

A CALENDAR OF  
THE COURT MINUTES

382.06

ETC. OF THE  
EAST INDIA COMPANY

1640-1643

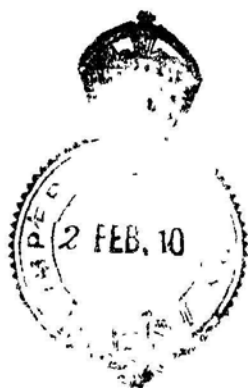
BY  
ETHEL BRUCE SAINSBURY

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY  
WILLIAM FOSTER

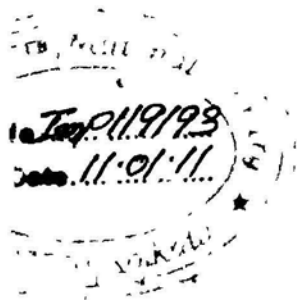
PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HIS MAJESTY'S  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL

OXFORD  
AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

1909



HENRY FROWDE, M.A.  
PUBLISHER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD  
LONDON, EDINBURGH, NEW YORK  
TORONTO AND MELBOURNE



172 A

341

## INTRODUCTION

THE period covered by the present volume commences just before the calling of the Short Parliament and ends (in the middle of the Civil War) with the death of Pym and the southward march of the Scottish troops to aid the forces of the English Parliament. With the events of that momentous time the reader is doubtless familiar, and it is only necessary to ask him to bear in mind, when reading this record of the doings of the East India Company, the bewildering and threatening state of public affairs throughout the four years. How greatly trade in general, and that of the East India Company in particular, was impeded and injured will be easily realized. The general insecurity made every merchant cautious in the purchase of goods, especially such commodities as silks and calicoes and indigo, with the result that the Company could scarcely find a market, and was forced either to seek outlets abroad for the contents of its overstocked warehouses, or to distribute them among its members. Fresh capital was a pressing necessity; yet who would risk in distant enterprises money which he might urgently need to-morrow? To these troubles we may add, in the earlier part of the time, the celebrated pepper bargain, by which the King unintentionally inflicted a serious monetary loss upon the Company: and later on the considerable exactions made by the Parliamentary party for the service of the State, together with sweeping sequestrations of the adventures of the Royalist members. Weighing these distractions and difficulties, we almost wonder that the East India merchants succeeded in keeping their Company afloat, and we pay a tribute of admiration to the men—particularly Cokayne and Methwold—who with undaunted courage steered the crazy vessel through all dangers into the comparatively calm waters of the Protectorate period.

It was only gradually that the situation grew menacing. In point of fact the year 1640 opened for the East India Company with prospects that were distinctly encouraging. True, there were

clouds on the horizon. The current Joint Stock (the Third) was heavily in debt; and, although it had been started as far back as 1631, the members had only received two divisions of 12½ per cent. each.<sup>1</sup> The rival body known as Courteen's Association was still in the field, and there was no saying what damage had been inflicted on the Company's interests in the East by the fleet sent out in 1636 under Captain Weddell. On the other hand, King Charles had at last awakened to the fact that his encouragement of such competitors was endangering the continuance of the trade, and he had promised the Company his active support for the future; there were hopes of recovering a substantial sum from the Dutch in satisfaction of long-standing claims; while, as a more tangible asset, the *Mary* had just arrived from Surat with a valuable cargo.<sup>2</sup> Further, it was confidently expected that on the strength of the King's promises (which included the grant of a new charter, with added privileges) the public would be induced to come forward with sufficient money for a new Joint Stock.

The 'preamble' for the new subscription was completed and received the royal approval early in February, 1640. The list of subscribers was to remain open for Londoners until Lady Day, and for others until May 1—dates which were afterwards extended to April 25 and May 25 respectively. Foreigners as well as Englishmen were to be admitted, but the minimum subscription was fixed at 1,000*l.* for the former and only 500*l.* for the latter. Although it is not so stated, the intention seems to have been that all subscribers should be incorporated by royal charter into a new Company, thus obtaining their freedom gratis; but anyone buying an adventure afterwards was to pay a fee of 20*l.*, if an Englishman, or double that sum, if a foreigner. The subscriptions were to be spread over four years, in sixteen quarterly payments commencing at Midsummer, 1640. The new charter was to make important

Apparently these had been declared during the period (1637-39) for which the Court Minutes are missing. It is perhaps better to use 'divisions' in this connexion than 'dividends', a term which nowadays suggests profit or interest. Under the early form of the Joint Stock system, as practised in the East India Company, payments to the shareholders were of the nature of repayment of principal as well as of distribution of profits.

Valued at about £50,000*l.* It is a good example of the large gains to be made in the India trade that one cargo should thus produce about 35 per cent of the nominal capital.



## INTRODUCTION

changes in the government of the Company. The number of the Committees or Managers was not to exceed twelve, from whom the Governor would appoint a Deputy; five of them, and the Governor, were to retire each year, and the Governor was not to be eligible for immediate re-election. Finally, the old Company was not to send out any more stock after May, 1640, though it was to be allowed a suitable time for bringing home its goods remaining in the East.

Probably we shall not be far wrong in connecting with this impending appeal for fresh capital the division of 25 per cent. (in silk<sup>1</sup>) which was recommended by the Court of Committees and accepted by the generality on February 7. At the same meeting authority was given for the dispatch of a stock of 50,000*l.* in the four ships then under orders for the Indies, viz. the *Fonas*, *Swan*, and *Caesar* for Bantam, and the *Crispian* for Surat. As the result of all this expenditure, the Company's debt rose to 100,000*l.*, and for this amount it was decided to issue a policy of insurance, as had been done a few years before.

The detailed proposals for raising a fresh stock were laid before a General Court on March 12, 1640, when, by direction of King Charles, Lord Cottington attended to declare His Majesty's resolution to favour the trade and to renew the Company's charter, with such further privileges as should be fitting. Satisfaction was promised in the matter of the Company's grievances against the Dutch, Courteen's Association, &c., and an undertaking was given that all patents for plantations in Madagascar, Mauritius, and other islands in the Indies should be cancelled and no fresh grants made. A rather unnecessary recommendation of economy in future expenditure was added, and the royal message concluded by expressing a hope that a sufficient amount would be subscribed to effect all that was intended, as otherwise His Majesty must find some different way of maintaining the trade. When Lord Cottington had finished, the Governor, Sir Christopher Catherow, after himself making some optimistic remarks, called upon ex-President Meth-

<sup>1</sup> The two previous divisions had been in cloves; but shareholders could in all these cases have money instead, on condition of waiting for it. Many preferred this course; and it will be noticed that of the shares transferred during the first six months of 1640 some had 12½, some 25, and some 50 per cent taken out.

wold, who had recently arrived from Surat in the *Mary*. He gave the meeting an encouraging account of the state of affairs in India, dwelling upon the revival of manufactures after the recent famine, the establishment of commerce between Surat and the Indus delta, and the benefits to be expected from the peace recently concluded with the Portuguese. The trade of India, he declared, was never in a more hopeful position; and with these cheerful words ringing in their ears the members were dismissed to think over the amount each should subscribe.

But however much the King might promise—and his subjects might well be excused if by this time they attached little importance to any promises he might make—the public could not be induced to come forward with the necessary funds. Indeed, in the existing state of feeling in the City, it is probable that Charles's interference did more harm than good; while the clouds on the political horizon supplied another reason to prudent men for hesitating to sink money for several years. At a General Court held on April 17 the Governor reproached the members of the Company for their backwardness. The significant suggestion was made by one shareholder that a petition should be presented to the House of Commons (which had met four days earlier, after an interval of eleven years), complaining not only of the Dutch but of the damages suffered by the depredations of Cobb and Ayres; and to this the equally significant reply was made that the advisability of such a course had been debated by the Committees themselves that very morning, and it had been decided to consult the Recorder of London. His advice, it seems, was against taking a course which would certainly irritate His Majesty without producing any compensating advantage; and nothing had been decided when the King dismissed the two Houses (May 5). The day appointed for closing the subscription passed, and it was found that the total offered was only 22,500*l*. On June 3 the Committees sorrowfully debated the reason why so small a sum had been underwritten. The general opinion attributed the public discouragement to the want of satisfaction for the injuries done by the Dutch, the competition of Courteen's Association, the depredations of the pirates, the raising of the customs duties, the restrictions imposed on the sale of the Company's saltpetre, and the dissatisfaction

excited by the proposed alterations in the government of the Company. Most of these grievances were due to the action or inaction of the Administration, and Charles can scarcely have been pleased with the reasons given for the meagre response made to his appeal. A fresh attempt was made on June 26 to stimulate the members of the Company to subscribe to the new stock; but all that they would say was that they would consider the matter when the old stock had been drawn home.

As fresh capital could not be attracted, it became necessary for the existing shareholders to shoulder the burden of carrying on the trade. Fortunately, in the middle of June the *Discovery* arrived from Surat with a good cargo, and intelligence that four more ships might be expected shortly. Encouraged by this the adventurers sanctioned the expenditure of 12,000*l.* in coral and broad-cloth for a further venture.

The annual election was held on July 3, 1640. Sir Christopher Clisshew, William Cokayne, and Robert Bateman were re-appointed Governor, Deputy, and Treasurer respectively, and six new 'Committees' (including Methwold) were chosen. In the same month arrived three more ships, the *London*, *William*, and *Reformation*—the first from Surat, and the other two from Bantam.<sup>1</sup> With the aid of the cargoes of these vessels it was estimated that the Company was in a position to pay all its debts, with 168,000*l.* over; and thereupon a further division of 25 per cent. (in calico) was ordered to be made (August 19).

Another interesting decision taken at this time was that the Company should itself export a considerable quantity of pepper to Italy for sale. The proposal was no doubt prompted by the bad state of the market in London; but it also held out the prospect of a double advantage, as the money obtained for the pepper could be returned in coral (then the most profitable commodity for export to India) and in rials of eight, which were to be had in Italy far more cheaply than in England. There was of course an increased risk of loss either outwards or inwards, but this was covered by insurance. The venture turned out a success, and it was repeated in each of the three following years.

<sup>1</sup> The *London* reached the Downs on July 8th, and two days later the *William* and *Reformation* came in (*Marine Records*, vol. lxiv)

The summer of 1640 was an anxious one for England. Charles was still obstinately bent on coercing the Scotch Covenanters, and to this end small bodies of pressed men—more formidable, in their mutinous and half-starving condition, to their own countrymen than to Leslie's well-equipped forces—were being directed towards Conway's camp at Newcastle. To find money for their pay and support without having recourse to a Parliament, the King was driven to the most desperate courses; and London, as the richest and handiest source of supply, felt the full weight of his hand. The collection of the hated ship-money was vigorously pressed. Repeated requests were made to the City for a loan, but only to be steadily refused. The bullion in the Tower belonging to private merchants was seized, and held until the owners agreed to lend 40,000*l.* on the security of the Farmers of the Customs. Then came the proposal, happily futile, to issue a debased currency; and finally the extraordinary deal with the East India Company over their pepper. The former of these two measures caused the Company only a passing alarm. Upon the first rumours of the King's intention, one of their creditors—a lady—demanded either the repayment of the money she had lent or an assurance that the debt would be discharged in gold or in silver at its present value. The fear that other creditors would follow her example led the Court of Committees to resolve upon petitioning against the scheme; but when the Governor and others went to wait upon His Majesty with the petition, it was found that numerous representations had already been made of the same tenor; and on the advice of their friends at Court, they decided 'to rest quiett, expecting the event'. Before long this egregious proposal was quietly dropped.

In the second of these transactions the Company were of course directly concerned, and the details now given are full of interest—all the more so because many features of the affair have been misunderstood. Bruce's account (*Annals*, vol. i, p. 371) is that King Charles, urged by his financial distresses, 'obliged' the East India Company to sell to him on credit the whole of the pepper it had in store, which His Majesty promptly resold for cash at a price which brought him in over 50,000*l.* This bald statement of the case has led many subsequent writers to use harsh language concerning the King's action in the matter. In the light, however,

of the Company's own records, it will be seen that in reality Charles had little to do with the transaction, his Chancellor of the Exchequer (Lord Cottington) being the principal person figuring therein; that the proposal arose from the Company's own action in offering its pepper to public tender; that the bargain was agreed to by the shareholders—with reluctance, no doubt, but without ostensible demur; that ample private security, in addition to the guarantee of the State, was provided for the payment of the money; and that the loss which was ultimately incurred was due to causes which were not foreseen and were beyond the control of the King and his ministers.

