

A CALENDAR OF THE COURT MINUTES

ETC. OF THE
EAST INDIA COMPANY

1677-1679

BY
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WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY

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INTRODUCTION

ONE of the main problems that confronted the Company at home during the greater part of the period covered by this instalment was what steps should be taken to ensure the safety of their ships. France and Holland were still at war, and even after peace between the two nations had been concluded by the treaty of Nimeguen (August 10, 1678) commanders were ordered to keep their ships in a 'good posture of defence' because of the 'troublesome times'. In July 1679, however, the Court informed the President and Council at Surat that 'at present thanks be to God we are at peace with all nations, though we know not how long we may so continue. The Turkish pirates only cease not to molest us by sea, and three of them were supposed to be in the Channel and met with our two ships but it proving a strong gale of wind, they came not near each other so that this causes us to renew our orders that you give strict charge to our commanders to maintain their consortship and to be upon their guard especially when they come near and into our Channel and so committing you and our affairs to the guidance and protection of the Almighty.'¹ The letters from Surat and Bantam received in 1677-8 were discouraging to the Company's trade. Surat had been menaced by Šivaji. Trade there had been lowered by the depreciation of bullion, and European goods had been sold at a loss.² Trade at Bantam had been suspended, owing to disputes between the Agent and Council.³

In the spring of 1677 the approach of the annual election of Governor, Deputy Governor, and Committees called attention to an important question of procedure which had been raised at the 1676 election. This was whether the existing practice of allowing the members of the Company to send in their votes in writing was valid, seeing that the charter laid down that the election was to be made by the voters actually present. A Committee had been appointed to consider the point, but had not arrived at any conclusion.⁴ However, at a general meeting held on March 9, 1677, the Deputy Governor, who presided, informed the Generality that the opinion of Counsel had been taken, and that in accordance therewith at the forthcoming election only the votes of

¹ *Letter Books*, vol. vi, p. 93.

² Letters from the Presidency of Surat to the Court, September 22, 1676, and January 22 and February 18, 1677 (*O.C.'s* 4244, 4258, 4267).

³ Letter from the Council at Bantam, January 30, 1678 (*O.C.* 4333).

⁴ See 1674-6 volume, p. 301.

adventurers present at the General Court called for the purpose would count. Widows were allowed to bring in their votes, but not minors (p. 25). Sir William Thomson and Sir James Edwards were again elected Governor and Deputy respectively in April 1677, and were followed in these positions by Sir Nathaniel Herne and Major Robert Thomson in the two ensuing years. Sir William Thomson was chosen Governor in the place of Sir Nathaniel Herne, who died in August 1679¹ (pp. 40, 175, 267, 290).

On March 9, 1677, the Generality were informed that a dividend of 20 per cent would be allowed to adventurers in payment for goods bought at the ensuing sale, and to others as money came in. A proposal that a further dividend of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent be distributed in gingham (unsaleable at the candle) was considered on several occasions in the spring of 1678 and finally adopted (pp. 142-3, 172). On April 15, 1679, it was resolved to acquaint the adventurers at the next General Court that the Court of Committees hoped ('God willing') to issue a dividend after the next sale, if the ships expected from the Indies arrived in safety (pp. 267-8). A dividend of 20 per cent was allowed in the following August (pp. 288, 291). Towards the end of September it was resolved that a further dividend of 20 per cent be made—10 per cent to be payable on October 1 to those who had bought goods at the last sale, the remaining 10 per cent to be payable on March 31, 1680 (p. 296). This decision was communicated to the Generality on October 1, when they were told that it had 'pleased the Lord to give a good success to their affairs'. At the same time they were informed that to lessen the 'eating charge' of the Company's great debt, it had been decided to reduce the interest on loan money from 5 to 4 per cent (p. 299). This question had been under consideration on several occasions, and perhaps we may infer that Sir Josia Child played a prominent part in persuading the Court of Committees to agree to this course of action.

A month before the election of the Governor, Deputy, and Committees

¹ 'And as upon this occasion, we have great cause humbly and thankfully to acknowledge God's great goodness and favourable providence towards us in the prospering of our affairs hitherto, so we have on the other hand lately had a sad occasion to lament the loss of a very worthy eminent person among us, Sir Nathaniel Herne, our late Governor, who departed this life (after 6 days' sickness) on the 16th August past, which is not only a particular, but a public loss. God in mercy make up our breaches and prepare us all for change that sooner or later will befall us' (Extract from Court's letter to the President and Council at Surat, September 29, 1679. *Letter Books*, vol. vi, p. 97). According to William Maitland's *History of London*, vol. ii, p. 1162, Sir Nathaniel Herne was buried in St. Olave's Jewry Churchyard. The date of his death is given as August 10, 1679. The remains from St. Olave's Jewry, including Sir Nathaniel Herne's, were transferred to Ilford cemetery in 1889.

INTRODUCTION

in April 1677 the Generality resolved that £3,000 should be divided among the several Committees according to their attendance since April 17, 1674, up to the next election, and that each Governor and Deputy should be allowed respectively £200 and £100 a year for the like time. In the following year the Governor and Deputy were allowed respectively £200 and £100, and £1,000 was distributed among the Committees. On September 3, 1679, it was resolved to distribute £1,000 amongst the Committees according to their attendance during the year ended April 19, and that £200 be allowed to the late Governor, Sir Nathaniel Herne, and £100 to the Deputy for the same time (pp. 25, 175, 291).

In accordance with the plan adopted in 1665,¹ by which valuations of the Joint Stock were to be made every seven years or sooner, a valuation of the General Joint Stock, as on June 1, 1678, was presented in August. It showed stock and debts owing to the Company amounting to £1,511,619; on the other side debts of £713,578 owing to several persons, leaving a balance of £798,041, as compared with £608,838 on April 30, 1671.² In addition, the Company's possessions and privileges were valued at £216,483, including £60,000 for Bombay Island, with the Fort and new buildings on it, £20,000 for the revenues and privileges in Persia, and £10,000 for the Island of St. Helena, its prospective value and stores. 'Doubtful bad and desperate debts' due to the Company were estimated at £97,172 (pp. 201, 338-40). As regards 'desperate' debts, the Court had ordered previously that a list of the names of the debtors and of the sums owing by them should be drawn up in a table and fixed in some convenient place in the Accountant's Office for all to read, and, 'peradventure heare of some of them that shall hereafter become solvent' (p. 189). In March 1679 a report concerning the Company's financial affairs at home was read in Court. It disclosed that the Company's debt and engagements amounted to above £216,000 more than their effects came to, so that, according to a computation made by the Accountant-General, at least £100,000 of the transient bills would have to be left unpaid to enable them to discharge their necessary disbursements without taking up new money at interest (pp. 258-9).

In January 1678 the Lord High Treasurer informed the Governor that the King's affairs required more than an ordinary supply of money for such preparations for the Navy as were necessary to be made at the time, and asked that the Company would again assist His Majesty, who

¹ See 1664-7 volume, p. 133, note.

² See 1671-3 volume, p. iv.

desired an advance of £30,000 and what quantity of saltpetre they had in store, on security of their customs. The Generality were informed by the Governor accordingly, and that the Court of Committees were anxious to avoid the frequent lending of money because of the Company's great debt, yet as the money was to be applied for the use of the Navy, whose assistance the Company might have occasion for in 'these troublous times', they proposed that £20,000 instead of £30,000 be advanced to the King. By a majority of votes it was decided that the Court of Committees be authorized to appoint persons to contract with those appointed by His Majesty for the saltpetre at a certain rate. The proposal that £20,000 instead of £30,000 be lent to the King was also put to the ballot, and passed in the affirmative (pp. 134-7). In October 1678 the Lord High Treasurer informed the Governor of the King's desire for a further loan. His Majesty remembered with what affection and readiness they had complied with his previous request, and doubted not that he could count on their cheerful assistance in supplying him with an advance of £30,000 and saltpetre to the value of £20,000 on security of their customs. The Lord High Treasurer hoped that the 'unsatisfied remainder' of the last loan would be no obstruction to this, considering how very acceptable and seasonable a service it would be to His Majesty, who desired that the Company should be informed that no further loan would be desired from them till this had been repaid. The Court of Committees thought that compliance with the King's wishes would be of service to the Company, inasmuch as His Majesty had been graciously pleased to promote their welfare upon all occasions by granting them convoys, &c., and the saltpetre was to be employed for the defence of the Kingdom. The questions of the loan and the supply of saltpetre were put to the ballot at a General Court and passed in the affirmative (pp. 213-15). In June 1679 the Court of Committees were informed by the Governor that the Commissioners of the Treasury desired the Company to advance £25,000 to the King on security of some tin valued at £30,000. After a 'full and serious' debate the Committees resolved unanimously that the Governor should wait on the Commissioners, and tell them that the Court ever had been, and would always be, ready to serve the King's occasions when they could do so without prejudice to the Company's affairs. The Company were, however, 'under a very great debt of above £600,000'; the times were 'So uncertain it makes people jealous [i.e. suspicious], insomuch that our creditors come very fast on us for money, which necessitates the Company to

take up new money of the ~~adventurers~~ and their relations daily, to satisfy such as call for ~~old~~, and that the Court could do nothing without the consent of the Generality, who had been only prevailed upon to consent to the last loan upon being told that the Lord Treasurer had, by His Majesty's command, assured them that the Company would not be desired to lend any more money until they had been repaid what was owing (p. 277). On March 8, 1678, a letter from the principal Secretary of State asking that two Portuguese gentlemen might be granted a passage in the Company's shipping for India, was read, and Sir John Banks was desired to inform him of the Court's debate on the subject. A few days later, Sir Joseph Williamson wrote to the Governor, by command of the King. His Majesty knew how inconvenient it might be to the Company if persons other than their servants were to have passage in their ships. The Governor would remember how much the King had heretofore supported the Company on this point against very pressing and powerful solicitations. This was a case, however, in which the Queen had concerned herself, and as the men were certainly not merchants or dealers in any kind of trade, His Majesty would be very glad if her desire were complied with, this being but a single case, which he would not allow to be drawn into precedent for the future to the prejudice of the Company (pp. 156-7).

In September 1677 the Court, after a long debate, resolved that no abatement in the freight of the ships to be employed for the Indies should be made in the season 1677-8 (p. 83). Thirteen ships were dispatched. The *Phoenix* and *Expectation* left for Bantam in November. The *Lancaster* sailed for Bantam, in company with the *Williamson*,¹ *Nathaniel*, and *Society* for Madras and Bengal, and the *Falcon* for Bengal in January 1678. The *Berkeley Castle* departed for Bantam in February, followed by the *Eagle* and *Johanna* for Bantam, in company with the *Sampson*, *President*, and the *Unicorn* for Surat, in March.² The total value of the ships' cargoes (those of the *Phoenix*, *Expectation*, and *Lancaster* excepted) amounted to £369,190.³ The *Phoenix*, was cast away on the rocks of Scilly, January 11, 1680, on her return voyage.⁴ Eight ships were dispatched in the season 1678-9. The *Loyal Subject* sailed for Bantam in December 1678; the *Golden Fleece*, *Success*, and the *George* for Madras and Bengal in January 1679, followed by the *Bengal Merchant*, *Anne*, and the *New London* for Surat in March. The

¹ Newly built ship.

² *Marine Miscellaneous* (I.O.) vol. 504 A.

³ *Letter Books*, vol. v.

⁴ *Letter Books*, vol. vi, p. 161.

Caesar left for Bantam in May.¹ The ships carried cargoes amounting in value to £394,276.² The outgoing ships of the season 1679-80 numbered ten.³ They carried cargoes amounting in value to £461,759.⁴

Other items of interest as regards shipping affairs may be mentioned. On pages 117-18 will be found rules regarding the number of apprentices to be taken to sea by commanders, chief mates, gunners, boatswains, carpenters, and surgeons in the Company's service. The Court of Committees had learned that commanders and officers had lately taken many apprentices, so lessening the number of serviceable men and endangering their ships and the property of the Company. Lists of the seamen, young men, and boys were to be delivered to the Shipping Committee when the ships cleared from Gravesend. The ships' companies were to be mustered in the Downs, so that the lists might be checked and signed by the Surveyor of Shipping and eventually returned to the Shipping Committee. Commanders were to see that their apprentices were well instructed in the mariner's art during the voyage and no one was to be entertained 'under the notion of a purser's mate or any other pretence'. Apprentices were not to be under sixteen years of age. The Surveyor of Shipping was to ensure that men, not under the age of twenty-four, entertained as first and second mates, were able mariners and experienced in navigation. Later, the Court ordered that only men of good deportment who had been examined as to their knowledge of navigation were to be employed as first and second mates. Owners of ships were to supply the Court with the names of the commanders, and of the first, second, and third mates whom they proposed to employ for the voyage, the mates to be listed according to seniority to succeed in case of the death of the commanders (pp. 206, 210, 218). The Shipping Committee were desired to draft standing rules to ensure that seamen did not expend more than one-third of their wages in liquor, tobacco, clothes, or other necessities, and that officers did not take above 50 per cent on any liquor or goods sold by them to seamen upon pain of dismissal from the Company's service (p. 62). The Committee for Private Trade were asked to consider whether it was consistent with the interest of the Company that one of their surveyors should continue to sell brandy and other liquors to officers and seamen of ships employed

¹ *Marine Miscellaneous* (I.O.), vol. 504 A.

² *Letter Books*, vol. vi.

³ For Bantam: *Falcon*, *Society*, and *Nathaniel*.

For Madras and Bengal: *Eagle*, *Sampson*, *Berkeley Castle*, and *President*.

For Surat: *Williamson*, *Lancaster*, and *Johanna*. See *Marine Miscellaneous* (I.O.) vol.

