

the new subscription cannot be effected he and the State may consider anew what other course to pursue, His Majesty being resolved that the trade shall not be lost, but supported and maintained one way or another. The order of the King and Lords already referred to is read and also the preamble, which according to the said order was first brought to the King and confirmed by him as it is entered before being divulged. This meeting having been deferred longer than was intended because of Lord Cottington's indisposition, the time for subscription is now thought to be too short, and His Lordship advising that it be enlarged, this is left to the consideration of the Governor and Committees. Hereupon the Governor, in order to invite and encourage the old as well as the new adventurers to subscribe more largely and to bring in the moneys according to the conditions of the preamble, informs the Court, as he has already informed Lord Cottington, that there is one present who is able to give such an account of India and the Company's affairs there as has encouraged himself and many others to think much better of this trade, and will give great satisfaction to the generality. This person was an eye-witness of the great mortality in India and a sufferer on account of the depredations committed by Cobb and Ayres in the Red Sea; but all these discouragements are now past, and the King has granted the Company his favour and protection, and promises to deny nothing that may encourage this trade; the condition of affairs, both in India and Persia, on account of the peace made with the Portuguese, was never more hopeful, the King of Persia having not only made a contract but already delivered to the agent 340 bales of silk (which are now at Surat) towards satisfaction of the long outstanding debt looked upon as desperate. All this the Governor desires the Court to consider and, nothing being wanting but men's 'good affections' and assistance, not to suffer the trade to lapse to the Dutch. For their further assurance he desires Mr. Methwold to speak. The latter, after excusing himself, he not having come prepared to address the Court, says that he has been employed twenty-five years by the Company, the last seven as President at Surat, where on arriving he found everything in a miserable condition and strangely altered from when he was first in India, the people dead,

towns depopulated, and all things incredibly dear; but now all is different, for since the famine and pestilence ceased the people have come down from remote parts of the country and settled again in the towns, spinners, weavers, merchants, and artificers; so that manufactures are as plentiful and as cheap as formerly. The peace concluded with the Portuguese is of great consequence and advantage to the Company, for now the Portuguese ports are open and free, and the charge of shipping is consequently greatly reduced. Then also there is the enlargement of trade with Synda, which place yields indigo, calicoes, and many other commodities, and is of additional value because the Portuguese will not allow the Dutch to trade there. In these respects and many others Mr. Methwold alleges that the trade of India, &c., was never in a more hopeful condition than now. (5½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 17, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 157).

William Baily, late commander of the *Mary*, accepted as security for John Jefferies, purser in the *Fonas*. Captain Crane's request for an account of the tapestry sent by his late brother, Sir Francis Crane, and sold in the Indies, and to have such as was not sold delivered to him, is referred until the said tapestry and account have been examined and reported on. Mr. Digges desires that the account of his late father, Sir Dudley Digges, may be cleared and discharged of the 300*l.* interest by reason of the money borrowed of the Company when he went as Ambassador into Muscovy; but the Committees appointed to examine this business reporting that they had found no order of the Court to discharge the said 300*l.*, and so had left the account as it stood, Mr. Digges departs very dissatisfied. The Court understanding that James Cox, a prisoner in the Fleet, is very sick and in great want of money to defray his necessary expenses, Mr. Cappur is directed to take him 30*l.* on account of what shall hereafter be due to him. The charges incurred by John Willoughby in following the court to obtain payment for the tapestry hangings sold for Sir Francis Crane are to be put to Sir Francis's account. A letter from Persia charging Richard Cooper with a debt of 150 tomands is again read, when it is resolved to sue Cooper if he does not clear himself. Gregory

Clement accepted as security for George Byle, purser in the *Swan*. Mr. Sherborne reports the answers he has received from the Lord Chamberlain, the Marquess of Hamilton, and Lord Goring concerning their subscriptions to the intended New Joint Stock. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 23, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 159).

The Court orders that the *Fonas* and the *Swan* proceed at once to the Downs with what money is ready, and start with the *Crispian* because of the danger of pirates. Jane Drake, mother and administratrix of John Drake, deceased in India, to be paid 220*l*. The *Mary* to be brought into dock at Blackwall. Thomas Come and Samuel Sambrooke to endeavour to seize Captain Cobb at Birchington by virtue of a warrant from the Admiralty. John Lethelieur transfers to Sir James Cambell 1,700*l*. adventure in the Third Joint Stock with all profits, whereon is divided 850*l*., formerly transferred from Mrs. Margaret Kirbye's account. William Baily's account to be cleared. (¾ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 24, 1640 (*Court Book* vol. xvii, p. 160).

This Court being purposely called to consult concerning the dispatch of the *Crispian*, after some dispute it is agreed that the said ship shall stay in the Downs for the *Fonas* and *Swan* until Monday next, and Samuel Sambrooke is desired to repair thither with these orders. (¼ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 26, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 160).

Ordered that the *Crispian* shall not wait in the Downs, but shall proceed on her voyage at the first fair wind. The wages of John Spiller in India to be increased 10*l*. yearly, from last Lady Day, until they amount to 100*l*., and then to stop. (¼ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 30, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 161).

A new policy is ordered to be made for assurance of 100,000*l*., after the manner and time of the former policy, and to be underwritten in the same way. Mr. Smithwick tenders three written

propositions for composition with his creditors, and desires the Governor to accept one; he is referred to the General Court. The request of Sir John Nulls to transfer the bargain of flat indigo he lately bought of the Company to Sir Job Harby and Sir Nicholas Crispe is granted. A General Court of Sales appointed to be held Wednesday next come sennight, and a General Court on the Friday following. ($\frac{3}{4}$ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 1, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 162).

Mr. Smithwick asks for a certificate to the Farmers of the Customs, testifying that he and his son are free brethren; this the Court consents to give, but refuses his request to certify that the silk he intends to transport is part of that which came home in the *Mary* and the *Swan*. Seven thousand pipestaves offered for sale by Mr Marston to be bought, if fit, as reasonably as possible. Nineteen hogshheads of wet pepper swept from the hold of the *Mary*, and what more is expected to be found there, to be sent to Mr. Blunt to be dried and sifted ready for use. Mr. Fotherby to distribute amongst the poor at Blackwall eight hogshheads of beef returned in the *Mary*. A note sent to the Court from James Cox by his cousin Mrs Cox and Mr. Bambridge, desiring to be paid 300*l* or 400*l*., for his urgent occasions, out of the 1,650*l*. which he pretends is due to him from the Company, the rest to be retained until all differences shall be settled, reply is returned that it is his own fault the said differences are not composed, and that till this is done by him the Court is determined not to pay any more than the 30*l*. lately sent to him. James Martyn buys 1,050 pieces of 'cashees',¹ agreeing to pay for them at three six months. Mr. Sherborne's account of moneys disbursed for the Company having been audited, 26*l*. 19*s*. 6*d*. spent over and above what he has received is ordered to be paid to him. Richard Swinglehurst is directed to pay 5*l*. for two and a half years' rent owing for that part of the Exchange cellar leased by Mr. Carleton to the Company at 40*s*. per annum. ($1\frac{3}{4}$ pp.)

A kind of fine calico or muslin.

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 4, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 163).

The policy of assurance being agreed upon, the Court orders that none shall underwrite for more than 3,000*l*, and that the names of all underwriters must be presented beforehand. Mr. Craddock gives in an account of cloth bought for the Company, with the charges for dyeing and dressing, amounting to 3,317*l*. 15*s*., of which 617*l*. 15*s*. being due to him, it is ordered to be paid. Thomas Wilmer to receive 3*l*. 4*s*. 5*d*. of the wages of Bernard Bragg, who went out and returned in the *Mary*, and is to go in the *Jonas* to the Indies; the nephew of the latter, Matthew Bragg, having a letter of attorney, is to be paid the remainder on promising to save Wilmer harmless for being bound for imprest of Bernard Bragg. ($\frac{1}{2}$ *p*.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 15, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 164).

Captain Milward renewing his motion for remission of brokes and interest charged upon his adventure in this Third Joint Stock, he is referred to the General Court. Relation is made of the manner in which Sir John Pennington accepts the Company's intended gratification for his assistance to the *Mary*, with which he has been acquainted by letter; Captain Roberts and Mr. Methwold are entreated to wait on Sir John, to present him with '100 angells', and to tell him that had the Company been in its former estate and condition its thankfulness would have been expressed in a larger and more ample manner. Mr. Smithwick complains that he was debarred from underwriting in the last policy and desires permission to do so in the new for 3,000*l*, offering as his security Sir Edward Wardour; he is told that Sir Edward, having already underwritten for 2,500*l*, six times more than his adventure, cannot be accepted as security; the latter being an able and worthy gentleman, the Court does not doubt that, on being spoken to, he will be satisfied in this matter. It is put to the question whether those adventurers having 'protections'¹ shall be admitted to under-

¹ 'An immunity granted by the Crown to a certain person to be free from suits at law for a certain time and for some reasonable cause' (*Wharton's Law Lexicon*).

write in this policy, and whether those who do so underwrite shall be restricted to a certain sum; by erection of hands it is ordered that no man having a 'protection' shall underwrite, that none shall underwrite but with the permission of the Court, and then for not more than his subscription or according to the proportion of his stock, and that none shall exceed 3,000*l*. Letters read from Mr. Steevens, master of the *Crispian*, and question raised as to whether, in the event of the said ship not being able to reach Surat with the easterly monsoon, she had better go first for Bantam, or for Masulipatam and then to Bantam; this is referred for future determination. Mr. Dyke desiring that his subscription of 300*l*., for which he underwrote in the last Joint Stock, may be cancelled and the brokes and interest thereon due remitted, he is referred to the decision of the General Court. Thomas Rich moves for abatement of price or allowance of time for pepper bought of the Company, and is granted an ob.¹ per lb. abatement, some of the said pepper not being garbled. (2 pp.)

A GENERAL COURT OF SALES, APRIL 15, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 166).

Sale of pepper, rice, indigo, calicoes, percallaes, and sallampores, with prices and names of purchasers. (1½ pp.)

A GENERAL COURT, APRIL 17, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 168).

The Governor acquaints the generality that, by the last General Court which they have now heard read, they may observe not only how diligently and carefully he, the Deputy, and the Committees have demonstrated to the King and Lords the present condition of the Company, and humbly asked for relief of its grievances, but also the answer of His Majesty and the Lords, as expressed in the gracious order of the 10th of December last and by the relation of Lord Cottington, who came by the special direction of the King to confirm all the particulars contained in the said order and whatsoever else may conduce to the benefit of the Company. The Governor had hoped that all would have willingly furthered the business now in agitation by free and ample subscriptions; whereas

¹ Obolus, i. e. a halfpenny.

he finds most of them backward and unwilling to help with this great work, as appears by the small subscriptions. This is to be 'admired' [i.e. wondered at], considering the King's gracious promises and favours, which he, the Governor, is confident will be performed when such a stock is underwritten for as shall proclaim the resolution of the Company to proceed with this trade. He desires them seriously to consider and not to be discouraged, especially as hopes of success have never been greater or fairer than now. It is forty years since this trade was begun by Sir John Spencer, Sir James Lancaster, Sir William Rumny, Alderman Holliday, and others, and it has ever since 'stood upon its owne leggs', notwithstanding many discouragements and losses sustained, the injuries and wrongs done by the Dutch, and the expenses incurred by reason of the strength of the Portugals; yet, nothing 'daunted, the Company has gone on with alacrity and cheerfulness. If this could be done when the trade was in its infancy, how much better now when it is certain and prosperous. Not only are the quarrels between the Company and the Dutch quieted, but peace is concluded with the Portugals, with whom there is free commerce, likewise the trade with 'Sinda' and other places before undiscovered is now open. Therefore it is the more to be wondered at that the generality are so discontented and indulge in causeless fears. Hereupon objection is raised to the preamble, which directs alteration in the government and a change of Governor every year, this causes discouragement, and is thought likely to be prejudicial to the Company. Others speak of the wrongs and injuries committed by the Dutch, especially at Amboyna, for which, in spite of promises made by the King and State, no satisfaction has been given. For these reasons men will not be persuaded to underwrite for a new stock. It is proposed that the preamble be printed and distributed in the principal towns, so that the subscription may be enlarged; also that a petition be presented to the House of Commons, complaining of the sufferings caused by the Dutch and of the depredations of Cobb and Ayres in the Red Sea, and imploring aid and direction for reparation and satisfaction. It is replied that the King has taken the business of Amboyna into his own hands, and that this, with the settling of a reglement for trade, is in a fair way of accommodation: that the petitioning of the

House of Commons was debated by the Court of Committees this morning¹, when it was resolved that the Recorder's counsel should be taken and acted upon. As regards Cobb and Ayres, the Company must proceed against them by law. Mr. Governor expresses his hearty sorrow that, notwithstanding the reasons he and some of the Committees have stated, and Mr. Methwold's declaration at the last general court, together with the advices received from the factors, the generality will not rely on the King's gracious promises and underwrite for a subscription sufficient to prosecute and maintain the trade. He must report their resolution to His Majesty, who will take counsel again what further course to pursue, as he is resolved not to suffer the trade to be lost. The petitions of Captain Milward and John Dyke are read; and a motion made by Mr. Thoroughgood, a counsellor, on behalf of James Cox. Captain Milward's petition shows that he is indebted to the Company 4,210*l.*, besides 794*l.* 9*s.* for brokes and 1,168*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* for interest, and prays that the said brokes and interest may be remitted, he having failed and most of his creditors having agreed to accept 10*s.* in the pound; the Court desiring to show him favour (he having been an adventurer since the Third Voyage, and a Committee for many years) agrees to remit his brokes, but for the rest refers him with Mr. Dyke and Mr. Cox to the next General Court. An order is read from the Court of Honour, under the hand of Lord Maltravars, enjoining Thomas Smithwick, Senior, to make his submission and acknowledgement of wrongs done to the Governor, Sir Henry Garway, Lord Mayor, to Aldermen Abdy and Highlord, and to Mr. Sherburne, upon which the said Smithwick 'with some reluctancy and repynning' reads his said submission and acknowledgement. (3½ pp)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 22, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 172).