The story begins with a 'General Court of Sales' which was held on Friday, August 21, 1640. On this occasion, the stock of pepper being a very heavy one, it was decided to invite subscriptions for parcels of 100 bags at a fixed price, viz. 2s. 1d. per lb. for exportation and 2s. 2d. for sale in town. All considerable transactions at this time were on a credit basis; and accordingly payment was to be made in four instalments at intervals of six months each from Michaelmas. Further, it was agreed that there should be 'noe sale unles all bee underwritten before Tuesday night'. Apparently it now occurred to someone of the King's party that here was an opening for raising the money of which Charles—who had started for the north on August 20—was so desperately in need for the expenses of the campaign against the Scots. No doubt it was unusual for a King of England to be buying and selling pepper;<sup>1</sup> but the financial situation required heroic remedies, and if 50,000*l.* or more could be raised by a sale of the goods, while the payment of the cost was postponed, such considerations could not be allowed to stand in the way. Prompt action was taken; for on the 22nd, before a number of the Committees hastily convened, Lord Cottington in person, after dwelling on 'the many and urgent occasions His Majesty at present hath, and

<sup>1</sup> Yet precedent were not entirely wanting. In September, 1609, King James had entered into negotiations with the Company for the purchase of a shipload of pepper just received, but the proposal fell through (see *Calendar of State Papers, E. Indies*, 1513-1616, pp. 193-195). Dr. W. R. Scott has also reminded me that Elizabeth kept all the pepper captured in the *Madre de Dios*, and that in 1597 a proclamation was issued prohibiting the importation of cochineal and indigo until the Crown had disposed of the stock obtained from prizes.

especially against the Scotts', offered in the King's name to buy all the Company's pepper on the terms set forth in their 'preamble' and to furnish unexceptionable security; and he added that a compliance would doubtless entail a favourable consideration of the concessions the Company was seeking from the State. To prove his sincerity in the matter, His Lordship offered his personal guarantee, in the most absolute manner, for the payment of the money at the periods fixed. Evidently the Committees were rather startled by the proposition, and indeed it is not unlikely that most, if not all of them, shared the general feeling of the City against the illegal exactions of the Government, and were not disposed to do anything to extricate Charles from his embarrassments. Still, as they knew, it was dangerous work thwarting His Majesty, and so we find them hesitating and hedging. The Governor alleged that the money to be obtained from the sale of the pepper was needed for payment of part of the Company's debt, and that the adventurers might be alarmed by any transaction of the kind. To the former Lord Cottington made the obvious retort that he was not asking any lower price or any longer credit than the Company had already offered to accept; while as for the latter consideration, he declared that any apprehensions of that nature were merely 'pannick feares'. However, he was persuaded to wait until the Wednesday following, when the matter could be submitted to a General Court, and it was decided that in the meantime the invitation for subscriptions should be withdrawn.

A general meeting was accordingly summoned for August 26. It was preceded, as usual, by a court of Committees, at which the Governor reported that he, with the Deputy and two others, had waited on the Lord Treasurer and Lord Cottington, who had warned them 'to handle the busines at the generall court in the afternoone soe tenderly that noe affront bee put upon His Majesty or the security proposed, but that by the best meanes they can, they endeavour to perfect the bargayne, His Majesty having taken notice thereof'. Hereupon the Lord Mayor, Sir Henry Garway, spoke in favour of the proposal, urging that the security was good 'and rhe price and tyme were of the Committees owne setting'. A suggestion was made that the transaction might shake the Company's credit; but this danger was not thought to be serious,

and finally it was decided to support the proposal. At the general court, therefore, the Governor's opening speech was favourable to the project. He gave the names of the intended securities—Lord Cottington himself, and the Farmers of the Customs, including Sir Paul Pindar, Sir Peter Wyche, Sir Nicholas Crispe, and other well-known men—and he declared that 'the Couft of Committees have seriously debated the propoſicion and conceive it noe prejudice to the Company to ſell off the whole parcell of pepper roundly togeather at the Companies owne price and tyme and the ſecurity propoſed, none having come to underwrite within the tyme limited, and the Lord Cottington promiſing to diſcompt after a ſhort tyme ; and if ſome fewe had underwritt, yett had it bin noe ſale unles all had bin underwritt for. Besides, if it had ſtaid unſold a weeke longer, it would have abated in price, as was conceived, and bin ſold at 22*d.* per lb*s.* Finally, he mentioned the hint which had been received regarding the affront which would be given to the King by a refusal. On this a ſhareholder proteſted againſt interference with the Company in the diſpoſal of its goods, though he admitted that the ſecurity was ample and the price a good one ; while another member grumbled at being prevented from underwriting for part of the pepper himſelf. No other oppoſition being manifeſted, the Committees urged the acceptance of the propoſal, as likely to ſecure valuable concessions from His Maſteſty, 'adding further that if any ſtrainger had made the ſame offer hee ſhould have had it, nor can it bee worſe for the Company becauſe the King hath the bargayne' Evidently there were ſome malcontents who did not care to ſhow themſelves openly, for the ſuggeſtion was made that the queſtion ſhould be put to the ballot. This was rejected as being 'diſtaſtfull to the Lords and in a manner forbidden'. Next it was propoſed that the deciſion ſhould be left to the Committees, but the latter declined to accept this reſponſibility. The Governor now urged the aſſembly to aſſent unaniſmuſly to the propoſal, 'which in his opinion wilbee the beſt act the Company ever did, and (as hee conceives) will conduce moſt to the future good of the trade . . . freely acknowledging that firſt hee was very fearefull, but upon better conſideracion hee hath laid aſide all feare.' Then the motion was put, and 'with a generall yea the bargayne . . . was aſſented unto and confirmed'.

Sanction having thus been obtained and the requisite security given, the pepper was handed over. There were 607,522 lb. of it, and at 2s. 1d. a pound the liability incurred was 63,283*l.* 11*s.* 1d. This was to be discharged by four payments of 14,000*l.* each at intervals of six months, the first being due in March, 1641, and by a payment of 7,283*l.* 11*s.* 1d. at Christmas, 1641. Lord Cottington now sold the pepper to various merchants at 1s. 8d. per lb. for cash, realizing 50,626*l.* 17*s.* 1d. The result was an apparent loss of 12,656*l.* 14*s.*, but against this was reckoned, in the Exchequer accounts, 6,075*l.* 13*s.* 2d. as the interest which (at the usual rate of eight per cent.) would have had to be paid for a loan of equal amount, leaving 6,581*l.* 0*s.* 10d. as the net loss on the transaction (p. 159). This was equivalent to borrowing the cash at about seventeen per cent.; but, considering the financial straits of the Treasury, Lord Cottington and his associates probably thought it a good stroke of business. On the other hand, the Company had no immediate cause of disquietude. They had got rid of their pepper at their own price (which seems to have been rather more than it was worth); and they had ample security for the payment. Moreover, as we have seen, the bondsmen included the Farmers of the Customs, and should the ordinary resources of the Exchequer fail, the customs due from the Company would by themselves extinguish the debt in a comparatively short time.

All these hopes were destined to be disappointed. The story is a long one, extending as far as the year 1663; but it may be convenient to deal at this point with the remaining references to it which occur in the present volume. As we have seen, the first instalment fell due at Lady Day, 1641, the second at Michaelmas, and the third at Christmas of the same year. The failure of the Treasury to meet the first of these obligations was so natural, considering its want of money and the tension existing between the King and the Houses, that it was not until August that the matter was debated in the Court of Committees.<sup>1</sup> It was then decided to do nothing until the second instalment became payable. Michaelmas and Christmas came and went: the instalments over-

<sup>1</sup> The letters from the King to the Commissioners of the Treasury and the late Farmers on p. 182 seem, however, to show that some pressure had already been brought to bear on the latter.



due had mounted up to 35,283*l.*, but still there was no sign of payment forthcoming. The late Farmers of the Customs, who were guarantors with Lord Cottington, had, however, before their dismissal allowed the Company to retain in part-payment about 9,000*l.* due to the State for customs on East Indian imports, and the Company was also keeping back another 3,000*l.* due on the same account. But this did not go far towards liquidating the debt; and so (January, 1642) the Company began to bring pressure upon Lord Cottington to make good his warranty. He wrote earnestly to the King—who had left London a fortnight before—begging that steps might be taken to meet the liability. Towards the end of March came fresh trouble. The House of Commons, being hard pressed for funds and feeling little sympathy with those who had supplied money to the King without the sanction of Parliament, peremptorily ordered the Company to pay up the 12,000*l.* they had kept back from their customs. This order, it seems, was not insisted upon; but the fear of its enforcement, and the passing of another instalment-date without payment, led the Company to resolve to sue the guarantors. Thereupon Lord Cottington appealed again to the King to save him and his fellow-bondsmen from ruin; but His Majesty had no money for the purpose and, sorry as he unfeignedly was, could do little to help. He wrote from York to the Company, begging them to be reasonable and promising to do his best for their relief; while at the same time he instructed the Commissioners of the Treasury to find means of satisfying the Company's demands. After some delay the Commissioners (August, 1642) submitted to the King a list of royal parks, forests, and chases, from the sale of which funds might be found to discharge the debt; but in the same month the Civil War broke out and all hope of an accommodation from this direction came to an end.

The Company now resolved to take the matter into the law courts and endeavour to get the money from Cottington and the rest. This plan, however, resulted in nothing. Cottington was lying ill at his country house; and the other guarantors, having been dismissed from their office as Farmers of the Customs and heavily fined, were too much involved to be worth proceeding against for the present. So the matter rested till June, 1643, when the

Company's counsel was consulted as to the advisability of taking further steps. In the following month a committee was appointed to treat with three of the guarantors—Pindar, Harby, and eNulls; but apparently nothing came of this, though on December 15 orders were given that an action should be brought against some of them. We shall hear more of the story in the next volume; in the meantime any one who is curious about it may be referred to an article by the present writer in the *English Historical Review* for July, 1904.

We must now return to the autumn of 1640. The shareholders of the Third Joint Stock had by that time received back 75 per cent. of their capital. In September, 1640, a proposal was entertained of dividing a further 30 per cent. in goods, of which two-thirds should count as a division on capital, and the remaining third be paid for by the stockholders as a means of discharging part of the Company's debt at interest. This, however, was negatived, largely in view of the high amount of the debt, which was 250,000*l.* or over, and still growing. Anxious as every one concerned was to close the current Stock, it was felt that the trade must not be deserted; and so proposals of the Court of Committees for the dispatch of fresh shipping to the East were reluctantly adopted by the generality. In accordance with these plans, the *Reformation* left towards the end of November for Masulipatam and Bantam; and preparations were made for sending out four or five more ships in the spring.

All this, however, was understood to be in the nature of a stop-gap until a new Stock could be floated. The hopes of doing this with success were re-kindled by the meeting of the Parliament which Charles had at last been forced to summon. To this assembly all men were looking for the cure of the various ills of the State; and among the rest the members of the East India Company were confident that the Houses would redress their grievances and, by giving parliamentary sanction to their privileges, restore the fortunes of their trade. They seem to have expected immediate attention to the subject, for on November 9, 1640 (only six days after the meeting of the Houses), the Court of Committees made preparations to answer inquiries regarding the management of the trade. Parliament, however, had matters of

higher importance in hand, and nothing more was heard for some weeks.

In January, 1641, the Company decided to present to the Commons a petition, complaining against Endymion Porter and his associates in connexion with the depredations in the Red Sea; also a 'remonstrance' of other 'aggrievances', including, it would seem, the infringement of their monopoly by Courteen. The rumour of their intentions alarmed the King. With Strafford in the Tower, Windebank and Finch in exile, and Laud under impeachment, he might well feel that no servant of his was safe from attack; and Porter was particularly obnoxious to the popular party for many reasons. In consequence, the Governor was hastily summoned to Court, where His Majesty earnestly begged that the petition should be withdrawn, declaring that Porter had really nothing to do with the business 'and that what was done was His Majesties act'. Clitherow replied that he feared it was now too late, as the petition had already been delivered to a member for presentation; but Charles rejoined that the document had not been read and might therefore be withdrawn, adding that, if it were not, 'hee must and would owne the busines'. Further he told them that 'he had in agitation a round busines concerning them'—no doubt he was alluding to the negotiations with the Dutch—'and without him they could never gett a penny.' In face of all this, it was deemed prudent to recall the petition and remonstrance, and in lieu thereof to address His Majesty, begging him to prevent Courteen from sending any more ships to the East. This document was graciously received, and the King promised to speak with Courteen upon the subject. He thanked the deputation for withdrawing their petition against Porter, and the latter also took an opportunity of expressing his gratitude to the Company, at the same time promising to further an accommodation between them and Courteen. After some delay a conference took place between the two parties on February 24, 1641; but it proved futile, for Courteen, who a few days before had dispatched a fresh pinnace (the *Paradox*) to the Indies, demanded to be refunded all the money he had laid out, with interest for the same and consideration 'for his paynes in this busines'; while the Company were only willing to take over, at a reasonable price, the existing assets in

India and in England. A further meeting on March 5 was equally inconclusive; and so the negotiations came to an end for the time being.