504 A.

⁴ *Letter Books*, vol. v.

in the Company's service (p. 177). On p. 206 will be found a reference to a mutiny in the *New London* on her homeward voyage. Apparently the Court were not satisfied that the commander and officers were blameless in the matter (although they directed the owners of the ship, with the Deputy Governor and others, to consider what steps should be taken to punish the mutineers), inasmuch as the Shipping Committee were desired to ascertain how men employed in the ships returned from the Indies had been treated by the commanders (p. 209). Complaints having been made that owners of ships had not given the mariners one month's pay in six, as agreed in charterparty, the Paymaster of the Mariners was directed to call on them for payment as it became due (p. 243). Subsequently, it was ordered that if the owners refused to allow their officers and men to be paid in the Paymaster's room in the East India House, their ships were to be no longer employed in the Company's service, and commanders failing to register the amounts advanced to the seamen were to be dismissed the service and not again employed. A copy of the rules and instructions was to be put up in the Paymaster's Office and in the steerage of every ship (pp. 278-9). The Court adhered to their former rule to employ no three-decked ship after she had 'reigned sixteen years' (p. 43). On October 31, 1679, it was resolved that the Company's ships should leave Madras and Surat for England each year on January 20 (p. 308). The commander of the *Berkeley Castle* was ordered to discharge and put ashore six 'straingers' and entertain subjects of the King in their stead, and to make up his complement of beer, which the Court of Committees understood was ten tuns short of the usual proportion and might prove prejudicial to the seamen during the voyage (p. 327). On information that several persons, under the guise of seamen, had gone yearly to the Indies in the Company's ships and returned, and so managed a private trade for themselves and others to the Company's great prejudice, the Committee for Private Trade were desired to see how this abuse might be prevented, and that no persons were shipped out or home except those who were really seamen and actually performed the duties of seamen (p. 313).

On February 15, 1678, it was resolved that on the death or removal of Thomas Rolt, appointed to succeed Gerald Aungier as President at Surat, Caesar Chamberlain was to succeed him, and that a commission be drawn up empowering Rolt to be Governor of the Port and Island of Bombay (p. 147).¹ On March 5, 1679, the Court of Committees, on

¹ See also pp. 156, 158, as regards the Commission.

consideration of the smallness of the investments made on the Company's account at Surat, caused by the 'continual wars engaged in by the adjacent countries', ordered that the Surat Presidency was to be reduced to the rank of an Agency, after the death or removal of President Thomas Rolt,¹ and that all salaries, charges, and expenses were to be diminished accordingly (p. 253).

The Company, having received letters from Madras and Bengal disclosing 'great disorders' amongst their servants, and that a great quantity of English goods remained on hand there, referred the matter to the Coast and Bay Committee (pp. 74-5, 95-6). After consideration of their report, the Court of Committees resolved that the factory at Masulipatam (subordinate to Madras) should be continued for the ensuing year. George Chamberlain,² factor at Masulipatam, and others were to be dismissed and sent home, with liberty, however, to stay for twelve months to recover their debts, if they cared to do so; this course to be followed with all of the Company's servants found to be unfaithful to the trust reposed in them (pp. 106, 110). Richard Mohun,³ formerly Chief at Masulipatam, having acknowledged his misdeeds (see preceding volume, p. xxvi) was readmitted into the Company's service and told that some employment would be given him within the Madras Agency (but not at Masulipatam and the factories subordinate thereto), as the Agent and Council should best judge and where he would be most serviceable (pp. 110-11, 120). Certain Committees were desired to consider what powers were necessary to be obtained by a charter for the trial of criminal causes at Madras, and the subordinate factories, and for sending home persons of English nationality remaining in India contrary to the Company's charter, or what else might conduce to the good government of their factories there. Subsequently the Company's solicitor was directed to wait on the Attorney-General with regard to the clause in the Company's charter relative to the trial of criminal causes by the Governor, Agents, and Chiefs in India (pp. 95, 107). There seems to be some connexion between these orders and the request from the Madras Agency for power to proceed to the trial of Manoel Brandon de Lima and William Gilbert, inhabitants of Madras,³ accused of

¹ Rolt assumed office on the death of Gerald Aungier, June 30, 1677. Aungier proposed to the Court of Directors (February 3, 1672)* to make Bombay their head-quarters in India, and the permanent seat of their President.

* O.C. (10), 3624.

² For further information regarding George Chamberlain and Richard Mohun see *The Diaries of Streygham Master, 1675-80*.

³ *Letter from the Madras Agency to the Company, August 6, 1676* (extract)—'Here has

murder. Although the Company were advised that they had power to proceed to the trial of the men, they thought it their duty to apply to the King for his 'allowance and approbation', because of late years there had been only one precedent in a matter of this kind. This was granted by a Royal Commission to the Madras Agency, directing them to proceed to the trial of the two men, and to cause them to be executed if found guilty. Gilbert was found guilty of manslaughter, but only in self defence. De Lima was found guilty, and condemned to death, but, on appealing to the King, was sent to England and imprisoned in Newgate. The Company were ordered to show why he was not capable of His Majesty's mercy and to give their reasons for the limitation of some appeals in criminal causes—'His Majesty declaring his inclination to favour them in that particular if they shall desire the same.' Mathew Mainwaring, Member of Council at Masulipatam, who had been suspended on the plea of misgovernment, arrived home in 1679, to lay his case before the Court of Committees. Meantime, the Court had designated him to be Chief at that place. After several debates he was readmitted into the Company's service as Second in Council at Hūgli. Later, he was called upon to answer the charge of having caused the deaths of two men—Robert Crawley, a factor at Masulipatam, and an Indian servant. After several debates the Court decided to revoke his appointment as Second at Hūgli, to confirm his dismissal, and to order an inquiry to be made at Madras, to which place Mainwaring was permitted to go in one of the Company's ships, in order to settle his affairs and to clear himself of complicity in Crawley's death (pp. 232-3, 239-40, 289, 290, 295-6, 304).¹ Ralph Ord was elected schoolmaster at Madras at a salary of £30 a year, with accommodation for diet and lodging, for teaching the children and youths to read English, write and cipher, and instructing them, by catechizing, in the principles of the Protestant religion, with liberty to teach the Latin tongue to such as the parents wished and to receive reasonable payment for this (pp. 106, 115, 120).

happened a murder by a Portuguese inhabitant, Manoel Brandon de Lima, upon a black christian in his service (but no slave) by him killed with seventeen wounds of a dagger in his own house the 19 Oct., as particulars herewith, whom we have in safe custody against you send us out a sufficient power to proceed against both him and the Englishman advised in our last. It is not unlike that the former's countrymen, who, as the Spaniards and Italians, are usually more tender of the survivor than of the consequence, may solicit at home, as well here, to get him to be sent either to England or to Goa; which, if so commanded, we must obey, but our judgments are to have the example made here by fair trial upon the place, for which reason we keep the said Englishman also. . . . (O.C. 4215).

¹ See *The Diaries of Streytnsham Master, 1675-80*, pp. 72-3, for further information regarding Mainwaring and Crawley, and Love's *Vestiges of Old Madras*, vol. I, p. 407, as regards Gilbert.

Primers, psalters and testaments to the value of £5, a copy of Culpeper's *Dispensatory*, and forty of the books (? Dictionaries) of Elisha Coles were entrusted to his charge (pp. 128, 132). Plate and other things for the Company's table, and for the use and ornament of St. Mary's Church were sent to Madras (p. 286). Twenty soldiers were entertained to serve at Madras, in pursuance of the policy that the Fort garrison should wholly consist of English (p. 227). The commanders of the outgoing ships consigned to Madras and Bengal were ordered to take in at Johanna whatever large stones they could procure and conveniently stow for repairing the fortifications at Madras and the wharf there against the violence of the sea (pp. 116, 130).

It will be remembered that the King's Letters Patent of October 5, 1676, empowered the Company to coin rupees, pices, and other coins at Bombay.¹ In February 1677 the Surat Committee were directed to confer with 'Esq. Slingsby' about stamps for coining rupees, pices, and budgrokes, &c., and to give directions for the preparation of such stamps with all convenient speed. At the same time, Ion Kenn, assistant to the Cashier, was directed to make a table of all coins, weights, and measures used in India, and reduce them to the English standard. A few days later, Slingsby delivered to the Court a design of a stamp for a rupee,² which the King had seen and approved of the night before; but as it was impossible to procure the stamps for the engraving before the departure of the ships of the season, the Court directed the Surat Committee to meet Slingsby, and to agree with some able person to prepare the necessary stamps for coining rupees and pices in readiness for them to be sent to Bombay by the ships of the ensuing season. In January 1678 the Surat Committee were desired to give directions for forty stamps for coining rupees 'according to the draft' approved by the King, who left to the Court of Committees the question whether or not any inscription should be put on the edge of the coins. The 'engines, dies and other necessities' supplied by George Bowers, costing £126, were sent to Bombay in the following March³ (pp. 14, 18, 42, 138, 141-2, 168).

¹ See preceding volume, pp. xiii, 357.

² Bearing the inscription 'The Rupee of Bombain', with two roses underneath, and, in the counterpart '1677 by authority of Charles the Second'; and on the other side His Majesty's arms, and, in the counterpart 'King of Great Britain, France and Ireland'. For an illustration of this rupee, presumably minted in England, before the stamps were sent to Bombay in March 1678, see *The English Factories in India, 1670-7*, p. 182. The specimen of the Bombay rupee of 1678 in the British Museum has no inscription on the edge (Information supplied by Mr. John Allan, Keeper of Coins and Medals).

³ Company's letter to the Deputy Governor and Council at Bombay, March 15, 1678 (*Letter Books*, vol. v, p. 552).

The Company's petition to the King begging that he would cause the right and extent of his dominions in Bombay to be examined (see preceding volume, pp. xii, 275-8) was referred to the Lords Committees for Foreign Affairs, who asked the Company to 'lay their thoughts and desires before them' (pp. 3, 5). In February 1677 the Portuguese Ambassador presented a memorial to the King, in which it was alleged that Alvaro Perez de Tavora (see preceding volume, p. xii) and other Portuguese inhabitants of Bombay had been unjustly treated by the Governor, contrary to article XI of the Treaty between England and Portugal of June 23, 1661, whereby the Island of Bombay was ceded to King Charles. The Ambassador solicited reparation for these 'acts of violence', and prayed that one of the King's ministers be appointed to confer with him as to the bounds of the 'two islands, Bombay and Māhim', so that an agreement might be arrived at as to the extent of the dominions of the two crowns in India (pp. 13-14). It will be remembered that Humphrey Cooke, Governor of Bombay, sent a detachment to take possession of Māhim and its dependencies in March 1665, notwithstanding that these territories had not been included in the agreement of delivery (repudiated by King Charles, in his letter, to the Viceroy of Goa, March 10, 1677), defining the limits of the ceded territory, signed by him and the Portuguese commissioners in the previous month. As regards the Company's petition, the Lords Committees reported to the King that, in their opinion, some intimation ought to be given to the Viceroy of Goa of his intention to make representations on the subject to the Prince Regent of Portugal, and of his command that the Company should refuse payment of the customs demanded by the Portuguese officials at Thāna and Karanja. On reading the Committees' report, the Company begged that a clause be added to the proposed letter to the Viceroy, requesting him to countermand the prohibition of the grant of passes to Surat junks going to Gombroon (see preceding volume, pp. xiv-xv). The King was pleased to approve of this, and commanded Secretary Coventry to see that it was added accordingly (pp. 20-1). The King's letter to the Viceroy (in Latin) will be found on pp. 25-8.¹ On July 3, 1677, the Secretary to the Lords Committees for Trade and Plantations asked the Company to prepare an answer to the Portuguese Ambassador's memorial, mentioned above, whereupon the Surat Committee were directed by the Court to wait on Their Lord-

¹ For a translation see Dr. Shafaat Ahmad Khan's *Anglo-Portuguese Negotiations relating to Bombay, 1660-77*, pp. 483-4.

ships and give them a copy of the Company's memorial submitted in February, together with a copy of the King's Order in Council directing Alvaro Perez de Tavora to apply for redress to the Courts of Judicature at Bombay (pp. 58-9). Subsequently, order was given for a narrative of the proceedings of the Captain-General of the Portuguese at Bassein against the English at Bombay, mentioned in advices lately received from Surat, to be presented to the Lords Committees (p. 60). The narrative related to another broil with the Portuguese, which is dealt with at length in *The English Factories in India, 1670-7*. Briefly, the Captain-General demanded the surrender of a vessel that had run into the Port of Bombay for protection against a Portuguese frigate, and also the surrender of Māhim. The Lords Committees informed the Company that they would not only ask the King to expostulate most earnestly with the Prince Regent of Portugal about the insolent behaviour of the Portuguese, and the murder of Sergeant Sutherland,¹ but also to require him to give positive orders to his officers in India not to exact any dues from the English within the port of Bombay, nor on their ships passing Thāna and Karanja to the neighbouring countries, for if this practice were continued the King would be obliged to direct his subjects to levy upon the Portuguese equal customs for trading and passing those waters, as the Viceroy of Goa had been informed (p. 61). In response to a further request for an answer to the Portuguese Ambassador's memorial (p. 63), the Company replied they conceived that they were expected to answer in justification of their management of Bombay rather than they 'should distinguish between Bombay and Māhim, both which they had received as one and the same island and dominion from His Majesty, and hope never to let goe either of them, to any power on earth, unless to the same hand that gave it'. They heartily wished that as the Ambassador very justly desired the preservation to the Portuguese inhabitants of Bombay of their lands and privileges in accordance with the treaty, so also the treaty should be observed by the Portuguese in their allegiance to those to whom it was due. Alvaro Perez de Tavora and other persons mentioned in the memorial ought to appeal to their own proper sovereign for justice and not deprive His Majesty of that right by first filling Portugal with ungrounded complaints, which might disturb the good correspondence that there ought to be between the two nations, and more than anything else produce the dangers mentioned in the memorial (pp. 78-9). The upshot of the

¹ See *English Factories in India, 1670-7*, pp. 146-7.

deliberations of the Lords Committees for Trade and Plantations on the Company's memorial was that, on their recommendation, the King sent a letter to the Prince Regent of Portugal, informing him that he wished full and ample power be sent by the Prince to his Ambassador in London, for the better 'clearing up' of article XI of the treaty, and of his desire that speedy orders be given to the Viceroy of Goa to put a stop immediately to the imposition of tolls and taxes on the King's subjects, as they traded and passed in boats, in the open streams, by the forts of Thāna and Karanja, on their way to the territories of the Great Mughal and Śivājī (pp. 102, 112-13). This letter, under cover of a letter from Secretary Coventry, was entrusted to the Company for delivery to Parry, British Envoy to Portugal. They availed themselves of the opportunity to ask him to 'prosecute that business to a full effect in the asserting of our rights as to what wee possesse' and to give them an account of what had been done therein. The accomplishment of their desires would be gratefully acknowledged (p. 122). Four months later, Parry wrote to the Governor. He had pressed the Prince Regent to empower the Portuguese Ambassador in England to settle the whole affair. The business had been three months before the Council for Foreign Plantations, time enough, one would think, for it to give a very full and particular report, and for the Prince to give a satisfactory answer to the King's letter. Instead of the Portuguese giving the King satisfaction for the injuries done to his subjects in Bombay, they seemed to expect satisfaction for injuries done to them. They looked for some concessions from the King, such as the delivery of Māhim, which, Parry understood, was to be again demanded. He had done all in his power, and had received a final answer (p. 178). A few days afterwards, the Lords Committees desired Secretary Coventry to send to Parry a paper received from the Company, in response to their request, showing how very generously Alvaro Perez de Tavora had been treated by the Company by which the Committees hoped Parry would be able to convince the Portuguese ministers 'how fair a pattern' it showed them for justice to be done to King Charles's subjects, who had much reason to complain of hardships in the East Indies and also of the great delays put upon them in the Court of Portugal (p. 186).¹ Sir Robert Southwell, clerk to

¹ See the *English Factories in India, 1665-7*. Sir William Foster suggests it can hardly be doubted that the two crowns contemplated the surrender of the whole island, not simply Bombay proper, Mazagaon, Parel, and Warli. The reader's attention is invited to the map of Bombay on p. 40 of that volume, and to Dr. Khan's *Anglo-Portuguese Negotiations relating to Bombay, 1670-7*. Dr. Khan suggests that King Charles was at

the Privy Council, was presented by the Company with a gratuity of one hundred guineas, for his great care in drawing up the Company's case relating to their interest in the Port and Island of Bombay and other matters in dispute (p. 39).

