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The entries made in pencil on the margin in the volume were made with the help of the papers in the bundle at the time of the weeding and destruction of records.

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The Consultations and Diary Book of Josias Du Pre Esqr President and Governor &c Council of Fort St George in their Military Department containing their Proceedings in Military Affairs and their Transactions with the Country Government.

Commencing the 2 January 1773

Page 1 Fort St George 2 January 1773

Rec.d This day the following Letter from Mr Anthony Sadlier

To the Honble Josias Du Pre Esqr
President & Governor &c Council of Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

Letter from Mr Sadlier the Guns at Madapollam cattle to be sent to Manaly just now by the first Opportunity —

I have been favoured with your Letter of the 1st Instant; Mr Scurlock has since wrote me that the expence of sending Men with the Slaves necessary for procuring the Guns at this place would greatly exceed the difference between the Freight of a Part & that of the whole of them he desires the whole may be sent to Madapollam by the first Sea conveyance, which I shall do accordingly — I have the Honour to remain

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most humble and
Obed.t Obliged Servant
Anth.y Sadlier

Madapollam
2 Dec.r 1772

2 Fort St. George 4th January 1773

At a Consultation Present

Monday Jan.y 4. 1773

Josias Du Pré Esq.r Governor President
Alexander Wynch " Sir Rob.t Fletcher
John Smith " John Whitehill
Charles Smith " Samuel Johnson
John Maxwell Stone " Edward Stracey
George Mackay

The following Certificate respecting Capt.n Tho.s Oates deceased is laid before the Board and approved

By Brigadier General Joseph Smith Commanding Officer of the Company's Troops on the Coast of Choromandel

Whereas it is ordered by the regulations for transacting the Business of the Hon.ble Company's Fund for the relief and maintenance of European Officers and Soldiers invalided or Superannuates, their Widows and the Widows of Officers & Soldiers dying in the Company's Service, that they produce a Certificate from the Commanding Officer as one of the requisites to entitle them to the Pension made by the said Military Fund.

I do Certify that Thomas Oates served the Hon.ble Company about ten Years was a Captain of Artillery on this Establishment and dies at Trichinopoly in the month of July last, that he left a Wife and Daughter to Mr Thomas Pelling Merchant in Madras and was not at the Time of his Death possessed of real and personal Estate to the Amount of two thousand Pagodas

In Justice to the Memory of Capt.n Oates I cannot avoid remarking that he was a Valuable good Officer and on all occasions discharged his duty very much to the Satisfac-

tion

3 Fort St. George 4 Jan.y 1773

Satisfaction of his Superiors —

Given under my Hand at
Fort St. George in the East
Indies the 20th Day of August 1772

Joseph Smith

To
the Honble the Court of
Directors of the United Company
of Merchants of England trading
to the East Indies ——

Mess.rs Samuel Johnson and George Mackay, deliver in
their Dissent to the resolution of the Majority of the Board
respecting Sir Rob.t Fletchers Scheme for the Disposition
of the Troops ——

the Dissent of
Mess.rs Johnson &
Mackay —

We approve of the plan proposed by Sir Robert Fletcher
for Stationing the Troops entered in Consultation the
24th Inst.

1st Because it appears to us much better calculated
for the defence of the Company's & Nabobs Possessions
than the present Disposition of the Troops ——

2d Because Our having so considerable a Body of Men
as a whole Brigade stationed at Cuyenerum or in some
other central part of the Carnatick, Ready for immediate Service would in our Opinion make us more
respected and feared by all the Country Powers from
whom we have any to Apprehend & it would be a
better Security to us, than if we had a much greater
Force than our present Establishment dispersed in our
different Garrisons, for the very Idea of our having
such an Army ready to move at a Moments Warning
would we are convinced prevent the Marattas or
Hyder Ally at all times from Invading the Carnatick in whatever they might be tempted to do, from the
hopes of Plunder or compelling the Nabob to pay a
sum of Money, when they find us quite unprepared
to oppose them, we are perfectly well Satisfied that
the Marattas would not have committed any depredations in the Nabobs Country last Year or even
have come so near as the Barrachoud if we had but
marched

Fort St. George A. Dnt 1773

marched that way with a few Battalions of Sepoys but as we were not prepared in the manner now proposed they were the more daring ——————

3 Because in case of a National War with France we might in two or three days time be at the Gates of Pondicherry with an Army & give our Enemy such a Blow in the Beginning as would consume us future Succours. we will even suppose that the French landed a considerable Force from their Islands & perhaps a greater than we could possibly oppose in the Field, yet in that case great advantages might be derived from our having a compleat Brigade ready to act as occasion might require ——————

4 Because by this Plan, the discipline and good Order of our Troops; on which our very existence in this Country depends, would be preserved and that consideration alone, wants have great weight with us, With regard to the Number of Troops mentioned in the Plan for the Different Garrisons in the Carnatick we shall only say that if they are sufficient to relieve the common Guards & prevent a Surprize & that the Commanding Officer ought to be left Judge they are all that are necessary in our Opinion in time of Peace, in case of a French War we think it is more than probable that we should be Obliged to abandon the Greatest Part of them. The same observation will hold good with regard to the Corps, the Seven Battalions of Sepoys & Artillery are mentioned in the plan for that Service we think will for the present be sufficient to attend the Revenues & keep the Zemindars in Order and to Secure Manufacturers in case of War, we shall not enlarge here on the Practicability of putting the Plan into Execution or of the Retrenchments under which this Government is said

to ...

to be for they are not Questions now before the Board We do not know of any Instructions we are under to Station the Troops where they may be thought most useful & the new Treasury is low at present, yet we think if the Board were unanimous in this important business. Money might be got to build Quarters for the Brigade men if Sir Robert Fletcher, has not Hence it, ——— Asc! Echunder

Sir R.t Fletchers Depos.t

Sir Robert Fletcher delivers in his Depos.t to the Vote of the Majority on the 24th Inst.t ———

I Dissent to the Votes of the Majority of the Board on Thursday the 24th. Instant upon my two Questions relative to the Disposition of the Troops.

1st Because the negative of the Majority upon the first Question Viz.t that the plan be approved is in Opposition to the Letter, but approving of the Principle of a plan which I conceive to be most proper for the protection of the Companys and the Natives Possessions; and because the previous Question carried by the same Majority upon the second Question Viz.t That it is the Opinion of the Board that it is necessary to keep a Brigade at Conjeveram in readiness for immediate Service is directly repugnant to that very principle which I conceive to have been approved by the Vote upon the first question, tho' from the Presidents written Opinion; the first Vote does approve only of some of the constituent parts of the Plan and the Second seems appear only to give a temporary defeat to the object of the Plan yet I fear this will be a means of continuing the delay, for I have no Doubt, but in future there will be found as good reasons as any I have heard, for avoiding what is called an Expence, but what would in reality be an immediate and a lasting saving, to the Company

and

6 Fort S. George 4 Jan.y 1773

and the Nabob since it is understood that the Brigade at Conjeveram must not be allowed Batta; and surely we ought in our circumstances, to observe the most prudent Oeconomy, to give us a prospect of discharging our necessary charges ——

2 Because the plea of the present low state of our Finances ought, in my Opinion to have but little weight after I Have to furnish the necessary amount for building Cantonments at Conjeveram leaving the time and the mode of payment to the Honble Court The reasons of the Majority appear to me precisely the same as may be seen in the Boards remarks upon the same subject May 6th 1770 and which should have left Fear never there in future when the Nabobs debt should be paid and the Company obliged to depend upon their Revenues alone for their Expence and when the circumstances & dispositions of our Enemies may render the Execution of the Plan very difficult; I conceive that the Opinions of General Coote, General Smith and myself Essentially agree for I likewise admit the Impracticability of executing the plan upon the notion that we are constantly to Garrison the Nabobs Forts throughout the Carnatick. In time of Peace or in those of War with the Indian Powers, no more of our Troops than those Inserted in the Plan, are necessary to such Garrisons, In a National War whether we shall be able to keep a powerful Army in the Field or not I think it would be imprudent in us to garrison more than two or three of the inlands Forts and they would be very useful to Encamp and distress the Enemy incase of Madness being besieged as well as to negotiate with our Country Powers as might for their own sakes, be inclined to keep up a balance between us and the French ——

3 Because I conceive the only certain security to the Company and the Nabob is a regular well disciplined Army, but as our Troops are to continue upon

upon the present System, I think both our Bourgases will not be more formidable when they should be assembled for Service than they are might soon be, under the Eye and immediate Direction of the Commander of the Army who would decide his Time between Carangoorum and the Presidency, He would then have it in his Power to detect negligence, to enforce Discipline, and to prevent Partiality among the Native Troops the Growth of those Evils which are now too much reason to fear are sapping the very foundation of our Military establishment an establishment which under proper management I think sufficient not only to carry on Hindostan but to repel any Army that France can bring upon the Coast

4 Because I think our Foes despised as they are, can strike no Terror in our Councils, but I fear may Obstruct and perhaps defeat, the success of our Operations in case of a National War, The Orders dated the 7th. December 1778 of the Secret Committee at Home to the Select Committee here on my Opinion pointed out the necessity of the Plan at that time and the Expediency of January last when the whole Country was deserted might have convinced us of the Expediency of some plan to quiet the minds of the Inhabitants and to Secure their lives and properties from the Cruelty and Oppression of those Lawless Robbers who carry Terror and devastation wherever they go and who may at this Moment insult us at our own Gates with Impunity and Success These are the objects of a Plan which might be executed at an expence (of about Forty Thousand Pagodas) far Inferior to the Importance of any one of the Evils which it is proposed to Remedy, Our Honour and Reputation would no longer be wounded by the Insolence of the Mharattas nor the Nabob obliged to Exhaust his Treasure in the Purchase of that Peace which ought to be secured by the Troops he maintains — The President in his written

minute

minute says I insisted upon the Question being put for Approveing the plan in the precise form in which it stands. Tho I am not ashamed to acknowledge those parts of the Plan which the Board disapprove, yet it is necessary to remark here that I did not insist upon the Question of Approval until I had an open Solicited the Board to alter every part they disliked of the plan declaring my willingness to concur in such Alterations, provided they would agree to station a Brigade at Conjeveram as to the Circars, the Force now there is incadiquate. I said it would be upon the plan proposed a Sepoy Battalion of 1000 Men being superior to the European Battalion at Ellore which cannot muster 300 Men into the Field and that is besides a Force from the Nature of the Country peculiarly suited to the Native not European Troops. I shall conclude expressing my concern that the President should seem to dislike my proceeding upon the foregoing Questions at the Board and declaring that I should have left myself Culpable had I insisted upon a matter which seems to present itself as my peculiar Duty and I must confess I was sensibly Alarmed at the Presidents declaration (which I endeavoured to flatter myself was not Serious) that he meant to move a previous Question upon every Question I should propose because I feared that such declaration coming from the highest Authority might tend to destroy that Freedom and Independance of Debate which ought with temper and Decency to prevail at the Board and without which a Connection would be a Cypher & a Consultation a mere Sham. But it appeared that the President meant what he said for the previous Question was moved after my Declaration that I had but one more Question to propose, & not to propose according to the Date of the Seals Question, I left the Board, what it was and if the President will consider that at my request the Day

was

9 Fort St. George 4th Jany 1773

was set apart for that particular Business, which he
seems to have the object of my particular Attention
for many months; I think in Candor he must allow
that I acted a Regular fair and Open part — This
is I think the 4th Dispute I have written in the Short
time I had the Honor to set at the Board and altho' I
do approve of disputes in General and dispise little Competi-
tions, Factions and Disputes yet whenever great Ques-
tions like the Present shall be brought to the Board
It will be my Delight as well as my Duty to act
upon my own Opinion with Freedom and Intregrity
and to Commit my Sentiments to the Records for the
Examination of the Honble Court of Directors to whose
Judgement and Decision I will chearfully submit every
part of my Conduct.

Wm Fletcher

The President acquaints the Board that he will on a
Subsequent Meeting reply to what Sir Robert has said
on the previous Question being put to his Motion —

The President lays before the Board the following
Statement of Sepoy Subsistance, shewing the difference
between the charges made by the Sepoy Captains and
the charges now made by the Agent ——

List.

10 Fort St. George 4 Jany 1773

Statement of Stores half Mounting

List of Slops ordered to be provided for each Seapoy

2 Jackets

2 Pair of Drawers

1½ Turban

1 Sash

Medium Prices taken from the Accounts sent in by the Captains of Battalions								
2 Jackets	12	38¾						
2 Pair of Drawers	10	4¼						
1½ Turban	34	62						
1 Sash	6	33¾	1	21	60¾	18216	40	40	18216	40	40
Estimated Prices by General Smith											
2 Jackets	17	–									
2 Pair of Drawers	12	–									
1½ Turban	26	20									
1 Sash	5	40	1	18	60	17357	6	–	17357	6	–
Prices as Contracted for by the Warehousekeeper in January 1772											
2 Jackets	10	56									
2 P^r of Drawers	8	13 9/16									
1½ Turban	25	16									
1 Sash	5	20	1	7	25 9/16	14091	12	30	14091	12	30
Land Custom on Turbans						360	–	–	14451	12	30

Prices as proved by the Agent in 1772

2 Jackets	~ 10 ,, 56		
2 Pr of Drawers	~ 7 51 20		
1 1/2 Turbans	~ 28 ,, ~		
1 Sash	~ 5 20	1 2 17/20	127 48 25 40
Difference in the Prices between the old and new Sashes for Sepoys			534 12 ~
Difference in the Prices between the Turbans & Sashes for Havildars & Nags & those proved for Sepoys			158 15 ~
Land Custom on Turbans & Sashes			124 26 44 11 158 37 ,,

Prices as now proved by the Agent for 1773

2 Jackets	~ 10 ,, 56		
2 Pr of Drawers	~ 7 51 20		
1 1/2 Turban	~ 18 ,, 60		
1 Sash	~ 5 20	1 ~ 27/20	1209 31 40 ,, 1209 ,, 31 40
Difference in the Prices between the old and new Sashes for Sepoys			884 ~
Difference in the Prices between the Turbans & Sashes for Havildars & Nags & those proved for Sepoys			432 24 ~
Land Custom on Turbans & Sashes			385 22 52 13400 39 12

NB The Agent having raised the prices in the above manner proposed 1772 as appears by his Statement then delivered to the Board to lengthen the Turbans for Havildars & Nags from 26 to 28 Cubits & to improve their Quality, He proposed at the same time to provide Sashes of a Strong Manufacture and to increase their Length from 6 to 12 Cubits for the Officers & from 6 to 10 for the Sepoys which the Board having approved of, The Prices were increased as appears in the under lines in the two last Accounts To shew the above Accounts in one View, the Cloth for Jackets & Drawers is supposed the Same for the Officers as for the Sepoys whereas those for Havildars are made of finer Cloth & those for Nagues of Muslin, If the Difference between the Prices of these is added to the above Accounts they will agree exactly with the Statement delivered before -

Fort St. George 4th Jany 1773

4th of May 1770
31 Dec.r
11 Nov.r 1771
9 Dec.r
16 Dec.r
30 Dec.r

The Board having referred to their former Minutes relative to the Several Methods proposed and the different Statements delivered in for the providing of Sepoy Gulf Mounting as entered in the Margin; it appears that Mr. Cotsford's Estimate of the Expence at which the Sepoy Gulf Mounting could be provided at Ganjam was much more reasonable that at any other place and it was ordered that the whole should have been regulated there, if the Materials were found equal to those provided here. Mr. Cotsford was therefore directed to send up a Muster & a compleat List of Gulf Mounting for each Rank to enable the Board to determine thereon, But none having yet been received from him the Matter has remained yet in Suspence, The Secretary is therefore directed to write Mr. Cotsford to transmit with all Expedition the Muster and Estimates of Sepoy Gulf Mounting, and as the Board wish to have every requisite information on this Subject to assist their Determination to the most eligible method of providing the Sepoy Flotes: The Secretary is further directed to write to Masulipatam and Vizagapatam for Musters and Estimates and to acquaint the chiefs of the Several Settlements to the Northward that an Allowance of 5 P Cent Commission is made to the Agent for his trouble in providing them, which allowance it is proposed shall be given to the Persons appointed to this Service, at such Place as they can be made up at the most reasonable Rate, But until Answers can be obtained from the Northern Settlements the Board Direct that the providing of Sepoy Flotes shall continue on the present Channel

Mr John Macpherson appointed Agent for the Sepoy Gulf mounting

Mr John M.cPherson is accordingly appointed Agent in the room of Mr Sulivane

Read the following Letter from the Register of the Mayors Court

Extract of a Letter from the Register of the Mayors Court

31st Dec.r 1772

I am directed by the Hon.ble the

Fort St. George 1st Jan.y 1773.

Letter from Register to Mayors Court on the right of stiling a Clerk of the Peace Market & the powers &c.g. claimed by the Natives Servants

Mayors Court to acknowledge the Receipt of a Letter from your Sub Secretary under Date 9th Instant Enclosing extract of one from the Hble Court of Directors to your Honor &c. dated 25th March ultimo In regard to the 70th Para. I am directed to say that the appointing Clerk of Market has long and uninterrupted usage Vested Solely in the Corporation and that in Conformity thereto as also to the Statute Laws of England by which the Doubts that formerly arose to the Court on this Occasion are cleared up, They have appointed a Clerk of the Market for the ensuing Year

In Answer to the 72 Para of the said Extract I am ordered to acquaint your Honor &c. Council that the Court having taken the Same into Consideration are of Opinion that all attention & Regard be had thereto consistent with the Laws &c. Usage of his Majestys Court & the Laws of the Realm

Signed by Order of Mayors Court

A true Extract
C. Ouchterlony Jr.

James Taylor
Register

Agreed to refer that part of the Letter from the Mayors Court respecting the Appointment of a Clerk of the Market to the other Department

The Board now proceed to take into Consideration the reply of the Mayors Court to the 72 Paragraph of a General Letter from the Hble Court of Directors dated 25th March 1772 relative to the Privileges claimed by the Natives for his Servants and Dependants

General Letter to the other Department Par. 72. 25 March 1772.

The President informs the Board that Since the Extract of the Letter from the Hble Court of Directors Par. 72 referred to in the foregoing Letter from the Mayors Court had been sent to the Court, the Nabob has complained to him that one Abbas Mahomed had been Arrested on Tuesday by a Warrant from the Mayors Court - That the Said Abbas Mahomed is Entitled at least to that which is his place of Residence as it is the place where his Duty immediately requires his presence, but that he the Nabob Sending a message

nacessary to call upon him to adjust certain Accounts relative to his Department has ordered him to depart to his Durbar for that purpose, That he the Select Committee has communicated to the Mayors Court, That Government the important Affairs in which both the English Nation and the Carnatick are instructed That if his Servants of every Denomination are thus liable to be arrested it must in the end draw him to the Neciety of entering out of the Jurisdiction of the Court, That he desired this Government to procure him such redress as might be in their Power

That the President thereupon requested him (having before informed him) what the Honble Court of Directors had written on the subject, That it had been communicated to the Mayors Court, That this Government had no Power or Controul over that Court which was instituted by the Kings immediate Authority, and therefore all that could be done by this Government was to endeavour to induce the Court to consider maturely of the Circumstances and to apply such remedy as they should think just and reasonable, That in the mean time he the President offered as the only immediate relief in his Power to bail the said Abbas Mahomed leaving the further consideration of the subject entirely to the Mayors Court who he hoped would see the Select Committee thereupon requested that he the President would Bail the said Abbas Mahomed and take any other Steps that he should think best in the present case towards procuring the redress he desired, he the President had accordingly given Bail for the said Abbas Mahomed on the Action brought against him amounting to about twenty thousand Pagodas

The Board having taken the whole of the foregoing together with the Letter from the Mayors Court under their consideration are of Opinion that the said Letter is so expressed as to

15 Fort St George 4 Jany 1743

gone Just cause for Doubt whether they deem the Opinion of the Honble Court of Directors consistent with their Jurisdiction and the Laws of the Realm That in order to enable this Government to take any further Steps with Propriety towards ascertaining the Opinion of the Mayors Court it is proper that the Nabob apply in writing to the Governor Stating in what he esteems to be a grievance, and what redress he claims or desires ——

The President desires that he may be indemnified on the part of the Company on account of the Bail he hath given at the Nabobs request Agreed that the Bail be considered as given in his publick Character and therefore that he be saved harmless by the Company and that before his Departure application be made to the Mayors Court if necessary to release him and accept the Bail of the Gentlemen for the time being ——

Jos. Du Pré
Rob. Fletcher
Wm. Monckton
John Smith
John Whitehill
Charles Smith
Sam. Peploe
Wm. Hornby

16 Fort St George 11 January 1773

Monday 11 January 1773.

At a Consultation Present

Josias Du Pré Esqr. Governor President
Alexander Wynch " Sir Robert Fletcher
John Smith " John Whitehill
Charles Smith " Samuel Johnson
J Maxwell Stone " Ed: Stracey
George Mackay

The following Certificate respecting Lieut Popple read and approved

By Brigadier General Joseph Smith
Commanding Officer of the Honble Companys
Troops on the Coast of Choromandel.

Certificate respecting Lieut Popple

Whereas it is ordered, by the regulations for transacting the Business of the Honble Companys Fund for the relief and Maintenance of European Officers and Soldiers invalided or Supernumerated their Widows and the Widows of Officers and Soldiers dying in the Service, that they produce a Certificate from the Commanding Officer as one of the requisites to entitle them to the provision made by the same Military Fund

I do Certify that William Prosper Popple died at Fort St. George in the month of July one thousand seven hundred and Seventy one and was a Lieutenant on this Establishment at the Time of his Death

Given under my hand at Fort St George on the East Indies the 20 day of August 1772

Joseph Smith

To the Honble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Read the following Letter from Mr William Light Paymaster at Vellore

Fort St. George 1st Janry 1773

To the Honble Josias Du Pré Esqr
President and Governor &c. Fort St. George

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Letter from Mr Light. the Settlor has rec'd no Orders to supply him with Materials

I has the Honor of your Letter of the 24th December and have agreeable to your Orders conversed thereon apply to the Naboh Managers of this place for the Necessary Materials for the Repairs of this Fort, he has informed me he has not received any Orders from the Naboh regarding them and unless he does he cannot supply me. I would be glad of your further Instructions on the Subject and remain with

Great Respect
Honble Sirs &c
Your most Obedient
humble Servant
Wm Light Engr

Resolutions in Consequence

In consequence of Mr Light Letter the President is desired to apply to the Naboh to transmit Orders to his Manager at Vellore to supply the Engineer with the Materials required for the Repairs of the Fort.

Read the following Extract of a General Letter from Bengal to the other Departments with a Copy of a Letter to the Secretary at Fort William from the Cadets in the Service there on the Prince of Wales belonging to this Establishment, and also Copy of a Letter from Mr Thomas Adams

Vellore
6 Janry 1773

Extract from a General Letter from Bengal dated 15 Decr 1772

By signified your Orders of the 18 of Sept to Mr Adams his reply to our Secretary waits on you enclosed

Letter from Fort William. the Govr Hannot have assigned 100 Rupees to y Masters Cadets

On the Application of Messrs Campbell Eaton, Brown and Halibertan Cadets on your Establishment who arrived here on the Prince of Wales are Granted them an Advance of Rs 200 each

Agn

18 Fort St. George 11 Janry 1773

Amounting to an ale R Sicca which are Laid pro-
to the Debit of your Presidency on Account, Rents
for which and a Copy of their Application is inclose

A true Extract
Cha.s Oakeley Sec.y

Sir

Calcutta Oct.r 3.d 1772

Madras Cadets apply to the Board at Fort William for an Allowance.

The Ship Prince of Wales Lieing on Dis-
patch with Sundry other Cadets for that Establish-
ment who came out in her are under the Necessity
of troubling you with this Application

Capt.n Widdrington could not, in terms
of your Orders obtain a passage for us in the
Pacquet that Sailed last Month and as we are not
only unprovided of Money but have no Acquaintance
or Letters to any person in Bengal You will I hope
pardon the Freedom of our case and be pleased to
put us on the Same Footing with the Cadets here
or otherwise as to your Wisdom Shall most proper
till an Opportunity offers of sending us to Madras
With the highest Respect I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedient &
most Humble Servants

Signed Pat.k Campbell Cadet
for Self and
Eaton
Brown
Grant &
Hakburton

Thos Coby
Paymr
Subsy.

As it appears that the Application of
the Cadets for the above allowance was made to them at
Bengal it was owing to their Ignorance we cannot
expect that they will be able to refund it either
upon any part of the above allowance out of the
allowance of 5 Rup.s 8 Months their Subsistence as
Cadets and as it does not appear that the

Captain

19 Fort St. George 15th January 1773

Captain of the Prince of Wales, they ship on which they came out had any good cause for passing this Port and proceeding directly to Bengal which obliges the Courts to make the above Application to ye President & Council of Fort Williams the Board are of Opinion that the Worthy Court should be advised that they may if they see proper demand themselves the amount of this extraordinary charge from Captain Court ——

To John Stewart Esqr Secretary to the Worthy President & Council at Fort Williams ——

Sir

I have been favored with yours of Yesterdays date enclosing an Extract of a Letter from Fort St. George respecting my Leave of absence from that Place and acquainting me you are commanded to negotiate my Return to that Presidency by the Nassau Capt. Gore, Upon this Occasion I beg you will be pleased to acquaint the Worthy President & Council that it has not yet been in my Power to settle the very Material Business which Induced me to come to Bengal, owing to the Gentlemen on whose Lands I left my Cowries when I was last time being absent from Calcutta and as I have represented this Circumstance to the Worthy the President and Council of Madras, I promise myself I shall be favored with their further Indulgence —— I am Sir

Your most Obedient & humble Servant
Thos Adams

Letter from Mr. Adams to the Secretary at Calcutta —

Calcutta
Decr 13. 1772

A true Copy
Peter Rob Secy

The President lays before the Board the following Letter from Mr. Thomas Adams ——

To

20 Fort St. George 12 Jany 1773

To the Honble. the President & Council
at Fort St. George

Honble Sirs & Sirs.

Letter from Mr Thos Lessingue, has not Settled his Affairs at Bengal and requests further time of Absence

The time which you granted me to settle my Affairs in this place being nearly Elapsed I have to request your further permission to remain here Six Months Longer as my Attorney as Resident up the Country at such a distance from Calcutta as to have made it impossible for me to adjust my Accounts with him. Waiting for such indulgence I am with the Greatest Respect. Honble Sirs & Sirs

Your most Obedt
& Humble Servant
Thos Adams

Calcutta
Decr 10th 1772

Granted

Agent to allow Mr Adams further time to settle his Affairs in Bengal and the Secretary be ordd to signify the same to him

Mr Cumming's Account of Expences refer'd to the Committee of Accounts

Mr William Cumming having transmitted to the Secretary an account of his Expences as Paymaster with Lieut Col. Baillie's Detachment amounting to Pagodas 388, 29, 70. the same is now laid before the Board, but as this Matter comes more properly under the Examination of the Committee of Accounts, Agreed to refer it to them

President's Minute on the Remarks made by Sir Robt Fletcher in his Deputation to put the Construction to Sir Robt's Minute

The President having signified to the Board his intention to make some Remarks on Sir Robert Fletchers Minute entered on Consultation the 4 Inst. delivers in the following Minute

Did not intend and hoped I should not have been obliged to write any thing on the subject of Returning the Troops or in reply to the Reasons in both the Minority on that Question proposed to enter on the Records, because having expressed my Sense of the Board in as short a manner as might be that clearly understood whatever Reasons the Minority might have to find

Fort St. George 11th Janry. 1773

in Support of their Opinions I meant not to enter into a Controversy with them, I am shortly to embark for Europe, if it shall be the pleasure of the Honble Court of Directors to give me a hearing I hope I shall be able to satisfy them that in this, as in all other their Affairs, I have endeavoured to act upon an uniform & Consistent plan suited to the Tenor and Spirit of their Orders and to the Circumstances in which those Orders placed us. had the Dissents been confined to the Merits of the Question, I should for these Reasons have remained Silent here and to Come to do as to the Merits. But as Sir Robert Fletcher has thought it proper to go beyond the Merits, in order to place the conduct of the President in an unfavourable Light I must endeavour to place it in a Just point of View. The Brave impartial Judge whether I am candid in the following Statement of it. Sir Robert Fletcher says I was sensibly alarmed at the Presidents declaration that he would move a previous Question upon every Question I should propose. Sir Robert Fletchers dissent is Entered not for the Information of the Board, but to be read in England by those who not having been present at the Debate must understand it Literally, I assure Literally it means that the Presidents declaration extended to every Question that Sir Robert Fletcher should propose upon every Subject. Sir Robert Fletcher read to me his Dissent as it stands before he brought it to the Board, I observed to him how unjust to me his Statement of the Matter appeared and that I should be obliged to explain it: I thought he seemed sensible of it yet it is recorded so

The Fact as shortly, truely and simply as I can recollect & relate it is this.

A

22 Fort St. George 12 Janry 1773

A Day or two before the subject in Question came before the Board Sir Robert Fletcher communicated his Plan to Mr Wynch & myself. The Subject was discussed without the least Reserve and every Advantage and every Doubt and Difficulty that occurred was freely mentioned. When the plan was laid before the Board far from objecting to the Design and Object I declared that could it consistently with the Circumstances of our Affairs be carried into Execution, I thought it very proper and that this was not a New Opinion, nor was the Proposal a New one — the plan was suggested by General Cook & was reconsidered the Year after, the Board & myself as one of the Members always approved the Idea and wished it could be carried into Execution, but the Obstacles were many and great. This led to the consideration of the Arrangements proposed in order to enable us to draw together the Number of Troops intended to be Cantoned. neither myself nor any Member as I recollect at the Board objected absolutely and Decisively to any part, it is very true that I had and most of the other Members had great Doubts as to the Propriety of some Parts I should always on such a case Endeavour to remove my Doubts before I give a decisive Judgement. But Besides the Doubts upon the particular Arrangements proposed there were other and greater Difficulties, at least so they appeared to me, which I thought were of sufficient weight against a decisive Resolution to carry the Plan into immediate Execution. I suggested them at the Board & must not mention them here for the Reasons before given. It is true that Sir Robert Fletcher

consented

consented to alter or change any part of the Plan except the Assembling the Number of Troops proposed for the Cantonments, but as I did not object absolutely to any part neither was I prepared to propose any other Arrangement. The Case then stood thus. I approved of the object; I thought however that there were strong Reasons against our immediate and Decisive Resolution and it seemed to me that it would be time enough to digest the Parts when the greater obstacles there to removed and on the main Scene the Members of the Board might better satisfy themselves as to the Propriety of the proposed Arrangements of the Parts or of any other Sir Robert Fletcher however insisted that the Board should immediately proceed to alter the parts or that the Question should be put upon his Motion to approve the plan as it stood. I declared I should with much reluctance put the Question, because I could not give a Decisive Vote of Approbation while I remained unsatisfied on many Parts and I should very unwillingly put an absolute Negative upon the whole, while I approved of the main object. But the Question being nevertheless insisted on, it was put and carried in the Negative and I immediately wrote at the Board the short Declaration entered on the Minutes of that day, to explain my sense in a few words, to which the Majority assented. All that Declaration together with what had passed at the Board on debate very clearly and strongly declares the Sense of the Board to be, that tho they approved of the main object yet that they did not think the immediate Execution absolutely

absolutely necessary, nor whose they subsist of the protection
& ability. Yet Sir Robert Fletcher immediately mines his
Second Question, Viz. That it is the Opinion of the Board that
if it necessary to keep a Brigade at Conjeveram in readiness
for immediate Service, I thought I saw the drift of this
motion, and observed that by a Chain of Questions in this
way the Board might be drawn into Conclusions they
meant not to make or into seeming Contradictions
which it would require much wording to explain &
render consistent. Sir Robert said that if his Second
Question were carried in the but one other to put which
I think was - that the Plan be carried into Execution
It may not be amiss to shew what must have been
the result of all these Questions had they been put. The
Board having been already compelled to a decision by
upon the first Question has been ordered for the Reason
before given to put their Negation upon it. It therefore
stood Resolved that the plan for assembling a Brigade
on a Cantonment & be not approved.