In the introduction to the last volume an account was given of the circumstances in which negotiations for the settlement of the English claims against the Dutch East India Company were commenced at the Hague between, on the one hand, Sir William Boswell, the English ambassador, in conjunction with Anthony Van Den Heuvel as special procurator for this business, and, on the other, the States General and the Dutch Company. Boswell returned to his post in June, 1640, with instructions to press this matter vigorously.<sup>1</sup> He was to claim that Pulo Run should be replanted and made over to the English: that the former treaties should be renewed and duly observed: and that, in compensation for past injuries, a sum of 200,000*l.* should be paid to his master. If necessary, he might reduce that amount to 100,000*l.*, but he was not to accept less. These demands were duly presented to the States General, and by them referred to the Dutch East India Company. Negotiations ensued, but the Hollanders, while professing their desire to end the dispute, were by no means disposed to yield to Boswell's terms. On December 14, 1640, the ambassador wrote to the King that he had gradually lowered his requirements to 110,000*l.*, but the highest offer yet made to him was 50,000*l.*, and this was to include the renunciation of the English claim to Pulo Run. He hoped that the Dutch would advance to 70,000*l.* or even 80,000*l.*, but did not expect more; and therefore requested instructions as to his course of action. He seems to have been told in reply to do the best he could; and he resumed the negotiations with hopes of success, though he had just lost his right-hand man by the death of Van Den Heuvel.

Meanwhile the English Company was waiting patiently for the result of Boswell's labours. The arrival, in January, 1641, of ambassadors from Holland to solicit the hand of an English Princess for the young Prince of Orange, seemed to promise the early removal of all causes of friction; and towards the end of that month a deputation from the Company waited upon Secretary Vane

<sup>1</sup> The account that follows is based mainly upon documents in the collection of *State Papers, Holland* (vols. clvi and clvii) at the Public Record Office.

to inquire what progress had been made in the settlement of their claims. Apparently there was a shrewd suspicion that the King intended to appropriate part of any sum that might be recovered; and so the Governor laid stress upon the Company's needs and the disheartening effect which any action of the kind would have upon the adventurers. In reply, Vane disclaimed all expectation of an immediate settlement, but discreetly inquired whether 50,000*l.* would satisfy them; to this a non-committal answer was returned, but at a second interview the Company's representatives hinted guardedly that 50,000*l.* would be accepted. Apparently they were then asked whether, in the event of the King obtaining this sum for them, they would drop their claims on account of the Red Sea piracies; and at a meeting held on February 17, 1641, it was resolved to accept the sum mentioned in full satisfaction of the claims both against the Dutch and against Cobb and Ayres, with the reservation that this must not be taken to include any losses caused by the latter of which the Court was as yet ignorant.

Boswell was indignant when he heard of the Company's contention that they ought to receive the whole of the compensation. He pointed out that damages had been demanded on behalf of the King as well as on account of the Company.<sup>1</sup> that the claims of the latter, after rejecting flimsy and unreasonable items, would not amount to much above 30,000*l.*: that Charles had promised to give Van Den Heuvel or his heirs 10,000*l.* out of the amount recovered, and had authorized Boswell to distribute another 5,000*l.* among those in Holland who might help the matter forward, to say nothing of gratuities and rewards expected by others (including Boswell himself). In his opinion the Company, who could get nothing unaided, ought to be content if the King were graciously pleased to give one-third or even one-fourth of any amount he might receive. At the same time, matters were by no means sufficiently far advanced to discuss the division of the money; for he heard that the Dutch Company were standing out stiffly against any compromise, and were suggesting a reference to French, Italian, or German arbitrators. This idea, if entertained, was soon aban-

<sup>1</sup> This is corroborated by the statement given at p. 303 of the last volume. Boswell's two letters, dated March 4, 1641 (O.S.), will be found in vol. clvii of the *State Papers, Holland*.

done. In the same month of March, 1641, Philip Burlamachi was able to tell the London Company that their Dutch rivals were willing to pay 500,000 guilders (about 40,000*l.*); whereupon a fresh deputation was sent to Court, which returned without any definite information. It is amusing to note that the members, mindful of former fears, suggested to Secretary Vane that, as the exchange was high, the most satisfactory mode of payment would be to deposit the money in the Company's name in some Dutch banks. On April 8 Boswell wrote again for instructions; he could get no higher offer than 500,000 guilders, though he still had hopes of obtaining 700,000 or even 800,000. He was thereupon authorized to accept 700,000 guilders, but nothing less—on which terms he might renounce the claim to Pulo Run; and in August he wrote that he had a promise of early satisfaction. However, all these expectations were doomed to disappointment. The negotiations dragged on at the Hague, and in October the English ambassador wrote that nothing had been concluded; and when, in December, Secretary Nicholas was asked how matters stood, he could only promise to look up the papers on the subject. It seems probable that the Hollanders never intended to yield to demands which they regarded (with some reason) as unjustified, unless they were constrained by political considerations; and for the present it was obvious enough that Charles was no longer master in his own kingdom and was utterly unable to exert any pressure on a continental government. From time to time hopes of a satisfactory settlement were revived. In October, 1642, it was even decided to send Methwold to Holland to negotiate with the Dutch Company, chiefly because it was feared that the money which the English expected to receive would 'goe another waie', as the Queen was then at the Hague busily engaged in raising funds and providing munitions of war for her husband; at the last moment, however, Methwold's deputation was cancelled, and it was decided to be content with writing to Boswell and the Company's agent at Amsterdam. In the following March the Deputy read to the Court a letter from a friend in Holland on the subject, and he was instructed to reply that the Company was willing to send over a representative to negotiate, provided that the Dutch would make good their former offer of 500,000 guilders, without requiring the

relinquishment of Pulo Run. This is the last we hear of the subject up to the end of 1643.

Mention is also made in June, 1641, of overtures to the Portuguese embassy which, now that Portugal had declared her independence of Spain, had arrived in London seeking to renew the ancient alliance with England. The result of the negotiations was the Anglo-Portuguese treaty which was ratified at York on May 22, 1642.<sup>1</sup> By clause xii of this document it was agreed that the truce in the East Indies concluded by Methwold and the Viceroy of Goa in January, 1635, should be continued, and that commissioners should be appointed on either side to settle all outstanding differences. In accordance with the latter provision, the Portuguese Agent, in January, 1643, requested the Company to nominate such commissioners; whereupon the names of the President at Surat and four of the principal factors were suggested. However, the Company's letters to Oxford, requesting a royal commission to this effect, remained unanswered; and as it seemed hopeless to get such a document 'in these distracted tymes', the Deputy and two others were authorized on December 20, 1643, to treat with the Portuguese Agent in London for the purpose of inducing him to write to India to explain matters.

We must now glance at the movements of the Company's shipping. In January, 1641, the *Caesar* returned from Bantam with a good lading. This experiment in hiring a ship had proved very satisfactory, for Captain Jourdain had made the voyage out and home in less than eleven months—a quicker return than had ever been made by the Company's own ships. Towards the end of March four vessels were dispatched to the East—the *Discovery* and *London* for Surat, and the *Mary* and *William* for Bantam. Early in June arrived the *Crispian*, bringing news that the *Fonas* and *Swan* might likewise be expected shortly. The financial position of the Company had now so much improved that in July a further division of 25 per cent. was ordered; while a few weeks later the adventurers were cheered by the safe arrival of the *Hope-well* in the Thames.

In spite of all this it was evident that the flotation of a new Joint Stock was hopeless until the position of the Company had been

<sup>1</sup> Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. xx, p. 523.

placed on a firmer basis. Privileges dependent on a royal charter were under suspicion; and moreover there were outstanding questions as to customs and drawback which, in the present circumstances, could only be settled by Parliament. It was clear, however, that nothing could be hoped for immediately; and as it was necessary to provide funds for the dispatch of ships to the East during the next winter, the Committees fell back upon the plan of a 'Particular Voyage' for little more than a year, on a separate subscription. This was approved by a General Court on August 18, and subscriptions were invited accordingly. To encourage applications, it was agreed that any outsiders who underwrote for 500*l.* or upwards should be admitted to the freedom of the Company for a small payment (subsequently fixed at 5*l.*); and that the affairs of the new stock should be managed by a committee of the subscribers acting in conjunction with the regular directorate. The response was not entirely satisfactory, for the first list, after the disallowance of some items to which objection was raised, totalled only 65,000*l.* A further appeal to the same subscribers increased the amount to 80,450*l.*; and it was then decided (October, 1641) to invite all freemen of the Company to assist in bringing up the total to 100,000*l.* To manage the stock, a committee of eight,<sup>1</sup> headed by Sir Nicholas Crispe, was appointed to act in conjunction with the regular Court; and to settle any difference of opinion that might arise between these two bodies, the former were to be reinforced by another committee of the same number formed from members interested both in the Joint Stock and the First General Voyage.<sup>2</sup> As it was not desirable for the latter to set up special machinery for so limited a period, an arrangement was come to by which use was to be made of the Joint Stock's staff, warehouses, &c., at a commission of one per cent. for home and six per cent. in the East. The *Hopewell*, belonging to the Joint Stock, was chartered by the new body, to be sent to the Coromandel Coast with a stock of 15,000*l.* Francis Day, who had recently returned from those parts—where he had incidentally founded, near the obscure village of Madraspatam, a fort (named after St. George) which was destined

<sup>1</sup> Termed in the Minutes the 'Mixed Committees'

<sup>2</sup> This is the title by which the 'Particular Voyage' became known at a later stage, and it will avoid confusion if we use it from the beginning.



to become famous—was appointed factor or supercargo, in her, under a strict undertaking to have nothing to do with private trade. Further, on November 6, a ship was bought, which was renamed the *Blessing* and was ordered to be prepared for a voyage to Bantam; while inquiries were set on foot for freighting or purchasing two more for Surat.

In the midst of these preparations the Company lost its Governor, Sir Christopher Clitherow, who died on November 11 and was buried a few days later in the church of St. Andrew Undershaft, where his monument may yet be seen. On the 26th of the same month his brother-in-law, Sir Henry Garway, who had been Lord Mayor in 1639-40, was elected to the vacant chair. There was much sickness in London at this time, and shortly before Christmas the Company lost its Secretary, Edward Sherborne. His post was filled by the promotion of Richard Swinglehurst, with a salary and allowances amounting to 160*l.* per annum.

The death of Clitherow did not entail the removal of the Company's offices from his premises, for the widow, who continued to live there, was glad enough to have so profitable a tenant. On the Company's part there was some grumbling at the inadequacy of the accommodation provided and the exorbitance of the rent; and on two occasions inquiry was ordered to be made as to the possibility of getting back to Crosby Hall. However, the state of public affairs discouraged any expenditure in this direction; and as in November, 1643, Lady Clitherow agreed to reduce the rent from 150*l.* to 100*l.* per annum, and to allow the Company the use of a little room over the treasury, the idea of making a move was abandoned for the present.

Returning to 1641, we find the adventurers still looking to the State for assistance. In February of that year it had been decided to print and present to Parliament a revised version of the 'remonstrance' of 1628; and Thomas Munn, who had been the draughtsman of that document, was asked to revise it for this purpose. The intention was duly carried out, the petition this time being addressed to both Houses, instead of to the Commons alone. On May 28—about a fortnight after the execution of Strafford—a special committee was appointed to prepare a statement of the Company's grievances for presentation to the King and Parliament.

A petition was accordingly laid before His Majesty in July, in reply to which he recommended the Company to submit an application for a fresh charter, promising to recommend the matter to the notice of the Houses. From the *Commons' Journal* we learn that on August 24 a petition from the East India Company was read and considered, and that—apparently in order to remedy one of the grievances complained of—a conference was arranged with the Lords on the question of drawback on goods re-exported within twelve months. In October the Company decided to petition the House once more, with a draft bill for the confirmation of their existing privileges and the addition of others; but whether this intention was carried out does not appear. Two months later a fresh petition was ordered to be presented to the King on the drawback question and the other favours desired by the Company (p. 218). This was referred by His Majesty to the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury (p. 220).

