasure concerninge the said quarterly payments, or either of them. Wherefore our further will and pleasure is, And wee doe hereby, for us, our heires and successo<sup>rs</sup>, authorize and require you, our said now high Th<sup>er</sup> of England, and alsoe the Th<sup>er</sup> and Under Th<sup>er</sup> of our Excheq<sup>r</sup> aforesaid for the tyme being, to cause se<sup>ve</sup>ral tallye and tallies to be in due manner leavyed and stricken in the Receipt of our said Excheq<sup>r</sup> upon the said Henry Bishop for the said sūme of ccl<sup>li</sup>, and alsoe for the said sūme or paym<sup>t</sup> of x<sup>s</sup> p diem, and the Arreares thereof for one whole quarter ended on the Feast-day of the Birth of o<sup>r</sup> Lord now last past as aforesaid, To be paid by him the said Henry Bishop or his Assignes to the said John Lord Berkeley, or such as he shall appoint to receive the same, in trust and for our owne use & service as aforesaid; And to the said Thomas Parnell or his Assignes respectively, for his and their owne use, without Accompt for and in respect of his wages for his said service and attendance, as aforesaid, for one quarter of a yeare then ended, and soe from tyme to tyme, upon the said Henry Bishop and his Assignes, quarterly, on every succeeding Quarter-day next following or to ensue from and after the said Feast-day of the Birth of our Lord now last past, as aforesaid, for and during soe long tyme as he, the said Henry Bishop, or his Assignes shall hold & enjoy the aforesaid Post-office and the profitts thereof as aforesaid, or untill wee shall otherwise declare our royall will & pleasure concerninge the quarterly payments or any of them, as aforesaid, the said se<sup>ve</sup>ral sūme & sūmes of money soe paid and to be paid by the said Henry Bishop, or his Assignes, upon the said Tally and Tallies to be now leavyed and stricken upon him for the aforesaid Quarter, ended on the said Feast-day of the Birth of our Lord now last past, to be in full of soe much money due & oweing to us by him the said Henry Bishop, for the rents and profitts of the Post Office aforesaid, for the said Quarter then ended on the same Feast-day; And the said se<sup>ve</sup>ral sūmes of money to be soe hereafter paid by him the said Henry Bishop, or his Assignes, upon such other Tallies

\* So.

as

as shall hereafter, on every other the said next succeeding quarter-dayes, be so leavyed or stricken upon him or them as aforesaid, to be allsoe in full of soe much money, to be by him or them due or oweing to us for the rents and profitts of the Office aforesaid, att or upon every such succeeding quarter-day as the said tallyes shall be soe leavyed & stricken upon him or them as aforesaid. And theise p'sents, or the Inrollm<sup>t</sup> thereof in our said Excheq<sup>r</sup>, shalbe aswell unto the said Henry Bishopp, and his Assignes, for his and their payment of the said sefall quarterly sūmes of money abovementōned, and of the said Arreares of the said x<sup>s</sup> p diem for one whole Quarter of a yeare, ended on the said Feast day of the Birth of our Lord now last past; And for his and their like payment of the said severall sūmes and quarterly payments abovementōned to the said John Lord Berkeley, and to the said Thomas Parnell respectively, or their Assignes, in manner as aforesaid, on every succeeding quarter-day next ensueing the said Feast-day of the Birth of our Lord now last past, out of the rents and profitts, to be by him the said Henry Bishop and his Assignes due and payeable to us att or upon every such next succeeding Quarter-day to be then ended, or untill wee shall otherwise order and direct as aforesaid, As unto you our said High Th̄rer of England and to the Tr̄er & Under Th̄rer, and all & every other the Officers & Ministers of the said Receipt of the said Excheq<sup>r</sup> of us, our heires and successo<sup>r</sup> for the tyme being, for the leavying and strikeing or causing to be leavyed and stricken, of all and every such tallies in the said Receipt, upon the said Henry Bishop, or his Assignes, for the said sefall sūme & sūmes of money as paid and to be paid from tyme to tyme, in manner as aforesaid, out of the quarterly rents and payments now due and hereafter quarterly to growe due and oweing by him or them, for or in respect of the said Post Office, or the Profitts thereof, to him demised as aforesaid, a sufficient warrant and discharge in that behalfe And lastly our exp̄sse Will and pleasure is, And wee doe hereby declare the same to be, that the said John Lord Berkeley, his heires, Exec<sup>m</sup>, or Adm<sup>m</sup>, or any of them, be not charged or chargeable in our said Excheq<sup>r</sup> towards us, o<sup>r</sup> heires or Successo<sup>r</sup>, with or for any Accompt or Acc<sup>m</sup> for or in respect of the said quarterly paym<sup>t</sup> or sūme of ccli hereby appointed to be paid to him or received by him or his Assignes, in trust and for our owne use and service, as aforesaid.

Given under our Privie seale at our Palace of Westm̄, the two and twentyeth day of January, in the thirteenth yeare of o<sup>r</sup> Raigne.

xxij<sup>o</sup> Januar.  
1661[-2].

Hartgill Baron.

— LIX. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 18.)

*Handwritten note:* 1662 & 1663. continued at Barbadoes  
1662. 1663. 1664. 1665. 1666. 1667. 1668. 1669. 1670. 1671. 1672. 1673. 1674. 1675. 1676. 1677. 1678. 1679. 1680. 1681. 1682. 1683. 1684. 1685. 1686. 1687. 1688. 1689. 1690. 1691. 1692. 1693. 1694. 1695. 1696. 1697. 1698. 1699. 1700.

NONA PARS PATEN' DE ANNO R̄R CAROLI S̄DI QUINTO DECIMO.

Ð Con' Offic' Nun-  
cioꝝ ꝙ Cursoꝝ An-  
glice Post Master  
Generaꝝ Daniel  
O Neile Añ.

REX om̄ibz ad quos &c. Saltm. Sciatis qđ nos, p̄ diversis bonis causis et consideraçōibz nos ad p̄sens sp̄iali<sup>r</sup> moven', de Ḡra n̄ra sp̄iali ac ex certa scientia et mero motu n̄ris, Dedim' ꝙ Concessim', ac p̄ p̄sentes, p̄ nob̄ hered̄ et successoribz n̄ris, Dam' et concedim' Ditco nob̄ Danieli O Neile Armig', unu' Grometaꝝ de Cubiculo n̄ro, Officiū Maḡri n̄ri Generaꝝ Nuncioꝝ et Cursoꝝ, communi<sup>r</sup> vocat' The Office of Post Master

(9.)

Generall, ac eciam officii vocat' p̄ nomen et stilum of his Majesties Post Master Generall, necnon officii de La Post Master Generall, ac ip̄m Danielelem O Neile Maḡm n̄m Generalem nuncioꝝ et cursoꝝ, Anglice Our Post Master Generall, ac etiam Officiū vocat' p̄ nomen et stilum of His Majesties Post Master Generall, necnon Officiū de La Postmaster Generall, p̄ nob̄ hered̄ et successoribz n̄ris facim' ordinam' appunctuam' et constituim' p̄ p̄sentes Habend̄ Tenend̄ Exercend̄ Occupand̄ ꝙ Gaudend̄ Officiū p̄dict' p̄fat' Danieli O Neile, Executor' Administrator' et Assignat' suis, p̄ se vel p̄ sufficient' deputat' suū sive deputat' suos sufficientes, a vicesimo quinto die Marcij ult' p̄fit' usq; ad finem termini et p̄ termino quatuor annoꝝ et unius quarterij anni extunc p̄ sequen' et plenar' complend̄ et finend̄, unacum om̄ibz et singulis vad' feod' profic' coimoditat' allocaçōibz et advantag' quibzcuq; eid' Offic' aliquo modo spectan' pertinen' sive annexat', et in tam amplis modo et forma put Jofies Stanhope Miles Dñus Stanhope de Harrington, Matheus Dequester, Wiffus Frizell, Thomas Witheringe, et Henricus Bishopp, sive eoꝝ aliquis, vel aliqui alij, aut aliquis alius dict' offic', vel eoꝝ aliqui antehac h̄ens sive exercens, h̄entes sive exercentes, fuit vel p̄cepit, fuerunt vel p̄ceperunt, seu h̄ere p̄cipere vel gaudere debuerunt aut debuit, in vel pro exercitio sive execuçōe Offic' p̄dict'; Et hoc absq; computo seu aliquo alio proinde nob̄ heredibz et successoribz n̄ris quocunq; reddend̄ solvend̄ vel faciend̄: Et ultius volum', ac de ḡra n̄ra sp̄iali ac ex certa scientia ꝙ mero motu n̄ris, p̄ p̄sentes, p̄ nob̄ hered̄ et successoribz n̄ris, concedim' p̄fat' Danieli O Neile, Executoribz Administratoribz ꝙ Assign' suis, qđ he L̄re n̄re Paten', vel irrotulament' eazdem, erunt in om̄ibz ꝙ per om̄ia firme valide bone et effectuaꝝ in lege, erga vsus et contra nos hered̄ et successores n̄ros, tam in om̄ibz Curijs n̄ris q̄am alibi infra Regnū n̄m Angl'; Non obstante male nominand̄ aut non recte aut certe nominand̄ Offic' ꝙ p̄missa p̄dict' sive aliq̄am inde p̄cellam p̄ p̄sentes p̄conces' aut mençōnat' fore coces'; Et non obstante aliquo defectu sive aliquibz defectibz in non recitand̄ vel male recitand̄ aliq̄am concession' vel concessiones de p̄missis, vel de aliqua inde parte sive parcella de Recordo vel non de Recordo, vel aliter qualitercuq; antehac fact'; Et non obstante Statut' in Parliament' Dñi Henrici, nup̄ Regis Anglie



Anglie Sexti, Antecessoris nri, Anno Regni sui decimo octavo fact' et edit'; Et non obstante Statut' in Parlamen' Dni Henrici, nup Regis Anglie Octavi, Antecessoris nri anno Regni sui Sexto fact' et edit', aut aliquo alio Statuto Actu Ordinaçõe sive Defectu, vel aliqua al' re causa vel mafia quacunq, in contrarin' inde non obstante, Eo qd expressa mençõ c In cujus rei c T. Rege apud Westm' vicesimo nono die Aprilis.

P Bre de Privat' Sigill.

— I.X. —

(Sir F. Palgrave, 19.)

NONA PARS PATEN' DE ANNO R<sup>R</sup> CAROLI SCDI QUINTO DECIMO.

Lease to Daniell  
O Neile, Esquire.

(B.)

29 April 1663

A Lease to Daniell O Neile, Esquire of the Post Office. } THIS Indenture made the \_\_\_\_\_ in the fifteenth yeare of the Reigne of our Most Gracious Sovereigne Lord Charles the Second, by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. betweene our said Sovereigne Lord the Kings most excellent Majestie of the one parte, and Daniell O Neale, Esquire, one of the Grooms of his Majesties Bedchamber of the other parte: Whereas the said Kings most excellent Majestie, by his Lres Patents beareing date the fowerteenth Day of August, wch was in the twelveth Yeare of His Reigne, did for the consideraçõns therein expressed, give and graunt unto Henry Bishopp, Esquire, his Executors, Administrators, and Assignes, the office of Post Master within the Kingdome of England, and the rest of his Dominions, and all other pts beyond the Seas wheresoever for the terme of seaven yeares from the five and twentieth day of June then last past: And whereas the said Henry Bishopp, by deed poll or writeing under his hand and seale, beareing date the sixth day of this instant Aprill, and duely enrolled in the High Court of Chauncery, hath surrendered unto his said Majestie all his estate and interest of, in, and unto the said office, and all wages, fees, proffitts, and advantages thereunto belonging, together with the said Lres Patents themselves, to be cancelled; wch said surrender his Majestie hath accepted, and by these psents doth accept: And whereas our said Sovereigne Lord the King, in and by certaine other his Lres Patents under his Greate Seale of England, beareing date the day of the date of these psents, for the consideraçõn therein expressed, hath given and graunted unto the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, the Office of Post Master Generall, and the office called by the name and stile of His Majesties Post Master Generall, and alsoe the Office of the Post Master Generall: To hold from the five and twentieth day of March then and nowe last past for and dureing the terme of fower yeares and a quarter of a yeare, together with all wages, fees, proffitts, privileges, and advantages thereunto belonging, apperteineing, or annexed, as by the said last recited Lres Patents, relaçõn being therento had, amongst other things therein contained may at large appeare: And whereas it was and is intended that the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, and his and their sufficient Deputie and Deputies, should have, hold, use, exercise, and enjoy all and every the powers, priviledges, proffitts and advantages given, graunted, or expressed in the late Act of Parliament for erecting and establishing a Post Office: Now this Indenture Witnesseth, and the said King's most excellent Majestie, for and in consideraçõn of the yearely rents, coveñts and agreements herein after reserved and contained, wch on the parte and behalfe of the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, are and ought to be paid, observed, and performed, doth for himselfe, his heyres and successors, coveñnt and graunt to and with the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, by these psents, that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, and for noe other person or persons whatsoever, for and dureing the said terme of fower yeares and a quarter, to have hold, use, exercise, and enjoy all and every the allowances, powers, priviledges, and advantages in or by the said late Act of Parliament, given, graunted, or expressed: And the said Daniell O Neile, for himselfe, his Heyres, Executors, and Administrators, doth coveñnt and graunt to and with the the said King's most excellent Majestie, his Heyres and Successors, by these psents, that in consideraçõn of the said graunt of the office or offices aforesaid, and of the proffitts, privileges, and advantages thereof, he the said Daniell O Neile, his Heyres, Executors, Administrators or Assignes, or some or one of them, shall & will well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto his said Majestie, his Heyres and Successors, at the Receipt of his Majesties Exchequer at Westm, the yearely rent or sũme of twentie one thousand and five hundred pounds of lawfull money of England, upon the fower most usuall Feasts or Dayes of payment in the Yeare, that is to say, upon the fower and twentieth Day of June, commonly called Midsomer Day, the nine and twentieth Day of September, commonly called Michaelmas Day, the five and twentieth Day of December, commonly called Christmas Day, and the five and twentieth Day of March, commonly called Lady Day, or within thirty dayes next over or after anie of the said Feasts or Dayes, by even and equall porçõns for and dureing all the said terme, excepting onely the last quarter of the aforesaid fower Years; and a quarter the Rent of wch last Quarter is and is intended and agreed to be abated in respect of the advance of the sũme of five thousand three hundred seaventie five pounds, wch was paid by the said Henry Bishopp for one quarters rent before hand: Provided always that if it shall happen the said yearely rent of twentie one thousand and five hundred Pounds, or anie parte thereof, to be behinde and unpaid by the space of thirtie dayes next after anie of the respective dayes and times herein before limited for payment thereof, then it shall and may be lawfull to and for his

p. 75

Lease to Daniell  
O'Neile, Esquire.

his said Majestie, his Heyres and Successors, to enter upon the Office and Offices aforesaid, and the same to take, receive, and have againe to the use of his said Majestie, his Heyres and Successors, together with all and every the proffitts, benefitts, and advantages thereof, and that from and after the expiraçõn of the said thirtie dayes, and fayler of paym<sup>t</sup> after anie of the said respective times within w<sup>ch</sup> the said severall payments are agreed to be paid as aforesaid, the said recited L<sup>res</sup> Patents, & graunt of the said Office or Offices unto the said Daniell O Neile and his Assignes, and all and every the powers & priviledges therein and in these p<sup>res</sup>ents contained and graunted, shall cease and determine, and be taken and reputed to be absolutely null and voyde, anie thing in these p<sup>res</sup>ents or in the said last recited Letters Patents contained to the contrary thereof in anie wise notwithstanding: And the said Daniell O Neile for himselfe, his heyres, executors, administrators, and assignes, and every of them, doth further p<sup>ro</sup>mise and graunt to and with his said Majestie, his Heyres, and Successors, by these p<sup>res</sup>ents, that he the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, shall, at the rates and prizes for Postage of L<sup>res</sup> and Packetts mençõned and expressed in the said Act of Parliament, defray the whole charge of carryeing and recarryeing of the said Packetts and Mayles of L<sup>res</sup> and other Things, and all other charges whatsoever in mainteining the Office or Offices aforesaid, dureing the said terme by the said last recited L<sup>res</sup> Patents graunted, and that all and singuler L<sup>res</sup>, Packetts, and Dispatches, ordinary and extraordinary, directed or to be directed from or to his said Majestie, his Heyres or Successors, or from or to the Lord High Admirall of England for the time being, or from or to the Lord Chauncellor of England for the time being, or from or to the Lord Tresurer of England, or Comissioners of the Tresury for the time being, or from or to the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports for the time being, or from or to the Secretaryes of State, or either of them, for the time being, and also the single inland L<sup>res</sup> onely of the Members of the p<sup>res</sup>ent Parliam<sup>t</sup>, dureing the continuance of the Session of this Parliament, shall be conveyed and carryed, either by the comon or ordinary Mayle, or other speedy and safe passage, free of from the payment of anie rate or portage or other charges whatsoever; and that in case any complaints shall happen concerneing the managem<sup>t</sup> of the Office or Offices aforesaid dureing the said terme, the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, shall submitt the same to the heareing and determinaçõn of the Secretaryes of State for the time being, or either of them; and shall permitt and suffer the said Secretaryes of State for the time being, or either of them, from time to time, and at all times dureing the said terme, to have the Survey and Inspeccõn of all L<sup>res</sup> within the Office or Offices aforesaid, at their or either of their discreçõns: And further, that he the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, shall, from time to time dureing the said terme, give and deliver unto the said Secretaryes of State, or one of them, a true and perfect list or catalogue of all such Postmasters and other officers as shall be at anie time dureing the said terme employed by the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors or Assignes, in or about the executing of the Office or Offices aforesaid; and in case anie just and reasonable excepçõn shall be taken by the said Secretaryes, or either of them, ag<sup>t</sup> anie person or persons, the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes shall and will remove such person and persons ag<sup>t</sup> whom such excepçõns shall be taken out of and from his and their employment under him or them; and that he the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes shall offerr unto the said Secretaryes of State for the time being, or one of them, for their approbaçõn from time to time, all such alteraçõns of the p<sup>res</sup>ent settled post Stages, and all such ereccõns of newe Stages as shall be thought fitt by the said Daniell O'Neile, his Executors or Assignes, to be altered or erected for the better managem<sup>t</sup> and advantage of the Office or Offices aforesaid, w<sup>ch</sup> alteraçõns shall not be made unles the same be first approved by the said Secretaryes, or one of them; Provided, nevertheless, that if at anie time dureing the said terme it shall happen anie plague to be in the Cittie of London, or any other greate Towne or Cittie, inland or forraigne, into w<sup>ch</sup> the Postage of Letters is usuall, or if Warre, either Civill or with such Forraigne Naçõn with whom there is nowe commerce, shall happen, or if the said Graunt of the Office or Offices aforesaid prove to be ineffectuall, either in part or in whole, by reason of anie p<sup>re</sup>cedent right of anie person or persons to anie parte or partes, or through anie other defect in the said last recited L<sup>res</sup> Patents, that then such abatement of the Yearely rent herein before reserved shall be made and allowed unto the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, proporçõnable unto the proffitts, as shall be proved unto the said Secretaryes of State for the time being, or one of them, to have beene made of such part or partes of the Office or Offices aforesaid w<sup>ch</sup> cannot be enjoyed and proporçõnable to the losse w<sup>ch</sup> the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors or Assignes shall make appeare to be sustained through anie the reasons or causes aforesaid: And the Lord Tresurer, Chauncellor, Undertresurer, and Barons of his Majesties Courte of Exchequer, and other the Officers and Ministers of the same Courte for the time being, and all others to whom it doth or may in this behalfe concerne, shall make or cause to be made to the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, from time to time, all and every the defalcaçõns, allowances, and abatements w<sup>ch</sup>, for all or anie the reasons or causes herein before mençõned, shall be allowed by the said Secretaryes of State for the time being, or either of them, signified by anie writing under their or either of their hands; and these p<sup>res</sup>ents and the inrollment thereof in the said Courte of Exchequer shall be to the said Lord Tresurer, Chauncellor, Undertresurer, and Barons of the said Exchequer, and all other the Officers and Ministers of the same Courte for the time being, a sufficient Warrant and Discharge for making the said defalcaçõns, allowances, and abatements for all or anie the causes or reasons herein before mençõned, by Way of discharge or otherwise, to be made from time to time as often as the same shall happen, these p<sup>res</sup>ents or anie thing therein contained to the contrary thereof in anie wise notwithstanding; Provided, nevertheless,