The Second Question states that it is necessary to keep
a Brigade at Conjeveram for immediate Service -
had this Question been carried the result would have
been, that on the Second Question the Board deemed
that immediately necessary which they had already
rejected on the first. The Third Question wants three
heads Included. Viz. That it be carried into Execution
Should appear for a moment that other to have been
carried - the Matter wants then stood thus,
First the plan for assembling a Brigade is rejected
to be necessary, and thirdly that it be carried into
Execution, as the Board by their Minute succeeding
the first Resolution declared that the they approved
the Object they thought themselves authorized by many
circumstances from Executing it immediately

But supposing the Board in order
to be more consistent had put their Negation on

the Second Question they must then have been obliged again to explain their Meaning which having already been explained upon the first Question renders the Second altogether unnecessary. The apparent Tendency of these Questions seemed to me to be either to compel the Board into a Measure of the practicability of which they doubted, or to draw them into an Apparent Contradiction or Inconsistence, The first I thought I have the right unquestionable, The Second indeed might have answered the end of making the Board seem inconsistent, but I beg leave to appeal to the Judgement of the Candid Reader and to ask what good the Servant could derive from an inconsistency or seeming Contradiction in the Resolutions of the Board had they unwarily been surprized into such, and whether it be possible to conceive a hope that Harmony and Confidence can long subsist among the Members of the Board thus teazed and Vexed by Motions and Questions succeeding Questions Scarcely [illegible] more Questions of this kind have been moved at the Board within these Few Months past than in the whole Course of my former Service at it, I observed at the Board that it was an unusual Method of transacting Business there and could [illegible] to no good and I have declared it as my Opinion that if this Method be persisted in it must in the end produce dissidence and Discord for if one Member hath a Right – and I do not deny the right tho I do not assent the Expediency – to put Questions according to his own particular Ideas, every other Member hath the same right and if able or any eager to take the lead, and persisting every one on his own particular Line, there must ensue no Reason Resolutions what but Confusion and Disorder? Seeing or Thinking that I saw a Strong Tendency in Sir Robert Chambers than of Motions to the effects before suggested, and

Sir

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Sir Robert pursueing in his Second Motion notwithstanding what I had observed to the Board, I then did say or meant to say that I would put the previous Question upon every such Question, I do not precisely recollect the words I used, but I appeal to the Judgment of the Board whether they understood them in any other Sense than as having reference to the Questions on the subject before the Board or other Questions of the like tendency & Nature, if I expressed myself in a manner that implied or could be understood to have reference generally to all Questions that Sir Robert Fletcher might propose I say that were it possible to have understood me so, I express what I did not mean and I am glad of this Opportunity of making this Declaration, but if on the other hand I could not have been understood in that Sense the Candid Reader will Judge whether Sir Robert Fletcher has not done me Justice. I appeal to the Judgment of the Board my Declaration to be in the Sense in which I have declared and I mean it. I am far from Hinting with Sir Robert Fletcher that it tends to destroy Freedom and Independance in the Members of the Board I think it tends to many Salutary purposes at times to have the Previous Questions and to restore that Good Humour & Harmony to Publick Business from the Detriment of private Animosities which must ever be the Consequence of producing Contrary & Dissatisfactory Resolutions and such as tending in the Circumstances in which the President stands I am Unwilling to propose this Previous Question for those purposes it is to be hoped to avoid be supported on the other hand should be from Partiality Ostensibly remove the Previous Question I trust that it will be rejected

I hope the Humble Court of Directors will not conceive that I mean to conceal from

them the Grounds and Motives of my Conduct because I do not Chuse to give my Reasons at large, if they would be pleased to cast their Eyes over the Records of late Months they will find Letters, on the Various Report of my Government they made Observations reasonably, but nevertheless they will find that on most material points the reasons for and against Measures are candidly stated, this is the way on which I think Business should be transacted and as I hope to have finished but as I cannot satisfactorily attend the Peace and Tranquility are not sufficient to approved me in the Various part of my Government when I had the Cordial Support of the whole Board I see as Barwell's Name without every Species of Opposition Those in the latter part have in a great measure Subsided and yet the latter part hath been more painful to me than the former, I am worn out with Fatigue I can no longer after the Labours of the day dedicate the night to the writing of such Vindications as these, Candid Explanations must be given of transactions or my conduct and Measures must remain at the Mercy of Reports Justice to myself and to the Service require such Explanations from me, if I should not find time to give them while I remain here I shall do it at home

The President desires the Opinion of the Board on the Sense of what he said relative to the previous Question to Sir Robert Fletcher's Motion, whether they understood what he meant to put the previous Question to every motion Sir Robert might make, or only to such motions as had a reference to the Subject before the Board

Sir Robert Fletcher says that he understood the Presidents declaration to extend only to the Subject then under consideration

Mr. [illegible]

that I

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Fort St. George 11th January 1773

Messrs Wynch, John Smith, Whitehill, Chas. Smith, Stanes & Stracey deliver in the following Minute —

Sir Robert Fletcher and Messrs Johnson and Mackay having delivered in their reasons in support of Sir Robert Fletchers Motion respecting the Stationing a Brigade of Troops at Conjeveram the Honble Court will probably expect that we should assign some Reasons at least for putting our Negative thereto. We are to acquaint on every Reason that occurs on this Occasion to point out the Particulars of every Objection and to state at large supposing the Object practicable, every Difficulty and Distress which would attend the putting and continuing of it in Execution, We may now therefore to say the working required would be immense We flatter Ourselves however the Honble Court will be satisfied with a few Principal Reasons which we shall accordingly proceed to give after having first premised — That Before the making of the above Motion it was true Sir Robert Fletcher previously communicated his Consent to the Alteration of any Parts of the Plan he had proposed for putting the Expedition provided there were no Diminution made in the Number of Troops to be assembled but then it is also true that at the Time of making the Motion he insisted on an absolute Approval or Disapproval thereof, declaring that the Practicability was to be no Part of the Consideration Messrs Johnson and Mackay likewise in their Reasons in Support of the Motion say, that the Practicability of the Plan proposed is not a Matter then before the Board, We however esteeming it exceedingly inconsistent on a Matter of such Importance to give a decisive an Opinion as was required, merely on Idea, that is to say without having any Consideration at all to its Practica-

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declare, that both the Practability and Propriety thereof were Matters of our Consideration and that it was on the Ground of the Reasons which thereon occurred, that we put our Negative on the Motion and we trust that the Testimony Considerations alone upon those our Others, would Justify the Negative — First the present State of the Campany's System in their Commerce with the Nabob — Secondly the Want of Money.

These are indeed so blended together and depend so much upon each other, that it will be proper to consider them both together —

Although the Campany's Possessions on the Carnatick and the Security of their Commercial Concerns are objects of very great Importance, yet on the present State of their Commercians with the Nabob these Objects cannot be considered Separately and Independent of the Carnatick It is certain that the Support and Defence of the Carnatic so far as it depends on the Execution of Military Strength &c. therefore it should seem not only reasonable but necessary, that this Government should be invested with Sole Power and Authority to take such measures as may best tend to the Security of the whole as such as with the means necessary for that End But this is not the Case The Boards have frequently on former Occasions shewn that neither the Power nor Means they possess are equal to such a Task they can take no Measures for the Protection of the Nabobs Country without the Concurrence and whenever that can be brought to appear on any plan that may be thought Necessary we must depend upon them for supplies of Money Provisions, Bullocks and in short for every Article except Military Stores and necessary for equipping and maintaining a Body of Troops in the Field

The Force proposed to be kept at Madras

must

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must be intended for the Security both of the Carnatic and the Company's Possessions, it would therefore be but reasonable that the Extraordinary Expence which must necessarily be incurred on that Account as well for building Barracks as for Bullocks and other contingent charges should be in Part defrayed by the Nabob since it would appear equitable that the Expence to be born by him should be proportioned to the Revenues possessed by him compared with those enjoyed by the Company in the Carnatic ——

After what hath past with the Nabob on the proposal made to him for keeping on Foot 6 Troops collected to oppose the Mahrattas when we Carnatick was actually threatened with an Invasion from them to which he was utterly averse after his Envoy declared to consent to the charge of the 3 additional Battalions of Sepoys ordered by the Company to be raised & his Debts as also to the Building of Quarters and Barracks at Trichinopoly which were represented to him as exceeding necessary when most of his Forts are in a very ruinous condition and in the greatest Want of Repair and yet he is unable or unwilling to be at any charge to put them in a Defensible State, and, on short when we consider that he has constantly opposed or evaded great Reductions both compleis with any Measure which caused an Increase of Expence & accurately in carrying a Plan into Execution as Soon & having his Sentiments and Concurrence and this made appear the more unproper when we are unable to send Money for the Purpose or withdraw upon a Statement of our Revenues and Expences Indeed we are so distressed at this time that although

many considerable Demands remain unsatisfied Yet our Fears is exceedingly difficult to supply the immediate Exigencies of Government - It must also be considered that at the Beginning of next Year the Pensions to be paid the Soldiers must be encreased from two to Five Lacks of Rupees and that on 1st May 1775 the Nabob is to perform his Engage-ments must have paid off the Arrears due from Him for Current Expenses and the ten Lacks of Pag-oda which have been carried to his Debit for the charges of the War with Hyder Ally, Our Resources must therefore decrease when our Expences are augmen-ted by the charges which must necessarily be incur-red by keeping such a Body of Troops in Readiness for Field Service and when with the Strictest Oeconomy our Resources will not Year, Sall Year short of our necessary Demands ——————

Sir Robert Fletcher hath indeed offered to advance Money for building the necessary Barracks and Quarters for the Reception of a Brigade, but it be supposed that this Offer did not proceed from a Design to set his Zeal in Contrast with that of the Board, but from a Warm Desire to carry his Plan into Execution at events how ferred more consistent with Propriety has Sir Robert Fletcher taken the Opinion of the Board as to the Expedien-cy of borrowing Money, and if the Board have agreed that the Want of Money were the Only Obstacle and that it would be warrantable to borrow for that purpose if Sir Robert Fletcher had then made a Tender of his Money, the Offer would have been on its Part ——————

We do not give these Reasons as all that may be urged to induce us to think it

expedient

30 Fort St. George 11th January 1713

must be entended for the Security both of the Country and the Company's Possessions, it seems therefore but reasonable that the Extraordinary Expence which must necessarily be incurred on that Account as well for building Barracks as for Bullocks and other Cartriges should be an Part defrayd by the Nabob since it must appear equitable that the Expence to be born by him should be proportioned to the Revenues posseld by him compared with those enjoyd by the Company in the Country.

After what hath past with the Nabob on the proposal made to him for keeping in Pay 4 Troops collected to oppose the Marattas when he Came back as actually threatned with an Invasion from them & what he was utterly averse to the 3 Additional Battalions & Topays ordered by the Company to be raised & his Debts as also to the Building of Quarters and Barracks at Trichinopoly which were represented to him as carrying conditions and on the greatest Want of Defence yet he is unable or unwilling to be at any charge to put them in a Defensible State; and, on that when we consider that he has constantly opposed or with great Reluctance hath complied without Measure which must occasion an Increase of Expence & necessarily put carrying a Plan into Execution we dare leaving his Sentiments and Concurrence and unable to send Money from the Purpose as well appear upon a Statement of our Revenues and Expences Indeed we are so disheartned at this time that although

many considerable Demands remain unsatisfied
Yet we find it exceedingly difficult to supply the
immediate Exigencies of Government — It must
also be considered that at the Beginning of next
Year the Pagodas to be paid the Seabank will be
encreased from two to Five Lacks of Rupees and that
on 1st May 1775 the Nabob of Arcot's Instalments will
Ments will have paid off the Arrears due from
him for Current Expences and the ten Lacks of Pags
which have been carried to his Debit for the charges
of the War with Hyder Ally, Our Resources will
therefore decrease when our Expences are augmen-
ted by the charge which must necessarily be incur-
red by keeping such a Body of Troops in Readiness
for Field Service and when with the strictest
Oeconomy our Resources will not Year, Sale for
short of our necessary Demands ———

Sir Robert Fletcher hath indeed offered
to advance Money for building the necessary Barracks
and Quarters for the Reception of a Brigade, Let it be
supposed that this Offer did not proceed from a
Design to set his Zeal in Contrast with that of
the Board, but from a Warm Desire to carry his
Plan into Execution it must have proved more
consistent with Prosperity had Sir Robert Fletcher
taken the Opinion of the Board as to the Expedien-
cy of borrowing Money, and if the Board had
agreed that the Want of Money were the Only
Obstacle and that it would be warrantable to
borrow for that purpose if Sir Robert Fletcher
had then made a Tender of his Money, the Offer
would have been on its Plain ———

We do not give these Reasons
as all that may be urged to induce us to think it

expedient

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expedient to defer a decisive Resolution on the proposed Plan - There are others and of great weight which might be brought to support our Opinion but these alone are we think sufficients.

W Wynch
John Smith
John Whitehill
Chandler Sorlth
A Wilson
B Graeme

Sir Robert Fletcher moves for Leave to read a Paper which the President deems from Indisposition until he has gone thro' the Business now under the Consideration of the Board ——

for leave to

The President lays before the Board the Draught of a Letter to the Nabob N. declaring his Sentiments on a proposal for assembling and Cantoning a Brigade at or near Carpentaun, which being read the President desires to record his Opinion that Notwithstanding the Letter now proposed, Sir Robt. that with respect to the Mharattas or other Indian Powers, it is supposed that the Power of such a Force will always in reason be sufficient to prevent them the Attempt of an Invasion, or should they be daring enough to attempt it, that this Force to equipped will be amply sufficient to drive them out and protect the Inhabitants of the Country & S either deter the Mharattas from an Invasion or should they Invade the Country that it will protect the Inhabitants or prevent their destroying their Villages but as the Necessity on the late Occasion

President's Minute on the Letter to the Nabob

deserting

on

Fort St. George 11th January 1773

on this Subject have on them Dissents supposed it
capable of producing those Advantages it is so stated
on the Draught of the Letter in order to place the subject
before the Nabob on the most advantageous Point of
View.

The Majority of the Board coincide with
the Presidents Sentiments as declared on the Foregoing
Minute

Read a Letter from the Nabob as entered on
Country Correspondence N.2 in Answer to the Presidt
Letter of the 7th July N 124 on y subject of changing ten
complete Battalions of Sepoys to his Account conform-
-ble to the Orders of the Court of Directors of the 27th Oct.
1773 —

Letter from the Nabob respecting the three additional Battalions to be added to his Debit —

As it Appears from the above Letter that the
Nabob will not consent to the proposal of changing
the three additional Battalions to his Account conform-
-ble to the orders of the Honble Court all we can do is to
continue to carry the scheme of them to his Debit
and advise the Honble Court of ye Steps we have
taken and wait their further Orders —

Sir Robert Fletcher moves for the
Board to take the subject of his Paper into consi-
deration. Agreed and read as follows

Sir Robert Fletcher desires the Board to recollect
that he agreed not to enter upon the Troops his
Reply to the Presidents two Minutes of the 7th Inst.
respecting the Appointment of Adjutant Simpson
to Sir Roberts Authority very ably over all Parts of
the Army we hopes as he then said ye requested at a
subsequent Consultation that the Govr ye would
come to a better understanding upon the Line of
his Duty. But as the Governor has since dismiss Sir
Robert the might to give Orders to the Battalions of
the 1st Brigade acting immediately under his
Eye, respecting their Orders ye does not, Sir Robert
Fletcher desires Five whole Hours and Minutes
may be allowed upon this days Consultation that

Sir Robert Fletcher
charges the President
with denying him
the Right to Your
Orders respecting the
Orders of Discipline of
the Army and removing
all the Minutes
relating to the
Appointment of
Adjutant Simpson
may be entered

&c

Fort St. George 4th January 1773

that the Humble Company may see one Judge of his Situation. It is a tender and delicate subject, the Board knows Sir Roberts Opinion of the State of the Army. The President knows Sir Robt has repeatedly told him that it would be hard to make him responsible without allowing the means to perform, but such he tells is his unhappy case, whilst he sees the Duty done in a very committary manner, he thinks it Just & Candid that he should make this Declaration previous to the Presidents Departure; he is extremely sorry for the Necessity which calls upon him to bring this Matter again before the Board but he hopes that the importance of the object & his own Reputation will be his Apology for troubling them, & that they will consider the Gauntness responsibility of his, the one confessing himself Ignorant of Military Rules & Consequently obliged to Consult superior Officers whose Opinions must be set up in Opposition to his & the other responsible to the public at the Risk of his Life for the Discipline of an Army which he has already Declared Insufficient under proper Management, to repel any Enemy Invasion on the Coast. Sir Roberts Ideas upon the Impropriety of Consulting superior Officers will be seen at large in his Reply to the Presidents Minutes of the 1st December

W.B. Fletcher

Sir Robert Fletcher then moved that the Minutes delivered in Consultation of the 27th ult. December by the President and Council, subsequent to the Appointment of Captain Knipson to the Adjutancy of the 1st Batt: of 1st Brigade at Vellore, may be entered on the Consultation of the Day, which being resolved, the President accordingly delivers in his two Minutes of the 1st December and his Minute of the 4th and Sir Robert delivers in his Minute of the 4th

Fort. St. George 15th Janry. 1773

The Presidents Minute with those Letters to Coll. Lang, Maskelyne & Bt. on Sir Robert Fletchers Objection to the recommendation of Coll Lang for appt. Ensign Kempson to act as Aqutant to the 1st Batt. of this Brigade

At the last Consultation I laid before the Board a Letter from Colo Lang to me recommending Ensign Kempson to be appointed to act as Aqutant to the 1st Battalion of his Regiment in the room of Lieut. Lucas lately appointed to act as Brigade Major to his Brigade Sir Robert Fletcher objected to the Appointment and assigned his Reasons as appear in the Minutes of Thursday. The Objection did not appear to me well founded nevertheless as I wished to inform myself further on the subject and that the other Members of the Board might do it likewise I desired that the Recommendation of Ensign Kempson might lie on the Table 'ere the Board adjourned.

I am not Ignorant that great Pains have been taken to Characterize me at home upon Summer Occasions as a Man Ambitious of Power and with whom no Military Officer should meddle the Executive Department can act with Satisfaction; I do not mean to refute such Reports Time will shew in time and Circumstances and resign myself with Patience to the Event and the rather as Time and Experience may probably evince that while a Responsibility rests on the Governor equal to the Powers of his Commission it will be next to an Impossibility to render that Commission and such Responsibility compatible with the Ideas that are entertained of the rights of the Commanding Officer of the Troops of the Establishment. A mere omission of Punctilio may suffice to excite Jealousy which one Awakened becomes the Means that in bad subsequent Acts are viewed. I do not mean to expatiate more on this Field of Controversy, the subject merits the most Serious investigation and Speedy this hint may draw the attention of the Honble Court of Directors to it to me as an Individual it is of

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of no consequence, for my time is short, but as I have
and hope I shall ever have a hearty attachment to
the Constitution and the Company, I must to see them
secured by such a Line as shall prevent contests
between the Governor & the Commanding Officer of the
Troops of the Establishment, & hold those Departments
remain on their present footing the Governor having
the Superior, One of these two Characters must ever be
his Lot if he take on him and Execute that charge
which is equal to his responsibility he must be become
Ambitious of Power - if he be content to bear only
the Name and leave the Exercise to others the
Meanest Capacity he may acquire must be that of a
very weak man & one who does not attend to the
Duty of his Office. I mention these Circumstances
only to shew the Necessity I am under of laying before
the Board in writing a clear State of the Case now
in Question, but before I enter on this Matter I beg
leave to recall to the recollection of the Board the
declarations I made lately in Council upon the
subject of Lewis Hemmings address to the Board for
Leave to go to Europe on Family Affairs. Sir Robert
Fletcher was of Opinion that it was improper &
derogatory to his Office for that it ought to
have come to him, and by him have been laid
before the Board as the Military Member and that
no Letter should be addressed by any Officer to the
Board immediately. My Declaration was that
I agreed fully that the Details of the Army should
come thro' the Commanding Officer of the Establish.
must not to the Board but to me and that it
was my Determination to bring them before the
Board but that I would never give my consent
to preclude the Officers of the Army from
addressing the Board immediately upon all other
matters.

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I think my conduct has been conformable to th
Declaration I do not mean that any any Instan
the Contrary but if any has happend it has
this Inadvertance and Intent that it is my d
the Details of the Army should come to me th
the Commanding Officer and it is the System
mean to Follow. I now come to the Case in
When the Board had agreed to appo
Brigade Majors I communed with Sir Robert
Fletcher upon the Subject and he mention to me
the Officer he recommended for the Brigade I th
said I would write to Colo. Lang to recommend
for the Brigade Sir Robert Fletcher did not object
but expressed an Inclination that Capt. Pringle
might be recommended I agreed with him that C
Pringle was a proper Officer and one whom I was
to promote on account of his good Conduct but
that as I thought it proper Colo. Lang should rec
mend the Officer for the Brigade I wrote him
to Land to recommend one and mention at the s
time that if he had no particular Officer in th
he wished to name on preference I thinks he p
if he would recommend Capt. Pringle upon this
matter as it appeared to me Sir Robert Fletche
and I perfectly agreed and I wrote according to
Lang my Letter and his Answer have already
been read at the Board but for the Information
of the Humble Court of Directors I enter them h
Vide

Extract of a Letter from the Governor to Col. L
dated at Fort St. George 17 Novr 1792

The Board have at our then
Intention to appoint a Brigade Major to each
Brigade Lieut Owen who returns in the Course
next Season. Returns to his Rank on this Establi

Fort St. George 11th Janry 1773

is recommended strongly by the Court of Directors and it seems to be the Inclination of the Board to Hon[r] him the Post of Brigade Major, But as he is not yet arrived If the Board should come to the Resolution to appoint Brigade Majors commendatory some Officer must be appointed to act like Lieut. Owens Corps, If you wish to recommend any Gentle person I to the Board for their Approbation, But if you have not any particular reason to prefer one before another - For that Case I should wish your recommendation fell on Capt. Pownall of your Brigade who is represented to me as a deserving Officer and I am desirous of taking particular Notice of him on account of the Good order he maintained on the Detachment he marched from Ellore Be so good as to let me know your Sentiments on this Subject before Monday ——

Honorable Sir

I am Sorry I disagree with you on the subject of appointing a Brigade Major you are to declare that I have long wished for an Opportunity of shewing my Approbation of Lieut Lucas conduct in the Country, he has Stiled the Office of Adjutation & his Superiors of exciting on one of Duty & Service his late Wound never has been one hour absent on actual Service particularly on the late Expedition to Tanjore where his Abilities are of such an Officer was absolutely indispensable for which he has never rec[d]

Hon

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after this &c and his General Thanks &c

the smallest mention (exclusive of his Grey Jemmie
Majesty's) your mild excuse me if I put a partic
preference in his favour, But on the other hand
esteem & Gratitude to you are such that I must
to your recommendation my own particular cho
if you remain in your former opinion Capt. P
is totally unexceptionable to me, I can venture to
that Mr. Lucas does not wish to hold this or an
Office with the disapprobation of the Board.

I am Honble Sir
Your most Obedient
Lieut & Servant.
Rob. Lang.

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Vellore 20 Nov.
1772

Extract of a Letter from the Governor to Col. La
dated at Fort St. George 23 November 1772

This day the Board appointed Lieut
Lucas to act as Brigade Major to your Brigade u
the Arrival of Lieut Owen as the Appointment
a Vacancy of Acquitant please to inform me if y
know any one to recommend.

I am
Your Obed. Servant
Jon. Du Pré

Fort St. George 11th January 1773

in consequence of Col: Lamps Letter I immediately appointed Lieut Lucas to act as Brigade Mayor to Col. Lamps Brigade and as he was appointed accordingly, as he has been Adjutant of the First Batt: of Col: Lamps Regiment it was observed by a Member at the Board that the Adjutancy thereby became Vacant Imediately that I wrote immediately to Col. Lamp to recommend an Officer for that Post Sir Robert Fletcher was at the Board and made no objection, I wrote accordingly and received Col. Lamps Answer which I delivered to the Secretary, as a matter of course to be laid before the Board, at which time at the last Consultation Sir Robert Fletcher objected to the Officer recommended for the reason assigned in the Minutes of that day, which is the Point now in Question

I have always understood it to be the usage of the Army that the Col. of every Regiment recommends the Staff of the Regiment and such has been the Practice on this Establishment this Board Contended with General Coote for no more than the approving Power and the Negative if they disapproved. Col. Campbell when he had the 2 Regiment recommended the Staff that fell Vacant in his time, Col. Hart recommended Lt Lumley for Adjutant when he had the 2. Regiment and a very particular Circumstance occured in 1771 in respect to a Quarter Master of the 1 Regiment then Genl Smiths, he proposed Lieut Fletcher, this on attention or inadvertance at not occurring to me I wrote to General Smith then at Trichinopoly that there could be no objection to Lt Fletcher as an Officer but that as the Board wished as much Circumstances being equal one Lt Boyne a Junior to Lt Fletcher being recommended I wished to have

At Fort St. George 14th Janry 1813

his Sentiments before any appointment were made
General Smith on his entry took up the matter with
some Warmth and said — the Post of Asst Adjt Genl &
Master to a Regiment an Exclusive must left on the
Breast of the Col. to dispose of as he may think
proper and this is the first time I ever recollect
that ever any objections was made to the Person
recommended by Commanding Officer of that Corps
where such Vacancy happened; I was convinced for
recollecting of the Circumstance was enough to convince
me and I immediately wrote General Smith —
"Read you on your Letter of the 9th Inst gave me
the Reasons in support of your recommendation
of Lt. Fletcher which you now gave me I think
not sufficient reasons Lt Bryne because I think they
are sufficient to give the Preference to Fletcher and
he shall have the Commission ——
If Sir Robert Fletcher thought my
meaning to Capt Lang on the Subject was improper
it would have been but Candid to have hinted it
to me, But as Sir Robert Fletcher now objects
to the recommendation on the Ground there
which it has Proved as derogatory to his right
there remains only two Courses for me to take
I must chuse one, either I must Yield the Point
or maintain it as the matter relates to me
and to me only I would not be unwilling by the
Silent and voice able Principles to cause my
time. Time I hope is very short but as it may
be very important to the Constitution of the
Service that the rights of Officers should be ascer-
tained I think it very necessary that the Board
should determine this Point decisively as its affects
the Service that it may be a rule in future —
Sam H Dyson that

Fred

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has Sworn wrote to Coll. Lang on the subject, his recommendation of the Staff of his Regiment must have come with great promptitude from him to me that is to say from the Colonel to the Governor as Commander in chief immediately for this is not a Detail, it is a matter of privilege by the Custom of the Army, The Colonel is answerable for his Staff and for the Discipline of his Regiment upon the plan that should be given them in Orders from his Superior Officer and if the Staff prove unexceptable then the Superior Commanding Officer may interpose I do not think there would have been any Impropriety if Col. Lang had at the same time that he recommended to me wrote to Sir Robt Fletcher that he had done so indeed I think it would have been proper but this I think would merely have been a matter of Compliment and not a Military Duty and I think probably without Intention is not a reasonable and Sufficient Ground to interrupt the Proceedings of this Board, more especially as the omission if it be one is not on my part Col. Lang has or has not wrote on the Subject to Sir Robert Fletcher ——

Jno. DuPré

Journals Minute on the Necessity of laying down the Line of Rule and the Commanding Officers Duty—

In the Minute I have this day delivered at the Board relative to Coll. Lang's recommendation of the Staff of this Regiment I have declared that considering the short time I have to remain here I do not think myself at

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all Punctilio Compliment and Points of Form in the Military Department as they may respect myself personally and I declare that no Consideration of that kind shall be with me a Cause of Suspence for a Moment the Cause of the Service But if such should occur, the Business shall then decide the Sentiments of the Board to serve as a Rule ——

At the last Consultation and immediately before the objection arose in respect to the mode of Col Lang's recommendation of an Adjutant to his Regiment Sir Robert Fletcher delivered to me at the Board a Letter open & sealed and Cover, addressed to me as President & Council & signed by General Officers at Trichinopoly the unusual manner led me to ask the Cause and Sir Robert Fletcher said it came to him from Lieut Colo. Flint the Letter was read and the Board considered it and prepared their Orders on the subject as may appear by the Minutes of the last Consultation, I should never have said a Word on the Subject but not the right of Office been brought in Question and Silencing it before the Board, now as a Proof that if such Points of Form are to become subjects of Litigation at the Board they must cause great Interruption in the Current Business as well as in the Harmony which ought to reign at the Board ——

The Purport of the Letter in Question was to obtain an Attendance for the Deputies of Lieutenants at Trichinopoly, Ever since I have been in charge of the Government it has been the usage for the Commandants of the Out Garrisons to address the Board immediately on such Subjects or the Governor who has laid the Letter before the

Board

Board, the latter has been the more General Practice because the Officers Commanding in the Out Garrisons have often occasion to write to them on other Affairs of the Garrison than the Board.

I am of Opinion that in strictness such Letters ought to be addressed immediately to the Board and that it is no Part of the Officers Duty when they do so, to transmit such Letters to the Board either thro' the Governor Commander in Chief or thro' the Commanding Officer of the Troops or even to write to either of them on the Subject at the same time I think that were they to write to both there would be nothing amiss or at least the unnecessary Trouble I am therefore of Opinion that Lt. Colo. Flint ought to have addressed the Board immediately and not thro' the Commanding Officer. But Since Lt. Colo. Flint did not write the Officers Letters on our coming from Trincomale to St. Peths Tabaher as Commanding Officer of the Troops I am of Opinion that in strictness the Commanding Officer of the Troops ought to have brought the Letter to the Governor as Commander in Chief. For so much as related to the Military and as President of the Council For so much as related to the matter to be transacted with the Nabob which belongs to the Presidents Department alone, and the President acts according to his Judgement of the Necessity or Propriety first take the Opinion of the Council, or first Consult the Nabob and then bring the Matter before Council. But if such Matters and Eclaircisements, are to become Serious Matters of Contest and Debate Contusion must be the end. In all Considerations on the Subject

as

15 Fort St. George 11th January 1773

as it respects myself I leave it to the Board to declare their Sense as it may hereafter be established a Precedent for the future ——— W. Du Pré

Sir Robert Fletchers Reply to the Presidents Minutes delivered at the Board the 4th Instant.