Thomas Smithwick, Senior, transfers to John Langham, merchant, 200*l.* adventure in the Third Joint Stock, fifty per cent. being divided. Anthony Staughton transfers to William Vincent

¹ This court is not entered; probably its proceedings were purposely left unreported in order to preserve secrecy. The Recorder was Thomas Gardiner, afterwards Solicitor-General.

187*l.* 10*s.* adventure in the Third Joint Stock, 46*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* being divided, and charged with an arrear of 12*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* A letter to be written to Mr. Robinson, the searcher at Gravesend, directing him to forward to the Custom-house in London the broadcloths which he lately stopped from being sent to India as private trade. Mr. Methwold is granted remission of freight on his goods brought home as private trade in the *Mary*, in acknowledgement of the good service done by him to the Company, more especially in securing the truce with the Portuguese. Papers to be delivered to Thomas Chauncy, to enable him to decide a lawsuit and to give a just account of his debt to the Company. Sir John Nulls, Sir Job Harby, Sir Nicholas Crispe, Abraham Chamberleyne, Senior, Abraham Chamberleyne, Junior, George Henly, Herryott Washborne, Henry and William Baynebrigge, John Brett and Nicholas Boulton accepted by the balloting-box as securities for indigo. Richard Braintwaite and Augustine Skinner, executors to Sir Thomas Style, deceased, appear to ratify and confirm the transfer made to George Francklyn, merchant, of 3,125*l.* adventure and profits in the Third Joint Stock, upon which is divided in cloves 25 per cent., and reserved to be taken out in silk 25 per cent., each of which amounts to 781*l.* 5*s.* The father and administrator of the late Joseph Keeling demands the remainder of his son's estate in the Company's hands, amounting to 189*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*; the Court orders this to be paid, upon Mr. Keeling entering into bond to make good anything that shall hereafter appear to be owing by his late son to the Company. Steevens reporting the great want of knee timber and that a parcel of thirty loads of very good Irish knee timber is offered to the Company by Andrew Burrell at 3*l.* 15*s.* or 4*l.* the load, he is ordered to treat for it, and also to survey the *Mary* and report whether she is fit to be repaired, and the probable cost. Mr. Cordwell to be paid 75*l.* for mending sixty barrels of defective powder at 3*d.* per lb. (34 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 24, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 175).

Mary, widow and executrix of William Fall, is allowed 10*l.* for her present relief; but, her late husband being one of the factors complained of in Persia, further settlement with her is deferred until

Information is obtained from other factors returned from thence. The Court having received petitions from William and Henry Johnson, Guy Bath, Robert Manly, and others complained of in the general letters from Bantam and Persia, and the said petitioners desiring help, pretending they are wrongly accused, it is resolved that one day each week shall be set apart for examination of all complaints brought against them and their answers to the same. Mr. Governor relates the opinion and answer given by the Recorder when waited on by himself and certain Committees concerning the business of Cobb and Ayres, viz., whether to acquaint Parliament with their proceedings and desire relief, or to rely upon the ordinary course of law, as prescribed and allowed by the King. Mr. Recorder considers the Company is bound to do everything possible to right itself and punish the offenders, but at the same time wishes them to consider how the King will take the application to Parliament, which will make his proceedings notorious, His Majesty having heard the Company several times concerning this matter and made an order for satisfaction therein; also that it should be remembered that Parliament has no power to punish or fine the offenders, but only to recommend this to the Upper House, or to the judge before whom the case is now depending. The Governor desires the Court to debate and resolve on this business; but, owing to the absence of some who attended the Recorder, resolution herein is deferred. Letters having been written to Messrs. Robinson and Ward and the other searchers at Gravesend desiring them to send up the broadcloths stayed from being shipped in the *Crispian* as private trade, that the owners may be discovered and the Company reap the benefit of His Majesty's letters patent granted in that behalf, Robinson and Ward appear and expostulate, pretending that having seized the cloths they have an interest in them, and therefore will not deliver them up without a letter from the Lord Treasurer to save themselves harmless. The Court replies that the cloths were first discovered and stayed by its servants, in accordance with the tenor of the Company's charter, the searchers having no power to seize them, the custom being paid and the cloths shipped at noonday from the Custom-house and an officer going with them to the ship. After some argument Robinson and Ward agree to deliver up the cloths on receipt of a warrant from

the Lord Treasurer; whereupon Mr. Sherburne is requested to apply to His Lordship for a warrant for the Company to receive the cloths, warrants having been granted in similar cases, notably in the dispute between the Company and Warner and Jesson.¹ Alderman Gayre proposes that some course be thought of for disposal of the calicoes, as if they are not sold before the return of the ship expected some time next month it may prove very prejudicial; he suggests that either they be offered by lots, or each sort sold separately by the candle, or divided among the adventurers; and that, their value not exceeding 50,000*l.*, a policy for that amount be underwritten for the Company's security. The Court not approving of these proposals, the disposal of the calicoes is deferred. A bill of 18*l.* for wages at Blackwall to be paid. Two guardians, James Woodward and — Croshaw, having brought up goods in a lighter from the *Mary* and upon delivery a bale of silk was found missing, the Court resolves to stop their wages until the said silk is restored, and if this is not speedily done to take proceedings against them. Mr. Bowen reports that the Company is likely to receive great damage from the defective goods returned in the *Mary*, and suggests that some of the Committees should see and treat with the Farmers for allowance on them. Mr. Markham, who is to deliver to Captain Crane a copy of the account concerning the hangings, desires to know whether to cast it up at 5*s.* or 6*s.* 8*d.* the rupee²; he is told to do so at the latter rate. The remainder of the mouldy pepper bought by George Clarke to be delivered to him, he having paid for all. Two mooring cables to be delivered to Captain Hall to raise the *Pleiades*, he paying for them according to Fotherby and Swanly's valuation. (4 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 29, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 179).

Many returned factors being desirous their accounts should be cleared, they are told to attend on the ordinary court days. Mr. Manly, William and Henry Johnson, Guy Bath, and Mrs. Gove to attend next Wednesday. A question is raised concerning the entering of goods in the Custom-house, and the account of the custom

¹ See the *Calendar of State Papers, E. Indies*, 1650-34, pp. 113, &c.

² This enhanced rate is meant to represent the value of a cash payment at Surat.

of the *Mary's* goods not being finished, Mr. Bowen is desired to wait on the Comptroller and desire that no stop be made on the entry of goods to be shipped out. Upon the petition of Richard Newbury, executor to Edith, late widow of Abel Druce, the Court orders Druce's account to be cleared, and promises that, if any goods appear hereafter belonging to him, account shall be given of them. Mr. Bowen is directed to make up the account of the tonnage of the goods brought home in the *Mary*. Fotherby and Steevens are ordered to make a computation of the cost of repairing the ships dispeeded last year, and the former to present a list next Wednesday of all stores and provisions in the yards at Blackwall and Deptford, at Sandwich, and in the Downs, that what is fit to be sold may be seen. John Dyamond is given 20*l.* for services rendered at Surat in repairing ships and building boats. Mr. Fotherby's request for increase of salary is denied, the Court thinking his wages sufficient during the present state of the Company's affairs. At the request of Mr. Ashwell, leave is given to the owners of the *Pleiades* to put her ordnance in the Stone Wharf yard, Mr. Ashwell promising that if anything borrowed from the Company is broken or damaged it shall be made good. Mr. Swanly's bill for petty charges from May, 1639, to March, 1640, is ordered to be paid. The Governor moving for consideration as to what to advise His Majesty concerning the book of subscriptions, the sum subscribed not being as large as was expected, after debate the general opinion is that the trade will go on, however unwilling men are to subscribe, but they will adventure more cheerfully if the merchants are left free to pursue their own resolutions. Mr. Sherburne is directed to wait on Lord Cottington and ask his opinion whether it will be better 'to attend the King before the last day of subscription or sooner' [*sic*], as the time first limited for underwriting has passed and the second is approaching. (2 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MAY 6, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 181).

Upon Mr. Sherburne's relation of the answer of the Lord Treasurer, who seems unwilling to grant the desired warrant to the searchers at Gravesend without hearing the allegations of both parties, the Court desires Mr. Sherburne to go again to His Lord-

ship and request him not to grant a warrant for delivery of the said goods to the proprietors until the Company knows their names and consents to the same. Mr. Sherburne also relates that he took the book of subscriptions to Lord Cottington and acquainted him with the amount subscribed and the small hope of any further enlargement, the day appointed for subscriptions from those in or near London (the 25th April) having passed; that he requested His Lordship's opinion whether the Company should give the King an account of the subscriptions now, or wait until the 25th instant, the day appointed for the list to be closed, adding that if he would like to speak with the Governor or Committees they would wait on him. Lord Cottington replied that it would be well to forbear telling the King until after the last day of subscription, and that if the Governor with two or three Committees would wait on him he would be ready to advise with them on this matter. Those who underwrote in the first policy of 100,000*l.* pressing for payment of their money subscribed a year and a month ago, the Treasurer is directed to pay them their due. Mr. Bowen presents a note of defective goods brought home in the *Mary*, on which custom ought to be abated as formerly, whereupon Messrs. Ashwell, Wilson, and Francklyn are desired to treat with the Farmers, which they do and report that the Farmers are ready to give the Company satisfaction. The Governor, in order to vindicate himself from some unjust aspersions cast upon him for being unwilling to lessen the Company's charges, desires the Court to appoint a time to consider this business, and to take a survey of all stores and provisions at Deptford and Blackwall, that all things unnecessary may be sold. Hereupon Mr. Fotherby presents a list of stores, &c., at the said places and of those at Deal, with their valuation, which being read and considered, Saturday is set apart to view those at Blackwall and Deptford; and it being observed that at Deal cables, anchors, stores, &c., are needed for supply of the outward and homeward-bound ships, the Court orders two cables to be sent there at once, and that provisions, &c., be supplied them from Blackwall. A court of sales to be held this day sennight, when, in order the better to sell the Company's calicoes and ascertain the value of the several sorts, one lot of all kinds is to be offered by the candle, with one lot of Coromandel cloth. On the application

of Captain Ditchfield, his son Thomas, who went out as attendant to Mr. Methwold and returned with him in the *Mary*, is granted remission of freight on sixty pieces of calicoes brought home by him as private trade, his wages are ordered to be paid, and his account cleared. Abraham Chamberleyne and his son accepted as securities for indigo, part of Sir John Nulls's parcel, and Thomas Warren, merchant-taylor, and Arthur Juxon for garbled Malabar pepper. Thomas Warren, formerly servant to the late John Juxon, applies for the freedom of the Company in respect of service; the Court, understanding that it is many years since he served his apprenticeship, and that according to the Company's order he should have demanded his freedom within a year, or for every year since elapsed pay 5*l.*, desires him to lay down so much money; but on his pleading ignorance of this order he is admitted on payment of 5*l.* to the poor-box. The application of Captain Hall and Mr. Steevens, the Company's shipwright, on behalf of Mrs. Steevens, wife of Thomas Steevens, master of the *Crispian*, for remission of freight on calicoes brought home by her husband in the *Mary*, is refused, the Court remembering that Steevens had received favour for private trade when he was master in the *Swan*, and also his frustrated attempt to carry these calicoes away secretly. Richard Miller, mercer, transfers to Daniel Andrews, merchant, 512*l.* 5*s.* adventure in the Third Joint Stock with all profits, upon which is divided in silk twenty-five per cent. Thomas Wilks, executor to the late Thomas Harris, transfers to Stephen Bourman 170*l.* 1*s.* adventure in the Third Joint Stock with all profits. (4 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MAY 8, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 185).

