

Captain Alnutt for casting away the *Palsgrave*, read; also his petition, in which he pleads that it was not wilfully done, for he lost everything he possessed, except what the Company has, part of which he now desires to supply his immediate wants; not being satisfied, the Court resolves to proceed against him, and, in case he cannot find bail, to accept of 'his owne juratory caution'. Tokens sent by Mr. Methwold to his wife to be given her, with promise that, if he wish, he shall return at the expiration of his covenanted time. The Court, hearing that 5*l.* has been stopped from the wages of the men who left the *Discovery*, orders that only 5*os.* shall be paid by them, and their accounts cleared. Mr. Colthurst to buy two drakes¹ of seven cwt. each for the *Fonas*. Fears being expressed by Mr. Swanly that the *Fonas*, if she has to carry the Persians' goods, will not be able to take her proportion of provisions, he and Captain Pynn are recommended to stow as much as possible. Mr. Shilling's account ordered to be cleared. Freight on goods sent home by her husband remitted to the wife of George Watts, chirurgion at Surat. Damasks, satins, and brown calicoes sold to James Martyn, and the Company's great emerald and 'crosse jewell of ballast rubies' sold to John Cartwright. Mrs. Rogers to pay freight on calicoes sent by her son Thomas. Freight remitted on cubebs sent from Surat by Francis Bretton to his brother Daniel. The Court, after hearing the report given of Mr. Brewster, decides not to entertain him as a factor. (2 pp.)

SIR MORRIS ABBOT, HENRY GARWAY, AND THOMAS MUN TO LORD ASTON AT MADRID, MARCH 3, 1637 (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, No. 33).

Have received His Lordship's letter of January 17, and have also heard from Mr. Secretary Windebank what has been done concerning the truce with the Portugals. They understand that the Spanish Ministers have not replied definitely, though they are favourably inclined to the proposal; beg, therefore, that the Ambassador will continue his efforts, and acquaint them with the result. (*Original*. 1 p.)

¹ A small kind of ordnance.

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 6, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 279).

Mr. Thatcher again offers to buy the Company's lignum aloes, but the Court resolves to sell them by the candle. Richard Swinglehurst reports what passed with Mr. Secretary Cooke about the Persian Ambassador; resolved that the Ambassador's goods be shipped at once, that he pay freight here, and that Mr. Governor, Mr. Deputy, Alderman Abdy, and Mr. Mun visit him to-morrow, the Court deciding to feast him before his departure. Letter read from Mr. Bell; it is determined that he shall pay all debts due to the Company, and be made an adventurer for the remainder [*sic*], amounting to about 1,450*l*. Mr. Bowen to deliver a tub of chinaware to Mr. Mountry; he paying the petty charges. Alderman Abdy and Messrs. Cockayne and Spurstow entreated to view and price the Company's calicoes. Mr. Steevens, master of the *Eagle*, requests that he may not be detained above three years in India after his arrival; to which the Court consents, and desires Mr. Bowen to note the same in the general letters. Pearls to be delivered to Mrs. Montgomery. Mr. Crispe's offer to buy indigo referred for consideration. Mr. Younge reports his proceedings at Plymouth, and his agreement to sell Sir Nicholas Slaning the ordnance and calicoes recovered, he paying half the cost of the recovery (1 $\frac{1}{4}$ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 8, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 280).

Mr. Governor reports that he, Mr. Deputy, Alderman Abdy, and Mr. Mun waited yesterday on Secretary Windebank to desire him to show to the King the Company's petition [*see p. 240*] in answer to Mr. Courteen's. Mr. Secretary read the petition and thought it unnecessary, as the reference to Mr. Courteen's petition related only to the two first ships; he desired to see the said petition and reference. Mr. Governor then tells of their visit the same morning to the Persian Ambassador, and that the Persians are now here to settle their business. They appear and present a note of their goods to be shipped; whereupon Mr. Governor reminds them of the many inconveniences caused by this transportation, declares

that the Company will not be liable for any damage that may happen to their goods during the voyage, and demands the freight formerly settled; this they still seem willing to pay, on receipt of an acknowledgement from the Company, but are doubtful how to furnish so great a sum, and so depart. Messrs. Crispe, Kerridge, and Abbott entreated to invite the Ambassador to dinner at Crosby House on Tuesday; Mr. Sherburne is to invite Sir John Finnett to accompany him, and Aldermen Andrews and Gayre with Messrs. Crispe and Abbott 'to agree with the cooke and butler by the great', and see to the provision of all necessaries. Mr. Potter, demanding half Mr. Bell's adventure, is denied, as the subscriptions are all in Mr. Bell's name. Messrs. Trott, Reynardson, and Francklyn to oversee the drying of the wet silk. Motion made on behalf of John Spiller, factor in India, whose contracted time has expired, for increase of salary; he being recommended by the President, and having acted as second to Mr. Fremlyn in the negotiation to Sinda, his wages are raised from 40*l.* to 60*l.* per annum. Mr. Harvy's offer to buy all the Company's silk referred for consideration. Mr. John Fowke desires the favour of the Court in the difference long depending with him, for he has had no division since paying in his adventure, and would therefore like it valued, the Court to reserve some part, and give him the remainder, as he cannot conform to the decree; answered that by this decree he is a debtor to the Company, which the Court insists on, and does not intend to alter, but suggests that he being best able to value his own adventure should offer a sum for the Company's satisfaction, to which they would listen; this he seems inclined to do, and to apply to one of the Committees rather than to the Court. Mr. Cartwright's security for the emerald and ballast rubies disallowed. He then presents a letter from Mr. Secretary Cooke, desiring the payment of wages long due to him; this is refused, the Court knowing nothing about it. Mr. Smithwick appears and desires, according to the Lord Treasurer's reference, leave for himself and two referees to examine the Company's accounts; after some dispute, this is allowed, and Messrs. Cockayne, Francklyn, and Markham are entreated to be present when they come to-morrow. A Portugal, who came in the *Discovery*, given 4*l.* for his return journey. A bill of 4*l.* 15*s.* from

George Tash, purser's mate in the *Jonas*, to be paid, and 3*l.* given him for his attendance at the Downs. (2½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 10, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 283).

Mr. Cartwright offering himself, Francis Loyd, and a Councillor, as security for the great emerald and cross of rubies, is refused, but on his naming Mr. Tristram, Mr. Addams, the woollen draper, and Mr. Richard Young, the mercer, any two of these with himself are allowed. Upon report made of Thomas, second son of Theophilus Brereton, who was recommended for a factor by his father, he is not thought fit for the Company's service. John Drake, factor in India, who has served there eight years, being recommended as able and deserving, his salary is raised from 20*l.* to 60*l.* per annum. A remnant of crimson velvet sold to Mr. Alderman Fenn. On the recommendation of Sir John Jacob, Daniel Okonner's petition to receive his wages is granted. Mr. Spurstow's motion for a friend of his to have two hogsheads of the Company's cloves to ship for Leghorn, he arranging the price and time of payment, is agreed to. Messrs. Laurence and Abbott report concerning Christopher Read, on which certain goods are ordered to be delivered him, but not the 100*l.* desired, the Court resolving not to give any money until they hear his answer to the accusations brought against him, which they intend to do after departure of their two ships. Mr. Alderman Abdy reports that he and other appointed Committees have viewed and divided the Company's calicoes into twenty lots, and proposes that these be priced, as many are anxious to buy them; resolved to consider this business next Monday. Mr. Cappur to desire Mr. Edisbury, Surveyor of the Navy, to discharge the gunner of the *Eagle*, who has been pressed into the King's service, the said ship being ready for her voyage. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 13, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 285).

There not being sufficient powder for the *Jonas* and *Eagle*, the Secretary is ordered to procure a warrant from the Lords of the Admiralty for twenty-five barrels of the King's powder; and

Mr. Fotherby is directed to choose twenty barrels of the best of the Company's powder sent home and forthwith ship them in the *Fonas*, with five barrels of the same for the pinnace, these to be put apart to be used first. Agreed to sell Messrs. Briggs and Only cloves for transportation at 6s. per lb. at three, six months. Mr. Cartwright reports that the securities proposed by him, and accepted by the Court, refuse to act and therefore he must 'leave the bargain'. He then demands payment of 200*l.* due unto him for wages for two years' service beyond his contracted time, declaring that when he asked for this in 1628 an order was drawn up acknowledging the same; he also prays for consideration for many services rendered the Company at great personal expense and hazard of his life; resolved that the books be searched for the said order, and consideration had of his demands after departure of the ships. Accusation of private trade against Francis Brewster, chirurgeon in the *Discovery*, read; which he confessing, and referring himself to the Court concerning his calicoes in their possession, his case is referred for consideration. His brother, John Brewster, desires entertainment as factor, being skilful in writing, accounts, and the 'Spanish tongue', but is referred for answer until the next court, when inquiries as to his life and behaviour shall have been made. Letter read from Mr. Cramporne and answer ordered to be sent, telling him to take up at Plymouth the money disbursed by him for the Company and charge it upon them by bill of exchange, which shall be paid here. On motion made by Captain Crispe, the wife of Abel Druce, factor, is ordered to be given 20*l.* from her husband's wages now, and 10*l.* yearly. The wife of Thomas Smith, chirurgeon in the *Fonas*, to receive three months' pay extraordinary yearly from her husband's wages. Stephen Lanman, whose wages were stopped for leaving his ship at Plymouth, alleges that he did so on account of illness and so is ordered to be paid. (2 pp.)

PETITION OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY [MARCH, 1637]
(*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, No. 34).

On February 27 the Company received a petition exhibited by William Courteen, with His Majesty's pleasure signified thereon, that as the late Sir William Courteen, the petitioner's father, was

neither interested nor acquainted directly or indirectly with the voyage or design of the *Roebuck* and *Samaritan*, the said petitioner shall not be questioned or vexed concerning this business and his person or estate shall not be prejudiced for his fleet set forth under His Majesty's commission. The Company humbly submits to His Majesty's commands, but at the same time prays not to be debarred from lawful prosecution of the said Courteen, as executor to his late father, if the Company's rights or privileges be entrenched upon by the fleet set forth last spring by Sir William Courteen with Captain Weddell as commander. (1 p.)

HIS MAJESTY TO CAPTAIN WEDDELL, MARCH 14, 1637 (*Ibid.*, vol. iv B, No. 35).

Upon complaint by the East India Company of piracies committed by the *Samaritan* and *Roebuck*, His Majesty gave leave to the Company to make proof in a legal manner of the damages thus caused and the persons responsible; but perceiving that the real object was 'to fall on the persons of those that set forth the said shippes . . . which Wee must avowe to have been sent with our privy and licence, albeit with noe authority to commit any act which might bring soe apparent prejudice and dammage to our said East India Company', and doubting lest the Company may take occasion to discourage Weddell by giving out that the said ships are part of his fleet and that His Majesty has withdrawn his protection, he now declares that this is not so, and assures Weddell of his 'constant and continued gracious favour'. He is to proceed with cheerfulness and alacrity in accordance with his commission 'which Wee have now lately (and since the said East India Companies complaint against the said two other shippes) given order to bee passed and confirmed to you and your adventurers under the great seale of England.' (*Copy.* 2 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 15, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 287).

For fear the *Jonas* and *Eagle* may lose their voyage, Messrs. Young and Hurt are ordered to go to Gravesend, pay the mariners their imprest money, and hasten the shipping of provisions and all necessaries, that so the said ships may be ready to sail for

the Downs next Monday ; also to order a pilot. William Eldred, who broke his thigh in the Company's service, to be paid 3*l*. formerly ordered. John Carter, whose wages for his homeward voyage after the burning of the *Charles* and *Swallow* were stopped, being now cleared by the Court of Admiralty and he entertained as chief master's mate in the *Eagle*, the Court orders that his said wages, amounting to 24*l*., be paid him, not as wages but as a gratification from the Company. Information by Captain Styles of the breaking of one of the two minions bought for the *Jonas*, and of Mr. Steevens supplying two more on promise that the Company will give him two of equal weight and goodness, to which promise the Captain desires to draw the attention of the Court. Motion made on behalf of the Persian Ambassador, who wishes to leave this country with honour, and without it being known that he is paying for transportation of himself and his goods, which he conceives to be a proceeding of some disrepute for an Ambassador, and is therefore willing to present the Company privately with 500*l*. before leaving ; this being debated, it is resolved to take no less than the 1,000*l*. formerly demanded, with the understanding that it is paid for freight alone. Messrs. Andrew Banes and Walter Pilgrim, ministers, desire entertainment as preacher in the *Jonas* ; whereupon it is put to the question whether any minister shall be sent this voyage, and resolved that it is very requisite for such a great number of men now going to have some one to 'feed their soules'. Mr. Governor desires that inquiries be made concerning the two applicants, and that they bring letters and testimonials from Mr. Oldworth, or some of the other eminent divines in the city, to the next court. Sir John Watts, by his subscription to an account dated January 19, 1637, drawn out by Mr. Sambrooke, transfers his adventure of 300*l*. in the Third Joint Stock with all profits to Mr. Abraham Chamberleyne. A proposal that Mr. Cooper go overland to Persia and succeed Mr. Gibson as Agent to the Company is referred for future consideration. Captain Allnutt's petition read, in which he desires the Court's favourable construction of the unhappy loss of the *Palsgrave*, and humbly submits himself to their censure rather than to a trial in the Admiralty, the cost of which he is unable to bear ; after consideration he is required to write down what estate he carried

out and brought home in the said ship and present it to the Court, when answer shall be given him. Adam Lee, master's mate in the *Palsgrave*, who lost all his estate when she was cast away, and was employed by Mr. Young four months to help recover the wrecked goods, and is now entertained in the *Fonas*, is given 10*l.* for his pains and to set him out to sea. Mr. Richard Davies, merchant, transfers 1,500*l.* of his adventure in the Third Joint Stock with all profits to Mr. John Langham, merchant. On petition of Robert House, cooper in the *Fonas*, his wife is ordered to be given three months' pay yearly of his wages during his absence. (3 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 17, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 290).