There are not many references in the Minutes to the Company's affairs in Bengal. The Committee for the Coast and Bay were desired to read the letters from the Madras Agency and Streynsham Master, and consider what was best to be done to procure a new farmān for additional privileges in Bengal, the Company having learned that the Danes had obtained commercial privileges there, and that the Dutch trade in Bengal had fallen off (p. 63).¹ The commanders, officers, and seamen of the Company's ships were again encouraged to acquire a knowledge of the navigation of the Ganges, by the promise of gratuities, ranging from a month's pay to the seamen to £100 to the commander of a vessel that sailed up the Ganges as far as Hūgli or Channock.² The owners of the ship were to be allowed 40s. per ton for the ship's whole tonnage above the ordinary freight. Later, the owners of the *Falcon* were informed that if the ship managed to get half-way to Channock one-half of the allowance would be given to them and the ship's company, for their 'hazards and pains'. On the return of the *Falcon* the Shipping Committee were desired to pay the gratuities, with the proviso that the amounts due to the seamen were to be paid 'into their own hands', and to inquire whether the officers had dealt in an underhand way with the men about the gratuities (pp. 124, 127, 135, 298-9). Ten young seamen were sent to the Bay, for employment in the vessels on the Ganges for five or seven years (p. 111). Steps were taken to ascertain how the gloss in black silk in the skein could be preserved when woven into taffetas, and to procure patterns for the guidance of weavers in making 'branched velvets' (pp. 80, 112). A dyer entertained to serve the Company in Bengal took with him a young apprentice so that he could eventually teach the natives the art of dyeing silk (pp. 298, 305). The Chief and Council at Hūgli were informed (December 3, 1679)³ that after consideration of several years' experience the Company were of opinion that there was no way to carry on the dyeing business to any considerable effect in India without obliging the dyers they had there to teach

fault in not repudiating earlier the agreement concluded by Cooke with the Portuguese commissioners.

¹ See also *Letter Books*, vol. v, pp. 440-1, 516.

² Chanok, midway between Calcutta and Chandernagore. (*Plan du Gange depuis la Pointe des Palmiers jusqu'à Ougly, fait en 1748*. India Office Map, A. XL^a).

³ *Letter Books*, vol. vi, p. 130.

their art to some of the Company's Indian servants whose parents and ancestors had been for many years retained at the factories. To encourage the dyers the value of £20 sterling was to be allowed for every Indian so perfectly instructed as to be able to 'perform the part' of a masterdyer or chief workman in blacks and greens.

In July 1677 the Bantam Committee recommended that for the management of the Company's affairs at Bantam, and for settling the trade in China, which they thought might in a short time prove very advantageous, three able persons versed in accounts and trading should be entertained for Bantam and Jambi, two to be of Council, also four writers, and that an able factor and two writers be entertained for Formosa, the same for Tonquin, and four writers for Amoy. These proposals were approved by the Court (pp. 62-3, 65). The Company, however, had not yet abandoned hope of re-opening trade with Japan.¹ The Surat Presidency were of opinion that the King of Siam would not only grant the English the same freedom of buying skins and other exports for the Japanese market which the Dutch possessed, but would also assist, by a letter of recommendation to the Emperor of Japan, in procuring for the Company the privilege of trading at Nagasaki. The Surat Council thought that the misunderstanding between the Company and the Emperor might soon be removed, by employing some discreet person, either from Bantam, Siam, or Bombay to carry a letter from either the Company or King Charles, desiring the Emperor's permission to dispel the misrepresentations that had caused the failure of the mission. The introductory letter from the King of Siam might be obtained on the way.² To these proposals the Company replied (March 7, 1677)³ that the Surat Council were to send some fit person to Japan by way of Siam, with letters from the King of Siam to the Emperor of Japan, which they believed he would give to encourage the Company to continue their factory in Siam. The King was to be assured that they would do so if a trade at Japan could be attained. In the following August the Committee for Bantam and the South Seas factories were desired to consider whether it was convenient to continue a settlement in Siam, what goods should be provided for Amoy, Chinchew,⁴ Tonquin, and other places, and the steps to be taken for carrying on a trade there to the best

¹ See 1671-3 volume, p. vii *et seq.*; and 1674-6 volume, p. xix *et seq.*

² Letter from the Surat Presidency to the Company, January 17, 1676 (*O.C.* 4163, folios 22-3).

³ *Letter Books*, vol. v, p. 408.

⁴ Tsinkiang, formerly Chüanchow, Fukien, about 40 miles north-east of Amoy, at the mouth of the Nan-ngan River.

advantage of the Company (p. 73). They reported that the trade at Amoy was very hopeful for obtaining Japanese and other goods at the best rates as well as for selling European and Indian goods, and, therefore, the settlement should be continued also at Tonquin and Siam. As regards Formosa, they recommended that only two factors and two writers should be continued there until satisfactory arrangements had been made at Amoy; then they were to leave, if they could do so without giving offence to the King of Formosa or to his great ministers. These recommendations were approved (p. 77). Twenty patterns of several sorts of silk, such as might hold in fashion, were procured by Benjamin Delawne and John Blunden, designated Chief in China and Second at Tonquin respectively, to take with them on the voyage (p. 88). In October 1679 the Committee for Bantam and the South Sea Factories were desired to consider the Company's trade at Jambi, Formosa, Tonquin, Amoy, and Siam, and to ascertain whether the Company gained or lost by it, and, in particular, whether it would be serviceable for the Company to continue the factories at Siam and Tonquin (p. 298). The Court decided that the Agent and Council at Bantam were to 'leave by degrees' the 'port' of Siam, as it had not answered the expectations of the Company in point of trade.¹ They were to represent to the Barcalong (Phra-klang), the intermediary in approaching the King of Siam, that as the Company found they were losers by that trade, they did not think fit to continue there (pp. 305-6). The Bantam Committee were desired to consider how the Company's trade in China and the South Sea factories might be managed by freighted ships, the prevailing method of using their own ships having been found to be very costly (p. 309). It was resolved that the *Flying Eagle* and *Advice Pink* should be sold, and only the *Return*, *Tywan*, and *Formosa* should be employed to carry on the China trade (p. 306). The Bantam Agency were informed (November 26, 1679)² that the Company had considered their affairs at Amoy, Formosa, Tonquin, and Siam. As Amoy appertained to a great and rich Kingdom, the Company hoped 'if there be security and peace, it may procure a considerable vent of our English manufactures, and by having so near a correspondence with Japan, we may in time obtain a trade thither, so that we think to keep on our trade in that place, and do send out supplies accordingly both of English manufacture, as you advised . . . '.

¹ For further information see *English Intercourse with Siam*, by Dr. J. Anderson (Trubner's Oriental series).

² *Letter Books*, vol. vi, p. 106.

The gist of the Company's letter to the King of Bantam of October 5, 1677, wherein they informed him that, in spite of the false suggestions of their late Agent, Henry Dacres,¹ they saw that he possessed those 'noble principles of justice and righteousness by which Kings reign and the thrones of all Princes are established', was that if he did not abate the price of and custom on pepper they would be compelled to discontinue their trade at Bantam, which place they designed to make the centre of all their trade to the eastern part of the world if they had due encouragement from him to do so (p. 91). In December, the Company learned that Agent Arnold White, Albinus Willoughby,² and Dudley North³ had been killed by two Javanese, about two miles from the factory up the river, whereupon they took steps to procure a letter from King Charles to the King of Bantam, in which the latter was informed that His Majesty had been 'extremely touched with the sense of so horrid a cruelty' and prayed him to take effectual means for 'this innocent blood to be avenged' (pp. 59, 122, 123, 131-2). According to the writer of a letter endorsed 'Relation of the murder of Agent White, &c.',⁴ the King of Bantam was then in a 'state of dull melancholy' and the 'barbarous phantasm' of his son 'had encouraged some villainous great ones to commit horrid murders upon the chiefest of our nation'. This alarming state of affairs is doubtless the explanation of the orders sent to the commander of the *Loyal Subject*, which sailed for Bantam in November 1677. He was to have no communication with the King of Bantam or any of his ministers without leave from the Agent and Council. If he found on arriving at Bantam that further outrages had been committed to such a degree as to make it expedient that the factory should be dissolved, or to endanger his ship's cargo, if landed, he was to sail at once to the Bay of Bengal, deliver his ship's cargo to the Chief and Council, and procure goods to fill his vessel for England (p. 228). The Company, having received no further definite information from Bantam, gave detailed orders to the commander of the *Caesar* (May 7, 1679) as to the course he was to follow if, on arriving in Bantam Road, he found that there was war between the King and the Dutch; of these only one need be mentioned, namely, that in certain circumstances he was to apply for pepper at Andragoras,⁵ where the King of

¹ Knighted, July 18, 1677, soon after he arrived in England to answer the charges made against him.

² Member of the Council of Bantam. See preceding volume, p. 25.

³ Second at Jambi.

⁴ O.C. (I.O.), 4284.

⁵ The letters from the Bantam Agency containing the King of Johore's proposals do not

Johore, according to advices from Bantam, had invited the Company to trade. A few days later, however, the Company learned that a Dutch ship had arrived in Holland, but had brought no news of a breach between the King of Bantam and the Dutch. Thereupon, order was given that the arms and ammunition desired by the King were to be put aboard the *Caesar* (pp. 271-3).

The Company renewed their orders to the Governor and Council at St. Helena to take great care to prevent any foreigners entering either the island or the Fort, and to ensure that constant watch be kept day and night where a landing might be effected to avoid any surprise. They understood that a considerable French fleet of men-of-war had gone to the Cape, or to India, which might touch at St. Helena on their return. No more 'blacks' were to be bought for the account of any commander or others. The planters were to be allowed to supply themselves at their own charge as opportunity offered, and, if more servants were wanted Englishmen and boys would be sent (pp. 36-7). In February 1678 the Court, having had 'a good character of the integrity, valour and prudence' of Major John Blackmore, elected him Governor of St. Helena, in succession to Captain Gregory Field, after consideration of many complaints of the latter's 'ill-living'. Captain Anthony Beale was appointed Deputy Governor (pp. 148-9). The Company's letter of the 15th March contained detailed instructions regarding the observance of the Lord's Day, the punishment of persons found guilty of committing certain crimes, the disposal of ammunition, stores, and provisions, and the defence of the island. To lessen the consumption of gunpowder not more than three guns were to be returned to the salute of any ship arriving at the island, and none were to be shot 'at healths or other needless actions'. The Governor and Council were advised of the dispatch of several fruit-trees, vines, and 'other seeds', so that when the Company's plantation had been sufficiently furnished the remainder might be distributed gratis to those who had been most diligent and industrious in looking after the plantations. Other instructions related to the wages of artificers and workmen, the maintenance of a register of lands allotted to planters on their first arrival and to soldiers who turned planters, the registration of sales and conveyance of estates, &c., and the keeping of a register of marriages, christenings, and burials on the island

appear to be extant. According to the Company's letter to the Agency (May 15, 1679) Andragoras was 'far within Sumatra', presumably on the east coast. It may be that Andragoras was one and the same place as Indraghiri (north-west of Jambi), where at one time the Company had a factory, which was dissolved in 1622.

(pp. 158-65). The Governor and Council were urged (November 1678) to fortify the island and to guard all avenues of approach, to keep the inhabitants sober and temperate, and to strictly prohibit the making of any fires for signals, which practice, and the intemperance of the inhabitants, many of whom were then found drunk on guard, they understood, had given the Dutch fleet a great advantage in 1673¹ (pp. 223-4). In May 1679 the Company directed that all manner of provisions should be raised, for if the planters expected supplies from home, they might be less industrious, therefore they were not to look for more from England. They prohibited the practice of 'negro' ships carrying away goods brought from India in the Company's ships. They thought that old soldiers might be permitted to return home if they wished to do so, the island having been put into 'so good a posture', and the King being at peace with all his neighbours (pp. 275-6). On pp. 195, 202, will be found references to the return of Edmond Halley, the astronomer, and his friend from St. Helena.