A resolution of the last court to sell one lot of calicoes by the candle is confirmed, and bills are ordered to be set up for a Court of Sales to be held next Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Bowen reporting that the account of goods in the *Mary* is at last cleared in the Custom-house, and that the Farmers have shown great consideration, also that 'Sir Abraham' [Dawes] desires ten pieces of the defective calicoes for himself and Sir John Nulls, he is directed to present them with 'ten books of callico'. Vincent Cranfield, executor to his late father, Sir Randoll Cranfield, transfers

to John Massingberd 175*l.* adventure in the Third Joint Stock, with all profits. Guy Bath is questioned concerning 4,000 tomands lent to the Dutch in Persia; he replies that he only knows of 1,000 which he delivered to the Dutch Factory by order of Mr. Gibson, the Agent, the key of the door being fetched from Henry Chapman at noonday and every one in the factory knowing of the transaction; of the rest he knows nothing. He requests that either the objections against him may be given out and he allowed to return written answers, or that the Court will devise interrogations which he will answer upon oath; the first proposal is adopted and Bath ordered to give in his written answers next Wednesday. At the request of William Swanly and Edward Steevens, their wages are ordered to be paid up to last Lady Day. Mr. Pryor, of the Assurance-house, to be given 25*l.* for making out the last policy. Mr. Woodall petitions for his wages, which have been taken from him since December, 1635, representing that he has cured above fifty people since then and written 'a booke of chirurgery for the good of the East India voyage'.¹ He is given 6*l.* in satisfaction of all demands from December, 1635, to next Midsummer. Upon the written request of Mr. Chauncy, Mr. Sambrooke is directed to deliver him a waste book, his account with Philip Mead, an assignment of 226*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* from Alexander Rose, and his desk containing papers Thomas [Abraham?] Aldington, late a factor at Surat, petitions for restoration of 820 rials taken from him by Mr. Methwold. The latter, being in court, alleges that Aldington, when employed with Mr. Wild to Goa, added to the petty charges account many items not allowed, and that in his voyage to China certain coho [coffee] dishes were committed to his care, many of which he cannot account for; therefore the said money was taken from him and he referred to the Company at home. Abigail, wife of John Price, is given 40*s.* from the poor-box. Ninety pieces of calicoes ordered to be delivered to the widow of Edward Moore, smith in the *Jonas*, who died in the *Mary*, on payment of 2*s.* 6*d.* per piece freight. Joan, wife of James Box, mercer, of Newnham, Gloucestershire, and mother of Thomas Box, who went out in the *Crispian*, to receive two months' pay yearly of her son's wages, according to his letter of attorney. (2½ p*ps.*)

¹ His *Surgeons Mate*, first published in 1617, but reissued with additions in 1639.

WARRANT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS FOR SALTPETRE AND GUNPOWDER TO WILLIAM BLYTHE, MAY 13, 1640 (*Public Record Office: Dom. Chas. I*, vol. ccccliii, No. 35).

There is in the hands of the East India Company a certain quantity of East Indian saltpetre, which we require you to view and certify us both the quality and quantity thereof. ($\frac{1}{3}$ p)

NOTES UPON THE MEMORIAL OF THE STATES AMBASSADOR, MAY 19, 1640, ON THE PROPOSAL TO THROW OPEN THE TRADE TO THE EAST INDIES, (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, No 75).

Setting forth that by this means a way would be opened for the King of Spain to obtain from England a great number of ships and mariners and to entice merchants and others with fair promises of large hire and wages, which ships and men would be used by His Spanish Majesty and the Portuguese to transport goods and merchandise from place to place. This the friends and allies of the English, who by the King of Spain are treated as enemies when they are surprised and overtaken on that side of the line, would not approve of, as being contrary to the common practice that all who sail from one enemy's port to another are looked upon as enemies, and it might therefore be the cause of trouble. That the King of Spain, having done this, might put in the ships so obtained Spanish and Portuguese officers and employ them contrary to the will of the King of England and of their owners, this intention having been manifested in 1639, when His Spanish Majesty caused a great number of English ships to be hired and no one was able to hinder him in this or in other unjust acts.¹ That the King's customs would also be very much diminished, the said ships being employed in the East Indies or in taking from thence goods to Portugal, when no return would be made to the King of England, which would not concern the merchants so long as they made their profit by the ships' freight. It would also frustrate all hopes of the English in the East Indies, or on that side of the Cape, ever undertaking to discover unknown places to trade to by themselves and so to enhance the reputation of their King and nation. That if all merchants were allowed to trade freely in the East

¹ See Gardiner's *History*, vol. ix, ch. 90.

Indies, the price of goods would be raised so much by competition that the returns would be very small. Other inconveniences might be urged against this proposition ; but the above are sufficient to show that, for the reputation and profit of His Majesty and the credit of the English nation, the East India trade should be confined to one particular company. (1 p.)

MEMORANDA CONCERNING AN OPEN AND FREE TRADE TO THE EAST INDIES, 1640 (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, No. 76).

Showing that if the King permits such a trade the following ill effects will ensue, viz.: transportation of English ships and sailors into the Spanish service and power, whereby contentions and hostilities may arise between the English and other confederate nations. Damages and hazards to His Majesty's subjects by these men and ships being forced into services contrary to the royal will. Diminution of customs by East Indian goods being scattered to foreign parts and not brought into His Majesty's dominions. An aversion in the English to the discovery of unknown places which they might appropriate to His Majesty's and their own use ; with an uncertain and excessive valuation of all East Indian commodities. These and other reasons against an open trade seem especially to concern the King and his subjects, who by the many interruptions and injuries done them by the Dutch are kept down in their negotiations and forced to relinquish that trade, wherein one year's omission is about three years' loss in the great benefit which may be received from it. That it equally concerns the Dutch East India Company and the States General to prevent such an open trade, as they will inevitably be involved in the said ill effects ; and that it is their fault that the same are not prevented, for, if they by public authority would compose the differences concerning East Indian affairs and establish a new reglement between the two companies, it would stop the trade of particular persons and then there would be no fear of such evils. Praying the King to consider how important it is that the differences between the English and Dutch Companies should be settled and the trade into those parts speedily resolved into a new company ; and that he should not betray these intentions to the States Ambassador, but let the Dutch

still suspect that because of the importunity of the Spanish Ambassador such an open trade will be granted, unless satisfaction is speedily rendered to the demands thought reasonable for a final settlement. (3 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MAY 22, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 188).

Captain Rainsborow allowed the use of one of the Company's docks at Blackwall to trim his ship, the *Sampson*, on condition that he makes good any damage done. That the present state of the said dock may be ascertained, Fotherby, Swanly, Steevens, and Boatswain Ingram, taking with them such others as Captain Rainsborow shall name, are directed to view and write down all defects found there. Examination had of the several complaints sent from India against William Johnson, late President at Bantam, and Henry Johnson, a factor. Both are called into court and the accusations read, in which William is accused of having been a notorious drunkard, Henry of vicious and incontinent living, and both of having conspired, at the death of Mr Coulson, to cheat the Company of a chest containing 3,358 rials of eight. Henry being 'toucht in conscience' revealed this last offence and returned his share, 1,000 rials, to the Company's cash, as appears by the attestation of Thomas Keeling, which is read. Many other accusations to the scandal of religion and prejudice of the Company are brought against these two men; but as all cannot be dealt with, and Henry confessing his errors and submitting to censure, and there being still due to him after all deductions 196*l*, it is resolved that he shall be fined 100 marks (which at his importunity is reduced to 36*l*), which shall be deducted from the 196*l* owing to him, and that the remainder shall be paid to him. (1½ pp.)

PHILIP BURLAMACHI TO SIR HENRY VANE, MAY 31, 1640 (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, No. 77).

Heard yesterday at Court that Sir Henry is to meet Secretary Windebank and Boswell that morning to see if the treaty concerning the East India business is to be made here or at the Hague. Is informed that, if there is the least delay in accepting the overture made, it may easily hinder the business, because of the absence

of the Prince and other considerations. Was bold enough to tell him that it would be best to let Boswell go as soon as possible and embrace the offer to begin the treaty; and then, the business being once started, the rest could be more easily managed according to appearances. Could not come himself, as he is expecting Lord Goring this morning; but is anxious not to miss acquainting him with his opinion. Begs Vane not to disclose what he has told him. (*Holograph. French.* $\frac{1}{2}$ p)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 3, 1640. (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p 190).

A note is read from the Lord Mayor, acquainting the Court that, by direction of the Lord Treasurer and Lord Cottington, he is to call upon the Company for the impost of its ship *Mary*, namely 4,851*l.* 16*s.* 8½*d.*, which is to be paid to Sir Paul Pindar upon account of a tally of 10,000*l.* for His Majesty's special service. It is, however, remembered that 2,019*l.* 5*s.* is owing for saltpetre sold to the King long ago, which should have been paid last October twelvemonth, but has since been charged upon the Lord Mayor's collections of impositions and a tally struck for the same payable at Michaelmas; this not being yet paid, it is resolved to send word by Mr Massingbeid that the Company expects the sum owing for saltpetre to be deducted from the impost demanded for the *Mary*, and will then pay the remainder. The Court being reminded that another parcel of saltpetre was lately delivered to Mr. Cordwell¹, according to the Lord Treasurer and Lord Cottington's warrant of the 6th of October last, amounting to 2,732*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* at 4*l.* per hundred, with promise of payment within six months after delivery, which is not yet paid, Mr. Sherburne is directed to wait on Their Lordships and request an order for payment, with consideration for the delay, and when this is obtained, then to ask for a licence for the Company to transport a small parcel of saltpetre, if this is denied, then to offer the same for the King's service at 4*l.* per hundred, and to procure an order for payment of both parcels together. Consideration had of the answer to be returned to the King concerning the subscription, the time for which has now

¹ For particulars see the *Calendar of Domestic State Papers*, vol. cccclvi, no. 47, from which it appears that the amount was really 2,733*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*

expired, and to whom to apply to first about it. Debate ensues as to the causes which dishearten the generality and prevent them from subscribing, which are thought to be the injuries done by the Dutch, for which, notwithstanding many promises, no satisfaction has been received: the new impositions on Indian goods¹: the depredations committed by Cobb and Ayres in the Red Sea: and the Company not being allowed to sell or transport the saltpetre brought from the Indies except to the King and at his price. It is resolved to apply to Lord Cottington and acquaint him with the endeavours made to advance the subscription, and to name the above-mentioned causes as being considered the grounds of the discouragement, the Governor and the Committees having done as much as in them lies to further the intended work. His Lordship's advice is to be asked as to what is to be done for the King's satisfaction and for the support and continuance of the trade that it may not fall into the hands of the Dutch. Regarding this the Company's representatives are not to propose a way, but to leave it to the King and State to determine. To this end the Governor, the Deputy, and certain Committees are entreated to wait with the Secretary upon His Lordship this afternoon at his house in Broad Street. Next Saturday is appointed for a visit of inspection to Blackwall and Deptford, when such stores and provisions as are unserviceable shall be set aside for sale. A dispute ensues concerning sale of the calicoes, now a dead commodity, neither linen-draper nor others offering reasonable prices for them; it is proposed to make a division of them to the adventurers, and for security of the Company, in case of any disaster or loss by sea, to issue a policy of assurance to their value for the Company's indemnity. After long argument, some approving of this course and others opposing it on the ground of the Company's great debt, it is resolved to forbear disposing of the calicoes until the arrival of the ships shortly expected. A letter is read from Mr. Baily desiring remission of freight on certain goods, which with his wages he pretends is all the estate he has gained in five voyages in the Company's employ. He alleges that in his last service he only received 5*l.* per month, whereas his predecessor had 15*l.*, and yet he was entrusted with the conduct and charge of the *Mary* to India

¹ See p. xx of the previous volume.

and back (the first forty days excepted). It is remembered that Baily has already been allowed remission on goods brought home as private trade, and has received the usual gratification of 100*l.* for bringing the *Mary* into the Downs as her first port; also that information has been given of his conveying secretly out of his ship four bales of calicoes. The Court would not have conferred these favours upon Baily had all this been known in time, for his example may have been followed by others of the ship's company; therefore, though he denies the charge, yet he is deemed unworthy of further favours and no resolution is arrived at. (4 *pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 5, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 194).

Certain Committees are entreated to examine Captain Milward's account. The Governor acquaints the Court that he with some Committees waited last Wednesday evening on Lord Cottington and told him of the result of the subscription, there being but a small sum underwritten. His Lordship, after conference as to what might give encouragement for a competent subscription, desired the Company to put their opinions in writing before next Tuesday, and he would acquaint the King therewith. Mr. Deputy having collected the chief heads 'that might encourage men to subscribe', these are read and Mr. Mun entreated to formulate them; but he excuses himself, alleging that he knows of no more to be said than is already contained in the Company's remonstrances, and till these are complied with according to the promise given by the King and State, none, or very few, will subscribe, the alteration of the government being a main obstacle; also the want of restitution from the Dutch. To this it is answered that the Dutch Company has given power to the States, and they to their Ambassador here, to make reparation for all damages. No conclusion is arrived at by the Court. William Baily is granted remission of freight on goods. Mr. Clarke is allowed increased tare on certain bags of sugar. Consideration had of the disposal of the unsold calicoes. Some advise the delivery of 12*l.* 10*s.* in calicoes to the adventurers, bills of security to be taken for payment at a certain time; while others advise that they be sold outright two for one, rather than keep them to lessen the present

interest and waste the stock, which if not prevented will occasion 'a Muscovia reckoning'; conclusion herein is deferred. (2½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 8, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 196).