Sir Robert Fletchers reply to the Presidts Minute delivered to the Board on the 4th Instt.

P.S. Ever since I have had the Honor of a Seat at this Board it has been my very earnest wish to avoid Disputes with Mr Du Pré, to acknowledge his Pre-eminence to support his Dignity & to pay every Deference to him in all those Capacities and Titles which he enjoys in Contradistinction to the other Members of this Government, and it is with great Concern I now find myself forced into this Controversy

2 As the Consultation of the 2 Instt Objects to the proposed Appointment of Ensign Kempson as Adjutant to the first Battalion of the first Regiment and I delivered my Sentiments to the Board on the following Terms "If ever I should be obliged to object to this Appointment because I do not know Ensign Kempson to be Qualified for the post of Adjutant & I do not know that Colonel Lang knows him to be so, I desired the Mode of bringing this Recommendation before the Board thinking that it lyes in my Authority as the Army and Lords to Invoke the Commanding Officers Corps consider themselves as Independant of the Commander in the Army &- therefore I gave my consent, I shall act contrary to what I say cause my Duty to be, & I assure my consent, I fear I shall disoblige the President. I consider myself responsible for the Discipline not of any Brigade only, but for that of the whole Army. I think it Col. Langs Duty to recommend a Proper Person to me I think my Duty to recommend that proper Person to the Governor & Council, In short, I think it my Duty to Censure the whole

At Fort St. George 27 January 1773

Board — the latter has been the more General Practice because the Officers Commanding in the Out Garrisons have often occasion to write to them on other Affairs of the Garrison than the Board —

I am of Opinion that in strictness such Letters ought to be addressed immediately to the Board and that it is no Part of the Officers Duty in whose they do so, to forward such Letters to the Board either those the Governor Commander in Chief or the Commanding Officer of the Troops or even to write to either of them on the Subject at the same time I think that where they do write to both there needs be nothing amiss in it but the unnecessary Trouble I am therefore of Opinion that Lt. Colo. Flint ought to have addressed the Board immediately and not the Governor & Commanding Officer But Since Lt. Colo. Flint did not inclose the Officers Letters in any address from himself to Sir Robt Fletcher as Commanding Officer of the Troops I am of Opinion that in strictness the Commanding Officer of the Troops ought to have brought the Letter to the Governor as Commander in Chief so far as related to the Military and as President of the Council So far as related to the matter to be transacted with the Naboh or which belongs to the Presidents Department alone, and the President is to act according to his Judgement of the Expediency or Propriety first to take the Opinion of the Council, or first Consult the Naboh and then bring the Matter before Council. But as such Naboh and Expenments, are to become Serious Matter of Contest and Debate Consideration must be had. I am also of Opinion that in all Considerations on the Subject

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as I suspects myself I leave it to the Board to declare their Sense as it may tend to establish a Precedent for the future ——— W. DuPré

Sir Robert Fletchers Reply to the Presidents Minutes delivered at the Board the 7th Instant

Sir Robert Fletcher's reply to the Presidt's Minute delivered to the Board on the 7th Inst.

P 8 Ever since I have had the honor of a Seat at this Board it has been my very earnest wish to avoid Disputes with Mr. DuPré, to acknowledge his Pre-eminence to support his Dignity & to pay every Deference to him in all those Capacities and Titles which he enjoys in Contradistinction to the other Members of this Government, and it is with great Concern I now find myself joined with this Controversy

2 As the Consultation of the 5th Instt. Subjects to the proposed Appointment of Ensign Kempson as Adjutant to the first Battalion of the first Regiment and I declared my Sentiments to the Board on the following Terms — I fear I should be obliged to object to this Appointment because I do not know Ensign Kempson to be Qualified for the post of Adjutant & I do not know that Colonel Lang knows him to be so, I desired the Mode of bringing this Recommendation before the Board thinking that it lay in my Authority in the Army and Lines to Invoke the Commanding Officers Corps consider themselves as Independent of the Commander of the Army & therefore I gave my consent, I should act contrary to what I conceive my Duty to the Hon. Co. I refuse my consent, I fear I should disoblige the President. I consider myself responsible for the Discipline not of any Brigade only, but for that of the whole Army. I think it Col. Langs Duty to recommend a Proper Person to me I think my Duty to recommend that proper Person to the Governor & Council, In short, I think it my Duty to Govern the whole

and many part of the Army, I think it the Duty of the Govt I Counsel to govern me, to check me to controul me and to dismiss me If I deserve it. The Board was silent some time at length the President said "let the Letter lay on the Table" and adjourned the Council The Board was in posession of the Question for the Appointment and altho a Motion of Adjournment was proposed, I did not object; because it struck me that the President might intend to converse with me on the Subject, or write to Col. Long to communicate to and discuss with me upon the propriety or Impropriety of the Recommendation, & the end that the Appointment might either go on or be dropt with Unanimity. But the last Council proved to me my Mistake I Conceived me that there was no such consideration my Intention; that the President would not proceed upon the adjourned Motion if he had Reason to think the Board would probably have appointed Dunjee Kunjeer & I might have contented myself with a Verbal Negative at the Board rather than engage on a Paper Contest with the President which I have avoided me many times to enter my reasons of Dissent for the Consideration of the Honble Court and this is a Privilege, it is a Duty from which no Litigation can frustrate me. As a Member of the Board I knew a right to discuss to examine and Dissent to every measure I think prejudicial to the Service, and could even if not for this Object of conveying our Sentiments to the Court of Directors and bring the Responsibility some where a disagreable Employment—

3d

In the Case in Question my next Objection went directly to the Service and not to a Matter of Punctilio and had Col. Long on his Letter to the President and that he knew I was

N. Fort St. George 11th Janry 1773

Kempson qualifies for an Assistant, I would have complained to the Board of the mode, without objecting to the Appointment.

I refer to My President himself whether I did or did not on the 27th Octr last clearly explain to him my sense of the mode of such Recommendation This Conversation passed at the Garden House on the Evening of that day, I remember Mr Du Pre said the right of Appointment was in the Board I agreed but observed that If I thought the Appointment Improper there remained an Appeal to the Court of Directors I mention this to take off the Imputation of my want of Candor

A The President says that a responsibility rests with him equal to the Powers of his Commission as if he had a Commission vested in his Single Person I wish Ever a moment Suppose those Powers to be as independent and absolute, as if vested in a Civil Governor, would it not be wise in such a Governor wants not the Remedy of his Government consist in chusing a proper Person for the Management and for the Responsibility of each respective Department, Civil as well as Military Does wants not the Inclination of such a Governor let his Abilities be what they would, be wholly and Gloriously employed in attending to the great Seat of Government and the Superintendency of the whole His Mind should be free and disengaged from all the Minutiæ of Office to enable him to design, to plan and to form Regulations to render & to keep the System complete but the Moment he descends to particulars and to Trifles, he does the Duty of a Subordinate Station which shews Indolence and a Fondness for others and a Misapplication of that time which should every Moment of it be appropriated to the most important Objects, If even such an unbounded Governor as I have supposed I think be of Opinion

as

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as Certainly are that the Exercise and the Responsibility of the Military ought to be vested in the Commander of the Army; how much more must Confidence to that Opinion under a United Government in which we do not find any Separate Commission such as Lord Clive during his last Government; nothing Less will Answer independant of his Council

5 The only Commission granted by the Company as the Commission of Government which seems to the following Effect. By these Presents do Governor constitute and ordain The said Josiah DuPré President & Governor of and Over all our Affairs on the Coast of Choromandel & Orissa and of the Chingee and Morattoe Countries and also to be our Commander in Chief of our Fort St George & Town of Madrasspatnam and all the Factories &c and of all the Forces which now are or hereafter may or shall be employed for the Service of the said United Company on the said Forts Towns & Places and to Execute all and every the Powers and Authorities thereunto appertaining by Order and Direction of the Court of Directors &c And to and that the said Jos: DuPré may be better enabled to order and Manage all the Affairs of us the said Company We do by these Presents constitute and Ordain Warren Hastings Esq. and the rest of the Council for governing & managing all the said Company's Affairs upon the Coast of Choromandel & Orissa & & Hereby give and Grant unto our said President and Governor Josias DuPré and to our Council aforesaid, or the Major Part of them the whole Council being duely Summoned Full Power & Authority from time to time to rule and Govern all and every our Factors and Servants under the Presidency

and

Fort St. George 17th Janry 1773

and all the Soldiers and Inhabitants of our said Fort
St George and City of Masnapatnam &c, and the
said Company do hereby order and require all our
Factors, Servants, Officers and Soldiers and their
Servants of the Presidency &c to conform themselves &
Yield due Obedience to the said President and Council
accordingly.

6 Let the Board consider this Commission
and say on whose Hands the Powers and the
Responsibility are ultimately lodged.

7 I have not, and I repent it again the
smallest Desire to derogate from the Authority
or to invade the Province of the Governor: On the
Contrary I shall be happy to shew every Duty, Respect
and Attention to the first Officer of the Company, But
I will not with that Freedom which becomes a
Member of the of the Board, without Forgetting
that Deference which is due to the President.

8 The President thinks that if he leave the
Exercise of the Military Department to the
Commander of the Army he will be called an easy
weak Man. The President is a man of great and
acknowledged Abilities and must be put himself on
my Station ever to maintain the Ground for which
I contend with such Sound Reasoning as no Man
will attempt to answer, I put my Incapacity &
weak attempt to answer, I put my Incapacity &
acknowledge I cannot do Justice to the Cause, But
even the President to meddle as little as possible
with the Exercise of our Office; The Duties of which
he confesses himself unacquainted with, I am sure
he wants add Dignity to his Character and Zeal
to his Government —

9 The President says the Board contended
with General Coote for no more than the
appointing Power and the Negative if they dis-
approved — This is precisely the conduct which
I must hold with me, But the President
does

does not say that General Smith, Colonel Campbell and Col: Hart recommended their Staff immediately to the Governor without Consulting General Coote, if they has ate the Staff of the Army (General Coote Surely excepted) might have been appointed contrary to General Coote's Opinion whilst he was considered responsible for the Discipline and good Order of the whole Army and the Method of conducting a Military Affair knows that a proper Subordination strictly and steadily adhered to is the very Life & Soul of all Discipline and the Moment that an Officer or Soldier is taught to undervalue the Importance of his Superiors and to slight his Station, he will dispute his Authority and dispute his Commands, This may be thought a little Importance in Times of Peace and Quarter but let the Board consider that in any, such licentious Principles are Subversive of every Idea of Discipline, they may prove the worst of consequences in the Field and on the day of Battle and may affect the very safety of our Civil Government, which should ever be watched by Military with a jealous Attention, taking every thing as an Safeguard & Defence on which not Even the Bounds of their Jurisdiction

10 The Proper Mode of Bringing a Military Establishment is to make every Officer and Man acquainted with his Superiors as the only Channel through which all Applications are to be made as I have mentioned to my Friend Kennedy, how the President

Dungar, Sense of Opinion that his Letter to the Board ought to have come thro' his immediate

Fort S. George 11th January 1773

Commanding Officer who cannot refuse to transmit every Letter so addressed whether he be acquainted with the Contents or not if I thought the Boards Answer should have been to the Commanding Officer and the contents made Known by him to the Writer of the Letter, I did not insist on the Correspondence passing thro me as the I suppose I like that mode the best. When I commanded the Companys Troops on Bengal where they are upon a much better Looking than here, I was to the Governor & Council upon a Matter of Personal Property the Board would not condescend to address their Answer to me but to Major Munro the Commander in chief and they directed him not only to communicate their Sentiments to me but to represent me for not sending my Letter thro his Hands to the Board The President says he never will give his consent to preclude the Officers of the Army from addressing the Board upon all Matters excepting the Details of the Army "But the President merely suggests that in reply to Lieut Col Langs Letter to the Board of the 10th February 1772 upon his Dispute with Mr Peters the Secretary was directed to General Smith the Sentiments the Letter ought to have passed thro him as the Commanding Officer ——

It The President compares my conduct in the case of Capt Powel, Lieut Lucas and Ensign Hempson and at the first View there does appear an Inconsistency: the truth is, I had long resolved and often declared to Mr Hastings and Mr Mackay my Determination to avoid Disputes with the Governor and although I thought Col Long ought to have consulted me in the Choice of Lieut Lucas, yet as I know that Officer to be well Qualified for the Post

H.

Fort St George 11th June 1773

of Major of Brigade, I would not suffer what-
ever might be deemed by some a Punctilio to interrupt
the Veracity of the Board on that Appointment
and this I think may be taken as a clear proof
that I had a further Objection to Mr Kempson
than a mere Punctilio, as to Harmony at the
Board, I believe the Members have too much good
Sense ever to suffer it to be interrupted by a Difference
of Opinion upon Publick Measures —

12 The President says "If the Staff Scheme
is liable than the Suspension of their may interfere
If this Argument should be adopted and the Plan
pursued, it will be found to be big with Inconve-
niences At present to each Brigade there
a Major of Brigades two Assistants and two
Quarter Masters attached to the Europeans, In
the new Plan of Regulations and Discipline which
I have to present to the Board, an Assistant is
proposed to each Battalion of Sepoys without
any additional Expence either to the Company
or the Nabob, should it be adopted by the Board
there will then be eight Assistants to Brigade
and one to every Native Battalion of Sepoys
Each instructing Commanding Officer may recom-
mend his particular Friends for this Post
without incurring ten Appointments to the Rank
of the Second in Command and one to each Sepoy
Captain Lieutenant of the Contempt of the
Commander of the Army who is entirely
responsible for the Discipline of the whole the
Second in Command is stationed with a small
Part of the Brigade, he has no Opportunity
of seeing the rest and consequently none of
Judging of the Capacity or Incapacity of those
who are at a great distance, how then is such
a Colonel to be answerable for the Staff and the

Discipline

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Description of his Brigade? the chief Residence of the Commander in Chief of the Army is at the Presidency he goes his rounds, or ought to go his Rounds he sees all the Garrisons and Troops, as often as Occasion may require to execute his Plans of Discipline and gives Orders, He may send one half of the Staff of the Army inspectionat for their Stations many Months after they have been inusted with the Brands Commissions and the Troops and States in Disorder under their Manag- ement, — What is he to do? shall he dismiss them from their Posts without the Supreme Authority has long before stands them, or shall he ad- dress the Commander in Chief, remit to the Board suggesting them to revoke their Commissions of the Second in Command or a Captain of Lascars may say to the Commander of the Army if you report my Staff to be insufficient now, because you objected to the first Appointment, how incite the Board settle the Dispute? Are not the Opinions of such Commanding Officers of Corps as good in the last Instance as they were in the first to what purpose then is the Interposition of the Commander of the Army? a Many more difficulties will occur upon reflection but I hope this will suffice upon this Score to Sir the Name will enough upon every Number and I Seniors Attention of every Member and I cheerfully submit the rest to the Wisdom of the Board ——

15 The President says, but this I think ought have been merely a Matter of Compliment The Presidents Military Notions and mine either most egregiously I think or between is proper in our Profession is right or between is right is necessary and whatever is necessary ought to be a Law, We know of nothing in the Law

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Line of Duty either Optional or complimentary
and from the Moment that such a Doctrine
is admitted, Disorder and Confusion must follow
as obviously must the Consequences of advancing
the Principle appear, that I would hope I
need only appeal to the President himself, whose
good Sense must at once shew him the Danger
of such a Position especially when it comes from
so high an Authority——

15 The President attributes an Irregu-
larity to me in the Case of Lieut Col. Flints
Letter I must justify the tone & Manner in
which that Letter was conveyed as I received
it. I delivered it to the Governor at the Board
and it rested with him to read it to the Board
or not as he thought proper The Letter was read &
I wrote Lt Colonel Flint my Disapprobation that
it was sent open under a Cover to me, But had
not I have thought I thus committed any great
Crime and it is clearly my Opinion that every
Member of the Board who is at the head of a
Department ought himself to lay his own Business
before the Board and not thro the President This
I believe is the Practice of all other Boards
whose Seperate Departments are assigned to the
Members I think that in Justice the President
has to lay before the Board any thing to have the
Business that he should point out at this time
when the Board should be ready to receive the
Business of the other Members and that every
thing a Member shall say at the Board ought to
be addressed to the President But the Opinion of
the Board upon this and upon all other Matters
shall command my ready Obedience and I beg
leave to declare that no Assertion of Lieut
Compliment

Complement or Constable should ever an action a Jealousy
in me to serve as a Member there which I am
to Vote any rule intended Act.

15 I shall Please now replie to most
Parts of the President's Minutes There is indeed
one Circumstance left which the last, I did not
Seal the last, The President has expressed himself
as Tenns as if I were litigious and desire to
interrupt the Proceedings Board, but Parts will
ever speak for themselves. At a Former Council
I proposed at every necessary that I should be
allowed an Old Custom [In Bengal the Compa-
ny allows two to the Commander in the Army
and in Bombay one] as Commander of the Army, to
assist me in the Discharge of the Duty of my
Office. I said I believed I was the only Commander
of an Army in the World without one, I saw
the Propriety, I urged the Necessity, I pointed out
particular Cases wherein I could not act without
one I offered to give one out in Cases to act
without Pay, but all was in Vain, the President
opposed and I would not enter into a Paper
Contest lest I should be thought litigious. The
President himself named at the Board that the
Senior Major should have an Additional Allow-
ance of ten Shillings p Day and two Additional
Writers for doing the many Duty for which I
had been before refused a Writer, But I would
not enter into a paper Contest lest I should be
thought litigious In the Court of Appeal I
objected to the Reconsideration of a Degree which
had passed the day before. I expressed one Intention
to enter my Opinion upon Record The President
said he would Adjourn to a Different Room
This was a Strange Doctrine to me but I avoided
answering

my conduct has been thus Arraigned I thank it proper to remove the Doubts which might rest on the minds of the Members of this Board & Inhabitants Silent - a simple exposition of Facts and Circumstances under I shall Suffice —

The first Instance mentioned by Sir Robert Fletcher is the following —

G.O. 12 Sept. 1772 For the future all Orders from the Town Major either in Writing or by an Orderly Man are to be punctually complied with —

I have always understood if I have good reason to believe it will be found Compatible to Military Usage that all such Officers as are entitled by Rank or Office to have Orderly's may command their Guard verbally by or through such Orderly. The Town Major of this Garrison hath never been confined to the Strict Duty of Town Major now hath he ever executed all the Duty* of Town Major of Brevet Master Adjutant General of the Garrison Military Secretary and of the Governors Aid De Camp but he has had the Title only of Town Major & the pay only of such, he is by his Office or Offices entitled to Orderly's I have had them on or about the 10 or 12th of September he had occasion to send an Order to the Officer of the Main Guard he did it by his orderly the Officer refused to obey it which obliged him to go from my Garden House where he then was to the Fort to give the order personally which was then obey'd. I imputed the Disobedience of the Officer at the Main Guard sent by the Orderly to Ignorance for as every Order given by the Town Major or the Order of the Governor this I am

* Such as they are practiced in Military Garrisons in Europe he hath in part executed the Duty of strictly

Fort St. George 11th Janry 1773

a Disobedience of an Order of the Governor upon this Ground has brought the Officer of the Main Guard to a Trial I think he must have been broke for Disobedience of orders but as I ever have made it a rule to Judge of the act by the Apparent Intent I willingly pass over this act as an act of Ignorance but to prevent the like in future I gave out the order upon which appears so exceptionable to Sir Robert Fletcher and which I think a proper one.

The Second Instance presented out by Sir Robert Fletcher is the following Order

G.O. 3 November 1772.

In order to prevent the Drunkenness which is much practised amongst the Troops in Garrison and which the Governor is informed is chiefly owing to the great abuse of Port Liberty, he expressly forbids all Officers Commanding Companies to grant this Indulgence to above 3 Men at a good Character of a Company each day their Names are to be included in one Chit specifying the time they are to return which Chit after being Countersigned by the Commanding Officer of the Company they belong to is to be sent to the Town Majors Office to be Countersigned by him. They are constantly to be accompanied by a Non Commissioned Officer who is to be answerable for their Behaviour and make his report accordingly to his Officer on his Return" ——

This Order Sir Robert Fletcher tells the Board has been given out to the Corps of Officers how Justly will appear

That Drunkenness has at all times many much prevailed in this Garrison is certain and that many expedients have been tried to prevent it, as certain but none have ever proved effectual. I with submission on Mr Pigots Government it was Imputed by General Lawrence to the Arrack Law

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Some one he was so urgent upon that subject that by every Straught the Arrack Farm was suddenly suppressed, the Farmers Godowns were locked up and a Strict Prohibition published against the Sale of Spirituous Liquors to the Soldiers for a short time at first the reason of it was the exclusive right of obtaining Spirituous Liquors having been in the Arrack Farmer the Sudden and unexpected Shutting up of his Godowns had Secured all the Spirits for no other Persons were prepared with any considerable quantity even for a Clandestine Sale but in a short time pernicious Arrack began to be secretly distilled in Sudden Corners These were soon found out by the Soldiers, and Drunkenness prevailed more than ever insomuch that at was thought best, after two Evils to chuse the least and to restore the Arrack Farm as the least

The most effectual remedy against Drunkenness in the Soldiers of the Garrison seems to be searching for concealed Liquors within the Fort has been found by experience to be the restraint of Post Liberty I shall quote the following Instances.

G O - 24 March 1775 As nothing Contributes more to the Health of Soldiers than keeping regularly which is on a great measure prevented by giving them Chits to go into the Black Town in the Morning and nineteen there like Evening Roll Call, a Soldier will not chuse to pay his proportion towards messing if he may be allowed to be absent and spend it in Spirituous Liquors, It is therefore recommended to the Officers Commanding Companys to let their Men go as early in the Morning as they can be spared, but to return before 12 o'Clock - Four or Five Hours are certainly sufficient for them to purchase any-

any misfortune they may incur."

This Recommendation being little attended to the following more precise order was given out. Dat: 1 Cons: 26th May 1713 No Man who passes the Gates in a Chit as to cause the Horse to Trot or Gallop in returning.

At first this Order was observed and had on some Degree the desired effect but in process of time it was neglected, Chits for Port Liberty were given without much regard to time or Numbers and Drunkenness increased to such Degree that after frequently enjoining the Town Major, then Capt. Chaigneau to enquire into the Causes and report to me that some means might be devised of restraining it none could be thought of that promised better Success than enforcing the former neglected Order in respect to Port Liberty the following Order was thereupon given out Viz:— G.O. 26 April 1712 The Scandalous abuse that has been made of Port Liberty Leave some time past by the Soldiers by getting Drunk in the Streets of the Black Town so as to be utterly incapable of mounting Guard has induced the Governor to order all Port Liberty to be stopt till further Orders, This Order to be made publick at Roll Calling this Evening to all the Europeans—

At first the order as such have generally proved was effectual. The Order is positive to prevent in future like further Orders it has sometimes been broke or altered and therefore remains in Full Force, many Chits like all former Orders of this kind after a time it was neglected and impossible forgotten and Drunkenness again prevailed in the Garrison as much as ever, Serjeant Robert Fletcher took Notice of it to me and told me he was informed that there was no Chits given out for Drams at the Freemens Barrack Godown.

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Governor on the Fort and that the Soldiers
could procure as much as they would on the
Island As the Common Council Governor in
this Fort is under very good & proper Regulations
I am alarmed at this Information and desired
the Town Major to make the strictest inquiry
in order to discover if there were any such abuse
whose he reported to me that he had done so and
could not discover that there has been any abuse
but on the contrary that the Regulations
respecting the Governor were observed that having
however been informed that a small Account
was usually been made by the Servants
Room to the Serjeant who attended the Governor
he ordered it to be discontinued, he at the same
time reported to me the little regard that was
shewn by the Officers of the Garrison to the
Regiment Orders restraining Port Liberty to which
he attributed the Drunkenness so much and so
justly complained of has I mentioned to him
and with Vigour I must not say what might
have been the Consequence of such repeated
Disobedience or at least Neglect of the strong
Orders in respect to Port Liberty every Officer
who had given such Chits and Leave of any of
those entitled to give them had not Cause it might
have been properly brought before a General
Court Martial - but I am not for way of
abroast as you untie they became absolutely
necessary I rather chuse to try a check and
restraint upon their Chits of Port Liberty as a
Milder way of Correcting their inattention
and I think it was the least their Inattention
deserved I therefore gave out the following
Order compland of Vizt

Gd Orders 8 Nov 1772 Are soon to prevent

Fort St. George 11th Janry 1813

former Punishments &c as hereinbefore recited ——

The Consequence of which order has been that from the date of it to the 7th Instant being the day on which Sir Robert Fletcher commenced it's execution at the Board there were only two more confined in the Garrison Sub Punishments as appears by the Morning Reports of the Main Guard whereas in the same space of time immediately antecedent to the order 25 men had been confined as appears by the like reports.

This is the order which Sir Robert Fletcher informed the Board had superseded the Officers ——

I must remark to the Board that I did often to Sir Robert Fletcher the Command in the Garrison as Commandant which he declined — and I must further remark that no part of his Brigade is now doing Duty in the Garrison ——

It is my decided opinion that the Commanding Officer of the Troops has not the least Cognizance or Right under the aforementioned Circumstances to interfere in any respect with the Government of this Fort — or even to expect that he should be consulted in the Orders the Governor shall think proper to give out in respect to the Garrison as such or to do any one Act in it more than any other Member of the Board — Sir Robert Fletcher intimated to me that he thought and why he thought the above recited Order Superseded — had he done this with Courtesy and not as a right I certainly should have thanked him and have explained my Ideas & Motives and have altered them if it had appeared to me that could have been attended to the Letter, but Sir Robert Fletcher never gave me or that Sir Robert Fletcher ever gave the least hint that he thought them Improper

nor

nor has Power to the best of my recollection ever heard or suspected that they were thought exceptionable by any one untile Sir Robert Robert Fletcher informed the Board that they were so, I wish to be clearly understood what I mean to express is this. That as Governor of this Fort I should willingly consult the Commandg Officer of the Troops when here and him in Presence. The Commandant of the Garrison the Town Major or any other Officer that I think can inform me upon any point of difficulty but as I am answerable I must at least be decided by my own Judgement. That it is a Voluntary act of the Governor if he consult any Man upon the orders he gives out respecting this Garrison and if any one requires it of me as a right I certainly will refuse it. At this Board alone my acts as Governor of this Fort are cognizable and because they were Questioned at this Board I gave this Account & Declaration—

Another Matter taken Notice of by Sir Robt Fletcher was that the Town Major did not do his Duty & that he did not provide the Guards &c.

I have already observed that the Town Major never has been charged with the precise Duty that are strictly appropriable to Town Majors in Garrisons Towns in Europe his Duty here is of a mixed and undefined Nature and as occasion requires he executes at some respect the Office of Town Major Barrack Master Adjutant General Military Secretary Aid De Camps. The Particular Duty of parading the Guards has generally been executed him by the Town Adjutant and provided it be properly done it appears to me not very essential whether

Fort St George 14 Janry 1793

whether it be done by the Town Major or the Town Regt and as I could remember when the Office of Town Major was first introduced in this Garrison by Mr Pigot on Town at Capt Brodge the Court of Directors ordered it to be abolished nevertheless rendered it but it is impossible that the Governor can himself personally execute every Duty & desire on any Occasion and in me to prevent the enormous of Military Expences by Multiplying Offices has been the Cause that such Various Duties have been omitted at times in the Town Major I must inform the Board that I am perfectly satisfied with the conduct of Capt Ward & think him very capable active and attentive and they leave to recommend him to the protection of the Board —

As the Board to have taken under consideration what Line to draw between the powers & Office of the Governor and the Commanding Officer of the Troops it will be proper at the same time to consider whether the Town Major should continue to assist the Governor in the Various Duties as heretofore or whether he should be confined to the proper Office of Town Major alone, in which case it will be proper to depute the Duties and to appoint other Officers for the other Duties but as I said before I am against encreasing Military Expences, it may however be proper that the Governor should have a Military Secretary —

Amongst other Grievances Sir Robert Abercrombie observes at the Board that the Gun Powder in Garrison as he believed had not been turned for above Six Weeks whereas

he

he thought it ought to be turned once or twice every Week, he moved that a Return of the Gun Powder should be laid before the Board and tho he recalld the Motion Nevertheless did keep a return before the Board. I have since called upon Lt Col. Innes the Commandant of Artillery to whom it peculiarly belongs to direct what Orders he pleases respecting the Powder, his Report and Observations are contained in the Letter which I now lay before the Board ——

To the Honble Jos. Du Pre Esqr
President and Governor &c Fort St George

Honble Sir

I have made the Strictest Enquiry relative to the turning the Powder in the Magazines and am well informed it was agreed upon by the Committee of Stores in Colonel Butlers Time and approved of by the Honble Board that once every three Months was Quite Sufficient which has been duely observed ale the taking the Account remains at Stores in the Garrison or Cornet, and as that Duty piece of Business was began with just before the Filling in of the rooms, it was thought prudent to leave the Grand Magazine tile the Monsoon is over as many Barrel must be taken out, This cannot be done without some Danger and the Large Quantity at present lodges in it renders the consequences more alarming, From my own Observations in the Course of my Journal, I form an Opinion the time limited for turning the Powder is sufficient I mean on Grand Maga. Rooms in loading Garrisons Small Arms Guns or Howr Stores &c Duty done Howr either in Madras

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Madras or any other Garrison, not to mention Towns in Europe - Was the Corps Magazine round the Works in good repair they might be stored with Ammunition which would be inspected into and known by the Visiting Officer once a Week, This Opinion I hope Honble Sir you will not think me presuming or Wrong - As to the Powder not answering Proof & Experiments I have made, I really cannot account for more than the People say the Price is to low to enable them to make it Strong enough I can assure you Sir every Method was used & every precaution taken to do Justice to the Honble Company, as well as to the Contractors, Tons of Export Cartridges and at many Subalterns attended each time & proof with myself, who remain with due respect

Honble Sir

Your most Obt
& very humble Servt
Edr James

Fort St George
10th Decr 1812

Whatever may be the Opinion of the Board to the unprecedented Attacks that have been made on my conduct as Governor of this Garrison my desire is that the Board will consider the Subject no otherwise than as it may show the Necessity of establishing or carrying in clear & determined System for the future, I think it my indispensable Duty to leave that System and the Constitution on at least as good

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good a State as I found it and this is principally
my Motive for bringing this representation before
the Board ——

Here it is proper to remark that all those proceedings
relative to the Excommunication of Ensign Kempson
had been unanimously by the Unanimous Consent of the
whole Board, and are now called for by Sir Robert Fletcher
to be entered on the Minutes of this day

The Circumstances relative to what passed on the Subject of Ensign Kempsons Case proposed to be given out by Sir Robert Fletcher

In consequence of Sir Robert Fletchers Minute of this day as entered above and of his Wish to enter now on the Minutes of this day the Proceedings relative to Ensign Kempson which by unanimous consent of the Board had been entered on The President declares to the Board that he thinks himself unjustifiably located by Sir Robert Fletcher and since the matter is now before the Board he begs leave to relate as exactly as he can remember every circumstance and particular that has passed on the Subject which he does to this Effect ——

As I think the repeated Attacks which have been made on my Consent by Sir Robert Fletcher both unjustifiable and unjust I beg leave to inform the Board of all that hath passed on the Subject now brought before the Board by Sir Robert Fletcher.