*Frank's**p. 77**since surveyor, inspection**= carry by post*

Lease to Daniell  
O Neile, Esquire.

nevertheless, that if the said Secretaryes of State for the time being, or one of them, shall not allowe unto the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, to his and their satisfaccōn, such abatem<sup>t</sup> of the said Yearely rent as shall be made appeare to be proporccōnable to the losse or damage w<sup>ch</sup> the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors or Assignes, shall, at anie time or times, susteine by reason of anie the causes or accidents aforesaid, according to the true intent and meaneing of these p<sup>s</sup>ents, that then, upon three monthes notice to be given unto the said Secretaryes of State or one of them, and upon he paym<sup>t</sup> of all such arreares of the rent reserved in and by these p<sup>s</sup>ents as shal lthen happen to be due and payable unto his said Majestie, his Heyres and Successors, accounting the aforesaid Sumē of five thousand three hundred seaventie and five Pounds payd before hand for the rent of one Quarter of a yeare, it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, to Surrender upp his and their Estate and Interest in & to the Office or Offices aforesaid, and all and every the p<sup>m</sup>ises, and his said Majestie shall and will accept thereof, and from the time of such surrender all Coveñnts and Agreements concerneing the payment of the yearely rents or sumēs of money hereinbefore menccōned shall be null & voyde, anie thing in the said last recited L<sup>r</sup>es Patents or in these p<sup>s</sup>ents contened to the contrary thereof in anie wise notwithstanding: And the said Daniell O Neile, for himself, his Executors & and Assignes, doth further coveñnt and graunt to and with his said Majestie, his Heyres and Successors, by these p<sup>s</sup>ents, that he the said Daniel O Neile, his Executors or Assignes, shall not nor will at anie time or times hereafter, have, receive or take anie other or greater price or prices, rate or rates, allowance or allowances, for the carrieing or recarrying of anie L<sup>r</sup>es, Packetts or Mayles of L<sup>r</sup>es whatsoever then such as in the said Act of Parliament are limited and appointed: And his said Majestie for himselfe, his Heirs and Successors, doth hereby coveñnt and graunt to and with the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, by these p<sup>s</sup>ents, that he, the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, for and under the payment of the yearely rents or sumēs of money herein before agreed to be paid in manner and forme aforesaid, and performance of the other coveñnts and agreements herein alsoe before menccōned on his and theyr parte to be performed, shall and may quietly and peaceably, have, hold and enjoy the Office or Offices aforesaid, with all and every the proffits and appurtenāns thereunto belonging, and all and singuler other the powers and authorities, rights, priviledges and advantages herein before graunted, dureing the said terme of fower Yeares and one quarter of a Yeare free and cleer from all & all manner of former graunt or graunts thereof, or of anie parte thereof, to anie person or persons whatsoever, without the lest trouble, disturbances or eviccōn of anie person or persons whatsoever for and concerneing the same; and that free and cleer, freely and cleerly acquitted, exonerated, and discharged, or otherwise saved and kept harmles and indemnified by declaracōn, abatem<sup>t</sup> and allowance for the same as aforesaid, from time to time and at all times hereafter dureing the said terme, by his said Majestie, his Heyres and Successors, at the sole and p<sup>pp</sup>er costs and charges, in the Lawe or otherwise, of his said Majestie, his Heyres and Successors: And further, that as well these p<sup>s</sup>ents as the said last recited L<sup>r</sup>es Patents, and all and singuler the graunts, matters and things therein respectively contened, shall be made good, ratified, and confirmed unto him the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, by such other L<sup>r</sup>es Patents under the Greate Seal of England, to be had and obtained as by the said Daniell O Neile, his Executors and Assignes, or by his or their Councell learned in the Lawe, shall in that behalfe and for that end be reasonably devised, advised and required. In Witness, &c. Witness the King at Westm<sup>st</sup> the nine and twentieth day of Aprill.

P B<sup>r</sup>e de Privat<sup>t</sup> Sigill.

— LXI. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 31.)

PROCLAMATION for better quieting the Postmaster-general in the Execution of his Office; dated at Whitehall, 25 May 1663.

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION for the better quieting the Postmaster-general in the Execution of his Office, and for his future Encouragement therein.

*Charles R.*

WHEREAS, by our letters patents, under our great seal of England, bearing date the 14th day of August, in the twelfth year of our reign, we did constitute and appoint Henry Bishop, esq<sup>re</sup>, our Postmaster, which said letters patents have since been surrendered to us, and we have thought fit, by other our letters patents, under our great seal of England, to constitute and appoint our trusty and welbeloved Daniel Oneale, esq<sup>re</sup>, one of the grooms of our bedchamber, our Postmaster-general, to perform and execute all and every the powers and authorities in the Act of Parliament, for erecting and establishing the office of Postmaster-general, specified and contained: And whereas we are informed, that, notwithstanding our former Proclamations touching the execution of the said Post-office, many inconveniēces have happened to many of our loving subjects, and to the great damage of the publick peace of our realmes, by the carriage of both foreign and inland letters by common carriers, and others not authorized by the said Act, nor licensed by our Postmaster-general, whereby many of our loving subjects are delayed and disappointed

of

of their correspondency, and the same may be a great means of lessening the revenue of our said office, and may tend to the promoting seditious designs, to the disturbance of the peace of our realms: for prevention whereof, and the better quieting and encouraging of our said Postmaster-general in the execution of his office, and the due payment of his rent, We have thought fit, by this our proclamation, further to advertise all and singular our good subjects of their duties, which is also expressed and declared in the said Act of Parliament, that they are not to carry or re-carry any letters with speed, or by post, and deliver the same for hire, within any of our dominions, or to or from any parts beyond the seas, without the licence of our said Postmaster-general, and require all due obedience thereunto accordingly. And We do also stricktly prohibit and forbid all and singular person and persons whatsoever, other than the said Daniel Oneale, his deputies, servants, or assigns, directly or indirectly, to do, execute, perform, or intrude themselves to have any employment in or about anything which ought to be done by him the said Daniel Oneale, his deputies, servants, or assigns, without the said Daniel Oneale, his deputation, licence, or allowance, upon pain of our displeasure, and such other penalty as may be inflicted upon the offenders for contempt of this our royal commandment and of the said Act of Parliament: and that the said Daniel Oneale, his deputies, servants, and assigns, may the better attend the service and duty of the said office of Postmaster-general, we do hereby further declare our royall will and pleasure to be, that the said Daniel Oneale, his deputies, servants, and assigns, shall be from henceforth freed, exempted, and discharged of and from serving upon all juries, inquests, musters, or any other publick employments or attendances that may any way impede, retard, or prejudice the execution of his or their duty and service in the said office; and that he and they shall have and enjoy all such priviledges as have been formerly granted by any of our royal ancestors, unto the masters of their posts, and servants. And we do further expressly will and command, by these presents, all mayors, sheriffs, justices of peace, constables, bayliffs, all searchers of our ports, and all other of our officers and ministers wheresoever within their several jurisdictions and offices, from time to time to make diligent search for all mayls and bougets in any ship or vessell, and other carriages, of all such disallowed and unlicensed carriers and messengers, or other suspected persons carrying pacquets or letters from place to place within our said realms and dominions, or coming in, or going out of the realm, to or from any other kingdoms or countreys, contrary to the tenor of the said Act of Parliament, and the rights and priviledges of the Postmaster-general therein declared and established; and to seize all and every such mayls and pacquets of letters which shall be found in the hands of persons not having lawful warrant or authority from our Postmaster-general for the time being to carry the same: and to carry the said mayls or pacquets of letters to our General Post-office in London, or to the deputy of our said Postmaster-general, in any part or place where the same shall be seized, to the end that they may be disposed with all speed, for the benefit of all such our loving subjects as are concerned therein. And We do hereby also straitly charge and command, that all postmasters within all our realms and dominions, and all others relating to the said Post-office, shall within six moneths next after the date hereof, obtain under the hand and seal of the Bishop or Ordinary of the diocese wherein the same postmasters, or other persons relating to the said office, do live, and deliver, or cause the same to be delivered to our said Postmaster-general, or his deputy, in the office aforesaid, a certificate that he is conformable to the discipline of the Church of England, upon pain of being put out and discharged of his employment and charge: And we do further charge and command, that no postmasters, or other officers that shall be employed in the conveying of letters, or distributing of the same, or any other person or persons of what quality or condition soever they be, *except by the immediate warrant of our Principal Secretaries of State,* shall presume to open any letters or pacquets not directed unto themselves, or that they or any other persons whatsoever do stop any mayl in the passage to or from London, or any other place whither the same is consigned and directed, but shall truly and faithfully deliver the same, without any opening, concealing, or retarding the delivery thereof, upon pain of our high displeasure, and such other penalties and forfeitures as may be inflicted upon the offenders herein. And we do hereby will and command, that the names of such person or persons as shall presume to act or do anything contrary to our will and pleasure hereinbefore declared, be immediately certified, with the places of their abode, to our Principal Secretaries of State, or one of them, to the end they may be proceeded against and punished according to their demerits.

Given at our Court at Whitehall, the 25th day of May 1663, in the Fifteenth year of our reign.

God save the King!

— LXII. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 32.) 16 July 1667.

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION for quieting the Post-Master-General in the execution of his Office.

Charles R.

WHEREAS We have, by Our Letters Patents under Our Great Seal, constituted and appointed Our Right Trusty and well-beloved Councillour, Henry Lord Arlington, our Post-Master-General, to perform and execute all and every the powers mentioned in a late

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Act

State Paper Office.  
Collection, No. 245.

Act of Parliament, touching the erecting and setting an Office of Post-Master-General: And whereas the secret and indirect conveyance of letters, by ways unlawful and unauthorized, doth not only tend to the diminution of Our Revenue, by lessening the office of Post-Master-General, but may be a means to promote seditious designs, and to disturb the peace of Our Realm: We have thought fit therefore, by this our Proclamation, to advertize all and singular our good subjects of their duty, and to require their obedience accordingly: And we do hereby strictly prohibit and forbid all and singular person and persons whatsoever (other then the said Henry Lord Arlington, his deputies, servants or assigns), directly or indirectly, to do, execute, perform, or intrude themselves to have any employment in or about anything which ought to be done by him the said Henry Lord Arlington his deputies, servants, or assigns, without his the said Lord Henry Arlington's deputation, licence, or allowance, upon pain of Our displeasure, and such other penalty, as may be inflicted upon the offenders, for contempt of this our royal commandment, and of the said Act of Parliament: And that the said Henry Lord Arlington, his deputies, servants and assigns, may the better attend the service and duty of the said Office of Post-Master-General, We do hereby further declare Our Royal Will and Pleasure to be, That the said Henry Lord Arlington, his deputies, servants, and assigns, shall be from henceforth freed, exempted, and discharged of and from serving upon all juries, inquests, musters, or any other publick employments, or attendances that may any way impede retard or prejudice the execution of his or their duty and service in the said office; and that he or they shall have and enjoy all such priviledges as have been formerly granted by any of Our Royal Ancestors unto the Masters of their Posts, and servants: And We do further expressly will and command, by these presents, all Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Constables, Bayliffs, all Searchers of Our Ports, and all other Our Officers and Ministers wheresoever within their several jurisdictions and offices, from time to time to make diligent search for all males, bougets, and other carriages of all such disallowed and unlicensed Carryers and Messengers, or other suspected persons, carrying Pacquets or Letters from place to place, within Our said Realms and Dominions, or coming in or going out of this Realm, to or from any other kingdoms or countreys, contrary to the tenor of the said Act of Parliament and the rights and priviledges of the Post-Master-General therein declared and established; and to seize all and every such males and pacquets of letters, which shall be found in the hands of persons not having lawful warrant or authority from Our Post-Master-General for the time being to carry the same; and the said males or pacquets of Letters, together with the names of the persons so as aforesaid presuming to convey them, immediately to send up, and certifie to Our Privy Council: And We do further will and command, that all Letters and Pacquets that shall be brought to any Post-town within our dominions, or any the members thereof, by the Master of any ship or vessel, or any his company or passengers therein (other then such letters as are in the said Act excepted, or may be sent by common known carryers, or by a friend in manner as is in the said Act expressed) shall by such master, passenger, or other person, be forthwith delivered unto the Deputy or Deputies only of the Post-Master-General for the time being, appointed for the said port-town, and by him or them to be sent post to the General Letter Office, to be delivered according to the several and respective directions of the same, according to the Purport and Intent of the said Act of Parliament in that behalf.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 1667 in the Nineteenth Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

— LXIII. —

(Lords' Journals, 1680.)

13 Lords' J. 19 Nov.  
1680, pp. 678, 679.

The House was adjourned into a Committee, to consider of further heads for securing the Protestant religion.

The House was adjourned.

And the Lord Privy Seal reported, that the Committee have made some further heads for securing the Protestant religion, which are offered to the consideration of The House:

1. That Monday next the head concerning the Queen and marriage of the King may be debated.

Agreed to.

2. That a Committee be appointed to examine the way of managing of the Post-office in England and Ireland, and who have the care of it; and what miscarriages, defects, and abuses have been in the management thereof.

Agreed to.

And the Lords following were appointed a Committee for that purpose (28 Peers appointed, including the Earl of Shaftesbury).

— LXIV. —

(Mr. Lechmere, 34.)

PROCLAMATION for enforcing the Act of Parliament for settling the Profits of the Post-office on the Duke of York; dated Windsor, 25 August 1683.]

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION for enforcing the due Execution of the Act of Parliament, intituled, An Act for settling the Profits of the Post-office on his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and his Heirs Males, and for prevention of Treasonable Correspondencies and other Inconveniencies arising by the Infringement of the said Act.

State Paper Office,  
Proca Coll. No. 426.

*Charles R.*

WHEREAS the office of Postmaster-general hath been erected by Act of Parliament, in the twelfth year of his Majesty's reign, and the well-ordering thereof is thereby declared to be a matter of general concernment, and of great advantage, as well for preservation of trade and commerce, as otherwise; and whereas also the greatest part of the revenue and profits thereby arising is, by one other Act of Parliament in the fifteenth year of his Majesty's reign, granted and assigned by his Majesty unto his most entirely beloved brother, James Duke of York, for and towards his maintenance and support; which laws and statutes notwithstanding, several persons, for their private lucre, have lately practised, and do still continue in a secret and most unlawful manner to make a general collection of letters, and to give them conveyance and delivery for hire, without any authority from the Postmaster-general; whereby, not onely the revenue arising by the said office is diminished, but likewise several dangerous correspondencies are maintained, and the seditious designs of many evil-disposed persons, and the treasons of the late conspirators are very much promoted: his Majesty, therefore, for the prevention hereof in time to come, and to the end that such persons who shall presume hereafter to offend in like manner, may remain without all excuse, hath thought fit, by this his Royal Proclamation, to require and enjoyn all his loving subjects, and doth hereby strictly charge and command all and every person and persons (other then the Postmaster-general for the time being, his deputies or assigns), that they presume not, either directly or indirectly, to set up any office, or to contrive or practise any way or means for collecting and receiving of letters and packets, or to carry, recarry, or deliver the same with speed and for hire: and, to this end, his Majesty doth further require and command them and every of them, that they presume not to set up any foot-post, horse-post, post or stage-coach, or packet-boat, for carrying or recarrying of letters or packets, or to employ or make use of any which shall be set up for that purpose, other then such as shall be licensed and authorized by the Postmaster-general for the time being, his deputies or assigns. And because several carriers, drivers of stage-coaches, or waggons, haglers, masters of ships, pursers, or other mariners, do very often, under colour and pretence of their respective employments, intermeddle with and intrude upon the office of the Postmaster-general; his Majesty doth hereby more particularly and expressly charge and command all carriers, that they presume not to carry any letters, other then such as shall concern the goods wherewith they are charged, beyond the first post-stage to which they shall arrive. and that they presume not to outgo their packs or waggons, or deliver any letters which they carry, sooner, or with more speed then their respective packs or waggons shall arrive. And his Majesty doth, in like manner, charge and command all drivers of stage-coaches, haglers, and such like persons, that they presume not in any kind, or upon any pretence whatsoever, to intermeddle with the conveyance and delivery of any letters as aforesaid; but that they do, from time to time, refuse all such letters which shall be so tendred to them. And his Majesty doth also charge and command all masters of ships, pursers, and mariners, that they presume not to carry any ship-letters, other then the letters of merchants, owners, and masters, beyond the first post-stage to which they shall arrive in England. And if any carriers, drivers of stage-coaches, haglers, masters of ships, pursers, or other mariners, shall be found carrying of letters unlawfully, or in any other manner, they shall incur his Majesty's high displeasure, and suffer the utmost penalty which can be inflicted upon such as shall be found to have broken his Majesty's laws, and to be wilful contemners of his Royal command; and moreover, all letters whatsoever sent or conveyed by such clandestine and indirect ways, and by persons not lawfully authorized, shall be lookt upon as letters of dangerous consequence, and shall accordingly be seized and brought to one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, or to some one or more of the Lords of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, to the end the same may be opened and inspected, and the persons conveying or sending them may be proceeded against according to law. And for the better execution of his Majesty's command, and as a means, as well to prevent the said treasonable correspondencies and other inconveniencies, as to secure the revenue arising by the said office, his Majesty will cause such searchers, waiters, and other officers to be appointed in all convenient places, as may be fit and proper for the discovery of such practices, and carrying such letters, to be seized, and such offenders names to certified. And in the meantime his Majesty doth strictly charge and command all mayors, sheriffs, justices of peace, constables, bayliffs, searchers of his Majesty's ports, and all other his officers and ministers whatsoever within their several jurisdictions and offices, from time to time to make diligent search for all mailes, buggets, and baggs in any ship, vessel, waggon, coach, or other unlawful or unlicensed carriage;

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and all such letters which they find to be conveyed or carried contrary to law, to seize and send up to one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, or to some [one] or more of the Lords of his Majesty's Privy Council, together with the names of the persons offending, to the end such further proceeding may be had as shall be found agreeable to the laws and statutes of the realm. And that no man hereafter may complain for want of a settled post in or near particular by-towns, or places lying on the post-road, which complaint hath hitherto been made the excuse or pretence for sending and carrying of letters by other indirect and unlawful conveyances, his Majesty doth hereby also require and command the Postmaster-general for the time being, that upon or before the Fourteenth day of September next, to take effectual care for the conveyance of all by-letters, by establishing correspondencies, at the least charge and greatest ease that may be to the country, in all considerable market towns with the next adjacent post-stage; and that he cause a map or card thereof to be forthwith printed, to the end that all his Majesty's subjects may know where, and to what place to address their respective letters. And his Majesty doth further charge and command all and every person or persons, other then the Postmaster-general for the time being, his deputies or assigns, that they presume not to prepare or provide any horses or furniture to let to hire unto, or in all or any the thorough posts, and persons riding post by commission or without, to and from all and every the parts and places of England, Scotland, and Ireland, where any post-roads are or shall be settled and established, unless the Postmaster-general, his deputies or assigns, shall first fail to provide and furnish the person or persons, so riding post, with sufficient horses and furniture, within the space of half an hour after demand thereof made, as they will answer the contrary at their perils.