Mr. Norris's man to be given 20*l.* in recognition of his pains and expedition in bringing letters from Captain Mynors, notifying the arrival near Falmouth of the *Discovery* from India, the 40*s.* paid the man by Mr. Cramporne at Plymouth to be deducted, and a letter of thanks to be written to Mr. Norris. A Court of Sales is appointed to be held next Thursday afternoon, and bills are ordered to be set up in the Exchange to notify the sale of the Company's calicoes. Steevens is called upon to explain the extraordinary expense incurred lately in repairing the *Crispian*, the *Jonah*, and the *Swan*, which much exceeds the estimates given. Steevens declares his willingness to repair or build ships for the Company 'by the great', the Court approves of this, but forbears to decide herein until satisfaction has been given concerning the estimates. In regard of the good news received from the Indies and the necessity of sending a good fleet there next spring, it is resolved that the *Mary* shall be substantially repaired, and Steevens is required to make an exact survey of her and to give a particular estimate of the cost. Remission of freight granted to Francis Laurence, who went out in the *Jonah*, and to Robert Whitchurch, who went out in the *Discovery*, both returning in the *Mary*; also to John Head, in regard of extraordinary service in his return voyage in the *Mary* in searching for the leak, and because he has served the Company twenty-five years, and lost all he had in the *Charles*. (3 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 10, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 199).

Gregory Clement desiring remission of freight on fifty pieces of brown dutties brought home in the *Mary*, the Court, considering the inconvenience of private trade, decrees that he must pay 2*s.* 6*d.* per piece on the said goods. Other small parcels of calicoes remaining at the Custom-house are ordered to be delivered on payment of the usual freight of 2*s.* 6*d.* 'the booke', except those sent

home by Francis Day to his brother, and those brought home by Mr. Taylor, late quartermaster in the *Mary*. A letter read from William Pitt, dated November 12, 1633, from Rajahpore¹, to the President and Council at Surat, stating that those employed by Mr. Courteene have arrived at Rajahpore with two ships, landed their goods, and settled a factory; which is contrary to their commission received from the King, in which they are forbidden to trade where the English Company have planted. By another letter now read from Mr. Coggan, &c., at Masulipatam to Surat it appears that Mr. Wych's debt is still unpaid; that Francis Day is accused of being a great private trader and very familiar and conversant with the servants of Mr. Courteene; and that Thomas Joyce and Thomas Clarke have sold six bales of silk belonging to John Powell and the late Robert Littler, pretending they were indebted to them, whereas Powell and Littler were indebted to the Company, and order had been given to Joyce and Clark to sell the said silk for the Company's account towards satisfaction of the said debt. A letter read from the Lord Treasurer and Lord Cottington, dated the 9th instant, directing that payment be made of the whole 4,851*l.* to the Lord Mayor for the use of Sir Paul Pyndar; the Court (notwithstanding a former resolution to stop 2,019*l.* thereof in satisfaction of a debt due from the King for saltpetre), considering there will be more impost due speedily for the *Discovery's* goods, orders the whole sum to be paid, with a caution that the Lord Mayor shall allow the said debt and satisfy it out of the impost. Mr. Joanes demands certain Persian stuffs called 'melliks' that were sent as tokens to his wife from the late Agent Gibson, but detained because the latter was indebted to the Company; it is resolved that Joanes shall have the stuffs on depositing their value in money. Mr. Becke presents the draft of an order for permission to transfer his adventure to Mr. Joas Godscall, who has bought it; but the Court, observing that the said order is not yet entered, defers answering until it is made authentic. Captain Crane, by his servant, demands that the tapestries returned from the Indies may

¹ Rājāpur, in Ratnāgiri District, Bombay Presidency. The letter has not been traced, but it is mentioned in *O. C.* 1725 as having been sent home in original from Surat. Some account of the settlement at Rājāpur is given in the Surat letter, which, however, speaks scornfully of the trade of the new-comers as 'more seditious then seditious'.

be delivered to him, conceiving that the proceeds of those already sold will defray all costs. The Court remembering that eight or ten years ago 900*l.* of the Company's cash was spent in recovering debts due for tapestries sold, and that this business was formerly referred to Messrs. Kerridge and Methwold, they are again desired to try to settle it with the Captain. Captain Ditchfield again moves for wages for his son's services at Surat; he is told that his son has been educated at the Company's expense and lately given the freight of sixty pieces of calicoes as a gratification for his services; but there not being a full court, resolution herein is deferred. The Governor, the Deputy, Alderman Abdy, Messrs. Mun, Ashwell, and Sherburne are entreated to attend Mr. Secretary Vane at 7 o'clock to-morrow morning, to confer about the East India trade. (3 pp)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 17, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 202).

The Court orders that Mr. Wych's debt be registered, and he notified thereof and told that satisfaction is expected from him. Mr. Blount is reprimanded for selling, on his own authority, twenty bags of pepper to the Deputy and fifty to Stephen Bourneman [*sic*], the latter tendering as securities George Longe and John Hobson; the Court orders that none of the Company's servants or officers in charge of goods shall make any bargain or sale without leave from the Court or from the Committees of the Warehouse. Blount's offence is overlooked this time, the bargain confirmed, and the securities approved, and the Deputy promises to rebate for his pepper or to tender Mr. Cradocke as security. The sale of six bags of cotton wool by Blount to Mr. Cornish is also confirmed. The thirty pepper bags, filled with trash and flags [*i e.* leaves], lying in the cellar at the Exchange are ordered to be sent to the garden at Crosby House to be examined by one or more Committees. Captain Ditchfield again requests payment of his son's wages at the rate of 20*l.* per annum; this is refused, but the 10*l.* per annum paid him for five years is allowed. Mr. De Beck presents an order from the Court of Requests concerning the difference between himself and the Lord Mayor, Sir Henry Garway, whereby the Company is enjoined to permit Mr. De Beck to transfer

his adventure to Mr. Godscall; De Beck is told that the Court is engaged on business of great importance, which has to be reported to the King, therefore resolution on his affairs must be deferred. The Court is inclined to grant the request of Mr. Jones to receive the tokens sent to his wife and sister by the late Agent Gibson, but understanding that there are similar tokens sent by others (who will expect a like favour), it is resolved that none shall be delivered, but all sold by the candle, and if not bought then to be detained in part payment of the great debt Gibson owed the Company. John Holloway offers himself and his nephew, William Tulley, as securities for fifty bags of pepper, but is refused by ballot. The Governor relates the discourse which he, the Deputy, and some Committees had the other day with Mr. Secretary Vane, according to whose advice a draft was made of the Company's aggrivances and discouragements, with which Mr. Secretary promised to acquaint the King and to join with Lord Cottington and do all good offices for the Company's encouragement and support of its trade. This draft is read, and approved, and the Secretary required to have two fair copies made, one for Mr. Secretary Vane, the other for Lord Cottington. A general court is appointed to be held next Friday week, as the generality will expect to be told of affairs abroad and of the good news brought by the *Discovery*; also a general court of election is to be summoned for the 3rd of July. Forty pieces of calicoes to be delivered to Sarah Taylor, whose husband brought them home in the *Mary*, on payment of 2s. per piece freight. (3½ pp.)

MEMORIAL OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY DELIVERED TO THE LORDS, 1640 (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, No. 79)¹

Reciting that the Company formerly presented to the King sundry aggrivances which discouraged the continuance of its trade, when His Majesty was graciously pleased by an Order in Council, dated the 10th of December, 1639, to express his good intentions for the furtherance and support of 'soe great a business', and ordered the same to be set forth in a preamble made to a book for subscription of a new Joint Stock, in which not only His Majesty's

¹ A duplicate forms No. 79 I of the same volume.

subjects were permitted to adventure but foreigners of all nations. That the adventurers were further encouraged by being told at several public meetings of the Company of the great amendment of its trade in India, and also of the advantages ensuing from the peace made with the Portuguese, by which the cost of shipping is much reduced, fewer vessels being needed for defence. Notwithstanding all this, only the inconsiderable sum of 22,500*l.* has been subscribed for this great design; of which, according to the King's directions, notice is hereby given, that His Majesty and the State may think of some other way to effect what is desired, and so prevent the trade from falling into the hands of the Dutch to the dishonour of the King and nation. The memorialists conceive it their duty to state what in their opinions has hindered the subscriptions. First, that in so many years no restitution has been obtained from the Dutch for the great losses and wrongs caused by them; that no trade can be carried on in the East Indies with safety, for fear of further abuses, unless some such restitution is received, or a new treaty or reglement made with the said nation, they having become so powerful both by sea and land that it is feared they will shortly drive out the Portuguese and become sole masters of their country and trade, having already taken many places from them and even attempted to take Goa, the principal city and the residency of the Viceroy. In the event of such a treaty being made, restitution must be had from the Dutch in Europe, as the English are far too weak to deal with them in the Indies. That for some years the Company has, with the encouragement of the State, brought good store of saltpetre into the kingdom, but instead of being permitted to sell the same to the best advantage, it has had to be kept until the King was pleased to buy it at an undervalue, the payment also being long deferred. That the Company cannot prosecute its trade on equal terms with the Dutch, because of the late impositions laid upon its East Indian commodities. That since the preamble was drawn up, in which it was promised that Mr. Courteene should send out no more ships to the East Indies, he has dispatched one and is preparing another, which it is reported will shortly go into those parts, and this is thought to be true because Mr. Courteene's ship, the *William*, that went out last March twelvemonth, has settled a factory at Rajahpore

(where the Company has a factory) contrary to its commission and His Majesty's express command by his royal letter. It is also well known that Captain Weddall boasted he 'had power to make a voyage if his trade would not aboard it him'; and it is feared by many that these ships may have the same authority, which will endanger not only the lives of the Company's factors, but also their whole estates. Some exception is also taken to the directions given in the preamble for alteration of the government, which it is thought ought to be left, as formerly, to those chosen at a general court of election once a year by the adventurers. (2 pp.)

A DECLARATION OF THE GRIEVANCES OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY [JUNE, 1640] (*Home Miscellaneous*, vol. xxxix, f. 153).

Being expelled by the Dutch from the islands, forts, and block-houses built for security of the Company's factors upon the island of Polaroon (which island is subject to King Charles by the voluntary submission of the natives), in contempt of the twenty-third article of the treaty made in 1619 and after publication of the said treaty; also the cutting down and spoiling of the spice trees there by the Dutch, who refuse to restore the island without an order from the King of England and the States of Holland. The violent taking of the island of Lantore from the Company's factors by the Dutch, who used many barbarous cruelties, in contempt of the said twenty-third article, the island having been given to the factors by the natives in the name of the King of England. The Dutch expelling the English from the trade in the islands of Molucco, Banda, and Amboyna, and horribly murdering their agents and factors there. Their usurpation of sovereignty over the English factors at Jakatra [Batavia], contrary to the thirtieth article of the treaty mentioned above, by which means they were forced to settle upon an island called Polagande [Pulo Lagundy], which proved so unhealthy that within a short time 120 lost their lives, to the great charge and detriment of the Company; and the unjust and merciless whipping of the Company's servants in the public market-place there. The exaction by the Dutch at Jakatra of impositions, customs, tolls, excises, &c., in negotiations with the English, and their forcible extraction from the warehouses in Jakatra of 7,242 rials of eight to

pay John Maria Moretti, an Italian. Their malicious firing of the English factors' dwelling-house, stores, warehouses, and provisions in Jakatra, to the value of 200,000 rials of eight. Their blocking Bantam for six years, to the exceeding damage of the English; and hindering the latter from recovering their debts in Jambi, and so enhancing the price of pepper there that double value had to be paid for it. Their protection of the Great Mogul's shipping and subjects after they had wrongfully taken from the English factors money and goods to the value of 102,952 rials of eight.¹ Their refusing to pay the English half-customs upon their wares landed in Persia, and practising with the king to dispossess them of the profits of the same to the value of 80,000 rials of eight, and their desperate attempt to murder the chief English factors there. Their outrages committed in the Red Sea upon the subjects of the Great Turk under English colours, whereby the English Ambassador at Constantinople was much troubled. The trading of Sir William Courteene in his lifetime, and since his death of his son and Mr. Porter, contrary to the privileges granted to the East India Company by its patent, whereby it has been and is much discouraged, the captains, agents, and factors of the said Porter and Courteene having, contrary to His Majesty's command, carried their ships into Masulipatam and there committed many outrages, entered the river in a hostile manner, discharged ordnance into the town, killed one native, maimed others, and then fled aboard their ships, for which abuses the English agent was imprisoned over fifty days, and his countrymen threatened with loss of the privileges which they had acquired at so great a cost. The settling of a factory by the captains, agents, and factors of Porter and Courteene at Rajahpore, within seventy leagues of Surat, where the English have usually sent the greater part of their commodities from Europe for sale, notwithstanding His Majesty's pleasure formerly and at that instant signified to them by the Company's agents there; and their building a house there for residence. The sending yearly by the said Porter and Courteene of divers ships into the East Indies, and their now preparing three more, notwithstanding two several orders made at the council board

¹ Cf. the previous volume, p. 393. For the incident itself see *The English Factories in India*, 1624-9, pp. 6, &c.

during His Majesty's presence. The great impost laid upon goods imported from the East Indies, more especially upon pepper and cloves, the Company's principal commodities, the subsidy and impost being raised three times more than formerly ; whereby the Company is not able to go to market with neighbouring princes, in regard they pay little or nothing, and so daily undersell the Company. (2 pp. Numerous names and dates are given in the margin in attestation of these statements.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 19, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 206).