In the spring of 1642 a fresh attempt was made to induce Parliament to interest itself in the Company's grievances. A petition complaining of the wrongs suffered at the hands of the Dutch and of Courteen's Association, and representing the ill effects of the heavy duties on the import and export of East India goods, was presented to the House of Commons, who referred it to the Committee on Cloth then sitting under the presidency of the younger Vane. To work up public feeling on the first of these topics, the Committees resolved to reprint the old pamphlet setting forth the horrors of the 'Amboyna Massacre'; but this was promptly and peremptorily prohibited by Parliament. As regards the second, an endeavour was made to reach an accommodation by personal interviews between Courteen and the Company's representatives. These, however, proved fruitless. Courteen was willing to put his stock into the General Voyage, but he insisted that the whole should be taken, including the three ships he was preparing to send out, the five which were abroad, and his goods, &c., in China; while the Company would only agree to take one of the former ships (though he might send out the other two to fetch home his 'remains'), and would have nothing to do with the China venture, or in any way share in the losses he had already incurred. So the attempt at conciliation fell through.

## INTRODUCTION

xvii

The *Hopewell* quitted the Downs on December 31, 1641.<sup>1</sup> The *Blessing* started for Bantam late in January, 1642, followed, a month or so later, by two ships for Surat, viz. the *Crispian* and the *Aleppo Merchant* (the latter a hired vessel). All these were sent on account of the General Voyage. On March 9 it was decided that the Third Joint Stock should dispatch a ship to Bantam to fetch home its remains in pepper; and for this purpose the *Ulysses* was freighted and sent to the East. Towards the end of April the *Mary* arrived from Bantam, having made the quickest passage on record of any of the Company's ships. The result was seen in the declaration of a division of 10 per cent. in cloves to the shareholders in the Joint Stock (June 17, 1642). In August two more ships—the *William* and the *London*—came home and helped to fill up the Company's warehouses.<sup>2</sup>

It was now decided to bring the Third Joint Stock to a close, and proposals to this effect were approved by a General Court held on October 14, 1642. The remains were valued at 25 per cent. of the capital, apart from the amount which was hoped for from the Dutch, which would, if received, suffice to pay 12½ per cent. more; this very doubtful asset was, however, left out of account, and it was resolved to declare a division of 25 per cent., to be taken out either in calicoes or in money.<sup>3</sup> Adventurers might, if they cared to do so, leave their division to form part of the capital of a new Fourth Joint Stock, to which they (or any other members of the Company) might contribute any further sums they pleased. The response was fairly satisfactory. By the 7th of December 40,000*l.* had been transferred in this way from the old Joint Stock to the new, and a further 15,000*l.* had been subscribed, or 55,000*l.* in all; by the 19th of the same month this had been increased to 68,000*l.*; and later still it seems to have reached a total of 76,000*l.* From this sum the Committees bought the *Peter and Andrew* (renamed the *Dolphin*), and three smaller vessels, the *Hart*, *Hind*, and *Seaflower*,

<sup>1</sup> See a journal of her voyage, among the *Marine Records* (vol. lxx).

<sup>2</sup> These two vessels had now made their final voyages for the Company. The latter was sold in April, 1643; the former was broken up and replaced by a new ship of the same name.

<sup>3</sup> This made a total return of 135 per cent.—by no means a lucrative result, considering that the stock was started in 1631.

the first, of which was destined for the Coast of Coromandel, and the other two (like the *Dolphin*) for Surat. It had also been agreed to dispatch the *Mary* under William Minors to Bantam, on account both of the new Joint Stock and the General Voyage.

The ships sailed, it would seem, in the latter part of February or beginning of March, 1643, after some trouble with the officers of the Parliament. On February 3, owing to some information that had been given, the House of Commons ordered the *Mary*, *Seaflower*, and *Hart* to be detained and searched to see that they were not carrying out gold or English coin. Fisher, the purser of the *Seaflower*, refused to permit the officials to rummage his vessel, with the result that he was called to the bar of the House, where he pleaded that he did not understand the nature of the warrant shown to him, and was thereupon released. Apparently the search was fruitless, for on the 9th the House directed the release of the three ships. Some ten days later, however, the *Mary* was again arrested by order of the Committee of the Navy and Customs, on the ground that the Company had not discharged their arrears of subsidy; whereupon the money was paid and a sum of 100*l.* distributed among friendly 'Parlyment men'. A second 100*l.* was provided for the same purpose in April; and in point of fact even this amount was exceeded.

The minutes of the Company at this period are very guarded in their references to public affairs, but from time to time we hear echoes of the great conflict that was raging between King Charles and the two Houses. When, after the battle of Edgehill, the royal troops marched on London, the Company's ordnance at Deptford was ordered to be brought to the City (November 2, 1642), and their gun carriages were also requisitioned. In March, 1643, a Parliamentary Committee requested the loan of the Company's ordnance to place upon the earthworks which had been hastily thrown up round London. There were, however, many Royalists among the mercantile community, while others were sore at the contributions levied by the two Houses; and so, at the General Court held on March 8 to consider the matter, not a single hand was held up in favour of the loan. The demand was reiterated, and a second General Court on April 12 repeated the refusal; whereupon, it seems, the guns were taken by force under the

authority of an order from the Commons.<sup>1</sup> At the same meeting the Deputy announced that the Company's house had been assessed at 35*l.* a week towards the weekly contribution of 10,000*l.* laid upon the City. Their premises at Blackwall, it appears, were assessed at 35*s.* per month; and from an entry in the minutes of June 19 we learn that Parliament had requisitioned the one horse that was kept in the Company's yard at that place. Interference with their shipping was also feared. On March 24 it was decided to ask for the services of a man-of-war to escort the *Dolphin* and *Hind* down the Channel; and a month later arrangements were made to send out a small vessel to warn home-coming ships not to put into the Western ports and to avoid carefully all 'Parlyament shippes'. In July, 1643, we find the 'Committee for reducing Newcastle' endeavouring without success to induce the Company to lend six guns towards the equipment of the Parliamentary ships.

A further consequence of the Civil War was the loss of the services of the Company's Governor, Sir Henry Garway. As a well-known partisan of the King, he soon fell in disfavour with the Houses, and on April 10, 1643, he was deprived, by order of the Commons, of the office of Governor of the Turkey Company or any other company in the City of London, and the said Companies were directed to choose others to take his place (*Commons' Journal*, vol. iii, p. 37). This order, it would seem, was ignored by the East India Company. Garway had, in fact, ceased to attend their courts after the 15th of the preceding February, and he made no attempt now to assert his claim; but no successor was appointed, and the Deputy carried on all the necessary duties until the regular day of election came round (July 5, 1643). Then Cokayne was promoted to the Governor's chair, and Methwold was elected Deputy. The partnership thus started lasted until Methwold's death in 1653, when Andrew Riccard took his place. Cokayne and he then carried on the administration together until December, 1657, when a new stock was started under the charter granted by Cromwell. Cokayne was thus Governor for over fourteen years; and, what is more, they were the darkest years in the history of the Company.

In the same month of July, 1643, three vessels arrived from the

<sup>1</sup> On December 29, 1643, application was ordered to be made to the City for the return of the ordnance lent, or payment in lieu thereof. The result will be seen later.

East, viz. the *Crispian*<sup>1</sup> and the *Aleppo Merchant*, bringing goods worth 139,000*l.* for the General Voyage, and the *Reformation*, which had been out for nearly three years and had now brought back a cargo for the Joint Stock estimated at 34,000*l.* Nor was this all, for in August came the news that the *Ulysses* had reached Portsmouth with goods for both accounts. The fortunate arrival of this large quantity of commodities enabled the Committees to make a division of 125 per cent., in indigo, calicoes, and cinnamon, to the adventurers in the General Voyage.

The need of settling the plans for the next season rendered urgent the question of increasing the capital of the Fourth Joint Stock. This, as we have already seen, amounted to 76,000*l.*, the greater part being, not new money, but the transfer of remains of the previous Joint Stock. Borrowing had enabled the Committees to spend 120,000*l.* in equipping the 1642-43 fleet and providing goods and specie for its lading. A valuation was now made of the state of the Stock, and in accordance therewith it was resolved on September 20, 1643, to increase the nominal value of each 'adventurer's share by 20 per cent. (thus raising the capital to 91,000*l.*), and to invite further subscriptions. However, the period appointed went by and 'noe considerable summe' was underwritten: whereupon the time was extended to January 1. The further capital obtained seems to have been about 14,000*l.*, for at a meeting held on August 28, 1645, the Governor stated that in all 105,000*l.* had been subscribed, and in Jeremy Sambroke's account of the trade (*Home Miscellaneous*, vol. 40) we find the capital of the Fourth Joint Stock given as 104,540*l.* This was not much more than the sum raised for the one year's venture of the First General Voyage; but it was all that could be obtained, and so the Committees went boldly forward, encouraged perhaps by the promise of the House of Commons (September 22, 1643) of assistance in remedying the grievances of the Company.

This promise was made the pretext for a further demand upon the Company to assist the Parliamentary treasury. At a General Court held on November 27, 1643, the adventurers were told that a draft 'ordnance' against interlopers submitted by the Company had been read a first time in the Commons, and that a request had

<sup>1</sup> Often styled the *Crispiana* in the Minutes.

now been received for the loan of 10,000*l.*, to be repaid out of the new excise on 'flesh and salt'. The Company had no money to spare; but, rather than jeopardize the passing of the ordinance, it was agreed that 6,000*l.* should be borrowed and handed over to the House, on condition that it should be repaid (with 8 per cent. interest), within three or four months, or, failing that, the Company should be allowed to deduct the amount from the customs due on their next shipping. At the close of the year we have a further echo of the Civil War in an order for the payment of 264*l.* 16*s.* for a new imposition laid on imports in order to provide for the relief of Plymouth, and of another sum of 10*l.* assessed upon Blackwall Yard for the maintenance of a magazine.

The *Blessing* returned in November, 1643, with a cargo of goods for the First General Voyage. The plans of the Committee for the season 1643-44 included the dispatch of the *William* and *Blessing* to Bantam; of the *Endeavour* to the Coast of Coromandel; and of the *John* and *Crispian* to Surat. Of these vessels the last-named and the *Blessing* were to be purchased by the Fourth Joint Stock from the First General Voyage; while the other three had been specially built at Blackwall for the former Stock. The *Endeavour* sailed at the end of November; the rest were still preparing when the volume closes.

There are several minor topics on which it may be worth while to touch before concluding. Readers of the previous volume will be amused to note a further instance of the effrontery of Thomas Smithwick, who on March 25, 1641, was again hustled out of a court meeting for disrespectful behaviour. He was as troublesome as ever during the first two years of the period,<sup>1</sup> but death seems to have relieved the Company of him in the latter part of 1641 or the early months of 1642. It will also be seen that by April, 1643, Captain Cobb, who was held responsible for the Red Sea piracies of 1635, was at last laid by the heels at Rochester. In the following August he was still a prisoner, and the Company was

<sup>1</sup> In June, 1641, a petition from him, alleging mismanagement on the part of the Committees, was read in the House of Lords, when the Company was ordered to answer (*Lords' Journals*, vol. 19, pp. 265, 271, 274; *Fourth Report of Hist. MSS. Com.*, pp. 71, 74); but nothing further seems to have been done, and no reference is made to the matter in the minutes.

preparing to answer a petition he had addressed to Parliament; while there is another reference to his case under date of September 20. Further recollections of past troubles are aroused by the references to an expedition to Madagascar. Details were given in the last volume of the schemes for colonizing that island put forward under the auspices first of Prince Rupert and then of the Earl of Arundel. These came to nothing; but in 1642 they were revived by John Bond, who had been prominent in the former preparations,<sup>1</sup> and had then obtained a royal warrant for the venture, dated March 29, 1639. In December, 1642, he announced to the Committees his intention of sailing for Madagascar with 250 men and 40 women to form a colony; whereupon it was determined to appeal to Parliament to stop his ship, on the ground that he might commit acts of piracy, or at all events might spoil the island as a place of call for the Company's ships. The question was referred by the Commons to the Committee of Trade, on whose report (February 13, 1643) it was resolved that Bond should be allowed to proceed on his voyage, but should before sailing give security to do nothing that would injure the Company's interests.

Among miscellaneous points to be noted in this volume are: the allusions on pp. 17, 23 to Mandelslo, the German traveller, and on pp. 56, &c., to Gilles Rézumont, a French captain who was brought home as a prisoner by the *Discovery* in June, 1640: the statement made on p. 137 that the customs revenue from the East India trade amounted to 30,000*l.* per annum: the resolution of the Company to discontinue the title of 'Captain' and employ in future only 'Masters' (p. 119) and an invention submitted to the Court for extracting fresh water from salt (p. 111). The fact that seven o'clock in the morning was fixed upon as a suitable hour at which to interview a Secretary of State reminds us that no legislative enactment was needed to induce our ancestors to make the most of the daylight. There are many interesting references to Blackwall Yard and Poplar Hospital, particularly those on pp. 251, 252 relating to the grant of land behind the latter institution for the building of a chapel, also to the draining of Blackwall

<sup>1</sup> It was to him that Walter Hamond in 1643 dedicated his *Madagascar, the Richest and most Fruitfull Island in the World*; a work written especially to recommend the colonization of the island.