During the period various rules regarding the Company's servants in the Indies were laid down. All factors returning from India who wished to have their salaries paid were henceforth to 'write their demands' to the Accountant-General before he made them up (p. 8). Order was given that all factors entertained for the Indies in the past or future, were to take the oath of freemen (p. 83). The Lawsuits Committee were desired to prepare the form of an oath to be administered by the President, Agents, and Chiefs in India, to all factors, and writers on coming of age, to oblige them to their allegiance to the King and to faithfulness to the Company in the management of their trade, conformable to the oath taken by the freemen of the Company (p. 88). The order that all writers who had just been elected were to write over again their petitions before the Secretary, and that they were to be presented to the Court by him, seems to point to the possibility that the Court suspected that some of the original petitions were not written by the applicants. 'Fair writing' was one of the qualifications for appointment (p. 101). At the same time it was ordered that henceforth all writers entertained for the Indies were to serve seven instead of five years from the time of their arrival there (p. 101). To prevent disputes about the rank of the Company's servants at Madras, Masulipatam, and Bengal, all under the degree of senior merchants were confirmed in the rank appearing in the list recently received, and to 'avoid the inconveniency of writers rising

¹ See 1671-3 volume, p. xvii.

to the degree of merchant before those sent from England as factors', the latter were to be admitted to the degree of merchants after three years' service in India (p. 116). Writers were to seal new covenants and bonds upon coming of age; these to be registered in the original consultation books, and sent home by the first ship leaving for England (p. 117). For the better security in future of the Company from losses that might happen by any of their factors, it was decreed that one of the securities given by them must be a London citizen of known ability, credit, and estate, and able to meet his obligations. (p. 191). It was resolved that no adventurer who was security for any factor or writer in India whose accounts were in question should be permitted to sell or transfer his adventure without leave of the Court of Committees, and the Accountant-General, before making any such transfer, was to acquaint the Court and receive their directions. The Secretary was to notify the Accountant-General from time to time of those who became security for any of the Company's factors or writers (p. 217). The Shipping Committee were desired to consider whether factors and writers entertained in the service and returning to England before their time should satisfy the Company for their passage out and home and for their maintenance (p. 281). The Court approved four additional rules to be observed by the factors, &c., in the Indies, designed to safeguard the Company against certain malpractices by, and bankruptcy or insolvency of factors, &c. Printed copies, signed by the Secretary, were to be sent to the several factories and there hung up in the most public places (p. 310). After a long and serious debate the Court decided that factors were not to be allowed freedom of trade in India 'in all commodities of the countrie' (p. 228). The Agents and Councils at Madras and Bengal were required to keep a register of all private trade carried on by the Company's servants in the Indies and an exact diary of all goods bought for the Company, with their prime cost, also what they were sold for, on which no 'imaginary' prices were to be put, as the Company understood had been the practice (p. 229).¹ On information that the Company's Agents, Chiefs, and factors had engaged in a very considerable trade, far beyond the compass of their own estates and contrary to rules and orders, and for that purpose had borrowed money of their colleagues and natives, 'to the apparent damage of the Company, breach of their covenants and the trust reposed in them and to the dishonour of the English nation', order was given that this practice should

¹ See also *Letter Books*, vol. vi, p. 28.

be strictly prohibited, and for a standing rule and order to this effect to be drawn up and sent to the President and Council at Surat, Agents, Chiefs, and subordinates (p. 302). The Court of Committees, hearing that factors and servants sent home yearly fine goods in the charge of mates and seamen, on which no freight was paid, prohibited the practice, and ordered that any person found doing this should be dismissed the Company's service (p. 307). Persons permitted to go to Bombay as free planters or merchants were not to be entertained as writers, factors, or in any other employment without the Court's special order (p. 194). Order was given that the judge of the Island of Bombay was to rank as fourth in Council, and was to apply himself solely to the performance of his duties as judge, and not concern himself in mercantile affairs (p. 154).

The oaths to be administered to the Governor, Deputy Governor, freeman of the Company, various officers of the home establishment (including the Beadle), and to the Company's officers in Bombay are printed on pp. 180-4.

The Committee formerly appointed to consider how a stock for charitable purposes could be raised,¹ having made little progress in the matter, were ordered to take serious thought about it (p. 23). On pp. 261-7 will be found two very interesting reports submitted by the Shipping Committee, in accordance with the Court's desire that they should 'inspect the rise and foundation' of the Company's Almshouse at Poplar, and prepare rules and instructions for its good government in future.² Lord Berkeley and certain other Committees were desired to consider how money might be raised for propagating the Gospel in India, and for the relief of the poor, and how the money might be managed in order to answer these ends (pp. 89, 268, 296, 305). It was resolved that all money given to the Poor-box should be applied wholly for the use of necessitous persons who had served the Company, or for their relations, no member of the Court to suggest otherwise (p. 187).

The Minutes contain many references to the measures adopted to ensure that bullion was not sent to India, without permission or payment of freight. On information that some Jews and others had gone to the Downs with the intention to put a considerable quantity of bullion aboard the ships bound for Surat, the commanders were ordered to

¹ See 1671-3 volume, p. xxv.

² See Sir William Foster's *John Company* for the rules, and for further information regarding the Almshouse.

make strict inquiry (pp. 30-1). The Company's Husband was directed to engage a surveyor from the Commissioners of Customs to go aboard certain of the Company's ships that had arrived from the Indies, and the commanders were instructed to send to the East India House at once their pursers, accompanied by the Husband or his assistant, with all diamonds, jewels, and other fine goods, registered or not registered, returned in their vessels, to be delivered according to the bills of lading in the presence of the Treasury Committee (p. 73). The Court, having learned that parcels of diamonds had been secretly delivered from the incoming Madras ships without payment of freight, ordered that for the future all commanders and pursers in the vessels for Madras and Surat, should within one month after their return and arrival in the Thames deliver, according to their charterparty, to the Committee for Private Trade, 'a perfect account of all and singular such goods, bullion, diamonds, and persons as during the whole voyage had been carried in the ships'; also to and from what ports or places, how consigned, under what marks and numbers, excepting only such goods as were for their own proper account, or for the account of their officers and men (p. 101). Commanders of the Company's ships bound for the Indies were ordered not to receive any bullion on board contrary to orders. The Company gave a larger indulgence to them than their neighbours, so if they disobeyed orders they were not to expect encouragement, but those who detected this wrong-doing would be rewarded 'according to their desert' (pp. 118, 133). Foreign bullion and silver discovered in any of the outgoing ships for which permission had not been obtained was to bear a charge of double freight, of which one-quarter would be paid to the person giving information concerning it. The Court decided to allow the Agent at Madras one-half the freight due to the Company on all that he discovered had been taken there 'out of register'. Certain Committees were desired to consider what restraint should be made on the exportation of bullion for the account of the President of Surat, Agents, and factors, under what limitation, and what affirmation should be made. Their recommendations were approved, namely, that the President of Surat and the Agent of Madras should be at liberty to have sent out to them yearly £2,000, the Agent in Persia, the Deputy-Governor of Bombay, the Chief in Bengal, the Chief at Masulipatam, and all of the General Council of Surat and Madras £1,000 (pp. 148, 151). Later, the Company having learned that several persons intended to lade bullion, coral, and other goods, without

permission or licence, in some of the Company's ships, and that already some had been laden in vessels to be transferred to the Company's ships when at sea, the commanders were informed that if they transgressed orders they must expect 'a suitable resentment', but if they reported such dealings, it would be 'esteemed an acceptable service', for which they would receive a 'proportionable encouragement' (p. 241).

The Committee for the Coast and Bay were desired to consider how the prejudice suffered by the Company and the kingdom in general by the rise in the price of diamonds in India might be prevented in future. They reported that Nathaniel Chalmley, who had been permitted to stay in India, on condition that he would not trade in anything but diamonds and jewels, and would render an account of what diamonds he sent to England,¹ had not performed the trust reposed in him, whereupon the Court ordered that the Madras Agency should be required, without any excuse, to send him home by the year's shipping, and to inform the factors and other servants of the Company that it would be looked upon as an acceptable service if they could tell of any fraud practised by Chalmley or others. The Agency were to endeavour to make Madras the mart for diamonds in future. The Court also resolved that if any responsible Englishman, well skilled concerning diamonds, should offer to go to India in the Company's service, to buy diamonds on the best terms procurable, his offer would be considered, but if he went he must live at Madras (pp. 210, 234-6). A proposal that the trade in diamonds should be managed by a Joint Stock was negatived as difficult and impracticable (pp. 299, 300). On information that a Mr. Salvador, a jeweller, gave out that he had the King's licence to take passage in one of the Company ships to Madras, the Court requested the Earl of Berkeley and Lord Chandos to petition His Majesty, and, if any such order had been granted, to request that he would permit the Company to wait on him before Salvador left, but nothing further is heard of the matter (p. 313).

In November 1679 certain proposals of 'concernment and benefit' to the Company's trade were referred to a Committee of the whole Court for consideration, and for report after they had taken the advice of Counsel, if they thought fit to do so (p. 312). The Court Minutes are silent as to the nature of the proposals and the Committee's report, but we may infer that they related to the information received by the Company of the fitting out of a ship by William Alley, interloper, and

¹ See 1664-7 volume, p. 423, and 1666-70 volume, p. 73.

others for a voyage to India contrary to the Company's charter, inasmuch as nine days later, the King signified his approval of a draft circular warrant to the Company's Agents and factors in the Indies, directing them not to give any assistance to Alley, and empowering them to put in execution all the powers and authorities granted to the Company for the impeding, obstructing, and rendering ineffectual such disloyal and undutiful attempts contrary to the Company's Charter, in contempt of his royal authority—'which Wee will by no means suffer to be infringed' (pp. 316, 317).¹

As regards the staff and office matters at the East India House, we find that Samuel South, 'well versed in the Company's accounts', was appointed an additional Auditor at a salary of £100 a year (pp. 3, 4). Subsequently, this appointment was abolished, the audit work being entrusted to Peter Cossen, under the 'inspection and care' of the Accountant-General (p. 247), on whom a yearly gratuity of £100 had been bestowed 'in consideration of his great fitness and for his care and pains' (p. 133). A report from the Committees for the Warehouses regarding the rates to be allowed to the porters employed, and rules to be observed by the Keepers of the Warehouses was approved. One recommendation was that the two Calico Warehouses were to have two men at 10s. a week each, who were to be entitled to receive from the buyers more than the Company's establishment and to pretend 'they knew it not'; this to be divided between the two men at each warehouse (pp. 37-8). Orders were given that the cost of stationery used in any business for which officers received fees was not to be charged to the Company's account (pp. 64-5). All warrants passed in Court for money were to be registered immediately by the Secretary (p. 277). The Court on being informed that some of their clerks had been seen 'at Stage plaies, Danceing schools, &c.', and to frequent taverns and other public houses, thought fit to call them down to attend the Court, where they were questioned, and admonished by the Governor that in case any of them should be found to go to playhouses, dancing schools, or other places of game or unlawful recreation, or to mis-spend their time in frequenting taverns or other public-houses they would be dismissed from the Company's service (p. 244).

Goods to the value of £14,572 having been found missing, Samuel

¹ For further information about William Alley see *Hedge's Diary*, vol. ii, pp. 101-3, *Love's Vestiges of Old Madras*, vol. i, pp. 243, 399, 462, and 463; *The Diaries of Streynsham Master*, 1675-80, vol. i, p. 283 n.; and Maurice Collis's *Siamese White*, pp. 13-14.

Sambrooke, jr., late assistant in the Calico warehouse, was called upon for an explanation, and confessed to having embezzled them. He agreed to a judgement of £20,000 being made against him, but on failure to settle the account or to make any overtures for so doing, the Company's solicitor was directed to cause him 'to be taken into execution' upon the judgement. Later, his wife was told that if he gave up the books that he had kept in the warehouse and his own books, and made a reasonable proposition for satisfying his debt, his petition would be considered (pp. 48, 69, 248-9, 276, 279).

Other matters of minor interest may be mentioned. A gratuity of twenty guineas was bestowed upon Robert Ferguson for a treatise entitled *The East India Trade, a most profitable Trade to the Kingdom, and best secured and improved in a Company and a Joint Stock* (p. 12). Henry Bond, the mathematician, was given a gratuity in respect of his treatise *Longitude Found* (p. 18). Gold medals, costing £25 14s., were procured for presentation to Caesar Chamberlain, Chief at Kārwar, and Nathaniel Lowndes, in recognition of their gallantry in defence of Kārwar during the troubles of 1673 (p. 28).¹ In September 1677 a suggestion was made that one of the smallest ships entertained for Surat should be sent to Malinde, Arabia, and the Red Sea, to procure gold, ivory, &c., suitable for Surat, also coffee and drugs fit for Europe (p. 82). A motion that a ship should be sent to the Red Sea to procure from thence goods for Europe was negatived in December 1678 (pp. 237, 238). On p. 118 will be found a reference to a proposal ('discoursed variously') that about £30,000 be raised from the East India Company and others, towards the marriage of Mary, eldest daughter of the Duke of York, to William of Orange. Treasurer Danby informed the Customs Commissioners that he was of opinion that coffee imported by the Company ought to pay a greater duty than 5 per cent, and directed them to require the duty at the rate of £6 12s. per cent for the last sale. For the future they were to think of some expedient to adjust the value of coffee with the Company who, being a body, could not make an oath (p. 140). The cellars of Bethlem Hospital were leased to the Company for twenty-one years at a rental of £100, subject to certain conditions (pp. 188, 190-1, 196, 205, 221, 231). Order was given for all standing rules and directions made for managing the Company's affairs at home and abroad to be collected and copied into a book to be kept for the purpose, in which all future orders were to be entered (p. 204). The long standing

¹ See *The English Factories in India, 1670-7*, pp. 318, 357.

dispute between the Company and the Trustees for the United Joint Stock was finally settled by the payment of £1,760 16s. 8d. to the Trustees (p. 216).¹ David Yale, senior, his son David, and Edward Herrys,² were accepted as additional security for Elihu Yale,³ entertained as factor at Madras (p. 239). Order was given for a medal of gold with the Company's arms, and a gold chain to the value of £100 to be procured and sent to Kāsi Viranna, the Company's broker at Surat, as a testimony of the Company's appreciation of his good service in managing their affairs (p. 308). The Committee for Buying Goods were enjoined to meet and not contract for any goods without the consent of a full quorum, and, if any goods were contracted for contrary to this order, they were to be left upon the hands of the buyers, and the Company would not be obliged to pay for them (p. 96). They were desired to keep a register of their proceedings (p. 177). They and the Shipping Committees were ordered to deal with the inhabitants of the City of London, rather than with those living at Ratcliffe or elsewhere, for all stores wanted for the service of the Company in the Indies, provided they could be procured as cheaply (p. 212). Certain Committees were desired to examine the letters to be sent to Madras and Bengal, compare them with the drafts read in Court, and report whether they were found to agree (p. 123). It being found inconvenient that debates in the Court of Committees touching affairs depending before the members should be made known, all were desired to forbear in future naming any persons or any discourse concerning the Company's business (pp. 249-50). If a Committee left before the Court rose, without the leave of the Governor or Deputy, his appearance was to be void for that day (p. 220). Sir Josia Child was allowed to take home letters, consultations, and other papers received from Madras, &c., as they were 'many and voluminous', the affairs of Madras and Bengal having been committed to him (p. 303).