The *Discovery* is to break bulk next Monday ; and meanwhile her master is directed to hasten out her ordnance and lumber, and to look carefully to the sending up of private trade. Mr. Munns is entreated to take first turn on Monday. Mr. Deputy and Mr. Wilson are desired to attend the Lord Privy Seal and Lord Dorset about Mr. Cox's reference. Mr. Sherburne to be given 10*l.*, for which he is to account. Mr. Daniel Harvey's difference with the Company is referred to the next court. Mrs. Slade to have 160 pieces of calicoes delivered her on paying for fifty. Henry Johnson's desk, left in John Spiller's custody, to be given him. One month to be deducted from the pay of those who left the *Discovery* at Plymouth, or before her arrival at Erith. ($\frac{1}{2}$ p)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 26, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 207).

Payment ordered to Mr. Methwold of the 450*l.* due to the Conde de Lynharres. The general letters are considered, and the Court directs that only those parts indicated by a private mark in the margin shall be read to the generality. The Governor remarks that in the said letters two particulars are worthy of consideration as tending much to the profit of the Company ; the desire that a double provision of coral (which yields more advantage than all other commodities) be sent, and also 300 cloths. Now being the time for provision of both, he desires the Court to consider and resolve on this matter. Some are of opinion that by the preamble the Company is restrained from sending out more stock, and so refuse to engage themselves further, but wish the estate to be drawn

home, the debts paid, and what remains divided; while others think that, as the subscription is not full, the preamble is void and the Company at liberty to do as it pleases. No commodity affording so much profit as coral, many of the Committees offer to take it off the Company's hands on arrival, and transport it to India on their own adventure. After long dispute it is resolved by erection of hands to give order for 6,000*l.* worth of coral to be bought; and certain Committees are entreated to write in the Company's name to Mr. Job Throgmorton to provide this amount, and not to employ (as formerly) the Guidanees¹. To prevent any hindrance in buying the coral, strict secrecy is enjoined, and it is resolved that if any of the Company buy or bring over any coral, hoping to transport it privately, they shall be prevented and none of it shall be bought from them on any terms. Resolution with regard to the 300 cloths is deferred. A question arising what tare ought to be allowed for cotton yarn lately bought by Mr. Langham, and it being alleged that the customary allowance has been 33 lb. on a bag, trial is ordered to be made of ten or twenty bags, and as the medium shall fall out so allowance shall be made. Mr. De Beck presses for performance of the decree lately made in the Court of Requests for the transfer of his adventure in the Third Joint Stock to Mr. Godscall; he is entreated to wait till this day sennight for an answer, the Court being very busy because of the General Court to be held in the afternoon. Mr. Sambrooke reads the balance of the Company's estate, and is directed to have it in readiness, so that if the generality desire it may be read^d for their satisfaction. (3 pp.)

A GENERAL COURT, JUNE 26, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 210).

Mr. Governor acquaints the generality that they are assembled to express, according to custom, their thankfulness to God for sending the *Discovery* home in safety from Surat with a plentiful return of goods, and the advice that three ships from the southwards and one from the northwards may be expected shortly. By a letter now received it appears that affairs in India have never been in a more hopeful condition, both in respect of the price and plenty of all sorts

¹ The well-known Florentine family of the name of Guadagni. Their beautiful palazzo, near Santo Spirito, is still one of the sights of the city

of commodities, and the alteration of their principals and factors at Surat, Persia, Bantam, and the Coast of Coſomandel, all which factories are reduced to such good order that expenses are much lessened, factors of ill-repute have been removed, and only those who are able and honest left in places of trust; by which means it is hoped that the Company's affairs will in future be managed to greater profit and advantage than formerly. Notwithstanding these blessings, the peace with the Portugals, with the benefits derived from free commerce with them, admittance to their ports, and the profit of freight in transporting their goods from port to port, Mr. Governor observes that the generality are still disheartened, as is apparent by their poor attendance at this meeting; therefore, to assure them of the truth of what has been stated, it has been decided to read the general letters, or, as they are long and would take up too much time, such portions of them as relate more nearly to the Company's affairs and the passage of Monsicur Regament, the Frenchman brought hither by Captain Mynors.¹ This is done and

¹ This unwilling guest was no doubt the Gilles R  zumont who made several voyages from Dieppe to the East from 1633 onwards. He was one of the leading figures in the *Compagnie d'Orient*, established in 1642 for the colonization of Madagascar, and himself commanded an expedition to that island in 1643 (Weber's *Compagnie Fran  aise des Indes*, pp. 72, 77). The circumstances of his seizure are described in a letter from Surat to the Company (O.C. 1725), which, after mentioning the departure of the *Discovery* from Mocha on August 19, 1639, and her arrival at Swally on September 21, goes on to say 'In her returne, not long after she was cleare of the Bab, they encountred *Eandrackt*, a ship of Diepe comanded by one Regament, the same that three yeares since pillaged the severall vessells of Dio; who being invited on board readily consented and was theare deteyned prisoner, whom his consorts would willingly have rescued, who, finding their ship much numbler then yours both for saile and steerage, presumed to come neare enough to discharge divers great shott against the *Discovery* without doing the least harme. What hurt those the *Discovery* repaid her withall did, is unknowne, yet judged important because she so abruptly left them. It then appeared that they had not robbed any vessell, and that conception is since confirmed not only by Regament, who was brought hither on the *Discovery*, but also by the severall safe arrivalls of as many vessells as belonged to this and Cambalett port. . . . His ship was of burthen about 300 tonns, had 18 guns, and rayled excellently well, which best steaded her, otherwise she had also accompanied the *Discovery* hither, as her comander doth the *Discovery* to England, wheare Mr Minors is directed (if God spares him life) safely to deliver him unto you, and as the voyage to continue unto him such curteous usage as wee have hitherto afforded him.'

The kidnapping of a French captain on mere suspicion of piracy was an outrage for which one would have expected the Company to make immediate atonement and apologies; but instead of this they entered an action against R  zumont in the Admiralty Court for 50,000*l*. After much delay, however, they consented to withdraw the charge, and the unfortunate captain was released in June, 1641.

great satisfaction given the generality; but in spite of all inducements and persuasion of the Governor and others they are not willing to subscribe for a new stock, but urge that the old be speedily drawn home; then, and not before, they will think about a new subscription. Captain Milward renews his suit for remission of brokes and interest charged upon his adventure in the Third Joint Stock. The Court, in regard of the great losses he has sustained, agrees that his broke shall be reduced from 18% to 8% per cent. and his interest remitted from the time of his failing. Consideration had of the petition of John Dike, merchant, that his subscription of 300% upon the Third Joint Stock be annulled and the brokes due on it remitted, and that he may receive the dividend upon his adventure of 275% in the Second Joint Stock, it is resolved to grant his requests, but he is not to receive his divisions on the Second Joint Stock until the other adventurers have been paid according to that proportion. Mr. Governor moves the necessity imposed upon the Company by advices received from India of making speedy provision of two commodities for dispatch in the ships, which will cost at least 12,000%, by erection of hands it is resolved that 12,000% be spent for this purpose. Letter read from Thomas Smethwicke, Senior, from 'the Poultreys Compter',¹ he being imprisoned upon an execution from the Assurance Office for 35%, desiring that to effect his release 200% of his stock be sold by the candle, and that the Company, or any one of them, would send 40% in gold by the bearer to discharge the debt.² Mr. Smethwicke's demand to have a copy of the invoices of the Company's particular ships, that he may know the rates and price paid for goods in India 'the first penny', is refused by a general erection of hands. (3½ pp)

The allegation that R  zumont had plundered some D  u junks three years before seems to connect him with the exploits of the *St. Louis*, referred to on p. 260 of the previous volume. As Mr. Ferguson has pointed out, there is an interesting mention of this vessel in the Batavia *Dagh-Register* for 1636, where it is stated that she intended to plunder the Moorish ships. On the other hand, a letter from Paris, among the *Domestic State Papers* (vol. cccclxxx, no. 58), declares that the captures attributed to R  zumont were really made by the English themselves—alluding, apparently, to the piracies of the *Roebuck* in 1635.

¹ One of the prisons under the control of the Sheriffs of London. It stood on the north side of the Poultry, on the site of the present Chapel Place, and was pulled down in 1817. A view of it is given in *Old and New London*, vol. 1, p. 421.

² The decision is not recorded; so probably the request was negatived.

PETITION FROM THOMAS SMETHWICKE TO THE KING [ABOUT JUNE, 1640] (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, No. 78).

Setting forth that the East India trade may soon be put in a flourishing condition for ample prosecution, to the great increase of His Majesty's customs, the honour of the nation, and content and profit of the adventurers, besides an annual profit of at least 40,000*l.* to the King without damage to any one or disbursement of the royal treasure; and praying that this may be referred to the Lord Treasurer and Lord Cottington to consider how it may best be effected, and that they may certify their opinions to the King or to the Lords Commissioners for Trade that order may be given accordingly. ($\frac{1}{2}$ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 1, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 214).

Upon information given in a note from Sir Nicholas Crispe that there was landed from the *Discovery* at or near Plymouth (with the permission of her officers) 3,000 [lb.] weight of indigo, which has since been sent to Bristol and other parts, Captain Mynors, John Smith, purser, his mate John Perkins, Boatswain Went, his mate John Young, and James Johnson are questioned. They protest their innocence and disbelief in the truth of the information, but the Court, thinking fit to examine further into this, orders that the wages of the said officers be stopped and only the common men discharged. Mr. Sherburne reports that in accordance with the command of Mr. Secretary Vane he, accompanied by Messrs. Wild, Methwold, and Markham, went to Mr. Secretary's house in Whitehall last Sunday about the business of Captain Crane, who was also present; after hearing the matter Mr. Secretary advised that the two suits of hangings lately returned from India should be delivered to the Captain, and that the dispute as to the accounts should be settled by arbitration. This Mr. Secretary thought would be a better way than appealing to the Council Board or to a committee of the Lords; he also intimated the King's good affection to the Captain and His Majesty's interest in this business. At the request of Thomas Smethwicke, Senior, 200*l.* of his adventure is put up for sale by the candle. The first 100*l.* is set up at

the rate of 90*l.* and bought by John Holloway at 91*l.*; the other 100*l.* is valued at 95*l.* and bought by Mr. Holloway at 95*l.* 10*s.*, there being 100*l.* fully divided and taken out. Daniel Harvey's dispute with the Company concerning want of weight in silk is referred for settlement to certain Committees. Richard Swinglehurst is given 30*l.* for supplying Thomas Chauncy's place at the Exchange cellar for six months; resolution as to the increase of his salary is deferred. (2 *pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 3, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 216).

A letter is read from Mr. Chauncy, acknowledging himself to be indebted 280*l.* and desiring that this sum may be charged to his account, so that the Company may receive satisfaction by his adventure; for payment of this 280*l.* he binds himself under his hand and seal attested by his wife in the sum of 500*l.*, which he offers to forfeit if anything further is proved against him. Mr. Acton moves on behalf of the Lord Mayor the deferring of the transfer of Mr. De Beck's adventure to Mr. Godscall, because of a discovery lately made; the Court agrees to this, and on Mr. Godscall demanding performance of the decree made in the Court of Requests, he is told that the Lord Mayor, on account of his great business for the King, has had no time to take care of his own cause, and so the transfer must be put off for a time; but if he and Mr. De Beck will secure the Company from being troubled further by the Lord Mayor about this affair, the Court will reconsider it. It is resolved to settle Captain Crane's business this day sennight; in the meantime he is to name two arbitrators and the Company two, and an umpire is to be chosen; on this being done, and bonds entered into on both sides, the hangings shall be delivered. George Gosnell, late purser in the *Jonas*, is questioned concerning a bale of baftas missing from the said ship; he protests his innocence, but submits himself to the favour of the Court; whereupon he is fined twenty marks as an example. The Court orders that in future the boatswain of every ship shall keep account with the purser of all goods that come in and go out of the ship, giving a note of the same to the purser, and at the return of the ship shall deliver a fair book hereof to the Company;

this Mr. Bowen is to insert in the sea commission. At the adding up of Captain Millward's account, according to the order of the last General Court, 1,333*l.* appeared due to make up his division to 50 per cent. in silk; this he now desires to receive in ready money, but is denied and a warrant is ordered to be given him to receive it in silk. John Spiller's bills, one of 8*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* for discharging the *Discovery*, the other of 6*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* for dinners at Blackwall, to be paid. Mr. Sherburne is given one hundred nobles for extraordinary services. (2½ pp.)