Given at our Court at Windsor the 25th of August 1683, in the five and thirtieth year of our Reign.

God save the King!

— LXV. —

(Mr. Reeve, 7.) 7 September 1685.

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION for enforcing the due execution of the Acts of Parliament for erecting the Post-office, and for settling the Profits thereof upon us, our Heirs and Successors.

*James R.*

WHEREAS the office of Postmaster-general hath been erected by Act of Parliament in twelfth year of his late Majesty's reign, and the well-ordering thereof is thereby declared to be a matter of general concernment, and of great advantage, as well for preservation of trade and commerce, as otherwise: And whereas also the greatest part of the revenue and profits thereby arising was, by one other Act of Parliament, in the fifteenth year of his said late Majesty's reign, granted and assigned by his late Majesty unto us, by the name of his most entirely beloved brother James Duke of York, for and towards our maintenance and support: And whereas, by one other Act of Parliament, made in the first year of our reign, the profits and revenue of the said office was settled upon us, our heirs and successors; which laws and statutes notwithstanding, several persons, for their private lucre, have lately practised, and do still continue, in a secret and most unlawful manner, to make a generall collection of letters, and to give them conveyance and delivery for hire, without any authority from the Postmaster-general, whereby, not onely the revenue arising by the said office is diminished, but likewise several dangerous correspondencies are preserved and maintained, and the seditious designs of many evil-disposed persons are very much promoted; his Majesty, therefore, for the prevention hereof in time to come, and to the end that such persons who shall presume hereafter to offend in like manner, may remain without all excuse, hath thought fit, by this his royal proclamation, to require and enjoyn all his loving subjects, and doth hereby straightly charge and command all and every person and persons (other then the Postmaster-general for the time being, his deputies or assigns), that they presume not, either directly or indirectly, to set up any office, or to contrive or practise any way or means, for collecting and receiving of letters and packets, or to carry, recarry, or deliver the same with speed and for hire. And, to this end, his Majesty doth further require and command them, and every of them, that they presume not to set up any foot-post, horse-post, post, or stage-coach or packet-boat, for carrying or recarrying of letters and packets, or to employ or make use of any which shall be set up for that purpose, other then such as shall be licensed and authorized by the Postmaster-general for the time being, his deputies or assigns. And because several carriers, drivers of stage-coaches and waggons, haglers, masters of ships, pursers, or other mariners, do very often, under colour and pretence of their respective employments, intermeddle with and intrude upon the office of the Postmaster-generall, his Majesty doth hereby more particularly and expressly charge and command all carriers, that they presume not to carry any letters, other then such as shall concern the goods wherewith they are charged, beyond the first postage to which they shall arrive; and that they presume not to outgo their packs or waggons, or deliver any letters which they carry, sooner or with more speed than their respective packs or waggons shall arrive. And his Majesty doth, in like manner, charge and command all drivers of stage-coaches, haglers, and such like persons, that they presume not, in any kind, or upon any pretence whatsoever, to intermeddle with the conveyance and delivery of any letters as aforesaid, but that they do, from time to time, refuse all such letters which shall be so tended to them. And his Majesty doth also command

Proclamation of King  
James II.  
Anno 1685.

mand all masters of ships, boursers, and mariners, that they presume not to carry any ship-letters, other than the letters of merchants, owners, and masters, beyond the first postage to which they shall arrive in England; and that they do there deliver the same into the deputy or deputies onely of the Postmaster-general for the time being. And if any carriers, drivers of stage-coaches, haglers, masters of ships, pursers, or other mariners, shall be found carrying of letters unlawfully, or in any other manner, they shall incur his Majestie's high displeasure, and suffer the utmost penalty which can be inflicted upon such as shall be found to have broken his Majestie's laws, and to be wilful contemners of his royal command; and, moreover, all letters whatsoever sent or conveyed by such clandestine and indirect ways, and by persons not lawfully authorized, shall be look't upon as letters of dangerous consequence, and shall accordingly be seized and brought to one of his Majestie's principal Secretaries of State, or to some one or more of the Lords of his Majestie's most honorable Privy Council, to the end the same may be opened and inspected, and the persons conveying or sending them may be proceeded against according to law. And for the better execution or his Majestie's commands, and as a means to secure the revenue arising by the said office, his Majesty will cause such searchers, waiters, and other officers, to be appointed in all convenient places as may be fit and proper for the discovery of such practices, and carrying such letters to be seized, and such offenders' names to be certified. And in the meantime his Majesty doth strictly charge and command all mayors, sheriffs, justices of peace, constables, bayliffs, searchers of his Majestie's ports, and all other his officers and ministers whatsoever within their several jurisdictions and offices, from time to time to make diligent search for all mails, buggets, and bags, in any ship, vessel, waggon, coach, or other unlawful or unlicensed carriage; and all such letters which they find to be conveyed or carried contrary to law, to seize and send up to one of his Majestie's principal Secretaries of State, or to some one or more of the Lords of his Majestie's Privy Council, together with the names of the persons offending, to the end such further proceeding may be had as shall be found agreeable to the laws and statutes of the realm. And that no man hereafter may complain for want of a settled post in or near particular by-towns or places lying on the post-road, which complaint hath hitherto been made the excuse or pretence for sending or carrying of letters by other indirect and unlawful conveyances, his Majesty doth hereby also require and command the Postmaster-general for the time being to take effectual care for the conveyance of all by-letters, by establishing correspondencies, at the least charge and greatest ease that may be to the country, in all considerable market towns with the next adjacent post-stages; and that he cause a map or card thereof to be forthwith printed, to the end that all his Majestie's subjects may know where and to what place to address their respective letters. And his Majesty doth further charge and command all and every person of persons, other than the Postmaster-general for the time being, his deputies or assigns, that they presume not to prepare or provide any horses or furnitures to let to hire, unto or in all or any the thorough-posts and persons riding post by commission or without, to and from all and every the parts and places of England, Scotland, and Ireland where any posts-roads are or shall be settled and established, unless the Postmaster-general, his deputies or assigns, shall first fail to provide and furnish the person or persons, so riding post, with sufficient horses and furniture, within the space of half an hour after demand thereof made, as they will answer the contrary at their perils.

Given at our court at Windsor, the 7th day of September 1685, in the first year of our reign.

God save the King!

— LXVI. —

(Commons' Journals, 1696.)

Mr. Guy, from the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, presented to The House a state of the revenue, from Michaelmas 1693, to Michaelmas 1694; with the loans, debts, and charges upon the revenue; together with an account of the establishment:

11 Com. Journ. p 204.  
207. 15 Jan. 1694-5.

And the same was read; and is as followeth; viz.

\* \* \* \* \*

LETTER-MONEY.

The revenue arising in the General Post-office, in the year ended at Michaelmas 1694, produced, over and above the charges of management, the sum of 59,972 *l.* 14 *s.* 9 *d.*

The present debt, by tallies upon this revenue, is 19,205 *l.* 9 *s.* 2 *d.*; and the yearly charge by special grant thereupon, doth amount to the sum of 21,200 *l.* per annum, which is also part of the charge of the civil list, as appears by the annexed list, marked B.

Earl of Rochester	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£.	4,000
Duchess of Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		4,700
Duke of Leeds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		3,500
Duke of Schomberg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		4,000
Earl of Bath	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2,500
Lord Keeper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2,000
William Dorkra, to end at Midsummer 1697	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		500
									£.	21,200



11 Com. Journ. p. 551.  
7 April 1696.

A petition of Richard Dashwood, George Dashwood, and Anne Dashwood, younger children of George Dashwood, esq., deceased, was presented to The House, and read; setting forth that King Charles the Second, being empowered by Act of Parliament made in the 15th year of his reign, to charge the profits arising from the Post-office with any yearly sum, not exceeding 5,382*l.* 10*s.* did, by his letters patent dated the 19th of January, in the 20th year of his reign, grant unto the Lord Viscount Grandison and Edward Villers, and their heirs, the yearly sum of 4,700*l.*, to be paid out of the said revenue; which grant was afterwards, by another Act made in the 22d and 23d of the said king, confirmed: that the said Lord Grandison and Mr. Villers' names were only used in trust for the Duchess of Cleveland, and her heirs: and by indenture dated 22 September 1683, the said trustees did, by the direction of the said Duchess, grant the said yearly sum of 4,700*l.* to the executors of the petitioners' father, and trustees for the petitioners, for the consideration of 5,000*l.* paid to the said Duchess; and afterwards the said trustees lent 1,000*l.* more to the Duchess upon the said security: that the 6,000*l.* is not paid, and the interest is greatly in arrear; and the petitioners have no other security for their money than as aforesaid: and praying that a clause in the Bill now depending in the House, for laying several duties on low wines or spirits of the first extraction; and for preventing the frauds and abuses of brewers, distillers, and other persons chargeable with the duties of excise, relating to the Post-office, may not prejudice the petitioners' claims to the profits arising thereby.

Ordered, That the consideration of the said petition be referred to the Committee of the whole House, to whom the said Bill is committed.

Idem, same page.

[A petition to the same effect from the Most Noble Barbara, Duchess of Cleveland.]

11 Com. Journ. p. 553.  
9 April 1696.

A petition of John Ward, merchant, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth that King Charles the Second, by letters patents, in the 13th year of his reign, did grant to Sir Samuel Moreland and his assigns 500*l.* per annum out of the profits of the Post-office, during his life: that in 1663 Sir Samuel Moreland assigned the said annuity to Sir Arthur Slingsby; and by several other mesne assignments, the same came to Sir Robert Clayton, as executor of Alderman Morris, who for 1,420*l.*, really paid, assigned his interest therein; under which assignment the petitioner claims a moiety of the said annuity, during the said Sir Samuel's life: that there is a Bill now before the House for laying several duties on low wines or spirits of the first extraction, and for preventing the frauds and abuses of brewers, distillers, and other persons chargeable with the duties of excise; which Bill is, amongst other things, to charge the revenue of the Post-office with 515,000*l.*: that the said revenue is no ancient revenue to the Crown, but subject to several other grants, and to some by his present Majesty, as the petitioner is informed: and praying that he may be heard, as to his claim to the said annuity, before the said Bill do pass.

Ordered, That the consideration of the said petition be referred to the Committee, to whom he said Bill is committed.

— LXVII. —

ACT OF PARLIAMENT OF SCOTLAND, 5th William III.—5 July 1695.

“ ACT anent the Post Office.”

Establishes a General Post Office within the City of Edinburgh, authorizes certain rates for letters, &c. &c.

DOCUMENTS SPECIALLY RELATING TO THE SEARCH AND EXAMINATION OF LETTERS.

ABSTRACT of the DOCUMENTS specially relating to the SEARCH and EXAMINATION of LETTERS, given in by Sir F. Palgrave, Deputy Keeper of the Records.—(1 to 6.)

Claus. 18 Edw. II. m. 23. Rymer, n. e. vol. 2, p. 582. <sup>1818 pt. 1.</sup>

18 December, 18 Edw. II., 1324.—Writ or letter to the Constable of Dover and Warden of the Cinque Ports, to the Mayor and Sheriffs of London, the Bailiffs of Bristol, Southampton, and Portsmouth, and the Sheriffs of Hants, Somerset, Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall, noticing that the previous orders *de scrutinio faciendo* had not been observed, in consequence of which many letters prejudicial to the Crown were brought into the kingdom. They are, therefore, commanded to make diligent scrutiny of all persons passing from parts beyond the seas to England, and to stop all letters concerning which sinister suspicions might arise, and their bearers, and to keep the bearers in custody until further directions, and to transmit the letters so intercepted to the King with the utmost speed. "*cum omni celeritate*"

1. App. LXXVIII.

Patent, 19 Edw. II. part I, m. 12. Rymer, n. e. vol. 2, p. 616.

10 December, 19 Edw. II. 1325.—Letters-patent noticing the appointment of Nicholas Kyriel as Admiral of the Fleet, from the mouth of the Thames to the Cinque Ports, and other ports towards the eastern parts, and the power given to him to search in all ports and places on the before-mentioned shores all persons entering the kingdom, whether they bear any letters prejudicial or suspicious to the King or his lieges, and to arrest the bearers, together with the letters, and to send the same to the King, or to keep them in prison, if the King should be in remote parts: all the King's Bailiffs, &c. commanded to assist the Admiral; but they are not, under pretext of such powers, to attack or oppress any merchants or others crossing the seas.

2. App. LXXIX.

Patent, 20 Edw. II. m. 11. Rymer, *ut supra*, p. 644.

28 September 1326.—Writ to the Mayor and Bailiffs of Lincoln, reciting, amongst other things, that the Queen, by the council and abetment of the King's enemies, writes daily divers letters to the archbishops, bishops, prelates, earls, barons, and other the King's lieges, as well of the clergy as the laity, and to the commons of various towns, and to individual persons, in order to accomplish their false compassments. The mayor and bailiffs are therefore charged, that if any letters arrive from the Queen, Prince Edward, the King's brother, or any the King's enemies in their company, that they will seize the messengers and bearers of the same with the said letters, but without opening the said letters, to the King.

3. App. LXXXI.

Similar writs to the Mayor and Bailiffs of Norwich, Bristol, Nottingham, Cambridge, Northampton, Yarmouth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Worcester, Lynn, Oxford, Winchester, Stamford, London, York, Exeter. "*Ever my liege*"

"*Oxford*"

Rot. Vascon, 19 & 20 Edw. II. m. 6. Rymer, *ut supra*, p. 642.

24 September 1326.—Writ to Robert de Kendale, Constable of Dover and Warden of the Cinque Ports, noticing the previous commands, as well under the great seal as well under the privy seal, to cause diligent scrutiny to be made concerning all letters brought into the kingdom from foreign parts, and that all letters prejudicial to the Crown, or suspected, should be sent to the King. The Warden is diligently commanded to execute such previous commands, and to return his proceedings to the King.

4. App. LXXXI.

Similar writs to all the Bailiffs, &c. of all the principal ports of England round the whole coast, from Scarborough to Swansea. *1327 similar order to Ed. in Rymer 2, 2 (1821) p. 726*

Fine Roll, 1 Ric. II. p. 1, m. 7.

5 December 1377.—Patent whereby the King appoints Philip Walwayn to inspect, by himself or his deputies, all ships and boats coming to or going from the kingdom, within the Port of London or River Thames, and to search ("*Scrutinium*") all such ships and boats and persons whereof there may be suspicion that they carry wool, skins, hides, cloth, or other merchandise liable to custom duty, and not cocketted and paying the custom, or gold or silver in money or bullion, or jewels, and to search *if any persons bear into or out of the realm any bulls, letters, instruments,\* or processes, or other things prejudicial to the King or his subjects, contrary to proclamations and prohibitions*, and to arrest as forfeitures all the above-named articles, with the ships, boats, and persons bearing them, and to keep them until otherwise directed.

5. App. LXXXII.

Similar patents for all the principal sea-ports are found almost every year from Ric. II. to Edward IV. both inclusive, with little material variation, excepting that the patents of the reign of Edward IV. require the searcher to execute his office in person, and not by deputy.

\* This includes private as well as public instruments, for many communications from Rome were private instructions to individuals.

Extract from the Trial of Dr. Henry for High Treason.

6. App. LXXXV.

582.

M 4

*Edw. III. 1343 stopped royal letters and bulls in England (Rymer 2, 2 (1821) 1220), does not to him, remains to be ascertained. Addressed to all parts, arrived in many of the principal ports*

ABSTRACT of DOCUMENTS from the State-Paper Office, concerning the INTERCEPTING and OPENING of LETTERS, delivered in by Mr. *Lechmere*, Deputy Keeper of State Papers.—(1 and 2).

- App. LXXXIII. 1. Extract of a letter from Cardinal Wolsey to Dr. Sampson, Ambassador from Henry VIII. to the Emperor Charles V., giving an account of the intercepting of the despatches sent by Monsieur de Praet, Ambassador from the Emperor Charles V. to Henry VIII.
- App. LXXV. 2. Letter from the Venetian Ambassador to King Charles I., complaining of the intercepting and opening of his letters, 1641.