Mr. Colthurst directed to enter at the Custom-house the twenty-five chests of rials of eight now ready to be shipped, and also the coral, with directions that twenty chests of the silver with the coral be put aboard the *Fonas* and five chests of silver in the *Eagle*. The Court, being reminded of the debt owing the Company by the Queen of Jambi, contracted by Mr. Sill, and partly paid through the care of Mr. Peirce, who succeeded Sill, and the rest acknowledged and promised but not paid, directs Mr. Peirce (whom they have entertained again as prime factor in those parts) to endeavour to obtain the full payment, which he promises to do, but desires that the debt be not charged to his account, Mr. Sill, not he, having made it; agreed to, but resolved that when Mr. Sill's brother claims his estate from the Company this debt shall be remembered. Mr. Francklyn, one of the Warders of the Tower, accepted as security for Mr. Peirce, and Mr. Thomas Deacon, cheesemonger, as security for Mr. Thurston. Mr. Andrew Banes, who desired entertainment as preacher to this fleet at the last court, now presents a written testimonial, signed by Dr. Micklethwaite,¹ Dr. Leech, and Mr. Oldworth, reporting him a man of able parts, Master of Arts of Christ Church, Oxford, of civil and orderly behaviour, and conforming to the doctrines of the Church of England; whereupon he is entertained at 50*l.* per annum, 10*l.* is given him for books, and another 10*l.* imprest on account of his salary. Captain Pynn

¹ Master of the Temple and chaplain in ordinary to the King.

moving that if, notwithstanding his utmost endeavours, he is unable to reach Surat, his first intended port, he may be allowed to go to Bantam and thence to Surat, the Court agrees to his doing so, if 'by the immediate hand of God' he cannot reach Surat in season, but not otherwise; and Mr. Bowen is directed to insert as much in his instructions. Mr. Pilgrim, who applied for the post of preacher, is given 20s. towards his charges for attending the Court. Mr. Cordwell, the King's powder-maker, appears with Mrs. Collins and declares his readiness to pay the 100*l.* agreed, on the Company sealing the lease of the mills at Chilworth unto him, and to give his bond for payment of Mrs. Collins's debt, if it does not exceed 300*l.*; the Court directs Mr. Acton to prepare the said lease for them to seal, but requires Mrs. Collins's debt to be made out, that it may appear what has been paid upon her late husband's and Mr. Billingsly's bond, and what remains; also that Mr. Cordwell, being the King's servant, produce a surety, when they will accept his offer. Upon the report given of Mr. John Brewster, who desired to be entertained as factor, he is not thought fit and so is dismissed. (2½ pp.)

A COURT OF SALES, MARCH 17, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 292).

Sale of lignum aloes, flat and Lahore indigo, cotton wool, 'raw, throwne, Lanquin, Cantan, Chigwa, and boyled Quena silke,' with prices and names of purchasers. (½ p.)

KING CHARLES TO [PRINCE RUPERT], [MARCH, 1637?] (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, No. 38).

His Majesty has been credibly informed by divers seamen and others that St. Lawrence, alias Madagascar, may be made a place of great advantage for refreshing and succouring the ships of His Majesty's subjects trading to the East Indies, and that the King and others of that country have invited the English to plant themselves there. He has therefore made choice of [Prince Rupert] to plant His Majesty's subjects there and make trial of so hopeful a project. And when he shall have made a plantation there, then His Majesty will give [blank]. (*Unfinished draft by Edward Nicholas*. 1½ pp.)

PROJECT OF PRINCE RUPERT FOR COLONIZING MADAGASCAR
[MARCH, 1637 ?] (*Ibid.*, vol. iv B, No. 38 I).

Prince Rupert 'having a desire to putt himself upon some honorable action', and having been presented with a relation of Madagascar, and fully satisfied as to its fertility, the wholesomeness of the air, plentifulness of provisions, &c., conceives it may easily be made 'the ballance of all the trade betwixt the East Indies and theis parte[s] of the world'. Thereupon he has resolved to go to the said island and make it his plantation. The King much approves of this intended enterprise and will graciously assist his nephew and take it as a token of his subjects' love if they adventure their moneys, persons, kindred, goods, and shipping with Prince Rupert. The latter has determined to send Captain John Bond with a ship or pinnacé, engineers, and artificers fit for a plantation, who are to search out the best seat and harbour for fortifying, and next September the Prince himself will follow. (*Endorsed* 'Prince Rupert for Madagascar.' 1 p.)

SIR THOMAS ROE TO ELIZABETH, QUEEN OF BOHEMIA,
MARCH 17, 1637 (*Public Record Office: Dom. Chas. I*, vol. cccl, No. 16).

. . . There are other projects to send Prince Rupert to conquer Madagascar, but that is absurd. It is a course to lose the Prince in a desperate and fruitless action, from which he desires the Queen to take him off. . . .

PRESIDENT METHWOLD AT SURAT TO EDWARD SHERBORNE,
MARCH 19, 1637 (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, No. 36).

Hopes that the *Discovery* arrived in time to let the Company know the position of affairs before the dispatch of its fleet. Understands by the resolution to dissolve and desert the trade how discouraged the adventurers feel. But if the present Company drops it, he doubts not that others will take up the trade and, procuring more privileges and favours from the King, prosper therein, 'for never since it was a trade were there so many conveniencies conducing thereunto as at present thorough our peace or truce with the Portugalls.' In that case he does not think

that the form of government will be altered (for that cannot be bettered), but merely a new stock will be started by some of the old adventurers joining with those connected with 'Sir William Courtiines voyadgs' (His Majesty excepted). Should this come about, Methwold supposes that Mr. Mountney will be appointed to succeed him, his time being expired and he resolved to return home in the *Mary*. Cannot conceive that the King will let fall a trade which supports commerce so largely and increases his customs, though he has ruined this present stock by 'letting Cobbe loose into the Redde Sea by commission under his privy signett, and countenancing Captain Weddall by his more publique letters patents.' If the Company be undone the King has been the cause, for, though doubtless ignorant of Cobb's intentions, he was of course aware that he was infringing its privileges. Methwold has had to bear the brunt and therefore has the greatest cause of complaint, 'and nowe I knowe no trouble or misery (except sicknesse) which I have not mett withall in this my short employment in India.' Thanks Sherborne for his letters, viz. one of the 29th of March and 1st of April [1636], sent by the *Mary*, the other of the 3rd of December [1635] by the *Swan*. Has read Mr. Smithwick's calumnies, which would have broken his heart (the Company seeming to adhere unto some of the particulars) had not Sherborne's letter reassured him; so now, having such constant friends, he can slight both Mr. Smithwick and his malicious adherents. Sends his answers to the said calumnies, which Sherborne may either communicate or suppress as he thinks best; for, as he is resolved to return home at the expiration of his term, Mr. Smithwick will not have long to abuse him. Has overcome all personal difficulties, but the honour of the nation and the Company's estate still suffer. Expects much by the *Blessing*.¹ If she succeeds he will take care of the Company's indemnity; but then Mr. Porter will be indignant. If so, Methwold trusts the Company will support him. Finds his difficulties almost insupportable, and therefore rejoices in the prospect of going home next January. Is glad Sherborne has outlived his 'everlasting preedecessor' and is admitted to his office²; but would regret it if it means that he must give up his post with

¹ Sent to recover the booty from the pirates.

² As Clerk to the Board of Ordnance (retaining his post as Secretary to the Company).

the East India Company. Hopes also that it does not necessitate Sherborne leaving St. Helen's for the Tower, for Methwold has already directed his wife to secure a house in the former locality, so as to be Sherborne's neighbour. Protests that he has done his duty. The Company might have seen 'the golden age renewed' but for the King giving countenance to interlopers, but now their estate is desperate if His Majesty does not help them. The youth, Edward Kinnersly, is well placed with William Slade. Has opened Sherborne's letters addressed to Captain Willes and Mr. Thimbleby. Hopes to bring home some small remembrances for his friends. Salutes his 'shee coussin, my little valentine, and your coussin Mary'. Begs Sherborne to help his wife in clearing some private goods he has sent her, and also in the matter of the house in St. Helen's. (2 pp.)

ENCLOSURE IN THE FOREGOING (*Ibid.*, vol. iv B, No. 37).

No man is obliged to submit in silence to the injury of false accusation; therefore Methwold answers Mr. Smithwick thus. He acknowledges that his actions are not always above reproof, yet denies the greatest part of what Mr. Smithwick's malice has asserted. He has never pretended unto any excellency, but ascribes his successes unto God and any miscarriages to his own imbecility. Sets forth his services to the Company since his first entertainment in 1615. Denies any wrong dealing with regard to the estate of Henry Patteson, whose executor he was; but admits that at his return to England he was fined 150*l.* sterling, defalked from almost eight years' salary, the cause best known to the Company, to whom he submitted with all respect. Justifies himself concerning private trade found aboard the *Charles*, half of which belonged to Mr. Biddulph. Denies the accusation brought against him of ill carriage during the nine years that he lived in and about London; also Mr. Smithwick's insinuations that his accounts were sent only for the Auditors' perusal. He sent them to the Company, lamenting that Hopkinson and Gifford had left them so imperfect. Mr. Mountney had rectified them and could best explain them. Methwold understood merchants' accounts long before Mr. Smithwicke was a broker; but he does not pretend to have mastered these, since they were committed to Mr. Mountney, the charge of government and corre-

spondence taking up all his own time, and Mr. Mountney has shown more ability therein than his traducers can equal. Conceived it his duty at his arrival to advise the Company of its great debt of 100,000*l.*, but denies charging Mr. Wilde with leaving the Company so indebted, having only said that the custom of engaging so deeply began with him and was continued by him beyond the Company's liking. Hopes that he did no injury by insisting on his opinion that the *Charles* and *Jonah* had been better sent to Bantam than returned to England. States that the vast expenses which devoured the stock preceded his arrival in India, and that they were increased by the unheard-of famine and the abundance of shipping then there, and that for this Mr. Smithwick's discontent will be no remedy. Concerning the freight of the four ships he has already replied in his letter to the Company. (*Endorsed* 'Answer to Mr. Smithwicke.' 2 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 20, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 293).

Mr. Abraham Chamberleyne, desiring to know the Company's resolution about the impost on cloves and pepper bought by himself and Mr. Casteel, is told that the said goods must be paid for (except 20*l.* or 30*l.*) until certificate is produced for their transportation, when the account shall be cleared. He then speaks concerning some spikenard he bought long ago and wanted garbled; to which Mr. Governor replies that, no condition having been made at the sale, he should have had it garbled himself, but instead he went to the counting-house and erased the entry from the book of contracts. Mr. Governor relates that the interpreter from the Persian Ambassador has been to him and promised that the Ambassador's goods shall be sent to-day to be shipped and 200 rials sent in part payment of transportation of himself and the said goods. William Swayne, merchant, accepted as surety for Thomas Merry, factor. Ordered that Mr. Cockayne have thirty hogsheads of cloves delivered him, with liberty to take more, and pay for them as the rest shall be sold. Proposal read concerning Prince Robert. [Rupert] and a plantation on Madagascar; Mr. Governor, Mr. Deputy, and Mr. Mun are entreated to call on the Lords of the Council to-morrow and inform them that the Company, on account of great debts and

'meanenes' of trade, desires to be excused from adventuring therein. Mr. Governor reports receipt of a letter from Secretary Windebank, enclosing a letter from the King to Captain Weddall, with special order for its safe delivery; whereupon Captain Pynn is directed to convey the said letter carefully and to give the Company a receipt for it. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 22, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 294).

Mr. Andrew Banes, minister, allowed 10*l.* in addition to the 20*l.* he has already received, for his better accommodation, and Nathaniel Jefferson, haberdasher, accepted as his security. Thomas Reynolds, late purser in the *Palsgrave*, accepted as security for Edward Harrison, purser in the *Edgle*, and Richard Cope, merchant, for John Cape [*sic*], factor. Mr. Governor reports what passed at the Council board about the intended plantation on Madagascar,¹ and that a written answer thereon is required from the Company; whereupon draft of an answer, written by Mr. Sherburne, is read and ordered to be perfected by next Friday. William Clobury, formerly apprentice to Mr. Humphrey Slany, admitted by service to the freedom of the Company, paying twenty nobles to the poor-box. Messrs. Daniel, Michael, and Eliab Harvy accepted as security for Persian and China silk ordered to be delivered. (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 23, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 295).