Marsh (pp. 165, 166). Deptford Yard, we note, was ordered in June, 1643, to be sold. On p. 315 is mentioned the discontinuance of the ancient custom of compounding with the King's grocer for spices which the Company was supposed to supply for use in the royal household. Finally, we have an amusing incident on p. 284, where it is recorded that John Woodall, the Company's Surgeon-General, was accused of reboiling the salves returned from the Indies and then supplying them to the Company again at full prices. This he indignantly denied, but he confessed that he used them in his hospital practice 'for the cureing of poore people'. The present volume, by the way, sees the last of this worthy old surgeon, for he died on August 28, 1643 (Richard Smith's *Obituary*).

It should perhaps be added that the remarks made in the preface to the previous volume concerning the general plan of the work apply equally to this instalment; and that the index has been compiled by Miss Sainsbury, who has also borne the chief part of the burden of proof-reading.

## CORRIGENDA

Page	89,	line	19.	<i>For 'James' read 'Jonas'.</i>
"	95,	"	33.	<i>For purser's mate read purser.</i>
"	97,	"	24.	<i>For Ingham read Ingram.</i>
"	160,	"	23.	<i>For Barres read Barnes.</i>
"	362,	"	18.	<i>For Richard read Robert.</i>

---

*The following errors occur in the MS. itself.*

Page	61,	line	19.	<i>Thomas should be William Spurstowe.</i>
"	61,	"	21.	<i>William should be George Francklyn.</i>
"	238,	"	34	<i>Richard should be John Langley.</i>
"	288,	"	26.	<i>Hore should be Howe.</i>
"	311,	"	22.	<i>Thomas should be John Harris.</i>

# COURT MINUTES, ETC. OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

THE COMPANY'S BLACK BOOK, 1624-55 (*Home Miscellaneous*, vol. xxix).

A record of the 'errors and misdemeanors' of the Company's servants. The entries for 1640-43 occupy ff. 28-36. The persons mentioned are: Guy Bath, Mark Bromely, Henry Chapman, Thomas Clarke, Andrew Coggan, Thomas Cowly, William Gibson, Richard Hudson, John Hunter, Thomas Ivy, John Jefferies, Thomas Keeling, Thomas Merry, Captain Mynors, Henry Olton, John Peirson, Diggory Penkevill, Gerald Pinson, — Robinson, Thomas Rogers, Humphrey Weston, George Willoughby, John Yard. (15 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 3, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 108).

The dispute between Susan Ayleworth, administratrix of George Sill, and Anne, wife of William Peirce, one of the Company's factors in India, about their interest in 301 rials of eight, part of Henry Sill's estate remaining in the Company's hands, having been by consent of all parties deferred until Christopher Read and Ralph Cartwright have been examined concerning it, notwithstanding which agreement Susan Ayleworth endeavours to obtain the money, the Court orders that nothing be paid until after the said examination. The preamble<sup>1</sup> being read, Mr. Cradock reports that many adventurers except against the government of the Company, advising that the 'governors' be reduced in number before the preamble is divulged, and that a General Court be

<sup>1</sup> To the proposed list of those willing to subscribe to a fresh Joint Stock. It constituted what would now be called the 'prospectus' of the Stock. The document is abstracted on p. 9.

## COURT MINUTES, ETC., OF, THE

called to resolve upon the matter; this Mr. Cradock considers would induce many more to adventure in the New Stock. After much dispute it is resolved to engross the preamble as it stands, and to desire Lord Cottington to present it to the King for His Majesty's further directions. The Court resolves to enlarge its New Year's gifts, and orders 44*l.* to be delivered to Mr. Sherburne to be by him discharged and accounted for, in addition to the 50*l.* already given to Mr. Secretary Coke. (1 *p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 6, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 103).

Mr. Methwold reports that the Conde de Lynhares, late Viceroy of Goa, caused 3,000 seraphins<sup>1</sup> to be paid into the Company's cash at Surat, with the request that the proceeds thereof should be sent to England, and the Company entreated to buy him a coach and six horses; but that now, being poor, he desires the money returned; a reply is promised after the Surat books have been examined. The *Mary* not to break bulk in the Downs, but to be brought into the river next spring [tide]. Letter read from Henry Chapman, factor in Persia, to his brother in London, about some rhubarb sent home in the *Mary* by Thomas Fitch, steward's mate in that ship; the rhubarb is ordered to be detained. The suit begun long ago against Thomas Kennaston and others, and stopped by command of the King, is now ordered to be continued, His Majesty and the Lords of the Council consenting to the ordinary course of justice being taken; Messrs. Ashwell and Abbott are directed to inform Sir Henry Martyn of this. (1 *p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 8, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 104).

Mr. Martin Pinder transfers 225*l.* adventure and profits in the Third Joint Stock, with a dividend of 28*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and an arrear of 20*s.* for late payment, to John Holloway, Esq. The *Mary* is to be brought over the flats to the accustomed port at Erith. John Younge to be supplied with 200*l.* to defray necessary expenses at Sandwich. Thomas Steevens is chosen master of the *Crispian*,

<sup>1</sup> A silver coin current at Goa and other Portuguese settlements. On the present occasion it was reckoned as equivalent in value to half a rial of eight.

## EAST INDIA COMPANY

designed for Surat, at a salary of 8*l.* per month, on condition that he expects no other allowance or gratification. Michael Yates, formerly master of the *Advice*, is chosen master of the *Swan*, designed for Bantam, at a salary of 20 nobles per month. John Hall, Humphrey Pynn, and John Jay have offered to go in command of the *Fonas*, designed for Bantam; but as Jay is not present, the election is deferred. A motion to send two more ships to Bantam, in regard of the large amount of pepper and goods provided there, is generally disapproved of, the *Cucsar*, *Fonas*, and *Swan* being thought sufficient, and Mr. Methwold advising the Court to await the arrival of the ship expected in May and then to decide according to the advices sent by Mr. Muschampe. John Catterell's bill of 1*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, for viewing plank and elm timber in Essex, to be paid. Mr. Methwold reports that had the *Mary* not met with Captain Wills, who supplied her with cordage, she would have had difficulty in getting home; therefore on his advice a large supply of cordage is ordered to be sent in the ships. The *Fonas* to be supplied with 100 pigs of lead for kintledge. James Martyn and Richard Norton accepted by the balloting-box as securities for Sinda cloth and sallampores. Silk delivered to Messrs. Trott and Davies, to be rated at the same price and time as that sold to Mr. Middleton. (3½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 10, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 110).

The Court, being reminded of the King of Bantam's request to be supplied with muskets, powder, and shot, directs the Secretary to draw up a petition to King Charles for leave to buy and transport the same. Custom on unclaimed calicoes brought home as private trade in the *Mary* to be paid. Mr. Smithwick to receive 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for brokerage on a contract for gum-lac made by him for Michael Castell with the Company. John Jay entertained master of the *Fonas* at 10*l.* per month, and, in regard of this large salary, not to expect any other gratification but the customary 100*l.* given to commanders and masters of ships making the Downs their first port; this to be forfeited, and punishment to follow, if any private trade or other goods be taken from the ship before its arrival at Erith. The workmen in the *Fonas* to be given

beer and a penny loaf each at dinner, 'the better to keepe them aboard theis short daies.' Michael Hazard, who came home in the *Mary*, and has lost his sight, is allowed to enter the Almshouse at Poplar. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 15, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. III).

Mr. Mun presents for consideration a petition to the General Court, with a declaration of some overture for the better managing of the trade to the East Indies, sent to him in a letter by Richard Boothby. It is proposed that Arthur Daintree, being well recommended and of good ability, shall go in Captain Jourdain's ship [the *Caesar*], which has been hired by freight, with liberty to send a merchant or two in her, but as he asks 120*l.* per annum as salary, which is thought too much (he never having been in India), his entertainment is deferred. Thomas Steevens, master of the *Crispian*, is much blamed for sending home in the *Mary* 447 pieces of calicoes to his wife, seeing he could not be ignorant of the Company's orders; and the Court directs that the said calicoes be brought to the warehouse, when further consideration shall be had of the matter. Twenty broadcloths to be bought for Bantam. Captain Jourdayne to be granted the Company's commission under the broad seal, and allowed to borrow one of its journals for his better direction in the voyage; also to be paid the 50*l.* sanctioned for his setting out to sea. The following officers are appointed. Thomas Thomblins, as purser of the *Crispian*, with Edward Kinnerly as mate; John Jefferies as purser of the *Fonas*, with William Garth as his mate; George Byle, servant to Mr. Cramporne, of Plymouth, as purser of the *Swan*, with Bell Potter as his mate; Thomas Fitch as steward of the *Crispian*, with Henry Bassano as his mate; Thomas Taylor as steward of the *Fonas*, with John Hodgeson as his mate; and John Bourne as steward's mate in the *Swan*. Provision of cordage for supply of the five smallships at Surat, and a competent proportion of tempered stuff for trimming the ships, as well to the northward as to the southward,<sup>1</sup> to be resolved on at the next court. (2½ pp.)

<sup>1</sup> The 'northward' meant the factories in Western India and Persia; the 'southward' those at Bantam and its dependencies, including Masulipatam.

THE MISSION OF ANTHONY VAN DEN HEUVEL TO HOLLAND,  
JANUARY 15, 1640 (*Public Record Office: Dom. Chas. I.*, vol. ccccxlii,  
No. 6).

Warrant to the exchequer to pay Anthony Van Den Heuvel  
300*l.* without account, for secret service. (*Docquet.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 17, 1640 (*Court Book*,  
vol. xvii, p. 113).

Mr. Treasurer is directed to pay Mr. Cradock 300*l.*, to buy cloth  
for dispatch this year. Richard Harvy, recommended by the Earl  
of Dorset, is chosen steward for the *Swan*. A dispute between  
John Thomas and Robert Wilby is referred to the next court.  
Alderman Gayre and Messrs Styles and Mun are desired to go  
jointly or by turns to Blackwall and hasten the preparation of the  
three ships, especially the *Crispian*, that she may be ready to sail  
for the northwards by the end of March. Messrs. Fotherby,  
Swanly, Steevens, and Southan are directed to send in a written  
report of all damages caused by the *Caesar* at Blackwall Dock,  
that satisfaction may be demanded from Captain Jourdayne and her  
other owners. The Court orders that Merritt be paid 25*l.*, instead  
of the usual 20*l.*, for his great care in piloting the *Mary* with his  
ketch from the Downs to Erith; but Merritt refuses this sum as  
insufficient, on account of the loss he has sustained by not using  
the ketch this fishing season, and desires further consideration.  
Mr. Smith, an officer of the Admiralty, brings a writ for arrest of  
Mr. Cobb, late master of the *Samaritan*, and desires assistance in  
serving it; whereupon Thomas Corne is directed to use all possible  
diligence in helping him. Mr. Methwold presents a packet of  
letters brought home in the *Mary* for the Dutch East India  
Company; whereupon they are delivered to Mr. Lucy, the said  
Company's merchant. Mr. Methwold relates that, when in Goa he  
received many courtesies from a Portuguese named Don Phillippo  
de Mascarinas, through whose favour he was better enabled to do  
the Company service in those parts. Mascarinas entrusted to his  
care a piece of ambergris, weighing about 600 oz., and a parcel of  
rough diamonds to the value of 600*l.*, to sell to the best advantage  
in England, and return the proceeds by bill of exchange to Lisbon

to persons mentioned in a writing in Portuguese under his hand. Mr. Methwold states that he has entered the ambergris and diamonds in the Custom-house and paid custom for them, not wishing to take them himself without first obtaining the sanction of the Court; whereupon the Governor asks if the said goods really belong to the Portugal; on Mr. Methwold solemnly protesting that they do, order is given for them to be delivered to him, and the Court expresses a desire to see them. Mr. Cappur is directed to provide sails for the ships. On considering the advices from Bantam and Surat, fifteen tons of cables and small cordage, and five tons of tempered stuff are ordered to be provided for the northwards, and twenty tons of cordage with ten tons of tempered stuff for Bantam. Mr. Yates, master of the *Swan*, proposes that, for 'the better defence of his shippe against an enemy and to scowre the decks upon a close fight', he may be provided with two small pieces of ordnance of four or five cwt. each; the Court, approving of this, orders Mr. Rilston to provide the said ordnance for the *Jonas* and *Crispian* as well as for the *Swan*, and to fit them with carriages and all things necessary. Lady Hamersly to receive free of freight two small cabinets and ten pieces of calicoes sent her by her son-in-law, Mr. Coggan. Mr. Steevenson, the wharfinger, to be paid 200*l.* on account of 500*l.* due unto him for wharfage, &c. (3 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 20, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 117).