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MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS relating to the Intercepting and Opening of Letters.—  
(1 to 14).

- App. LXXIV.  
LXXVI.  
App. LXXVII. 1. Extracts from the Lords' and Commons' Journals, Annis 1641, 1643, 1659-60.
- App. LXXIX. 2. Extracts from the Commons' Journals, 1678, relating to the letters of Coleman, one of the victims to the Popish Plot.
- App. LXXX. 3. Extracts from the Lords' Journals, 1723, relating to the intercepted letters in the case of Bishop Atterbury.
- App. LXXXI. 4. Extracts from the speech of Mr. Wynne, counsel for Bishop Atterbury, from Howell's State Trials, vol. 16.
- App. LXXXII. 5. Extracts from the Commons' Journals, 1723, relating to the intercepted letters in the case of Plunket.
- App. LXXXIII. 6. Extracts from the Commons' Journals, 1723, relating to the intercepted letters in the case of Kelly.
- App. LXXXIV. 7. Extracts from the Trial of Horne Tooke, 1795, Howell's State Trials, vol. 25.
- App. LXXXV. 8. Proceedings in the Commons, 1734-5, relating to the privilege of franking letters, and certain abuses in the Post-office. Hansard's Debates, vol. 9, and Commons' Journals, vol. 22.
- App. LXXXVI. 9. Extracts from the further Report of the Committee of Secrecy, 1742; Commons' Journals, vol. 24.
- App. LXXXVII. 10. Abstract of Statute 9th Anne, chap. 10.
- App. LXXXVIII. 11. Clauses of 23 and 24 Geo. III. chap. 17 [Ireland].
- App. LXXXIX. 12. Title and Preamble to 35 Geo. III. cap. 62.
- App. xc. 13. Extracts from 1st Victoria, chap. 33 & 36.
- App. LXXXIX. 14. Parliamentary Return from the Post-Office, 1834.

— LXVIII. —

(Rymer, New Ed., Vol. 2, p. 582.)

De Scrutinio faciendo super litterarum portitoribus a partibus transmarinis. t.?

A. D. 1324.  
Au. 18 Edw. 2.

REX, dilecto et fideli Suo Roberto de Kendale, Constabulario Castri Sui Dovorr, et custodi Quinque Portuum Suorum, vel ejus locum tenenti, salutem.

Datum est nobis intelligi quod, non obstantibus mandatis nostris, vobis et aliis custodibus ibidem pluries directis, de scrutinio faciendo super omnes deferentes litteras a partibus transmarinis infra regnum nostrum, plures litteræ, nobis et coronæ nostræ prejudiciales, a partibus predictis venerunt, et indies infra regnum nostrum deferuntur; unde admiramur, nec inmerito anxie commovemur:

Vobis igitur mandamus, in fide et homagio quibus nobis tenenimi, firmiter injungentes, quod in singulis portibus et locis infra ballivam vestram, diligentius scrutinium omnium et singulorum de dictis partibus transmarinis in Angl' transeuncium exnunc fieri facias; et omnes et singulas litteras, de quibus haberi poterit sinistra suspicio, et earum portitores, arestari, et eosdem portitores salvo custodiri facias, donec aliud super hoc a nobis habueritis in mandatis; et easdem litteras ad nos, ubicumque fuerimus, salvo et securé, cum omni celeritate venire facias; et hoc nullo modo omittatis.

T. R. apud Notingham xviii die Decembr.

Per ipsum Regem.

— LXIX. —

(Rymer, New Ed., Vol. 2, p. 606.)

De Scrutinio faciendō, pro Litteris Coronæ præjudicialibus.

REX omnibus ballivis et fidelibus suis, at quos &c. salutem : Sciatis quod cum constituerimus dilectum et fidelem nostrum Nicholaum Kyriel capitaneum et admirallum flotæ nostræ omnium navium ab ore aquæ Tamisæ, tam Quinque Portuum quam aliorum portuum et locorum per costeram maris versus partes occidentales, quamdiu nobis placuerit, prout in literis nostris patentibus, indè confectis, plenius continetur :

A. D. 1325.  
An. 19 Edw. 2.

Dedimus ei potestatem scrutandi, in singulis portubus et locis aliis per costeram prædictam, omnes et singulos regnum nostrum ingredientiæ, utrum aliquæ literæ, nobis aut fidelibus nostris præjudiciales seu suspectæ, deferantur ; Et omnes illos penes quos hujusmodi literæ repertæ fuerint, cum literis illis, arestandi, et ipsos ad nos mittendi ; seu in prisonis nostris, si forte tunc fuerimus in remotis, salvo custodiri faciendi : Necnon deputandi, alios sub se, pro quibus respondere voluerit, ad scrutinium prædictum in locis prædictis faciendum :

Et ideo vobis mandamus quod eidem Nicholao, et deputatis ab eo, in præmissis sitis intendentes, consulentes, et auxiliantes, quotiens et quando super hoc ex parte nostrâ fueritis requisiti.

Nolumus tamen quod, eo prætextu, capiatur occasio seu materia invadendi vel gravandi mercatores, aut alios per mare transeuntes.

In cujus, &c. quamdiu nobis placuerit, duraturas.

Teste Rege, apud Turrim London x die Decembris.

Per ipsum Regem.

— LXX. —

(Rymer, New Edition, Vol. 2, p. 642.)

De Scrutando pro Litteris, et Personis suspectis arestandis.

REX dilecto et fideli suo, Roberto de Kendale, Constabulario Castri sui Dovorr, et Custodi Quinque Portuum suorum, salutem.

A. D. 1326.  
An. 20 Edw. 2.

Cum pluries, ante hæc tempora, tam per breviam sub Magno Sigillo nostro quam per literas sub privato Sigillo nostro, vobis mandaverimus, quod in portubus prædictis diligens Scrutinium faceretis super literis quibuscumque a partibus transmarinis in regnum nostrum deferendis, et ab eodem regno ad partes exterâs portandis ; et quod omnes et singulæ literæ, nobis seu juri coronæ nostræ præjudiciales, vel indè suspectæ, ad nos mitterentur, antequam executio fierit de eisdem :

duplicate to Falkland,  
Linnopol etc etc

Nos, propter aliquos rumores qui ad aures nostros noviter pervenerunt, volentes quod præmissa districtè observentur, vobis mandamus, sub gravi forisfacturâ nostrâ, firmiter injungentes, quod scrutinium prædictum in portubus prædictis, cum omni diligentia quâ poteritis, faciatis, juxta formam mandatorum nostrorum prædictorum, vobis pluries indè directorum : necnon omnes et singulas personas, nobis seu regno nostro merito suspectas, si quas in portubus prædictis inveneritis, sine dilatione arestari et in prisonâ nostrâ salvò custodiri faciatis, donec aliud indè à nobis habueritis in mandatis.

Et de nominibus eorum quos sic arestaveritis, et ob quam causam fuerint arestati, nos de tempore in tempus reddatis, sub sigillo vestro, distinctè et apertè, certiores ; taliter in hæc parte vos habentes, quod per vestri negligentiam vel defectum in hæc parte, pericula aliqua per præmissa non eveniant, per quod ad vos graviter capere debeamus.

Teste Rege, apud Marsfield xxiii die Septembris.

Rymer p. 642 has similar doc. of 1326, addressed to Robert de  
London from the sign. of suspect letters along Thames. — by some parliament doc. and paper records but  
carry info. by letters, dated July 15, 1326, — LXXI. — and Simon at p. 628 p. v. Another p. 636

(Rymer, New Edition, Vol. 2, p. 644.)

De inimicis, cum Reginâ, Edwardo filio, et Comite Kantie fratre Regis, Rogero de Mortuomari, et aliis rebellibus et alienigenis in regnum ingressis ; et de portatoribus litterarum arrestandis.

LE ROI as meir & bailliffs de Nicole, salut. Come nostre traitre & enemi mortiel, & pur tiel atteint & ajugez en plain parlement selonc les leis & usages de nostra roialme, Roger de Mortimer, ensemblement od autres treitres & enemis notoires & ascuns aliens, sont entrez nostre roialme, & en lour compaignie nostre femme, nostre fiutz, & nostre frere le counte de Kent ;

A. D. 1326.  
An. 20 Edw. 2.

Queu chose nous anuyt & greve tresgrandement, quant ceux qi deussent souverainement nostre bien & honur purchacer & meintenir, si hountousement sont issint demorantz & detenez contre nous entre noz enemis & contrairs ;

Et auxint, qui piz est, ont menez od eux gentz desconuz & aliens estranges, auxibien d'armes come a pee a grant nombre.

582.

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Pur lour malesveistez & compassementz acrestre & meintenir, par colour de noz ditz femme, fiuz & frere, queux ils detinent fausement contre nostre volenté, qi garde & gouvernement affiert a nous & a nuls autres, & ne deussent estre a volente ne subjection d'autri que de nous, & prechent a nostre poeple, disauntz q'ils sont venuz pur bien & honur de nous & du roialme; tut soit ceo pur nous mestrier, & nostre poer mettre en autri subjection, & a purprendre sur nous & nostre corone mestrie real, & desheriter taunt come en eux est; sicome tut homme de bien purra bien veer & sentir.

Queu chose est contre nostre pees, & l'estat de nostre corone; et ja eoms entenduz que nostre dite femme, par consail & abetz de noz ditz enemys, ad escrit, & uncore fait escriure de jour en jour diverses lettres as ercevesques, evesques, prelatz, contes, barons, & a noz autres foiaux, auxi bien de la clergie come de la laite, & as communees des citeez & villes, & a singuliers persones, de treer a eux les cuers & volunteez de nostre poeple, pur mieuz accomplir leur faux compassementz susditz:

Queu chose purra turner a confusion & destruction de noz poeples; qui ja ne aveigne:

Vous mandoms & chargeoms sur la foi & la ligeaunce qui vous nous devez, que, si nules lettres vous veigneut de nostre dit femme, ou de nostre fiuz, ou de nostre frere, ou de nul qui soit de noz ditz enemis en lour compaignie esteauntz, sauntz nul delai parmez les messagers, & les portours de yceles; & les corps de eux, ensemblement od celes lettres entiers, santz les overir, facez hastivement envoier a nous bien & sauvement, queu part qui nous seoms, de temps en temps, totes les foitz qui nules tieles lettres vous vendront.

Et si nul homme veigne santz lettre de part nostre dit femme, ou nul autre qui soit en sa compaignie, pur treter & parler de nul chose qui lour touche, facez de li en meisme la manere, & de tous ceux qui vendront en cele forme.

Et auxint vous mandoms & chargeoms, fermement enjoignantz, que vous facez crier parmi tut vestre ville avant dite, que, si nostre dite femme, au nul de nos ditz enemis qui soit en sa compaignie, envoit a nul homme lettre au autre mandement come desus est dit, sautz nul delai soient les messages & porteurs arestuz & sauvement menez a nous ensemblement od les lettres entiers & nient debrisez par ceuz as queux celes lettres seront issint enveez, sur quanque qils purront forfaire devers nous, de corps & de avoir;

Et auxint toux qui vendront issint sanz lettre, pur treter & parler de rien qui lour touche, come desus est dit.

Et auxint facez defendre a toux, de par nous, sur meisme la forfeiture, que nul, de quel estat ou condition qu'il soit, ne recette, conforte, eide, ne favoure, en nul point, noz ditz femme, fiuz, ne frere, taunt comme ils se portent devers nous come ils fount encore, & demorent en cele compaignie, & nul qui en la compaignie soit; einz, les greve & damage en totes les voies & maneres qils purront, forpris nos ditz, femme, fiuz, & frere.

Et totes cestes choses facez & faire facez diligeamment, santz feintise & nul delai; & a toux de vostre ville susdite facez saver les dites choses, & q'ils les facent sur quanque vous, & eux, & checun poez forfaire de corps & d'avoir.

Don sous nostre Grant Seal, a nostre Tour de Londres, le xxviii jour de Septembr.

Per ipsum Regem.  
 1346 pro ...  
 1352 "  
 1357 "  
 1360 "  
 1370 "  
 — LXXII. —  
 (Sir F. Palgrave.) 5 December 1377.

Fine Roll, p. 1. 1 Richard 2, m. 7.

D. Scrutinio. R. Vicecomibz, majoribz, ballivis, ministris, dñis, maġris marinariis naviū, & aliis ministris & fidelibz suis, tam infra libtates qam exta, ad quos &c saltem. Sciatis qd nos de fidelitate & circumspcōe ditci nob Phi Walwayn confidentes, assignavim⁹ & deputavim⁹ ipm Pfm ad explorand, p se & deputatos suos, omes naves & batellos exta regnū nrm Angl tñseutes, & ad idem regnū venientes in Portu Londoñ, & singulis portubz & locis a civitate Londoñ in aqua & ex utaq, pte aque Thamiš tam p tram qam p aquam usq, Gravesende, & ibidem, et a Gravesende usq, ad mare, tam infra libtates qam exta, & ad scrutiniū faciend de omibz navibz & batellis hujusmodi, & de psonis de quibz sinistra suspicio fieri potit qd lane, pelles lanute, coria, panni aut alia mcimonia costumabilia, non cokettata nec costumata, in eisdem navibz, aut aurū vel argentū in pecunia numata aut massa vel plata, seu jocalia carciata seu posita sūnt, vel si alique psone bullas, lras, instrumenta, pcessus, vel aliqua nob seu subditis

\* Note by the Editor.—In the Calendar of the Patent Rolls, p. 207; Anno 6° Rich. II. A. D. 1382 or 1383, the grant of the office of Searcher to Philip Walwayne appears.

“ Rex concessit Pho. Walwayne, pro vitā, quod ipse, per se vel deputatos suos, exploraret et scrutaret omnes naves et batellos extra Regnum transeutes, et ad idem Regnum venientes, in portu London, et in singulis portibus et locis a civitate London' &c., tam per terram quam per aquam, &c., tam de pannis, lanis, et aliis mercimoniis quibuscunque costumabilibus non coquetatis, quam de personis quibuscunque suspitiosis, ac aliis personis deferentibus Bullas vel alia instrumenta Papalia, &c., ac podum x lib.”

ditis nris pjudicialia, in vel exta regnū nrm detulerint, conta pclamacoēs & inhibicoēs ex pte nra inde scas, & ad omia lanas, pelles, coria, pannos, & alia incimonia costumabilia que non costumata nec cokettata, aut alias conta inhibicoēni & defensionem nras pdcas, ac omia bullas, lrās, instrumenta, & alia quecumq, que nob vel subditis nris pjudicialia, in dcis navibz vel batellis inventa sūnt, tanqam nob forisfca, una cum navibz, batellis & psonis ea ducentibz, arestand & salvo custodiri faciend, quousq, sup hoc aliū dukim<sup>o</sup> ordinand, & ad omia alia que ad dcm officiū ptinent, exdcend & faciend, qamdiu nob placuit, & ad ctificand nos in Cancellarī nra de toto sco suo in hac pte: Ita qd nob de omibz forisfcuris que p ipm Pm sic arestari contigit, respondeat, & fidelem comptum inde reddat ad sc<sup>o</sup>cm nrm, pcpiendo in officio pdco p vadiis suis decem libras p annū de exitibz & pficuis officii sui, si exitus & pficua ad hoc sufficiant, et si exitus & pficua illa ad hoc non sufficiant, tunc id quod inde de vadiis suis pdcis defuit, heat & pcpiat ad Sc<sup>o</sup>cm nrm, put Wiltz de Briddeford, nup Scrutator in Portu & in locis pdcis pcepit in officio sup<sup>o</sup>dcō. Et ideo vob & cuilt vrm, sub forisfactura oim que nob forisfate politis, mandam<sup>o</sup>, firmit injungentes, qd pfato Pno & ejus deputatis in pmissis omibz & singulis faciend & exequend intendentis sitis consulentes & auxiliantes, quociens & put idem Pnus, vel deputati sui vel eoz aliquis, vob vel alicui vrm scire fecint vel fecit ex pte nra. In cujus, &c. T. K. apud Westm quinto die Decemb.

p Bilē Theō.

*Recd 6.1 (1741) p. 36 Lm King's mch 1512 adm'ty contra papal dca. 2. 2. 1512. 47. 2. 16. 2. 11. 1512.*

—LXXIII.—

*Recd. Sampson, Madrid, 1. 1. 1525, to Wolsey, sec. Ministry, imp. ambassadour, etc. in the State Paper Office, vol. 1 (1525) pp. 347-358*

(Mr. Lechmere.)

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Cardinal *Wolsey* to Dr. *Richard Sampson*, Ambassador with the Emperor Charles V. January 1525. From the original Minute in the State Paper Office.

State Paper Office.  
Germany.  
Bundle 1, 1525.

“It hath ben, of a longe season and from sundry parties, reoported unto the Kinges Highnes and to me, at diverse tymes, that Mons<sup>r</sup> de Praet, who resideth here Ambassadour for the Emperour, hath contynually ben a man disposed and inclyned to make in his letters and writinges, bothe to thEmperour and to the Lady Margaret and other, sedicious and sinistre reoportes, faynyng many tymes, upon his oune fantasie, suspicion or conjecture, thinges clerely untrue, and compassing at other tymes, when thynges have ben don, said, or set furthe, frendely, kyndely, and lovingly, so to cowche his reoportes and the circumstances of the doinges therof, as though the gratuities shewed by the Kinges Highnes have, from time to time, ben conduced by the industrie, policie, and labour of the said Ambassadour; ascribing therfore the lawde and thanke therof unto hymself, wherby he myght adquire the more grace and favour of the said Emperour and Lady Margaret. To thise thinges the Kinges Highnes and I wer not over hasty to geve sone credence; but supposing the said Ambassadour to be a personage of more vertue and inclination to good then nowe he proveth to be, I wolde som tymes admonishe hym in general wordes of such advertisement, exhorting and avising hym to be wel ware howe he, being a mynistrer bitweene 2 Princes so nerely conjoynd in intelligence, shulde attempte or do any thing to the hynderance therof, but rather regarding the office of a good Ambassadour to do that in him is, for the norishing and increace of the same: wherin he alwaies made me suche answer, that I conceived no further suspicion or jalousie towards hym in that behalf; being therefore the more franke and playne with hym in al my conferences, as that he, for the singuler good mynde whiche I have alwaies borne unto thEmperours honour weale and suretie, wolde procede with His Majeste sincerely, plainely, and truly; and as famylierly, kyndely and lovingly hath the Kinges Highnes and I admytted, enterteined, and used the said De Praet, at al tymes, as the most herty love betwene the Kinges Highnes and His Majeste dothe require, making him privey, and having hym present, at al suche communications and accesses as have ben of other Princes, Ambassadours, or of any matier worthy advertisement or knowlege; so thintent that he, unto whom the Kinges Highnes and I have referred the reoportes of the same, shulde make most credible and playne relacion therof unto thEmperour, and other to whom it aperteyned.