The Court being informed by letters from Captain Pynn and Messrs. Young and Swanly that many of the Company's best goods, as coral, &c., cannot be shipped in the *Fonas*, the Persian Ambassador sending in her no less than sixty or eighty tons of goods, it is thought necessary to buy or freight a small ship. Mr. Deputy proposes that one belonging to Mr. Robert Clement, of about 120 tons, for which he asks 400*l.*, be bought, as she can be

¹ An entry in the Privy Council Register (March 21) records that Abbot and Garway appeared before the 'Lords Referrees' and declared that the Company could take no part in the adventure, owing to lack of money, but that 'they held it for a very honourable enterprize and would in no sort oppose it, but would rather give their assistance to the undertakers.'

ready in a few days, and may be of service to the Company for many years. This is debated; also whether to land the private trade (of which there must be a large quantity), or the Persians' goods, and stow the Company's first, and then hire a ship for what cannot be stowed in the *Jonas*, thus making the Ambassador sensible of the courtesy shown him and the inconvenience he is causing. At this point Mr. Tynes arrives with a reply from the Ambassador to the effect that he wishes he had never come to England, that he is willing to sell his cloth to the Company if they will buy it, and that he has not more than thirty tons of goods, for which he will ask the King to freight him a ship to take them to Holland, and so get passage home from thence, if the Company refuses him accommodation. Hereupon it is moved that he with the greater part of his goods be allowed to go in the *Jonas*, and if another ship is hired that he contribute to the cost; and this being put to the question, the majority are in favour of the Company's goods being stowed first and the Ambassador's taken out, but, there not being a full court, this, as a matter of great consequence, is referred until the morrow for final decision (1½ pp.)

REQUESTS OF 'ALLY BALLY', THE PERSIAN AMBASSADOR
[MARCH, 1637] (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, Nos. 32, 32 I, 32 II)

1. That His Majesty's pleasure may be signified concerning his passage, and whether he must pay the amount demanded by the East India Company, viz. 1,000*l.* for freight and a further sum for the use of the great cabin. 2. That His Majesty would answer the letters he brought from the King of Persia. 3. That His Majesty would signify his pleasure whether custom is to be paid on the goods mentioned in the accompanying lists, which are all for the use of the King of Persia. 4. That His Majesty would do him right for the insolencies done to him and his followers (*Memorandum*. 1 p.)

Enclosed: Note of goods bought by the Ambassador at Venice or in England for the use of his master. (*Two copies, differing*. 1 p.)

KING CHARLES TO THE KING OF PERSIA [MARCH, 1637 ?]
(*Public Record Office: Royal Letters, Persia and Eastern Princes*,
vol. xl, No. 191).

Acknowledges receipt of 'Your Highness kinde letter'. Has been very glad to see the Agent and Commissioner, recommended as the King's trustiest friend, who has not only been several times admitted to the King's presence and graciously heard, but care has been taken of his person and followers, and order given to the merchants to transport him and his master's goods with all care and safety, and for the said Agent to be used with such respect and honour as is fit for the minister of a Prince so great and so much beloved and esteemed by the King. Doubts not but that His Highness will take this as a token of the brotherly affection which shall never be wanting towards him, and desires the like love in return, so that their mutual amity 'long since begun betwixt both our crownes', and the free correspondence and intercourse between their subjects, may continue and increase without blemish or interruption, by the favourable usage of the English merchants according to the stipulations made with them. (*Corrected draft. Endorsed: 'A draught of an answere to the King of Persia.' 1 p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 24, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 297).

Richard Swinglehurst reporting the forwardness of the *Fonas* and *Eagle*, Mr. Colthurst is ordered to clear them at the Custom-house, as the searchers of Gravesend will not let them pass without special order from the Farmers. Mr. Nicholas Wilford, a skilful painter, sent by the King upon some special business to the King of Persia and recommended to the Company by the Earl Marshal, is allowed passage for himself and servant on the *Fonas*. Resolved to buy the *Providence* (formerly offered) with all her tackle and furniture from Mr. Clement for 400*l.*, to carry the stores and provisions left out of the *Fonas*. Mr. Percival Wily, merchant tailor, allowed as security for James Congden. Gilbert Gardiner, master's mate of the *Fonas*, chosen master of the *Providence*. Mr. Beauchampe, brother-in-law to the late Sir Francis Crane, demands, on behalf of the King, that if the tapestry hangings sent to the Indies by Sir

Francis are not sold they may be returned; also that payment be made of 800*l*. due two months ago to Sir Francis on divisions; answered that the Company's letters of advice shall be looked into for information concerning the tapestry, and the division paid with interest after the holidays. The Persian Ambassador appears and agrees to pay down 1,500 rials for freight and to give a bill for payment of the remaining 2,500 rials at his arrival at Gombroon. Mr. Treasurer presents a list of the Company's importunate creditors, to whom 21,916*l*. 15*s*. is owing, and requests that some means be taken to supply the Treasury; the Court, thinking that money will come in by discount upon sale of goods, promises to supply him to the best of its power. (2 *pp*.)

SAMUEL CORDEWELL TO SECRETARY NICHOLAS, MARCH 25, 1637 (*Public Record Office: Dom. Chas. I*, vol. cccli, No. 7).

Prays him to move the Commissioners [for Gunpowder] that the East India Company may be sent to about their petre, and that Mr. Poole may certify whether the petremen have from November to March brought in the like quantity of petre as formerly. Has in every respect performed his contract; therefore desires the Lords will [consider] in what [way] they may furnish him with petre. In six days he shall have wrought up all that he has, as well Barbary as English, and the standing still of his mills will disadvantage His Majesty in his profit. ($\frac{3}{4}$ *p*.)

JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE UNDER JOHN WEDDELL, CHIEF COMMANDER, RICHARD SWANLEY IN THE *SUN*, JOHN CARTER IN THE *KATHARINE*, AND EDWARD HALL IN THE *PLANTER*, MARCH 28, 1637 (*Ibid.*, vol. cccli, No. 30).

The ships sailed from the Downs on the 14th April, 1636, crossed the equator on the 12th June, made the Cape of Good Hope on the 26th July, and Goa on the 6th October, where they remained until the 17th January, 1637, when they proceeded onwards to Cochin, and as on this day set sail for Malacca. [*At p. 4 of the MS. there occurs the following passage in reference to a transaction which has already been noticed in an Order of the King in Council of the 6th January, 1637. 'The ship Blessing, from Surat, had also been at Joana, and departed from thence about two or three*

days before the *Mary's* arrival, for whom she had there left letters, importing the loss of the *Samaritan* at Mohilla, and the death of Mr. Ofield, occasioned, as they relate, through discontent at being circumvented by an underhand private commission given to Captain Cobb, which indeed hath proved the ruin of that design, for Cobb and Eyres proceeding with the *Roebuck* to the Red Sea, and there committing divers outrageous insolencies upon the bodies and goods of the Mogul's subjects, and other the Portugals' friends, have not only made the name of an Englishman odious in all those parts, but, moreover, occasioned the seizure of the English President and his Council at Surat, who, besides strict imprisonment and the payment of 107,000 rupees, we[re] hardly, after two months, released upon promise to send forth in quest of Cobb. Upon which design the *Blessing* came to Joana, though too late, where she understood that Cobb had been rifled by the *Swan*, and the sum of 8,000*l.* taken from him by John Proud, master of that ship, for the use of the East India Company, his masters, and that Cobb and Eyres, with the *Roebuck*, were again proceeded for the Red Sea; which certainly was a very great oversight in Mr. Proud, who, if he had authority to seize the stolen treasure, might also have detained the pirates and their vessel. Howsoever it fell out, we are certainly lost in any design to the northward, for it will be impossible for us to land any goods or maintain any traffic in the Mogul's dominions without seizure both of our persons and estates, so that our intent of sending home large quantities of indigoes, &c., this year will, we fear, be wholly frustrate; and what other troubles in other parts may ensue is uncertain, though much to be doubted.'] (13 $\frac{1}{2}$ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 29, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 299).

Question having arisen between Mrs. Ellam and her children concerning the Court's order of May 4, 1636, by which the former was given a whole quarter of her husband's wages, though he died in the middle of the quarter, it is explained that what was due to Mr. Ellam at his death belongs to the general estate and cannot be given away by the Court, but that Mrs. Ellam was presented with the rest because of the great loss she sustained in her

husband's death. Mr. Jaques Oyles, merchant, transfers 400*l.* of his adventure in the Third Joint Stock with all profits and free of all charges to Mr. Simon Laurence. Mr. Cartwright's petition to the King, with His Majesty's reference on it, being read, Messrs. Cockayne and Francklyn are nominated to join Mr. Daniel Harvy and Mr. Osborne to examine and report on the differences complained of in the said petition. Mr. Thomas Parker writing on behalf of the sister and administratrix of George Quipp, who died in India, the Court orders that she be paid 50*l.* of her brother's estate now, and the remainder next May. Thomas Brewster, chirurgon in the *Discovery*, requests remission of freight on calicoes, but these being prohibited goods and his private trade having been complained of in the general letters, he is told that he deserves rather to be fined than favoured; whereupon he offers to pay any freight imposed, or sell the Company the calicoes at cost price; the latter offer is accepted and his account cleared. Mr. Vernon, with two of the Persian Ambassador's servants, brings 1,500 rials of eight in part payment of the agreed freight, and on demand replies that the Ambassador will give his bill for a further 500 rials and hopes no more will be expected; if it is, he will give it on his arrival before his goods are disembarked, but he thinks 4,000 rials is too much for him to pay. The Court replies that he has been shown extraordinary favour and much loss and inconvenience has been caused to the Company by this transportation; therefore he is expected to make good his agreement. Mr. Governor then puts it to the question whether to accept 2,000 rials or insist on the payment of 4,000 as formerly agreed; by erection of hands it is decided to accept now the 1,500 rials, but to demand a bill for 2,500 rials more to be paid at Surat or in Persia, this bill to be drawn up and presented to the Ambassador, when they do not doubt but that he will sign it and acknowledge the courtesy shown him. On the motion of Mr. Gardiner, master of the *Providence*, Mr. Woodall is ordered to provide a chirurgon's chest and all other necessaries for the said pinnace; and on Mr. Massingbird's motion, John Browne, formerly servant to Mr. Chapman, the goldsmith, is chosen her purser at 40*s.* a month. Ordered that the wages of Richard Robinson, chirurgon in the *Palsgrave*, be paid and his account cleared. Messrs. Francklyn and Spurstow

directed to view and report on goods sued for by Mrs. Browne, widow of the late Captain Browne. (2½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MARCH 31, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 301).

A pipe of canary wine to be bought for the *Providence*, but not to take any from the store in the *Jonas*. The Court, noting Mr. Fremlyn's ability and that he is the fittest man to succeed Mr. Methwold, increases his salary to 150*l.* per annum from the arrival of the *Jonas*, both to encourage him and in regard of his former services. The answer of the Court to Prince Robert's declaration concerning the intended plantation in Madagascar is read again, seriously debated, amended, and ordered to be engrossed and presented by Mr. Sherburne to Mr. Secretary Windebank; the Court states that it has power only to dispose of the Company's stock-in-trade to the East Indies, and that its estate is now so weak through losses and disturbances at home and in the Indies that no supply can be afforded, and therefore prays to be excused. (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 3, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 303).

Letter read from Mr. Secretary Windebank requiring, in the King's name, an account of money due from sale of Sir Francis Crane's tapestries, and to know whether any are unsold, Mr. Bowen directed to search the letters of advice, and Mr. Sambrooke to find out what has been paid, that answer may be given. Mr. Acton required to draw up an answer to a very scandalous bill presented in Chancery by one Frewen, who married the widow of Richard Hopkins, master in the *Comfort*. The broker who sold some of the wet silk is allowed half per cent. on the bargain. Mr. Sambrooke to give warrant for payment of 101*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, due to the late Arthur Suffield, to George Cavill 'his brother' and administrator. Mrs. Collins claiming 7*l.* as still owing her, Mr. Markham is directed to pay the same if really due, and then see to the bonds and releases being sealed. Calicoes sold to Mr. James Martin at abated prices. Jane, widow of John Ellesmore, late master in the *Blessing*, to be paid what is due on her husband's account. (1 p.)

NOTES BY SECRETARY NICHOLAS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY, APRIL 3, 1637 (*Public Record Office & Dom. Chas. I.*, vol. ccclii, No. 23).

Consider the saltpetremen's commissions, now nearly expired. . . . Agree with the East India Company for their saltpetre, for that the gunpowder maker has not petre enough to keep his mills in work six days. . . .

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 5, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 304).

Ordered that when Mr. Cordwell seals a bond for payment of 27*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* (the remainder of Mrs. Collins's debt, from which the 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* claimed by her is deducted), then general releases shall be signed between her and the Company. Francis Browne, executor to Thomas Barker, desires the remainder of 'his said brother's' estate, but this business having been already examined and a petition made to the King, when nothing was found to be due, the same answer as before is returned. On reconsideration, the Court resolves to continue the payment of 400*l.* yearly as composition for spices to Mr. Blackwell, notwithstanding their former order to stop the same. Offer made to buy the Company's saltpetre for the King at 3*l.* the hundred, but the Court decides not to sell under 3*l.* 10*s.* the hundred. On petition of Mrs. Hoare, Mr. Sambrooke is ordered to make up the account, when answer shall be given her. Ordered that payment be made to Messrs Andrews and Kidden of what is due to the account of the late Richard Andrews. Security for calicoes allowed by the balloting-box to James Martyn, Philip Mead, Giles Dent, John Strange, Humphrey Fox, Benjamin Goodwyn, Charles Harvy, Roger Heynes, Francis Waterhouse, John Harper, and William Vannam. Mr. Harvy's request for allowance for damaged silk in the parcel he bought of the Company is refused, nothing having been said about such allowance in the written contract. Mrs. Haines appears with her brother, Mr. Elseworthy, and requests that her affairs, which have been waiting for years, may be settled; Mr. Governor replies that the Company's estate is still in Persia, and the estate of Mr. Haines not yet brought to their account; also that Mr. Haines invested 4,000 rials of their money on his own account, besides losing a chest of

rials at play to Captain Pickly. As, however, the Court is willing to end this business, Messrs. Cockayne, Francklyn, and Kerridge are now entreated to examine and report on Mr. Haines's account and on the objections brought against him, while Mrs. Haines is to be lent 50*l.* upon bill, and Mr. Treasurer directed to value and then deliver to her all such jewels as are in his custody. The petition of Anne, widow of Thomas Whitlock, for allowance on goods, is referred to Mr. Sambrooke for examination. (2 pp.)