A GENERAL COURT OF ELECTION, JULY 3, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 219).

Motion is made by Mr Smithwicke as to the necessity of electing a Deputy, on pretence that the Company's charter does not warrant it.¹ At his desire, that part of the charter is read; when Mr. Chamberlaine replies that the time might have been spared, for, if there has been an error, it has been persisted in ever since the charter was granted; it being generally conceived, and now ascertained, that a Governor, Deputy, Treasurer, and twenty-four Committees are to be elected annually. Mr. Governor acknowledges the great obligation he is under to the generality for their love and good opinion, and for the trust placed in him and in his management of their affairs, observing that if his conduct has not answered their expectations, yet he has acted honestly and faithfully according to his ability, he now desires that some able man may take his place. The Court returns him hearty thanks, and on his withdrawing nominates Sir Henry Garway (now Lord Mayor), Sir Christopher Cletherowe, Alderman Abdy, and Alderman Cordwell, by general erection of hands the choice falls again upon Sir Christopher Cletherowe, who on being informed returns to his chair, expresses his gratitude, and takes the accustomed oath. Mr. Cockayne acknowledges his obligation for having been chosen Deputy for the past year, but entreats not to be put up for election again, on account of his many employments, as well for the Turkey Company as for his own affairs. The generality, knowing his great experience and confident of his faithfulness, re-elect him

¹ The same objection had been raised and refuted in 1635 and again in 1639 (see the previous volume, pp 72, 312).

by general consent; on being acquainted with this, he at first demurs, but on entreaty accepts the post and is sworn accordingly. The Court next proceeds to elect a Treasurer, Robert Bateman praying, in regard of his age and weakness, to be discharged. Alderman Highlord, Robert Bateman, and Rowland Wilson are nominated; whereupon Bateman is re-elected, the Court having had such long experience of his honesty and sufficiency. He returns the generality thanks, declaring that were he not assisted by John Massingberd he would be unable to accept the post. Six Committees having, according to the tenor of the charter, to retire, Alderman Fenn and Mr. Lewis Roberts being dead, it is agreed by erection of hands that they and Sir James Cambell, Sir Nicholas Crispe, Abraham Reynardson, and Edward Abbott shall be succeeded by Alderman Soame, George Clarke, Richard Middleton, John Bludworth, William Methwold, and John Massingberd; and the following Committees continued for the ensuing year, viz., Sir Morris Abbott, Sir Henry Garway, Aldermen Cordwell, Gayre, Abdy, and Highlord, Messrs. John Holloway, Thomas Munns, [Thomas] Stiles, Thomas Spurstowe, William Ashwell, Matthew Craddock, Rowland Wilson, John Langham, John Trott, Richard Davies, William Francklyn, and Thomas Kerridge. The choice of the Company's Secretary, Accountant, Auditor, and other officers is left to the Court of Committees, who best know their abilities. One of the generality proposes that two constant courts be kept twice a year, at Michaelmas and Easter; this Mr. Governor promises shall be done. (4½ pp.)

ANSWER OF MR. SMITHWICK TO CERTAIN CHARGES, JULY 7, 1640 (*Public Record Office. Dom. Chas. I.*, vol cccclix, No. 66).

For three things am I maligned and hated by some aldermen and other citizens of London. For hindering a few of them from deceiving the East India Company of 500,000*l* or 600,000*l*. at one time, and for endeavouring to advance the East India trade, and hindering them from destroying it as to this kingdom. For giving 1,000*l*. to the repairing of St. Paul's, and being an instrument to procure that work to go on. For offering to give 100*l*. to His Majesty the last year towards the charge of the then expedition for Scotland. Hereupon it was given out that I was a lunatic, and

that I could not have paid the 100*l.* if it had been called for. And when the rebellious rout was up against His Grace of Canterbury and others, it was reported that I had betrayed all the rich citizens by giving up a list to His Majesty and the Lords of 300 names who were able each to give or lend to the King 1,000*l.* apiece. To which I answer, that I could as well have paid the 100*l.* offered as have bestowed 120*l.* this year on my son's outfit for this year's expedition. Now seeing the citizens accuse me and wish me much evil causelessly, I desire I may be admitted to show how 200,000*l.* or 300,000*l.* may in probability be obtained from the citizens for the King's service, and that fairly, tolerably, and speedily. That the ways in which I have already showed to the Lord Treasurer and Lord Cottington may be tried and put in execution; how the East India trade may soon be settled and put into a way for an ample prosecution thereof, to the great profit of the Adventurers and to the advancement of the King's revenue 50,000*l.* per annum, besides a great increase of customs. That trial may be made of the course which I shall propound, how sufficient money may be fairly raised to finish the repairs of St. Paul's, and every year to build one new church or chapel in some of the great out parishes of London, where there are above 10, 15, or 20 thousand persons inhabitants in a parish and but one church, an evil to be remedied with all expedition for the honour of God. (1 p)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 10, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 223).

Mr. Acton's bill of 3*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* for law causes to be paid. Thomas Smethwicke, Junior, transfers his adventure of 200*l.* in the Third Joint Stock, upon which is divided 100*l.*, with all profits to his father, Thomas Smethwicke. Thomas Smethwicke, Senior, desires leave to peruse the Company's letters and accounts in order to show that it has been wronged of 1,000*l.* or 500*l.* at the least, and he also desires a copy of the invoice of the *Discovery* and of the other ships as they come home; both these requests are refused as unfit and unreasonable. John Spiller is appointed land purser for discharge of the *London*, and is promised that on discharge of the ships his motion for increased salary shall be considered. Mr. Steevens presents an estimate of the cost of repairing the *Mary*,

which amounts to 2,105*l*. Some think it would be better to break up the ship than to spend so much money on her, and advise that she be valued and sold outright ; but the Court adheres to its former resolution to have her repaired ; nevertheless it is agreed that she shall be first valued, and Messrs. Rainsborough, Titchin, Southan, Pott, Stevens, and Swanley, or any four of them, are entreated to survey and report on the said ship. Meanwhile Stevens is required to ascertain where the best planks and timber may be had for the repairs. Certain Committees are entreated to consider all petitions for remission of freight brought home in the *London* or other ships, and to act therein as they shall think fit. (2¼ *pp*.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 11, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 225).

Mr. Governor acquaints the Court that Dr. Reeve, the King's advocate, had been with him and desired that some settlement be made with Guy Bath, late a factor in Persia ; it is resolved to call a special court to decide this business. The letters from Bantam brought by the *William* and *Reformation* are read. The Court observes that some of those returning come well recommended ; and calling to mind the Black Book kept for record of all errors, now resolves that a White Book be kept in which to register all good and faithful service rendered, that the Company may know from time to time who are fittest to be employed. Cappur is appointed to keep this book as well as the other. It is also noted that pepper is bought at 5*s*. the picul but invoiced at 8*s*. ; the Court, not understanding this, resolves to look into the matter. It is likewise observed that blacks have to be hired at three rials of eight per month to navigate the Company's ships in the Indies, there not being sufficient Englishmen ; which is a waste of the quick stock. (1 *p*.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 15, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 227).

The estimate presented by Stevens for repairing the *Mary* is further examined, together with the report of Captain Rainsborough and others appointed to survey and value the said ship ; the report

concurs with the estimate, and states that the hull of the *Mary* is not worth more than 600*l.* After long debate, the Court confirms its former resolution to have the *Mary* repaired, more especially as Stevens states that no similar ship could be built for less than 8,000*l.*; and he is therefore ordered to proceed with the work at once. Mr. Massingberd reports that upon a rumour of the King's intention to coin copper money¹, Lady Moulson, who has lent the Company upon bills a round sum which is now due, requires to be repaid unless assurance is given that the debt shall be paid either in gold or silver coin at its present value. The Court, considering the importance of this subject and that this exception is now generally made by all who lend out money at interest, and how prejudicial it would be to the Company should others likewise call in their money, resolves to acquaint the King and State; direction is accordingly given to the Secretary to draw up a draft of a petition to the Lords of the Council, submitting that, if His Majesty proceeds with his intention, not only will the adventurers be disheartened and discouraged but the Company's trade, which has never been in a more hopeful condition, will be much endangered. This draft being read and altered as is thought fit, the Court directs that it be engrossed, and entreats the Governor, with Messrs. Wilson, Middleton, and Ashwell, to present it to the Lords in the afternoon. Mr. Younge is appointed for discharge of the *William* and Mr. Cappur for the *Reformation*. Mr. Blount reporting that the coopers are unable to make casks at the rate formerly allowed, because of the present dearth of food, their allowance is increased from 17*s.* to 18*s.* per tun. The Governor proposes that a ship be sent to the Coast to provide cloths for the southern factories; the *Reformation* is suggested, and Stevens is directed to survey and report upon her. Such reparations as are necessary in and about the east dock in the Yard are ordered to be carried out. A motion is made to set a valuation upon the present Joint Stock, that it may be turned over to another account; to this it is answered that, when all the goods now come home are disposed of, it will be fit to nominate a committee of the generality

¹ 'Brasse money' in the margin; and Ludlow (*Memoirs*, vol. 1, p. 9) uses the same term. The proposal really was to issue a new shilling containing only threepennyworth of silver, alloyed with copper (see Ruding's *Annals of the Coinage*, vol. 1, p. 257).

to join with the standing committee, as is customary, to consider an indifferent valuation between the new and the old adventurers. Certain Committees are desired to buy 100 white cloths at from 9*l.* to 13*l.* per cloth. William Kitchin, who was paid 8*l.* 4*s.* for piloting the *Discovery* from Plymouth to the Downs, is, on petition, given an additional 2*l.* (3 *pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 17, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 230):

Great sums of money having been issued to many of the Company's servants, of which no timely account has been given, the Court resolves that those who receive the Company's money shall be enjoined to deliver in an account once a month, and shall not be permitted to receive any more until such accounts are audited and passed, but, as deliberation is necessary before settling a rule to be constantly observed hereafter, it is resolved to hold a meeting to-morrow to consult on this particular business. The Governor relates that he went to Whitehall, accompanied by certain Committees, intending to present the Company's petition concerning copper money to the King and Lords; but meeting Lord Dorset on the way, and telling him of their errand, he advised them to wait, as many merchants and others intended to deliver like petitions that afternoon, and the King might think they had all combined together. His Lordship further advised that the Lord Treasurer and Lord Cottington should be first acquainted with the petition, and if they give no satisfactory answer, then it might be presented to the Lords at the next meeting. This advice was followed, and the Lord Treasurer, after hearing the petition, observed that the reasons alleged by the Company were similar to those brought forward by others, and had already been considered by His Majesty and the Lords; and unless new reasons could be adduced he could give little comfort, as they had already tried to dissuade the King from this course, but His Majesty replied that his necessities and present occasions must be supplied and, failing any other, by this means. Mr. Governor declared that the consequence would be the failing and loss of the East India trade, for if the Company's creditors call in their money it cannot subsist, its debt at interest being above 250,000*l.* and there

being a large return of goods which it will not know how to sell. These and other reasons were alleged by Mr. Governor, but seeing that none would prevail he and his colleagues left and went to Lord Cottington, where the same ill success attended them. The Court, considering that all that is necessary has been done, resolves to rest quiet and await the event. Mr. Governor further relates that he reminded Lord Cottington of the clause in the preamble which prohibits the Company from sending any more quick stock to the East Indies upon the old account after last May, and requested him to explain whether, as the subscription is not going on, the Company is restrained by this clause. His Lordship replied that the King had referred this paper to his and Secretary Vane's consideration, and they would appoint a time to confer with Mr. Governor and other Committees about it on being reminded. The Court desires the Secretary to attend Their Honours accordingly. Mr. Cappur is directed to procure a warrant from the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports for the arrest of Captain Cobb, it being understood that, as the Captain's dwelling is within the limits of the Ports, he can only be arrested by a special warrant from His Lordship. Remission of freight on divers drugs is allowed to Captain Mynors. The demand of Abiahm Aldington for money due unto him is referred for consideration till the return of Mr. Methwold. Mr. Massingberd reporting that the debts owing to the Company by divers adventurers amount to 14,000*l.* and that, though bills for the same have been due two months, yet payment is not made, Mr. Ashwell is entreated to call upon the several debtors for payment, the Company having much need of money for mariners' wages and other pressing occasions. (3½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 18, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 233).