Amonges other, after myne accustomable maner, when I had, the 11th day of this instant moneth, receyved letters from M<sup>r</sup> Pace, bering date at Trent the 26th and 28th days of January, the copies wherof I sende you herinclosed, specifying suche newes of Italye as then wer comen unto his knowlege and understanding by the relacion of Brian Tuke\*, that had sent unto the said Ambassadour a paquet of letters comen from my Lady Margaret, I sent a servaunt of myne\* to the same Ambassadour, desyring hym to take the payne in the after none to repaire unto me, aswel to thintente I myght make hym participate of suche newes as the Kinges Highnes and I had receyved, as also to understonde whither he had any good newes in confirmation of the same. Unto whom, at his comyng, in the presence of the Duke of Norfolke and some other of the Kinges Counsail, and also of the Ambassadour of Mylain who came with hym, I red the said letters and newes, declaring the same unto them formally in the Latten tonge. Wherwith, forasmoch as there was matier therin of right good tenour and effecte, wee al rejoysed and wer glad. And proceeding unto the particularities, we devised and conjected upon the making of the 3 briges by the Frenche king over the ryver of Tycyne; whiche we interpreted to be don rather for his

\* Brian Tuke was Master of the Posts at this time.

better commodite to flee, seing his cariages that myght ful wel have served to the fortifying of his campe, wer alre dy transported, then otherwise. We spake also of the doubttes that myght be, lest thEmperours armye, contynuing long in the felde, shud lak monie; wherin the said Ambassadour inferred, that those whiche had alre dy holpen the Frenche King with money and victailles, namyng the Poope, the Duke of Ferrare, the Florentynes, and other, owe also of good congruence to helpe unto the contynuance of thEmperours armye. Hereunto I answered, that the commyng of Sir Gregory de Cassalis shulde highly conferre unto those affaires, forasmoch as, not oonly he shud bring unto the armye som comforte of money and other good knowlege of the Kinges fast mynde, whiche myght the rather encourage them unto the batail, but that also, by the sending of Mr Pace to Venece and of my letters to Rome, I trusted the Veneceans shud be the more glad to contynue fast unto thEmperour, and that the Poopes Holyntes of likelihode, upon the grete considerations by me alleged, wold change his copie; saying, as trouthe was, that the said Sir Gregorie, who departed from hens, when the Emperours affaires, as ferre as coude be knowen here (the distance of the places considred), were in most apparence of dispaire, sholde by his commyng, God willing, revive the same; having always speciall trust that the Poopes Holyntes wolde change his copie as is aforesaid, whiche the state of Cristendome, wel considered, aperteyned unto His Holyntes to do, if he wolde be a good fadre and hed of Cristes religion: and if, necglecting the same, His Holyntes wolde not do the office of a common fadre, but rather as a private person or a chaplain, as adhering unto France, the Frenche King wolde not faile to make him, like as I also wrote playnely to be shewed unto His Holyntes, on my behalf, by the Bishop of Bathe, as by the copies ye may perceve, then He must be taken according to his actes and merites. Finally it was divised amonges us, and I shewed myne opynyon, what wer expedient to be don, in case the Frenche King, as the chaunce of batail is uncertaine, shulde either be overthrowen in the same, or be compelled to retyre and flee in to Fraunce. And in this matier I said, expedient it wer that thEmperour and the Kinges Highnes shud take substancial wayes and meanes for pursuyng of the victory, wherin I doubted not but the Kinges Highnes my master wolde do for his parte asmoche as shulde be requisite; saying that I wolde with al diligence cause an expedicion to be made in to Spayn for this purpose and other matiers, wherein it is necessary to knowe thEmperours mynde with diligence. This and other semblable divices we had to this effect; and with the same the said Ambassadour, semyng to be joyeows and wel contented, geving unto me thankes on thEmperours behalf, departed.

“Thre dais before that, as many times is here accustomed, it was appointed that as that nyght folowing, which was the 11th day at nyght, a privye wathe shulde be made in London, and by a certain circuite and space aboutes it; in the whiche wathe, after mydnyght, was taken, passing betweene London and Braynesford, by certain of the wathe appointed to that quarter, one riding towards the said Braynesford; who, examyned by the wathe, answered so closely, that, upon suspicion therof, they serched hym, and founde secretly hyd aboutes hym a litle pacquet of letters, superscribed in Frenche: whiche the said wathe perceyving, brought the letters unto a man of lawes clerke, being of the same company; who supposing the berer of them to be either a spie, or a messenger from some merchaunte stranger or other, intending to disclose thinges unto thEmperour, and perceyving the said pacquet to be, in the taking of it by the unlerned men of the wathe, broken and evil handled, loked in the letters; and thinking the same, by reason of the cifres, more suspect, brought it unto the Kinges Solicitour, being in the same wathe; who, not acquaynted with the name of the said De Prate, brought the letters, so opened, unto Sir Thomas More, being in another wathe nere unto the same, and he presented them in the mornyng folowing unto me, being in the Chauncery at Westminster: whiche when I had red, knowinge howe ferre theeffect of them was discrepant from the trouthe, anon I conceyved the former advertisementes made unto me, towching the said Ambassadors accustomed usage in making synistre reaportes, to be true. And perceyving by the said letters, that albeit the usage is not here that strangers shulde passe through the realme withoute a passport, yet one of the Fulkers was depeched by the said Ambassadour, the day before, with letters towards Spayn, wherin it was like there myght be as evil or wors reaporte then in thise, I with al diligence sent to coundermaunde the said former letters, or any other depeched at that tyme by the said Ambassadour: and so was taken also a pacquet of his letters directed to my Lady Margaret. Whiche original letters directed unto the Emperour, with copies of those addressed unto my Lady Margaret, viewed and overlooked, and the untrouthe mencioned in them deprehended, I sende unto your landes herwith; aswel bicause thEmperour may knowe suche thinges as his folkes on this side do advertise His Majeste of, whiche may conferre to the fetherance of his affaires, as also bicause the same may hereby the more assuredly and perfutely understonde and perceyve that the said De Praet hathe of likelihode contrived no fewe matiers untrue and fayned in his letters sent of a long season, aswel in to Spayne as in to Flaunders: wherof there is moche apparence, by reason of suche proceding, strange demeanour, and suspicion, as hathe semed to have ben had towards the Kinges grace, bothe on that syde and in Flaunders, of a good season. So that it is evidently to be conjected, that the said De Praet hathe don more hurte detryment and dammage by his evil reaportes in the common affaires, then ever he can be able to redubbe or amende; and surely hathe by the same deserved moche more blame, then I wol reherse. And what the Kinges Grace and his Counsail may thinke by the wordes conteyned in the said Ambassadors letters directed to Mr John Allemayn, fynding excepcion in the Kinges amyntie

7. 12. 500

amytie and frendship, as though the same hathe ben either nothing or veary faynte and sklendre, I remyt to thEmperour and his Counsail, after sight of the same letters, to juge and considre; thynking veray strange, that the said Ambassadour wolde or durst so write unto Mr John Allemayn, being so wel acquainted with the Emperours secrettes and privites as he is, onles he had bifore this tyme perceyved semblable opynyon to be imprinted in som of their myndes on that side: whiche if it so be, there is as grete injurie don unto the Kinges Highnes, as ever was to noble and gracious Prince in this worlde, Who for thEmperours sake, and to do unto his Majeste all honour gratuite and pleasure possible, hathe don more then in tyme of mannes memorye can be founde, that ever one Prince hathe don for an other: the particularites whereof shal not nede to be rehersed, forasmoch as they be woll knowen by frendes and enemys throughe all Cristendome, and that suche rehersal shulde be in maner but an exprobacion, seing also that the Kinges ferme trust and confidence is, the Emperour, of his grete wisdom, and the vertuous and discrete men of his Counsail, have large experience, and do right wel knowe and considre the same, any synistre reaportes, fayned or contrived tales, devised by suche indiscrete and inxperte persons as the said De Praet is, notwithstanding. And surely, if it had not ben that the Kinges grace of his goodnes did benignely and lovingly accepte suche mynistres as thEmperour wolde depute to do his besynes here, withoute making exception at any of them, His Grace, long bifore this tyme, wolde have advertised thEmperour, that the said De Praet hathe alwais shewed him self a man of insufficient qualities, inxperte, and ferre unmete to suche a province as is comytted to him from so grete a Prince: neverthelass, for thEmperours honour and pleasure, the Kinges Grace hathe lovingly tolerate his inhabilitie, and studyed to supplie the same the best that myght be; as he, that wolde not to sone reprove that thing whiche by thEmperour and his Counsail was thought good and approved. But if thEmperour, knowing the untrue and most perilous demeanour of the said De Praet, who can not be taken here but for a suspect and indigne person, wol still contynue hym here as his Ambassadour, not oonly the Kinges Highnes and I shalbe in grete drede to cal him to any matiers of importance, but also of likelihode he shal, as ferre as in him may be, do grete dammage to the common affaires, causing the entier confidence that hitherto hathe ben, and, as I trust (his synistre reaportes notwithstanding) yet is bitwene the 2 Princes, rather to decreace and dymynishe then to be augmented; whiche sorte of mynistres is necessary to be removed, and other, mynding the furtherance of good amytie and intelligence, to be subrogate in their places: the orderyng whereof the Kinges Highnes remytteth to the grete wisdom of the said Emperour and his Counsail."

## — LXXIV. —

(Lords' and Commons' Journals, 1641.)

Upon reading the petition of Richard Alexander, merchant, of Aberdine, desiring, that himself, and others with him, may have license to go over with the posts, they being stayed by the stopping of the ports, it was ordered, that he and his company may have liberty to pass the ports. It was moved, that the islanders, inhabitants of Garnsey, that are in town, may have liberty to pass the ports home; which was ordered accordingly, provided they return their names hither. After this, divers petitions of merchants were presented to the House, and some read, complaining of the great loss and prejudice which redounds to them, by staying of their ships at the ports, desiring relief herein. Hereupon a message was sent to the House of Commons by Baron Henden and Justice Heath, to desire a free conference by a Committee of both Houses, presently, about the opening of the ports for trade. The Earl of Holland signified, that last night 1,000 mariners were gathered together because of the stopping of the ships, &c. &c. A message from the House of Commons, by Sir Roger North, who brought up a bill which had passed that House, intituled, "&c. &c." and likewise desired a present free conference, if it may stand with their Lordships conveniency, touching the affairs of both kingdoms.

Lords' Journ. 17 Cha. 1,  
1641, Tuesday, 11 May,  
pp. 244, 245.

Answer, That their Lordships will give a meeting in the Painted Chamber, presently, as is desired. The answer returned from the House of Commons is, that they will give a present meeting in the Painted Chamber, as is desired. The Earl of Essex, Earl of Dorsett, and Earl of Bristoll, were appointed to report the conference, which proceeded from the House of Commons. And at the conference which proceeded from this House, the Earl of Dorsett was to deliver the proposition touching the opening of the ports, and to let them know "That this House hath received divers petitions from merchants, who have their ships stayed, that they cannot go to sea, which is much loss and prejudice to them." Next, the Earl of Holland, &c., and the Earl of Dorsett reported, "That he had delivered what was commanded him at the conference; and that the House of Commons had the same apprehensions of the freeing of the ports and the opening of them, so both Houses consented to it. Further, he reported, their information doth still increase their fears concerning the danger of the kingdom; and the probabilities that some of his Majesty's dominions might be attempted from France, is the reason of the shutting of the ports, by which reason the letters that were to go into foreign parts this last week, could not pass. Therefore it is the desire of the House of Commons, that their Lordships would appoint a certain number of Lords to join with Mr. Secretary Vane, and that they may have power to send for all the



foreign letters which came this week, and those letters which are to be exported, and open them; and if they find anything concerning the safety of the kingdom, to make use thereof; and such letters which concern any man's private affairs, to be delivered to them." Hereupon, these Lords were appointed, and ordered by the House, to open and peruse the letters as aforesaid: viz. the Earl of Essex, (and seven others); and it was ordered, that Thomas Witheringes, Esq., Postmaster to his Majesty for foreign parts, shall bring, or cause to be brought, unto the Lords Committees especially appointed in particular, who are to meet at Whitehall, all such letters as shall be imported and exported into his hands, or to the hands of his several deputies, until the pleasure of this House be further known; whose Lordships, with Mr. Secretary Vane, who are to open the letters and peruse them, will give further directions in this particular. Ordered, that by the advice of both Houses, all the ports shall be forthwith opened. After this, the House was adjourned during pleasure; and the Lords went into the Painted Chamber, to let the Commons know the names of those Lords as this House hath appointed to open and peruse the letters with Sir Henry Vane; which being done, the House resumed.

Commons' Journal,  
19 May 1641.

Mr. Pymme went to the Lords with a message to this effect: To move the Lords that the letters of this week, from all foreign parts, may be perused by the same Committee of the Lords and of this House, in the like manner as it was last week; and likewise to desire that there may be secrecy enjoined upon the Lords; and that, if there shall be any impediment, that the Committee cannot come to the clear perusal of the letters, they may report to The House where the impediment is, that The House may take further order therein. Mr. Pymme reports: They did yield to the opening of the letters; but said it would be very inconvenient if often used.

22 June 1641, p. 183.

Mr. Holles reports, from the Committee of Seven, the message to go to the Lords (who is ordered to go up with the same).

The House of Commons, finding every day new discoveries of secret counsels, and meetings of Jesuits and others, and of several plots and designs to disturb the peace of this kingdom, and of the kingdom of Scotland, and that this House is persuaded this is fomented by our enemies abroad, who have correspondence with those who are here amongst us, Jesuits, priests, and others, ill-affected persons; therefore desire your Lordships to take such course as your Lordships shall think fit, that all those suspected persons may be stayed and examined; and all letters of this week, inward and outward, may be seized upon, and brought unto your Lordships to be perused.

Lords' Journals,  
Tuesday, 22 June 1641,  
p. 282.

The House being resumed, a message was sent from the House of Commons, by Mr. Hollis, who said, "That he was commanded to let their Lordships know that the Commons have taken notice of some secret counsels of Jesuits, and other ill-affected persons in this kingdom, which are fomented by our enemies abroad to disturb the peace of this kingdom and Scotland. The desire of the House of Commons was, that all suspected persons may be stayed at the ports, and, if cause be, examined; and that the letters of this week, which come from France, may be stayed, and brought to this House, and be perused, as formerly hath been." Ordered, That this House doth grant all which the House of Commons hath desired, and will take order therein. Ordered, That all the letters which are imported or exported this week, shall be stayed and brought unto this House by Thomas Witheringes, the Postmaster.

Wednesday, 23 June  
1641, p. 284.

After this, the postmasters brought into the House all the letters as were imported this week, and it is Ordered, That the Lords' Committees, formerly appointed to open letters, shall presently meet, and sort and open such letters as they think fit and conducing to any discovery, and present such letters to this House to be read. These Lords following are added to the former Committee for Opening Letters, videlicet, the Marquis of Hartford and the other Peers; and such other Lords as please may be present.

Thursday, 24 June  
1641, p. 287.

The House, taking into consideration the great inconvenience and prejudice which the merchants suffer by the staying of their letters, Ordered, That those letters which are this week to be exported, are to be delivered to Mr. Witheringes, the Postmaster, to be sent away, as usually they have been, without any further staying them; and a message was sent down to the House of Commons, by Justice Foster and Justice Heath, to acquaint that House with the same. Answer from the House of Commons, That they consent that the letters be sent away, as this House hath ordered.

Commons' Journals,  
24 June 1641, p. 186.

A message was sent formerly, to desire the Lords that the letters of this week, both outward and inward, might be stayed, and by the Lords be opened (that were to be sent from hence): Ordered, That those letters be not opened.

24 June 1641, p. 186.

Sir John Hotham went up to the Lords with a message to this effect: That this House, for the better discovery of high treason, did desire that the letters of this week, outward and inward, might be stayed and opened, which was assented unto accordingly.

That

That this House is informed that the Earl of Leicester, a Member of their House, while the letters were in perusal, did withdraw a packet without consent of the Lords that were present; and therefore desire those letters (*read* Lords) that were then present, to inform their Lordships in what manner it was done, that this House might receive satisfaction.

A message from the Lords, by J. Foster and J. Heath:—The Lords take notice of the special prejudice that might accrue unto the merchants, if the letters of this week should be stayed this night, and therefore they held it fit that the post should be dismissed with these letters, unless this House take notice of some special cause whereupon they should be stopt.

Answer returned by the same messengers, that this House has taken into consideration their Lordships' message, and does think fit that the Post should \* \* \* \*

Likewise the Lord Keeper acquainted the House, "that the Lords of the Council, being informed of the packets of letters which came this week from Ireland, have sent out their order and staid them, and committed them into the hands of the gentleman usher until their Lordships' further directions herein." Hereupon a Committee of Lords were appointed to open and read such letters as conduce anything to the discovery of the affairs of Ireland, and to report the same to this House, and to return those which concern merchants' affairs, to the postmaster, to be delivered to the owners.

Lords' Journals,  
Monday, 1 Nov. 1641,  
p. 416.

Ordered, That the Lords' Committees for opening and reading of letters shall meet tomorrow morning at nine of the clock.

Page 418.

Information being given to this House, "that a packet of letters were brought from Ireland," it is ordered, That some of the Lords' Committees for this business do presently withdraw, and open and peruse such letters as they think may conduce to the discovery of anything which concerns the affairs of Ireland, and report the same to this House; the rest of the letters to be delivered to the owners.

4 Lords' Journ.  
17 Cha. 1, 1641, Wed-  
nesday, 9 Nov. p. 421.

A message was brought from the House of Commons by Mr. Pym, to desire that the letters which come this week from France and Antwerp, may be stayed, and be opened and perused by the Lords' Committees in the presence of some Members of the House of Commons, they having ground and intelligence that those letters will discover some root of the rebellion of Ireland. Hereupon it is ordered, That Thomas Witheringes, esq., Postmaster for foreign parts, or his deputies, shall bring the packets of letters that came this week from France and Antwerpe, unto the Lords' Committees appointed by this House to open letters.

Tuesday, 9 Nov. p. 430.

Ordered, That the Lords Committees for opening letters do meet this night and tomorrow morning, and that the Earl of Stamford and the Lord Newneham be added to the said Committee.