ELIZABETH, QUEEN OF BOHEMIA, TO SIR THOMAS ROE, APRIL 18, 1637 (*Public Record Office: Dom. Chas. I, vol. ccclii, No. 41*).

. . . As for Rupert's romance of Madagascar, it sounds like one of Don Quixote's conquests, where he promised his trusty squire to make him king of an island. States what she had written upon the subject. . . .

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 14, 1637 (*Court Book, vol. xvi, p. 306*).

A small ruby ring belonging to John Miller, who died in Bantam, is delivered to John Cappur, in accordance with a letter of attorney from Randall Miller, the administrator. Two gold rings and a silver seal delivered to Mr. Andrews, brother and administrator to Richard Andrews. One gold ring and two with stones belonging to John Jarvis, who died in India, ordered to be given to his mother. Mr. Colthurst to sell the provisions from the ships and answer the letters from France about cordage. The officers at Blackwall and the Custom-house are desired to give lists of stores in the storehouses fit for sale. Four demiculverins sold to Mr. Deputy. Mr. Brooks complains that all the wages of his servant Tush, who had been fitted out by him at great expense, have, by permission of the purser, been spent; Mr. Reynolds, the purser, being called in, explains that part was spent during Tush's illness, while 10*l.* was defalked because his ship was cast away; and the Governor tells Mr. Brooks that one-third of a servant's wages is due by order of the Company to the servant. Security for calicoes allowed to Richard Peate, Henry Hickford, John Rashly, Leonard Tillett, William Pawlett, Francis Knight, and John Story. Draft

of the policy for 100,000*l.* having been read, and the Company's intention only to satisfy their creditors to that extent having been made known, it is referred to a fuller court. As the referees for Mr. Smithwick's complaint are to meet next Thursday, a court is called for next Monday to prepare an answer to the said complaint. Mr. Cartwright desires to have his petition returned, as he is obliged to leave for Russia; he promises to send money from Hamburg before Midsummer for jewels he bought of the Company; answered that, as his petition is directed to the King and referred by His Majesty, it must be kept by the referees, and that the Company cannot promise to reserve the jewels if another offer is made. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 17, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 307).

'Callico lawnes and taffety' sold to Mr. James Martyn. Security for calicoes allowed to John Abbott, Senior and Junior, Robert Titchborne, Senior, and Solomon Cole. Resolved to sell the remaining calicoes by lot as before. The *Reformation* and *Discovery* to be put in dock. An offer formerly made to buy the Company's cloves is renewed and accepted conditionally. Mr. Abraham Steevens buys two demiculverins. Mr. Elseworthy, brother-in-law to Mrs. Haines, desires a copy of Mr. Haines's inventory, and is told that the Committees examining the account should have it for their better information. Robert Herrington, Magnus Smith, and John Houghton petition for their wages, which were stopped because they put cloves from the *Palsgrave*, when she was wrecked, into the barque *Fane* of London; they urge that the cloves were not sold by them but by James Woodstock, master of the said barque, and that they were pressed into the King's service; their petition is granted. (1 p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 19, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 309).

Mr. Acton's bill of 5*l.* os. 5*d.* for law causes to be paid. Cloves sold to a friend of Mr. Spurstowe's for transportation. A Court of Sales to be held Friday fortnight; Messrs. Bowen and Blunt required to give a list of all goods in their charge fit for sale. A

bill in Chancery against the Company by the executrix of Richard Hopkins, late master of the *Comfort*, together with the Company's answer, read, and the answer approved and ordered to be engrossed. The Court's reply to the petition of Mr. Smithwick to the King, with the articles annexed, is also read, and as the referees have appointed it to be heard to-morrow at eight o'clock at Crosby House, Mr. Governor desires all or the greater part of the Committees to attend and clear themselves from these unjust aspersions. Mr. Allen granted full allowance for dust and chips found in the lignum aloes he bought from the Company. Mr. Treasurer Bateman is desired to give Mrs. Hungerford the jewel and diamond ring left by Mr. Edward Haines, the Company's late Agent in Persia, to her son George, Mrs. Haines, the executrix, consenting to the same. Mr. Vernon, interpreter to the Persian Ambassador, given 5*l.* for his pains in bringing messages from the latter. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 26, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 310).

Richard Barbor to be paid twenty marks, according to agreement signed by Captain Feilding and the purser, for piloting the *Jonas* when she was in the King's service. On petition, Faith Elgar, sister and administratrix to George Quipp, who died in the Indies, ordered to be given a copy of the inventory and as much of the estate of her late brother as the Company has knowledge of. Mr. James Cock transfers his Persia adventure of 210*l.* with all profits to Captain Hall. Mr. Cordwell brings an offer from the Lord Treasurer to buy the Company's saltpetre at 3*l.* 5*s.* per hundred; answer is made that in a free market this commodity would fetch 4*l.* or even 5*l.* per hundred, yet to accommodate the King the Court is willing to accept 3*l.* 10*s.* ready money upon assignation to Sir William Russell; at the same time it is pointed out that it will cause the Company much discouragement in the importation of saltpetre if it is not permitted to be sold to the best advantage. Mr. Joseph Caron transfers his adventure of 1,280*l.* in the Third Joint Stock with all profits to Mr. Cockayne, who is willing to pay a broke of 9*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* charged thereon. Ordered that one supposed diamond ring and six silver rings, sent from the President at Bantam by Reynolds, purser in the *Palsgrave*, be

delivered to Mr. Foster, father of John Foster, who died in the Indies. Alderman Andrews contracts for one lot of the Company's calicoes for transportation. Mr. Wainsford, Consul at Aleppo, to be paid sixty-eight rials of eight at the rate of 5s. per rial, for postage and conveyance of letters to and from Persia ; also to be given a gratification of 20*l*. Mr. Deputy, who for seven years has given free conveyance to the Company's letters to and from Turkey, is given 10*l*. Mr. Sherburne offering to buy or lease the Company's house and land at Stone Wharf in Deptford, several Committees are desired to view and report on the same ; also to go to Blackwall and see the old stores noted for sale by Mr. Fotherby. Messrs. Francklyn, Laurence, and Kerridge entreated to view defective cotton yarn and settle what allowance is to be made for it. The accounts of Richard Forder and John Leigh, late master's mates in the *Discovery*, to be cleared. A great emerald and a cross set with rubies sold to Messrs. Francis and Abraham Ash for 300*l*. at a year to rebate. George Henly, Charles and Christopher Whitchow allowed security for calicoes. Answer to Mr. Smithwick's complaints again confirmed Mr. Deputy and Mr. Steevens allowed the carriages to six demiculverins lately bought by them (2½ pp)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, APRIL 28, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 313).

Mr. Acton's bill of 6*l*. 5s. for law causes to be paid. Messrs. Swanly and Steevens desired to attend the next court, when they are to be warned to provide for themselves after Midsummer, the Company wishing to lessen its charges at Blackwall as much as possible. Half the pipe and hogshead staves in the yard at Blackwall to be sold. Mr. Pennoye's request for allowance for defective and cut silk found in the twenty bales bought by him of the Company is denied, as in his contract the silk is described as wet and defective. Mr. Harvy's demand for allowance for short weight in silk bought by him is also refused. At the instance of Mr. Smithwick, the Court arranges to meet the referees next Thursday afternoon. Mr. Smithwick delivers a paper of accounts he has drawn up, for the Auditors to test and examine. Mr. Younge, lately returned from France, relates that a ship called the *St. Lois* of 250 tons burden with sixty-seven men aboard has lately come to Dieppe from the Indies,

where she has been fifteen or sixteen months, and during that time has taken and robbed three junks from Cambaya and brought home gold, silver, and goods worth 30,000*l.* Mrs. Mary Haines petitions for her late brother's wages, and the money obtained by sale of his jewels and apparel, about 1,000*l.*; ordered that she be paid the money fetched by the jewels, but not the wages, as that would make her brother's bond void. A diamond ring and thirteen diamonds set in gold ordered, with Mrs. Haines's consent, to be delivered to Mrs. Avis Hungerford, curatrix to her son George, who is under age, to whom they were left by the late Mr. Haines, Mrs. Hungerford and Mr. John Clarke giving bond to save the Company harmless. Ginger and calicoes to be delivered to Mrs. Browne, widow and executrix of Captain Christopher Browne. A diamond weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ carats delivered to Mrs. Haines. Payment ordered of Sherburne's account of 26*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* for money disbursed more than he has received. (2 pp.)

A COURT OF SALES, APRIL 28, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 315).

Cloves, pepper, 'codds and muske' sold, with prices and names of purchasers. (1 p.)

STATEMENT IN THE FORM OF ARTICLES OR INTERROGATORIES PUT FORTH BY DR. JOHN HEIGENIUS, APRIL 28, 1637 (*Public Record Office: Dom. Chas. I*, vol. cccliv, No. 103).

. . . Administrator of the estate of Gerhard Polman, gem merchant. . . After traversing many countries in search of precious stones Polman in the year 1631 put himself on board an English East Indiaman in Persia, on his way home. He had with him a large collection of gems and precious stones, collected during the previous thirty years. On the homeward voyage Polman was poisoned by Abraham Porter, surgeon of the East Indiaman, and his goods were divided among the crew of the ship. The crime becoming known, parts of his estate ultimately came into the hands of the East India Company; of the Earl of Lindsey, to whom letters of administration were granted in trust for the true heirs; of Nicholas Pope, goldsmith in Fleet Street, and Rachael, his wife; of one Nowel, a goldsmith on Holborn Bridge; and also of Christopher

Adams. Against these persons Heigenius now seeks justice. (*Latin.* 3½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MAY 3, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 316).

Ordered that William Predys, father and administrator of Richard Predys, be paid 122*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* in full of all demands for his son's estate. Mr. Acton's bill of 4*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* to be paid. The price of cloves fixed at 5*s.* per lb. for thirty hogsheads and upwards for transportations, and 'for the towne' 5*s.* 8*d.* per lb. for ten hogsheads. Mrs. Hoare, widow of William Hoare, who died in Persia, to be paid 250*l.* A parcel of small shells, brought home in the *Discovery*, to be delivered freight-free to the widow of Captain Christopher Browne. Freight on goods remitted to Richard Lucas, master of the *Discovery*. Henry Hobson to be paid 40*s.* for his service from the time he went out in the *Swallow* until his return in the *Palsgrave*. Susan, wife of Roger Wright, who went out master's mate in the *Comfort* but is now master, to be paid her month's money according to the increased rate of her husband's wages. Ordered that 1,500 rials of eight be put to Christopher Fleming's account, which sum he confessed to Mr. Read (of whom he bought the place of principal of Jambi) he had made that year by the customs at Jambi. On the recommendation of Sir John Wolstenholme, Anne, widow of Henry Dunn, master of the *Reformation*, is allowed remission of freight on drugs. (1¼ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MAY 5, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 317).

Captain Ditchfield moving that the accounts of the late Mr. Barbor, whose executor he is, may be made up and cleared, Mr. Sambrooke is ordered to prepare them by next Wednesday. The policy drawn up by Mr. Pryor to assure the return of 100,000*l.* of good estate in any one of the ships now abroad, read, approved, and ordered to be engrossed; only persons of quality, whose names must first be submitted to the Court, to be allowed to underwrite, and then not for less than 500*l.* Peter, brother and executor of Mallachy Martin, requesting the will of his said brother, it is

ordered to be given him. Captain Crispe offers as security for indigo Mr. Alderman Soame, Mr. Henry Austen, Mr. Edward Abbott, Sir Morris Abbott, Messrs. Samuel Carleton, William Boulton, and John Pigott. Mr. Alderman Garway moves that the remainder of the cloves, for which he has given security and already paid 10,000*l.*, and intends to pay by degrees the whole amount of 27,000*l.*, may be delivered him to be garbled at his own house; granted. Petition of Mr. Edward Harris, merchant, for remission of half the sum of 73*l.* for interest decreed by the Court of Requests, is referred for consideration to the next court. Eliza, mother of Emanuel Lawe, to receive two months' pay yearly of her son's wages. Thursday next appointed for the Court to view their 'land and housing' at Deptford and Blackwall, and to settle the sale of ordnance, &c. Ordered that 76*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* be paid for coral bought in Genoa by Mr. Ellam for the Company and now sent in the *Fonas*. Mr. William Lewes, who married John Newman's widow, transfers his adventure of 187*l.* 10*s.* in the Third Joint Stock with all profits to Mr. Lewes Roberts. Mr. Michael Earnely and his wife Mary, widow of John Hudson, transfer to the said Mr. Lewes Roberts 187*l.* 10*s.* adventure in the Third Joint Stock with all profits. Mr. William Bladwell transfers 1,000*l.* adventure and profits in the Third Joint Stock to Mr. John Holloway, who in his turn transfers it with all profits to Sir George Whitmore. Mrs. Hungerford and Mr. Clarke's bond delivered by Mr. Cappur to Mr. Bateman. (2 pp.)