Some days between Christmas and new Years day I cannot be exact for I have no Minutes of such things Sir Robert Fletcher in my room shewd me a Paper containing some regulations which he proposed relative to the Ships Clothing, on Staff mounting. Mr Wyatt was present, I then I think said to Sir Robert Fletcher That I wished to know all such things entirely to him and all I desired was that in the manner of ordering them the Honor

dues

Fort St George 11th Jany 1713

due to the Governor Commissions might be presented. A
day or two afterwards the Town Mayor brought
me a Letter he had rec'd from Sir Robert Fletcher
Brigade Major directed by Sir Robert Fletchers
direction that a Paper mentioned to be enclosed
might be given out in general Orders upon reporting
to the Paper it appeared to be a Copy of that which
S. R. F. had shewn to me, and at the head of it
were these Words.

Orders by Lieut Sir Robert Fletcher Esq.

As I did not think it right that Sir Robert
Fletcher should give out General Orders in this
Garrison or any Orders in the Orderly Book of
the Garrison which he had no Command in it I
immediately wrote a Note to him desiring to speak
with him he came, & M.r Wynch was present, I exposed
to him without the least reason the Reasons why I
thought the Orders could not go forth in his name
in the orderly Book of this Garrison as his Orders
but I thought they might go forth as recommended
by him and approved by the Governor, After Sir Robt
Fletcher was gone I wrote down the Form in which
I thought the General Order might be worded and
shewed it to M.r Wynch - it made appear Reasonable
after I then gave it to the Town Mayor who dressed
he would shew it to Sir Robert Fletcher and ask
whether he was satisfied with that Form - The
Town Major returned to me with a Message from
Sir Robert Fletcher such as is marked in my
Letter to Sir Rob.t Fletcher and made hereafter appear
I thought the Form of the Message as giving it
exhibited no Favourable disposition towards me &
therefore I immediately wrote a Letter to Sir Rob.t
Fletcher upon the subject of which the Letter
is a Copy.

To Fort St. George 11th Janry 1773

To Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher

Sir

A few days ago the Town Major brought me a Letter he had rec'd from your Brigade Major desiring him to give out in General Orders a Paper of regulations which was inclosed & which had at the head of the following Words

Orders by Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher

Which appearing to me to be irregular, I desired the Town Major to shew you the Paper in which I think General Orders recommended by you may be given out in this Garrison, It is in these Words

"The following Regulations are recommended by
"Sir Robert Fletcher Commanding Officer of the
"Troops of the Establishment & approved and
"Ordered by the Governor & Commander in
"chief ——

To this Answer the Town Major has brought me from You which you desired him to Execute as
upon being me as the following Effect Viz: That the Form or Preamble Sent you is more fit for you than you are not pleased with it as it includes you for in giving out any General Orders respecting the Discipline of the Army. & to your charge to the Town Major to be exact in delivering your Answer as exact as the true of it seems to me to imply an Intent to Impute to me a Design to obstruct you in regulating the Discipline of the Troops. I give you this Declaration in Writing that as I have not, so I mean not to obstruct you in the Regulating & ordering the Discipline of the Troops in any way that may not be derogatory to the powers vested in my Commission according to Military Rule, I do understand that according to Military Rules No

Fort St. George 11th Janry 1773

Person at whatever Rank can give out Orders in any Garrison whilst he has not any Command and that no Person can give out General Orders in any Garrison except the Governor of the Garrison For these Reasons as Governor of this Garrison I cannot allow you to give out any General Order in it, But I am willing that such Expectations as you may recommend be given out according to Military Rule and I have no Objection to your dispensing your Orders relative to Discipline and such other Matters as properly belong to your Department in any way that may be consistent with Military Rule and not Derogatory to the Honor of my Commission ——

I am Sir

Your most Obedient

humble Servant

Jos: Du Pré

On the Sunday Forenoon in the morning Sir Robert Fletcher called upon me at the Gipsen House I met him with as much politeness as I and Master of Mr Wynch was present they both sat down with me, Sir Robert with apparent frankness told me he had wrote two Letters to me one the night before and one in the morning that he did not mean to deliver either of them but he would read them both to me, he did so and over them entered on the Business in Question I suspected with all the Force of Words I could use that I desired to leave the Discipline and such matters as were contained in the aforementioned Paper entirely to him if I saw him inclining to interfere in them I should be glad if a mode could be devised of Commanding the Orders so that I might not be responsible for them which in some degree I should make

over

Fort St George 11th Jany 1813

myself at that time on the orderly Book of the Garrison as gone out with my approbation and by my order all the recommended by him and that my, whole & sole desire in this matter was as much as possible to maintain that point of honor which was due to the Supremacy of my Commission. I then suggested a Plan which had occurred to me upon which I desired his Opinion it was mainly to the effect of a Paper which should be presently produced, some difficulties were started by Sir Robert Stobbart but he neither objected positively nor did I request positively or shoot the conversation on my part was resumed and Sparks and with a Sincere desire to settle a Plan that might answer the ends I have above declared and I was so much satisfied with the Temper and manner of Sir Robert Stobbart in this Conversation that before we parted I desired that Jane one did not Abstain met an Opinion he would put his thoughts upon paper and he desired I would do as likewise that we might endeavour to reconcile them, I put down immediately after Sir Roberts Departure and wrote what occurred to me on the subject which for the Material Points was agreeable to the Paper that Shall presently appear but was more explanatory - I showed it to Mr Wynch one both thought it might prosper to ask the Opinion of Competent Judges - and how it is proper to declare that I think it right and I ever will endeavour to satisfy myself when I doubt by Consulting every Man who I think Capable of assisting me - I was not an Opportunity until Saturday Morning of asking

Mr

12 Fort St George 11th January 1713

Opinion of one of whose Judgment on such matters I have an high Opinion, on Friday Evening I went to Sr R: F at Mr Stracys House he took me aside & observed that the Paper (meaning that what is hereinbefore mentioned) has not he given out on Orders Instrs. nor it has not Lin Inclosed you to your own Thoughts on entering upon the subject and I have not had them, he said he had put them on entering but I found them so diffe. must Know what had been the Practice that he did not come to give them to me, or to Hint what I think this made the material part of what passed then. The next morning being Saturday as I have already observed I had an Opportunity to ask the Opinion of the Gentlemen I mentioned I then wrote the draft of the Model or Plan which I meant to propose to Sr Robert Fletcher and in the Evening of that day I went to the draft of a Letter to Sir Robert Fletcher to accompany it the next day being Sunday, I have as usually do on the Country not as a day of rest but to digest such Business as the Preceding entertainments Omit with in the Course of the Week obliges me to leave on Sundays this Morning as Soon as I came to town I gave the Draft of the Letter and the proposition to be agreed Upon this was not done at the Time the Council assembles but they Soon have sent in to me where I have been at the Board I signed the Letter and Delivered both Letter & proposition to Sr Robert Fletcher which are as follows

Sir

In my Letter of the 2d Inst I thought I said enough to convince you that my desire is to support the Commanding Officer & the Troops in Establishing and Maintaining good Discipline

and

Ft St George 11 Jany 1773

and my only objections are to his carrying it into Execution in a manner derogatory to the Honor of the Commission with which the Governor is invested — In a subsequent Conversation with you I suggested a Mode that had occurred to me by which, merely preserving the Compliment due to the Governor, the establishing Regulations might not wholly rest with the Commanding Officer, some Difficulties I conceived to exist, I desired you to put them in writing that we might the better digest the Plan — by what you have since said to me on the subject it seemed to me that you rather wished to have Power in Modeling the mode I proposed — I sent it to you herewith, if there are any parts which are not strictly agreable to Military Rule point them out to me clearly and I shall readily alter them in any way that may be consistent, I repeat here that I do not desire to have anything to do with the Description more than to reserve that Compliment which is due to the Governor of Commander in Chief and in regard to giving out Orders in this Garrison I am more and more confirmed in what I said on that subject in my Letter to you of the 2d Instant The Town Major can receive no Orders from any one but the Governor and therefore the Order sent him by your Brigade Major appears to me to have been irregular —

I am Sir
Your most Obedt
Humble Servant
Jos Dorset

Fort St George
11 Jan 1773

I think
That the Commanding Officer of the Forts at the Establishment may with propriety and without derogating from the Honor of the Governors Commission issue Orders respecting the

(8)

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the Discipline of the Troops in the following manner

He may circulate in Brigade Orders to the Several Parts of his own Brigade whenever they are Stationed, the Plan of Discipline he would have established ——

The Governor will give out in General Orders requiring the Colonel for the time being of the 1st Brigade, to 2d Brigade being chosen by Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher as that which he desires to Command, the Lieut Col. Commandant of the Corps of Artillery, and the Senior Captain for the time being Commanding Corps of Battaleons to obey all such Orders as they shall receive from time to time immediately from Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher, Commanding Officer of the Troops on the establishments relative to the Discipline of their Several Corps ——

He may then send his Orders respecting the Discipline to the Colonel of the 1st Brigade, who must in Consequence issue and Circulate the same in Brigade Orders to the Several Parts of his Brigade wherever they are Stationed ——

He may give Orders for the same purpose to the Commandant of Artillery, who must in consequence issue and Circulate the same to every part of his Corps ——

We may send Orders for the same purpose to every Captain Commanding of Corps Battaleons who must obey them ——

The General Orders and Plan of Discipline being thus made known and established by every Commanding Officer of the Troops, or Parts of the Troops in any Place must be answerable that it be duely carried into Execution and if any of them should refuse or neglect to do so such Officer will be amenable and subject to answer for the same in like Manner as he would be for any other Breach of Order or neglect of

Duty

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Duty:

It seems agreeable to Military Form that the Plan and Extent of Fortification recommended by the Commanding Officer of the Forces of the Establishment should be the first Communicated by him to the Governor as Commander in chief as an Acknowledgement of the Supremacy of his Commission and of the right which that Commission gives him to controul the whole Establishment at whatever time he may judge it necessary to be put into a State of Defence, but still the Power and Right given by the Commission must be maintained, that as it may not be controverted should any such extraordinary Case Occur—

For Fort St George and in the Forts where Chief Servants have the Command as at Masulipatam &c the carrying into Execution the Plan and Order of Description to establish must rest on the Commandant or Garrison, to be under the Controul of the Governor or chief with their Garrison Orders for that Purpose—

I have referred to the Judgment of this Board whether Sir Robert Fletcher hath had any just cause to complain in any Instance in the manner he hath now done—

W. Dudley

Sir Robert Fletcher acknowledges to the Board that the Presidents foregoing recital is pretty exact.

W. Hyde

That the Governor shows the President has reported as foregoing Declaration, as what he was heard as well as he can recollect was true and exact and that when the Presd.t

are

Fort St George 1st Janry 1773

Sunday

Robert Fletcher Parker on the Sunday in the Evening that each should write down their Sentiments, he readily thought the Same would have been agreeable Settled ——

amiss &

Letter from Sr Robert Fletcher Brigade Mayor to Capt Wood The Town Mayor directing him to put out an Orderly General Orders from Sir Robt Fletcher ——

Sir

I am Directed by Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher to desire that you would put the enclosed out in General Orders I am Sir

Your most Obdt Servt

Fort St George
Dec 30th 1772

Henry Malcolm BM
2 B.

Directed to
Captain Wood
Town Mayor
Fort St George

A true Copy
Robert Wood
Tn.

Orders by Col. Sir Robert Fletcher

Officers and Men belonging to the European Infantry are to wear white Breeches and Gaiters made on one Pair instead of the Breeches and Stockings now used, the Gaiter part is to button one higher up than Breeches generally do and to be worn with a Black Garter Buttoned below the Knee the Men are to provide themselves with Four pair each, which it is Judged will be a sufficient Stock to enable them to appear clean at all times: they are constantly to wear Black Stocks and to have their Shirt Collars made deep enough so as to turn half way down the Stock — It is expected that the Officers commanding the different Battalions will see this order complied with before the 1st April next and for that purpose the Captain or Officers commanding Companies are directed to put their men under Stoppages that the whole may appear completely dressed at that time ——

Orders respecting the Clothing of the Troops by Sir Robert Fletcher which is to be issued to be given out on General Courts Martial Garrison

The Officers who may be attached to the Exact Company are to have their Uniforms made according to those worn by the 1st Batt. of the 2d Brigade at Fort St George, and the Cadets when

Fort St. George 15th. June 1773

when on Duty or when they go to dine with the Governor or the Commanding Officer for the time being, are to appear dressed in the same Uniform with the Private Men of their Corps the Agent has Orders to make up Clothing for them accordingly.

It being determined that the Sepoy Clothing for the Ensuing Year is to be distributed in the following Manner, Viz.t

The 1st Brigade to have		Red	with	Blue Facings
" 2d	Do.	Do.	Do.	Green
The Ceylon Battalions		Do.	Do.	Yellow

The following Light Drafts for Sepoy Dress is ordered to be strictly observed by that Corps

The European Officers are to have three Coats laced with the same Colour as the Batt. Shirts belong to, the Cape to be round, the Lappels narrow with eight Buttons placed two & two at proper distances and the Skirts to be cut after the same Fashion as that on the Serjeants coats of their respective Batt.s with this difference that is to be buttoned under the Arm with five small Buttons: the Epaulets are to be Serge and the Number of the Brigade embroidered on a Peice of Cloth of the same Colour with the Facings — those of the Ceylon Batts are to have Ceylon & the Number of the Batt. embroidered on them, the Coats are to have a narrow embroidered Button Hole, they are to reach no further down than the mid thigh; the Span to be cut with a good Slope back and the Skirts to be neatly turned up and to have the corners cut Pocket wise set on as not to be covered by the Flap of the Skirts when buttoned up, a neat Coat may be seen at

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at Sir Robert Fletchers Quarters / they are to wear small round Cuts with only that side looped up where the Button and Cockade are to be fixed and to be laced with Gold or Silver according to the Uniform of the Batt. Also white Dimity or Gingham Cuspidle Waistcoats with Breeches and Gaiters of white Nankeen or Dimity made in one piece the same as ordered for the Officers of the European Corps. They are likewise to wear Ruff Stocks. The Coats of the Black Commissioned Officers are to be exactly fitted to their Backs and looped up on the same manner as those of their European Officers they are also likewise then to wear Breeches and Gaiters in one Piece, with Shoes like those of Europeans either buckled or tied as the Commanding Officer of the Batt may find most expedient, and they are not to be suffered to wear on Duty a different Coloured Jacket from that of the Serjeants of their respective Corps — The Serjeants and Drummers are to conform as nearly as their Stations will admit of to the dress of their European Officers The Serjeant but to be cut small and round like theirs ——

It is Sir Robert Fletchers orders that Officers do appear on the proper uniform of the Corps they belong to at all times when they are with that Corps — The Officers Commanding the Different Corps are desired to see the above orders complied with as soon as possible ——

Fort St George
30 Decr 1712

The two following Letters are those mentioned by the President in his Minute of to day, which were read to him by Sir Robert Fletcher at the Gardens, who declared at the same time that he did not intend to deliver either of them — They are now read & ordered to be entered by Sir Robert Fletcher

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1773

Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher to the President in reply to the President's Letter of the 2d Instant referred to in the President's notes.

Honble Sir Fort St. George Janry 2. 1773

I have received your Letter of this Date whatever my Opinion upon it may be, and however much I think the present disorderly State of our Army calls upon you to Arm the Military Officer with every Means to circulate & to enforce his Orders it is my Duty as it is my wish to shew every deference to your Authority I have frequently told you my Sentiments, and I now declare to you in writing, that so far from having a desire to derogate from the Governors Power at Luss always been and will ever be my Endeavour to support and to Strengthen it. I write you further, that my Notions of the Necessity of keeping the Military Subordinate to the Civil Power are as strong as yours but that obedience and can not be secured without a regular and Strict Discipline which must depend as much upon the Authority as the abilities of your Military Officers. I have the Honor to be

Honble Sir
Your most Obed.t
humble Servant
R. Fletcher

Honble Sir Janry 3d 1773.

I had the Honor to receive your Letter of Yesterday and I am sorry to find you impute to me an irregularity and a Deviation from the Military Rule both the one and the other being very foreign to my Intentions; But I avoid the Discussion of every point which may lead to disputes. Give me leave however to offer it as my Opinion that the present State of our Army requires, that the Military Officer should be armed with every Means to circulate his Orders

Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher to the President in answer to the President's Letter of the 2d Instant Referred to in the President's Notes

Army

Fort St George 11th Jany 1773

Orders and every Authority to enforce them, and that the Commandant of every Garrison in obey his Orders respecting Discipline ought to be under the Direction of the Commander of the Troops alone. This I humbly conceive would not derogate from the Governor Powers nor Dignity, on the Contrary it would Strengthen and add to them in Proportion and it would bring us to that uniformity of Obedience without which it is more Dangerous to have Troops than to want them ——

Sir Robert Fletcher desires the President to enter upon the Records every Charge which he has heard against him that he may have a fair Opportunity of Answering them, that the Court of Directors and the Nation may be the Judges between them To which the President answers I will explain myself to the Court of Directors if they will give me a Hearing Sir Robert replies he might not be there to have an Opportunity of defending himself.

Sir Robert Fletcher declares that he did not read the Orders respecting the Uniforms of the Army to Captain Wood merely as Town Major, but to him in the Capacity he Stands in the Commonwealth ——

Sir Robert Fletcher, Messrs Johnson & Macleane lay before the Board the following observations on the reasons of the Majority for addressing the Nabob by Annundabbt ——

Considering the great Variety of Papers which came before this Board and the number of Papers which we read at our Consultations, it is scarcely possible always to give the attention that is necessary to every particular, whereby many things escape the immediate notice of the Members

Observations on the reasons urged by the Majority for addressing the Nabob by Annundabbt

Fort St. George 11th Janry 1773

Members met on receipt of an order from the Honble the Governor & the Majority were sent in Consultation the 16th November last addressing the Nabob by Corrospondence we have since had an Opportunity of perusing that Paper more attentively and as we are convinced that some Passages in it if not more fully explained may rather mislead than inform the Honorable Court on a Subject which we believe most greatly affect their Power and Influence in India, We think it our Duty to point out those passages which we never Opinion upon them which we submit to their better Judgement, We should have laid their remarks sooner before the Board, but the proceedings on this Business are long and we were obliged to take Extracts from them at different Times as we could find Leisure to go into the Secretarys Office, & the reasons given by the Gentlemen for adopting this mode of Address to the Nabob do not convey the least intimation to our Minds, we shall not take up the time of the Board with any Arguements to refute them Some what that has already been said on the subject, we hope the Honble Court will be able to Judge whether the Necessity be most which is so strongly urged in support of the Measure and which did not appear to us to have existed in the Opinion of any member at the Board bite, the 28 Sept. and how we beg leave to take Notice of some startling circumstances on the face of our Proceedings On the 28 of Sept. the Board were unanimous by the Opinion that addressing the Nabob now on the same plan we should as Father had been addressed formerly by this Government We

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The Arrivedasht and Orze, remain to be employ
and retaining the consequence and Stamp of the
Company: In our General Letter to the Court
of Directors of the 15th Octr last on which we
were Unanimous, after reading what
passed between the Town & Sir Robert Hartland
with regard to the Nabobs Bills we say and
how the matter stands at present we have not
as yet replyd to the Nabobs Letter it is a
tender subject and we should endeavour to manage
it so as neither to disgust the Nabob nor
degrade the Company: On the 2d November a
Majority came to a Resolution (Addressing the
Nabob by Arrivedasht and on the 16th gave their
reasons for so Proceeding) themselves. Indeed the
Majority contests that they do not act in this
matter from their own Judgement & Opinion
but from Custom and therefore contests that
Custom be read/ and we believe it to be entirely
Ideal) their own Arguments are as strong as
them as any we can make use of. The Majori
ty is of Opinion that as representatives of the
Company we cannot assume an Indean Char.
acter and if we did, it must be that of repre
sentatives of the Paghurs or to the Nabob, that
therefore we must stand on our British Charac
ter that is, the representative of a Subject, that
Subject the Company. If we are not to assume
an Indean Character why do we assume an
Indean Mode of address and why not make an
English Address alone our Standard, but instead
of doing this and attending and suiting that
address to the comparative insignificancy of the
Nabobs rank entirely forsake that Rule and

address

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address him with as much greater submission and marks of Deference, than we should do were we to address our own Sovereign. Can this be reconciled to a British Character and to British Principles? The Majority say, that if the President were to correspond with the Nabob on the Persian Language, he ought in strict propriety to use the Arzeedasht, and as they should not the President in strict Propriety comply with all the other forms of the Nabobs Durbar? Why not make three obeisances to the Ground on coming into the Nabobs presence and stand mute with his Arms across like a signal be made for him to set at a distance unless when the Nabob should command to be approached; If we believe the Majority will hardly venture to tell the Court of Directors that their Governor ought in strict propriety to approach the Nabob in this manner and yet in Solemnly declare, that were the Governor to comply with this Ceremonial we should not think it more humiliating and derogatory to the Honor of the Company than we believe the Ceremony of addressing the Nabob by Arzeedasht to be. Great stress seems to be laid by the Majority on the Companys being Zoyhendars to the Nabob, if we are to do Homage to the Nabob for the Paykini Lands which we believe is not generally found in the Sunnuds or was ever thought of by the Company or the Nabob it should be done by a distinct act at some stated time and not by a perpetual humiliation in our daily Correspondence with him. We understand of late their Lords were grown more proprietary

Speakers

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speaking were by mistake Agreement, returned
for the Company by Mr. Pigot and his Council
at the time they first entered the Nabobs Manage-
ment the other parts of the Carnatick taken
from the French and others in the late War it
was not in Consideration of Services to be performed
but as some small reward for the great at once
which had been performed by the Company and
when the Nabob according to the immutable
Custom of Eastern Princes delayed from time to
time, under various pretences to comply with his
promise and to Grant the necessary Phirmands
Mr. Pigot wrote him a Spiritted Letter which
had the desired effect and the Phirmands were im-
mediately Granted, This we believe to be the real
Fact, which but ill agrees with what the
Majority say, that subsequent to the Treaty of
Paris, the Nabob of his own good will granted
those Lands by Phirmand to the Company, What
Man would willingly give away from himself
and his Heirs for ever an Estate of 150,000 £ a Year
if he thought himself not obliged by Engage-
ments to do so, we leave those of the Nabobs
giving the Lands called the Jaghire to the
Company as is expressed in the Phirmand they gave
them every thing the new possessed and more than
his Ancestors ever possessed running only a
small part for themselves, It is in vain to
dispute about Words, the right of the Company
to is and must be, that of the Sword and
whenever that right fails them their Treaties
with & Grants from Indian Princes will
avail them very little the connexion which
subsists between them and the Nabob perhaps

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perhaps has nothing similar to it in History if we can scarcely bring ourselves to believe the Majority an Instance when they compare the subaltern Stations of the Company, and the Nabob to that of Lord Paramount under the present Feudal System in Europe. by this Tenor, the Company are only Tenants in Capite to the Nabob and besides being obliged to attend him as Vassals on his Wars they would owe him Fealty & Homage Services, such as paying his Debts, ransoming his Person incase he should be taken Prisoner and giving a Portion to marry his eldest Daughter in Fine were we sure the Court of Directors would never consent to propose. The Majority seem to be afraid of incurring penalties if they refuse complying with the Nabobs Desire; but they should not as any Law or Order from our Superiors requiring such a compliance we should have been equally cautious with them, but we are fully persuaded that neither Law or Order to that purpose does exist. The Majority after relating how long Mr Stracey has held the Office of Persian Translator, the reputation he has acquired in that Office, his being accurate in his Translations and intelligent in the Usages of the Country &c &c Say" and Moodeer Kistnah the Company's Interpreter has also been examined at the Board, and if there be any distinction between his Opinion and Mr Straceys; it is only in this, that whereas Mr Stracey thinks the Nazzydeeb is peculiarly the mode of Address from subjects & Dependants to Sovereign Princes, Moodeer Kistnah thinks it is used by inferiors persons to superior Persons

We conceive that there is a much

more

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more material Difference in their Opinions, and
no doubt will it make appear to the Honble
Court on a carefull perusal of what both has
said on the Subject. To me the Opinion of
Moodeen Kistnah clearly points out the Impro-
priety not to use a stronger expression of address
the Nabob by Arrizdasht and have no beg to refer to that
Opinion N.o 5 at the of this Minute. That paper was
read by the President before the Board of 2 Nov.r last the
part of it relating to the usages and Customs of the
Country which are here introduced here was omitted
to be entered on the Minute of that Day, Mr. Stracey
who was particularly invited by the President to
inform himself of the peculiar distinctions in the dif
ferent Stiles or Modes of Address in the Persian Language
and by what Characters they might with propriety
be, and are generally used. gives only Copies or
translations of the Addresses from this Government to
Hyder Alby Cawn, the Sunbah of Decan, and the Nabob
and afterwards answers from the Company's Monshey's
or Persian Writers, to some questions which he put to
them by desire of the President without giving any
Opinion of his own concerning the usages and Customs
of the Country People, in which he is said to be so in-
telligent; if he thought what Moodeen Kistnah said
on that Subject viz.t about the Pruenables or Stile
of Letters, was right, he ought to have confirmed
that Opinion if he thought it wrong, he ought to
have contradicted it: he only says of the Arrizdasht that
it is a mode of Address Generally used by a Subject of
Distinction to Foreign Power. When he is asked
by Sir Robert Fletcher whether the Arrizdasht is not
sometimes used from Dependants to Masters, he
answers it is generally used from subjects of Distinc-
tion

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Distinction to Sovereign Princes. this is not an answer but appears to be an evasion; Moodoo Kistnack Answers the Question in the Affirmative by saying that the Annedaustic is used from a Servant to his Master and from a Son to his Father. Mr Stracey having asked whether the Annedaustic is ever used by subjects, who are not of Distinction to Sovereign Princes, Answers, that he believes seldom if ever, Moodoo Kistnack says it is used from Subjects who are not of distinction to Sovereign Princes. Mr Stracey is asked whether addressing the Nabob by Annedaustic as now proposed is not more humble and Submissive than addressing by Koornumah, as has been the Custom with this Government he Answers he believes it is, Moodoo Kistnack is in no sort a doubt about the Matter for he says positively it is. The same questions that were put to the Company's Munshys and entered on Consultation the 4th November were Lately also put to different People here who are well versed in the Persian Language and we refer to Nº 2 and 3 at the End of this Minute, for their Answers which are very different from those given by the Munshys.

The Nabobs Opinion on this matter which the President says agrees with that of Mr Stracey we think might not to have been quoted — Besides the above Information we are told that the Nabobs own Servants of all ranks who formerly used to address him by Coorsa have for two Years past, by his own particular Order addressed him by Annedaustic and this is a very strong proof in our Opinion, that of all the different Modes of Address used in this Country, the Annedaustic is the most Submissive and humble — We are likewise told that some of the Nabobs own dependants, descended from Gentlemen and good Familys, but reduced to

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to provide, the they would be sure by Arms, yet will not condescend quite so low as to accept them by Arzeydasht, We are sorry at any thing we have been obliged to say on this Subject should be construed as meant to injure Mr Stracey as to whom he has taken great Pains to become proficient in the Persian Language, but yet we cannot by any means allow that his Knowledge of that Language or of the Usages and Customs of India is equal to Meerzan Kistnaks, Meerzan Kistnah is a Native, of very Sensible understanding Man, has had long experience in Life and has served the Company as Interpreter for near Thirty Years, why then should his Opinion be disregarded by the Majority for it was as Official as well as Mr Staceys From Meerzan Kistnahs general Character and from our own knowledge of him, we have reason to believe him to be a man of Integrity, and the ready, clear and distinct Answers he gave to many Question put to him at the Board confirms us in this Opinion. The Reasons of Majority conclude with this passage But after all the Question is not whether we shall actually address the Nabob by Arzeydasht, for it has been resolved to address by Letters in English but whether in the Head or Title of the translation of our Letters, we shall call that Letter an Arzeydasht This we cannot consider as a Serious Argument if there be any Distinction with regard to the Spirit and Meaning between writing a Letter to the Nabob in the Persian Language in the Stile of an Arzeydasht and writing a Letter to him in English accompanied with a Translation in the Persian Language in which we say that the English Letter is an Arzeydasht

an

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ver compass it is a distinction we do not compre-
hend. We are clearly of Opinion that the real
Question before the Board is whether we shall actu-
ally and Virtually accept the Cabul by Annudasht
the Majority's endeavouring to make a Destinction
between Corresponding directly or the Persian Langua-
ge Annudasht and calling the Translation of our
English Letter on Annudasht seems only to
shew that they condemn the first as improper
and yet they say that if the Governor mean to
Correspond with the Nabob in the Persian Lan-
guage, he might in Strict propriety to use the
Annudasht. These Arguements to us appear Self
Contradictions for if the Persian translation does not
stand before the Nabob as the translation of an
Annudasht, it can mean nothing and might as
well be termed the Nundnamah unless indeed it is
intended that the Nabob Shall amuse himself and
Fancy we are addressing him by Gunge Sagbit when
no such thing is meant

Alex. Johnston

Copy of that Part of Mr Morse's Minutes
respecting explanations that was not entered on
Consultation No 2 Nota Bene

Cabul
Muckloot
Shahapur
Bakemrah
Namah
Malaverah

Terms used in Persian Let-
ters wrote by Persons Regard
Rank and Dignity with those
they are sent to

Remarks on Terms used for writing on
Petitions

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Petitions presented by an inferior to a superior shall pass to pass, It is to be observed that it is customary among eastern Nations to begin their Letters with some preambles of Praise, before they enter on the Subject, but then those Preambles are begun according to the Distinctions of the above Terms—

Among the European Nations as it not Customary to Make preambles or Praise as among the Eastern it is esteemed of little or no consequence, but among the Eastern Nations it is of the Highest consequence for the Honour and Dignity of both the that writes and the Person that receives Letters depend much and are known by the Preambles or Stile of them, We Hear that when the English Power was confined with the Bounds of Madras the President of the said place used to write to the Nabob of Arcot under the Term of the Arzee & Annuzdasht which as it is generally understood in the Country denotes great inferiority and dependancy, but since they have entered into alliance and gained influence and Power with the Princes of the Country the Distinctions are weighed and Dejonctions considered and the Preambles are accordingly altered as it now stands which Answers the Term of Nuzzanuck and denotes neither equality nor much superiority but in the middle state expressing his Power still as Superior and the Addressers rank and dignity as not much inferior. The President of Madras used always both before and now to make his Letters to the Soubah of the Decan under the Term of an Annuzdasht, we are told that the Nabob to this day accompts his Letters to the said Soubah under the Term of the Arzee and Annuzdasht—

1st The Same Questions that were put by

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by Mr. Stracey to the Company's Linguists and
entered in Consultation the 16th. Ditto Answered by
the Pesh ——

No. 2. 1st Question. Supposing a Person of good
extraction and another of low Condition to have
Occasion to address a Sovereign Prince in Writing
what is the proper Form of such Answer. They
both equally use the Arzeedasht if they understand
the right Form, the Consultants being done to
Kings Sons and Elders alike as expressing the truest
condition of the Addresser and the highest condition
of the addressed, Whereas the Arzee does not express no
low Condition in the Addresser nor no high Condition
in the addressed 2d Quest. It is proper or improper
for a Man of low Condition to address a Sovereign
Prince by Arzeedasht Answer It is the proper
Stile Forms —

3d Quest. What is the reason of the Arzee being the
Form of Address to Sovereign Princes from Persons
of low Condition Answer Arzee is improper as not
being sufficiently respectful, Arzeedasht is the
proper Form, but the Arzee is the mode generally
followed in Hindostan For want of knowing
better —

4 Quest. By whom is the Arzee mode use of? Ans.
It is used by high and low, but those who
understand Forms use the Arzeedasht as giving
greater Respect ——

N3 Answers to the same questions by another person
To the 1st Question, The Form of an Arzeedasht
may be proper for a person of low Condition
to address a Sovereign Prince as well for a Person
of distinction unless he be a man of high Religious
has had some forwarded relations at the Head of
some Government or distant Countries and
who tho' he be poor and in low Circumstances

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Circumstances would never chuse to adopt under that Form. — To the 2d Question It cannot be called improper for a Man of low Condition to adopt a Stranger Person by Arrogance but if he has ammo he may adopt him by Arms which is much the same in Locality, but it is a more unusual mode of Adoption & without much preambles.