That a message be sent to the Lords, to desire their Lordships to make stay of the letters from France and Antwerp, and to peruse them in the presence of some Committees of this House.

Commons' Journals.  
9 Nov. 1641, p. 309.

Mr. Pimme acquaints the House, that he had delivered the commands of this House concerning the letters from France, &c.; that the Lords had made stay of them, and that they should be presently opened in the presence of the Committees of both Houses for Irish affairs.

9 Nov. 1641, p. 309.

Ordered, That the Committee of this House shall, when this conference shall be ended, peruse the letters from Antwerp, with the Committee of the Lords.

10 Nov. 1641, p. 311.

The Lord Keeper signified to the House, "that the Venetian ambassador made a complaint to the Lords of the Council, that the despatches which were sent to him this week, were opened, and the seal of the state of Venice broken open by the Parliament, whereby he accounts himself much grieved with it, and for this he hath retired himself from the public affairs, as an ambassador between this kingdom and that state, until he receives further command from his masters."

4 Lords' Journ.  
17 Cha. 1, 1641, Friday,  
12 November, p. 435.

Then was read a paper, being a translation out of Italian, delivered from the Venetian ambassador.

The contents was this, videlicet: "Most noble Lords, the correspondency betwixt princes there hath always been the most immediate ways of a true interest of maintaining of estates, and of continuance of commerce to the benefit and increase of the commonwealth. To cultivate this, the most great king hath always used the most industry; and to facilitate it, they have introduced the expedition of ambassadors to confirm it betwixt the one and the other kingdom. In this there hath been all respect rendered to all princes even in all times, not only having made the large prerogatives and liberties, and the very same (as I may say) the very princes and patrons possessing the same dominions amongst the remarkable and equally necessary; and that by which we may receive letters, and send

from the proper prince, and whatsoever person, without any interruption, which is the most principal part of an ambassador; which practice, most noble sirs, is not the laws of our nation alone, but universal, and hath been maintained and inviolated of the king and the public, and of all Christian governments, no less than amongst the most barbarous. I nevertheless cannot say but that I have enjoyed in this great court that just respect, until the last letters were opened which came from France to me directed, although they were restored by my Lord Feilding and Sir Henry Vane, upon whose honour they secured me that it was a simple error, and not willingly committed, which I believed; yet could not persuade myself that the Government of England, so noble and generous, should have so inferior a mind as to open the letters of an ambassador, and by this means to violate the laws, and to give an example to the world so damnable, and of so little respect towards the minister of the Serenissima Respublica, which, after so many ages, hath given a sincere testimony of affection and esteem to this Crown. So now new experience, with my mortification, hath given testimony of the contrary, being yesterday all the letters were opened coming from Venice, Antwerpe, and other countries, and the very letters writ unto me from the Serenissima Respublica, the regal seal being broken, and the commission sent from my Lords being published, and many of my own letters being taken. The success of this cannot be approved of by any. I have judged it not inconvenient to give notice unto your Excellencies, by which you may reflect of the greatness of their knowledge, as much as concerns them, taking that resolution which they judge most necessary to the sustaining of the honour of this nation, of the public faith, under the protection of whom the ambassadors live and make themselves known to all princes, that in England they do not pretend to introduce new laws, but they maintain constant profession of the ancient, rendering the respects which they ought to the Ministers of the Serenissima Respublica."

This House thought it fit, and agreed, that satisfaction for this shall be given to the State of Venice, and to the ambassador for the present. The House appointed the Earl of Bristol, Earl of Holland, Lord Viscount Say and Seale, the Lord Digby, and the Lord Newnham, to draw up presently what was fit to be given by way of answer to the Venetian ambassador; and their Lordships presented a draught unto the House, which was read in *hæc verbâ*, videlicet,

"That four Members of the House of Peers be forthwith sent to the ambassador to disavow the action, and to endeavour to give him all satisfaction, by declaring how sensible they are of it, as tending to the breach of public faith, and the law of nations; and to show further, how desirous they are to continue the ancient correspondency betwixt the King and that State, the House of Peers are resolved to be humble suitors to his Majesty, to hasten the departure of his ambassador, to make known to that State the same sense, with such other expressions as may best declare the tender respect they have to the honour of that State, and the noble usage their ministers may expect and shall find in their residence here, from the King and Parliament."

This being approved of by the House, the Lord Privy Seal, the Lord Great Chamberlain, and the Lord Marquis Hertford, and the Lord Newnham, were appointed by the House to deliver the aforesaid paper to the Venetian ambassador.

The Lord Newnham reported "that himself and the rest of the Lords appointed by this House repaired to the Venetian ambassador, and delivered unto him the paper, translated into Italian, touching the excuse for opening of his letters, and after he had read it, he presented to this House great thanks for sending such persons, of such great place in this state, to him, and promised he would present the same to the State of Venice, with as much respect as he could; but desired that the King's ambassador may be sent away, as speedily as may be, to Venice, in the nature of a special ambassador, to make excuse for this particular business, before he treat of any public affairs. And, for prevention of any accident for the future, he desires to have an order to the Postmaster, that his letters may be speedily sent him."

Hereupon this House thought fit, that the first desire, touching the sending of an ambassador to Venice, should be left to his Majesty's pleasure; and for the other particular, it is ordered, that all such packets and letters as are or shall be directed to the Venetian ambassador, shall be forthwith delivered up to the said ambassador's own hands.

Directed "To Tho. Witherings, Esq., Postmaster to his Majesty for the foreign letters."

Tuesday, 16 Nov. p. 441.

It was moved, "That lest the merchants of Venice may suffer for the opening of the Venetian ambassador's letters here, that a Committee might be appointed to consider of some despatch to be sent to the King's agent at Venice, to let him know what satisfaction this House hath given to the ambassador here, that so he may be the better instructed how to apply himself to the State there, to give them satisfaction." Which motion was liked well of, and the same Lords that were appointed for this business first, were directed to meet, and the Lord Newnham, being absent, was sent for.

4 Lords' Journ.

Thursday, 18 Nov. 1641,  
p. 446.

"The Earl of Holland reported that the Venetian ambassador had been with him, and desired that the ill expressions in his paper may be excused; for he professes he meant nothing in derogation of any Member of this House, but spoke it as what reputation other States had of such an action; and that he further signified, that he had written a fair letter to the State of Venice concerning the opening of his letters, which he hopes will satisfy them."

—LXXV.—

(Mr. *Lechmere*.)

LETTER from the Venetian Ambassador to King Charles I., complaining of the detention of his Letters, dated London  $\frac{13}{23}$  November 1641.

State Paper Office,  
Venice.

Sire,

LA bonne affection que v<sup>r</sup>e Majeste à tousiours conservè pour la Ser<sup>me</sup> Republique, m'asseurè qu'y celle serà touché au recit des accidens qu'y me sont arrivés au tres grand prejudice de ma function, et de la grandeur de mon Prince. Mais je me sens obligé d'en fayre une briefve et veritable relation à sa Majestè, pour tous les respects que je porte à y celle et le devoir de ma charge.

Mercredi X<sup>me</sup>, du present, furent ouvertes les lettres quy m'estoint envoyées de France, et, ce quy est plus considerable, le jour après l'on se saisit de toute celle quy m'estoint escrite de Venise, d'Anvers, et d'aillieurs; le pli de mon Prince fust deschiré, son Seau rompú, toutes les lettres leues, des quels aucunes me furent rendues toutes ouvertes, et aultres bruslees par le mesmes.

Sirc, cette action quy offense directement le droit de ma charge et la foy publique, m'oblige d'en escire a V<sup>r</sup>e Majesté, et d'attendere tels ordres que sa bonté et equité jugeront plus convenables à l'estime quelle à tousiours fait de mon Prince et de ses Ministres; priant Dieu la vouloir conserver, comme estant de

V<sup>r</sup>e Maiestè

le tres humble et tres obeisant Serviteur,

*L' Amb<sup>r</sup> de Venize.*En Londres ce  $\frac{13}{23}$  Nov<sup>re</sup> 1641.

—LXXVI.—

(Commons' Journals, 1643 and 1659-60.)

Ordered, That the foreign postmaster be required to make a stop of all letters going beyond sea, till the House take further order.

Commons' Journals,  
29 July 1643, vol. 3,  
p. 186.

Ordered, That the officers and soldiers of all the courts of guard do not open any letters, but that they bring such as they shall have any suspicion of, to the Committee for examination, or militia of London.

24 Oct. 1643, p. 287.

Mr. Corbett is to prepare and bring in an order to this purpose.

Ordered, That General George Monck be desired to take care, that the post have free passage for this night, and that Sir John Temple do acquaint the General with this order.

7 Com. Journ. p. 847.  
21 Feb. 1659-60.

—LXXVII.—

(Commons' Journals, 1678.)

The House being acquainted that, upon the examination of Mr. Coleman's clerk, there was an information that a book, containing several letters of Mr. Coleman's, was seized with his writings; and that there were several letters of Mr. Coleman's received since the first discovery of \* \* \* \* by himself, or his agents:

9 Commons' Journ.  
p. 531, 1 Nov. 1678.  
30 Cha. 2. Popish Plot.

Ordered, That it be referred to the Committee appointed to examine Mr. Coleman's papers, to make a further examination touching the book of letters mentioned to be taken away when Mr. Coleman's letters were seized, and that there be a further examination made by the said Committee touching the letters sent to Mr. Coleman by the post; and that the Master of the Post-office, and other the clerks and officers relating thereto, do attend the said Committee, and give an account concerning the same.

—LXXVIII.—

ACT 9 ANNE, c. 10.

[Title.] "An Act for establishing a General Post Office for all Her Majesty's Dominions, and for settling a weekly sum out of the Revenues thereof, for the Service of the War, and other Her Majesty's Dominions."

9 Anne, c. 10.

[Preamble.] Recites Acts 12 Car. 2, and 5 Will. 3; states the expediency of uniting the Post-offices for Scotland and England; that additional posts have been established by packet-boats to the Colonies and divers parts of Europe, and other posts may yet be settled;

582.

O

that

that the rates of postage may be increased, and new rates granted, which may enable Her Majesty to carry on and finish the then present war, &c.

There are Sections—

[Repealing recited Acts, except as hereinafter mentioned; one General Letter Office and Post Office shall be erected in London, and one Postmaster General, who shall be at liberty to keep one Chief Letter Office in the city of Edinburgh, and one other Chief Letter Office in the city of Dublin; and other Chief Letter Offices in the several Colonies, &c., and to appoint Deputies under him. The carriage of letters by other than the servants or agents of the Postmaster General is subjected to further restrictions. Various regulations are made for collecting and sending letters.

*Postage Rates.*

For every single piece of paper, to be deemed a single letter, sent from the General Post Office:

	s.	d.
To a place in England, and distance not exceeding 80 miles - - - -	0	3
Ditto - - - - - exceeding 80 miles - - - -	0	4
To Edinburgh or Dublin - - - - -	0	6

Multiple letters, in proportion; or if charged by weight, at the rate of four single letter rates for every ounce.

The Penny-post, extending to 10 miles from the General Post-office, is recognized. New rates are established for Ship letters and Foreign letters.

Surveys are to be made of the distances on the roads. The Postmaster General, and no other, is to provide horses to persons riding post, who are to be provided with two horses, one to carry the guide, and not more than 80 lb. of luggage, at the rate of 3d. per mile, with 4d. per stage to the guide.]

The following are the terms of the 40th section: "And whereas abuses may be committed by wilfully opening, embezzling, detaining and delaying of Letters or Packets, to the great discouragement of trade, commerce, and correspondence; for prevention thereof, Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the 1st day of June 1711, no person or persons shall presume wittingly, willingly, or knowingly, to open, detain or delay, or cause, procure, permit or suffer to be opened, detained or delayed, any letter or letters, packet or packets, after the same is or shall be delivered into the General or other Post-office, or into the hands of any person or persons employed for the receiving or carrying post letters, and before delivery to the persons to whom they are directed, or for their use, *except by an express warrant in writing, under the hand of one of the Principal Secretaries of State, for every such opening, detaining, or delaying*; or except in such cases when the party or parties to whom such letter or letters, packet or packets, shall be directed, or who is or are hereby chargeable with the payment of the port or ports thereof, shall refuse or neglect to pay the same; and except such letters or packets as shall be returned for want of true directions, and when the party to whom the same is or are directed, cannot be found; and that every person or persons offending in manner aforesaid, or who shall imbezil any such letter or letters, packet or packets, shall for every such offence forfeit the sum of 20*l.*; the said penalties, for any such offence committed in England, Wales, or Berwick-upon-Tweed, to be recovered by action, bill, plaint, or information in any of Her Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster; and for any such offence committed in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, to be recovered in the Court of Sessions, or Exchequer there; such penalties respectively to be recovered by such person or persons as will inform or sue for the same, together with full costs of suit; and over and above such penalty as aforesaid, every such person or persons so offending as aforesaid, shall be for ever incapable of having, using, exercising, or enjoying any office, trust, or employment in or relating to the Post-office, or any branch thereof.

Penalty.

[*Note.*—Though the Act applies to all Her Majesty's dominions, yet there is no provision for inflicting penalties on persons offending in the premises, except in Great Britain.]

Section 41 enacts, that no person or persons shall, after the 1st of June 1711, be capable of having, using, or exercising the office or offices of Postmaster-general, or any part thereof, or any other employment relating to the Post-office, or any branch thereof, or be any way concerned in receiving, sorting, or delivering of letters or packets, unless such person or persons shall first have taken the following oath before some one justice, &c.

The oath. "I, A. B., do swear, That I will not wittingly, willingly, or knowingly open detain, or delay, or cause, procure, permit or suffer to be opened, detained or delayed, any letter or letters, packet or packets, which shall come into my hands power or custody, by reason of my employment in or relating to the Post-office; except by the consent of the person or persons to whom the same is or shall be directed, or by an express warrant in writing, under the hand of one of the Principal Secretaries of State for that purpose; or except in such cases where the party or parties to whom such letter or letters, packet or packets shall be directed, or who is or are hereby chargeable with the payment of the post or posts thereof, shall refuse or neglect to pay the same; and except such letters or packets as shall be returned for want of true directions, or when the party or parties to whom the same is or shall be directed cannot be found; and that I will not any way embezzle any such letter or letters, packet or packets as aforesaid."

— LXXIX. —

**BILL to inflict PAINS and PENALTIES on Francis Lord Bishop of Rochester (Atterbury).**

Lords' Journals,  
9 Geo. 1, vol. 22, p. 183.  
Monday, 6 May 1723.

Then the counsel for the Bill offered in evidence the copy of a letter, directed to "Mr. Dumville, an attorney," enclosed in a letter directed to "Mr. Thomas Wilmore, at Mr. Stokoris, a bookseller, at Charing-cross, April 27," with the enclosed, being a copy of O's letter to L., dated "April 27."

And the bishop and his counsel objecting to the reading of the said letters, part of them being written in cypher, and the decyphering interlined, they were directed to withdraw; and being withdrawn, a motion was made, "That the letters written in cypher, and sworn by two decyphers to be truly decyphered, may be read;" and a question being stated thereupon, these words were proposed to be added, videlicet, "without giving the prisoner an opportunity to make proof, of his part, how they ought to be decyphered." The question was put whether those words shall be made "part of the question." It was resolved in the negative. "Then the question was put, Whether the letters written in cypher, and sworn by two decyphers to be truly decyphered, shall be now read;"

It was resolved in the affirmative; and the bishop and counsel were called in again, and acquainted with the said resolution.

Then Peter Thouvois was examined upon oath to prove the said letters to be true copies from the originals, *which were stopped at the Post-office, and copied, and sent forward as directed.*

And Edward Willes, clerk, was sworn and examined, to prove the said letters truly decyphered; and admitting upon his examination, "that he did use a key in decyphering the said letters," and the Bishop of Rochester insisting "that the said Mr. Willes should produce the same;" and the said Mr. Willes submitting it to the House, whether he should be obliged to do so, the counsel and bishop were ordered to withdraw; and being withdrawn, a motion was made, and the question was put, "That Edward Willes be obliged to produce his key of the cypher." It was ordered in the negative. Dissentient, 32 peers.

Then the counsel and bishop were called in, and acquainted with the said resolution, and the letters were read.

Then a cypher in the handwriting of John Plunket was offered, and Charles Van Reidigg was examined upon oath, to prove it to be the said John Plunket's hand; and Robert Clarke was examined upon oath, to prove the copy of a letter directed to Digby, dated the 21st of May 1722, under cover to Mr. Waters, banker at Paris, subscribed J. Rogers, to be a true copy of the original, which was stopped at the Post-office, copied, and sent forward as directed.

Tuesday, 6 May 1723.  
p. 185.

And Peter Thouvois was examined, to prove the copy of a letter directed to Digby, dated 31 May 1722, under cover to Mr. Arthur, banker at Paris, subscribed J. Rogers, to be a true copy of the original, which was stopped at the Post-office, copied, and sent forward as directed.

Then the said cypher and letters were read.

John Lefebre was examined upon oath, to prove the copy of a letter directed to Digby, dated February 4, 1722, under cover to Mr. Waters, at Paris, subscribed T. Rogers, to be a true copy of the original, which was stopped at the Post-office, copied, and sent forward as directed.

John Hutchins was examined upon oath, to prove the hand-writing of George Kelly, as to a letter offered in evidence.

And John Malom was likewise examined upon oath, to prove George Kelly's hand, as to another letter.

Page 186.

Peter Thouvois was examined, touching the copies of three letters stopped at the Post-office, the first directed to Chivers, dated April 20, 1722, subscribed "T. Jones;" the second to Musgrave, dated April 20, 1722, under cover to "Mr. Gordon the Son, Banker at Boulogne," subscribed "T. Illington;" the third to Mr. Jackson, under the cover of "Mr. Gordon, le Fils, Banquier à Boulogne-sur-mer," dated April 20, 1722, and subscribed "R," which was copied and sent forward as directed; and attested the same were true copies, except such words as were wrote, and the figures.

And being asked, "if he had order to stop and give those particular letters, or a general order to open all letters in such a hand"—And the clauses concerning opening of letters in the Act 9<sup>o</sup> Annæ Reginæ, intituled "An Act for establishing a General Post-office for all her Majesty's Dominions," being read:

The Bishop asked the said Mr. Thouvois, "if he had any express warrant, under the hand of one of the Principal Secretaries of State, for opening the said letters."