CAPTAIN SIR JOHN PENNINGTON, ON BOARD THE *SWIFTSURE* IN THE DOWNS, TO SECRETARY NICHOLAS, MAY 8, 1637 (*Public Record Office: Dom. Chas. I.*, vol. ccclv, No. 142).

. . . The master of a bark which is come from the Western Islands tells me that the *Roebuck*, Mr. Endymion Porter's pinnace, is returned from the Red Sea and gone into Falmouth with the *Dreadnought*; also that their Admiral, Captain Oldfield, was cast away upon an island before they came to the Red Sea; Oldfield is dead, and most of his men since; notwithstanding, it seems that the pinnace has made a reasonable good voyage, for they say the men have shared 20*l.* a single share.

SIR THOMAS ROE TO ELIZABETH, QUEEN OF BOHEMIA, MAY 8, 1637 (*Ibid.*, vol. ccclv, No. 145).

. . . The dream of Madagascar, I think, is vanished, and the squire must conquer his own island. A blunt merchant, called to deliver his opinion, said it was a gallant design, but such as wherein he would be loth to venture his younger son. . . .

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MAY 10, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 319).

Calicoes to be delivered to William Garway. Mr. Rich allowed for damaged silk in the parcel bought by him. According to an order of the Court of Requests, Henry Lyde is paid forty marks due to him from his re-entertainment by the Company after his running away to the Portugals, he giving a release and delivering up Captain Man's note. Captain Ditchfeild, as executor, desires satisfaction for cloth left at Bantam by the *Great James*, belonging to Richard Barbor; resolved not to pay for the cloth until it is ascertained whether it is sold or not. Letter read from the Earl of Northumberland, requesting payment to Samuel Usher, late master's mate in the *Jonas*, for piloting the said ship; the Court, having paid Usher his wages, and offered him 5*l.* in lieu of that service, and having paid another pilot twenty marks for the service now claimed to have been done by Usher, desires Mr. Sherburne to inform the Earl of these facts, and that no man is denied his due. Mrs. Haines, wishing to settle with the Company, offers to take one-half of her late brother's estate (in all about 5,600*l.*); but the Court, remembering his gaming, private trade, partnership with Mr. Burt, and that he took out but little, and therefore could not in such a short time have honestly gained so much, considers her demand too large, and desires her to reconsider it and attend the court next Friday. Messrs. Henry and William Bainebrigg allowed as security for cloves. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MAY 12, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 321).

Mr. Smithwick, pretending to be sent by the referees, desires copy of the Surat account written by Mr. Markham, according to

his promise ; but the latter denying any such promise, Mr. Smithwick on request writes down his demand, and the Committees formerly appointed for this business are entreated, with Markham's and Sambrooke's assistance, to answer the same. Mrs. Munck requests to be paid her late husband's estate, which by account appears to be 940*l.*; the Court, remembering objections brought against him in the general letter, agrees to pay her 150*l.*, she leaving the rest with them ; a bill to be given her, also consideration for her forbearance. Upon the proposal of Mr. Treasurer to lessen the Company's expenses, it is decided to discharge Messrs. Fotherby, Swanly, Steevens, and the porter at Blackwall next Midsummer, also to let or sell the yard there ; and Alderman Abdy is entreated to attend the Earl of Cleveland about the fine. The cellar at Leathersellers' Hall to be paid for and given up, there being no use for it. Mr. Pryor to be given 20*l.* for drawing up the policy. A diamond ring, sent home with Mr. Mallachy Martyn's goods but belonging to Mr. Coggan, is delivered to him, and divers jewels belonging to the said Mallachy Martyn are delivered to his brother, Mr. Martyn. (1½ *pp*)

SAMUEL CORDEWELL TO [SECRETARY NICHOLAS], MAY 13, 1637 (*Public Record Office: Dom. Chas. I*, vol. ccclvi, No. 31).

Let me entreat you that the East India Company be dealt with for their saltpetre, that so I may be enabled to bring in my proportion of gunpowder. (⅓ *p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, AT THE STONE WHARF, DEPTFORD, MAY 16, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 322).

The Committees present note that there are here 346 pieces of ordnance, 125 of which are broken and defective. These latter Philip White, who before bought old ordnance from the Company, offers to buy or repair ; but he not offering enough, it is proposed that a bill be put up on the Exchange to notify the sale both of the good and defective ordnance, which proposal is left for the consideration of the Court. Disposal of the free land and Bridgehouse land at Stone Wharf next considered, the house and some small tenements being let for 12*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum. Messrs. Sherburne and Fotherby, Richard Cooper, and Mr. Castle of Reddriffe, propose

to buy or lease the same, but not being prepared to make an offer they are referred to the Court. ($\frac{1}{2}$ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES AT BLACKWALL, MAY 16, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 323).

Resolved to sell the two horses used in the yard and to let the land at the backside of the slaughter-house. Mr. Fotherby directed to have the wharf between the ditch and the long store-house, and the wharf towards the Thames, which are both much decayed, repaired, the houses retiled, and the crane repaired. The sale of pipe staves, hogshead staves, old cordage, old anchors, and 140 loads of paving stones left for the Court's consideration. ($\frac{1}{2}$ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MAY 17, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 324).

Faith Elgar, sister and administratrix to George Quipp, presents a letter on her behalf from Mr. Packer, with a petition to be paid the remainder of her brother's estate; she is told that there is nothing due from the said estate, and that Mr. Packer can see this for himself if he cares to examine the account. Mr. Middleton and Daniel Harvy appointed to view China silk bought by Mr. Rich from the Company, and settle the dispute concerning it. The Court wishing to put an end to the affairs of Christopher Read, having heard the objections against him and his answer thereto read, and noting the report of the Committees appointed to examine this business, finds that his chief offence is selling the place of Chief at Jambi to Christopher Fleming, concerning which the letters from the President and Council at Bantam, mentioning this and the fine imposed, are read; whereupon, after consideration, it is put to the question whether to confirm or abate the said fine, and resolved that as Mr. Read received from Mr. Fleming 1,000 rials of eight, paid out of the Company's cash, he should repay the same here at the rate of 8s. the rial; and whereas he was fined 2,000 rials at Bantam, this fine shall be reduced to 1,000 rials, to be paid here at the rate of 5s. the rial; and the 543 rials sent by Mr. Read to Masulipatam which were seized and paid into the Company's cash shall be accepted in part payment at the rate of 5s. the rial of eight, he to pay the remaining 457 rials at the same rate; and,

lastly, the Court remits the confiscation made by the President and Council of 642 rials sent by Mr. Read to Macassar to be invested in goods for Europe (confiscated because they were not registered in the purser's books). As regards the bale of silk mentioned in the *Reformation's* invoice, and claimed by Mr. Read, yet put to the account of John Russell, late chief at Macassar, decision is deferred until it is ascertained to whom it belongs. Messrs. John Rashleigh, John Richardson, Edward Griffith, and Richard Newman allowed as security for calicoes. (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MAY 19, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 326).

Four of the Company's launching blocks lent to Mr. Gardiner to launch his new ship. Letter read from Mrs. Mary Haines, representing her long attendance and great expense, being so far from home, and that no reply has been given to her last demand for 2,000*l.* in settlement of her affairs; she with her brother-in-law is called into court and told that on examination of Mr. Haines's account the Auditors find about 2,100*l.* due upon it, without allowing for forfeiture of the bond for private trade, misapplication of the Company's money, or for 'swalloweing' Burt's estate. The mother of the latter, being present, produces an affidavit made by Walter Mountfort before Sir Robert Rich, one of the Masters in Chancery, on the 21st February, 1633 [4], in which he states that Mr. Burt, going from Spahan to deliver a letter from the King of England to the King of Persia, left a 'scrutore'¹ with Mr. Haines containing a great estate: that Mr. Burt had often been heard to say that if he died in Persia he would leave his parents 600*l.* and an unmarried sister 400*l.*, and the residue of his estate to Mr. Spurstow, a London merchant; that on his return he often asked for this 'scrutore', but never had it, and after his death Mr. Haines acknowledged that Mr. Burt's estate was 3,000*l.* and better, and more than a year after he was made indebted to Mulliambeage 900 tomands, which is 3,000*l.* sterling. Thereupon Mr. Deputy declares that Mr. Haines only took out 100*l.*, and was obliged to borrow at Dover, besides 30*l.* of Captain Plumleigh in the West Country, which he charged the Company to pay by exchange. After hearing

¹ A writing-desk or cabinet (Old Fr. *escrptoire*).

the affidavit read, Mrs. Burt leaves, the Court promising to assist her in the discovery of her son's estate. Mr. Deputy informs Mrs. Haines of debts due from her brother's estate to Messrs. Skibbow, Gibson, Wich, and Carpenter, and that the said estate is set over to the books of 1633, which have not yet come home; he advises her to consider and make a more moderate demand, which at a full court shall receive a reasonable answer. Mr. Acton's bill of 10*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* for law causes to be paid. (2 pp.)

NOTES BY SECRETARY NICHOLAS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANS-
ACTED BY THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY, MAY 22, 1637 (*Public
Record Office : Dom. Chas. I.*, vol. ccclvii, No. 24).

Treat with the East India Company for buying their saltpetre. . . .

SAMUEL CORDEWELL TO THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY,
MAY 22, 1637 (*Ibid.*, vol. ccclvii, No. 38).

That such saltpetre as the East India merchants have brought over may be had, for otherwise 'my mills must stand still'. That he may renew the powder taken out of the *Anne*. ($\frac{1}{2}$ p.)

MINUTE OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LORDS OF THE
ADMIRALTY AND ALDERMAN GARWAY, &C., ON BEHALF OF
THE EAST INDIA COMPANY, MAY 22, 1637 (*Ibid.*, vol. ccclvii,
No. 38).

That they shall have 3*l.* 10*s.* per cwt. for the foreign saltpetre they now have; and of a further agreement with Samuel Cordewell that he shall have 4*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* per cwt. for so much of the said saltpetre as he should refine ($\frac{1}{2}$ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MAY 24, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 328).

Mr. Acton's bill for 4*l.* 6*s.*, spent in the cause between Alice Gibson and the Company, to be paid. Mrs. Haines again appears. and desires consideration of her former demand; whereupon Mr. Governor replies that she has asked too much, but if 700*l.* or 800*l.* will satisfy her, he will do his best to get that sum allowed; if not, she must take what course she thinks best. To this she

answers that if the Court will pay her 1,200*l.*, with liberty to recover debts due to her late brother from Mr. Gibson and others in the Company's service in India, she will be content, but not with less; this sum is also thought too much, and she is again desired to reconsider and answer at the next court. Gabriel Lee's bill of 4*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* ordered to be paid; also Edmond Chambers' bill of 20*s.* for carrying Mr. Deputy and the Committees to Blackwall. The assurance policy made by the Company for 100,000*l.* not being underwritten because the time allowed is too short, an extension of six months is ordered, and Mr. Pryor desired to alter the said policy accordingly. On petition Henry Smith is given 25*l.* for helping recover goods lost out of the *Palsgrave*, and for his journey from Plymouth to London. Mr. Harvy offers to buy all the Company's wet and dried silk, but, not having sealed the bills for the last parcel he bought (pretending some of it to be unsaleable), he is required first to seal these, and then his offer shall be considered. Offer made by Mr. Milton, a cooper, to buy the Company's pipe and hoghead staves. The Company's petition to the King, desiring that the silver and gold now brought home in the *Roebuck* (30,000*l.* or 40,000*l.* according to report) may be seized in order that the Company may obtain satisfaction for the damage done them by the piracy of the said ship in the Red Sea, is read, approved, and ordered to be engrossed, and Aldermen Abdy and Gayre, Mr. Cockayne, and Captain Crispe are entreated to accompany the Governor and Deputy with it to Mr. Secretary Windebank, who has promised to present it to the King. Samuel Usher, master's mate in the *Jonas*, in the King's service, and afterwards made pilot by the Earl of Northumberland, Lord General of the King's fleet, to be paid 8*l.* for his services as pilot. George Swanly buys iron ordnance from the Company. (2½ *pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, MAY 26, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 330).

Mr. Trott's bill of 29*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, for drying wet silk, to be paid. The serviceable and defective ordnance at Deptford to be sold. Three offers having been made to buy or lease the freehold land and houses at the Stone Wharf and the Bridgehouse land, the Court direct that extracts be made from their books of the cost of buying,

leasing, and making the wharf, &c., in order that they may know what price to demand. The Committees appointed to confer with Mrs. Haines think that she would be willing to refer her business to the decision of three or four Committees to be nominated by herself, but to this the Court will not consent. Mr. Hoare's bond, entered into on going to Persia, delivered up to be cancelled at his wife's request. The request of Martin Hurst, brother and executor to Charles Hurst, to be paid what is due to his said brother's estate, granted, he promising to deal fairly with his sisters, to whom legacies are left. Charles Hurst's bond to be delivered up to be cancelled. The Court remits twenty marks of the sum ordered by the Court of Requests to be paid the Company by Mr. Harris, who having already paid 50*l.*, and 10*l.* remaining unpaid, pleads for further favour. The petition to the Lords of the Privy Council of Faith, wife of Thomas Elgar, and administratrix of her late brother, George Quipp, is read. She declares that there is 7,000*l.* due upon her brother's estate, of which estate the Company refuses to give her an account; whereupon she has been given a reference to Sir Morris Abbott, praying him to consider this business and order what is right to be done; this reference is also read, and the Court, conceiving it useless to try to satisfy the petitioner, resolves to return an answer to the Lords, which Mr. Sherburne is directed to draw up. Boatswain Ingram's bill of charges to be paid. Mr. Symonds, having taken out an extent on the estate of Richard Fenn, who died in the Indies, for satisfaction of a debt, now desires to be paid the same, but is referred until Alderman Fenn, who is away, returns. Mr. Smithwick requests information concerning the Company's estate at home, and is told that the referees must write the requests if they desire an answer. Philip White's offer of 4*s.* per hundred for defective ordnance refused, it being thought worth more. (2 pp.)