To the 3d Quest: Any Address that is sent or presented by an Inferior to a Superior or to a Man in Power is called in General Terms an Arzee especially those Writings that are presented by common People to any Sarcengir or Gouvernor with Cover, the Reasons why the Arzee is called by some People to be the Same of Address from Persons of low Condition only is known to be this, that all Addresses and writings that are presented by poor, indigent and helpless People to any Sarcengir or Governor both in Private and in publick Durbar or elsewhere the Streets as they ride along according to the time and Opportunities they meet with are called and in the Name of Arzee whereas it makes some people think that the Arzee is the Same of Address only from persons of Low Condition

To the 4 Quest: The Term of Arzee is made use of by persons of inferior Rank to those of Superior and in same Cases Answers to the Petitions presented Case to Case —

The President then moved to adjourn, which was accordingly done and the Gentlemen

ps Fort St. George 11th January 1713

consideration of the Subjects now laid before the Board, mispinted till next Thursday the 18th

Jon. Du Pré
N. Wynch
John Smith
John Whitehill
Cha. Lodwick Smith
Jam. Pendarves
A. Hume
B. Gray

Fort St George 12th Jany 1773

Tuesday 5th
Janz 12

At a Consultation Present

Josias Du Pre Esqr Governor Presidt
Alexander Wynch " Sir Robert Fletcher
John Smith " John Whitehill
Charles Smith " Samuel Johnson
John Maxwell Stone " Edward Stracey
George Mackay

The President acquaints the Board that the reason of his calling a Council this morning is that he hath something to propose relative to Sir Robert Fletcher, that in the mean time if Sir Robert has any Minute prepared for the consideration of the Board on the Presidts Letter and Propositions which were referred to him Yesterday the Board must receive them now, or at any other time, but if Sir Robt has nothing to offer on this Subject, the President moves that he be desired to withdraw.

Sir Robert Fletcher objecting to withdraw the Question is put and carried by a Majority of the Board that Sir Robert Fletcher do withdraw, and the same being signified to him by the President he declares this Proceeding unprecedented and Violent That he lets the Majority of the Board answerable to the Company and to the publick for all consequences and he protests against any resolution which the Majority may take relative to his Conduct at the Board before he has an Opportunity of answering to charges which the President brought against him Yesterday, by which he made it appear that in Commanding Officer at the Head of the Army he had in his Power to keep the Troops under any Sort of order or Discipline during Mr DuPre's Government

Sir Robert Fletcher not having

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Mess.rs Johnson and Mackay object to the Resolution of the Majority, because Sir Robert Fletcher did not chuse to withdraw ——

The President after recapitulating what has passed between him and Sir Robert Fletcher as related at Full on the Presidents Minute of Yesterday puts the following Question to the Board ——

Quest. Whether Sir Robert Fletcher acted towards me, as President of the Council or Governor Glenmorandeer in chief with that candor and Duty which his Station requires? ——

Mr. Mackay — I do not know of any particular instance at the Board wherein Sir Robert Fletcher has acted inconsistent with his Duty to the Presidt and with my and to Candor I cannot Say, as he and the President accuse one another of want of Candor ——

Mr. Stracey — I think Sir Robert Fletcher has not acted with that Candor and Duty which he ought.

Mr. Stone. I think he has not

Mr. Johnson. Upon the whole I think he has not

Mr. Ch.s Smith. I think he has not

Mr. Whitehill — I am of Opinion he has not.

Mr. John Smith. " He has not

Mr. Wynch " He has not.

The President then proposes the following Question. As it has been agreed Unanimously at this Board on the 15th. December to withdraw the Minutes which has passed on the nomination and appointment of Ensign Kempson to the Adjutancy of the First Battalion 1st Brigade, the dissenting voices of the Board having been put an end to disputes, and as Sir Eyre Coote in Sir Robert Fletcher to bring them again before the

Fort St. George 12th January 1773

Present

the Board, without apprizing the President of his Intention

Mr Mackay: I think he should have Shewn them to the President before he brought them before the Board but I think that his reason for bringing them again before the Board was that he thought there would be an end to disputes and therefore wished as that he had said might appear on the Minutes ——

Mr Stracey I think it was rather Low, grievous or Candid in Sir Robert Fletcher to bring these Minutes to the Board without apprizing the Governor of his Intention ——

Mr Stone — I think the Same

Mr Johnson Subscribes to Mr Mackays Opinion in the Question

Mr Ch: Smith I think it was not Low, grievous or Candid.

Mr Whitehill I think the Same

Mr J Smith " the Same

Mr Wynch the Same —

The President requests the Board to recur to their recollection when Sir Robert Fletcher brought the orderly Books of the Garrison before them and produced out Several Orders which are taken Notice of the 11th December and entered on the Proceedings of Yesterday — The President desires the Opinion of the Board whether Sir Robert Fletchers conduct in that instance was consistent with that Fairness and Duty which was incumbent on him.

Mr Mackay. If I had been in Sir Robert Fletchers place I would not have brought those charges against the Governor without explaining myself to him nor would I have brought the orderly Book of the Garrison to the Board, But I do not know that Sir Robert Fletcher is doing so amounts to

* meth a design to arraign his conduct in Governor of this Garrison ——

Board

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Fort St George 12th January 1775

Breach of any of the Rules of the Service, because I think every member ought to be at Liberty to Convey before the Board whatever he may think proper ——

Mr Stracey I think Sir Robert Fletchers conduct in that Instance was not consistent with that Duty and Duty which was incumbent on him ——

Mr Stone Same of the Same Opinion

Mr Johnson I think Sir Robert Fletcher should in conformity to the rules of the Service have communicated his Intention to the President before he brought those Minutes to the Board ——

Mr Chas Smith I think it was not consistent with Justice and his Duty ——

Mr Whitehill I think the Same

Mr J. Smith the Same

Mr Wynch Same of the Same Opinion

The President then delivered himself in the following Words — I declare for myself that Judging of Sir Robert Fletchers future conduct by the past I find I am incapable to entrust the business of this Government in his Sir Robert Fletchers hands at the Board — I am shortly to embark for Europe, I desire the Gentlemen who are to have the charge of this Government after my departure will declare whether they think themselves upon the Question whether they think themselves upon the whole of considering the Companys Affairs with that Harmony and Dispatch which is so essential to their prosperity, While Sir Robert Fletcher Sits at this Board, Judging of his future Conduct by his past ——

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Mr Mackay. Sam of Opinion that the Companys Affairs may be more well conducted with Sir Robert Fletcher at this Board of Council for the good of the Company, that every Member who now have or may be hereafter have a Seat this Board may have as much Zeal for the Publick Service as I am persuaded Sir Robert Fletcher has ——

Messrs Whitehill Chas Smith Stracey ——

As Sir Robert Fletcher appears to us to have so different an Opinion of the Line of his Duty as Commanding Officer of the Troops from what we understand, has usually been the rule of the Service pursuing our Judgements of the Letters by Sir Robert Fletcher's past conduct & conceiving it to be absolutely impossible for the Board (let them be ever so attentive & circumspect thereon) to know the precise Limit in every particular Instance between Sir Robert Fletcher, as Commanding Officer of the Troops & the Governor, as Governor Commander in chief & President of the Council we do not think while the present System continues there is any or very little likelihood of that Harmony, proceeding at the Board which is so very essential, for the proper conducting of the Companys Affairs if Sir Robert Fletcher continues sitting thereat, We declare however at the same time that this our Opinion does not extend to dispute Sir Robert Fletcher absolutely a Seat at this Board ——

John Whitehill

Charles Smith

A Stracey

No. Fort St George 12 Jany 1773

Mr Stone.

I entirely agree in Opinion with Mr Strahey that considering Sir Robert Fletchers Idea of the Line of his Duty as Commanding Officer of the Troops which appear to me utterly repugnant to the System necessary to be maintained, that Affairs cannot be conducted with Confidence between him and the President and I must further add that when I reflect that many Affairs and Disputes have arisen at this Board in the Short time Sir Robert Fletcher has had a Seat at it, that I remember to have happened during upwards of ten Years in which I have been privy to most of the transactions of the Board as Secretary & lately as a Member thereof, and when so far from there being any Instance of that Harmony & Unanimity so necessary for the good of the Service being mentioned, the Differences appear to me to be daily increasing, Judging therefore of Sir Robt Fletchers future Conduct from the past I cannot avoid giving it as my Opinion that the Companys Affairs under this Presidency cannot be conducted with that Harmony, Unanimity and Dispatch so necessary for their Prosperity and the welfare being of this Government while Sir Robert Fletcher Continues to Sit at this Board — I do not however hereby mean to give any decisive Opinion for depriving Sir Robert Fletcher absolutely and entirely of a Seat at the Board

Wm Johnson

I Am perfectly of Opinion with that Sir Robert Fletcher will resign his Commission the Instant he is informed of his having no longer a Seat at this Board and all he to judge of his future conduct by his Past one may entitle us to Suppose that Some Difficulties or the Transaction of Publick Affairs may here-

after

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anny more but I am convinced the Company's
concerns will suffer infinitely a greater misfor-
tune by her quitting the Service than from any
such Obstacles to Business as have been just
hinted at ——— Wm Petrie

Mr Smith & Mr Wynch delivered in a Letter & Minute.

Without Harmony subsists amongst the Members
of the Board it will be impossible to conduct the
Affairs of this Government with that advantage to
the Company I wish to see them, and to Judge of Sir
Robert Fletchers Fortune Behaviour from the past, I
think that they cannot be carried on with the
Dispatch necessary for their welfare with him at the
Board I would not be understood that I mean to
deprive him of his Seat there when the President
&c. shall Judge his Presence necessary, I must beg
observing that I have been in the Council of the
Presidency above 20 Years & that I have not known
so many disputes & Debates in all that time as
have occurred within these few Months ———

W Wynch

Mr John Smith desires to remark that he entirely
coincides with Mr Wynch but only observes that
he has not been a Member of this Board for the
time of Years mentioned in Mr Wynches Minute
But the observation of Mr Wynch is just while
Mr Smith has sat at the Board ———

John Smith

The Majority of the Board being
of Opinion that the Company's Affairs cannot be
conducted with that Harmony and Dispatch to upon
tend to their Prosperity while Sir Robert Fletcher sits
at the Board, The President proceeds as follows ——

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I do not mean to put any Question putative to Sir Robert Fletchers Sitting a Seat at this Board, but as I do apprehend that while he resides at this Settlement, his correspondence with the Governor on the proper Duties of the Government will materially to the Interests of the Service and as I think Sir Robert Fletcher may as well dispense his Orders relative to Discipline and such other Matters as belong properly to his Department here as place as from another, and having no intention of depriving the Company of his Military Abilities, I move that Sir Robert Fletcher be appointed to the command of the Fort and Garrison of Fort St George and that he repair thither immediately.

Mr Mackay I am against it entirely

Mr Stracey I am for the Motion

Mr Hare I am for the Motion

Mr Johnson I am of Opinion that the advantages which the Board may receive from Sir Robert Fletcher remaining at the Board are greater than any advantages which can be expected from his absence. I am therefore against the Motion, ——————

Mr Chas Smith I am for the Motion

Mr Whitehill for the Motion

Mr John Smith For the Motion

Mr Wynch For the Motion

The Majority being for appointment of Sir Robert to the Command of Fort St George, the following Letter is accordingly wrote ——————

To Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher

Commanding Officer of the Troops on the Coast

Sir

Judging it for the good of the Service we have appointed you to the Command of the Fort and Garrison of Fort St George, you are therefore

Letter to Sir Robert Fletcher appointing him to the Command of the Fort & Garrison of Fort St George

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therefore hereby ordered to Sit out immediately and repair thither and take upon you the command accordingly. Lieutenant Flint will be order'd to deliver over the same to you on your Arrival together with all our Instructions relative thereto.

We are
Sir
Your most Obedient Servants
Jos. Du Pre &c Councils

Fort St. George
Janry 12. 1772

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The following Letter is then wrote to Lt. Flint.

To Lieut. Coll. Flint
Commanding at Trichinopoly
Sir

Having appointed Col. Sir R. Lt. Fletcher to the Command of the Fort and Garrison of Trichinopoly you are hereby directed to deliver the same over to him on his Arrival, together with all such Orders and Instructions as you have received relative thereto. After which you will proceed to Madras —

We are Sir
Your most Obed Servants
Jos. Du Pré &c Councils

Letter to Lieut Colo. Flint to deliver over the command of Fort & Garrison of Trichinopoly to Sir Robert Fletcher and repair to Madras

Fort St. George
13 Janry 1772

Sir

Having Mons. Paiken Mons. Sheet as the resolution of the Majesty are very injurious to Sir Robert Fletchers Character as a Servant of the Company that a Copy of this days Proceedings be given him before his Departure for Trichinopoly, that he may have an opportunity of Vindicating himself to the Court of Directors and to his Friends in Europe by the Ship now under Dispatch

The Board accordingly resolve that the

At Fort St. George 12 January 1713

The Secretary be directed to make out a Copy of the Minutes for Sir Robert Fletcher as soon as they can be drawn out fair, read and approved in Consultation According to the Rules of the Service, but that this resolution is not in any respect whatever to countervail the Order given to Sir Robert Fletcher to Set out immediately for Trincombar ——

Mess.rs Johnson and Mackay Signify to the Board their Intention to dispute from the Resolution of the day preceding to Sir Robert Fletcher ——

Jos. Du Pré
A Wynch
John Smith
John Whitehill
Chr. Hodgkin
Sigr. Rehuston
L. H. Pons
B Bradyll

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The Board being met on the Business of the Civil Department two Letters from Sir Robert Fletcher the one dated and received the 13th the other the 15 are opened and read ——

The President moves that the said Letters do lie on the Table until Monday next when they will come properly under the consideration of the Military Department which is agreed to by all the Members, & Mrs. Johnson and Mackay excepted, they being of Opinion that the Letters should be immediately taken into consideration ——

At a Consultation Present

Monday 18 January. Jos. Du Pré Esq. Governor President
Alexander Wynch. ——————
John Smith " John Whitehill
Charles Smith " Samuel Johnson
J. H. Stone " Ed. Stracey
George Mackay

The Minutes of the two last Consultations being read Mr. Stracey delivers in the Letter Minute in reply to the Remarks made by Sir Robert Fletcher Mrs. Johnson & Mackay on their Minute of the 15th Instant on the Examination at the Board on the 2d November respecting the Grades of Peons in the Persian Language ——

Sir Robert Fletcher, & Mrs. Johnson and Mackay having on their reasons in reply to the Censure of the Majority of the Board on the subject of stating the transactions of the Praid. Letters to the Table on Consideration thought proper to represent me in my character of Persian Translator, in a very unfavourable Light, I the Majority should not be deemed to do more than what Justice

Mr. Stracey's Vote: entire of the said Minute the charge brought against him on the part of Sir Robert Fletcher, Mrs. Johnson & Mackay

Read

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Justice to myself requires, I attempt to say something in my own Vindication. The heaviest part of the charge brought against me appears to be this - That I am said to have been guilty of an Evasion in answering a Question put to me by Sir Robert Fletcher. The Question is this - Is not the Answer sometimes used from Defendants to Masters? to which the Answer is, It is generally and from subjects of Distinction to Sovereign Princes - I grant the answer is not so pointed as it might have been, but then I hope to the Candid when it is considered, I was before given any Sense in General of the Person, to whom that mode of Address, should be used, it will not appear to have deserved the Epithet so decisively given to it But if it was considered as evasive, they did not any of those Gentlemen at the time demand a precise answer? Why has this matter been suffered to lay dormant for more than two Months if now that I have the Honor to be a member of this Board brought forth against me? Is it to shew that I am not worthy of a Seat at the Board or not fit to hold the Employ of Translator? If it be I am only sorry, I am at resignation to whatever be the Pleasure of the Board - to whom I appeal - Those Gentlemen however must excuse me if I say that I think the greatest part of my crime rose in their Eyes was this - The Majority of the Board on the above occasion, did me the honor to speak favourably of me in their Letters, and to pass some strictures on my explanation of the Jewish Modes of Address - it seemed therefore the more I ought to deprecate in the Opinion of the Honble Court the ill will (in some degree at least) must be given by the Honble Court to the Reasons of the Majority - but surely this cannot be deemed as acting a partial candid part, between me - I hope I shall not be thought

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thought to presume, when I say, that as I was the first European Person Translator the Company I believe ever had upon this Coast: so it has been my study, my endeavour to act in that employ in such manner as might be agreeable and recommend me to my Superiors & if these Gentlemen will be pleased to enquire in what manner this business of the Arrzadasht came before the Board, they will find it proceeded from a delicacy still to an Apprehension in the Translator of doing what might in the smallest degree hereafter be deem'd derogatory either to the Honor of this Government or inconsistent with the Nice Point of Rank then established respecting the Nabob. These Gentlemen say that on Answer to a Question put to me by Mr. Mackay - "Whether assuming the Nabob by Arrzadasht is not mine Technique from the Mussulmans, before use by this Government, I merely say I believe it is but that Mr. Mackay first positively says it is - I imagine this is brought against me, as an Equivocation at least to obviate however any such Idea, resting in their Minds or future. I can declare my meaning therein is to be equally positive with the Opinion given by Mr. Kistnah - It is true I did give to the President only translations of the addresses from this Government to Hyder Ally Cawn, the Sardah of the Dewan & the Nabob & Attendants the Answers of the Company's Merchts to the Questions I had put to them & all this without giving any Opinion of my own or venturing respecting the Usages & Customs of the Country - to the Board however I delivered my Explanation of those Modes of Address, the Nuzzerana, the Arrzadasht & the Cowl & I acquainted the President & Council the Board

at

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at least many Members thereof for my opinion respecting what mode of Answers should next upon the Line of impeachy on the Part of the Person addressing, should any alteration be determined on, regarding the Style and Title of the Translations of the Princes Letters to the Nabob, in consequence of the high Title they are to have by this Government on the original Letters. And this was also that appeared necessary from me. The President never expressed his dissatisfaction to me at my not having been more explicit nor did any of the Members ever before do so. Why then am I now brought before the Humble Court & this Board for this Supposed Crime? I only answer on their Justice. With regard to what is observed regarding, respecting the Answers given in by different People here, who are well versed in the Persian Language to the same Questions I put to the Companys Moonshis. I can only say that if these Gentlemen have or any other Member of the Board has the smallest Doubt whether what I have given in may properly the Answers of the Answers of the Moonshis, I beg they may be called upon & Questioned not only to that but particularly, whether I did not repeatedly desire of them to consider well of the Answers, they might give me to consult other People about them & to desire short to give them to me in such a manner; that occasion required they might declare before this Board that to the best of their Judgments & belief they were the proper Answers to those Questions & also that if they have been wrong (let them appear for the word) These Gentlemen however will convince me of Fact that it is not the mere hearing of Answers from Persons, said to be well versed in the Persian Language, that will convince me they are in the wrong. It is observed that if

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I thought what Mr Heathcote said on the subject of Preambles or the Style of Letters was right I ought to have composed that Opinion or Answer I ought to have contradicted it &c. To this I answer - When I was first called upon by the Board, or any Members thereof to give my conscientious or contradictory Opinion thereon; however as it appears that Gentlemen think I ought to have given such an Opinion I now declare that I agree in the substance of what Mr Heathcote has said respecting the Preambles to Letters ——

Having now replied to the several parts of these Gentlemens Reasons which appear to be personally levelled at me I shall only add that my Intention herein has been merely to confine myself to my own exculpation ——

Stracey

Mr Straceys Minute being read the Presidt. informs Mr Stracey he must withdraw which he accordingly does ——

The President then desires to record the Letter & Opinion, As I think Mr Stracey is unjustly attacked by the Majority, in Justice to his Merit, I think myself bound to declare that since I have had the charge of this Government Mr Straceys conduct has been entirely to my Entire Satisfaction, and I must add further that at Last in a great measure owing to his Judgment and Moderation that I have been able to Guide myself with Safety through the many Intricate Paths I have had to act with the Natives during my Government. From my Knowledge of Mr Stracey I am convinced he is incapable of an intentional Evasion ——

Mr Stone desires to Minute that per

same

Minority

10. Fort St. George 18 Janry 1773

Mr. Yeats on which he has held the Office of Secretary to this Department, he has had an Opportunity of Judging of Mr. Stracey's conduct in his Capacity of persian Translator and that he has also appeared to him to discharge the Duties of his Office with equal ability and attention, and to the entire satisfaction of every Gentleman under whom he has acted ——

The other Members of the Board declare that they are perfectly Satisfied with Mr. Stracey's conduct when under Examination at the Board on Monday the 2d Instant and that they believe him incapable of a wilfull Omission ——

The President informs the Board that it was entirely on account of Mr. Stracey's caution that the Question of the Arrack cask came before the Board, for as it is stated in the close of the reasons of the Majority, the Question was not whether the Cask should be accepted by Arrack cask, for it had been previously resolved that the Letters from the President to the Nabob should be in English But as it had been determined that a Translation of the Substance of those Letters should be sent omitting the Complimentary Parts it was necessary to give some name to the Translation: as for Example, Translation of a Letter from the Governor to the Nabob and Mr. Stracey as Persian Translator desired to know the Sanction of the Board for the Term that should be used in Persian to correspond with the word Letter in English — This was the cause of the Presidents bringing the Subject before the Board ——

The Majority desires to record for following Reasons ——

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Mr. Mackay's Minute on the foregoing Minute of Mr. Stracey's.

Mr. Mackay desires it may be minuted that he does not accuse Mr. Stracey of an intentional design to give an Evasive Answer to the Question that was put to him by Sir Robert Fletcher on the 2d Inst. but that it appeared an Evasion of that for his own part he would not have ever mentioned his Name, in the Remarks on the Reasons of the Majority, but knew a Belief that they had in those Reasons Illiberal Reflections on his Conduct entirely on his Opinion without paying any regard to that of Moodoo Kistnahs. The only Opinion that is given of Mr. Stracey by Sir Robt Fletcher, Mr. Johnson & himself is that they do not allow them to have as much Knowledge in the Persian Language as Moodoo Kistnah, what Reflections is said of Mr. Stracey in these Remarks is taken from the Minutes of Consultation & from the Reasons of the Majority ——————

The President desires to have it minuted that the Nabob has frequently remarked to him the Singular Advantage of the Board on having Mr. Stracey for the Persian Translator, for continued the Nabob, let any Person who is acquainted with the Persian Language peruse Mr. Straceys Translations of the English and the Translations by Moodoo Kistnah and he must be struck with the Superiority of the former in point of Accuracy in the Idiom of the Persian, the President concludes to the following Effect - Lastly only desire that the Court of Directors may be pleased to take the Trouble to peruse over the Translations made by Mr. Stracey and to turn back to the Translations made by Moodoo Kistnah

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Present and Hon. Judge for themselves

To which Mr. Mackay replies in the following Minute

Mr. Mackays Minute regard. the Comparison between Mr. Stracey and Morse Resigned and to Knowledge in the Province

Mr. Mackay thinks that what the Hon. proposes is not to Your Board, because for the same Reasons he thinks Morse Resigned unconstitutionally Province better than Mr. Stracey, he thinks Mr. Stracey unconstitutionally English better than Morse Resigned

Mr. Stracey being called in, the following Minute is delivered by Mr. Johnson

Mr. Johnson Minute to assert the Vote he gave on the Presidents first Minute to the Board on Tuesday the 12th Inst.

Mr. Johnson begs leave to observe to the Board that he does not on reflection approve the Vote he gave at Consultation 12 Janry on the Proposed Second Motion, accusing Sir Robert Fletcher of a want of Candor towards him, if that he write down on his Reasons for a change in his Sentiments at the present Consultation

Mr. Johnson and Mackay deliver in the following Dissent to the Resolutions of the Majority and the proceedings in Consultation the 12th Inst. which relate to Sir Robert Fletcher

Mr. Johnson & Mackay dissent to the Resolutions of the Majority the 12th Inst. respecting Sir Robert Fletcher

Our Reasons for dissenting in Opinion with the Majority on the Questions put by the President with Regard to Sir Robert Fletcher on Tuesday the 12 Inst. are

Because We think the Resolutions of the Majority tend to destroy that Freedom of Debate & Opinion so Essentially necessary at this Board and without which the Court of Directors will always be, but Punctually informed of the Situation of those Affairs, for if a Member of this Government is liable to be condemned & punished for an Opposition to Measures, he cannot oppose

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above, for Men will be found, that have Resolution & integrity enough to expose themselves to such danger, however well disposed they may otherwise be to perform their Duty to the public.

2d Because we are of Opinion, that a Majority cannot under any pretence whatever dispense a Member of this Board of his Vote & Seat in Council unless by Dismission or Suspension from the same & therefore compelling Sir Robert Fletcher to withdraw, appear to us, arbitrary & unwarrantable & wholly unprecedented. - All the Instances were mentioned of Members being desired to withdraw from the Board, yet none are can remember, that was always done with their own Consent & often when some Resolution was to be passed at the Board in their favour, but never to preclude them from attending to the Board: if either themselves or any other Member desired it Mr. Mackay more than one round, that Sir Robert Fletcher might be called in, to satisfy some Doubts he had with regard to the Questions put by the President but it was refused

3 Supposing all the Accusations brought by the President against Sir Robert Fletcher to be strictly true, they are not in our Opinion of much weight: for his are they sufficient to Justify in any Degree, the treatment he has met with: and had Accusations of a much higher nature been laid to his charge: Justice which ought to be the first principle of all Governments should have entitled him to a fair trial, but the Commanding Officer of the Troops on this Establishment a Member of this Board & likewise a Member of the British Legislature he was sure that Knowledge which the meanest Subject has a right

to

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to Name, to be heard in His own Defence, before he was condemned, for which reason if because our Hearts abhorrent to every Rule of Justice we cannot agree but accuse Ourselves of our error, in having given any answers to the Presidents Charges against Sir Robert Fletcher however much those Answers as well as our present Sentiments are in Favour ——

4 Because in Hinds Evening incompatibilities appear on the face of the Proceedings against Sir Robert Fletcher, the Majority declare that they cannot concur in the Opinion of the Commander in Chief who is to Superintend the whole Establishment whether Officer of his might in the right to have that Command, still a Majority maintains the same Objection at the Board where the Command of Incheinopoly was given to Gen. Smith the President acknowledged this was just, but said that it was an Indulgence to General Smith — Sir Robert Fletcher has a Seat in the General Council & in the Select Committee in consequence of his being at the Head of the Army & whilst he is in that Seat cannot be taken from him nor can he be deprived of the Exercise of it unless his Duty in the Field, or to inform abuses in any particular part of the Army requires he should be absent — & when these Duties are

Fort St. George 12 January 1773

and performed the Constitution of the Senate is, that
the Board return to the Board again ——

5 Because the Majority appeared to us to have
determined on the Resolutions that were taken
on the 12th Instant, before the Council met that
day. For on Monday the 11th Instant, at a meet-
ing to appoint Thursday the 14th to take into
consideration the Minute given in by the Presidt.
on the Line of Military Duty to be observed
between himself & the Commanding Officer of the
Troops & it must have been in consequence
of other Resolutions with which we were not
acquainted, that the Council were Summoned
so Suddenly on Tuesday Morning, & Mssrs Stracey
Hone Chas. Smith & Whitehill say in their
Opinions given at the Board that day, That it
was impossible for the Board (let them be ever so
attentive & concerned for the Good
of the Service) to draw the proper
Line in every particular Instance. Such a
Declaration appear to us very extraordinary
as they were hereby to have determined this
point before it had been debated at the Board
Notwithstanding it had been resolved as above
to defer the consideration of it to Thursday in
order to endeavour to agree Some Line, We cannot
but very much Sir Robert Fletcher declaring
at the Board more than once & believe par-
ticularly on the 15th of Decr that whatever the
System was or whatever Line, Ideas of it might
be he only wanted to know the Sense of the
Board to regulate his conduct & that he would
ever obey all Orders from the Governor, therefore
as both the Board and the Governor have it in
their Power to prevent it Sir Robert Fletcher

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what time they thought proper and as he was willing to make that time the result of his consent & as the Majority do not accuse him of Disobedience of any Orders it appears to us extremely unjust that he Should be expelled from the Board for having a different Idea of Military Rules & the System of the Service to which the Governor has, Mr Mackay remembers perfectly well the Presidents saying at the Board some time ago, that if he knew of any Member who had engaged his Vote before he came to Council & knew what was to be said on the subject there he meant took upon it, as a Designed Faction or Bond to that purpose, he begs he may not be understood to say, that a Majority of the Board are a Faction, but we say that even a Majority ought not to have determined on any matter whatever except in Council, after a full debate & after getting every possible Information of the Importance of the Subject required it, for those Members who were not in the Secret, had not sufficient time to collect their Ideas; every Questions were so precipitately put by the President by one of these Questions, it would appear that the Book of Consult Orders was brought by Sir Robert Fletcher to the Board on purpose to point out to them some improper Orders that had been given out by the Governor whereas we recollect that Sir Robert Fletcher sent to the Town Major for the Book when the Board were debating, about Proceedings & we really believe to those same Orders in it relative thereto and his pointing the Orders mentioned by the Governor appears to have been accidental & not premeditated as the Governor has stated it, but we mentioned this circumstance at the Board on Thursday, our Answer to the

President

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President's Question would have been different
With regard to another of the charges against
Sir Robert Fletcher that of drawing his Minute that
Ensign Kempsons appointment might be entered
on the Records after it had been agreed to without one
A. W.C Mackay can charge the President with
the same kind of unfairness & Candor with
which he accuses Sir Robert Fletcher, When the
President brought to the Board the Last Draught
of his reply to Mr Mackays Defence against
Mr Benfields appointment to Bedanoongar
Mr Mackay thought he could not avoid answ.
it and as he Conceived it might create Disputes
between the President and himself, he wanted on
him the same Ofsaunce & agreed he would not
enter that paper on the Minutes as he thought
his doing it could answer no end, Mr Mackay
does not recollect the particular Words the Presid.
made use of but after talking some time upon
the Subject, he left the President fully Satisfied
in his own Mind that the paper was not to be
entered: but to his great Surprize the next Morn-
-ing he received a Note from the Secretary, Mr
Goodlad acquainting him that the President had
resolved to enter his Reply on the Minutes & that
he Mr Mackay might make an Answer to it
if he thought proper.