And the Bishop insisting on an answer to his said question, the Counsel and Bishop were ordered to withdraw, and being withdrawn, after debate, this question was stated:

"That it is the opinion of this House that it is inconsistent with the public safety, as well as unnecessary for the prisoner's defence, to suffer any further inquiry to be made, upon this occasion, into the warrants which have been granted by the Secretaries of State for the stopping and opening of letters, which should come and go by the Post, or into the methods that have been taken by the proper officers at the Post-office, in obedience to such warrants."

And it being moved to leave out the words, "as well as unnecessary for the prisoner's defence," after debate the question was put, "Whether these words shall stand part of

the Question;" it was resolved in the affirmative. Then the question was put, "that it is (ut supra)." It was resolved in the affirmative.

Dissentient.—1. We humbly apprehend that, in all criminal prosecutions, the cross-examining of witnesses is necessary for the defence of the prisoners, and for the satisfaction of those who are to judge of the facts alleged against him, in order to the discovery of truth and detecting any fraudulent evidence which should be offered; and the Resolution above recited, does, in our opinions, debar the Bishop of Rochester, and every other person concerned, from asking any questions of the clerks of the Post-office who are brought as witnesses to the bar, relating to the stopping and opening of Post letters, though letters pretended to be stopped and opened at the Post-office are read as evidence against the prisoner; and we conceive that the preventing any further inquiry on these heads must lay this House under great difficulties, when they come to form a judgment on those letters, the validity of which will, in a great measure, depend on the proof given of their having been truly stopped and opened, as asserted.

2dly. We apprehend it to be impossible for this House to determine that the inquiry which is desired, is unnecessary to the defence of the prisoner, till he shall come to make the application; and we conceive he should have the liberty of asking what questions he or his counsel think proper, of the clerks of the Post-office, relating to the stopping and opening of letters, without acquainting The House what use he intends to make of their answers; and this appears to us to be highly reasonable, essential to justice, and warranted by the methods which this House have hitherto allowed the counsel for the support of the Bill to proceed in; who have, during the whole course of this examination, reserved the application of the evidence they have offered, till they should judge convenient to make it.

Signed by 29 Peers.

The Counsel were called in, and the Bishop was brought to the bar, and acquainted with the said resolution.

Robert Clarke was examined, to prove the copy of the said letter, dated 20 April 1722, subscribed "T. Illington," to be a true copy, and the original forwarded.

And Edward Willes, clerk, was examined upon oath, to prove the true decyphering of those letters, dated the 20th of April 1722, subscribed "T. Jones, T. Illington, and R."

And being asked by the Bishop, "whether it is possible to declare certainly that any number stands for a name beginning with any particular letter, unless the immediate preceding and immediate subsequent number appears to denote a man, or words beginning with the same letter." And expressing an unwillingness to answer thereto, declaring, "That it would tend to the discovery of his art, and instruct ill-designing men to contrive more difficult cyphers:"

The Counsel and Bishop were ordered to withdraw, and being withdrawn, after some debate, the question was put,

"Whether the said question, asked of Mr. Willes by the Bishop, should be again put to him."

It was resolved in the negative.

The Counsel was called in, and the Bishop was brought to the bar, and acquainted with the said resolution, and the Bishop persisting to put several questions to Mr. Willes, relating to the method and maxim of decyphering, the Counsel were ordered to withdraw, and the Bishop to be taken from the bar; which being done accordingly, it was proposed that the House should come to this resolution:

"That it is the opinion of this House, that it is not consistent with the public safety, to ask the decyphers any questions which may tend to discover the art or mystery of decyphering."

And a question being thereupon put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

[Further letters were proved by the clerks of the Post-office to have been stopped at the Post-office, copied, and sent forward as directed.]

— LXXX. —

(Howell's State Trials, Vol. 16, pp. 544, 545.)

EXTRACT from the Speech of Mr. Wynne, Counsel for Bishop Atterbury.

"A THIRD way of proving these letters to be the bishop's, is from the handwriting which is supposed to be Kelly's; and he is supposed to have been his lordship's secretary in these matters; both which suppositions are destitute of any proper or satisfactory proof.

"The first is attempted to be supported by the testimony of the clerks of the Post-office. But before I speak to the testimony which they have given, I must beg leave to offer one word as to their manner of obtaining it; and shall endeavour not to transgress your Lordships' late resolution: and when I mention any words of that Act of Parliament, it is only to show the cautious measures the Legislature took even in imparting this power to them, and

and the just apprehensions they had of the abuses and ill consequences that might attend it. My Lords, I am so far from endeavouring to bring them in danger of a penalty, as the counsel were pleased to object, that I am willing to suppose those clerks had proper warrants at that time, and for that particular opening and detaining. But that is all which the Act gives; and the words of it are fully satisfied by such a construction, without going further, and extending the words of the Act to that which was not in the least within the intention or purview of it. It don't appear to me, my Lords, I confess, how they are empowered to take copies (for all such Acts which are in restraint of trade and commerce, are to be strictly and literally construed). But I am utterly at a loss to know from what words of the Act it can be inferred, that such copies shall be received as evidence in courts of judicature; and not only against the writer himself, but against other persons too, &c.

"My Lords, can the party ever have an opportunity to disprove it, if falsely copied, when the original is sent forward? &c."

— LXXXI. —

(Commons' Journals, 1 April 1723, Vol. 20, pp. 182. 184.)

BILL of PAINS and PENALTIES against *Plunket*.

Prayers.

THE Order of the Day being read for the second reading of the Bill, for inflicting certain pains and penalties upon John Plunket;

Ordered, That the Speaker's Chamber and Lobby be cleared of all persons except the counsel, solicitors, and witnesses; and that the back-doors be locked up, and the keys brought up to the table.

And the Serjeant-at-Arms gave an account, That the Speaker's Chambers, and Lobby were cleared; and he brought the keys up to the table, where they were locked up by the clerk:

And the counsel were called in:

And the Bill was read a second time:

And the counsel for the Bill produced extracts of several original letters from abroad, giving intelligence of the conspiracy mentioned in his Majesty's speech:

And the translations of the said extracts were read.

A copy of a letter, stopped at the Post-office, being produced by the Counsel for the Bill, and part of it being in cypher, the decyphers were examined: and the officer of the Post-office, who copied the said letter from the original, which was sent forward, was also examined:

And then the counsel were directed to withdraw.

A motion being made, That the copy of a letter stopped at the Post-office, and copied by one of the officers belonging to the said office, the original letter being sent as directed, be admitted to be read as evidence:

An Amendment was proposed to be made thereto, by adding, at the end thereof, these words, "of the conspiracy in general:"

And the question being put, that those words be added at the end of the question;

It passed in the negative.

Then the main question being put;

Resolved, That the copy of a letter stopped at the Post-office, and copied by one of the officers belonging to the said office; the original letter being sent as directed; be admitted to be read as evidence.

Then the counsel were called in:

And the said copy was read:

And the counsel proceeded to examine several persons, in relation to other letters stopped in like manner; and also to several original papers and letters, in the handwriting of John Plunket: and Matthew Plunket, Serjeant of Invalids, was examined as to discourse between him and John Plunket, in relation to the conspiracy:

And then the counsel produced a letter, said to be writ by the Pretender to John Plunket, when he was at Rome:

And some witnesses were examined in relation to the said letter:

And the said letter was read:

And the counsel summed up the evidence.

And then the counsel withdrew.

And Mr. Speaker opened the Bill.

Resolved, That the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, That this House will, to-morrow morning, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, upon the said Bill.

INTERCEPTED PAPERS respecting the CONSPIRACY.

MR. Chancellor of the Exchequer acquainted the House, that several papers, relating to the matter upon which the House is to proceed this day, having come to the hands of the Lord Carteret, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, his Majesty had directed that they should be laid before this House: and he delivered them to Mr. Speaker; viz.

A letter, dated London, the 20th March 1723, directed, "À Monsieur Monsieur Gordon, banquier,



banquier, à Bologne ;" with draughts of two affidavits enclosed, prepared here, to be sworn by Mr. Gordon at Bologne, and Mr. Birmingham at Paris :

Depositions of Anthony Sanderson and Roger Garth, the 30th of March 1723, relating to the intercepting the aforesaid letter ; taken before the Lord Carteret :

And the same were read at the table ; and ordered to be delivered to Mr. Attorney-general.

Ordered, That the said papers be printed : and that Mr. Speaker do direct the printing thereof : and that no other person do presume to print the same but such as he shall appoint.

— LXXXII. —

(Commons' Journals, 1 April 1723, Vol. 20, p. 184.)

BILL of PAINS and PENALTIES against *Kelly*.

THE Order of the Day being read, for the second reading of the Bill, for inflicting certain pains and penalties upon George Kelly, *alias* Johnson ;

Ordered, That the Speaker's Chambers and Lobby be cleared of all persons, except the prisoner, the officers of the Tower, the counsel, solicitors, and witnesses.

And the Serjeant-at-Arms acquainted the House, that the Speaker's Chambers and Lobby were cleared accordingly.

Ordered, That the Serjeant-at-Arms do stand with the mace at the Bar, whilst the prisoner is there.

Ordered, That the Bill for inflicting certain pains and penalties on George Kelly, *alias* Johnson, be read to the prisoner and the counsel, whilst they are at the Bar.

Then the Deputy-governor of the Tower, attended by several of the wardens, brought the prisoner to the door of the House : where the Serjeant-at-Arms received the prisoner, and brought him in to the Bar : and the Serjeant, or his deputy, stood on the prisoner's right hand, with the mace in his hand, resting it on the floor all the while.

Then the counsel for and against the Bill were called in :

And the Bill was read, in the presence of the prisoner and counsel

And the counsel for the Bill opened the evidence ; and produced a scheme, taken amongst Mr. Layer's papers, which was read ; and afterwards produced a copy of a letter, written in cyphers, stopped at the Post-office :

And the counsel against the Bill objecting to the reading the said letter as evidence ;

The counsel on both sides were heard thereto.

And then the prisoner and counsel withdrew.

And the question being put, That the copy of a letter, written in cyphers, and stopped at the Post-office, and copied by the officers of the said office, the original letter being sent as directed, and the said copy being decyphered, and testified by the decyphers to be truly decyphered, be admitted to be read as evidence ;

The House divided : the Yeas go forth.

Tellers for the Yeas, Mr. White, Mr. Conduit ; 275.

Tellers for the Noes, Mr. Phelipps, Mr. Affleck ; 122.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the prisoner and counsel were called in ; and Mr. Speaker acquainted them with the said resolution :

And the said copy was read.

A paper of John Plunket's handwriting, taken in his lodging, being offered as evidence by the counsel for the Bill, and it being objected to by the counsel against the Bill ;

The counsel on both sides were heard thereto.

And then the prisoner and counsel withdrew.

Resolved, That a paper in John Plunket's handwriting, taken by one of his Majesty's messengers, when the said Plunket's lodgings were searched and his papers seized, be brought up to the table.

And the prisoner, and the counsel, were called in ; and Mr. Speaker acquainted them with the said Resolution :

And the said paper was brought up.

The copy of a letter, dated London, 31 May, 1722, signed J. Rogers, stopped at the Post-house, being offered to be read by the counsel for the Bill ;

And the same being objected to by the counsel against the Bill, as not being examined with the original letter by the clerk, who copied the said letter ;

The counsel on both sides were heard thereto.

And then the prisoner and counsel withdrew.

A motion being made, That the copy of a letter, dated London, May 31, 1722, signed J. Rogers, stopped at the Post-office, and copied by one of the officers belonging to the said office, the original letter being sent as directed, be admitted to be read as evidence, the same not being proved to be examined with the original letter ;

An amendment was proposed to be made to the question, by leaving out these words, " the same not being proved to be examined with the original letter."

And the question being put, that those words stand part of the question ;

The House divided : the Yeas go forth.

Tellers for the Yeas, Mr. Freman, Mr. Verney ; 100.

Tellers for the Noes, Mr. Cockburn, Mr. Sandys ; 261.

So it passed in the negative.

Then

Then the main question being put, that the copy of a letter, dated London May 31, 1722, signed J. Rogers, stopped at the Post-office, and copied by one of the officers belonging to the said office, the original letter being sent as directed, be admitted to be read as evidence;

The House divided; the Yeas go forth.

Tellers for the Yeas, Lord Stanhope, Mr. Pelham; 231.

Tellers for the Noes, Sir John Bland, Mr. Harvey; 112.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

And then the prisoner and counsel were called in, and Mr. Speaker acquainted them with the said Resolution:

And the said letter was read:

And also another letter, dated June 21, 1722.

An examination of Philip Neynoe (who, in endeavouring to make his escape out of the custody of a messenger, was drowned) was offered by the counsel for the Bill, to be read:

And the same being objected to by the counsel against the Bill;

The counsel, on both sides, were heard thereto.

And then the prisoner and counsel withdrew.

Resolved, That the examination of Philip Neynoe, deceased, taken before a Committee of the Lords of the Council, the 27th of September 1722, be admitted to be read as evidence.

And the prisoner and the Counsel were called in:

And Mr. Speaker acquainted them with the said Resolution:

And the said examination was read:

And several other copies of letters, stopped at the Post-office, some intercepted going to foreign parts, and others intercepted coming from foreign parts, were read:

And a printed declaration of the Pretender's, intercepted coming from France, was read:

And an original letter, intercepted coming from France, was also read.

And then the prisoner and counsel were directed to withdraw.

Resolved, That this House will proceed, to-morrow morning at 10 of the clock, in the further hearing of Counsel for and against the Bill, for inflicting certain pains and penalties upon George Kelly, *alias* Johnson.

Ordered, That George Kelly, *alias* Johnson, be remanded to the Tower of London.

Ordered, That the said George Kelly, *alias* Johnson, be brought to this House to-morrow morning at 10 of the clock; and that Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant accordingly.

Ordered, That the several persons who were ordered to attend this House this day, do attend this House to-morrow morning.

Ordered, That the Bill for inflicting certain pains and penalties upon George Kelly, *alias* Johnson, be read a second time to-morrow morning.

— LXXXIII. —

(Hansard's Debates, Vol. 9, p. 842; and Commons' Journals, Vol. 22, 26 February 1734-5; 16 & 25 April 1735.)

PROCEEDINGS in the COMMONS relating to the Privilege of Franking Letters, and to certain Abuses in the Post-office, 1734-5.

26 February 1734-5.

THE copy of his Majesty's warrant, whereby letters are permitted to pass free from the duty payable upon post letters, having been read, complaints were made by several members that their letters were not only charged at the Post-office, but that they were often broke open and perused by the clerks: that this practice of breaking open letters was become frequent, and was so publicly known, that the very end for which that liberty was given to the Postmaster, was entirely disappointed; for the intention being at first to discover any treasonable correspondence that might be carried on against the Government, that intention was rendered altogether vain, because by the practice of opening letters being so frequent and so well known, it was certain that no man would carry on any treasonable correspondence by means of the Post-office; so that the liberty given to break open letters at the Post-office could now serve no purpose but to enable the idle clerks about that office to pry into the private affairs of every merchant and of every gentleman in the kingdom. At last it was insisted that the warrant then laid before The House was not the last warrant granted by his Majesty, nor the warrant by which the Postmasters then acted, and therefore it was moved that a Committee be appointed to inquire into that affair. This motion was in some measure opposed by Sir Robert Walpole and Mr. Henry Pelham; but at last, they agreeing to the motion, provided that a Committee did not inquire into anything that might tend to the discovering the secrets of the Government, an [open] Committee, [to which all that came were to have voices,] was appointed accordingly.

For Report of the Committee, see Commons' Journals, 16 April 1735; Vol. 22, p. 462.

25th April 1735 (Commons' Journals, Vol. 22, p. 476), The House Resolved, "That it is an high infringement of the privilege of the knights, citizens, and burgesses, chosen to represent the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament, for any Postmaster, his deputies or agents, in Great Britain or Ireland, to open or look into, by any means whatsoever, any letter directed to, or signed by the proper hand of, any Member, without an express warrant in writing, under the hand of one of the Principal Secretaries of State, for every

such opening and looking into; or to detain or delay any letter directed to, or signed with the name of, any Member, unless there shall be just reason to suspect some counterfeit of it, without an express warrant of a Principal Secretary of State, as aforesaid, for every such detaining or delaying."

## — LXXXIV. —

(Commons' Journals, 30 June 1742, Vol. 24, p. 298.)

EXTRACT from a further Report of the Committee of Secrecy appointed, 23 March 1742, to inquire into the Conduct of *Robert*, Earl of *Orford*, during the last Ten Years of his being First Commissioner of the Treasury, and Chancellor and Under Treasurer of His Majesty's Exchequer.

"It farther appears to your Committee that, besides the sum of 1,453,400 *l.* 6 *s.* 3 *d.* already mentioned, there has been paid, in the 10 years preceding the 10th of February last, the sum of 45,675 *l.*, without account, to the Society of the Post-office for the time being, as by an account hereunto annexed (No. 15), by virtue of a warrant from the Treasury; and this for a service formerly inconsiderable. Your Committee find, by papers laid before them, that the first payment of this kind was in the year 1718, and amounted to 446 *l.* 2 *s.*, and the succeeding payments for some years were about 750 *l.* per annum; from whence it has gradually increased to 4,700 *l.*, the present annual allowance: and the present secretary, John David Barbutt, Esq., being examined as to this allowance, said 'That the greatest part of this money is for defraying the expense of a private office for the inspecting foreign correspondence; that he cannot say as to the first establishment of this office, having been but three years and a half in the Post-office; but he apprehends there was always an office of this kind, and that it was defrayed formerly by the Secretaries of State.' The establishments in this office seemed so extraordinary to your Committee, that they have added the particulars as contained in the examination of Mr. Barbutt, hereunto annexed (No. 16.)