PAPERS RELATING TO THE EAST INDIA TRADE [MAY, 1637]
(*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, Nos. 39, 39 I, 40, 40 I, 41, 41 I).

A. 'Informations and Observations that the East India Company are resolved to divide and leave the Trade'. 1. It is certainly at present carried on at a loss. The last Joint Stock in fifteen years

made but one capital of clear gain ; therefore interest was lost the whole time.¹ Some of the merchants, who took out their adventures in commodities, made a better account, and these were the chief upholders ; the rest suffered more. Since the conclusion of the stock, the Company has had many losses in particular voyages ; 'so that the busines is universally decryed.' 2. This year but one ship and a pinnace have been sent out, though in the flourishing times from four to seven were annually dispatched. So small a supply cannot be profitable, but will merely keep the trade alive while steps are taken to dissolve the factories and draw home the stock. This will be done gradually and secretly, the Company being fearful of offending His Majesty by an open declaration. 3. It is privately whispered among the chief of the Company that no more shipping will be sent out. 4. The goods returned from the Indies are to be used to pay off the Company's debts before any division is made. This is a proof of their intentions, for the trade cannot be carried on except with (a) money borrowed on interest, or (b) a new subscription, and the latter is out of the question. 5. 'There are, and have ever beene, a malignant, popular, and malicious party among that Company, who only reigne at their generall or quarter courts ; and these have ever beene clamorous against the goverment and committees ; and these either being the poorer sort and not able to beare the loss, or the envious and greater part, have in their generall courts the power and concluding voyce ; and seeing they could never obteyne their ends, by complaynt to become directors and managers, because the State countenanced the best men, it is they that now seeke their revenge, to breake the Company and so to have their wills by a generall ruyne.' When the question comes to the General Court, this party will certainly vote for a dissolution. In that case it will be very difficult to start the trade afresh, and so the East India commerce will fall into the hands of the Hollanders (who have been content to trade at a loss, or very little profit, in the hope of wearing out the English), 'and then they will give the law and sett the price upon all other trades of Europe.' (*Two copies, one endorsed as given to His Majesty in May, 1637. 1½ pp.*)

¹ Jeremy Sambrooke (*Home Miscell.*, vol. xi) says that the Second Joint Stock produced a profit of 12½ per cent.

B. 'The particular loss of His Majestie in his Customes, and of the Kingdome in generall by consumption of stocke, if the East Indya Company shall dissolve and desert the Trade.' 1. It is always dangerous to alter the course of trade. 2. This trade has continued for thirty-five years, and has profoundly modified the commerce of Europe; for whereas formerly England received East Indian commodities from the Mediterranean, the reverse is now the case. The consumption of spices and silks in England has doubled, and prices have been reduced by one-half. 3. Taking the annual expenditure on such goods in England as 200,000*l.*, the cost price in the East may be reckoned at a third, and the rest is spent in shipping, meat, and wages, 'which passeth among ourselves,' and is no loss to the kingdom; but if the same quantity be bought from abroad, the whole sum of 200,000*l.* will be paid to the foreigner. Moreover, if the Dutch get a monopoly they will certainly raise the price. Before the trade was started, pepper cost in England about 3*s.* or 4*s.*, while now it is sold at 18*d.* and 20*d.*; but if strangers engross it, the old price (or higher still) will be demanded. 4. The India trade not only supplies English requirements but furnishes a large surplus for exportation; the latter returns with an augmentation of profit, and adds to the stock of the kingdom, besides affording employment to shipping, &c. 5. By exporting East India commodities the Levant Company has prospered so much that it has almost driven the H^ollanders out of the Mediterranean. If the East India trade be lost, the ruin of that of the Levant must certainly follow. 6. The desertion of the trade will enrich the H^ollanders and make them 'very proud neighbours'. 7. If the trade be lost, His Majesty's customs will necessarily be diminished. The duties on India goods, in and out, may be valued at 10,000*l.* yearly, and those on goods imported in exchange for the surplus at a similar amount; therefore His Majesty stands to lose over 20,000*l.* Merchants in general will of course be impoverished, the shipping industry will decay, and the employment of mariners be discouraged. Besides these, many losses will be occasioned by the general disturbance of trade. (*Two copies, one endorsed as given to His Majesty in May, 1637. 4 pp.*)

C. 'Objections and Propositions resolved and answered that the Trade into the East Indies may be otherwise maynteyned then by

a Company and Joynt Stocke.' 1. Reasons against throwing the trade open. No individual can afford the expense of sending out a ship and awaiting its return; even if several combine, the greatest part of their stock will be in continual hazard, and a shipwreck will undo them. The freight demanded for such a venture will devour the greater part of the profit, and leave no margin for insurance. Single vessels will be liable to capture by the Portuguese. As it is necessary in any one voyage to visit several Indian ports, each group of adventurers must maintain factors at these ports, which will be a heavy expense; further, the competition between the factors will raise the price of Indian commodities to a pitch which will make trading unprofitable; and there will be no united action for the repression of disorders or for dealing with the native authorities. Moreover, the interval between the dissolution of the present Company and the setting out of private adventurers will be taken advantage of by the Dutch to engross the trade. 2. It has been suggested that it would be profitable to desert the trade and rely upon the capture of native vessels; but besides the infamy of such piracy, it would only lead to the natives restricting themselves to land commerce, or to their putting their trade into the hands of the Dutch. It must also be remembered that if the trade between India and the Red Sea be interrupted, the Grand Signor's revenues will suffer, and he will probably revenge himself on English merchants in his dominions; 'thus what is hoped to be gotten in the shire will be double lost in the hundred.' In the seas further East there is little scope for privateering, as goods are mostly transported in Dutch or Spanish bottoms. (*Two copies. 4 pp.*)

MEMORANDUM ON THE EAST INDIA TRADE [MAY, 1637 ?]
(*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, No. 42).

The writer, after conferring with some of the chief members of the Company, is convinced that, unless steps are taken by His Majesty to remedy their grievances, a dissolution is inevitable. The main reasons are, that (1) some of the principals are persuaded that 'His Majestie hath an ill opinion of their persons and endeavours', and are consequently anxious to withdraw; (2) the majority of the governing body are much grieved at the aspersions

cast upon their management, and by the readiness with which the State has listened to these calumnies, as shown by two recent references to Secretary Windebank, Sir John Wolstenholme, and others to inquire into the subject; (3) they are greatly discouraged by the recent infractions of their privileges of sole trade beyond the Cape, namely, the dispatch of 'the *Samaritan* and *Roebuck*, sett out in the name of Mr. Porter, the fleet of Sir William Corteen, and the report of a great liberty granted to Capteyne Bond'; (4) they contend that there is little likelihood of profit 'without agreement and regulation of trade with the Dutch . . . in which poynt they thinke they have not had sufficient countenance and protection from the State' As remedies, the writer suggests that His Majesty should take occasion to assure the Governor and others of his favour and protection; that he should abandon petty inquiries in favour of a public and final investigation of all charges, with condign punishment for factious slanderers; that the Company should be allowed the benefit of the law against the interlopers, and that the King should pledge himself not to permit further infringement of its privileges; and that some steps should be taken to accommodate matters with the Dutch. Further, it would be well if His Majesty would use his influence with the Farmers of the Customs to bring in 40,000*l.* more stock, and with other rich men or corporations to take a share in the trade (*Endorsed* 'For His Majesty, 1637'. 3 pp.)

REASONS TO MOVE THE KING TO CONFIRM UNDER THE GREAT SEAL CAPTAIN WEDDELL'S COMMISSION [MAY, 1637] (*Public Record Office. East Indies*, vol. iv B, No. 43).

The decay of the trade of the East India Company induced His Majesty to listen to a proposition made unto him concerning an augmentation of trade to the East Indies and South Sea in such places where the Company had not settled factories; and understanding that the Company had refused an overture made by the Viceroy of Goa, both to its President at Surat and to Captain Weddell, to trade at Goa, Malabar, China, &c., he commanded Sir William Courten to open up trade in those parts. For 'the more secreet carriage', the adventurers were given a commission under the royal hand and signet, with a promise of a confirmation under the great seal, and His Majesty for further encouragement in

vested 10,000*l.* in the said voyage. Relying upon this, Sir William Courten and his adventurers have spent above 120,000*l.* in furnishing and freighting six ships and pinnaces set forth last April twelvemonth, and are preparing to freight and furnish other vessels to second the first fleet. The East India Company, however, seeks to hinder the King from making good his promise by staying the commission from passing under the great seal, without which no man will adventure further, its aim being to hinder the importation of commodities from those parts for fear of making them cheap and plentiful in England. The adventurers in this undertaking do not wish to interfere with the said Company's trade and will not go where it has settled factories. The enterprise will in all likelihood increase the royal customs, besides the benefit of His Majesty's adventure. And if the East India Company should fail, this will be an overture of a fair and profitable trade wherein many ships may be employed, His Majesty's customs continued, and the native commodities of the kingdom sold to advantage. (2 pp.)

THE GRANT TO COURTEEN'S ASSOCIATION, JUNE 1, 1637¹
(*Public Record Office: Patent Rolls, Charles I, Part 16, M. 1*).

Recites in detail the contents of the (1) 'letters under our royall signature and signet, bearing date the twelveth day of December, 1635', granted to Weddell and Mountney for a voyage to Goa and other parts, in accordance with the King's instructions of the same date; (2) similar letters of the same date, empowering Sir William Courten and the other adventurers in the said voyage to take up and transport the sum of 40,000*l.* in foreign gold and silver, free of customs; (3) similar letters of the same date, authorizing Weddell and Mountney to punish mariners and others employed in the voyage; (4) similar letters dated December 19, 1635, giving Weddell instructions how to act should the Portuguese refuse to fulfil their promises. His Majesty now, desiring to give all further encouragement to the adventurers, ratifies and confirms to Endymion Porter, William Courten (as heir and executor of his father), Thomas Kynaston, Samuel Bonnell, Captain Weddell, and Nathaniel Mountney, and their partners and associates in the said voyage, and

¹ Printed in Rymer's *Foedera*, vol. xx, p. 146. See also a MS. copy in *Home Miscell.*, vol. xxxix (I. O.).

their agents and assigns, the grants, powers, authorities, &c., contained in the said letters, commissions, and instructions, with the limitations hereinafter expressed. The said persons are to trade only into such of those parts and places beforenamed where the East India Company had not settled factories and trade before December 12, 1635; and the present grant is not to be taken as restricting the East India Company from resorting and trading to the parts before mentioned. The privileges granted to the new association are to be enjoyed without contradiction or impeachment of the crown or of the East India Company, or any others whatsoever. The grant of a moiety of the benefits arising from the discovery of a passage into the Atlantic is explained to refer to the adventurers, not to the actual discoverers. The instructions given to Weddell and Mountney by the adventurers are approved and ratified. Future instructions are to be given in writing, jointly by Porter, Courten, Kynaston, Bonnell, their several executors, administrators, or assigns, or any three of them (whereof Porter and Courten, their several executors, administrators, or assigns are to be two). All powers, &c., granted to Sir William Courten are confirmed to his son William. The adventurers are empowered to send out ships and goods to the same parts for five years from the Feast of the Annunciation last past in such manner as aforesaid, and freely to traffic without impeachment or denial of the East India Company or others. They are licensed to export commodities brought home without further payment of duties, provided the exportation be made within twelve months from the discharge of such goods, and they may in such case claim back the duties already paid. To remove all doubts, a formal pardon is given for the buying and transporting of the foreign gold and silver, ordnance, and ammunition sent out in Weddell's fleet; and the adventurers are empowered, for the space of five years already mentioned, to take up foreign gold and silver to the value of 40,000*l.* yearly, and to export the same upon payment of custom at the rate of 30*s.* per 100*l.* The present adventurers are authorized to admit fresh partners at their pleasure. Licence is given for the sale in the Indies of any ship that may become unserviceable; also to sell in His Majesty's dominions any goods imported from the East, without let or hindrance of the East India Company or others.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE FOREGOING. (*Public Record Office: East Indies, vol. iv B, Nos. 44, 44 I*).

A brief memorandum of the principal points. (*Two copies, one endorsed 'Mr. Porter, East Indies. The new and old grants.' 1 p.*).

COMMISSIONERS FOR SALTPETRE AND GUNPOWDER TO THE EAST INDIA COMPANY, JUNE 3, 1637 (*Public Record Office: Dom. Chas. I, vol. ccclxi, No. 7*).