6th Because in Concern there is a very great
difference between the Ideas of Men, and the
Debates in publick assemblys in England, where
every kind of Freedom Cleers & the Ideas of Men
brought with from their Youth in favour of
their Settlements, and to much greater Latitude

= notice

18 Fort St. George 18th January 1752

Subordination of every Kind we mention this as a Reason why Sir Robert Fletcher ought to be accused, & he had at times expressed his Sentiments at the Board on the Company's Affairs with more Freedom than had been generally used, but we declare that we do not recollect any Instance wherein Sir Robt. Fletcher appeared to us to be wanting in proper Respect to the President, unless declaring his Sentiments with that Freedom be deemed such.— One of the Reasons mentioned by some of the Gentlemen in the Majority for their thinking the Company's Affairs under the Possessions cannot be carried on properly while Sir Robert Fletcher is at the Board, is, that they have not known for many Years past near so many disputs & Altercations as have been at this Board for the four last Months, nor can by no means allow that Opinion to be true, knowing there are disputs about the Manilla Expedition setting aside Field Offices proceedings on the Seizure of the General Sav-ience was Law & the Matters to be seen on reference to the Records, but suppressing the Question whether the reference to Records appear it is only this, that when the time mentioned there were no Consents given for Disputs, or if there were, there ought not have been at the Board, Men who had Resolution & honesty enough to make disputs Whether there be sufficient Grounds for the Disputs lately entered on the Consultations & whether have given so much Offence, the Court of Directors

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Directors not the best Judges, we are very certain that Dissents can never hurt their Sincere but Members who enter on the Records any thing that is misrelations and absurd or foreign to the purpose may hurt themselves ——

1/ Because Sir Robert Fletcher's having a Seat at the Board, is as far from being a prejudice to the Company that we think it will greatly tend to the Advantage of their Affairs, both Civil and Military, as an Officer he is acknowledged to be Industrious Active & enterprizing & the very man we ought to have at the head of the Army in India: as a member of Society we are persuaded that Sir Robert Fletcher is an Enemy to every kind of Tyranny & Oppression & we believe him incapable of making Money by mean or unjustifiable Methods: that he did not prefer his own Interest to what he believed that of the Publick, to be was to us very evident when a Question came lately before the Board regarding the Rebels Titles as it may be presumed that Directors from the Rebel make at least a great part of a Commanding Officers Fortune, we could Farther add that we do not believe Sir Robert Fletcher ever made any Opposition at this Board, merely for the sake of Opposition, but from a Conviction that his own principles were right & those of the President wrong. The Gentlemen who were then at the Board will recollect, that some time after the Receipt of the Orders of the Court of Directors for readmitting Col. Wood with the Senior, the President read a Minute made to the same purpose with the Declaration he made on Tuesday with regard to Sir Robert Fletcher, that he did not positively carry on the Company's Affairs, nor ever sit at the Board with Col. Wood, but some of the

Fort St George 18th January 1773

the Members many the Impropriety of coming there to any resolution on the Presidents Minute as to his and General Accounts to settle with the Company before he could, not have a Seat at the Board, after General Smith had resigned the Command: the President dropp'd the Matter & the Minute was not entered, there are indeed many concise Methods of drawing from the Board any Member who is disagreeable to the President as it requires only, that he get a Majority on his Side, but we hope such Methods will never be justified or approved ——————

2dly Because this being the Season of the Year in which an Invasion from the Mharattas or from Hyder Ally is most particularly to be apprehended especially from the Former, who when their Forces are not elsewhere employed usually fall to make the Deccan & Coast of Mysore Spread Terror & alarms over the Carnatick, We think Sir Robert Fletcher's advice & presence at the Board at such a Juncture is the more absolutely necessary, as the exceptions & the Rancour he bears to Sadasew to admit of any Delay in the resolutions necessary to be formed. The having drawn Sir Robert Fletcher from the Board to the Distance of Twelve miles may be the means of depriving us of the Councils of a man entitled Superior Rank & Question on which they may be supposed to have more particular Weight

For all the above mentioned Reasons, we are fully persuaded that the proceedings against Sir Robert Fletcher are Violent & Oppressive as well as Injurious to the Service & our Accounts only

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only one enter this Depart. ———

Sam.l Johnson

Read the following Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher, which had been laid before the Civil Department last Saturday but were reserved till the Consultations of to day. ———

To the Honble Jos: Du Pré Esqr.
President & Governor & Council of
Fort St. George.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher applying for a Passage & Recommendation on the first Ship for Europe to attend his Duty in Parliament applies for a Copy of the Proceedings against himself. ——

I have rec.d Your Letter of Yesterday which from its Tenor & Tenus of expression is contrary to the Orders & Intentions of Honor the Court of Directors, that I cannot but deem it agreat Disgrace, therefore I am thus deprived of every means of rendering my Services to the Company or India, the Duty I owe to the Publick obliges me to make application to You for a Passage & Accommodations on the first Ship for England, that I may be enabled to give my attendance in Parliament. ——

I will answer more fully Your Letter of Yesterday as soon as your Secretary shall furnish me with a Copy of the Presidents Minute of Monday the 11th Instant, relative to my consent And as I understand, the President when I was Yesterday turned from the Board very unexpectedly & very unfairly unasked himself of my absence & misrepresented me to the Board, I desire to have a Copy of those Proceedings that I may reply to the whole at the same time that I answer the Presidents Letter & this Paper upon Military Rules —— I am with due Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obed.t humble Servt.

R: Fletcher

Fort St. George
15th January 1773

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To the Honble Jos. Du Pre Esqr.
Pres.t & Governor & Council of
Fort St. George

Honble Sir & Sirs

Having addressed the Board Yesterday upon a Subject which I communicated to the President on Tuesday Evening last Vol.t to annex a Passage upon the first Ship for England that I might attend my Duty in Parliament until I am not allowed to perform what I conceive to be the Duties of my Station here and the Presid.t having refused my request to call a Council before Saturday and acquainted me that I am to depart for Trincomaly on or before Tuesday next I shall obey the Boards Orders of the 12th Inst.t which have been since explained to me by General Orders and I shall wait with Patience ready to Execute the Duties of my Station as Commanding Officer of the Honble Company's Troops upon this Coast as Member of both Councils and of the Select Committee submitting my consent to the Decision of the Honble the Court of Directors, But as a Member of this Gouvernment and as a Member of the Legislature I protest against the consent of the President which I deem contary to Law and to the Privileges I am entitled to ——

I also protest against the Proceed.s of the Majority of the Board for that depriving me of the Opportunity of Vindicating my conduct for the Satisfaction of the Honble the Court of Directors from those charges which have been so unjustly exhibited to the Board against me by the President, and on which that Majority have determined adjudged and resolved to punish without even giving me

an

Letter from Sir Rob.t Fletcher with this Address for Trinco. expressly protesting against the consent of the Presid.t and the Majority of the Board as depriving him from his Seat in Council

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an Hearing: and further against the Resolution of the said Majesty as withholding me from the means of refuting the Presidents Letters & Minute and the Minute of the Majesty entends on Monday the 11th as well as any Arguements they may urge on their Letter by the Napaul to the Honble the Court of Directors against the Propriety of my Conduct — Diary I protest against the above Resolution whereby the Honble Court must for the present remain unimpressed and be deprived of the Possibility of Judging on a Case so Material to be convey'd to them as Soon as possible

I have with Respect
Honble Sirs & Sirs
Your most Obed.t
Humble Servant
R. Fletcher

Fort St George
Thursday — 14th January
1773

The President lays before the Board the Draft of a Letter to Sir Robert Fletcher in answer to the Arrogancy in which his answer may be Sent ——

Mr Mackay is against the Presidents Proposition to the Board because he believes that no Member of Parliament has or ought to claim the Privilege of returning to his Duty in Parliament even if he has a Military Commission in his Majestys Service ——

Mr Mackay against the Letter to Sir R. Fletcher

All the other Members Mr Johnson excepted Envy for the Presidents Motion, the Letter is accordingly ordered to be Sent and entered in Consultation as follows ——

ad

To Col. Sir Robert Fletcher
Commanding Officer of the Troops on the Coast Sir

Your Letter of the 13th Instant have been this day under our Consideration

Letter to Sir Robt Fletcher when he has complied with the Orders of the Board or appears to Testimony what can or may Lave to represent that will be taken into Consn

Fort St. George Janry 18th 1773

The Course of the publick Affairs committed to our charge have already been but too much Interrupted by the Animosity's which have been raised and fomented in our Councils of late, it is time now that we apply ourselves to the dispatch of Business. We shall therefore for the present pass over many part of those Letters except the Single point that seems to require our Consideration your Say upon Oct. 12th Instg. viz to a Dismission, We have only to inform you that it is not a Dismission now intended to Operate as a Dismission. That we are the proper Judges how and where your Services may be applied to the most essential purposes, that we therefore appointed you to the Command expressly in our said Letter of the 12th Inst. and that we now repeat and enjoin the same, when by a Strict Compliance therewith you shall have given to the Whole Military Establishment that Example of Obedience and attention which we have a right to expect we shall give all due Consideration to whatever you may have to represent ——

We are Sir Your most Obd. Servts.
Jos. Du Pre' G. Council

Fort St. George
18 Janry 1773

The President informs the Board that he has received a Letter from Lt. Col. Burgess acquainting him that his Health is so much impaired that he apprehends he must be under the Necessity of going to Europe in Oct. next. For this reason Lt. Col. Burgess begs leave to decline the Command of Bettoor and to continue with his Detachment until the Season upon which he is now employ'd is terminated ——

The President moves that Lt. Col.

Lt Col. Burgess declines the Command at Bettoor and requests his Leave of Absence on account of his bad State of health ——

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Col. Banyon's request be granted and that as soon as his presence is no longer necessary on the Malabar Districts he may be appointed to do Duty on the Carnatick Establishment, and that L.t Col. Flint be appointed to the Command of Ellore, which is carried Unanimously and L.t Col. Flint is accordingly nominated to the Command of Ellore & to proceed thither in order to prepare to Ellore as soon as he shall have delivered over the Command of Trichinopoly to Col. Sir Robert Fletcher.

L.t Col. Flint appointed to the Command of Ellore

The President informs the Board that L.d Cornwallis has received his Appointment from Europe as Governor & Commander in Chief of Fort St. George & Chief of the Council of Bengal, and that he has received Letters from the Court of Directors relative to his Appointment as Governor of Fort St. George.

L.d Cornwallis appointed Governor & Commander in Chief of Fort St. George & Chief of the Council of Bengal

In the 27th Paragraph of the General Letter from Nottingham the Board were of Opinion that the Humble Court by the Appointment of L.d Cornwallis did not mean to disappoint the Officer who succeeded to Captain Chapman on the Office of Town Major before the receipt of their Orders on this subject, but that their Intention was to give that Office to L.d Cornwallis upon the first Vacancy after his Arrival. The Board taking the subject again into Consideration the President begs leave to observe that it is the acknowledged Privilege of the Governor & Council to nominate the Staff Officer through whom his Orders are immediately to be conveyed and that unless the Appointment of this Officer is left to the Governor it will be unreasonable to make him responsible for the Safety of the Fort, when the Execution of the most important Orders are left to a Person who may not only be a Stranger to the Government but may have been appointed in Direct Opposition to him. When the Humble Court will be pleased

Fort St. George 1st January 1773

please to take this matter into their Serious Consideration the President Hallies himself this article sanctions the Appointment of Lieut. Major to the Second Channel — As the President considers himself not only bound to See the Orders of the Honble Court put into Execution, but also considers himself to See the Examples of Decency to the rest of the Service, however desirous he may be that this Appointment might be to his Particular as Governor, yet he must without hesitation give his Assent to the immediate Appointment of Lt. Cowen to the Office of Lieut. Major, and to believe that the Court of Directors intended to deprive the Person of that Office who Succeeds Capt. Chalmers pursuant to the Receipt of the Orders purporting Lt. Cowen, + he therefore moves that Captain Wood be confirmed Town Major until the Ultimate Resolution of the Honble Court can be obtained. ———

+ but as long the Town Major Orders he does not consider that he knows their Intention

Mr Markham is against the Motion and delivers in the following Minute.

I am against the Presidents Motion because the Orders of the Court of Directors in their Letter of the 25th of March 1772 appears to me clear & positive that Lt. Cowen should be appointed Town Major either upon the Death or removal of Capt. Chalmers from the Command of Madras there does not appear to me even a plausible reason for disobeying those Orders I am therefore for appointing Lt. Cowen Town Major in consequence of the Orders of the Honble Court. ———

Motion

Mr Markham's Minute against the Confirmation of Capt. Wood in the Office of Town Major

Mr Stracey is for the Motion and delivers the following Minute which is also Subscribed by Mr Charles Smith ———

the

considers

Lt. Cowen do not concern

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Fort St. George 18th Janry 1753

Mess.rs Smith & Stevens's Minute for the Prom.n Motion

concern that it ever have been the Intention of the Honble Court to have determined any Officer of the Post of Town Major who might be entitled on L.t Bevens Arrival when they have ever been so delicate as to direct that Capt.n Orme should only succeed to the Office of Fort Adjutant on the first Vacancy we are therefore for the Motion

Chas Smith

Capt.n White

Mr Stone for the President's Motion, with his reasons set forth in the following Minute

Mr Stones Minute for the Prom.n Motion

I do not conceive that it ever have been the Intention of the Honble Court to have appointed any Officer of the Post of Town Major who might be entitled on L.t Bevens Arrival, when they have ever been so delicate as to direct that Mr Orme should only succeed to the Office of Fort Adjutant on the first Vacancy after his Arrival - as the Court of Directors ever not comply with Capt Chevigne an Application to be removed to Bengal, it appears to me that they considered he would not have returned to the Post of Town Major before L.t Bevens Arrival they therefore ordered that Mr Orme Should succeed him therein But Sam.l pursuaded that the Honble Court been informed of Capt.n Wood's Appointment by them Orders with respect to Office of Town Major would have been similar to that of the Post of Adjutant and that it is inconsistent with the Justice of the Court of Directors to remove any Officer from any Post for no other Cause than to make room for another, I that be in favor of any Inferior on Rank Sam.l therefore is of Opinion that Capt.n Wood be continued in the Office of Town Major until the Pleasure of the Company be known

C. White

Fort St. George 12th January 1773

please to take this matter into their Serious Consideration the President Hatters himself they will excuse the Appointment of Town Major to the Former Chusnet - as the President consider himself not only bound to See the Orders of the Honble Court put into Execution, but also as himself to See the Example of Obedience to the rest of the Service, however derogatory this Appointment might be to his Privilege as Governor, yet he would without hesitation give his Assent to the immediate Appointment of L. Cuen to the Office of Town Major, and to believe that the Court of Directors intended to deprive the Person of that Office who Succeeds Capt Chaigneau previous to the Receipt of the Orders respecting L. Cuen, * he therefore moves that Captain Wood be confirmed Town Major until the Ultimate Resolution of the Honble Court can be obtained. ———

* but as from the Tenor of their Orders he does not conceive that they have been their Intention

Mr Mackay is against the Motion and delivers in the following Minute.

I am against the Presidents Motion because the Orders of the Court of Directors in their Letter of the 25th of March 1772 appear to me clear & positive that L. Cuen should be appointed Town Major either upon the Death or removal of Capt Chaigneau for as Capt Chaigneau is removed to the Command of Masula there does not appear to me even a plausible reason for disobeying their Orders Town therefore for appointing L. Cuen Town Major in consequence of the Orders of the Honble Court. ———

Mr Mackays Minute ag[ainst] the Confirmation of Capt Wood in the Office of Town Major

Mr Stracey is for the Motion and delivers the following Minute which is also Subscribed by Mr Charles Smith ———

Consider

Motion

We do not conceive

127 Fort St. George 18th January 1813

Mess.rs Smith & Strange's Minute for the Pens.n Motion

concur that it ought have been the Intention of the Honble Court to have dismissed any Officer of the Post of Town Major who might be unfit on Lt Evans Account when they have ever been so delicate as to direct that Mr Owen should only succeed to the Office of Fort Adjutant on the first Vacancy we are therefore for the Motion

Chas Smith

W Hewitt

Mr Stone for the President's Motion, with his reasons set forth in the following Minute.

Mr Stone's Minute for the Pens.n Motion

I do not concur that it ought have been the Intention of the Honble Court to have appointed any Officer of the Post of Town Major who might be unfit on Lt Evans Account, when they have ever been so delicate as to direct that Mr Owen should only succeed to the Office of Fort Adjutant on the first Vacancy after his Arrival – as the Court of Directors ought not comply with Capt Chesjneau's Application to be removed to Bengal, it appears to me that they considered he would not have returned the Post of Town Major before Lt Evans Account they therefore ordered that Mr Owen should succeed him thereon But Some promised had the Honble Court been informed of Capt Wood's Appointment, their Orders with respect to Office of Town Major would have been similar to that of the Post of Adjutant and that it is inconsistent with the Duties of the Court of Directors to remove any Officer from any Post for no other Cause than to make room for another, I shall be in favor of the Instance in Question therefore of opinion that Capt Wood be continued on the Office of Town Major until the Pleasure of the Company be known

W Hewitt

Fort St. George 18th Janry

Mr Johnson for the Presidents motion with the
following Minute —

Mr Johnsons Minute for the Presidt Motion

As it does not appear to me that the Court of Directors, from what they have wrote relative to Lt Annes Sweeny to the Post of Town Major do mean to remove any Officer that might be ordered on that Duty if as Capt Wood has acquitted himself so greatly to the Satisfaction of the Governor, I am of Opinion Capt Wood should be continued, till the Company's Pleasure thereon may be known

Jno Johnson

Capt Wood continued Town Major until further Orders from the Court of Directors

The other Members being unanimous for the Presidents Motion, Captain Wood is accordingly continued in the Office of Town Major until the Resolution of the Court of Directors can be obtained

The Board adjourned till 5 Oclock

Mandery Attendance 5 Oclock

The Board being met according to Adjournment

Mr Stracey offers for an Assistant in his Department of Persian Translator, his Duty now as a Member of the Board putting it out of his Power to give that attention to the Office which is requisite —

Mr Stracey offers for an Appointment as Persian Translator —

Mr Mackay moves for another P Transr

Mr Mackay moves that another Persian Translator may be appointed in the room of Mr Stracey. —

Mr Stone I am so far from assenting that another Interpreter may be appointed that I think Mr Stracey should be requested to continue in that Department in him he has given such Proofs of his Knowledge and Integrity - I therefore give my Vote for our Assistant to Mr Stracey -

J. Stone Mr

129 Fort St George 18th January 1773

Mr Johnson Came for Mr Straney to continue Persian Translating for an Assistant to him

Mr Cha: Smith. As Mr Straney declares that with the help of an Assistant he can conduct the Business in the Department of Persian Translation and perform his Duty as a Member of Council, Is of Opinion that he be continued Persian Translator and that an Assistant be appointed ——

The rest of the Board concurs in this Opinion —— The President then moves that Mr Straney be continued Persian Translator as long as he finds himself capable of conducting that Department and discharging his Duty as a Member of the Board which is carried in the Affirmative by all the Members except Mr Mackay who dissents as follows.

The President's motion to request Mr Straney to Continue Persian Translator —

I dissent to the Majority's putting a negative on my Motion for Appointing another Persian Translator in the room of Mr Straney, as he has now a Seat in Council —

Because I think it inconsistent with the Rank of a Member of this Government & the Dignity he ought to support, to give Daily attendance at the Nabobs Durbar in the Character of an Interpreter

Because I believe it to be impossible for any man let his Abilities be ever so great to discharge as he ought every Duty incumbent on a Member of this Board & the Duty of Persian Translator besides & the going Mr Straney and of the Servants for an Assistant is only allowing him to have the Advantages of that Office a Point another has the Labour

Because I have reason to believe that considerable perquisites are given by the Nabob to the Persian Interpreter & if Mr Straney as he has already held the Office nine Years, be allowed to keep it as much longer as he pleases, there can be no Kind of Encouragement for any other Gentleman in the Service to Spend time in learning the Persian Language

Mr Mackay dissents & the Majority putting a negative on his motion for another Interpreter

all /

Fort St. George 16th January 1773

Language the Most is strongly recommended by the Court of Directors, and the President instead of saying that a Member of this Board is the fittest to any to be Persian Translator, and that the Service wants no advantages from the Members of the Board understanding the Persian Language, I should have agreed in Opinion with him with all my heart; but as I cant see any Benefit whatever that can accrue to the Service from Mr. Straceys continuing Persian Translator, and as a Member of the Board he can know of the translations are correctly done I may likewise join with the President to the Nabob whenever any affairs of Importance are to be settled, but I would have him go on the Character of a Canseller & not in that of Interpreter

16 January 1773.

The President acquaints the Board that he understands Messrs. Latham, Wollaston, and Chambers are persons well acquainted with the Persian Language, but as Mr. Chambers adds to the knowledge of Persian a proficiency in the Moratta and Malabar he moves that he be appointed Assistant to Mr. Stracey which is agreed to by all the Members except Mr. Mackay who is against the Appointment of any Assistant

Mr. William Chambers is accordingly appointed and will be receded from his Station at Chinnapanacke Poliam as soon as another Person can be appointed to relieve him

The President moves for Mr. Chambers to be appointed Assistant to Mr Stracey

Mr Chambers is appointed

Read a Letter from the Nabob as entered in Country Correspondence Date 12 Inst.

Letter from the Nabob No. 5.

Resolved that an Extract of the Nabobs Letter as far as relates to the Tanjore

Resolution in course

Pensation

134 Fort St. George 13th January 1773

Donation to be sent to Dr. Stoney and that an Extract of the said Letter regarding the Rammaud & Calastrie Prize Money be sent to Messrs Petrie & Parkinson as the Nabob makes it a condition in his Letter that we deliver him the obligation, by Consent Ulto. Annexed to the Company's Troops at Rammaud & Calastrie, it is agreed that the Money and Bills be delivered to Messrs. Petrie & Parkinson upon their giving up to us the aforesaid Obligations that we may transmit the same to the Nabob——

Messrs Petrie & Parkinson to be furnished with an Extract

The Commissary General writes with a Statement of the Profit on the Contract from the 1st of March 1769 to the 30th April 1772

The Commissary General lays before the Board the Books of his Employ to Ulto. April likewise those of the Agent for the contract with a Statement of the Profit which has arose from the 1st March 1769 to the 31st April 1772 amounting to Pags. 4 A 53 A. 26 „ 58. From this Statement it appears that the Company's Proportion of Grain on the Sums disbursed for Furnishing the Army & the Troops on the Coast with Provisions & Bullocks is Pags. 16 135 „ 13. 268 the Nabob P. 5 13 99 „ 13. 23

Ordered that the Nabob be credited for the Proportion of the Company for those also Ordered for the Adjusting of these Accounts That the Agent for the contract do carry the whole Amount of the Grain to the Credit of the Commissary General do debit the Agent for the Contract for the same giving General Books Credit for the Company's part & the Nabobs Credit for his part——

See Statement

Fort St. George 18th Janry 1773

A Statement of the Profit & the Agents Account from the 1st March 1769 to 30th April 1772 –

Charged to Warwick Hyde Esqr on the Month of March, April, & May 1769

To the amount of Bullocks Sent P. 25000. 16 Gave P. 8343.22.25

To the amount of C. P. the Troops 6666.29.45 Gain 671.8.57 N. Q.

Lost in Charges General P. 622.27

Lost in paying Commission 306.4 928 35 8917 31 32

Charged to Cash from March 1769 to April 1772

To Amount of Bullocks Sent P. 36503:7:40 Gain P. 11020 1850

Lost in Victualling the Troops P. 694.5.44

Lost in Charges General 1699 28.55

Lost on Arrack by the Cutcherry 265.32

Lost on Arrack at Chingleput and Vizr 214.23.37 2874 5 56 7986 32

8146 1274 16135 13 26

Charged to the Cabob Sum 1 June 1769 6 April 1772

To Amount of Bullocks Sent P. 25136:25:28 G. P. 81166.3.62

Gain on Rice 11.3.60

Gain on Bullock Hire and Carts and on the head of Profit and Loss 1141.9 82624 16 42

Lost in Victualling the Troops 9745 15 77

Lost in Charges General 10396 1839

Lost in charges Extraordinary 180 5 30

Lost in Salt 66 5 72

Lost in Cash of Farams 22

Lost in paying Interest &c 289 10 26

Lost in Bullocks for Slaughter Sheep Arracks Carts &c 1458 16 37

Lost on Arrack at Tindivanam Pettey Villum Madura & Palamcotah 1323 2259

Lost on Arrack by Coast Voyage Sum March 1769 & April 1772 669 11 70 26225 3 10 53399 13 32

Pagodas 79534 26 58

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Letter to my Sec.t Nº 6 on Sir Robt Fletchers. where intention of going to Europe request that the Board will permit me her to stay —

Read a Letter from the Naval Nº 6 dated 11 as entered on Country Correspondence —

Letter from the Naval Nº 7 with his Correspondence laid on the Table as Intended

Read a Letter from the Naval dated 16 Inst. as entered on Country Correspondence Nº 7 —

The following Letters are read and resolved that the Consideration of them be deferred till another Opportunity —

Hon.ble Sir & Sirs

In my last I had the Honor to inform you that in Obedience to your Orders, I was proceeding to Trichinopoly with the Artillery European Infantry & Cadets under my Command and that I had given the necessary Orders for taking with me my Battering and Field Train —

I have now the Honor to inform you that I left my Cantonments at Pickanderamallee the eight Instant with the Infantry and on the march at noon brought off the whole of my Artillery and Stores from Manura and having met with no loss on the march arrived with the whole Detachment in this Garrison at Seven o'Clock this morning and have agreeable to your Orders delivered over to Lieut.t Col.o Flint the Command of the Troops which composed it —

I have the Honor to be with respect

Hon.ble Sir & Sirs

Your very Obed.t Serv.t

John Braithwaite

Letter from Lt Col. Braithwaite on his Arrival at Trichinopoly, he has delivered over the Detachment to Lt Col. Flint —

Trichinopoly
Janry 14th 1793

To the Hon.ble Jos. Du Pré Esq.r

Pres.t & Governor &c. Council

Hon.ble Sir & Sirs

Your Letter dated the 13 Instant came to hand this day at Noon &

x

Fort St. George 18th January 1793

Letter from Lt. Fleming he has not the Honrs of the Board of the 13th & made out, in conformity to the Same

in Conformity thereto, I shall deliver over the Command of the Fort & Garrison of Trichinopoly to Col. Sir Robert Fletcher upon his Arrival here, together with such Orders & Regulations that I may have received during my Command, after which I shall proceed to Madras.

I am with the Greatest Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obed. & Humy

Humble Servant

Wm Stuart

Trichi. 17th January 1793

Fort St. George

Wm Brooke

John Smith

Charles Smith

Sam. Johnson

Wm Hay

Wm Brooke

Fort St. George 27th Janry 1773.

At a Consultation Present

Wednesday 27th Janry

Josias Du Pré Esqr. Governor President
Alexr. Wynch "
John Smith "
Charles Smith "
J. M. Stone "
John Whitehill
Samuel Johnson
Edward Stracey
George Mackay

General Letter

Read the following Letter to the Hont.ble Court which is approved exptd to Messrs. Johnson & Mackay — They acquaint the Board that they will dispent to what is said relative to the Disputes about the Nabobs Titles, and also to the reasoning of the Board on the consent of Sir Robert Fletcher in general & for the present Mr. Mackay assents to insert the following —

Messrs. Johnson & Mackay dispent.

I dispent to the Paras. of the General Letter from this Department by this Dispatch, Because the Facts mentions in them are many unfairly stated to the Hontble Court & I will give my reasons at large for their Opinion, be entered on a future Consultation before the Dispatch of the Packet & that I may be enabled to do so I desire I may be furnished with a Copy of those Paras.

Mr. Mackays dispent to General Paragraphs & his reasons being made in the General Letter to Mr. Du Pré

I dispent likewise to the Bonds preparing the Court of Directors to Mr. Du Pré for an Account of those Matters because he is too much a Party concerned to give them a Just one, I therefore hope the Hontble Court with any Judge of the Conduct of the Minority perus the Records & not from the General Letter nor from the misrepresentation of Mr. Du Pré

also

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Read the following Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher
To the Honble Jos: Du Pré Esq.r
President & Governor &c Council &c
Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher animadverting upon the proceedings & resolutions of the Board on the 12th Inst. & censuring some former orders of the Govr & Council.