Alvoro Semedo, a Portuguese Jesuit, desiring liberty to receive musk and China roots brought home in the *Mary*, for which he has paid custom and is willing to pay freight, he is told that the said goods must first be brought to the Exchange cellar to be viewed. Similar directions are given concerning Mr. Methwold's goods. The Court orders a watch and three rings to be delivered to Anne Willoughby, widow of John Willoughby, deceased in Persia. ( $\frac{1}{2}$  p)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 22, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 118).

An order is read from the Lords of the Countil concerning the alteration of the preamble, which by the said order is referred to



## EAST INDIA COMPANY

the consideration of the Sub-Committees and Farmers of Customs. Mr. Governor, Mr. Deputy, and the Committees formerly nominated are desired to meet the said Sub-Committees and Farmers this afternoon at Sir William Russell's accordingly. John Thomas and Robert Wilby appearing with their witnesses, the Court hears them patiently; and seeing that the allegations contained in the petition now presented in the name of all the carpenters employed at Blackwall (whom Wilby caused to leave their work and to come into court in a mutinous manner and falsely assert the detention of their wages and other wrongs) cannot be substantiated, resolves to proceed legally against the men, and to bind them over to appear at the Sessions to answer for their unwarrantable behaviour; but, on their submitting and promising to return quietly to work, it is resolved to overlook their offence. Thomas and Wilby also submit themselves and are ordered each to withdraw his action, Wilby to pay Thomas 10s. and both to become friends. The *Mary* being nearly unladen, Mr. Sambrooke is directed to make out warrants for payment of her mariners, and to clear their accounts if nothing is found against them. James Martyn, John Buxton, and John Richardson accepted by the balloting-box as securities for salam-pores. Charles Leake, master of the *Seahorse*, Henry Read, master of the *Grace*, and John Bennett, master of the *Hart*, refuse to accept the offer made them for freight of their said ships sent to Gore-end to lighten the *Mary*; the Court, not quite believing the alleged tonnage of the three ships, desires Messrs. Southam and Stevens to examine them, and on their report satisfaction shall be given. Resolved, on the proposal of Mr. Deputy, to send 160,000 rials of eight this year to the Indies in the *Crispian*, *Fonas*, and *Swan*; and Mr. Treasurer is desired to provide the same. Mr. Cordwell to be given all the Company's defective powder to mend, for which he is to be paid, as usual, 3d. per lb. (2 pp.)

<sup>1</sup> The draft preamble for a new subscription was considered at a meeting of the Privy Council on January 15, when it was referred to the Sub-Committees previously appointed. Their reply was read at a meeting held on the 19th, and it was ordered that the Sub-Committees should confer with the East India Company on the subject. (*Privy Council Registers.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 24, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 120).

Payment ordered of three bills of exchange from Cowes, amounting to 89*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, for provisions for the *Hopewell* and *Advice*. The wife of William Hall, a factor in Persia, ~~to be~~ paid the sum due unto her on account of her husband's salary. Wages, amounting to 116*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, for the last week at Blackwall, to be paid. The account of Edward Falkoner, late purser in the *Blessing*, amounting to 186*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, ordered to be cleared. Mr. Acton's bill of 5*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* for law causes to be paid. Forty-eight 'skynns or fardles' of cinnamon and seventy-two pieces of 'callico lawnes' to be delivered to Mr. Methwold, he submitting the freight to the Court's decision. Mr. Methwold advising that broadcloth will sell at Surat, Messrs. Spurstowe and Cradock are entreated to buy 150 pieces, taking Methwold's advice as to price and colour. William Baily, late commander of the *Mary*, is given 100*l.* for bringing her direct to the Downs, and twelve fardles of cinnamon are ordered to be delivered to him, he referring the freight to the consideration of the Court. John Webster's petition to be warehousekeeper with Mr. Charke at the Exchange cellar is denied, Richard Swinglehurst having been appointed in Mr. Chauncy's place and given the keys of the said cellar. (1¼ pp.)

ORDER OF HIS MAJESTY IN COUNCIL, DATED AT WHITEHALL, JANUARY 26, 1640 (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, no. 73).

The King in Council this day ordered the East India Company to fully reimburse the Earl of Southampton and the adventurers with him for the charge they have been at in preparing and adequately furnishing a large vessel to make a plantation on the island of Mauritius (for which enterprise His Majesty's letters patents have been obtained), which ship has been ready some months but is stayed by the King's commands upon the suggestions and pretences of the said Company, to His Lordship's great and daily cost; otherwise His Majesty will give order and licence for the said ship to proceed on her voyage. (*Copy.* ½ p.)

A [DRAFT] PREAMBLE TO A SUBSCRIPTION FOR A NEW JOYNT STOCKE TO THE EAST INDIES, PERSIA, &c., JANUARY 28, 1640 (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, no. 74).

The Company having been directed several times by the General Court to draw home its estate from abroad and to wind up the Third Joint Stock, because of the many discouragements lately received, and having by petitions and a remonstrance presented to the King declared the necessity of His Majesty's powerful and speedy direction for the continuance of so important a trade, His Majesty, after debating the causes of these discouragements with his Lords in Council, was graciously pleased to signify his desire that the said trade should be continued and supported, and promised it his royal help and favour, as appears by an Order in Council of the 10th of December, 1639. According to this Order and to encourage the adventurers about to underwrite in the intended Joint Stock to proceed, as the trade in India is now in a better condition than it has been for many years, on account of the great increase of wares since the late famine and pestilence, the following preamble has been drawn up: First, that for the better government of the intended Joint Stock (the payments for which are to be spread over four years) it shall be lawful for the majority at a General Court to direct how and by whom the said Joint Stock shall be managed and to chose the said managers yearly. Secondly, that the book of subscription shall remain open for all, as well English as 'strangers', dwelling in or near the city of London until the 25th of March next, and to all others His Majesty's subjects and strangers whatsoever until the 1st of May next, and then be closed and no one allowed to underwrite or to enlarge his subscription without the consent of a majority at a General Court; that each annual payment, after the closing of the book, be made quarterly at Midsummer, Michaelmas, Christmas, and the last at Lady Day in the year 1641, and so every said quarter day for the three ensuing years until the whole subscription is brought in; that all subscriptions be paid to the Treasurer of the Company for the time being, or to his deputy. Thirdly, that if the new adventurers do not pay in their moneys according to their several subscriptions at the aforesaid time, or within thirty days

after, they shall pay to the Treasurer, or his deputy, for the use of the Company, a fine of 30*s.* a month for every 100*l.* so due, as such non-payment may cause great damage and confusion to the intended voyages. Fourthly, that no Englishman shall subscribe less than 500*l.* in this intended Joint Stock, and no foreigner less than 1,000*l.* Fifthly, any Englishman buying an adventure after the book has been closed, not having previously subscribed, shall pay a fine of 20*l.* for his freedom, and a stranger doing so shall pay a fine of 40*l.* Sixthly, to avoid all disturbance in the trade by there being two East India Companies at one and the same time, the old Company shall have a convenient time, according to its charter, to bring its stock home, and after next May shall send no more to the East Indies, Persia, or the Southwards beyond the Cape Bona Sperance.<sup>1</sup> (*Copy.* 1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 29, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 121).

Mr. Cradock to be given 800*l.* to buy cloths. 'Two thousand pieces of calicoes at 10*s.* and 12*s.* per piece and two thousand at 14*s.* and 16*s.* per piece to be delivered to Messrs. Briggs and Oneby for transportation. Mr. Rilston to pay the coachman's bill of 8*l.* for eight days' service in taking the Committees to and from Erith. Mr. Young to pay for six butts of beer had from His Majesty's ship the *Unicorn* for use in the *Mary*. John Cappur directed to get advice how to recover a bale of silk missing from the barque *Henry*. Nicholas, son of Alderman Backhouse, admitted to the freedom of the Company by patrimony. A gentleman appears

<sup>1</sup> The following document (No. 74 I) is a duplicate of the preceding with these additions in Nicholas's hand to the first condition set forth in the preamble is added that the number of Managers or Committees is not to exceed twelve (in addition to the Governor), seven of whom must be present when any business is to be concluded, the Governor to be allowed to appoint any one of the twelve as his deputy in case of sickness; these Committees may from time to time appoint Sub-Committees from freemen of the generality, who are to give account to the Committees of all business referred to them; the Governor and five of the Committees to be changed every year, the same Governor not to be allowed to hold that post for two years together. To the fourth condition is added that as many as will may join in the adventure of 500*l.*, but one only shall be free and have a vote in the said Company, and on subscribing shall name all his partners, the accounts to be kept severally for such of them as shall desire it. The preamble as finally approved (incorporating these additions) is entered on the minutes of the Privy Council under date of January 29.

from the Earl Marshal on behalf of Mr. Langer, administrator to the late Mr. Wilford,<sup>1</sup> who was employed in Persia by the Earl, to receive such estate as is due on the said Wilford's account, which he alleges is about 86*l.* 12*s.*; this sum is ordered to be paid to the Earl on the administrator giving a discharge for it, the Court noting that at the closing of the Surat books one Ambertson had received 50*l.* of the said sum. The Lord Mayor acquaints the Court with a reference from the King to Sir Paul Pinder and Mr. Halstead to join with two of the Company and settle its dispute with James Cox; the Lord Mayor and Alderman Abdy, having before 'taken paynes' in this business, are considered fittest to undertake it again. Mr. Deputy and certain Committees are entreated to attend the King this afternoon, when the preamble is to be presented to His Majesty. (1*½ pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JANUARY 31, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 122).

Mr. Nicholas, Clerk of the Council, given 10*l.*, and his clerk 40*s.*, in recognition of services done the Company in drawing up the preamble and divers orders. Mr. Secretary Coke given 10*l.* for procuring the King's licence to transport muskets, powder, and shot as a present for the King of Bantam. Committees appointed to answer all petitions for remission of freight on private trade brought home in the *Mary*. Alderman Gayre and Messrs. Styles and Mun requested to view the stores and provisions supplied by the *London* to the *Mary* on her homeward voyage,<sup>2</sup> and to make such return as they shall think fit, and have the same sent to the *London* by the next ships. Andrew Smally to be treated with for elm timber and other materials needed at Blackwall Yard. A warrant having been procured from the King to send 300 muskets, 150 barrels of powder, and 1,000 iron shot to the King of Bantam, Alderman Gayre and Mr. Kerridge are desired to provide and see the same shipped. The preamble, drawn up by Mr. Nicholas according to the King's directions, being read, the Court observes that no power is given the Governor in case of illness to nominate a Deputy, without whom no court can be held;

<sup>1</sup> See the previous volume, p. 251.

<sup>2</sup> See Mandelslo's *Travels*, English edition of 1662, p. 253.

whereupon the Secretary is desired to acquaint the Lords with this omission, that it may be rectified. Wages at Blackwall for the present week, amounting to 17*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, to be paid. (1½ pp.)

SAMUEL CORDWELL TO THE COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 4, 1640 (*Public Record Office: Dom. Chas. I.*, vol. ccccxliv, no. 22).

It is humbly offered for your consideration:—1. That the home-made saltpetre falls short about eighty lasts to make 240 lasts yearly, and therefore if you think fit, now that the East India Company are suitors for some privileges, they may be covenanted with to bring over a certain quantity of saltpetre yearly, at the rate they have formerly sold it for to the King. [*Margin:* It is held fit that when the charter shall be passed there be a clause to enjoin the East India Company accordingly.] . . . . (Extract only. ½ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 5, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 124).