As in the case of previous instalments, the duties of reading the proofs and of compiling the index have been discharged by Miss Sainsbury, in addition to her main task of preparing the calendar itself. It may be well to recall that personal names are spelt throughout exactly as they occur in the various entries, leaving it to the index to unify them, cross-references being inserted where necessary. This is the

¹ See 1671-3 volume.

² See *The Diaries of Streynsham Master, 1675-80* for information regarding Herrys.

³ Appointed Writer in 1671. See 1671-3 volume.

last volume in which the Record Department of the India Office will have the assistance of Miss Sainsbury, who retired in July 1937, after a connexion with the Department which has lasted 45 years. In eleven volumes she has calendared the Court Minutes and related documents from 1635 to 1679. Her conscientious discharge of this laborious task has earned the gratitude of all students of the records.

COURT MINUTES, ETC.
OF THE
EAST INDIA COMPANY, 1677-1679.

THE COMPANY'S GENERAL JOURNAL, JUNE 1, 1678, TO JUNE 30, 1682 (*Accountant-General's Records*, vol. xxxix).

Journalized entries of receipts and payments. (324 pp. in all.)

THE COMPANY'S GENERAL LEDGER, JANUARY 1, 1678, TO JUNE 30, 1682 (*Ibid.*, vol. xxxix).

Detailed accounts with various merchants, etc., with receipts and payments under special headings. (508 pp. in all.)

LISTS OF DOCUMENTS SEALED, 1677-1679 (*Home Miscellaneous*, vol. xxvi, pp. 131-64).

These are mostly releases from covenants and bonds; charterparties, certificates, bonds of arbitration, and bills. (33 pp.)

SHIPS SENT FOR INDIA (*Court Book*, vol. xxvA, p. 157).

In 1677, for Bantam: the *Phoenix* and *Expectation*. In 1678, for Bantam: the *Lancaster*, *Berkeley Castle*, *Eagle*, and *Johanna*; for the Coast and Bay: the *Williamson*, *Nathaniel*, *Society*, and *Falcon*; for Surat: the *Sampson*, *President*, and *Unicorn*. In 1679, for Bantam: the *Falcon*, *Society*, and *Nathaniel*; for the Coast and Bay: the *President*, *Eagle*, *Sampson*, and *Berkeley Castle*; for Surat: the *Johanna*, *Williamson*, and *Lancaster*. Giving the tonnage of each vessel, the number of men and guns in each vessel, and the names of the respective commanders. (14 pp.)

GOODS TO BE PROVIDED IN SURAT AND ADJACENT PARTS IN 1677 AND 1678 (*Ibid.*, p. 171).

List of piece-goods, spices, coffee, and 'pepper to fill up'. Giving the number of pieces or bales with the weight. These to be laden in ships leaving for Surat in 1677, 1678, and returning in 1678, 1679. (2 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 3, 1677 (*Court Book*, vol. xxx, p. 172).

Thomas Bayley is admitted to the freedom by redemption. Order is given for a copy of Samuel Foote's account to be delivered to the administrator. (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 5, 1677 (*Ibid.*, p. 174).

The Shipping Committee to direct the listing of such single women as desire to go to Bombay to be wives to the soldiers there, their number not to exceed twenty, and they to be transported at the Company's charge. Care is to be taken that only women of honest and civil behaviour are entertained, an account to be taken of their parentage, present condition of life, and place of abode, which is to be certified to the Governor and Council of Bombay. On a question as to whether merchants, strangers, or others may export emeralds and other jewels to India in the Company's ships, the Court declare that this is not prohibited, but that all persons may do so on paying the freight. Certain Committees to ascertain whether the account of Alexander Grigby has been cleared, also whether his covenants and security may be delivered up, as is desired. The owners of the *Rainbow* to be paid 955*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* in full of her freight and demurrage. The Warehouse Committees are desired to meet and peruse the table of fees taken by the porters employed by the Company and consider how this charge may be lessened both to the Company and to the buyers; make a new settlement, and report how they think the said fees may be received and distributed. All members to have a voice in this matter. A letter is read from the Agent and Council of Bantam and referred to the Committee for Writing Letters who are to consider what necessities should be provided for that place and what answer shall be sent. Copies to be made of the letter from Nicholas Waite, who is a prisoner at the Manillas, also of the clause in the general letter from Bantam concerning him, and presented to the principal Secretaries of State with the desire of the Company for the case of the said Waite to be recommended to the Ambassador at Madrid, and to the Spanish Ambassador in London for his speedy release. The Committee for Buying Goods to send on board Captain Earning's new ship, to be launched this next week, what proportion of copper, tin, iron, and guns as kentledge they think proper, as lead cannot be procured at a reasonable rate. A memorial is read from Francis Beyer, and order given for it to be referred to the Committee for Accounts who are to

examine the present state of the Company's books, what progress has been made in accounts depending between the Company and particular persons, give such directions as they think fit, and report to the Court. Mrs. Elford to be allowed to send in the Company's shipping 46 oz. of gold-dust for Joseph Hynmers on paying freight. (1½ pp.)

REPORT OF THE LORDS COMMITTEES FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE BUSINESS OF BOMBAY, JANUARY 6, 1677 (*Public Record Office: C.O. 77*, vol. xiii, f. 143).

1. Upon the whole matter Their Lordships, rather than insist farther on the demand of Salsette and Carinjah (Karanja), think fit to consider what is the right and extent which His Majesty has by the grant of the port, whether it draw not with it the other islands that stand thereon, so as that they pass together with the water? 2. How far the English are freed by common right even in the Portuguese streams when they land not on their shores, but drive their trade with strangers, and more especially if such impositions are grown up new, and since the time of surrender? 3. In case His Majesty should now forbid the Company to submit to those impositions, and should write to the Prince of Portugal to forbid his subjects to lay them on, but should not succeed therein, how are the Company provided to right themselves, by the same way of impositions on the Portuguese? Their Lordships will farther consider this matter on Tuesday next, or when the Company shall be ready to lay their thoughts and desires before them. (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 10, 1677 (*Court Book*, vol. xxx, p. 175).

A report is read from the Surat Committee in which they state that in their opinion 25,000*l.* in bullion should be sent by this year's ships to supply the Company's affairs in that Presidency, besides the goods designed. To this the Court agree and direct that the Treasury Committee make timely provision of the said sum. The Accounts Committee report that, according to a reference of November 24 last, they have considered who is suitable to be entertained as an additional Auditor with Mr. Cossen, and what writers to employ under them, and are of opinion that Samuel South, who is well versed in the Company's accounts, should be appointed as additional Auditor at a salary of 100*l.* a year, and the two writers already employed in the office continued, and no more. Mr. Cossen to choose one and South the other. After

debate South is elected, his salary to begin from December 25 last, and the report with regard to the writers is agreed to. The Committee are desired to introduce South to his office and to give both him and Cossen such instructions with regard to management of the affairs conducted there as they shall think fit. The bills of Bowtel, the printer, and the painter's bill to be examined. The Deputy Governor is desired, with three other Committees, to examine the front of the Company's house to ascertain what repairs are wanted, what ornaments are to be added, consider the cost, and report. On a motion that some handicraftsmen and labourers should be sent to the Company's factory at Tonquin, the matter is referred to the Committee for Writing Letters for consideration and report. Report to be made of the accounts of Joseph Wale and Nathaniel Hills, late seamen in the *Charles*. (1½ pp.)

THE COMPANY TO CAPTAIN THOMAS ANDREWS, COMMANDER OF THE *Caesar*, JANUARY 10, 1677 (*Letter Book*, vol. v, p. 397).

Before his departure from London the Company told him of endeavours being made to put bullion aboard their ships without permission or payment of freight. They have since received information that bullion is taken to the Downs to be laden aboard their ships, therefore they desire Andrews to make strict inquiry as to what is laden in his vessel, that has not been approved, and give them a true account of this. Commend him to the protection of God. *Letters of the same tenor are sent to Captain George Erwin, commander of the New London and to Captain John Goldsborough, commander of the Bengal Merchant.* (½ p.)

RICHARD WATTS AT DEAL TO SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON, JANUARY 11, 1677 (*Public Record Office: S.P. Dom., Car. II.* 390, no. 36).

Yesterday came into the Downs from the Thames the *London*, *Bengal*, and *Sapphire* bound for East India. . . .

FRANCIS BELLOTT AT PENDENNIS CASTLE TO SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON, JANUARY 11, 1677 (*Ibid.*, *Car. II.* 390, no. 37).

The wind continuing S.W., the outward-bound ships are still in harbour with the East India ship, the *Unicorn*. . . .

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 12, 1677 (*Court Book*, vol. xxx, p. 177).

Order is given for the covenants and bonds entered into by Samuel Baron¹ to be delivered up to be cancelled. The owners of the *Golden*

¹ See preceding volumes.

Fleece to be obliged by charterparty to have that ship ready to sail from Gravesend by March 20 next, and the *Bombay Merchant* ready to sail with the Surat fleet by February 10 next. The Warehouse Committee to report how, before the delivery of any goods, it may be ascertained if the Company have been paid for them and clear evidence given of delivery to the buyers. Order is given for a general court of sales to be held on Tuesday, March 13 next, and for particulars of all goods to be sold to be printed according to directions now given. The Exchange Keepers to be given 20s. every sale for their care of the Company's tables. The Bombay Committee to attend the Lords Committees for Foreign Affairs next Tuesday when the petition of the Company, formerly exhibited to His Majesty touching obstructions given to their trade at Bombay by the Portuguese, is to be considered. The account of William Kent to be reported. (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 17, 1677 (*Ibid.*, p. 178).

The Treasury Committee to be desired to affix the Company's seal to the counterpart of the lease of the Blue warehouses drawn up by Sir Stephen Langham. The bill of Mr. Burroughs for tin ware to be examined. A letter of attorney is read from John Farrer and his wife, co-executrix with Thomas Langham, to Sir William Vincent,¹ and order given for the matter to be referred to Moses, the Company's solicitor, who is to see that Sir William's adventure is legally transferred without prejudice to the Company. On a report of the proceedings of the Lords Committees for Foreign Affairs in examining the business of Bombay, upon what part of the island the government was administered and the Customhouse kept when the Portuguese were in possession, and stating that their Lordships would proceed further in that business on Tuesday next, the Surat Committee and some others are desired to attend their Lordships on that day. A report is read from the Committee for Writing Letters touching provisions necessary to be sent to Bantam in the *Anne*, *East India Merchant*, and *Golden Fleece*, also what should be written in reply to the general letter received from the Agent and Council, to which the Court agree. The owners of the *Golden Fleece* representing that their account is undetermined and several matters admit of dispute between them and the Committees, the Court decide to defer consideration of this business till next Friday when the purser is to be told to be present. The Committee for Private Trade to ascertain whether iron

¹ See 1671-73 volume.

shot was prohibited to the owners and commander of the *Golden Fleece* in 1674 when that vessel went to sea. (1 p.)

ORDER IN COUNCIL, JANUARY 17, 1677 (*Public Record Office: C.O. 77*, vol. xiii, f. 147).

A paper is read signed by Alvaro Pires de Tavora by way of reply to the answer of the East India Company to his petition complaining of the hard usage he had received from them at Bombay, and order given for the said paper, with all others relating to this business, to be referred to the Lords of the Committee for Trade, who are to consider and report upon the true state of the whole matter, with their opinion thereon, to His Majesty in Council. (1 p.)

THOMAS HOLDEN AT FALMOUTH TO SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON, JANUARY 18, 1677 (*Ibid.*, S.P. Dom., Car. II. 390, no. 62).

Tuesday morning put to sea out of this harbour the *Unicorn* of London from the East Indies and the *John and William* of London from Malaga with several others homeward-bound, wind S.W., but next day it came up fresh at N.E., so it is believed they are put into Plymouth. . . .

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 19, 1677 (*Court Book*, vol. xxx, p. 179).

Ellen, widow of the late Captain Anthony Earning, commander of the *Sampson*, to be paid 80*l.* for the use of herself and her five children. A letter, written by direction of the Governor and signed by the Secretary, to the Agent and Council at Fort St. George is read and approved, it contains an order for procuring and sending to England 2,000 pieces of allejaes, part of the 10,000 formerly written for of a new pattern now sent. Nicholas Cullen to be allowed to ship in the *Bengal Merchant*, commanded by Captain Goldsborough, for account of his son, a writer, 500 dollars freight free. The sum of 10*l.* paid by Captain Erwing, commander of the *New London*, for provisions for Abdella Shaw Hommadie and his servant on their voyage to Johanna to be deducted from the 8*l.* per head allowed for their transportation.¹ The account of the last voyage of the *Golden Fleece* to India to be closed, this having been agreed to by her owners and the Committee for Private Trade. The *Success* and the *George*, designed for Surat, to carry out and bring back three-quarter kentledge. The *Bombay Merchant* having been enter-

¹ See preceding volume.

tained to go to Bantam and carry sixty men, but since ordered to proceed to Surat and Bantam, the Shipping Committee are desired to consider how many more men should go in her and what kentledge she shall take. The 500*l.* adventure of Sir William Vincent having, in July, 1673, been transferred by Thomas Langham to Sir Samuel Barnardiston and Mr. Moyer in trust to secure the Company for the dividends paid to the said Thomas Langham in regard of a suit then pending in Chancery between Henry Newton, Langham, and the Company, and this being now determined by decree of court and Newton's release in the Secretary's custody, the Court consent to the said adventure of 500*l.* being re-transferred to Langham. (1 *p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 24, 1677 (*Ibid.*, p. 181).