While I am not yet furnished with a Copy of your Proceedings on Tuesday the 12 Instant wherein I was Joined with Council, to enable me to write so fully on that Subject as I shall do when you furnish me as I hope you will, until all that has passed or may pass to my prejudice, yet I have heard enough for this Subject of this Letter in that I desire may go to the Honourable Court by the first Ships of this Season ——

The Presidents first charge against me is General and Points at no particular circumstances in which I am charged with a Failure of mine & Duty and it cannot therefore be meant to merit any Answer ——

The Second charge is my having brought back to the Board two Minuts regarding Ensign Thompson after it had been withdrawn by mutual Agreement. I have already shewn that that Minute was withdrawn on the Governors promise; and in the Ships as Despatch by declared at the Board, that something would be done to establish a time by which I might be enabled to discipline and reform the Army: but instead of our Ships having been taken for that purpose according to that promise made by the Governor, many obstacles was thrown in my way, and the Governor having today his Agreement by re-entering on the 11th Instant that Minute now Joined which he had agreed to withdraw on the 18th December at the time

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if it had been merely in reply to my Dissent on the proceedings of 24 Dec. at the time I subscribed mine I was surely at liberty to re-enter mine also. It will be in vain to say the Governor minute was not the same he entered on the 11th Dec.r If it had been merely in reply to my Dissent on the Proceedings of the 24 Dec.r at which time I consented to that part of it which the Governor (after having told me that he no Objection to the Dissent) says was not justly started, but it exceeds the limit and contained an Arraignment of my conduct as much as his former Minutes has done, and therefore differed materially in nothing but the Date - Thus at the time the President was first to be brought back to the Board his former Minutes reflecting upon my conduct it is left my honourable in him because that Minute appeared under a New Form, but I who was compelled to the Measure by the Presidents unjustifiable, unfair, ungenerous and uncandid conduct because my former Minute came back to the Records in its original Shape ——

The Third Charge brought against me does not in fact exist, because the Board, which was sent for, expressly for the purpose many dissent from that which could appear from the Presidents Motion and as I declared at the Board the 11 Dec.r to them the proceedings of a Committee of Others upon the 11th Resolutions and I gave my reasons of dissent to the Board then that nothing further from my Intention than to Arraign the Governors conduct however much I might disapprove the Absurdity of some Military Orders which I attribute, not to him, but to his advice because he declares himself Ignorant of Military Rules - Thus have I been forced from the Council and condemned Unheard upon the Presidents first General charge which means nothing - Upon the Second, whether I have been guilty, I hope I have shewn the Presidt

Fort St George 24th Janry 1813

President to be more Guilty I know myself and upon the Third which sets Forth a Crime that had no existence as to the Fourth it is like the first, for where no particular charge can be laid against any Member of the Board it is to be hoped that new mode of Voting turn out on a General charge will be discouraged, there being many existing strong reasons against so unconstitutional a practice to guash that manly freedom of Sentiment without which Government must run into Oppression and Despotism - but if the President will give any particulars charges I will not only exculpate myself to the satisfaction of every impartial man, but I will convince every well wisher to the Company, that I have contended for that which I will ever contend for with Zeal and integrity, the Good Order and discipline of the Army and the Honor and Interest of this Civil Government. Can any man who shall have an Opportunity to see and to examine this Proceedings or who shall hear that on the 11th Inst I proposed to Mr Wynch to be absent myself from Council during the remainder of Mr Du Pré Government conceive that I have been thus treated for any fault contended for with Zeal and integrity, the Good Order and discipline of the Army and the Honor and Interest of this Civil Government. Can any man who shall have an Opportunity to see and to examine this Proceedings or who shall hear that on the 11th Inst I proposed to Mr Wynch to be absent myself from Council during the remainder of Mr Du Pré Government conceive that I have been thus treated for any fault and wish it not be believed that the Proposal was moved on the Part he has acted by a desire to have an Opposition to some future measures which he knows I neither can or will approve? What Grounds he will take to Justify his conduct I know not perhaps it may be Faction and litigation If what I have said at the Board of my Aversion to Party & Faction be not sufficient to disavow of that Imputation, I will when the Charge shall come timely put further proofs as I

Fort St. George 22d January 1783

am sure every good Man must admit, as the motive of the President may be to prevent my starting timely to the Honorable Court of Directors the Nature and Tendency of some past transactions in this case he has succeeded so far present: but my Opinion of this Justice sets aside every apprehension on my own account. Apprehensions however I have and a Member of this Government I write say that if such proceedings are to be practised at the Board I tremble for those who shall dare on future to differ from the President, I can declare with a safe conscience that I have never differed in Opinion from him but in cases where I thought myself bound to do so by my Duty and the Oath I have taken. The Board may call to their recollection several Instances wherein I disapproved of the Resolutions of His Majesty and dissent that my disapprobation might not be recorded, because I know that the Presidents Temper could brook no contradiction. One in particular was upon life and Death, A Sepoy being sentenced to Death for a Theft which appears to me to have been committed to prove himself that servant which had been promised him for dangerous Services he had performed as a Spy and afterwards exposed by the Officer who had made the promise, and whose property had been Stolen: I wished to enter into the reasons of Justice in this case and when I found I could not prevail, I expressed my desire not to vote upon the Question, but the President would not admit my Silence and I gave my Voice in favor of the Command ——

I mentioned twice at the Board my reasons for wishing to have an Hospital in the great Bastion which is ordered to be built on the West Front And as Col: Campbell is now expected

pon

Fort St. George 27th Janry 1773

from Bengal They that his Opinion together with Lt Col: R[o]s may be taken thereupon I have hitherto avoided giving any public Opinion upon our New and expensive Hospital lest I should offend the Governor, but I now aside that Mistaken Delicacy more and give it my Opinion that that Expence and many others which I can name, were unnecessary In my plan for Maintaining the Troops I allowed an European Battalion of Infantry for Pondamalee and Madras, merely because the Governor thought Fort St. George could not well be trusted to Artillery Lascars and Invalids: I am of Opinion that for many strong reasons an European Battalion might be kept as near to Madras, but however this may be, so extensive an Hospital will I think be of no use in times of Peace and in those of War if Madras should be besieged it must very soon be in possession of the Enemy and the Garrison without an Hospital ——

As I have reason to think the Board may, notwithstanding the Orders of the Company in favor of Lieut Colonel, advise if the Board to appoint Captain Wood as Town Major and as I declared at the Board upon a recent Occasion, that the Orders of the Honble Court of Directors were and I think to be Laws with me, I have declare myself by setting aside those orders which I think as binding as I believe the President would have thought an Order of the like Nature for Some Officer from Europe to Succeed General Smith in the Command: and I declare further that I have for some Months past thought Capt. Wood a very improper Officer for that Appointment —— I have the Honor to be

Gentlemen

Your most Obedient

& most Humble Servt

Rob[t] Fletcher

Vellore
the 28th Janry 1772

At Fort St. George 24th January 1753

I must time has already been wasted on this Vexatious contest and the day [illegible] for the Dispatches may be near at hand, the President and the Majority who are so injuriously and so unjustly reproached by Sir Robert Fletcher, have not leisure now to resume the Subject and to enter replies & Arguments what have been often replies — But still it is necessary that this Letter should not be passed over in Silence The President and the Majority will therefore give their Sentiments to the Honble Court in a Subsequent Paragraph to the Ground Letter ——

Rec.d this Day a Letter from Wm Monckton with an account of the Money lent by him, and the Interest rec.d from the Naboba Tenters, from which Account it appears that he has only rec.d Interest on the Sums lent at the Rate of ten P Cent P Annum Ordered that a Copy of the said Letter and Account be transmitted to the Honble Court of Directors by the Ship now under Dispatch ——

NB To be entered on the Diary of a Subsequent Consultation ——

Read the following Letter from Lieut. Owen

Hon.d Sir & Sirs

Having had the Honr of being appointed by the Honble Court of Directors to Succeed the Town Mayorship of Madras immediately on Capt.n Chaigneau's Quitting it either by Removal Suspension or Death, And this appointment being properly Authenticated to this Honble Board by the General Letter of the Duke of Grafton, And in consequence of it annexed in the Country, Take the Liberty & Petitioning this Honble Board As the late Occupant Capt.n Chaigneau has by Removal already quitted the Town Mayorship That the Sense and Words of the Para: relative to me in the above mentioned General Letter may take place about that

P.r Lieut.t Owen requesting to be put in possession of the Office of Town Mayor to which he thinks himself entitled by the Directions of the Honble Court

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that I may have the Honor of succeeding unanimously to the Post of Town Mayor of Madras —
I have also to thank this Honble Board for their Goodness in having recommended me so strongly by home to the Honble Court of Directors & Lay-
-ing, Packets and which recommendation I flatter
the good effects of in England by the Directors
in making the above Appointment — I have the
Honor to Subscribe myself with
the Greatest deference & Respect
Hon.ble Sirs & Sirs
Your most Obedient
& Obliged Servant
Arthur Owen Lieut

Ent. St George
24th Janry 1773

Ordered that Lieut Owen be made
acquainted with the determination of the Board
last Consultation, on his Application through
the President for the Office of Town Major —

Mr Johnson delivers in the two following
Minutes —

Having had Leisure after the Board broke
on the 12 Inst. to recollect in my recollection some
circumstances relative to Sir Robert Fletchers
conduct which had escaped my Memory at the
Board: I have also had an Opportunity of
hearing Some from Sir Robert Fletcher himself.
a Statement of Facts different from that on which
I had been led before the Board by the President I
could not but be censured of my Error in the
Answer I gave to the Presidents Second Question
that day, I conceive by applied to the President
for permission to alter that answer informing
him at the Same time of my reasons for the

Same

Mr Johnsons
Minute to read
the Vote he gave
on the Presidents
Second Question
at the 12 Inst

Fort St. George 27th Janry 1773

same, but this Permission having been denied me I must beg leave to explain myself further to the Board on the Subject - I have already in my Joint Dispute with Mr Mackay on the Powers of the 12th Inst., expressed it as my Opinion that Giving any Judgment at all on the Presidents charges against Sir Robert as stated by himself the answer without hearing the Party accused in his defence was contrary to my Ideas of Justice and the Prosperity of this Opinion if at such a Crisis any Support has been fully exemplified to me in the case before us - My Answer to the Presidents Second Question however just it might have been, as founded on the representations he made appears to me evidently erroneous when opposed by those made me by Sir Robert Fletcher Juridick Proofs, better than I have yet had, and produced at the Suprem Cmdt[?] either, I but myself bound in Conscience to recall, if they have occasioning by to recall the answer I gave to the first charge upon mistaken and undigested grounds before I had time to collect my Ideas & what I cannot but think was too precipitately called for considering the Importance of the Occasion. The Justice of the Principle which Instructions to recall that answer will I presume myself appear sufficiently evident to the Honble Court & that it may with equal Propriety be extended to the whole of the Proceedings of the 12 Instant ——

The 18 & 19 Charges brought by the Presidt against Sir Robert Fletcher do not I humbly conceive express any thing because no particular Fact is stated & the Accusations of Want of Conduct & Duty are laid in General Terms ——

With respect to the 2d Charge brought against

At Fort St George 27th Janry 1713

against Sir Robert Fletcher namely his saying on the Grounds the Minutes ny and ing Ensign Kempson which he agreed to withdraw, it must be observed that he did not desire it to be mentioned until after the President had read his own Minute & all the Minute was not entirely the Same, but the President had agreed to withdraw it nevertheless difference but little Seem it, both in Sense & Tendency & therefore may be deemed a Justification for Sir Robert Fletcher in entering his Minute It should be remembered that Sir Robert Fletcher withdrew his Minute on the 4th Decr expressly on the promise made him by the President that same time should be established to enable him to return & Discipline the Army & the it is true that the Governor did not deliver in on the 5th Inst a Minute expressing his Sense of the time he wished to have observed, the Contents however did not appear till after he Sir Robert Fletcher had re entered his Minute.

With respect to the other charge that of Sending to the Town Mayor for the Orders Book the Occasion & reason of his sending for it did not occur to me at the Board, but on Sir Robert Fletchers mentioning them to me afterwards, I remembered very well that he Sent for it while at the Board during the Debate about the Affair of the Pattamars

I am concerned it was only to point out an relative to what the Committee of 9 Gents had Drawn Order in that Business & that his Remarks upon the two Orders were merely occasional, I am therefore of Opinion from this Statement of the matter that no just Grounds can be found for the Offence of his going

Alex. Pendleton

Mr Johnson minutes to captain about he said on this first minute with Mr Mackay on Mr Stewart's Examination at the Board on the Sixth Feb.

At Fort St George 27th January 1813

Mr Johnson wishes also it may be minuted that he has not entertained too high an Opinion of Mr Stracey to suppose he wants his quality of an interested Evasion and particularly on a Matter of such Importance as that on which the Board were then engaged. He nevertheless could not think that on the reply by Mr Stracey made to the Question alluded to and put by Sir Robert Fletcher, that there was the appearance of an Evasion —

It was not pointed out on the View to hurt Mr Stracey, but rather Mr Johnson conceived to give him an occasion of explaining himself more satisfactory to the Board & what he has now accordingly done —

Thos. Parker

The Board could not have entertained a reputation of the reasons given by Mr Johnson for omitting reviewing the Opinion he gave on the Point first Question in Consultation the 12th Inst., let the impartial compare the Proceedings of the 7th & 8th Inst. with his Minute on the 11th Inst. & then Judge for themselves what further is necessary to be said on this subject except to be inserted on the Records to the Honble Court —

Rec'd the following Letter from Lt Tom Kennedy to the Honble Jos. Dacres Esq.
President & Governor & Council of Fort St George
Honorable Sir & Sirs

The Exigency of some Family Affairs on Europe of the utmost importance to my future Welfare begs me under the Necessity of requesting your Permission to take my passage on the Nisbet Capt Cone —

Letter from Mr Kennedy request. Permission to proceed to England on the Nisbet.

Since the System of the Honble Company Service renders it impossible that Individuals

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hold my rank in the Establishment during my absence in Europe permit me to request Humble Sir Sirs that you will recommend me to the favor of the Court of Directors that I may be allowed to return to my Station in the Military, It is necessary to acquaint you that I have obtained the consent of Capt. Gore to give me a Passage on board the Nassau — I remain with respect Respect
Humble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obed.
humble Servant
Daniel Kennedy
Lt Fo.

Fort St. George
25th January 1773

Granted.

The Board consent to receive Mr. Kennedys Resignation & to permit him to take his passage on Board the Nassau — Mr. Kennedys Reasons not Good as in his Letter entered on Consultation the 9 Nov. for going to Europe having been thought insufficient, the Board cannot recommend him to the Court of Directors but leave it to their pleasure whether he be permitted to return to his Rank on this Establishment or not after having dispatched his Affairs in Europe —

Read the following Letter from Mr. Charles Vaughan Cadet —

Honble Sir & Sirs

I take the Liberty of addressing you for Leave to resign the Military Service as a Cadet, upon this Establishment, & for your Permission to return to Europe by the way of Bengal —

as I flatter myself the Honble Board will be pleased to accept of my resignation I shall with their leave take my Departure from

Mr Vaughans Letter for leave to resign the Service & to proceed to Europe by the way of Bengal —

Fort St. George 27th Janry 1773

Please Your Honour in the first Place that Jacks Son Cal-
=culla - I have the Honour to be with the
Greatest Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedt
Humble Servant
Charles Vaughan

Madras
Janry 27th 1773

Resolves that Mr Vaughan be per-
=mitted to resign the Service & to return to Europe
by the way of Bengal, but the Secretary is directed
to acquaint Mr Vaughan that the Board can by
no means consent to his remaining in the Coun-
=try after his resignation & that the President
and Council of Fort William be made acquain-
=ted with the Conditions on which he is per-
=mitted here to resign the Service & proceed to
Europe by the way of Bengal ——

Mr Wynch begs leave to insert
the following Minute ——

After the Consultation of the 11th
Instant on the breaking up of which the Presi-
dent was so much displeased at the treatment
he met with as to say he would attend no more
Councils, Sir Robert Fletcher met me just before
dinner at the Admiralty when taking me aside
in the Verandah, he said that the Governor should
or must be at the next Consultation Implies
that I intended to talk to him before the time
came & that I did not Doubt, but he expected to
hear, He then said that Mr Du Pré knowing
to what the Governor method Opposition could not
bear that any one should be of a different Opinion
-on to oppose him, that I never knew the Presi-
dent should stay away from the next Council to
avoid it, My Answer was that there would be no
occasion

Mr Wynches Acct
of what passed in
Private Conversation
between him & Sir
Robert Fletcher

At Fort St. George 27th January 1775

occasion for it; as I dare say the President would come when the conversation arose which I took upon me Private & Confidential would not have mentioned it was I not called upon in Sir Robert Fletchers Letter to the Board

Jon. Du Pré
Alex. Wynch
John Smith

Charles Smith
Wm. Fullerton
Wm. Brereton

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At a Consultation Present

Friday 29th Janry

Jos: Du Pré Esqr. Governor President
Alexr Wynch "
John Smith "
Charles Smith "
J M. Stone "
John Whitehill
Sam: Johnson
Edw: Stracey
George Mackay

The President lays before the Board the following Minute which he desires may be recorded

The President Mr. minute on Sir Rob: Fletchers Plea of Priviledge as a Member of Parliament Professing his utmost Veneration for the House of Commons & manifesting that Sir Robert Fletcher be exempted from his obligation to Serve the Company

The Board for the reasons given in their Minutes of the 12th Inst: having thought it for the good of Service to appoint Sir Rob: Fletcher to the command of the Fort & Garrison of Trichenopoly & to repair thither accordingly, Sir Robert Fletcher in a Letter to the Board of the 13th Inst: did acknowledge the Receipt of the Boards Order, owns it equivalent to a dismission & claims his Priviledge as a Member of Parliament to attend to his Duty as such. In a subsequent Letter however dated the 16th he informs the Board that he will obey their Order, reserving himself nevertheless of the Plea of Priviledge as Member of Parliament by protesting particularly against me as Presid: & the Council, for my conduct which he deems contrary to Law & to the Priviledge he is entitled to as a Member of the Legislature, I am now within a few days of my departure for England I think I ought not in Justice to myself to neglect any Act whereby I may make this formal & Solemn declaration to wit, that I have the highest respect and Veneration for the Honble the House of Commons & for all their Priviledges that I am, however, Ignorant how far these Priviledges extend & particularly that I do not know whether they do extend to the extraordinary case in Question

that

Fort St. George 20th Janry 1713

that if they do and the Vote I have given in Council or any other act done by me should be construed by the Honble House a breach of Privilege I do hereby declare my readiness to make at the Bar of the Honble House every Attonement which the Honble House shall deem adequate to the Offence and this I do Voluntarily as the Strongest Proof I can give of the high Veneration and respect I bear the Honble House of Commons, After having made this Declaration I think it necessary to add the Reasons which Induced me not to withdraw imediately upon the Clause made of Privilege The Military Order against which it was declared by the Constitution of the Company the Civil Government in their Presidencys as also invested with the Supream Military Authority and the Governors by their Commissions are Commanders in chief Contests have sometimes arisen at times for Power and it was well known to the whole Country and Military Establishment that such a contest subsisted at the time of Issuing the Order above mentioned to Sir Robert Fletcher, it seemed Requisite to me of the highest Importance to the Safety as well as good Government of this Establishment that a matter of such consequence should not be left in Doubt but that the whole Military Corps should be convinced that Obedience was due and acknowledged in the most ample manner to the Supream Government and therefore I thought that the Board could not with Safety and Prospriety admit of a Plea of Privilege against their

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this Order while we remain Ignorant &
Doubtful whether Privileges ought to be construed
to extend to such a case as this. I never meant
to go further in this matter than merely to
obtain an Example of Obedience to the Orders of
the Board & Duty wanted for Authentick
Advices from Sir Robert Fletcher of his Arrival
at and taking on him the Command at
Trichinopoly to propose to the Board what I
shall now propose without it As the day is
approaching for my Embarkation and I cannot
answer to myself nor I think to my Employers
to resign my Office leaving the Government in
the precarious state in which it now stands
I therefore now appeal to the Board that I under-
=stand from good Authority that Sir Robert
Fletcher in Obedience to the Order of the Board
of the instant did set out from Hence on or
about the 15 Instant proceed to Cuddalore
and was again set out from thence on his
way to Trichinopoly that discerning the Order of
this Board so far complyd with I move

That this Board out of their compassionate Respect
& consideration for the Humble the House of Com-
=mons and their Privileges do declare that
Sir Robert Fletcher in consequence of his
New & Privilege as a Member of Parlia-
=ment is for so much as depends on this
Board at Liberty and free Liberty to return
to his Duty in Parliament in manner and
by whatever Conveyance he shall think
proper and that this Board do further declare
Sir Robert Fletcher to be henceforth free and
exonerated of and from all Obligations to serve
the United East India Company in any Capa-
=city under this Presidency that so they may

not-

may not remain any restraint or Contour of restraint upon or impediment to his Proceed.s to his Duty in Parliament agreeable to his Claim

The Question being put to the President.s motion, it is carried that Sir Robert Fletcher be honourably discharged and exonerated of and from all Obligation to Serve the Company, and that he is at Libty and Free Liberty to return to his Duty in Parliament whenever and by whatever conveyance he shall think proper ——

Mr Charles Smith and Mr Mackay desire to have the two following Minutes on the Presidents motion recorded ——

Mr Mackays Minute on the Presidents Motion

I am have no objection to Sir Robert Fletchers being at Liberty to attend his Duty in Parliament whenever he thinks it necessary to do so, but by his being Cond.d to Imprisonment, he has been deprived of the Means of giving Bond in this State which might be of many material consequence to him, but I cannot agree to exonerate him from many Obligations he is under to the Company for Stock given him to be in the Service till the pleasure of the Court of Directors is known as he has so declared himself ——

Mr Chas. Smith Minute on the Presidents motion

I am of Opinion that Sir Robert Fletcher should be left at free Liberty to resign the Honble Company's Service & to return to England to attend his Duty in Parliament, whenever he may think proper as I conceive from what I have heard, that this Board cannot interfere to oppose his request & this being the Case I do not See how the Board can oppose Obedience

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to their Orders without infringing the Priviledges & Parliament, I am therefore under the Necessity of exonerating & releasing Sir Robt. Fletcher therefore & he is still persists therein ——

The President delivers in the following Minute and Motion

The Presidents reasons for the Imprisonment of Brigr Genl Lloyd at the Head of an Army who by his own claim & the acquiescence of the Board not subject to Gawn Orders of Govt.

As we have thus been drawn to the Necessity of declaring Sir Robt. Fletcher to be freed & Exonerated from all Obligation & Service to the Company under this Presidency yielding to his Claim of Priviledge to return to England whenever he shall think fit it seems to me incompatible with any Idea of Military Government that an Officer should remain at the Head of an Army who by his own Claim and our acquiescence is not subject to the Orders of Government - I therefore ——

That Brigadier General Joseph Lloyd be requested by this Board for the good of the Service to resume the Command of the Army and his Seat at this Board and at the Select Committee.

The Question being accordingly put

Mr Mackay Departs

Mr Mackay is against the Motion, dissents and will give his reasons in a subsequent Consultation ——

Mr Stracey Join in the Motion, because I think Sir Robert Fletcher being Freed and exonerated by this Board from all Service to the Company in consequence of his Plea of Priviledge of Parliament must of course be deemed an Improper Person to

be

1st Fort St. George 20th January 1773

be at the Lees of their Pores

Mr Stone Sam for the Motion

Mr Johnstone Sam against it and made a Point
on a subsequent Consultation ——

Mr Chas Smith against the Motion and enters
on the following Minute ——

Mr Chas Smiths Minute against the Motion —

As in my Minute entered on Consultation the 12th Inst., I have declared that it was not my Meaning or Intention by the Vote I then gave respecting Col. Sir Robt Fletcher; to dispute the Company of his Majestys Absolutes or Limit of his Seat at this Board I think there must be a seeming contradiction & Inconsistency in applying to Lieutt Smith to resume his Seat at this Board I suggest, to take upon him the Command of the Army, unless Sir Robert Fletcher should still persist in his Claim of Privilege as a Member of the Honble House of Commons for that Account and permission to resign the Service & return to Europe to attend his Duty in Parliament. In such case as I apprehend this Board cannot venture to grant my request I shall most Chearfully & heartily concur in their Application to Lieutt Smith, but in my humble Opinion, such an Application would at present be premature, as it must absolutely be removing Sir Robert Fletcher from his Seat at the Board & from the Command of the Army I am therefore against the Motion

Mr Whitehill, For the Motion

Mr John Smith, For the Motion

Mr Wynch For the Motion —

The Majority of the Board being for the President's Motion, he, the President says before the

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The B.d a Draft of a Letter to General Smith and mov'd that the Same be now read & sent to General Smith accordingly ——

Mr. Mackay, I am entirely against the Resolution and consequently against the Letter to General Smith

All the other Members Mr. Chief. Smith J. Johnson excepted, being for the Letter it is accordingly ordered to be now read Fair and sent to the General ——

To Brigadier General Joseph Smith.

Sir.

Letter to General Smith, requesting of him to assume the Command of the Army and his Seat at the Board.

Sir Robert Fletcher having in consequence of our Orders to him to proceed and take upon the command of Trichinopoly, pleaded the Privilege of Parliament; and desired Leave to return to England to attend his Duty in Parliament, we have in compliance therewith declared him to be at full Liberty to return to England when and by whatever conveyance he shall think proper; and have freed & discharged him from all and every Obligation he may be under to serve the Company or any Station whatever under this Presidency We therefore make it our request to you for the good of the Service, that you will be pleased to assume the Command of the Troops on this Establishment, and your Seat at Councils and at the Select Select Committee ——

We have such an Opinion of your Zeal and Attachment to the Company's Service as will not suffer us to Doubt of your readiness to give the Company this Instance of your willingness to afford them every assistance in your Power ——

We desire the Favor of your Answer as soon as possible, that if you shall comply with our request; the necessary Orders may be immediately given

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present ——

We are with Esteem
Sir
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Jos: Du Pré Gr Council

Fort St. George
29 Janry 1773.

last/

The minutes of Consultation were red and approved ——

Paragraph/

The President lays before the Board a Draft of a Paragr which he proposes should be added to the General Letter to the Honble Court by this Dispatch, relative to Sir Robert Fletchers Letter of the 20th Inst and Mr Johnsons Minute to read his Vote given in Consultation the 12 Inst which is approved by the Board. Mr Johnson on Mr Mackay excepted and is accordingly ordered to be added to the Address by the Despatch ——

Mr Johnson acquaints the Board that he will reply to this Paragr on the Gen.l Letter on a Subsequent Consultation and for the Present he desires to have the following Minute entered ——

Mr Johnsons Minute on the Paragr of the G. Letter relative to his minute of the 27 Inst ——

Mr Johnson desires it may be Minuted that notwithstanding what the Majority have remarked on his foregoing Minute on the General Letter he has not the least Doubt of being able to give many Satisfactory reasons for his conduct, but as time will not admit of his doing it by this Dispatch, he flatters himself the Honble Court will suspend their Judgment, untile the next advices when they will no doubt have the whole matter before them ——

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Mr Mackay then moves that Sir Robert Fletcher be furnished by the Secretary with a Copy of the Resolution of the Board this day as soon as possible which is agreed to ——

Recd of the Attorney General Smith ——

To the Honble Jas Du Pré Esqr
Presid.t & Governor &c Council at
Fort St George ——

Honble Sir & Sirs

Letter from G. Smith he complies with the request of the Board to assume the Command of the Army & his Letter in Council

I am favored with your Letter of this day, requesting of me to assume the Command of the Troops in this Coast: as nothing could be further from my wishes than remaining longer in India, when just on the Point of embarking for my Native Country, so the Honble B.d on my readily believe when I assure them that no motive whatever could have induced me to enter into or protract Hostilities against, but being thus called on by your Gentlemen, the Duty I cheerfully acknowledge to my Employers & every grateful Sense of the advantages I have derived from their Service an obligation with me outweighs every other consideration

Gentlemen this Opportunity of once more shewing that Attachment I've always professed for the Welfare of our Honble Masters and at the same time with how much Respect & Esteem

I am Honble Sirs
Your most Obd.t
& humble Servt
G. Smith

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The President then moves that in consequence of General Smiths Compliance with the request of the Board that he be forthwith given out in General Orders as Commanding Officer of the Troops in the Coast and that the Secretary be directed to desire his attendance to morrow to take his Seat at the Board ——— Agreed to.

Jos. Du Pré
A. Wynch
John Smith
Charles Smith
Saml. Johnson
J. Whitehill
E. Stracey

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Saturday 30 Janry 1773.

At a Consultation Present
Jos. Du Pré Esqr. Governor President
Alexr. Wynch " John Smith
John Whitehill " Charles Smith
Saml. Johnson " John Max. Stone
Edward Stracey " George Mackay

The minutes of last Consultation read and approved ———

The Board having met to read & sign the Dispatch by the Nassau ———

Mr. Mackay relates a conversation wt. he says passed between the Governor about Mr. Wynch

Mr. Mackay addressing himself to the Presidt. says that as he shall have occasion hereafter to give in a minute which will contain a circumstance that particularly concerns the President, which will oblige him to disclose a private Conversation he had with the President, he will relate it now to the Board that it may not afterwards be said that he took advantage of the Presidents absence, he proceed to this effect, That one morning before the last Rains he met the Governor on Storeback and entered into Conversation with him upon his intended departure for Europe, That he used several Arguments with the President to dissuade him from it, that the Presidt. agreed with Mr. Mackay that Mr. Wynch was not equal to the Government, But that he must go home — Mr. Mackay declares his willingness to make Oath to the Truth of the foregoing relation ———

The President assures the Board that he does not recollect the Conversation which Mr. Mackay has just now related and denies most solemnly that he ever expressed himself of Mr. Wynch in the Manner Mr. Mackay insinuates to the Board and will this afternoon deliver in a Minute on the subject — Since Mr. Mackay has avowedly betrayd the Confidence of Private Conversation

Confidente of private conversation

Fort St. George 30 January 1772

Present as before —

Mr Hastings Minute on the Governors observation to Mr Mackay

Mr Mackay begs leave to observe that he cannot consider he mentioned to Some people between himself and the Governor in as so far from his Speaking upon it to be private, that he believes it to be the Opinion of almost the whole Town, that he mentioned it to Mr Johnson & other Gentlemen

Mr Mackay Withdrawn

2nd The President desires to know the Opinion of the Board, whether upon the Supposing of a declared private Conversation in the Spirit with which Mr Mackay has evidently done this, Supposing even that the Conversation was true, whether a Man of such Principle be fit to sit at the Board

Mr Whitehill upon this Question desired that the 40 Para: of the Company's General Letter dated the 1st March 1767 might be read at Board which was done accordingly. And the Opinion of the Board is required on the foregoing Question.