The widow and executrix of the late John Willoughby to be paid 50*l.* of his estate now in the Company's hands. Mr. Methwold requests that the money paid into the Company's cash at Surat in 1637 by the Conde de Lynhares may be returned to him with the interest due thereon; the Court, hearing from Mr. Markham, the Auditor, that according to the accounts now returned in the *Mary* the said money was really paid in at Surat, orders that it be reduced into rials of eight at the rate of 6*s.* per rial, and paid to Mr. Methwold in discharge of both principal and interest; this the latter thinks will content the Viceroy. The preamble is considered, and a question raised whether it shall be read at the next General Court, some conceiving that it does not so much concern the present adventurers in the old Stock as those who shall come in upon the new subscription, for which, by this preamble, both English and 'straingers' may underwrite. The Court is of opinion that it should not be made known to the General Court, which is only summoned to be informed of the goods returned home, to give directions for their disposal, and to consent to the dispatch of the intended stock. The King having promised by order of the 10th of December last that Lord Cottington should come and inform the generality of his Majesty's gracious favour and good

intentions to the Company for its better encouragement in prosecuting its trade, and His Lordship being unable through indisposition to do so, the Secretary is directed to wait on him and ascertain his pleasure, and to whom to apply in case he cannot come. Edward Knightly, Edward Wastfeild, and George Warner, formerly apprenticed to Mr. George Clarke, are admitted to the freedom of the Company by service, each paying 20s. to the poor-box. The Court desiring information of the Company's estate and condition, as well for payment of the debts owing at interest as for satisfaction of the next General Court, Mr. Sambrooke reads a calculation he has made, showing that the Company has 'within the land sufficient to pay their debts, and about 72,000*l.*, not including the charges of the three ships now intended to be sent out this spring'. Hereupon debate ensues, and it is agreed by erection of hands that a division of 25 per cent. in Persia raw silk be made to each adventurer, and no more divisions declared till all debts at interest are fully paid; also that if, after this division is distributed and the three ships dispeeded, the Company is indebted about 100,000*l.* more than it has at home, it shall assure for this sum. Those not taking their division in silk to be paid in money at 'midsomer next come two yeaeres'; all the silk to be first underwritten for. (2 $\frac{1}{4}$  pp)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 7, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 126).

Humphrey Hill, formerly apprenticed to William Spurstowe, is admitted to the freedom of the Company by service, paying 20s. to the poor-box. Captain Styles reporting that the proportion of powder and iron shot (forty or fifty rounds) usually sent in the ships is more than is now necessary, by reason of the late peace made with the Portuguese, the Court orders that the *Crispian*, *Fonas*, and *Swan* be supplied with thirty rounds only, according to the number of their ordnance. After some debate it is resolved to inform the generality this afternoon of the arrival of the *Mary*; that her goods are safely landed and warehoused; and that, according to custom, in token of the Company's thankfulness, a sermon is to be preached at St. Andrew's Undershaft; also that a division of 25 per cent. in Persia silk, equally sorted and divided at 20s.

per lb., is to be given to each adventurer; that the amount of quick stock thought requisite to be sent in the three ships to enable the goods now abroad to be brought home, is in all 50,000*l.*, to be valued here at the rate of 5*s.* the rial of eight. Mr. Cordwell requests abatement on the last saltpetre bought of the Company at 4*l.* per hundred, some of which he finds upon trial to be bad and not worth 10*s.* per hundred; this is refused, he having viewed and had a sample of it before buying, and Harris, the deputy saltpetre man, having bought some of the same and found it very good, moreover, if liberty had been given for transportation of the said saltpetre, it could have been sold in Holland for 5*l.* per hundred or more. A Court of Sales appointed to be held this day fortnight. Consideration had of the debt of 75*l.* charged in the account of the late President Rastall to Nathaniel Wich. Mr. Methwold relates that when at Surat he examined the accounts and found that Rastall had by mistake charged Wich with 2,600 rupees, 600 of which should rightly have been put to Nathaniel Mountny's account; whereupon Sambrooke and Markham are directed to examine and report on the said accounts, that justice may be done Mr. Wich. Samuel, son of Mr. Bigley Carleton, admitted to the freedom of the Company by patrimony, paying 20*s.* to the poor-box. Robert Gale, formerly servant to Mr. George Francklyn, admitted by service, paying a similar amount. John Spiller's bill of 15*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, for discharging the *Mary's* goods, to be paid. The petition of Jane Chambers, administratrix of Anthony Ott, deceased in the Indies, to be paid 50*l.* from Ott's estate, is granted on the recommendation of Sir Henry Martyn, who, from Cappur's report, thinks that the said Ott was *non compos mentis* when he made his will. Stephen Russen, a Poleander, who came home in the *Mary* and has served the Company twelve months without wages, to be given 20 nobles. Richard Parks, formerly steward in the *Hopewell*, John Clarke, George Miller, and Robert Sparrow, all in the said ship, being commanded to go ashore for provisions, and foul weather preventing their return, the *Hopewell* sailed without them, taking their clothing and other provisions, to their great loss; on hearing this, the Court directs that they be given passage on the ships intended for Bantam, and on arrival be taken into their former places in the *Hopewell*. (3 pp.)



A GENERAL COURT, FEBRUARY 7, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 130).

Mr. Deputy (the Governor being ill) acquaints the generality that they are called together to be told of the happy arrival of the *Mary* and of the safe delivery of her goods into the warehouse, for which blessing a sermon of thanksgiving to God is to be preached next Thursday fortnight by Mr. Shute at St. Andrew's Undershaft, when as many as can are desired to be present. The goods brought home in the *Mary* are valued at about 150,000*l.*, and a Court of Sales is to be held this day fortnight to dispose of them. Three of the Company's ships and one hired upon freight have been prepared for dispatch this spring, namely, the *Caesar*, the *Jonas*, and the *Swan* for Bantam, and the *Crispian* for Surat; and in them it is proposed to send 15,000*l.* quick stock to Bantam, and 35,000*l.* to Surat (no more stock to be dispeeded after this); for which the approval of this court is necessary. It is also resolved 'to divide a fourth parte of a capitall, vidt. 25*l.* per cent. to every adventurer according to his stock', in silk at 20*s.* per lb., on condition that they receive no more until the Company's debts are paid, and if there is not sufficient silk the shortage is to be paid in money at Midsummer next come two years; those coming first to be served first. The generality desiring to know how the Company's affairs stand, the Auditor and the Accountant report that there will be 70,000*l.* remaining after payment of all debts, but on the four ships being supplied and the dividend issued, the Company will be indebted 100,000*l.*; and for this sum Mr. Deputy declares a policy of assurance is to be made, as was done on a former occasion; also that three ships are expected home from Bantam and one from Surat, with sufficient stock to enable the Company to pay off all its debts. Thereupon the generality agrees by erection of hands to the above-mentioned proposals. Many adventurers being away and so ignorant of the recent decision, it is resolved that only those who wish to take their divisions in silks for transportation may underwrite for them, and others must wait until this day fortnight. In reply to a question as to when the preamble for subscription of a new stock is to be set out, answer is made that it is expected that the King will send one of his Lords to the General Court some time

next week to signify the favours His Majesty proposes to confer on the Company for its encouragement. Complaint is made that Mr. Chauncy has embezzled pepper and has not been called to account; to which it is replied that he has been questioned and is suspended from employment till further inquiry. (3 pp)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 12, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 133).

It is resolved that, in addition to the sermon of thanksgiving to be preached for the arrival of the *Mary*, 10*l.* be distributed to the poor widows of Stepney whose husbands have died in the Company's service; also that Mr. Shute be given 5*l.*, as before, for his sermon, and Mr. Mason, minister of St. Andrew's Undershaft, 5*l.* for distribution to the officers of the church and the poor of the parish. Captain Jourdain reporting the readiness of the *Caesar*, eight chests of rials of eight are ordered to be sent in her for Bantam, and thirty barrels of powder, the latter to be delivered to the King of Bantam. Three hundred broadcloths, of colour and price advised by Mr. Methwold, to be sent in the *Crispian* for Surat; for which purpose Mr. Cradock is to be given 1,000*l.* in addition to what he has already received. Richard Beale, merchant and executor to the late Richard Beale, transfers 600*l.* adventure in the Third Joint Stock with all profits, on which 75*l.* is divided with an arrear of 16*s.* 6*d.* for late payment, to Robert Gale, merchant, who in his turn transfers 250*l.* adventure 'in this present Joynt Stock, whereof is divided 25*l.* per cent.' to Edward Wastfeild, merchant. Mr. Martyn's proposal concerning defective calicoes is referred to Messrs. Spurstowe and Francklyn. Upon the recommendation of Captain Jourdayne, John Stallon is given 25*l.* in satisfaction of his demands, he having complained of his wages (20 nobles a month for six months) when last employed by the Company. A letter from Thomas Chauncy being read, the Secretary is directed to reply that the Committees have heard of many abuses committed by him which they are unwilling to believe; they therefore beg him to deal openly and fairly with them, which will tend to his more favourable treatment and save considerable expense. Some of the large quantity of iron shot at Blackwall is ordered to be sent in the *Crispian* to Surat, Mr. Meth-

would advising that it will there sell to good profit. The request of Edward Abbott that his mother may receive 10*l.* a year from his wages is granted. Thomas Bowling, who came home a passenger in the *Mary*, is given 40*s.* from the poor-box. (3 *pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 14, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 136).

Sir William Russell and Sir Paul Pinder desiring to meet some of the Committees next Saturday at Sir William's house, to examine Richard Wild's petition against the Company exhibited to the King<sup>1</sup>, Alderman Gayre and Messrs. Ashwell and Francklyn are entreated to go, and to insist upon the general release already given by Wild, which the Company is advised by its counsel is an absolute discharge of all and every pretence, and to decline any re-examination of this complaint. Mr. Methwold proposes that Albert van Mantelowe<sup>2</sup>, a German gentleman who came home from India with him in the *Mary*, be allowed his diet and passage free, he being a man of quality and one of whom the King has taken special notice and had private conference with; after some debate this is agreed to. Mr. Fotherby's bill of 97*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* for the week's wages at Blackwall to be paid. (1½ *pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 19, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 138).

The Court orders that those taking out the intended division in silk shall do so in the proportion of four-sevenths Legee, two-sevenths Ardas, and one-seventh Cannaree or Mazandran silk.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Methwold represents that at his entertainment he agreed to serve the Company for five and a half years at 500*l.* a year, 100*l.* to

<sup>1</sup> See the previous volume, pp. 319, 320, &c

<sup>2</sup> It need hardly be said that this was the well-known traveller, Albert von Mandelslo. The Court had previously decided to make him pay for his passage (see the preceding volume, p. 358).

<sup>3</sup> For 'Ardas' and 'Legee' see the previous volume, pp. 57, 170. Mazandran is a province of Persia bordering on the Caspian. 'Cannaree' is explained by some passages in *Travels of Venetians in Persia* (Hakluyt Society, 1873), where at p. 56 mention is made of 'Chianer, whence come the Canary silks', and at p. 112 of a fortress named 'Canar', where silk is made which is called 'Cananan'. This place seems to have been in or near the valley of the Aras, possibly it is the modern Kaniar, 25 miles north-west of Khoi.

be paid in India and the remaining 400*l.* to be added to his adventure of 1,000*l.* underwritten before his departure, as appears in an order of the 27th of February, 1633; having served six and three quarter years, he now desires that his adventure may be settled. The Court, remembering his faithful service, orders his adventure to be settled at 2,700*l.*, and any odd money due for wages to be paid to him. Yeldowes, an Armenian, servant to Cojah Suffraes, chief of the Armenians in Persia, petitions for a passage for himself, Carrabett<sup>1</sup>, another Armenian, and their two servants, in the ship bound for Surat, offering to pay what freight is considered right; whereupon Thomas Steevens is desired to view their goods. The pepper to be sold next Friday is to be put up in parcels, fifty bags to each parcel, to be sifted and sold for transport at 3*s.* 4*d.* per lb. at three six months<sup>2</sup> from next Lady Day; and for the pepper sold in town the time is to be six and six months from the same date. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 21, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 139).

A request is made on behalf of Lady Hamersly and her daughter, Mrs. Andrew Coggan, that the freight of calicoes sent in the *Mary* as tokens by Mr. Coggan may be remitted; the Court, out of respect for Lady Hamersly, orders that the freight of thirty pieces be remitted, but the remainder (calicoes being the Company's commodity) detained and the price they cost in India paid for them. Certain Committees are desired to decide concerning other calicoes brought home in the *Mary* as private trade. Alderman Abdy reports that he and the Lord Mayor have met Sir Paul Pinder and Mr. Laurence Halstead several times for settlement of the dispute between James Cox and the Company, and in their opinion Mr. Cox should be allowed after the rate of 100*l.* per annum for the wages of Giles Hobbs; consideration hereof is deferred. Alderman Gayre reports the proceedings at a meeting of the referees appointed to consider the petition of Richard Wild, and how those on behalf of the Company caused some former orders, reducing

<sup>1</sup> These games are Yulduz, Kwāja Sarfaraz, and Karapet.

<sup>2</sup> The meaning is that payment was to be made in three instalments, at intervals of six months. This corrects a note on p. 11 of the previous volume.

Mr. Wild's fine from 2,500*l.* to 2,000 marks and then to 1,000 marks, to be read, and also insisted on the general release he gave the Company; and how Mr. Wild persisted in his demands made before he gave the said release. The matter is referred until the Court's order fining Wild 2,500*l.*, and the letter of the latter to Mr. Clement when he sent Mr. Skibbow up to Agra, both of which are missing, can be found and Mr. Sherborne consulted about them. Messrs. Reynardson and Ashwell to examine and report on the account and difference between the Company and Sir Dudley Diggs. Mr. Cappur to prepare all accusations and complaints from the consultations and general and private letters brought against Guy Bath, William and Henry Johnson, Robert Manly, and all other delinquents. (2 pp)

A GENERAL COURT OF SALES, FEBRUARY 21, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 141).