"No. 16.—John David Barbutt, Esq., Secretary to the Post-office, being examined in the most solemn manner this 18th day of May 1742, and being asked as to the disposition of the money, paid into his hands without account by a warrant from the Crown, said, 'That there is in the Post-office a private office for the inspecting foreign correspondence, and that the greatest part of that money is for the defraying the expense of this office; that the accountant-general and receiver-general, who have inspected the books, have told him, that the first traces they find of any money thus paid by warrant, was in the year 1718. That this examinant cannot say as to the first establishment of this office, having been but three years and a half himself in the Post-office; but he apprehends there was always an office of this kind, and that it was defrayed formerly by the Secretary of State. That he is a stranger to the business of the office, having never been in it; for they pretend to be independent, and receive their instructions from the Secretaries of State, and carry their intelligence to the Secretaries of State, though the postmasters have a right to go into the office. That the annual expenses of this office are as follows: To the chief decypherer, Dr. Willes,\* for himself and his son, 1,000 *l.*; to the second decypherer, Mr. Corbiere, 800 *l.*; to the third decypherer, Mr. Lampe, 500 *l.*; to the fourth decypherer, Mr. Zolman, 200 *l.*; to the chief clerk, Mr. Le Febre, 650 *l.*; to the four other clerks, Messrs. Bode, Thouvois, Clark, Hemmitt, 300 *l.* each; to the comptroller of the Foreign-office, Mr. Day, 60 *l.*; to the doorkeeper 40 *l.* or 50 *l.*, but this examinant believes 50 *l.* There are, besides, incidental charges for seals, &c., an account of which is brought in by one of the clerks, which may amount to 100 *l.*, and to Mr. Lavalade, formerly alphabet keeper, but now superannuated, 40 *l.*; that when these sums were discharged, the overplus, which may amount to 90 *l.*, is divided between the two postmasters and the secretary, each postmaster taking three-sevenths, and the secretary one-seventh. That Mr. Le Febre, besides his above-mentioned salary, is paid something out of incidents, so that his whole salary may amount to about, as he believes, 800 *l.* per annum. That his (Mr. Le Febre's) is a very troublesome post, it being necessary he should always be present at the going out and coming in of the mails. That this examinant does not know of a pension of 200 *l.* per annum paid out of this money; but Mr. Clark, who has formerly attended, and is incapacitated at present, has 200 *l.* paid him out of his salary of 300 *l.*; and another attends for him.

J. D. Barbutt.

## — LXXXV. —

(Extract from Howell's State Trials, p. 1369.)

TRIAL OF DR. HENSEY FOR HIGH TREASON.—A. D. 1758.

James Newman, sworn.

*Co. for Crown.* Do you belong to the General Post-office?—*Newman.* Yes, I ring the bell in Arundel-street, in the Strand, for post-letters, and in that walk; and when I have collected them together, I carry them to the Post-office.

How

\* Dean of Lincoln, appointed Bishop of St. David's in August, 1742.

Howell's State Trials, v. 1369.

How long have you collected letters in that walk?—Three or four years.

Do you know the prisoner at the bar, Dr. Hensey?—Yes; I know him very well; I have known him about 18 months.

Tell the court and jury what you know relative to him?—I have often received, from the prisoner at the bar, letters of a post night, to carry to the office in Lombard-street, and have carried and delivered them to the office, as I used to do other letters; but, at length, I began to suspect them.

How came you to suspect the prisoner at the bar of carrying on a treasonable correspondence?—When I have got all my letters together, I carry them home and sort them. In sorting them, I observed that the letters I received of Dr. Hensey, were generally directed abroad, and to foreigners; and I, knowing the doctor to be a Roman-catholic, and, as I imagined, in the interest of the Pretender, I advised the examining clerk at the office to inspect his letters, telling him, that I had some suspicion that the writer of those letters was a spy.

Did you open any one of these letters yourself?—No; but I happened to challenge the letter about the Secret Expedition; and when it was opened at the Post-office, and found to be what it is, after that I received directions to bring every letter I received from the doctor's own hand, or from that house, directly to the office, that it might be opened; and so I continued to do, till the doctor was taken up.

If you were to see these intercepted letters, should you know them again?—Yes; I should know them again by the outside, because they have got my mark upon them.

Look on these letters, and tell us whether these are the very letters you received of Dr. Hensey to carry to the Post-office?—I received these very letters from the doctor's own hands, or from the maid or mistress of the house in which Dr. Hensey lodged (sometimes one and sometimes another), to carry them to the Post-office; and I did carry them to the Post-office, where they were stopped or intercepted.

To whom did you give these letters at the Post-office?—To Mr. Matthews, one of the examining clerks.

Do you know anything more concerning this matter?—I never heard anything more, after Dr. Hensey was taken on Sunday the 21st day of August last, till now.

(*Cross-examined*).—*Co. for Prisoner*. How came you to know that Dr. Hensey was a Roman-catholic? what had you to do with his religion?—*Newman*. We letter carriers, or postmen, have great opportunities to know the characters and dispositions of gentlemen in the several neighbourhoods of this part of the town, from their servants, connexions, and correspondents. But, to be plain, if I once learn that a person who lives a genteel life, is a Roman-catholic, I immediately look on him as one who, by education and principle, is an inveterate enemy to my king, my country, and the Protestant religion. This led me to keep a watchful eye over Dr. Hensey, and to suspect him of carrying on a correspondence with the king's enemies.

You say that you never opened one of the prisoner's letters; why did you not?—The first letter which I challenged, or suspected, in my own mind, as I was one night sorting my letters, I held up to the candle; by which means I perceived that the body of the letter was wrote in French, and that it begun with the word, "Monsieur." It being wrote in French, increased my suspicion, and determined me to challenge the letter.

*Thomas Matthews, sworn.*

*Co. for the Crown*. Sir, do you know anything of certain letters, said to be wrote by the prisoner at the bar, and intercepted at your office?—*Matthews*. When war is declared against any nation, immediate orders are given out, by the Postmaster-general, to stop all suspected letters, in order to prevent intelligence being given the enemy of our transactions at home. These orders are given to all the clerks of the said office, and to every servant carrying letters. According to which orders, the postman of the walk in which the prisoner at the bar lives, having learnt, as I find, that Dr. Hensey was a Roman-catholic, and that all the letters he received from him, or from the house in which he lodged, were directed to people abroad, he came to me, and told me his suspicions, and did challenge one particular letter; which, on being opened, I found, was under cover, directed to a second person, and so to a third. This strengthened my suspicion; and the contents of this letter being read, orders were immediately given, not only to intercept the letters which came from Dr. Hensey, but also carefully to intercept all the letters that should come to the Post-office directed to the said Dr. Hensey. These directions were given with all the secrecy imaginable, and executed with success.

Sir, look on these letters, and let the Court know whether these are the very letters sent by Dr. Hensey, the prisoner at the bar, to his correspondents abroad, and which were intercepted at your office?—*Matthews*. (*Examining the letters one by one*) They lie now in the order they were intercepted; I received every one of these letters from the postman of the walk; their contents were examined, and I was ordered to carry them to the Secretary of State's office, at Whitehall; where I delivered them to the Honourable Mr. Stanhope.

## — LXXXVI. —

## IRELAND.

Act 23 & 24 George III, c. 17, (1783-4), intituled an Act for establishing a Post-Office within this Kingdom, ss. 30 & 31.

[Continued by 25 George 3, c. 19, s. 1; & 26 George 3, c. 12, s. 19.]

Sec. 30. AND whereas abuses may be committed, by wilfully opening or embezzling of letters or packets, to the great discouragement of correspondence, trade, and commerce, for prevention whereof, be it enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, no person or persons within the kingdom shall wittingly, wilfully, or knowingly, open, embezzle, or destroy, or cause, procure, or permit, or suffer to be opened, embezzled, or destroyed, any letter or packet, after the same shall be delivered into the General or other Post-office, or into the hands of any person or persons employed for the receiving or carrying post-letters, and before delivery to the persons to whom directed, or for their use; *except by an express warrant in writing, under the hand and seal of the Lord Lieutenant, or other chief Governor or Governors of this Kingdom for the time being*; or except in such cases when the party or parties to whom such letter or packet shall be directed, or who is or are hereby chargeable with the payment of the postage thereof, shall refuse or neglect to pay the same; and except such letters or packets as shall be returned for want of true directions, and when the party to whom the same is or are directed, cannot be found; and that every person offending herein, being thereof convicted in due form of law, shall be deemed guilty of felony, without benefit of clergy.

Penalty.

Sec. 31.

Sec. 31.—And be it enacted, That no person or persons shall be capable of having, using, or exercising the office of Postmaster-general, Secretary, Treasurer, Receiver-general, Accountant-general, Resident-surveyor, or Comptroller as aforesaid, or any other office relating to the Post-office, or any branch thereof, or be anywise concerned in receiving, stamping, sorting, charging, carrying, conveying, or delivering letters or packets, unless such person shall have first taken the following oath before some one justice of the peace for the county or place where such person resides; which said oath such justice of the peace is hereby authorized and required to administer, in the following words:—

I, *A. B.*, do swear, that I will not wittingly, willingly, or knowingly, open, detain, or delay, or cause, procure, permit, or suffer to be opened, detained, or delayed, any letter or letters, packet or packets, which shall come into my hands, power, or custody, by means of my employment in or relating to the Post-office, except by the consent of the person or persons to whom the same is or shall be directed; *or by an express warrant in writing under the hand of the Lord Lieutenant, or other chief Governor or Governors of this kingdom for the time being, for that purpose*; or except in such cases where the party or parties to whom such letter or letters, packet or packets, shall be directed, or who is or are chargeable with the payment of the postage thereof, shall refuse or neglect to pay the same; and except such letters and packets as shall be returned for want of true directions, or when the party or parties to whom the same is or shall be directed, cannot be found; and except such letters and packets as are or shall be by law excepted; and that I will not embezzle any such letter or letters, packet or packets, as aforesaid; and that I will well, truly, and faithfully account for all such sum or sums of money as I shall receive, or shall come to my hands, power, or custody, by reason of my employment, or of any other employment which I shall have or enjoy, in or relating to the Post-office.

## — LXXXVII. —

35 Geo. 3, c. 63.

*Title.*—“An Act to enable his Majesty’s Postmaster-general to open and return certain Letters contained in the Mails made up at the General Post-office in London, for the United Provinces, on the 13th, 16th, and 30th days of January, 1795, and now remaining in the said General Post-office.”

*Preamble.* [19th May 1795.] Whereas certain mails of letters made up at the General Post-office in London, on the 13th, 16th, and 30th days of January 1795, and now intended to be sent from the said General Post-office unto the United Provinces, have been detained by virtue of a warrant under the hand and seal of one of his Majesty’s Principal Secretaries of State, and the said mails of letters are now remaining in the said General Post-office: and whereas many of the persons by whom the said letters were written, signed, or sent, have applied to his Majesty’s Postmaster-general to have the same returned to them, and doubts being entertained whether his Majesty’s Postmaster-general is authorized by law to return the same: Be it therefore enacted, &c., &c.” See also 47th Geo. 3, s. 2, c. 53 (8th August 1807): “Bill to enable the Postmaster-general to open and restore certain Letters contained in the Mails, made up at the General Post-office in London for Hamburg, at the dates therein specified.”

## — LXXXVIII. —

(Howell's State Trials, Vol. 25, pp. 249, 250.) A. D. 1795.

"Mr. Tooke: I am informed, from pretty good authority, that a letter was intercepted, which should have come to me by the post, on the Wednesday previous to my apprehension; that it was produced before the Privy Council, and made the subject of very serious examination; that great alarm and great apprehensions were entertained for the particular way of wording of that letter," &c.

Howell's State Trials, vol. 25; Horne Tooke's trial, pp. 249, 250.

The letter was produced in court by the law officers of the Crown.

## — LXXXIX. —

(Parliamentary Paper, 1834.)

A Return of all and every instruction, bye-law, or authority under which postmasters are instructed or authorized, or have assumed a right, to open up, unfold, apply, &c. any lights to, or use any of them, or any other means whatever for ascertaining or reading what may be contained, in words or in figures, in any letter of any size or description, being fastened with a wafer or with wax, or even if totally unfastened by either.

10 February 1834.

General Post-office, 31 August 1834.—No such instruction has been issued from the General Post-office. Every person in the Post-office is required to take the oath prescribed by the Act of the 9th of Anne, c. 10, that he will not open, detain, or delay any letters which shall come into his hands by reason of his employment in the Post-office. Whenever it is noticed that a letter has been put into the Post-office unfastened, it is invariably sealed with the official seal, for security. *R. Freeling*, Secretary.

## — XC. —

ACT 1 Vict. c. 32. 1837.

"An Act to repeal the several Laws relating to the Post Office."

ACT 1 Vict. c. 33. 1837.

"An Act for the Management of the Post Office."

Sec. 10. And be it enacted, that no person hereafter appointed shall be capable of holding the office of Postmaster-general, or of being an officer of the Post Office, unless such person shall have first made and subscribed the declaration contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed, before a Justice of the Peace acting for the place where such person resides, which declaration such Justice shall (on application to that effect) administer and take accordingly.

## SCHEDULE to which the foregoing Act refers.

I do solemnly and sincerely declare, that I will not wittingly or willingly open or delay, or cause or suffer to be opened or delayed, contrary to my duty, any Letter or any thing sent by the Post which shall come in to my hands or custody by reason of my employment relating to the Post Office, except by the consent of the person or persons to whom the same shall be directed, or by an express Warrant in writing under the hand of one of the principal Secretaries of State [or, as to Ireland, under the hand or hands of the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland,] for that purpose, or except in such cases where the party or parties to whom such Letter or any thing sent by the Post shall be directed, and who is or are chargeable with the payment of the Postage thereof, shall refuse or neglect to pay the same, and except such Letters or any thing sent by the Post as shall be returned for want of true directions, or when the party or parties to whom the same shall be directed cannot be found; and that I will not in any way embezzle any such Letter or any thing sent by the Post as aforesaid; and I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously, intending to fulfil and obey the same, and by virtue of the provisions of an Act passed in the First Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act for the Management and Regulation of the Post Office."

This Declaration was made before me the day of .

## ACT 1 Vict. c. 36. 1837.

“An Act for consolidating the Laws relative to Offences against the Post Office of the United Kingdom, and for regulating the judicial Administration of the Post Office Laws, and for explaining certain Terms and Expressions employed in those Laws.”

Penalty.

Sec. 25. And be it enacted, that every person employed by or under the Post Office, who shall, contrary to his duty, open or procure, or suffer to be opened, a Post Letter, or shall wilfully detain or delay, or procure or suffer to be detained or delayed, a Post Letter, shall, in England and Ireland, be guilty of a Misdemeanor, and in Scotland of a Crime and Offence, and being convicted thereof shall suffer such punishment, by fine or imprisonment, or by both, as to the Court shall seem meet; provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend to the opening or detaining, or delaying of a Post Letter returned for want of a true direction, or of a Post Letter returned by reason that the person to whom the same shall be directed is dead or cannot be found, or shall have refused the same, or shall have refused or neglected to pay the Postage thereof, *nor to the opening or detaining or delaying a Post Letter in obedience to an express Warrant in writing under the hand (in Great Britain) of one of the principal Secretaries of State, and in Ireland under the hand and seal of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.*

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R E P O R T  
FROM THE  
SECRET COMMITTEE  
ON THE  
P O S T O F F I C E ;  
TOGETHER WITH  
THE APPENDIX.

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
5 August 1844.*

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The Post appears to be the work of the several crowns (Habsburg, France, Elisabeth); it was sustained by commerce. The vitality of the Post was not supplied by royalty, but by commerce. The Post began, under Frederic III, ostensibly to inform the Emperor as to Italy; it lived because the founders of the Taxis family perceived that the traffic of Germany with Venice, together with the intercourse between Germany and Rome as well as the Italian universities, would sustain the enterprise. The experiment was first made between Vienna-Innsbruck and Milan-Venice-Rome. It succeeded. Then came the discovery of America, which turned the commerce of the world from Venice to Spain and Portugal. Maximilian became the master of Austria, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Burgundy, Spain, and the new world. The Taxis Post had new duties to perform, and performed them well. The crown responded: In 1501 Francis of Taxis became Postmaster; in 1520 John Baptist of Taxis was appointed Postmaster-General. The requirements of the world's trade sustained the Post and gave it its Postal character. The first era of this interesting movement ended March 1, 1501; the second in 1520, when the decline of Venice was assured, and a new era began.

The cradle of the Post is the Tyrol; its first field is the German-Italian traffic. Then it seized upon the larger duty of regular communication between Rome, Vienna, Brussels, and Spain. Maximilian and Charles V may have hoped for deriving the benefit: they did, but they had to share it with the merchant who paid the bills. The modern Post illustrates trade and commerce rather than monarchs and crown ambition. It is the special honor of the Taxis family to have perceived this and to have acted upon the principle that commerce has as great rights as Emperors have, and that commerce has more cash.

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Previous to 1775, or possibly 1783, the American Posts should be treated as part of the English establishment. Up to 1775, or possibly 1783, the supreme authority over the present United States, was vested in the British crown.

The English Posts began as crown Posts, and have never lost that character in all respects. To understand the origin of these Posts one must understand the origin of royalty in England. The kings, certainly after the Conquest, had many occasions to send messages to their agents. This led at an early day to the appointment of regular messengers, who appear in the records as nuncii (13th century, p. 28); then as messagers (in or after 1353, p. 31 f.).

The nuncius gone, the king would send suitable persons from those at court, these substitute nuncii being called cokinus, garcio, valetus, scissor, cursor, and perhaps other names. They appear in the wardrobe accounts. They would take letters from the highest crown officers, from courtiers, and in due course of private persons, making perhaps an extra penny.

They appear to have travelled on foot or horseback, and in theory "all townshippes" were required as late as 1533 to supply horses for these messengers (p. 32). <sup>or 1603?</sup> This duty was a direct inheritance from the cursus publicus of the Roman Empire, the Conqueror having carried that tradition from France to England. In practice, many townships would fail, partly for lack of horses, partly for declining outright. The nuncii or messengers, then, depended on the king for their pay. At the same time they offered an ideal channel by which to despatch private letters.

As the kings had possessions in France up to 1558, private <sup>foreign</sup> correspondence would challenge their attention. As early as 1324 this foreign correspondence was subjected to sharp inspection (pp. 96-99), the natural result being that the crown became the sole means for conveying private letters to or from foreign countries. This evolution was very slow and gradual. As the King held Calais until 1558, the Calais post was naturally the germ of the foreign service which has since become the just pride of the British Post-Office. See the two allusions to Calais on p. 32.

In 1516 Brian Tuke was appointed Magister Nunciorum, marking the inception of the later Postmaster-General. About 1500, or soon after, the nuncii became known as posts; the relay service probably came later. So did the sea post, the first trace of which is the Irish "bark" of 1598 (p. 37). <sup>2</sup> In 1591 the crown affirmed its monopoly of foreign mails (p. 38), and by implication agreed to carry them. In 1603 the domestic posts were allowed to carry "by-letters," that is, letters not in the king's service. In 1635 a monopoly was claimed for domestic mails where there were posts (p. 57), and in 1637/8 domestic postage rates were announced (p. 59). An absolute monopoly for carrying domestic letters could not be established, though affirmed. But the domestic "Letter-Office" was established 22 June, 1637 (p. 58).

<sup>2</sup> Error. As 1555 the English post to Antwerp began, & the post to Calais was earlier

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