Order is given for the tripartite indenture of covenants dated July 25, 1673, made between Thomas Langham and Rebecca Vincent for the first part, Sir Samuel Barnardiston and Samuel Moyer for the second part, and the Governor and Company for the third part, touching an adventure of 500*l.* transferred to the Company's use, to be delivered to Mr. Langham to be cancelled. An allowance of 30*l.* to be made to Richard Lloyd on certain narrow baftas bought by him for long baftas. Lead to the amount of 1,000 pigs to be provided for Surat, also one ton of Barbary copper at the best terms procurable, on condition that if it is not vendible at Surat it shall be taken back by the person from whom it was bought and the money repaid to the Company. The Committee for Private Trade to consider the clause in the endorsement of the Bantam charterparties touching iron kentledge, and make what explanation of it they see fit. The owners of the *Golden Fleece* present a paper of particulars relating to her account, it is read, and the Court decide to adhere to their former order touching the articles of demurrage settled by consent of the owners, and as to the other particulars, these are to be determined by the Committee for Private Trade if possible, if not, then by compromise. (1 *p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 26, 1677 (*Ibid.*, p. 182).

On consideration of the account of the late Samuel Foote, a factor at Bantam, in which he stands indebted 16*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* for stated damages on calicoes and other goods, order is given for half the said sum to be remitted. The Committee for Lawsuits to consider in what way Mr. Reading may be employed with most advantage to the Company.

Moses to be directed to proceed this term in the suit begun by the Company against Sambrooke and his sureties, he refusing to give any satisfactory account of certain dungarees returned in the *Hannibal*, and of other goods found wanting in the warehouse. On consideration of the great pains and care taken by Francis Beyer in stating several accounts that stood open at the time of his entertainment, and of what still remains to be done in the settlement of others, the Court bestow upon him a gratuity of 100*l.* and desire the Committee for Accounts to read his memorial concerning accounts depending between the Company and certain persons mentioned, and give directions for stating and closing these as they see fit, and in case of any obstructions to report to the Court. George Papillon to be permitted to ship in the *Success* ribbons to the value of 20*l.* Sir Matthew Andrews is accepted as security in 500*l.* for Thomas Lewes, appointed Paymaster of the Mariners in the room of Mr. (Michael) Davison, deceased. Order is given for a warrant to be made out for the balance due to the account of Gabriel Townsend, late a factor in the Bay. The demands of George Day for damaged goods and shortage of calicoes to be examined and reported. All factors returning from India who wish to have their salaries paid are henceforth to write their demands to the Accountant-General before he makes them up. Order is given for what is due on the account of the late Nicholas Serle, a factor at Surat, to be paid to his brother, who is an adventurer in the General Joint Stock, he agreeing not to transfer his adventure until the Company shall be secured from the demands of any persons in India who pretend by virtue of the will of the said Nicholas Serle to claim it. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 31, 1677 (*Court Book*, vol. xxx, p. 184).

The account of Alexander Grigsby [Grigby] to be re-examined and reported. The Lawsuits Committee to prepare a clause for insertion in the Surat charterparties enjoining the stowage of asafoetida so that the other goods receive 'no prejudice by its ill savour', and, if any damage is caused by it, the owners and commanders shall be obliged to make it good. By a treaty between the Committee for Private Trade and the owners of the *Bombay Merchant* it is agreed that twelve men shall be added to that ship's complement and 50*s.* a month allowed the owners for their wages and diet. Of this the Court approve provided the said ship carries out twenty-four guns mounted beyond the Cape; order is

also given that she is to be allowed to carry out and bring home three-quarters kentledge. A report touching the explanation of a clause in the Bantam charterparties given in by the Committee for Private Trade is read and approved. The demands of Mr. Da Costa, concerning certain sannaes wanting in two bales he bought of the Company, are referred to the Committee for the Calico Warehouse. The account of Abraham Capel, late a soldier in the South Seas, to be examined and reported. (1½ pp.)

SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL TO SIR WILLIAM THOMSON, FEBRUARY 2, 1677 (*Public Record Office: C.O. 77*, vol. xiii, f. 162).¹

The enclosed paper from Alvaro de Perez de Tavora was presented to His Majesty in Council and referred to the Committee for Trade, who, upon perusal of it on the 31st past, commanded me to send you a copy and inform you that when the Company are prepared to make their defence in this particular, their Lordships will appoint a day to hear both parties, and so expect intimation of the Company's readiness for this with all convenient speed. (½ p.)

THE REPLY OF ALVARO PEREZ DE TAVORA, FEBRUARY 2, 1677 (*Home Miscellaneous*, vol. xlii, p. 320).

The Honourable Company in answer to his petition question first, his 'right and propertie in the dependencies of the lands that he claimeth': secondly, they allege that he was contented with the small part left him by the General Agreement made in November 1672; and, thirdly, they 'lay upon him a crime of desertion, pretending thereby to confiscate all his estates'. In answer to the first point the petitioner presents 'two Pattants in the most authentickall forme', by which the Kings of Portugal 120 years ago granted to his ancestors the lands, dependencies, and revenues in question, with the same right and in the same manner as they were held by the said Kings themselves. These revenues and dependencies the petitioners' ancestors possessed and enjoyed without any molestation, as is proved by the twenty witnesses he brings; and also by two sentences (when his said right was in question) given in the court at Lisbon; and so they remained till such time as the island was delivered to His Majesty's commissioners. This was so evident that Sir Humphrey Cooke, His Majesty's first Governor of Bombay, gave orders in September 1665, bidding all the money of the 'Coales Fishers' to be delivered to the father of the petitioner who was to receive all that was

¹ See also *Home Miscellaneous* (I.O.), vol. xlii, p. 319.

formerly paid to his predecessors, and, in consideration of these reasons the Company sent orders for this to be done. As to the second point: that he was contented with what was left to him by the Agreement made in November 1672, what could a 'poor oppressed gentleman doe' when distant so many thousand leagues from His Majesty and the Privy Council, against the absolute power of a Governor able (if he refused) to deprive him of the rest of his estate, having nothing but that to live upon, but make remonstrance and petition before the ministers of the Council. As to the allegation that he desired to command the Militia of Maza-gaon: this consisted only of his fishers, tenants, and labourers living on his lands, so it was not much to be made their commander, but he desired it out of zeal, and as a good and loyal subject of His Majesty, for, at the news of the approach of the Dutch Fleet the Governor desired the inhabitants to work with all possible care upon the fortifications of the island, and sent orders to the petitioner for his fishers and labourers to work too, so he thought that with the additional authority he could keep his men in better order. As for the third point: by which his honour and reputation (far dearer to him than his life or estate) are wronged, he implores justice from His Majesty, and that he will consider how upon news of the coming of the Dutch Fleet several English left the island with their goods, among them some of the Council, as Jacob Adams and John Chell, and a proclamation being made that none should leave the island, the petitioner wishing to secure his goods as others did, the Governor gave him licence under his hand to do so (notwithstanding the proclamation), without any limit of time, which licence, dated March 1, the petitioner presents. The petitioner returned the same day having been away three hours in all, but, hearing how incensed the Governor was with him for taking away his goods, for which his estate would be forfeited and his person arrested, the petitioner left his house to avoid the effect of these threats, intending to make his innocence and submission known, as he did by a letter to the Governor which he wrote immediately, praying him to 'secure him of his anger and suffer him to come to the Fort'. This letter the Governor would neither receive nor answer, as is seen by the answer of Luis Carado de Lima, Adjutant de Procurador-General of the Honourable Company. The petitioner seeing he would not be admitted or heard, on March 2 went to Mr. Baron, Director of the French fleet, who was in the port, and desired his intercession, as appears by his certificate. After, he went to the Captain of Baccaim [Bassein] whose certificate he also brings. But

seeing that nothing would move the Governor, the petitioner went to the Viceroy at Goa, and, returning with a letter from him to the same effect, he found a placard on the door of his house at Mazagaon citing him to appear to answer the accusation against him. Not daring to appear in person, he sent his brother with a petition to the Council, for he knew the Governor had sent a company of musketeers to take him at Mazagaon. The petition was rejected as 'false and scandalous'. The petitioner brings authentic certificates of all this, which he humbly desires may be seen. Having done his utmost without any result, the petitioner left and came to this court to implore justice from His Majesty, and give in the true account of all his proceedings. He protests that when there was fear of an attack by the Dutch he did his utmost to be allowed to do his duty in the Fort, even while he was so highly threatened by the Governor. If the Governor asserts that he has not taken the estate of the petitioner, but left his mother in possession, yet she only administers an inconsiderable part of it and lives on some other estates which she has and which do not depend upon Mazagaon in any manner. The petitioner prays for the gracious protection of His Majesty, and that he will not suffer him by an unjust and false accusation to be deprived of his estate, which, according to article xi of the treaty he should enjoy with the same advantages as his father and predecessors had under the dominion of Portugal. The petitioner has just received a letter from Batavia, dated December 10, 1675, from Joane Mendes de Menezes, his brother-in-law and his attorney, advising him that his estate has been taken from his mother; upon which Joane Mendes made a protestation, and this the petitioner humbly prays may be considered, and that His Majesty will be pleased to appoint some of his honourable Privy Council to examine all the proofs the petitioner can produce. (2½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 7, 1677 (*Court Book*, vol. xxx, p. 185).

A gratuity of 5*l.* is bestowed upon William Morgan for a large map and a survey of London he presented to the Company. The Committees for Buying Goods and for Shipping to ascertain from the commanders of the Surat ships how ready their vessels are to sail from Gravesend, and direct them to perfect their charterparties immediately, as by these they are obliged to leave Gravesend by the 20th instant, and the *Anne* and *East India Merchant* by the 10th instant. A report touching the account of Roger Brodnax, late a factor in the Bay, is read, stating the

balance due to him, and that credit had been given him for 120 rupees allowed for ten months' house rent and fresh provisions for his voyage to Masulipatam; and order is given for payment both of the balance and of the 120 rupees to be made to those who have legal authority to receive it. A letter from Sir Robert Southwell¹ is read, also the reply from Alvaro Perez de Tavora to the answer made by the Company to his petition² presented to the King and transmitted to the Company by order of the Lords Committees for Trade; this is referred to the Surat Committee who are to confer with Moses, prepare a suitable answer, and report to the Court. The Company having begun a suit against Thomas Turner, of Stystead in Essex, in the Court of King's Bench, who is willing to confess a judgement of 500*l.* if it may be defeasanced for payment of 297*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* and the interest due at Easter term next; the Court agree and direct Moses to draw up the defeasance, and the Treasury Committee to affix to it the seal of the Company. On learning that Mr. Buckeridge wishes to pay in a sum of money to finish the suit between himself and the Company, the Court desire the Lawsuits Committee to settle the matter as they think fit. On hearing that the warehouses at the African House and Gresham College are, by reason of several stables and other small tenements adjoining, subject to danger, and it having been proposed formerly to supply the Company with warehouse room in the 'Stilyard' and also near Leadenhall, the Court desire several Committees to examine the said places, see what accommodation may be had in either, ascertain upon what terms, and report. The Shipping Committee to consider the requests of several persons who desire to send out wine and other provisions to Surat, decide on the proportions fit to be permitted and report. A gratuity of twenty guineas is bestowed upon Robert Ferguson for a treatise entitled 'The East India Trade, a most profitable Trade to the Kingdom, and best secured and improved in a Company and a Joint Stock', presented this day to the Court. The Surat Committee to consider the representation³ drawn up for presentation to the Lords Committees for Trade touching the obstruction caused by the Portuguese to the trade of the Company at Bombay, and state what alteration or addition should be made to the same. Mr. Da Costa to be paid with interest for certain sannoes found wanting in two bales he bought from the Company. Allowance to be made to buyers for goods found to be wanting in any bales opened in the warehouses and so

¹ *Ut supra*, p. 9.

² See pp. 379-81 of the preceding volume.

³ *Ut infra*, pp. 14, 15.

certified by the warehousekeepers. Moses is directed to begin an action against John Langham for 2,800*l.* owing by him to the Company. (2½ pp.)

MEMORIAL FROM THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO THE KING, FEBRUARY (?), 1677 (*Public Record Office: C.O. 77*, vol. xiii, f. 163).

Having received orders from the Prince his master to solicit from His Majesty reparation for the violence committed by the Governor of the Island of Bombay against the rights of His Royal Highness within the territories belonging to him, more particularly in the Island of Mahim, adjacent to Bombay, of which possession has been taken notwithstanding the protestations made by the officers of the Prince; also instances of injustice to several Portuguese inhabitants of Bombay in the confiscation of their estates, contrary to the condition in article xi of the Treaty of Marriage, by which Your Majesty is obliged to maintain all Portuguese inhabitants of the said island willing to become your subjects, in full enjoyment of their estates, revenues, and privileges in the same manner as they enjoyed them under the Portuguese government. Amongst others thus unjustly deprived of their estates is one Alvaro Perez de Tavora, a Portuguese gentleman, and one of Your Majesty's subjects in the said island, who, not being able to find any redress, is come in person to this court to make his complaints, and implore justice from Your Majesty, and restitution of the great estate he possessed in the said island. The Ambassador, having express orders from the Prince to second the desires of Alvaro Perez, represents to Your Majesty the great inconvenience occasioned by the non-observance of the said Treaty, not only to the prejudice of the rights of His Royal Highness, but of the poor Portuguese His Majesty's subjects who have lost their estates and are disappointed in the hopes they had of living happily under Your Majesty's laws and protection. All this may impair the good correspondence between the two neighbouring nations in these parts, and be of very dangerous consequence if the said Portuguese are left to the violence of the Governor. Therefore, the Ambassador prays that a minister may be appointed to confer with him to examine the bounds of the two islands, Bombay and Mahim, and agree by some regulation as to what belongs to Your Majesty and what belongs to His Royal Highness. Also that in the meantime order may be given for Alvaro Perez to be restored to his estates, revenues, and privileges

¹ See also *Home Miscellaneous* (I.O.), vol. xlii, p. 322.

which appear to have been enjoyed by him when Bombay was conceded. (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 9, 1677 (*Court Book*, vol. xxx, p. 188).