We agreed on 22nd May last to give for all saltpetre now rough in the Company's hands 3*l.* 10*s.* the hundred, to be paid the 1st August next. We have appointed Samuel Cordewell, His Majesty's gunpowder-maker, to refine the said saltpetre, and request you to deliver the same to Cordewell. ($\frac{1}{2}$ p.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 7, 1637 (*Court Book, vol. xvi, p. 332*).

Captain Bushell's offer to pay his proportion of the 166*l.* 14*s.* owing to the Company for goods bought by himself and others is refused, as he cannot be cleared without endangering payment of the whole debt; therefore the suit begun against him is to be continued unless he pays all. Katherine Baily, sister and administratrix of Thomas Woodson, late Agent at Bantam, petitions for what is due to her brother's account; and Mr. Sambrooke reporting that the amount is 96*l.*, the same is ordered to be paid her, she giving a general release, notwithstanding Mr. Woodson's debt to Mr. Richard Andrews. Sir Nicholas Slanning, accompanied by Captain Kettleby, appears and demands satisfaction for his trouble in recovering the *Palsgrave's* goods, pretending that an agreement was made between him and Mr. Young for one-third of the goods, or their value; Mr. Young says that no agreement was made but only considered, and, his letters to the Company being produced, it appears that an agreement had been proposed but not arranged; whereupon it is suggested that Sir Nicholas should advise with his father, Sir James Bagg, and decide what will satisfy them, and inform the Court, who will then consider and give answer. Letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty presented by Mr. Cordewell, directing the Company to deliver him their saltpetre, for which

3*l.* 10*s.* per hundred shall be paid according to agreement. Letter having been read from Mrs. Haines desiring that her affairs may be settled, she is called in, and, after some dispute, is offered 1,000*l.* in conclusion of all differences and given time to consider her answer. Mr. George Harwood, executor to Sir Edward Harwood, transfers 462*l.* 10*s.* adventure in the Third Joint Stock, with all profits, to Mr. William Spurstow, merchant. The account of William Holbrooke, late master's mate in the *Discovery*, amounting to 61*l.* 10*s.*, ordered to be cleared; also Mrs. Munck's account, which is 800*l.*, she having left it upon bill at interest for several months in the Company's hands. She complaining that John Bradshaw, late purser in the *Discovery*, has permitted her late husband's servants to take up the greater part of their wages, contrary to the Company's order, Bradshaw's wages are ordered to be stopped until he explains this conduct. Philip White, blacksmith, buys 125 pieces of the Company's defective ordnance at 4*s.* 6*d.* the hundred, giving as his securities John Peacock, draper, and Robert Clement, shipwright. The said Robert Clement demands payment for the ship he sold the Company, and agrees to 3*l.* being deducted from the said payment for damage done by the *Peter*, of London, to the *Advice*, now gone to the Indies. (2 pp.)

SIR MORRIS ABBOT TO [THE PRIVY COUNCIL] JUNE 7, 1637 (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, No. 45).

The petition of Thomas and Faith Elgar concerning the estate of George Quipp has been examined and found 'to bee stuffed with many frivolous and groundless suggestions'. The amount really due to the estate is 300*l.*, of which Mrs. Elgar has had 200*l.*, and may have the rest when she pleases. (1 p)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 9, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 334).

The dispute between the Company and Mr. Biggs, concerning part of Blackwall yard which Mr. Biggs pretends is kept from him, is referred to arbitration; William Cockayne and Edward Abbott to act for Biggs, and William Spurstow and George Francklyn for the Company, both parties binding themselves, by giving each other 12*d.* as an assumption of 300*l.*, to abide the award of the arbi-

trators. Mr. Pheasant, of the City Council, appears on behalf of Thomas Warner and Miles Codd, who married sisters of Mr. Burt, late Agent in Persia, and desires that payment of any money to Mrs. Haines may be delayed, as a great part of the said Burt's estate went into the hands of Edward Haines, who succeeded Burt as Agent, and therefore they desire satisfaction for the same; the Court denies knowledge of this pretended estate of Mr. Burt's, who still owes them 600*l.*, but will consider the request. After some dispute it is resolved to defer subscribing the policy for assurance of 100,000*l.* upon the Company's ships abroad until next Wednesday. Mr. Potter allowed to see Mr. Skibbowe's account, but not to have a copy of it. The wife of Samuel Usher renews her suit to be paid twenty marks for her husband's pilotage of the *Fonas* last year, and is told that, as she refused the 8*l.* ordered to be paid her, the Court will await her husband's return and pay him what is right. Mr. Caldwell Farrington, son of Mr. Thomas Farrington, formerly Treasurer of this Company, is admitted and sworn a free brother by patrimony, paying the usual fees and giving 20*s.* to the poor-box. In order to lessen the charge at Blackwall, the Court decides to dismiss Messrs. Swanly, Steevens, Lampry, and Boatswain Ingram after Midsummer Day, also anyone else there receiving an annual salary, and to keep only Mr. Fotherby and the porter. John Spiller directed to warn Messrs. Penoire and Harvy that, unless they forthwith seal bills according to agreement for the silk they bought lately of the Company, an action will be brought against them. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 14, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 336).

Mr. Woodall desires to be repaid 11*l.* spent in twice releasing from arrest the chirurgeon now gone in the *Providence*; answered that this sum shall be put to the chirurgeon's account, the Company not being willing to pay it, for fear he may die before earning so much. Thomas Purden, carpenter in the *Crispian*, now removed into the *Roebuck*, to be paid for his services in the former ship. Resolved that Mr. Hawes take back the defective butter he supplied the Company, abating 13*s.* 4*d.* for each firkin, and that the remainder of his bill be paid. John Milton buys 5,000 pipestaves for ready

money. Mr. Harvy promising to seal bills for silk bought, the action against him is stayed. Mr. Daniel Harvy not having weighed the silk he bought from the Company, Captain Crispe is requested to see that he does so, instead of Mr. Trott, to whom Mr. Harvy objects. Letter read from Mrs. Haines, sister and executrix to Edward Haines, late Agent in Persia, expressing a desire to come to some fair end with the Company; she is called in and offered 1,000*l.* over and above the 300*l.* already paid her; she at first insists on 1,100*l.*, but finally accepts the 1,000*l.* in full of all her demands, except for a sword or jewel said to have been given her brother by the King of Persia and not yet brought to account; this or its value is promised her, and general releases ordered to be signed on both sides, and her brother's bond to be delivered up to be cancelled. (1½ pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 16, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 337).

Ordered, upon Alderman Fenn's motion, that the 100*l.* for which Mr. Symonds has an extent be kept in the Company's hands until Mr. Alderman and Mr. Symonds be heard in court touching the debt for this sum, said to be due from the late Richard Fenn to Mr. Symonds. William Isack, 'a man aged, blind, lame, and oppressed with poverty,' given 40*s.* from the poor-box. Moved that, in order to save the charge of three night watchmen at Blackwall yard, all materials likely to be stolen be taken to the lower end of the yard, so that one watchman may suffice. Sale of pipestaves referred to the Committees formerly appointed; hogshead staves to be sold rather than pipestaves. Petition of Susan Ayleworth, widow and administratrix of George Sill, which she showed the Lord Keeper, read, with his Lordship's reference, concerning 250*l.* wrongly charged to the late Henry [*sic*] Sill's account; this she prays may be taken off and allowance made her for it; she also demands payment of 585 rials of eight belonging to the said Henry Sill's estate, brought to the Company's cash at Bantam by Christopher Read; the latter demand the Court allows, and consents to pay the 585 rials, but as to the 250*l.* Mr. Governor remembers that this demand was examined before the general release was given, so no further consideration can be had of it. Security for

calicoes allowed Messrs. Humphrey Only, Thomas Briggs, and Edward Guy. A bill to be put up on the Exchange to announce the sale of the Company's silk and old cordage at the Court of Committees next Friday. Mary Hall allowed 10*l.* on account of her husband's wages, he being a factor in Persia. (1 *p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 21, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 339).

Mrs. Haines given 10*l.* over and above the 1,000*l.* agreed upon, in consideration of her long attendance and great expenses. Captain Styles proposes that the *Discovery* and *Reformation*, now in dock at Blackwall, be surveyed, and repaired if found fit for further service; if not, that they be sold and not allowed to rot, as this survey will not cost above 20*l.*; consideration of this proposal deferred until after the day of election, now near at hand. Mr. Fotherby desired to make an inventory of all the Company's serviceable ordnance and present it at the next court. The 5th of July appointed as the day of election. ($\frac{3}{4}$ *p.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 23, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 340).

Sir Abraham Dawes, accompanied by Mr. Job Harby and Mr. Smithwick, presents a written declaration or remonstrance which has been shown the King and referred by His Majesty for examination to Sir Abraham Dawes, Edward Herbert, Esq., His Majesty's Attorney-General, Thomas Bownest, Job Harby, Philip Burlimachy, Henry Leigh, Roger Dunstar, Edward Misselden, and Thomas Smithwick, or any four of them, who are to question any of the Company or any other persons in order to learn the causes of the Company's discouragement, how a sufficient stock may be had, and how the same may be well managed for the general good of the Company. After the reading of the said declaration and reference, Sir Abraham Dawes desires the Court to consider and answer it; and promises that the referees will present the Court's answer with their own report to the King, declaring that he has nothing to do with this business except what is imposed upon him by the said reference. Mr. Trott buys half of the Company's wet silk at 15*s.* the great pound at three, six months; and Mr. Pennoire buys the

other half at the same price and time. Mr. Abraham Chamberleyne buys old cordage, cloves, pepper, and defective silk. The Court lends 5*l.* to Mr. Knollis, a messenger of the King's chamber, employed by warrant from the Lords of the Council to fetch up one Odihorne upon complaint of Mr. Cramporne and others. All money due upon the account of Adrian Mountgomery, late purser in the *Discovery*, to be paid to his widow and executrix, she paying a fine of one hundred nobles for his private trade and giving the Company a general release. A Quarterly Court appointed to be held next Wednesday, as, the day of election being near, the generality may have some propositions to make. The bond of the late Edward Haines, with Mrs. Haines's bill for 100*l.* borrowed from the Company, to be delivered up to be cancelled. Thirty or forty bales of silk to be delivered to Alderman Garway. John Spiller to request Mr. Pennoir to seal bills for the defective silk he lately bought ; if he refuses to do this, he is to be arrested and an action brought against him. At the request of Christopher Read, 150*l.* of the fine lately imposed upon him is remitted. The account of Thomas Reynolds, late purser in the *Discovery*, to be cleared, but eleven months' wages, from the lading of the said ship until her casting away, to be deducted, leaving 174*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* (2½ *pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 28, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 342).

On consideration of the King's promise to hear the cause between the Company and Messrs. Kenniston and Bonneale concerning the piracies committed by the *Roebuck*, now returned from the East Indies, it is resolved to present a petition to His Majesty for leave to examine witnesses, notwithstanding the restraint signified to Sir Henry Martyn. Sir Nicholas Slanning appears, accompanied by two gentlemen who he desires may be heard concerning the contract made with Mr. Young for salvage of the *Palsgrave's* goods ; but the Court remembers the conclusion arrived at before, namely, that a contract was proposed but not concluded. Sir Nicholas thereupon requests this business may be considered and an answer sent to Sir James Bagg ; this is promised, and Mr. Sambrooke is ordered to make a computation of the goods saved, their sale, and charges of salvage. Some thinking that Mr. Pennoir should have

allowance for the silk he bought, it being much more damaged than was expected, while others are of the contrary opinion, he is called in and allowed to choose two Committees, and the Company two more to settle the dispute; whereupon he nominates Messrs. Cockayne and Craddock, while Aldermen Abdy and Gayre are chosen to act for the Company, each party giving the other 12*d.* to bind themselves in 300*l.* to abide by the decision arrived at. Captain Crispe buys eighty bags of the *Palsgrave's* pepper at 10½*d.* per lb. The answer to the referees concerning the Company's discouragement, stock, and good government, is read, approved, and ordered to be engrossed and subscribed by Mr. Governor and all the Committees. Captain Crispe having found by experiment that the Company's beams are untrue, several Committees are entreated to examine them and rectify what is amiss. (1½ *pp.*)

A QUARTERLY GENERAL COURT, JUNE 28, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 344).

Mr. Governor declares this to be the day appointed for a Quarterly Court, and that the generality are assembled because the day of election is near, to enable them to make what propositions they wish for the good of the Company. No one responding, Mr. Governor informs them that Mr. Cramporne, of Plymouth, has written to notify the arrival of a Danish ship at that port from the Indies, which has been out nine or ten years. Mr. Governor is then reminded to solicit the King and Lords for satisfaction for the loss and damage occasioned by the piracies committed by the *Roebuck* in the Red Sea; to which he replies that the Committees have themselves been to the King and Lords about it, and also sent several petitions to His Majesty for satisfaction herein and for permission to proceed against Kenniston and Bonneale in the Admiralty, to which the King answered that he will hear this cause himself, but that the Company must have patience and await his leisure. (¾ *p.*)

PETITION OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY TO THE KING [JUNE OR JULY, 1637] (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, No. 47).

Praying to be allowed to examine such witnesses as they shall

think fit and be advised by their counsel in the cause depending in the High Court of Admiralty between themselves, as plaintiffs, and Thomas Kynaston and Samuel Bonneale, as defendants, concerning the late piracies committed in the Red Sea by two ships set forth by the said defendants. ($\frac{3}{4}$ p.)