The following duties are allotted to the several Committees, viz., the supervision of all warehouses and of Mr. Blount's work; of the Exchange cellar; of accounts of all money disbursed and of the Treasury; of all business at Blackwall; the perfecting of the accounts of returning or deceased factors; the taking of bills and calling in of debts; the provision of cloth and supervision of its dyeing and imbaling; the perusal of letters from all factories, and

the notification of stores and provisions wanted for the ships, and collection of the same; the settlement with mariners and others as to private trade; the provision of beef and pork; of fish and groceries; of bread, beer, cider, iron, tin, lead, and like requisites; of wine, 'wineager, beere-aeger'¹, aquavita, sweet and rape oil, French barley, and plates for bread rooms; of cordage, hemp, pitch, tar, rosin, masts, deals, wainscot, timber, planks, sheathing boards, tree-nails, pipe and hogshhead staves, casks, apparel for mariners, and billets; of quicksilver, coral, cloth, and all presents; of powder, shot, ordnance, flags, canvas for sails, pepper-bags, waistcloths, boltropes, and stores for gunners, cooks, armourers, boatswains, stewards, and carpenters; of gold and silver; hiring of mariners; supervision of the Auditor and of the Bookkeeper; Mr. Massingbird, assisted by the Auditor and Accountant, to present monthly a list of those in debt to the Company; Messrs. Ashwell and Methwold to have the care of all suits in the Admiralty, and Messrs. Kerridge and Methwold to see that Mr. Cappur enters correctly in the Black Book all complaints received from the East Indies, and all commendations in the White Book. Mr. Cappur is directed to remind the Court and also particular Committees of business to be transacted, and Richard Swinglehurst is required to notify Cappur of all that passes in court. Ordered that the *London* be discharged first, then the *Reformation*, and lastly the *William*; meanwhile the lumber is to be taken out of the two last ships. Sambrooke reports that, since John Mountney left, the account of expenses and issue of stores in charge of the Husband has not been sent in; whereupon he is directed to consult with Mr. Markham on this business and report to the Court within a fortnight. (3½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 22, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 237).

On receipt of private information from one of the Farmer's Deputies at Dover of the great quantity of private trade landed from the *London*, the *William*, and the *Reformation*, the Court desires the advice and assistance of Sir Nicholas Crispe in discovering and seizing the same. He promises to write and order help to be given the Company; John Younge, being the most able and

Vinegar produced by the fermentation of beer.

experienced man for this purpose, is directed to take the letter, his place for discharge of the *William* to be supplied by Mr. Barnes (who came home commander in her) and the purser. A charge of 4*l.* interest is remitted to Mr. Vincent, linendraper. Thomas Fownes, son-in-law to Sir Nicholas Crispe, is admitted gratis a free brother of the Company. Captain Wills presents three Portuguese, who came with him from Goa in the *London*. They return thanks to the Court for their accommodation and the respect shown to them, and profess that they will always be ready to do the Company service; their request that their trunks may be removed from the *London* and put aboard a ship now bound for Lisbon without being first brought to the Custom-house is assented to. The same favour is granted a Danish minister who came in the *William* from Bantam. John Browne offering to buy at a disinterested valuation all the Company's iron ordnance, Alderman Gayre and Captain Stiles are desired to ascertain his terms and report to the Court. Notice to be given of a general court appointed to be held this day sennight, that the generality may signify how the goods returned in the ships shall be sold. (2½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 24, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 239).

Upon information received from the President and Council in India of the misdemeanours of Thomas Clarke and Richard Hudson, two factors employed at the Coast of Coromandel and now come home in the *William*, they were arrested and imprisoned on an action of 1,000*l.* each entered against them in the 'Compter Poultry'; several petitions from them are now read, in which for many reasons and on account of 'this contagious tyme, and for that the sicknes is in the said prison, which may endanger their lyves', they beg to be released on bail. The Court, considering that, if they do fall sick and die, an ill interpretation may be put upon their arrest, and the Company likewise lose all hope of satisfaction, orders that on assigning all their wages, debts, and goods to the Company and entering into a bond of 1,000*l.* to make good anything over and above this sum found to be owing, and agreeing to attend the Court daily and not leave the kingdom without permission, they be at once released and the action against them

withdrawn. Mr. Governor relates that Secretary Vane told him yesterday that the Company's aggrievances, lately delivered to himself and Lord Cottington, had been referred by the King to the Lord High Admiral, the Lord Treasurer, Lord Cottington, Secretary Windebank, and himself, and they hoped to have leisure to consider them some time next week. Thereupon it is resolved that extracts be made from the general letters concerning the proceedings of the Dutch against the Company and presented to Their Honours before their next meeting. Mr. Smethwicke alleges that there has been an error made in the Company's books, amounting to 500*l.* and upwards, for discovery of which he desires to see the books of accounts. The Court remembers that this request has been several times preferred and refused, because neither the nature of the error nor the year in which it was committed was stated, and it was thought that Smethwicke's chief desire was to pry into the Company's books, but he persisting in his request the books are produced. Thereupon he wishes to see the payments made in 1635 (when he was a Committee) for gratifications conferred on the Governor, Deputy, Treasurer, and the rest of the Committees, which that year by general consent were reduced one half; this he now finds was not observed, and so the Company prejudiced 500*l.* and more. He also protests against the inequality of the gratifications given to the Committees at the discretion of the Governor, Deputy, and Treasurer, when some were favoured more than others; and desires a list of the particular sums paid to the Governor, Deputy, Treasurer, and Committees the last five or six years. The Court refuses to allow this, thinking that his pretended service proceeds more from malice to some particular person than from good affection to the Company. (2½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 29, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 242).

Approval is given to a contract with Mr. Newman, who has offered to supply the Company from Ireland (on obtaining the Lord Lieutenant's warrant) with 200,000 pipestaves, 50,000 hogshheadstaves, 50,000 headings, and 30,000 barrelstaves, to be delivered at the Yard at Blackwall. The King of Macassar's letter is delivered to Mr. Sherburne to give to Mr. Secretary Vane, with

the request that he will present it to King Charles and ascertain when and where His Majesty will receive the present accompanying ft. Mr. Acton's bill of 7*l.* 1*s.* for law causes to be paid. Resolved to notify the generality this afternoon of the intended sermon of thanksgiving for the safe arrival of the Company's ships; also to read them such parts of the general letters as have been marked. The bonds of Thomas Clarke and Richard Hudson for turning over their wages &c. to the Company are read and allowed, and Sambrooke is required to deliver in before next Friday a written account of all money and other estate received from Clarke, and to produce the Company's bill given out in Clarke's name for payment of 200*l.* or thereabouts, which is now assigned to the Company in part satisfaction. Upon reading an order from the Court of Requests, Mr. De Beck's adventure in the Third Joint Stock is transferred to Joas Godscall with all profits, Mr. De Beck promising to clear all brokes and other debts charged upon it. (2 pp.)

A GENERAL COURT, JULY 29, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 244).

The Governor observes that it is not many months since they assembled to give thanks to Almighty God for the safe arrival of the *Royal Mary* after a long and dangerous voyage; that now they have met to return thanks for the arrival of the *Discovery* and *London* from Surat and of the *William* and *Reformation* from Bantam, they all having had a quick passage; he desires the generality not only to return thanks in private but publicly in the house of God, to which end this day three weeks has been appointed for a service to be held in the parish church. The Committees think it right to inform the generality of the state of the Company's affairs, and that those portions of the general letters relating thereto should be read. This is done and gives much satisfaction. Mr. Governor declares that if the generality 'will let fall the trade to the Dutch, they may', for the hands of the Committees are tied and they cannot, neither will they, send any more stock to India without the general consent, though they think that a ship should be dispatched next October with a stock of 10,000*l.* for Masulipatam. Motion is made that the Company's debt be extinguished and an end made of the present Stock; to which Mr. Deputy

EAST INDIA COMPANY

replies that if this had been done a year ago, according to the wish of some, the adventure would have only produced 70*l.* per cent.; whereas now they may have cent. per cent.; that an end cannot be made without a valuation, and that the accounts having come from Bantam in the newly arrived ships it can now be seen how matters stand; there are already goods sufficient to lade a big ship, besides the large stock sent into those parts, and in the *Crispian* to Surat, where when the *London* left 600*l.* was owing; it is not known what stock is in Persia, no account having come from thence. Another of the generality moves that, as for the last two years no ship has been sent out without extraordinary charge, one be freighted; to which answer is made that it is proposed to dispatch a vessel on a coasting voyage to Masulipatam, Bantam, Jambi, Macassar, and back again, and how feasible it would be to freight such a one is left to the generality to judge; besides, this subject has often been debated by the Committees, who think that without a stock in the Indies it would be neither safe nor profitable. Sir Nicholas Crispe moves that there is no necessity to dispatch a ship, and proposes that a convenient number of the generality join with the Committees to examine how the trade may be maintained. The Governor then puts it to the question whether a ship with a quick stock of 10,000*l.* shall be sent to Masulipatam, and by a general erection of hands this is assented to. A court of sales to be held this day fortnight. (2 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 31, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 246).

John Spiller's bill amounting to 56*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, for disbursements aboard the *London*, to be paid. Alderman Highlord and Captain Stiles to contract for knee timber. Leave given Spiller to go into the country for a fortnight. Mr. Massingbird's refusal to take out the silk he underwrote for is noted. Guy Bath petitions to be cleared and produces his account, but as the books to prove it have not come home he is ordered not to trouble the Company again till they do arrive. It is also noted that the said Guy Bath received part of the 800*l.* paid by the Dutch for interest on moneys lent them. Men from the *London*, *William*, and *Reformation* to be cleared. (1 p.)

A GENERAL COURT, AUGUST 1, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 247).

This Court is called expressly to submit to the generality a proposition lately made by the Lord Mayor to the Governor and by him propounded to the Court of Committees, which approves but does not think fit to act upon it until it is confirmed by the generality. The said proposition is to send at once a considerable quantity of pepper to the Straits, or other parts, upon the Company's account, as was done last year, in order to provide money more easily and cheaply to dispatch the intended ships about All-Hallowtide to the Coast, and in the spring to Bantam and Surat, as well for payment of the coral ordered, as for providing rials of eight, which will be procured there far cheaper than here. Two or three ships in the river are offered as freight; so that, if the generality consents, the pepper can be shipped forthwith and be first in the market. Objection is made that if so much pepper is sent abroad it will hinder the sale of the remainder; to which reply is made that such a small proportion of pepper as is intended cannot prejudice the Company. The Governor putting it to the question, assent is given by a general erection of hands. It is further decided to send 800 bags of pepper to Venice and Leghorn; but how this quantity is to be divided, what to pay for freight of the ships, to whom to consign the pepper, and whether to assure all or part, is left to the Court of Committees to determine. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, AUGUST 5, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 249).

The Governor reports the consent of the generality to pepper being sent to Leghorn and Venice upon the Company's account; whereupon, after much debate, the order is submitted to. Though formerly upon like occasions the Guidanaes have been employed, now upon the special recommendation of several Committees the disposal of such part of the 800 bags of pepper as is to be sent to Leghorn is entrusted to Job Throgmorton and John Collier; and it is resolved to consign the proportion for Venice to Signors Lorenzo Peti, Romulo Romuli, and Paul del Sero. Messrs. Bodilo and Martyn, masters of ships, are treated with about freight of their vessels for transportation of the said pepper; but they

asking too much, no agreement is made, and the Deputy is entreated to speak with Mr. Bodilo at the Exchange and offer him 1,000 dollars for freight of 500 bags of pepper to Leghorn, to be laden within six days, and he to undertake to go direct to that port. The Lord Mayor reports a message he received from the Lord Treasurer and Lord Cottington to the effect that, as the King is not supplied with money as he expected, he must make use of his own, his need being very pressing; and there being about 15,000*l.* due to him from the Company for impost on the goods received by the *Discovery*, *London*, *Wilham*, and *Reformation*, Their Lordships desire that 4,000*l.* thereof be paid either to-day or to-morrow to Sir Paul Pynder, who supplying His Majesty with a larger sum is to pay both into the Exchequer to-morrow, and the Company to pay the remainder of its debt as speedily as possible. The Lord Mayor and the Lord Treasurer's Secretary, Mr. Warwicke, who has brought a letter to the same effect as the message, are told that the King owes the Company 4,744*l.* for saltpetre delivered to Cordwell, the powdermaker (a tally having been given for 2,019*l.*, but no assurance for the remaining 2,725*l.*); therefore the Court desires that 4,744*l.* may be deducted from the impost, when the 4,000*l.* shall be willingly paid to Sir Paul and the remainder as soon as the ships are unladen and the accounts made up. Mr. Warwicke declares that the Lord Treasurer thinks this request reasonable and agrees to it, so a warrant is ordered to be made for payment of 4,000*l.* to Sir Paul Pynder. An advance of 40*l.* made to Newman to enable him to fulfil his contract to provide staves, &c. Stevens to be paid 38*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* for oaken timber brought to Blackwall Yard by Griffin Kempe. A note is received from Sir Dudley Carleton, desiring the Committees to attend the Lords at Whitehall in the afternoon. Mr. Deputy's request that a friend of his may be told the price of the Company's calicoes, as if this is reasonable he may take the whole parcel, is referred for future consideration. (3 *pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, AUGUST 7, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 253).