Owen Holman, surgeon, to be paid head-money for passengers who were taken to St. Helena in the *Unity*. The petition of Richard Davison, purser in the *Golden Fleece*, to be allowed stated damages for calicoes is referred for consideration. The Surat Committee to confer with 'Esq. Slingsby' about stamps for coining rupees, pice, budgrokes, etc., for the Company's trade at Bombay, according to the power granted by His Majesty's Charter to the Company,¹ and give direction for the preparation of such stamps with all convenient speed. Ion Kenn to be directed to make a table of all coins, weights, and measures used in India, reducing them to the English standard, and present it to the Court. Treasure to be sent on board the ships for Bantam and Surat as soon as they are ready to receive it. Mr. Page, surgeon, to be paid 20s. for examining two surgeons who were sent to India in the service of the Company. The owners of the *East India Merchant* to be paid 2,890l. 11s. 5d. in full of her freight. Richard Griffith and others who were employed formerly as pepper-fillers and bag-sewers in the *Bombay Merchant* to be paid what is due to them but not to be employed again. A bill of exchange for 52l. drawn on the Company by William Arundel of Falmouth and payable to Richard Mounteney is accepted, and ordered to be put to the account of the *Unicorn*. The Committee for Bantam and the South Seas Factories to draw up an address to the King asking whether he will be pleased to make any return to the Sultan of Bantam for the present he sent to His Majesty. (2 pp.)

PETITION OF THE COMPANY TO THE LORDS COMMITTEES FOR TRADE AND PLANTATIONS, FEBRUARY 10, 1677 (*P.R.O.: C.O.* 77, vol. xiii, f. 206).²

Stating that they have a right to half the customs of Gombroon, and the Portuguese have the same right at Cong [Kongun]. That it has been an ancient practice for European nations in the Indies to grant passes to the native junks or ships for security in their navigation to Persia and elsewhere. But the Company understand from the President and

¹ See 1674-6 volume, pp. 356-8.

² See also *Home Miscellaneous* (I.O.), vol. xlii, p. 323.

Council at Surat that lately the Portuguese refuse to give passes to any junks going to Gombroon, and so force all ships that formerly paid custom at that port to go into Cong. This is not only an act of unkindness but of contempt to the English nation and contrary to the articles of peace, and is highly resented by the Governor, Shawbunder,¹ and merchants of Surat as injurious to them in their commerce, and for which, if the Portuguese persist in, they may expect retaliation from the Company. This is humbly represented to their Lordships that such course may be taken for redress of this grievance as they shall deem meet. ($\frac{1}{2}$ p.)

BREVIATE OF THE COMPANY'S MEMORIAL TOUCHING BOMBAY DELIVERED TO THE LORDS COMMITTEES FOR TRADE AND PLANTATIONS FEBRUARY 12, 1677 (*Public Record Office: C.O. 77*, vol. xiii, f. 321).²

What the Company possess at Bombay and what privileges of right belong to that place. Touching the extent of the harbour. How the Company are obstructed by the Portuguese in their trade. Description of places, particularly the Straits of Tannah, with the forts and Territories thereabouts. Description of Karanja; duties exacted there and at Tannah. The monopoly of wood by the Governor of Bassein. The Portuguese pretence to share in the Bay, etc., and the resort of their shipping there. The ground of their disrespect from Mr. Cook's capitulation,³ and the impunity of the non-surrender. Expedients used with the Viceroy at Goa to remedy all inconveniencies, but in vain. Argument for a freedom of trade. Arguments for the extent of the port, and the right subsequent to the dominion of the water. That the Company ought to repair themselves by the same methods as the Portuguese use to injure them. The Company's proposals to the Lords for putting the whole matter into a way of redress. (*The memorial follows.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 14, 1677 (*Court Book*, vol. xxx, p. 190).

The Committee for the Calico Warehouse to meet next Tuesday morning with those members of this Court who can come, to price the calicoes and other goods in readiness for the sale. Pepper and saltpetre to be rated as follows: Jambi pepper at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., and Quilon or Biliapatam at 7d. per lb., refined saltpetre at 54s. the cwt., other petre at 46s. the cwt. Edward Ely, assistant to Captain Prowd, to be paid

¹ Shāhbandar. Harbour-master.

² See also *Home Miscellaneous* (I.O.), vol. xlii, p. 281.

³ See *The English Factories in India*, 1665-7.

30*l.* for one year's service ending December 25 last. Mr. Hewlings to be discharged of his contract on payment of 15*l.* to the Company for principal and charges. Mr. Houblon reports that yesterday he and several other Committees attended the Lords Committees for Trade and delivered the Company's representation touching Bombay and the obstructions met with from the forts of Tannah and Karanja in carrying on their trade; their Lordships seemed to approve of the said representation and promised to report to His Majesty and the Council what they judge fit should be done in the matter for the encouragement and advantage of the Company. The Surat Committee to be desired to represent to the Lords Committees for Trade the disrespect expressed by the Portuguese to the English nation in hindering their ships from coming to Gombroon, where the Company receive half the customs, and sending them to Cong [Kongun]. Captain Rolt to be permitted to lade in the *Success* and *George*, bound for Surat, for account of his brother, Thomas Rolt, Agent in Persia, 280 ounces of foreign gold on paying freight, but first producing his brother's letter of advice ordering him to do so. Permission is also given to James Pearce to ship in the *Success* 400 dollars for account of his brother, a surgeon at Surat, on payment of freight. (1½ *pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 15, 1677 (*Court Book*, vol. xxx, p. 191).

The Committee for Surat Factories to consider the clause in the Surat general letter dated January 17, 1676,¹ for settling a factory at Carnopoly [Karnagapelle], erecting a fort, and keeping a garrison there, and report what they think should be done. On receiving a recommendation from the President and Council at Surat of Mr. Jessop, who has served in the Bombay garrison for seven years, behaving with great diligence and faithfulness, desiring that he may be admitted into the Company's mercantile affairs, the Court order that the said Jessop be entertained as a factor at 20*l.* per annum, to begin from the arrival of this year's shipping at Bombay, and take his place as junior factor after those now there, he to give security in 1,000*l.* (½ *p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 16, 1677 (*Ibid.*, p. 192).

The Committee for Private Trade to consider the request of Captain Chamlet [Chamblet] touching some errors he alleges to be found in the account of the *Anne* and report what they think should be done; the

¹ See O. C. (I.O.), nos. 4099, 4163.

petition of Margaret Seymour is also referred to them. The Committee for the Surat Factories to read the exceptions made by the Auditor to several articles in the Surat books of accounts and report their opinion. Mr. Lee's bill for turnery-ware to be examined. The owners of the *Anne* to be paid 1,060*l.* in full of her freight and to be allowed to ship in her 5,000 pieces of eight, on account of her joint stock, free of freight. The owners and commander of the *East India Merchant* also to be allowed to lade in that ship 3,500 pieces of eight, on account of her joint stock, free of freight. The petition of Mrs. Marquesa, widow of Diego Rodrigues Marquesa, and of Rachael, widow of Francis de Liz, requesting leave to send 580*l.* in the Company's ships to Goa, it being the value of what their late husbands received here for account of their correspondents in Goa, is read, and, after a long and serious debate the Court decide not to accede to their request. (1 *p.*)

THE COMPANY TO CAPTAIN ZACHARY BROWNE, FEBRUARY 17, 1677 (*Letter Book*, vol. v, p. 402).

They have freighted his ship the *Anne*, and the *East India Merchant*, commanded by Captain James Cooke, and designed both for Bantam. Order him to do his best to get to the Downs and set sail from thence by the first opportunity, steering at least thirty leagues to the westward of the Madeiras to avoid Turks and other pirates who are usually about those islands. On arriving at Bantam, Browne is to follow the orders and directions given by the Agent and Council. During the voyage he is to keep his ship in a good posture of defence, in regard to 'the troublous times', keep up the worship of God, and good order amongst his men, and use his best endeavours to make a speedy passage both outward and homewards and so have a more seasonable opportunity of coming about the Cape. On arrival at St. Helena Browne is to keep company with as many of the Company's ships as shall be there or come in during his stay, consult with them how best to arrange their ships in the event of meeting an enemy, and take rank according to seniority in command, be always on guard, especially on nearing the English coast and not trust the Turks nor any European nation, as it is unknown how affairs may stand before his return. On the voyage to and from St. Helena he must, in obedience to the King's proclamation, wear only the usual English flag and ensign (the white flag with a red cross, and the red ensign with a white cross).¹ For better security in his

¹ See preceding volume, pp. vii, viii, 385.

outward voyage Browne is directed to keep company with the *East India Merchant* until he has passed St. Iago, because of the Turks and other pirates who are usually about there. *A letter of the same tenor is sent to Captain James Cooke.* (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 21, 1677 (*Court Book*, vol. xxx, p. 193).

A black servant belonging to Mrs. Ward to be permitted to take passage for Surat in one of the Company's ships, Mrs. Ward agreeing with the commander as to the charge. Michael Godfrey to be allowed to lade 1,420*l.* in bullion in the Surat ships for account of Caesar Chamberlane. 'Esq. Slingsby' delivers to the Court a design of a stamp for a rupee to be coined at Bombay, on one side is inscribed 'the rupee of Bombay', with two roses underneath, and, in the circle '1677, by authority of Charles the Second'; and on the other side His Majesty's arms, and, in the circle 'King of Great Britain, France and Ireland'. Slingsby states that the King saw and approved of the design last night, but that it is impossible to procure the stamps for the engraving before the departure of this year's shipping. The Court thank him heartily for his trouble and give directions for the Surat Committee to meet 'Esq. Slingsby' and agree with some able person to prepare the necessary stamps for coining rupees and pice, for the Company's trade at Bombay, and have them ready to send by next year's ships. Directions to be given to Bowtel to print the papers of goods as now rated for the next sale, and for Richardson to print the papers for drugs and the book of contracts. Thomas Gray to be allowed to ship out 800 oz. of gold for account of his brother, Matthew Gray, Second at Surat. Order is given for the *Anne*, *East India Merchant*, *Bombay Merchant*, and *Golden Fleece*, now bound for Bantam, to be allowed the same privileges as were agreed upon by the Court in August last. The *Unicorn* is offered for further service, but her owners are told that there is no prospect of her being wanted, yet on receiving the report as to what ships the Company are obliged to employ of those built purposely for them, the owners shall be given a further answer. The Treasury Committee to consider how money paid for interest may be made out in one warrant weekly. Alderman Bathurst's account to be considered next Friday. (1½ pp)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 23, 1677 (*Ibid.*, p. 194).

A gratuity to be given to Henry Bond, the mathematician, who presented the Company a treatise he wrote entitled '*The Longitude Found*'.

Upon hearing that some persons wish to go to Bombay and reside there as merchants and free planters, the Court desire the Shipping Committee to give directions for their passage in the ships now bound thither, they to pay for their passage and enter into covenants and bonds as others have done. A bill of exchange drawn by the Agent and Council of Bantam payable to John Paige thirty days after arrival of the *Unicorn* in the Thames is accepted. Viscount Longford to be permitted to lade goods in the Surat ships. On a motion by Mr. Canham from the Common Councilmen of this Ward, order is given for payment of 20s. towards an engine for quenching fire now being built by the Ward, and permission is given for it to be kept in the Company's house in a convenient place. The commanders and officers of the Surat ships to be required not to receive or sign any bills of lading for bullion to be laden in their vessels, except what is first allowed by order of the Court. Order is given for a dividend of twenty per cent to be made to the adventurers immediately after the sale as money comes in; any buying goods to be allowed the same in payment, warrants payable to the respective adventurers to be made ready before March 13 next. The Court resolve to consider next Wednesday how to proceed in the election of Governor, Deputy, and Committees for the ensuing year so as not to vary in anything from their charter. The account of Alderman Bathurst to be stated by the Committee for Accounts, who are to confer with Moses about certain particulars now under debate and report to the Court. (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 23, 1677 [AFTERNOON] (*Ibid.*, p. 195).

The sum of 3,781*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* to be paid to the owners of the *Success* in full of her freight and all other demands. The Warehousekeepers at Leadenhall and Gresham College to be henceforth required to have one of their porters present at the opening of all bales, and where any goods are found wanting to note the same in their books which are to be signed by all present at the said opening; they are also to present to the Court from time to time a list of goods wanting and of any bales suspected to have been robbed, that fitting directions may be given concerning the same. Alderman Bathurst to examine the list now presented to him by Mr. Beard of goods wanting in several bales from Surat, also to consider what goods should be written for to be provided for the next year's ships, and report. ($\frac{3}{4}$ p.)

REPORT FROM THE LORDS COMMITTEES FOR TRADE AND PLANTATIONS, February 23, 1677 (*Public Record Office: Privy Council Register*, vol. lxxv, p. 491).¹

His Majesty having referred to them a petition from the East India Company relating to Bombay, their Lordships now report that for some long time a complaint from the said Company has been before them concerning injuries received at Bombay from the Portuguese, showing that the dominion of Your Majesty in that port and island is much infringed, and liberty of trade to the mainland quite interrupted by arbitrary taxes imposed at Tannah and Carinjah for only passing in the open sea. The Company applied for redress to the Viceroy at Goa, but to no effect, so on our advice they are preparing an address to Your Majesty praying that negotiations may be entered into with the Prince of Portugal to ascertain the right of Your Majesty (by article XI of the Treaty of Marriage) in the said port and island and its dependencies, that the Company may obtain some return for the great expence (some 70,000*l.*) incurred by them for the defence of that island, and Your Majesty's kingdom reap the lasting advantages of that trade. As the longer these evils continue the more incurable they will grow, the Committees think it advisable and humbly offer it as their opinion that by the ships now going to India some intimation may be given to the Viceroy at Goa of Your Majesty's care for your subjects and for your own sovereignty in those parts by a letter to the following effect: that Your Majesty taking into consideration the complaints of your subjects the East India Company of the unfriendliness of the Portuguese in showing them many severities, contrary to the treaty, is examining article XI with the Prince of Portugal, from whose justice you do not doubt but that your rights in the said port and island and its dependencies will be vindicated from that most injurious capitulation forced upon Humphrey Cooke at the surrender of Bombay, which capitulation Your Majesty is resolved to renounce, Cooke having had no power to submit, nor any one power to impose it. That Your Majesty intends to represent to the Prince how grieved you are to hear that when your subjects trade into the country of the Great Mogul and Sivāji (with whom you and the Portuguese are friendly) tribute is demanded from them for only passing in the open sea of Tannah and Carinjah in the very waters of your own port, which is not to be endured, and Your

¹ See also *Home Miscellaneous* (I.O.), vol. xlii, p. 337; *Letter Books*, vol. v, p. 420; and *P.R.O.: C.O.*, 77, vol. xiii, f. 205.