ANSWER OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY TO A DECLARATION EXHIBITED TO HIS MAJESTY AND REFERRED BY HIM TO SIR ABRAHAM DAWES AND OTHERS, JUNE 28, 1637 (*Public Record Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, Nos. 46, 46 I).

As to the causes of the Company's discouragement, they are (1) the losses caused by the Dutch (including their late abuses in cutting down the nutmeg trees on Pulo Run), for which no satisfaction has been obtained; (2) the refusal of the King of Persia to perform his contract; (3) the recent raising of the customs rates; (4) the India trade has been much injured by the recent famine in Gujarat; (5) the unfair competition of the Dutch, both in Asia and in Europe; (6) of late the Company has not been allowed to sell its saltpetre freely, but has been forced to part with it to the State at a low price; (7) the new book of rates limits the period for which drawback on re-exported goods can be claimed to one year; (8) several ships have been lost at sea of late; (9) the Company's privileges have been infringed and its trade injured by the piracies of the *Roebuck*, while Curteen's fleet is likely to do further damage to its interests; (10) certain factious persons persist in calumniating the Governor, Deputy, and Committees. As regards the raising of a fresh stock, it is not easily to be performed. The present stock was only 425,000*l.*, but already the adventurers have spent about 800,000*l.*, and money is still needed; this cannot be got unless present discouragements be remedied and His Majesty consents to favour and protect the Company. On the third point of reference—the management of the stock—the Company conceives that the present system is the best; but it is ready to submit to any regulations the State may see fit to impose. (*Two copies, varying. 6 pp.*)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JUNE 30, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 345).

Sir William Savill, son-in-law to the Lord Keeper, appears on behalf of the widow of George Sill with reference to a petition shown by her to the Lord Keeper and by him referred to the Company for them to satisfy the petitioner with her due, which Sir William avers to be 250*l.* and 585 rials of eight. The Court replies that the 250*l.* has been proved to belong to them and a release has been given for it; but the 585 rails having since been brought to their account as a debt from Raga Chitty to the late Henry Sill, this they will pay, it being their practice to pay, even after release has been given, what shall appear due, if not already accounted for. The Committees nominated to settle the dispute between the Company and Mr. Pennoir report that he demands 300*l.* and that he would rather have this business settled by law; the matter is again referred to their decision. Mr. Robert Bell petitions to be freed from his adventure of 1,275*l.* in the Third Joint Stock, on account of the many losses lately befallen him and for other reasons; the Court, on hearing that he has paid none of the said subscriptions, and owes the Company 308*l.*, but that sufficient is due unto him for divisions on Voyages to satisfy this debt with a margin of 600*l.* (of which he desires payment, to enable him to satisfy his creditors), resolves that he must write down his demands to be answered separately; meanwhile Mr. Sambrooke is ordered to make up his account. Mr. Markham presents an estimate, amounting to 5,000*l.*, of the value of the *Palsgrave's* goods; the Court directs that all charges for salvage shall be deducted, and desires three or four Committees to confer with Sir James Bagg and his son. Sir Richard Buller to be given 20*l.* for his trouble as a commissioner for salvage of the *Palsgrave's* goods. Mr. Symonds, claiming an extent on the estate of the late Richard Fenn, is told that until he produce it, or an order from the Exchequer, he cannot be paid. Edward Guy, formerly apprentice to Mr. Thomas Ferris, admitted to the freedom of the Company, paying 10*s.* to the poor-box. Note of Mr. Swanly's wages presented, but no order given concerning it. Mr. Bolton's request for payment of 13*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* for indigo referred for consideration. (2 pp.)

A COURT OF COMMITTEES, JULY 5, 1637 (*Court Book*, vol. xvi, p. 347).

Consideration had of Mr. Swanly's request to be paid his wages for the last two years without abatement, he alleging that when they were reduced he was willing to have given up, but was sent for by the Court and has been employed by them ever since; after some dispute he is allowed 210*l.* for the last two years, which he thankfully accepts. Mr. Symonds produces an extent from the Exchequer for 113*l.* on the estate of the late Richard Fenn; his claim is referred until Alderman Fenn, who claims the estate for the sister of the deceased, shall be present. Mr. Symonds then desires to be allowed 7*l.* for his expenses, this estate having been lying dead in the Company's hands for three years. Calicoes to be delivered to Francis Brewster, chirurgion, on payment of freight. Mr. Bell presents a writtten request that his subscription of 1,200*l.* [*sic*] in this Third Stock be made void, and he be paid the divisions due unto him in the Voyages; answered that this Court has no power 'to sinck the adventure', which must be referred to the General Court; that he must pay his bill of 308*l.*, and pay also for the freight of the white wine; but if he submit himself to the Court, his cause shall be further considered. Mr. Acton's bill of 8*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* for law causes to be paid. Mr. Christopher Read allowed twenty marks for goods supplied to the *Reformation*. Thomas Reignold, late purser of the *Palsgrave*, whose wages have been stopped eleven months, is given 40*l.* for his good service and his recent thrée months' attendance at Plymouth. The account of Richard Lucas, late master of the *Discovery*, to be cleared and all moneys due to him paid. Mr. John Trott, Mr. Pennoir, Messrs. William Pennoir, Matthew Craddock, Edmond Harvy, Thomas Russell, Edmond Sleigh, Abraham Chamberleyne, and Thomas Rich allowed as security for silk bought of the Company. (2 *pp.*)

[ROBERT] ATHERALL TO [ALGERNON, EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND?], JULY, 1637 (*Public Record Office: Dom. Chas. I*, vol. ccclxiv, No. 107).

Complains of the loss His Majesty suffers by the remissness of those who provide cordage for the navy, especially in buying

wrought stuff falsely made, in letting his covered rope-house at Woolwich to the East India Company, and buying ropes ready made in open ground where it is subject to wind, sun, and rain, and in paying an unreasonable price to the rope merchants from whom he buys. So also His Majesty is abused in match, paying 42*l.* a ton for what the writer would supply at 32*l.* if allowed to make it in His Majesty's rope-yard. (*Endorsed by Nicholas as coming from Mr. Atherall.* 1½ pp.)

PETITION OF PHILIP WHITE, BLACKSMITH, TO THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY, AUGUST 6, 1637 (*Ibid.*, vol. ccclxv, No. 27).

Petitioner has these twenty years past bought of the East India Company and others broken iron ordnance, and at his great charges makes them useful again, and some of them do better service than when they were first cast. Mr. Browne, His Majesty's gunfounder, threatens to arrest the said ordnance, although the greatest part of them, which were sold by Browne to the East India Company, were so defective that they lost about 1,500*l.* Prays the Lords to consider the reasons annexed, and to grant petitioner their warrant that Brown shall not molest petitioner. (¾ p.)

THE COUNCIL TO THE LORD MAYOR AND SHERIFFS OF LONDON, SEPTEMBER 24, 1637 (*Ibid.*, vol. ccclxviii, No. 27).

We send you a petition of William Courteen, showing that he was assessed in April last by the Court of Aldermen to pay 50*l.* towards the ship money, whereas most of the aldermen were assessed only at 10*l.*, 'which assessment he hath paid for accordance of His Majesty's service, notwithstanding his lands are assessed rateably as other mens,' and great part of his estate is in adventure at sea. We require you to give us account why you assessed him at so high a rate. (*Entitled 'At Hampton Court, 17th September, 1637,' when probably the order was made for the letter to be written.* Draft. 1 p.)

ACCOUNT, DATED SEPTEMBER 24, 1637, OF MONEY RECEIVED FOR POWDER SOLD OUT OF HIS MAJESTY'S MAGAZINE SINCE THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1636 (*Ibid.*, vol. ccclxviii, No. 38).

... Of the East India Company, 2,527*l.* 10*s.* ... total, 20,273*l.*

NOTES BY SECRETARY NICHOLAS OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANS-
ACTED BY THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY, SEPTEMBER 26,
1637 (*Ibid.*, vol. ccclxviii, No. 51).

... The East India Company and other merchants have powder
to repair, and have spoken to His Majesty's powder-maker to do it,
but he forbears without your order. ...

ORDER OF THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY, OCTOBER 26,
1637 (*Ibid.*, vol. ccclxx, No. 47).

That there being no gunpowder mills but His Majesty's allowed
to make or renew gunpowder, His Majesty's gunpowder-makers,
Mr. Cordewell and Mr. Collins, shall renew all such gunpowder as
the East India Company and other merchants (having formerly
bought the same out of His Majesty's store), shall desire to have
made serviceable; the said merchants sending to Mr. Nicholas
a note of the quantity of such decayed gunpowder, and the gun-
powder-makers a similar note of what quantity they deliver back.
(1 p.)

SIR JOHN PENNINGTON, ABOARD THE *SWIFTSURE* IN THE
DOWNS, TO THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY, DECEMBER 23, 1637
(*Ibid.*, vol. ccclxxiv, No. 42).

The East India ship, the *Jewel*, which has been so long missing,
arrived here yesterday in safety, and set sail this morning for the
Thames; she has [been] miraculously preserved, for she rode seven
or eight days upon the coast of France in very foul weather,
where she lost all her cables and anchors, and after lay driving to
and again in the sea, to [this] present that she got near Dover, from
whence [she was] relieved. ...

PROTEST OF EDWARD KNIPE AND ANDREW CARNWATH
AGAINST THE DUTCH AGENT AT ACHIN, [1637?] (*Public Record
Office: East Indies*, vol. iv B, Nos. 48, 48 I).

Edward Knipe and Andrew Carnwath, in the service of Sir
William Courteen, and now residing at Achin, on behalf of the
King of Great Britain and his subjects, protest against John
Vandermole, in the service of the Netherlands [East India]

Company, for dishonouring the said King, and striving to bring them into discredit with the King of Achin, and hindering them by scandalous reports and contemptuous actions. (*Original and copy.* 2½ pp.)

PETITION FROM THE EAST INDIA COMPANY TO THE KING,
JANUARY, 1638 (*Ibid.*, vol. iv B, No. 51 I.)

Having received His Majesty's gracious favour and inclination in answer to their petition through Mr. Recorder¹, they are encouraged to submit their further requests. As regards their demands in respect of the depredations committed in the Red Sea, they were promised justice and ordered to prepare a statement of losses. This they now submit, and beg to be directed in what way they may seek reparation. To their second petition, which was for the abandonment of the increase in the customs on Indian commodities, and for the allowance of a longer period than one year for their re-exportation, His Majesty answered that, as regards the one, information would be obtained from the Farmers of the Customs respecting the resulting loss to the revenue, and that, as regards the other, no extension could be given. They now represent that unless some favour be shown herein, they cannot continue the trade, and they beg that the Farmers may be consulted on this subject also. On the third point, namely, the Company's claim against the Dutch, it was alleged that previously, when an agreement was nearly reached, they refused to agree. This they deny, and state that the agreement was broken by Thomas Smethwicke, a private person, without the knowledge of the Company. They now beg that His Majesty will resume the negotiations with the Dutch on the former footing, in order that reparation may be obtained for past injuries, and that some part of the Molucca trade may be secured for the English, as stipulated by the Treaty of 1619. And they hope that His Majesty will vouchsafe the Company in future his protection in these matters. In regard to the fourth point, His Majesty, as they understand, promised to grant their desires for a renewal of the Company's charter, with additional privileges. For this they tender their humble thanks. (*Endorsed*

¹ Thomas Gardiner, Recorder, 1636-43, and afterwards Solicitor-General.

'Concerning the East Indya Companie to His Majestie, Jan., 1637'.
1½ pp.)

A SECOND COPY OF THE SAME PETITION (*Ibid.*, No. 51).

With marginal notes of the replies given to the various demands, viz.: (1) 'Wee to send for the parties and shew the charge'; (2) 'Lord Treasurer to confer with Farmers and give answer'; (3) 'to make their propositions readie for treatie'; (4) 'to set down their additions in writing for the Lord Treasurer and Mr. Attorney to consider'. (*Endorsed* 'East India Companie to His Majestie, 1638.' 1½ pp.)

THE STATEMENT OF LOSSES REFERRED TO (*Ibid.*, No. 72).

Paid to the Governors of Surat and Agra, and to various claimants, 56,417 rials of eight; and 33,238 rials have been arrested in Goa; total, 89,655 rials, or 22,413*l.* 15*s.* Of this amount 9,712*l.* 10*s.* has been recovered by the *Swan*, leaving a balance of 12,701*l.* 5*s.* This was ready money, and must be at least doubled to make up for cost of shipping, loss of profits, &c. Further, there are charges incurred owing to the imprisonment of the Company's servants, and especially by the setting out of a ship of 800 tons in pursuit of the pirates, which cost at least 500*l.* per month for twelve months together. (1 p.)

OBSERVATIONS BY THOMAS KYNASTON ON THE COMPANY'S CLAIM (*Ibid.*, No. 72 I).

He does not believe that the money has been paid or arrested in India as alleged. Affirms that Cobb gave up all the goods taken from the junk, except a rich hanging since delivered to the Company. Denies that anything is due to the latter, but thinks they really owe him compensation for the goods forced from Cobb. Does not credit any of the claims, and suggests that the Company be called upon to make legal proof of their assertions. (1¾ pp.)

ORDER OF COUNCIL, JANUARY 12, 1638 (*Public Record Office: Dom. Chas. I*, vol. ccclxxviii, No. 56).

The Attorney-General having, by relation of Thomas Violet, exhibited an information in the Star Chamber against John