The Court resolves to have one-fourth part of the proportion of pipestaves, &c. mentioned in the licence procured by Newman, which he being content to provide, he is allowed three per cent.

provision upon the prime cost and impost of the staves. Alderman Highlord and Mr. Wilson are to perfect the contract and take order for letters of credit to supply Newman with money for this business. The difference between Daniel Harvey and the Company is referred to Mr. Deputy and Mr. Ashwell for settlement. The Governor reports that when he and some Committees waited on the Lords at Whitehall yesterday, Lord Cottington required an account of the condition of the Company; thereupon the Governor stated that though the returns had been good, yet because the King's declaration is wanting for redress of the grievances formerly presented, the subscriptions come in slowly; the principal discouragement is that no satisfaction is made by the Dutch, who are adding to their former injuries in the Indies, nor for the depredations committed by Cobb and Ayres, nor for Mr. Courteen's voyage, nor in the impost and the saltpetre business. His Lordship gave several answers to each particular, but pressed for payment of the impost on the goods now returned, in order to furnish the King's occasions; this the Governor and all tried to defer, but only present payment would serve. It is therefore resolved to make the payment, and to strike a tally for the money due for saltpetre and deduct it from the amount. Contract made with Roger Martyn to carry 800 bags of pepper to Leghorn and Venice on payment of 2,500 dollars for freight, 1,500 to be paid at Leghorn upon delivery of 500 bags, and 1,000 dollars at Venice on delivery of the remaining 300. Certain Committees are entreated to perfect the charterparty draft and order the pepper to be shipped. (2 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, AUGUST 8, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 255).

Ordered that tickets be left at the houses of those adventurers who have not yet taken their divisions of silk from the Warehouse, warning them to do so, that there may be room for the goods lately come home. Order regarding some rhubarb sent by Mr. Merry to Mr. Ashwell is referred to the next court. A gratification of twenty nobles given John Fredericke, a Dutchman, for eight months service in the *Reformation*; and 10s. from the poor-box given to Elizabeth Healing, a widow. ($\frac{1}{2}$ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, AUGUST 12, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 256).

Howard Strachy (Sir John Heydon's clerk) to be paid 4*l.* 12*s.* for striking the tally in the Exchequer for payment of 2,019*l.* due to the Company for saltpetre sold the King and charged upon the Lord Mayor's account of the impositions, the said tally remaining still in Sir John Heydon's hands and delivery refused until it is paid. Mr. Spurstowe moves that the Company is much prejudiced by allowing sugars to be 'tared in the gunny' instead of the buyers taking them 'in their shirts'¹, upon which Mr. Blount is directed to see that the latter course be always followed. The Court understanding that many who have underwritten to take out their divisions in silk forbear or refuse to do so, Mr. Massingberd among the number, the latter is asked his reasons for not acting in accordance with his subscription and the intent of the preamble agreed to at a general court; he excuses himself at first, but on reading the preamble and his subscription he submits and promises to conform to the directions of the Court. All others who have underwritten in a like manner are enjoined to do the same. A list of those indebted to the Company is ordered to be presented monthly by the Treasurer, that they may be called upon for satisfaction, or proceeded against according to law. Cordage to be provided for the *Reformation*. The Court orders that no security once refused shall be again put to the ballot, and that no ballot shall be had unless at least thirteen Committees are present. Stevens's estimate for repairing the *Reformation* not exceeding 250*l.* (great iron bolts excepted), he is directed to put the work in hand at once and finish it as soon as possible. (2½ pp.)

A COURT OF SALES, AUGUST 12, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 258).

Sale of Persian silk and stuffs, cotton yarn, sugar, sugar candy, dry ginger, dust of ginger, Lahore indigo, mace, and nutmegs, with names of purchasers and prices. (2 pp.)

¹ The inner casing of calico in which the sugar was packed. No allowance was necessary for this, whereas, if the outer covering of gunny were left on as well, the purchaser could claim a deduction from the weight on account of the wrappings.

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, AUGUST 14, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 26c).

Daniel Harvy to be allowed 60*l.* for want of weight in the silk he lately bought, this sum to be deducted from his debt to the Company and he to pay the remainder. Mr. Sherburne to receive 20*l.* on account for disbursements for the Company. Edmond Chambers to be paid 12*l.* 5*s.*, for taking Committees to and from Erith to discharge the ships lately returned. Report being made on the 'taring' of sugar, Mr. Blount is ordered to tare 40 bags and give allowance for the rest, and to get as much for the skins of the whole parcel as possible over and above 12*l.* already offered. Herriott Washborne, George Henley, Thomas Gowers, William Tilsie, Thomas Culleyn, William Allyn and his son Thomas allowed by the balloting-box as securities for sugar. The difference between the Company and Mr. Langham, concerning cloves bought by him at the last court of sales, is referred to the next court. (1 *p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, AUGUST 15, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 262).

Consideration had whether to divide to the adventurers or not. Sambrooke, being called in to give account of the present state of the Company, represents that over and above all debts there is 168,000*l.*, which will allow of a division of 25 per cent., leaving 30,000*l.* towards interest, &c., this estimate not including the shipping at Blackwall nor old stores. Debate ensues as to the amount to be divided, and finally it is resolved to divide 25 per cent. in calicoes and silk without bringing in money, and no man to be compelled to take out; that the indigo and pepper be sold to extinguish the debt, and money divided in convenient time to such adventurers as shall not take out goods. A General Court to be held next Wednesday afternoon Sir John Nulls demands in writing the bargain of cloves he pretends to have bought at the last court of sales; the Court disclaims all knowledge thereof. Mr. Browne also demands the aforesaid bargain of cloves, for, hearing Sir Nicholas Crispe offer 5*s.* per lb. for the whole parcel he then bid $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* more than the price set at the going out of the candle. Mr. Foote likewise makes demand for the said cloves, he having bought them for 5*s.* 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per lb. Hereupon he and

Mr. Browne are told that three men bid the same price at one and the same time, and as it cannot be decided which made the first offer, according to custom the cloves are to be offered by the candle again. Mr. Langham insists again in his demand for the said cloves, alleging that he offered 5s. 0½d. per lb. for them before the other men, which he can prove by many witnesses, and if he does not have them he will present a bill in Chancery, which he now desires leave of the Court to do. This is readily granted, but at the same time he is told that Mr. Governor and others are ready to take oath that they do not know who really bought the cloves first, and in such cases it is always customary to put the goods up for sale again; neither does his pretended agreement with Foote and Browne bind the Company to perform the bargain. Resolved that, for prevention of a similar disorder, some course be devised for regulating the courts of sales at the next general court, that buyers may know better how to act. Pedro Joseph, a Venetian, sent aboard the *Reformation* by warrant from the President and Council at Bantam, is given twenty nobles for his services. (2½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, AUGUST 19, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 264).

The porters' bill of 10*l.* for casing and carrying 800 bags of pepper, and 10*s.* for ink, allowed, but their day wages stopped while this work is in hand. Motion made for a division of 75 per cent. to the adventurers and that 25 per cent be brought in to extinguish the debt at interest, thus making an end of the old Stock, but Mr. Governor moves 'that new underwriters may come in for the northward for a voyage for one yeare', which would avoid the issuing out of much of this present Stock. Mr. Deputy proposes that the Company's goods be sold and its debts paid, its estate in town rated, as well as what has been sent to Surat and Bantam this year; this to be done reasonably, so as to encourage the adventurers to continue, and others to buy and come in. After serious deliberation of these and other propositions, it is decided to make a division of 25 per cent., which, according to the opinion of the last court, is as much as can safely be done. Elias Watson, Richard Hunt, and John Seed accepted by the

balloting-box as securities for sugar candy, and Richard Ashhurst Richard Abbott, William Tilsly, and Thomas Gowre for sugar. (2 pp.)

A GENERAL COURT, AUGUST 19, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 265).

The Governor makes known that this Court has been called to settle the dispute about the bargain of cloves set up at the last court of sales. After some debate it is decided by erection of hands that the cloves were not sold to any one, and the Governor reports that the Committees have thought of an order to regulate the Courts of Sales in future, that similar disturbances may be avoided. This order is read and approved, its tenor being that the Court resolves that, if two or more buyers (whether brethren of the Company or strangers) bid for a commodity at the going out of the candle, Mr. Governor, Mr. Deputy, and the Committees present shall decide who made the purchase; but if they are unable to do so, then, according to the ancient custom of the Company, the commodity shall be again put up for sale by the candle. On the motion of one of the generality, it is agreed that if a Committee is a buyer he shall have no voice in the sale or judgement in case of question. The Governor proposes that a division (which has been seriously considered by the Committees) of 25 per cent. be made to the adventurers in calico at $2\frac{1}{4}$ for one [*sic*], all divisions to be taken out (including those of widows and orphans), any remaining to be laid apart year by year until they are taken out. Hereupon some propose that a division of 75 per cent. be made and money brought in to wipe out the debt; to whom Mr. Deputy replies that adventurers having paid their subscriptions are not obliged to bring in money; some few may, but most will not. The opinion of the Committees being formed from a computation of the state of the Company, this computation is called for and read, when it appears that there would remain over and above the 25 per cent. about 39,000*l.* [*sic*], which though not enough to make a valuable division, yet may serve to pay interest and to set forth the ships now preparing for the Coast, it being necessary to fetch the goods from abroad, for on the last ships coming from Bantam there were 600 or 700 tons of pepper ready, and stock has been sent out to buy as much more; therefore either the

Company's own ships must be sent or some must be freighted. One of the generality observes that the Company's ships stand in 40*l.* per ton freight, but he thinks that freighted ships would be much less; he is told that the Company's ships must either be used or sold. Thereupon Mr. Deputy offers to buy the *Mary* and freight her to the Company at 25*l.* per ton, the same terms on which the *Caesar* was freighted. Finally the Court rests well satisfied with the division of 25 per cent. proposed by the Committees. Resolved and ordered that the indigo, silk, pepper, and cloves be left to the Committees to sell at such prices and in such manner as they think best, a written notice to be put upon the Exchange to notify buyers. A court of sales to be held next Friday morning; all goods that shall remain unsold to be disposed of by the Court of Committees. (34 pp.)

A GENERAL COURT OF SALES, AUGUST 21, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 269).

Sale of Leggee, Ardas, Cannaree, capitone¹ and defective silk, green ginger, lignum aloes, pepper, and cloves, with names of purchasers and prices. 'The pepper was then proposed to bee sold by subscription, 100 baggs in a parcell, none to write for more; the price 2*s.* 1*d.* sifted to transport (tyme four six months from Michaelmas), and 2*s.* 2*d.* per lb. garbled to sell in towne; and noe sale unles all bee underwritten before Tuesday night. Onely if any please to underwrite for 100 or 200 baggs to sell in towne, hee shall have them, first come, first served. And if 2 or 300 baggs remayne not underwritt for, those to bee left to the Court of Committees.' (1 p.)

'A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEES,'² AUGUST 22, 1640 (*Court Book*, vol. xvii, p. 270).

Ordered that no adventurer have his division in calicoes until he has first taken out his division in silk. Mr. Bowen directed to write and consign 500 bags of pepper to Job Throgmorton at Leghorn and 300 bags to Lorenzo Pettie, Romuli Romulo, and Paulo del Sero at Venice, the said bags being encased and num-

¹ Fr *capiton*, translated by Cotgrave (1611) as 'course sleave (silke)'.

² Those present were the Governor, the Deputy, the Lord Mayor (Sir Henry Garway), and Messrs. Holloway, Trott, Spurstow, Bludworth, and Massingberd.

bered, but as the contents of the inner bags are not noted the Committees think that the recipients should take off the cases and remit [a note of] the contents of the inner bags to the Company to enable Mr. Bowen to perfect the invoice. Lord Cottington, representing the King's many and urgent occasions, especially against the Scotch, offers in His Majesty's name to buy all the pepper and underwrite for it at the Company's price and time according to the preamble at such security as cannot be objected to, either for the whole parcel or for each hundred bags; 'adding withall His Majesties grace and favour to the Company to graunte their request for mittigacion of impost, &c., as was desired.' Mr. Governor replies that no answer can be given, there not being a sufficient number of Committees present to make a court, most of them being out of town till Tuesday; but a court shall be called on Wednesday morning and a general court in the afternoon, without whose consent so great a parcel of goods cannot be disposed of, that the Company is in debt for 250,000*l.* and the pepper was to be sold towards satisfaction thereof. Lord Cottington says that his offer is in accordance with the preamble, and his intention of performance so real that he himself wrote down the names of those to be offered as securities; he also offers to 'acknowledge a statute to the Company'¹ as a further security if any doubt is entertained. Mr. Governor representing the fears which the adventurers might have, His Lordship conceives them to be 'pannick feares' and assures the Committees of the King's and his own real resolution of giving satisfaction according to the time and price prescribed. Finally, His Lordship is desired to wait until Wednesday afternoon is past, when he shall be told of the Company's answer; meanwhile it is arranged that none of the pepper shall be underwritten for. Abraham Aldington to be paid 50*l.* on account. Ordered that two policies be drawn up to insure the pepper sent to Leghorn and

¹ The meaning seems to be that he offered to give a 'statute-merchant', which is defined in Wharton's *Law Lexicon* as 'a bond of record under the hand and seal of the debtor, authenticated by the King's seal, which renders it of so high a nature that, on failure of payment on the day assigned, execution may be awarded without any mesne process to summon the debtor, or the trouble or charges of bringing in proofs to convict him . . . It has fallen into disuse'. No clearer proof could have been afforded of Lord Cottington's sincerity or of his conviction that the money would be forthcoming in due course.