Sale of pepper, ginger, cotton yarn, aloes, indigo, and sugar, with prices and names of purchasers. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 26, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 143).

Four minions to be bought and put aboard the *Swan* for better defence. Consideration had of the demands of Mr. Cox, administrator of Giles Hobbs, for services rendered by the latter to the Company in carrying letters overland to Persia. One of the Committees to whom this business was referred declares his opinion that 50*l.* per annum is sufficient remuneration; this the Company is willing to pay, otherwise to refer the matter to the course of justice. Richard Nemes, Richard Pigott, William Ruddyard, Richard Allen, Thomas Culling and [ ] Alston accepted by the balloting-box as securities for pepper. Charles Slade, son and administrator of Captain James Slade, to receive his father's estate now in the Company's hands, deduction being first made of 264*l.* due by bill unto Mr. Fremlyn, which is to be paid to Mr. Methwold, he having a letter of attorney to receive the same. Charles Slade is to sign a bond for 100*l.* to save the Company harmless from all claims made on the said estate within the next two years. A letter of thanks to be written to Sir John Pennington, Vice-Admiral of the

Narrow Seas, and 50*l.* to be given to him, for supplying the *Mary* with men and provisions at her arrival in the Downs ; also 10*l.* to be given to the master, and 10*l.* to the boatswain, coxswain, and men, to be distributed as Sir John pleases. George Hadley, James Smith, Henry Baynebrigg, and Ralph Stredwick accepted by the balloting-box as securities for Malabar pepper and indigo. Francis Hurst, recommended by Justice Croke, is entertained as steward's mate in the *Fonas* in place of John Hodgeson. Two fine scarlets, one fine grass-green cloth, and one 'poppingaye cullor' to be bought and sent for presents to Persia and Surat. (13 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, FEBRUARY 28, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 145).

Samuel Harsenett, Thomas Browne, Stephen Burton, and Edward Prescott accepted as securities for pepper and ginger ; and Sir Nicholas Crispe, Samuel Crispe, and Samuel Carleton as securities for indigo. Alderman Gayre is desired to join Messrs. Reynardson and Ashwell in deciding the dispute between the Company and Mr. Diggs concerning his father's account. The Committees appointed for private trade report their opinions that, as calicoes are the Company's commodity, all those belonging to private men should be reserved for the Company, who should pay for them as its own ; whereupon the Court directs that those having calicoes shall bring a note of their prime cost to Mr. Bowen, when further orders concerning them shall be given. The wages of John Browne, Walter Starre, and [ ] Bowen, master's mates in the *Mary*, to be paid. Alderman Abdy reports that some of the referees in Mr. Cox's business think that 100*l.* per annum should be allowed for the wages of Giles Hobbs, but he considers that 50*l.* is sufficient ; this latter opinion the Court confirms and resolves to give no more. Mr. Cox then demands his division in silk ; this is refused, as upon the 1,600*l.* subscribed by him he has paid in nothing, yet he has been given credit for 1,000*l.* by his divisions in the Voyages and by the wages of Hobbs towards the supply of his subscription ; but order is given to allow him interest on the said wages from the time of the news of the death of Hobbs. Captain Milward moves that, notwithstanding his debt of 1,500*l.*, he may receive his division in silk, amounting to about 3,000*l.* ;

Mr. Sambrooke is directed to make up the Captain's account, charge it with interest till next Midsummer two years, and present it at the next court. Lancelot Falkener's petition to receive his father's adventure for himself and his brothers, according to the directions in his father's will, is refused, the adventure having already been paid in part, and the rest sold twenty years since. Widow Thompkins petitions for the wages of John Clarke, deceased, in payment of a debt due to her late husband; ordered that she be paid the said debt and her charges, but that Clarke's estate be reserved for his father, who is still living. John Mantle entertained at 12s. per month to attend on Mr. Steevens. Rebecca Eldred and her son Nathaniel, executors to John Eldred, transfer to George Clarke 1,012l. 10s. adventure in the Third Joint Stock, upon which is divided 12l. 10s. per hundred. Yeldowes and three other Armenians agree to pay 400 rials of eight for their passage and the freight of eight chests of goods, to lay in their own provisions, and to give bond for payment at Surat before delivery of their goods. (2½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 3, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 147).

The Court, on hearing the contents of a letter received by Simon Laurence from Mr. Merry, is so well pleased with the proceedings of the latter since his arrival in Persia that for his better encouragement his wages are ordered to be increased from 150l. to 300l. per annum, to begin from the 25th instant. (¼ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 4, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 147).

The Earl of Northumberland's request by letter for loan of the Company's slaughter and store houses at Blackwall for the King's service is granted (all the oxen required for the Company's use this spring having been killed), provided that Mr. Cooper and the other undertakers clear the houses at their own charge, and make good what damage shall be done. Daniel Bancks transfers to John Langham 210l. adventure and profit in the Third Joint Stock, on which is divided 26l. 5s. An Officer of the Admiralty presenting an attachment for all wages, &c., belonging to the late William Slade, he is told that the Court knows of no such estate.

On the motion of Mr. Beauchampe, Sir Francis Crane's account for tapestry sent into the Indies is ordered to be made up. Messrs. Trott and Davies are entreated to oversee the weighing and delivery of the divisions in silk. Mr. Davidson, the ropemaker, having been directed to make a cable for the King in place of one borrowed by the Company, now presents a receipt for one made for the King's ship, the *Unicorn*. The Court orders 20,000 rials of eight to be provided to supply the proportion of 50,000*l.* in goods and money formerly ordered to be sent to Surat and Bantam. Richard Cooper, one of the undertakers for the King's service, is required to make satisfaction for sums charged upon him since his employment in Persia; he denies that one of these is due, and being uncertain concerning the rest is directed to consult the Persian accounts of the Company and then to give answer. A warrant to be procured from the Earl of Northumberland's secretary to prevent men in the Company's ships being pressed to serve the King. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 5, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 149).

Captain Joudayne, commander of the *Cæsar*, on his return from Bantam is to pay 10*l.* for repairing the dock where his ship was trimmed, and 8*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* for necessaries and materials used. Mr. Mosse to be given 20*s.* for drawing and engrossing the charter-party of the *Cæsar*. George Farmer to receive his wages for the time he served in the *Coaster* and the *Blessing*, he giving security for repayment if necessary. (½ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 10, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 150).

Cojah Pedrosse [Khawāja Petros], an Armenian, is granted a passage in the *Crispian* with his two chests of goods, he agreeing to pay 100 rials of eight to the President at Surat before delivery of the same. Mr. Smithwick produces a warrant from the Lords of the Council, dated the 3rd instant, for return of his 900*l.* adventure in the present Stock which with all profits he gave for repair of St. Paul's<sup>1</sup>, but which he desires returned on account of the great

<sup>1</sup> See the introduction to the previous volume, p. xxxvi. The order will be found in the Privy Council Registers



losses he has sustained lately; order is given accordingly. Smithwick next proposes that he shall pay no more brokes than he receives interest, but for this he is referred to the General Court. He offers to show how the Company has been cozened of 500*l.* if he is allowed to see the books of accounts, but is told that if he will deliver a note of the supposed defrauders and the year when they did this, two Committees shall examine the accounts with him, but it is not held fit for him to 'ravell' in the books on this pretence. Albert Van Mantelowe sends by Mr. Methwold 5*l.* to be given to the poor, in acknowledgement of the Company's favour in giving him his passage and freight free. The masters of the ships ordered to use all diligence in dispatch of their vessels, and not to stay for the cloth formerly ordered if it is not ready in time. Edward Ironside transfers to John Massingberd his adventure of 750*l.* in the Third Joint Stock with all profits, on which is divided 281*l.* 5*s.*, and 6*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* arrear upon late payments to be made good in account. The Court orders that Signor Don Anthonio Fernandez shall pay for freight of his musk brought home in the *Mary* at the rate of two per cent. Mr. Treasurer to pay for twelve loads of knee timber bought by Steevens, the shipwright. On her petition and the Lord Mayor's recommendation, 5*l.* from the poor-box is given to Hannah Pendred, only daughter of 'that reverend gent', the late William Perkyns of Cambridge<sup>1</sup>, to supply her wants. Anne, wife of Thomas Leyning, a factor in India, to be paid one-third of her husband's wages. John Dunne's request that two months of his wages be paid to his father is granted. (2 pp.)

A GENERAL COURT HELD AT MERCHANT TAYLORS' HALL, MARCH 12, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 152).

Lord Cottington informs the Court that, in accordance with the King's pleasure and direction, he has come to declare to the Company His Majesty's gracious favour and good intentions to encourage the adventurers in upholding this great and important

<sup>1</sup> This is the celebrated divine of Elizabeth's reign. In Cooper's *Athenæ Cantabrig.* (vol. ii, p. 336) it is stated that Perkins's daughter Hannah married 'John Brookes, parson of Chesterfield'; and the name given above must have been the result of a second marriage of which nothing is known.

trade to the Indies. That the generality may understand the care of the Governor and Committees, His Lordship relates how by petition and remonstrance they made known the great and apparent danger the trade was in by the many discouragements lately received at home and the wrongs and injuries done to it abroad, as well by the Dutch as by the depredations committed by Cobb and Ayres in the Red Sea, which with other complaints and grievances so disheartened the adventurers that unless the King would take the Company under his gracious protection, whereby satisfaction might be received from the Dutch for past injuries and a reglement made for the future, with the removal of other disturbances now in agitation, the trade could not be continued, but must of necessity fall into the hands of the Dutch. The King, taking all this into consideration, and observing the great importance of the trade in respect of the profit and advantage to himself in the increase of customs, the dishonour it will be to himself and the nation if it is deserted by the Company and taken up by neighbouring nations, and the many inconveniences this would entail, has graciously heard the said grievances and their remedies largely debated, and has approved of an order in which he declares himself so far touching the particular complaints contained in the petition and remonstrance as will doubtless give satisfaction. This order Lord Cottington desires the Governor to read, assuring them that the King will make good all that is contained therein. His Lordship produces a paper containing the four grievances expressed in the Company's remonstrance, with the King's answer to each. viz.—1. The complaint against the Dutch, from whom for their violent and undue proceedings satisfaction is demanded: His Majesty's answer is that this business has long been and still is in treaty, Sir William Boswell and others being employed about it, and that it is now in a fair way of accommodation, and will not be long before it is brought to an end. 2. For the damages received by the late depredations committed by Cobb and Ayres and their associates in the Red Sea, His Majesty is ready to afford the Company what satisfaction lies in his power, which is to allow the offenders to be proceeded against according to the laws of his kingdom. 3. Concerning the exportation of East Indian commodities, the Company is to be

allowed the same time and liberty it had before the late restraint, and the King has given direction accordingly to the Lord Treasurer. 4. Concerning the licences and patents which the King has granted for plantations at Mauritius, Madagascar, and other parts beyond the Cape (which His Majesty was assured were for the good of the Company), seeing these are much complained of and tend to discourage the adventurers, the King has resolved not only to stop the ships intended for those parts and to call in their licences and patents and grant no more, but to leave the sole trade to the Company, provided it will raise such a stock as shall enable it to maintain that charge and overcome the difficulties attendant on such undertakings. Further, Lord Cottington declares that it is the King's express pleasure and resolution to give Mr. William Courteene liberty to send out this ship only, as it is for relief, not for continuance of trade, which the Company is entreated to believe; also that, as His Majesty has commanded the Earl of Southampton's ships to be stayed and not to be released upon any condition, if the said Earl shall make any offer, not disadvantageous to the Company, he shall be listened to and favoured as far as possible, though nothing is to be enforced. For encouragement of those who intend to join in the new subscription, His Lordship declares that the King intends to renew the Company's charter, with such further privileges and immunities as shall be fitting and conduce to its advantage and welfare; therefore he suggests that the Company should meet to consider the privileges requisite to be inserted in the new charter in addition to those formerly granted, and put the same in writing for consideration. The King has also commanded Lord Cottington to commend to the Company the avoidance of all unnecessary expenses in the new stock, and that it should be husbanded to the best advantage for encouragement of the adventurers. Lastly, His Lordship concludes with a request from the King to the effect that as the fortune and support of this trade is of so much consequence to His Majesty and the country, and cannot as things now stand admit of further delay, that the best means be used for the subscription of such a stock as may accomplish what is intended, and His Majesty informed from time to time what 'rubs' there are, that if all intended by