Majesty doubts not but that satisfaction will be ordered by the Prince for all so injuriously exacted, contrary to former practice and common right, and that His Royal Highness will not only remedy many other things complained of, but consider the injury done to Your Majesty and the calamity of your subjects by the non-surrender in the beginning. That in the meantime Your Majesty has commanded the said Company to refuse payment of those arbitrary and unjust demands, as prejudicial to the rights of sovereignty and contrary to all the known laws of the world, there being no arbitrary duties or customs imposed at the Sound, but only for the benefit of light and seamarks a small recompense is allowed, which was never paid until by stipulation and treaty between the two nations it was agreed to. That your subjects are willing, when they trade to any Portuguese territory, to submit to the duties and customs of each place, which is all that justice can require. That Your Majesty thought it a just respect to the character borne by the Viceroy in those parts, and to the estimation you are told he has of your royal person, to give him this information, not doubting but that whatever is right and consonant to the Treaty he will fulfil, and in all occasions of friendship he will be courteous and useful to Your Majesty's subjects, which you will be always ready to acknowledge. Dated from the Council Chamber, when the Earl of Bridgewater, the Earl of Craven, Secretary Coventry, Secretary Williamson, the Vice Chamberlain, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer were present. *Appended is the following:* The King being graciously inclined to promote the interests of his subjects, the East India Company, and considering that the arbitrary duties imposed at Tannah and Carinjah impede their trade, His Majesty approves of the report and desires Lord Coventry to prepare a letter to the effect desired and requires the Company to refuse to pay the demands imposed and resist them as best they can. On reading the report the Company humbly petition His Majesty for the following clause to be added, viz.: That they have a right to half the customs paid at Gombroon, the Portuguese having the same right at Cong. That it has always been the practice for European nations in India to grant passes to the native junks and ships, but of late by the Viceroy's orders passes have been refused to any junks going to Gombroon and consequently all are obliged to go to Cong. This unkindness and disrespect may deservedly cause the Company to retaliate, therefore His Majesty is humbly desired to request the Viceroy to recall this prohibition, or any orders given to the like effect, as contrary to the Treaty, which aims at the union of

both nations, the mutual affection and brotherly friendship which should be exercised on all occasions, and is heartily desired by the King. His Majesty is graciously pleased to approve of the said clause, and commands Secretary Coventry to see that it is added to the report accordingly. *Signed by Robert Southwell.* (2 $\frac{3}{4}$ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 28, 1677 (*Court Book*, vol. xxx, p. 196).

Permission to be granted to the following persons to lade in the Surat ships the several quantities of foreign bullion, paying freight and making the required affirmation, viz. Sir Samuel Barnardiston 5,010 oz. of silver, for account of Thomas Rolt, George Toriano 45 oz. of silver, and Edward Watts 360 pieces of eight for account of Henry Oxinden. The Treasury Committee, with such others as they see fit, to examine the warrants for dividends in the hands of the Accountant, whether they are paid, and give what directions they judge best. A warrant to be made out for payment of 25*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* due to the account of the late Captain Samuel Smith, commander of the *George*. Benjamin Reeves to be permitted to ship in the *Bombay Merchant* gold and silver lace to the value of 60*l.* free of freight, and Joseph Prickman 20 oz. of silver, freight free, for the use of his son. (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 28, 1677 [AFTERNOON] (*Ibid.*, p. 197).

Permission is granted to Sir Samuel Barnardiston to lade in the Surat ships 680 oz. of foreign silver for account of Isaac Reynardson, a factor at Broach, on payment of freight; also to William Tichborne to ship in the *George* 200*l.* in foreign silver freight free, he taking passage in that vessel for Bombay there to live as a free planter and merchant. A petition is read from Nicholas Bix, a pensioner at Poplar, and order is given for Captain Prowd to pay him 5*s.* a week, to help him in his sickness, for the next month, over and above his allowance. Certain of the Committees are desired to go to Gravesend to clear the Surat ships and give the necessary orders for their dispatch. The Deputy Governor and Sir John Lawrence to advise with Counsel upon the queries Moses shall draw up pursuant to the present debate about the next election of Governor, Deputy, and Committees. The account of the late Mr. Wilcox, formerly a judge at Bombay, to be examined, his salary while in that

employment ascertained and reported. The Committee formerly appointed to consider about raising a stock of money for charitable uses having made but little progress in the matter, they are now ordered to take into serious thought how such a stock may be raised, disposed of, and in what manner distributed for relief of the poor, and report. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 2, 1677 (*Ibid.*, p. 199).

Permission is granted to several persons to ship out as followeth, viz.: to Sir Nathaniel Herne 40 oz. of wrought plate, to Mrs. Lindsey 25 pieces of eight, to the owners of the *George* in joint stock 2,000*l.*, and to the commander, officers and seamen 800*l.*, all free of freight; to Henry Parker for the use of his son 10 oz. of foreign gold, to Thomas Thornton for the use of his son foreign gold to the value of 10*l.* and several particulars for his apparel, both these paying freight. The owners of the *Unicorn* to be paid 3,000*l.* in part of freight and demurrage. After recounting their order to the owners of three-decked and two-decked ships regarding the limit as to the export of bullion allowed them in joint stock, the Court state that, as sometimes the owners do not agree to send out a joint stock, in such case each owner shall have liberty to lade for his own account such proportion of the sum allowed as his part amounts unto, freight free on giving the required affirmation. (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 7, 1677 (*Ibid.*, p. 200).

George Papillon to deliver to the owners of the *Unicorn* fifteen bags of damaged pepper brought back in that ship. A report from the Calico Warehouse Committee concerning the demands of George Day is read and approved. The owners of the *Anne*, commanded by Captain Samuel Chamblet, to be paid for over lengths of calicoes brought home in that ship. The petition of Gabriel Townsend is read and referred for examination of the account of salary alleged to be due also as to whether his covenants and bonds may be delivered up as is desired. The account of the late William Knapton, a factor at Bantam, to be reported. Nathaniel Reading requesting that his son Charles now living in Bombay may be entertained in the Company's service, the Court consent and give order for a clause to be written in the general letter to the President and Council at Surat to admit him as a writer in the factory at Bombay at a yearly salary of 10*l.* to begin from the arrival of this year's shipping, he to take place next after those writers already in the service. (1½ pp.)

THE COMPANY TO CAPTAIN GEORGE SWANLEY, MARCH 7, 1677 (*Letter Book*, vol. v, p. 425).

They have freighted his ship the *Success*, the *Bombay Merchant*, commanded by Captain Roger Bennet, and the *George*, commanded by Captain Nehemiah Earning, for a voyage to Bombay and Surat, and order him to use his best endeavours to get to the Downs and from thence at the first opportunity to sail for Bombay. Swanley is to keep company with the others for mutual safety beyond the Cape as several men-of-war have gone there, so it is supposed that some disturbance has occurred which the three ships are to avoid. They appoint Swanley to wear the flag, Bennet to be Vice-Admiral and Earning to be Rear-Admiral, and direct them on arriving at Bombay to land their passengers, soldiers, women, and such goods as are designed for that place, then to sail for Surat and deliver the Company's packet to the President and Council and follow such directions as they shall receive for their future actions and speedy return to England. They then give the usual orders about keeping together, maintaining their vessels in a posture of good defence and arranging among themselves as to their several positions in case they meet with an enemy, taking especial care on nearing the English coast, trusting neither Turks nor any European nation, and keeping in remembrance the King's proclamation about wearing only the usual English flag and ensign. *Letters of like tenor are sent to Earning and Bennet, except that the latter is, on leaving Surat, to proceed to Bantam.* (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 9, 1677 (*Court Book*, vol. xxx, p. 201).

Order is given for the twenty-eight bales of Floretta yarn formerly bought by Mr. Harington to be offered for sale next Tuesday at 14s. per lb. The Deputy Governor reports that he and Sir John Lawrence conferred with the Attorney-General about the future election of Governor, Deputy, and Committees, and the Court resolve to communicate the substance of the conference to the generality this afternoon. The owners of the *Massingberd* to be paid 2,000*l.* in part of freight and demurrage. The Court, on hearing that Mr. Eyles is now willing to pay the 40*l.* due on Captain South's bill of exchange in pursuance of the Order in Council of November 22 last, direct that Thomas Lewes, Paymaster of the Mariners, receive the money and desire Alderman Bathurst and Mr. Canham to treat about the release of one or more (as the money will

serve) of the subjects of the Sultan of Johanna carried off from that place by the Captain and sold at Barbadoes and Jamaica. ($\frac{3}{4}$ p.)¹

A GENERAL COURT, MARCH 9, 1677 [AFTERNOON] (*Ibid.*, p. 202).

The Deputy Governor states that this Court has been called to inform the generality that a dividend of twenty per cent is to be allowed the adventurers in payment for goods bought at the next sale, and to others as money shall come in: warrants for payment will be ready on Monday the 19th instant. He also states that a question having formerly arisen touching the manner of election of the Governor, Deputy, and Committees the General Court on April 21 last appointed a Committee to consider the Company's charter and bye-laws, but they have not come to any resolution as yet, therefore the advice of Counsel has been taken in the matter both for satisfaction of the generality and that the elections may be warranted by the Charter; the Counsel opine that the elections must be made by adventurers who are present and not by votes sent in, that widows interested in the Joint Stock may be allowed to bring in their votes, but not minors. No gratuity having been given to Governor, Deputy, or to the Committees since 1674, it is resolved that 3,000*l.* shall be divided among the several Committees according to their attendance since April 17, 1674, up to the next election, which will be three years, this is left to the Court to proportion; that each Governor shall be allowed 200*l.* yearly, and the Deputy 100*l.* yearly, for the like time. This is accepted by the Deputy and Committees 'as the Generalities kind resentment and respects'. ($\frac{3}{4}$ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 9, 1677 [AFTERNOON] (*Ibid.*, p. 203).

The account of the late Alexander Grigby to be examined in order to ascertain what surcharge is to be made, also whether his bonds and covenants may be delivered up as is desired. ($\frac{1}{4}$ p.)

KING CHARLES II TO THE VICEROY OF GOA, MARCH 10, 1677 (*Home Miscellaneous*, vol. xlii, p. 339).²

Carolus Secundus Dei gratia Angliae, Scotiae, Franciae, et Hiberniae, Rex, Fidei Defensor, etc. Illustrissimo et Excellentissimo Domino

¹ See preceding volume, p. xxxiv.

² See also *P.R.O.: C.O. 77*, vol. 13, ff., 210-11.

Ludovico de Mendoca Furtado Comiti de Lauradio, Proregi et Capitaneo Generali rerum et Regionum Indicarum Auspicijs atque Autoritate Serenissimi Domini Petri Portugalliae Principis Regentis etc. Amico Nostro Charissimo Salutem. Illustrissime et Excellentissime Domine Prorex, Amice Charissime, Subditi Nostri per Indias Orientales commercia facientes Nobis querelas suas nuper exhibuerunt se parum expertos esse ex amicitia officia quae à Natione Lusitanica sperarunt cum è contra multo durius illic habeantur quam Tractatus Conjugij inter nos et Charissimam Consortem Nostram promittere videbatur. Cui malo ut obviam eatur elucidaciõem undecimi Articuli illius Tractatus jam facturi sumus cum praedicto Fratre Nostro Serenissimo Principe Portugalliae à cujus justitiâ citra dubium expectamus jura Dominii Nostri in Portu atque Insulâ de Bombaim et utriusque Dependentijs vindicatum iri ab injustissimâ illâ capitulatione quam subire coactus Humphredus Cooke quo tempore locus ille in deditionem Nostram primum transijt. Quam capitulationem neque Humphredus ille potestatem habuit accipiendi nec alius quisquam eandem illi imponendi contra foedus tam solenniter et religiose conditum. Itaque statuimus dicte capitulationi abrenunciare, ut quae Regiam Nostram dignitatem laedit, juriq; officit, quod eo plurius aestimamus quia Nobis in parte dotis cum praefatâ Charissima Nostra Conjuge accessit. Supramemoratâ Fratri Nostro Principi Portugalliae significabimus quanta cum molestia intellexerimus quod subditi Nostri Commercii causa navigantes in Dominia Magni Mogolis et Seva-Gi (quibus cum Nobis intercedit amicitia, nec bellum est cum Lusitanis, unde nullam liberam viam obstruendi praetextus esse poterit) tamen pro transitu solo per Tannah in Freto aperto tributum (contra omnium Gentium Leges Moresque) solvere cogantur idemque patiantur etiam pro transitu per Carinjah quamvis in ipsis dicti Portus Nostri aquis, quorum neutrum aequo animo ferre possumus neque dubitamus quin Praedictus Princeps Portugalliae rependi jussurus sit, quicquid tam inique et inusitatè à Nostris exactum fuerit, et praeter alias querelas quibus remedium adhibere non gravabitur, etiam serio perpendit, tum contumeliam Regiae Nostrae personae illatum tum Calamitates et damna quae subditi Nostri sustinuerunt quod dicta Insula de Bombaim una cum omnibus Dependentijs suis nobis ab origine bonâ fide et ex pacto (sicut oportuit) tradita non fuerit. Interia subditis Nostris è Societate Indiae Orientalis mandavimus ne postulatis tam arbitrariis et iniquis dicta tributa solvende ad Tannah et Carinjah se submittant ut quae non minus Regali Nostro Domino