Mr Stracey I think he is not guilty as charged in the following Minute —

It is with Extreme Concern & Regret I give my Opinion on this Occasion — It appears to me that the conversation which is said to have passed Mr Mackay must be considered not only as Private but from the Nature of it a Confidential Conversation & Mr Mackay thus considering the matter merely in that Light was in my Opinion exceeding blame Worthy, in mentioning it to the Board as a matter to be proposed according after the President was gone for if Private conversations, that may have in Confidence unreservedly passed between the Members of the Board are thus to beript up & made a matter of Record, how is it possible for that Harmony & Mutual Confidence to subsist between the Members which are every essential to the Proper conducting of the Companys Affairs? But this is not the only consideration that weighs with me in giving

Mr Stracey's Minute — Between the President

Fort St. George 30th Janry 1793

giving my Opinion, it is the Peculiar Matter of substance of the Communication in respect of which this has alone great Force with me. For what Member of the Board but must have Seen Instantly all the Comic Situation in which Mr Wynch must have been placed the President acknowledges any such unguarded Communication? And with what Countenance could Mr Wynch then have taken charge of the Government? The whole Board as I have understood were unanimous in sending for him soon to Succeed to the President. If Mr Markham thought him unfit for the Station he Should then have objected to it & it seems that he both fair & just discharge of his Duty to the Company, - But to mention such a Point to Communication, now, that Mr Wynch is engaged for & is near taking charge of the Government-seems Worse it is Stated) What appearance can it carry with it? but that (I am sorry to say) it being disposing to the Government, Court & Mr Wynch & tending to the Prejudice of the President's Character

W Stone

Mr Stone. I am of Opinion that Mr Markham's Conduct in this Instance whether the Relation he hath given be true or false cannot but tend to destroy all Harmony, Confidence & Confidentiality among the Several Members. And as Mr Markham did not at the Same time of the Dispatches & Nottingham when the Minute Court were advised that Mr Wynch was found to the Government on the President's quitting it if no one were appointed from England & at which we had no Intention to make any objection thereto, I cannot but think Mr Markham's Relation now given to be dictated by Motives

Mr Stone's Minute.

Fort St. George 30 Janry 1773

Mr. Mackay

Mr. Chas. Smiths Minutes

Motions usually enforced on any member of this Board, I am therefore of Opinion, is unworthy to continue a Member thereof — Lt Wm

Mr. Johnson Sum of Opinion Mr. Mackay should be reprimanded, and for Extravagancy conversation but not dismissed —

Mr. Chas. Smith Thoroughly condemns Gen reprimand Mr. Mackays conduct nevertheless Sum of Opinion he may still continue a Member of this Board & that a severe censure should be passed on him & the Matter referred to the Honble Court for their Opinion & Judgment as such a Behaviour tends all Harmony & Confidence amongst the Members of this Government & should be highly discountenanced — Chas Smith

Mr. Whitehill - I think not

Mr. I. Smith - I think he is not

Mr. Wynch seems to be averse from giving his Vote on the Question as he may be suspected of Injustice being so nearly concerned in the Subject now under Debate, But the Board requiring his Opinion he says he thinks a Man of such Principles by no means a proper Person to sit at this Board —

The President thereupon moves that Mr. Mackay be suspended the Service until the pleasure of the Court of Directors be known

Mr. Stracey - Sum for the Motion

Mr. Hare . For the Motion

Mr. Johnson against the Motion and delivers in the following Minute —

Sum of Opinion that it would be but just to hear Mr. Mackays Reasons for Repeating the Conversation which he declares passed between him & Mr. Du Pré, some Months Since, relative to Mr. Wynch, before the Board can meet any Propriety come to any Determination on the Presidents Motion & should it then appear that Said Reasons are not Sufficient to Justify his Conduct on that case he may be reprimanded, or if the Board approve of such

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without I think is the best the Matter may be left to the Court of Directors to pass such censure as they may deem adequate to the Crime of what it should be considered. ——

Mr Chs Smith - Against the Motion and gives in the following Minute ——

Mr Chs Smiths Minute

I am against this Motion as I think that a censure from this Board of reporting the Matter to the Honble Court might have the desired good Effect of that Suspending Mr Macleane from the Service may be deemed to be rather too severe a Sentence ——

Mr Whitehill. Mr I Smith & Mr Wynch for the Motion —

Mr Macleanes Suspension the Service

Mr Macleane is accordingly suspended the Service until the Pleasure of the Honble Court can be known & the Secretary is directed to signify the Same to him by Letter which is accordingly done ——

The Pres[t] Reads a Paper which he moves may be added to the Address to the Honble Court by the Nayes ——

Mr Johnson arguments the Board that he cannot dissent to some parts of it ——

Mr Charles Smith argues as far as is consistent with his Minutes of Yesterday. paragraph

The other Members approve of the Paper which is accordingly ordered to be added to the General Letter ——

Lieut Smith takes his Seat —

In pursuance of the Resolution of Yesterday Lieu[t] Smith takes his Seat at the Board, the Oaths of Allegiance to the King & Fidelity to the Company, having been administered to him.

Letter from Sir Rob[t] Fletcher

Read a Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher dated the 26th Inst informing the Board of his Arrival at Trincomaly & assuming the Command of the Fort and Garrison from Lt Coll. Flint.

Read a Letter from Lt Coll. Flint &c

Fort St. George 30 Janry 1773

Letter from L.t Col. Flint

a Gentleman to the Board that he will deliver over the Command of this Garrison to Col. Sir Robt Fletcher & that he will thereby retain to Madras in Obedience to the Orders of the Board

The foregoing Letters to lie on the Table till after the Dispatch

The Board adjourns till 6 o Clock in the Afternoon

6 Clock P.M.

The Board being met according to Adjournment the President delivers in the following Minute.

President's Minute on Mr Markey's stating the Conversation, said to have passed between him & the President, respecting Mr Wynch

It is always in the Power of a designing Man to take that advantage of an undesigning one, which Mr Markey has now done of me, the frustrated Conversation which he relates was so far, tending to his own Account to have happened at least Four Months ago, He may therefore attest it, swear to it, I have no means nigh and to truth to assert positively what did pass, but I shall barely recollect, that some Conversation or rather a few cursory words, were dropped relative to Mr Wynch & to my going Home but any positive Arguments or Opinion arose, is it possible I should have recollected it as Mr Markey states it, the declaration, which he imputes to me, must be taken in that Sense, or it it means nothing more as for want of Recollection of what did pass, I cannot flatly contradict that or any thing else that it shall please him to impute to me, I can only defend myself upon Probability It will be known to every Member at this Board that for some Months before this conversation, Mr Markey had been my Prosecutor at the Board, that his unbecoming behaviour, had induced the Board to insist on his asking my Pardon at the Board, that I had all the Reason to look upon him as an Implacable Enemy now I appeal to every Candid Man upon Earth, whether there is a Similitude or Probability, that to such a Man I should open myself with as much confidence, as to him it is not - that I should foolishly & unguardedly, knowing as I did the Man, have exposed myself in the Power of my Enemy, as to deposit my first

Fort St. George 30th Janry 1773

Secret thoughts with him by a Declaration; that
all his Thoughts to attain to whom I must have
the Government must for it, yet that I must, nevertheless
the less go home, is it probable that he made
such a Declaration Mr. Mackay wants never the less
have a punter to the Para: or the G: Letter by the
Nottingham on this subject I have conversed with
the Board, when they unanimously called Mr.
Wynch from Masulipatam, he who for months
before objected to I disputed almost every thing I
proposed which would admit of a Contestable
Opposition, if it were his real Opinion, why
did not he object when that Paras: of the Letter
was proposed? he will not surely say that he
supposed out of compliment to me, he, who
hath taken every Opportunity to have ups and
downs with me, in Consultations, under a Pretence of Candour
of debate, I will now suggest what does seem
most probable. It seems to be probable that
Mr. Mackay might have put some Question
or dropped some hint of Sentiment relative to
Mr. Wynch with a Design to draw from me
some Answers that might at a convenient time
be wrested to some purpose, it is probable I
might not understand what he said & it is
probable, I said that I must go home, for I
have said so much to him only, but to many
I say so now I for the same reason, I must go
home for I am incapable any longer to bear the
weight of this Government. Hitherto I am Perplexed
in Doubt, would have Justified so long the Sa-
tigues I have born & Busy I shall, the Hope of
that Land of relief, which I trust is now near
at hand that Hope alone has enabled me so
far to struggle, successfully against the Oppo-
sition & Enmity without & within - Sir I
must go Home, for the Government would
unavoidable fall into disorder were I longer
in my present State & Busy I shall to attempt
to keep the Helm I could retain the Name

but

167 Fort St George 30 June 1773

but I could not Govern it as to the Attempts
not what I have been Charged, that I owe
my present Condition & therefore I leave the Go-
vernment at our next Meeting, it is my pressen-
tions who ought to answer it, they who by their
Vexations have worn me out. but I thank God
that all their Vexations how much soever my Health
has suffered by them have not gained to them what
they apparently aimed at & this I cannot consent
to take upon myself any longer the charge of a
Government which I find myself unable to sustain
yet if it be necessary I would consent to Du-
rance, ease, Health, life itself rather than
Yield the Power of Government into the Hands which
have sought to insult & Ruin me ——

P. G. Letter

The President reads to the Board the Draft of a
Paragraph which he moves may be added to the
General Letter, regarding Mr Hastings Suspen-
sion ——

Approved by the Majority & ordered according by
Mr Johnson acquaints the Board that he
will dissent to it ——
Mr Ch: Smith dissents to the Paragraph for the
reasons given in the foregoing Minute ——

Jos. Wilkes
Clavering
John Smith

Chas Smith
Wm Johnson

Hastings

168 Fort St George 31st January 1773

Sunday
1st Cont Pst

At a Consultation Present
Jos DuPré Esqr. Governor President
Alexander Wynch, ———
John Smith " John Whitehill
Chas Smith " Samuel Johnson
T. M. Stone " Edr Stracey
General Smith Indisposed

The Board having met this Evening to Sign the Despatches, The General Letter to go by the Norfolk read & Signed ———

Letter from Mr Mackay with attestation before the Mayor of his conversation with the Pres. respecting Mr Wynch ——

conversation

Recd a Letter from Mr Mackay with his attestation before the Mayor to the conversation he related Yesterday at the Board, between him and the President respecting Mr Wynch ——

The Secretary is directed to transmit a Copy of the said Letter of Attestation to Mr Secretary Mitchell at the India House

Minutes of last Consultation read and Approved ———

The Packet is ordered to be closed ———

Jos DuPré
A Wynch
John Smith

Charles Smith

Saml Johnson

T M Stone

169 Fort St George 3d February 1773

The following Letter an Account were
received from Mr Monckton and read in Consultation the
27 January and were forwarded to the Honble Court a
Number in the Packet Ft Nassau

To the Honble Josias Du Pré Esqr
President & Governor &c Council
of Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

Letter from Mr Monckton
that he has only
10 ℔ Cent ℔ annum on
the Money lent to
the Nabob's People

In Consequence of your Orders notified to me
by Mr Secretary Petrie, I beg leave to lay before your Honors a
Statement of what Money I received from the Nabob. The In-
terest I received being only ten ℔ Cent, of Consequence I have
not any thing to refund. I have the Honor to remain

Honble Sir & Sirs

Madras
24th January 1773.

Your most Obedient Hble Servant
E Monckton

A Statement of the Loans made by me to the different Renters with the
Interest Received on the said Loans

1769 Putchepan Chinglepat Renter

June 18. To Cash lent him ---------- 5000
Aug 26 To D ---------- 5000 10,000

Interest @ 10 ℔ Cent

---- on ℙ 5000 from 18 June 1769 to 30 April 70 is 10. M D ---- 433.12.
---- on ℙ 5,000 from 26 Aug D ---- D ---- 8.4 ---- 338.32. 772.2 10772 2
Sept 20 Received of him ---------- 1000
Oct 12 D ---------- 1000
Nov 4 D ---------- 500
Dec. 10 D ---------- 500
D ---------- 375 3375

Carried over

17th Fort St George 3 Febry 1773

	Brought over	3375	10772 2
on P. 1000 from 21 Sept. to 30 April	7.11	61.17	
on P. 1000 from 13 Oct. to D.		36.28	
on P. 500 from 5 Nov. to D.	5.25	24.36	
on P. 500 from 18 Dec. to D.	4.11	18.7 / 161.4	3536 4
			7235 40

Chevachitumbra Pilla Chinglynut Renter

June 18 To Cash lent him			3000
25 D. D.		2000	3000

Interest @ 10 per Cent

6m 3000 from 18 June 1769 to 30 April	10.12	260	
6m 2000 from 25 D. D.	10.5	169.16	429.16
			342916
Sept. 20 Received of him			1000.-
30 D.			500
Nov. 6 D.			1000
			2500

Interest @ 10 P. Cent

6m P. 1000 from 21 Sept. 69 to 30 April	7.9	60.34	
6m P. 500 from 30 D. D.	7.	29.8	
6m P. 1000 from 6 Nov. D.	4.24 48.26	138.26	2638.26 2790 32

Woomajee Venkatarow

June 19 To Cash lent him			2000
6m P. 2000 from 19 June 69 to 30 April 70		167.9	2167.9
March 10 Received of him			330.-
Interest from 11 March to 30 April	1.19	4.16.16	334.16.16 1832 34 64
May 1 Received from the Nabob a Bond for			Pa 11859 22 64
Interest @ 10 P. Cent P. Annum on 11859 P. 22-64 from 1 May to 30 Oct.			599 24
Ballance received the 8 Nov. 1770 from the Nabob			P 12459 4 64

E Monckton

The

Fort St George 3d February 1773

The following Letter & Affidavit were received from Mr Macleay, & read in Consultation the 31st Ultimo, but as the Board had met purposely to sign the Dispatches & Packet they would not be entered on the Proceedings but were transmitted by the Secretary to Mr Secretary Mitchell at the India House to be laid before the Honble Court

To the Honble the President & Council
of Fort St George

Gentlemen

Letter from Mr Macleay on his Suspension from the Service -

After I was yesterday forced out of the Consulta-tion Room & condemned unheard according to the present System, I received a Letter from your Secretary, Mr Petrie, acquainting me that you had come to a Resolution of suspending me from the Company's Service till the Pleasure of the Court of Directors is known - This is nothing more than what I have expected for some time past, and therefore I saw the less disappointed - Any other Pretence whatever would have served your purpose full as well as the one you have laid hold of, for committing this Act of Injustice against your Employers & against myself -

The Statement on your Minutes of my having betrayed private Conversations, I beg leave to say is far from being just - I was not enjoined to any Secrecy, & as a Clear Proof that I did not think myself under any Ties of that kind, I mentioned the Conversation that passed between Mr Du Pré & myself to Sir Robert Fletcher Mr Johnson, & Mr Lane & others soon after it happened -

I hear Mr Wynch is ill Will of any kind, I have given him Proof to the contrary, & nothing was farther from my Thoughts than to injure him by any thing I said, great Abilities, fit for Governments, fall to the Share of few Men -

My

172 Fort St George 3d February 1773

— My Sole View & Motive for mentioning at the Board before Mr Du Pre went away, that I should think it necessary to say something of that Conversation in a Subsequent Minute was to point out to the Court of Directors, & Think it was right to do so, how inconsistent Mr Du Pre's Conduct was with the Declarations he has frequently made to them, & particularly in the General Letter from this Ship from the Civil Department, to which I have dissented wherein he Says; that he shall never think himself discharged from his Duty to the Company, whilst they want his Services, or Words to that Purpose. After this I leave the Honble Court to judge, with what propriety Mr Du Pre can accuse me of betraying private Conversation, & Beg that Reference may be had to the Correspondence with Sir John Lindsay in which that Gentleman declares that Mr Du Pre had mentioned in a preceding Letter, a Conversation that had passed between them two & Mr Hastings after they had agreed to keep it secret, & I remember very well Sir Robert Fletcher's mentioning at the Board, & I believe it is on the Records upon the Occasion of Mr Du Pre having recited a Conversation that passed between them, that if private Conversations were to be construed into Crimes, few Members at the Board would be safe; I believe I could likewise point out other Instances, wherein Mr Du Pre has mentioned at the Board & likewise in Minutes Conversations that passed between himself & others: But this is not the first Instance wherein the same Action is construed a Fair & honorable in the President; a Crime in a Member of the Board: it is Time now the first Instance to be found on the Company's Records wherein mentioning a Conversation was adjudged sufficient Cause for Suspension

pen

1773 Fort St George 3d February 1773

from Any Service — I have made Oath before a proper Magis-
-trate to the Truth of what I asserted at the Board & send my
Affidavit enclosed; I beg it may go with this Letter by the
Ship now under Dispatch, as it is very material for me
that my Justification should appear with my Condem-
-nation by You. —

I have also to request that you will be pleased to let me
know, whether I may have Access to the Records in order
to enable me to give my Reasons to the Honble Court for
the several Dissents I have lately mentioned on the Mi-
-nutes. —

Tho' I have not the least Doubt, but the Honble
Court will do me ample Justice, yet I hold you, Gentlem.
in your private Capacity's accountable to me, for every
Loss & Damage I may sustain by the Violence & Injustice
you have executed towards me. — I am with Respect

Fort St George
31 Jany 1773 —

Gentlemen
Your most Obedient Hble Servant
George Mackay

Mr Mackay's Affi-
davit to the Conver-
sation between him &
the President res-
-pecting Mr Wynch.

I do declare that sometime before the last Monsoon set
in, I believe in the Month of August or September to the
best of my Remembrance I met Mr De Prie one Morn-
-ing on Horseback, & after some Conversation, I asked
him, if he intended going Home Overland, he told me
that he did, but that he believed he could not get
away before January, or Words to that Purpose, I replied
that I did not thank him was serious, as he could not
answer to his Employers, or indeed to the Publick &
leaving the Charge of the Government in the Hands of
Mr Wynch as Every one knew he was envy'd & hated
that I thought he should stay till a Successor was
appointed

Fort St George 3d Febry 1773

appointed, Mr Du Pre agreed in Opinion with me by say-
-ing, That he thought Mr Reynolds was not equal to the
Charge of the Garrison, but said that he was determi-
=ned on going home. I will not be positive to a Word, but the
above is the Sense & Purport, & as near as I can recollect the
Words that passed that Morning in Conversation between
Mr Du Pre & myself. - Fort St George the 31 Janry 1773.

Geo Mackay

Sworn before me

John Macpherson Mayor.-

The following Letter was received & read in
Consultation before the Despatches, but by the Reason of the
Multiplicity of Business which came before the Board, they
could not then be entered on the Proceedings.-

91

To the Honble Josias Du Pre Esqr
President & Governor & Council

Letter from Lieut Col Flint on the Subject of Quarters for the Officers at Trichinopoly.-

Honble Sirs & Sirs

Your Letters of the 22d & 30 Ulto I have received. The former acquainting me of the Nabob's having consented to discharge the Arrears of the Peyrain contained in the Estimate, which I have informed the Officers & to draw on the Paymaster accordingly.-

The Vacant Quarter I shall cheerfully give up to the Nabob's Manager as yet he has not received any Orders to take Charge of them, & when wanted I shall readily ap-
-plicate. There that are intended for the Officers of the Brahmin Detachment, most of them are in very bad Condition, therefore, Gentlemen, I shall be much obliged to You for an Order from the Nabob to his Pro-
=vinces for to have them repaired, also to keep vacant Quarters in Readiness, as this being a Centrical Garrison, we have frequent Occasions for them. Besides it is

absolutely

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absolutely Necessary for a stated Number to be kept, because
of the great Difficulty that will attend getting them
upon an Emergency of which I have experienced particu-
-larly in the Year 1769 when the Troops returned from
the War with Hyder.-

The Cadet Company I will order to proceed on to
their Station at Ponamalee upon their Arrival here
with Colonel Braithwaite's Detachment, agreeable
to your Directions of the 30th. I am with the greatest
Respect -

Trichinopoly
7 Janry 1773

Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient
& very humble Servant
Wm Flint

To The Honble Josias Du Pre Esqr
President & Governor & Council

Letter from Lt Col Flint
representing that an
Epidemical Distem-
-per hath for some time
rag'd in Trichinopoly
with a Recommenda-
-tion from the Surgeons.

Honble Sir & Sirs

This is to inform You that an Epidimical Disorder
has been raging in, & about this place for some time
past, which has carried off a great Number of the In-
-habitants, & within these three Days it has attacked
the Europeans; Between twenty & thirty, Many of
whom were Dead in a few Hours after being taken
ill which comes on very sudden, not knowing how
long this unhappy Disorder may continue in Con-
-sequence of which I desired the Surgeons to send me
in their Opinions which they accordingly did, the
Accompanying is a Copy of it. I have ordered all the Eu-
-ropean Troops / Guards excepted / to encamp on Warriors
Plain, & from thence to relieve the Guards of the
Garrison daily, & shall continue it till such time

Colonel

17th Fort St George 3d February 1773

Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher arrives, whom I doubt will wait on this Affair as he thinks most proper for the Preservation of his Regiment

Last Night received a Letter directed to him inclosed to me with Orders from the Secretary Mr Petrie to take Charge of it & to deliver it to him on his Arrival here, which shall be done accordingly.—

I am with Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient & very Humble Servant
Wm Flint

Trichinopoly
22 January 1773

To Lieut Col Flint
Commanding Trichinopoly

Y

Representation from the Surgeons—

Sirs

In Consideration of the unhappy Symptoms with which many of the Europeans are now attacked, We have resolved thus to address you on the Subject of the Battalion moving from their present Barracks into the more open Air.—

Tho it may in the End prove less fatal than the present Appearances bespeak yet it behoves us thus to communicate our joint Opinions.— We are

Sirs

Your very Obedient Servants
The Davies
Ja.s Whyte
Surgeons

Trichinopoly. 21st Janry 1773

A true Copy

The Board approve of Lieut Col Flint's having marched the Europeans to Warriour to avoid the Inspection—

To The Honble Josias Du Pre Esqr
President & Governor &c Council

Letter from Lieut Col. Flint on receiving Orders to deliver up the Command of Trichinopoly to Sir Robert Fletcher—

Honble Sir & Sirs

This Morning arrived Colo Sir Robert Fletcher & to mor- =row I shall deliver over to him the Charge of the Fort and Garison

Fort St George 3 Febry 1773

Garrison & myself shall proceed to Madras as soon as possible conformable to your Orders. The Epidemical Disorder still rages among the Soldiers, Sixty of whom have been taken ill of that Complaint within five Days, out of which six only have died, so far regarding the latter part We have been lucky. Considering the Number of Inhabitants that have fallen Sacrifice.

I am with the greatest Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient & very humble Servt

Wm Fleet

Fort Marlborough

26 January 1773

Pen Harrison

x Letter from Sir Wm Fletcher on his Arrivae at Tiechingpoy

I arrived here this Morning & received the Charge of the Garrison from Lieut Col. Fleet in the letter you delivered to me your Letter of the 18th which had been sent under a Cover to him. You therein repeat & enforce your Orders of the 12th for me to proceed hither without answering any Letters of the 13th & 16th but You are pleased to say, that Answer sitting of late have interrupted the publick Affairs. I am sorry for it. I declare I bear no Animosity towards any Member of the Board, & I repeat now as I have often declared in Council my Concern that a Difference of Opinion upon publick Measures, should interrupt the Business, or that that Harmony which I have ever been wishd to see prevail, & I will say, which I have ever strove to preserve at the Board. — That you have a Right to expect a full Compliance with all your Commands from every Servant of the Company, I have ever been the foremost to assert, & I never great the Inconveniences attending my present Situation, they could never furnish me with a pretext for Disobedience, or Inattention to Your Authority as I shall always be happy to set Example of Duty to those

I have the Honor to be

Gentlemen

17th Fort St George 3d February 1773

Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher arrived, whom I doubt will wait on this Affair as he thinks most proper for the Preservation of the Peace-

Last Night received a Letter directed to him inclosed to me with Orders from the Secretary Mr Petrie to take Charge of it & to deliver it to him on his Arrival here, which shall be done accordingly.-

I am with Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient & very humble Servant
Wm Flint

Trichinopoly
22 January 1773

To Lieut Col Flint
Commanding Trichinopoly

Representation from Sirs
the Surgeons—

In Consideration of the unhappy Symptoms with which many of the Europeans are now attacked, We have resolved thus to address You on the Subject of the Battalion moving from their present Barracks into the more open Air.-

The it may in the End prove less fatal than the present Appearances bespeak yet it behoves Us thus to communicate our joint Opinions.- We are
Sir
Your very Obedient Servants
The Davies } Surgeons
Jas Whyte }

Trichinopoly. 21st Janry 1773

A true Copy

The Board approve of Lieut Col Flint's having marched the Europeans to Warriour to avoid the Inspection—

To the Honble Josias Du Pré Esqr
President & Governor &c Council

Letter from Lieut Col Flint on receiving Orders to deliver up the Command of Trichinopoly to Sir Robert Fletcher—

Honble Sir & Sirs

This Morning arrived Col. Sir Robert Fletcher & immediately delivered over to him the Charge of the Fort and Garison

In Fort St George 3 Febry 1773

Garrison & army will be proceed to Madras as soon as possible
conformable to your Orders. The Epidemical Disorder still rages
among the Soldiers, sixty of whom have been taken ill of that Com-
=plaint within five Days, out of which six only have died, so far
regarding the better part We have been lucky. Considering the
Number of Inhabitants that have fallen Sacrifices -

Trichinopoly
26 January 1773

I am with the greatest Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient & very humble Servt
W.m Flint

Pondicherry

x Letter from Wm Flt. Fletcher on his Arri-
val at Trichinopoly

I arrived here this Morning & received the Charge of
the Garrison from Lieut Col Flint in the Letter since delivered to
me your Letter of the 18th instant had been sent under a Cover to him.
You therein repeat & Enforce your Orders of the 12th for me to
proceed further without answering my Letters of the 13th & 14th Inst
You are pleased to say that Various Affairs of late have interrupted
the public Affairs I am sorry for it - I declare I bear no Anim-
=osity towards any Member of the Board Numbers, & I repeat more
as I have often declared in Council my Concern that a Differ
=ence of Opinion upon public Measures, should interrupt
the Business, or that that Harmony which I have ever
wish to see prevail, & shall pay, which I have ever strenuous
to preserve at the Board. — That you have a Right to expect a
full Compliance with all your Commands from every Ser
=vant of the Company, I have ever been the foremost to grant,
& however great the Inconveniences attending my present
Situation, they could never furnish me with a pretext for
Disobedience, or Inattention to Your Authority as Public
always be happy to set Examples of Duty to the Com.

I have the Honor to be

Gentlemen

Fort St. George 3 February 1773

Gentlemen

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

Robert Fletcher

P.S. The Mortality of which Lieut Col Fletcher wrote to You rather increases than abates seven Europeans have been carryed off & from sixty five to seventy Black People die every day.

The following Letter was this Day ordered to be wrote.—

To the Honble Warren Hastings Esqr
President & Governor & Council
of Fort William

Letter to the President and Council of Fort William respecting Mr Vaughan Cadet

Hble Sir & Sirs

We have permitted Mr Charles Vaughan a Cadet on his Establishment to resign the Service, & to proceed to England by the Way of Bengall— We are with Esteem

Hble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient humble Servants

Mea Wynch & Council

Fort St George
5 February 1773

At a Consultation Present

Monday
8 February

Alexander Wynch Esquire Governor President
John Smith , Joseph Smith
John Whitehill , Charles Smith
Samuel Johnson , John Maxwell Stone
Edward Stracey

Read the following Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher

Dated 2d Instant—

To the Honble the President & Council
of Fort St George.

Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher, requesting the Board thereon Resolved that the 2 of the 20 Cadets be delivered

Gentlemen

I have received the General Orders of the 30 Ult & 1 Inst

1773 Fort St. George 8th Febry 1773

over the Command of Trichinopoly to the Senior Officer & proceeds to the Presidency.

Trichinopoly 2d February 1773

I shall in Consequence leave the Command of this Garrison to the Senior Officer, & proceed very soon to the Presidency.

I have the Honor to be

Gentlemen

Your most Obedient & most humble Servt

Robert Fletcher

The President acquaints the Board that Sir Robert Fletcher being arrived from Trichinopoly, waited upon him this Morning & informed him that in Consequence of the General Orders of the 30th Ulto. he had left the Command of the Fort & Garrison of Trichinopoly to the next Senior Officer, and had repaired to Madras in order to settle his Affairs, & proceed to Europe by the first Opportunity.

The following Letter from Mr Stratton is laid before the Board Dated 27th Ulto

To The Hon'ble Lewis Du Pre Esqr

President & Governor & Council of Fort St. George

Hon'ble Sir & Sirs

Letter from Mr Stratton respecting the appointments of Virgo & Stratton

I have had the Honor to receive your Letter dated 5th Ulto. which I was prevented by Indisposition, and not being before able to answer. As I shall always chearfully comply with any Orders you may be pleased to send me, I should have embarked for Masulipatam the Effective Men of this Garrison, had no Sea Conveyance offered for that place, but as I have reason to believe that it will be sometime before I shall have an Opportunity of doing it, I hope your Honor & will be convinced on my Representation, that there is an absolute Necessity for a much greater force being Stationed here, for it is impossible, that the Duties of the Garrison can be carried on without Artillery Men, which will be wanted should it be necessary to send out a Brigade of Troops to quell any

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any Trouble that may arise in the Circar to keep out any Partys of Horse that may think proper to come against this place — Had the Honor of writing some time since to the Pre = sident on this Subject in which I referred him to a Letter wrote to your Honor &c by Mr Andrews under Date 11 July 1770 Extract of which I take the Liberty to enclose, & as I can at the same time assure you that his Representation is very just, I hope it will meet with a favorable Reception. In respect to the Infantry most of them were taken into the Service in Mr Heath's time are attached to this place, & having large Families they request you will indulge them in continuing here. — I have the Honor to remain with Respect

Vizagapatam
21 January 1773

Hon'ble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient Humble Servant
Geo Stratton

Effective Europeans to remain at Vizagapatam until the Arrival of the Invalids

At this Board cannot admit of the Necessity of keeping a Body of effective Europeans at Visagapatam yet as it has already been determined to send a Detachment of Invalids there, it is Agreed to allow the Europeans to remain there until the Arrival of the Invalids, at which time, they are to be sent by the first Opportunity to Masulipatam to compleat the Battalions of Europeans at Ellore.
Ordered that Mr Stratton be made acquainted with the foregoing Resolution. —

Read the following Letter from Mr Archdale Palmer
Dated 15 January
To the Hon'ble Josias Du Pré Esq
President & Governor & Council of Fort St George
Hon'ble Sir & Sirs
The Commissary General having acquainted me that the

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The Charge of Pr 6205..83..41 for Repairs done at Madura be consi=
=dered in my Accounts of that Garrison without the Sanc=
=tion of your Orders, Make Use Liberty to lay before your Honor &
the Several Circumstances relating to this Disbursement.=

By a Letter from the Board dated 28 June 1766 I was
directed on the Departure of Capt. M.c Lean under whose Ma=
nagment they were to take upon me the Inspection of
them.=

And by a further Letter of the 16th
October following, I was again directed to take upon me the
Repairs of that Garrison; All these together with some the
Necessary Repairs done at the Request of the then Com=
=manding Officer on the Apprehension of the Approach of
Hyder Ally's Troops in that District are of the aforemen=
=oned Amount.=

To be reimbursed this Expence, I have made frequent
Applications to the Nabob's Agent in the Tanjore Country for Cash
=try, who used to make the Advances for that Purpose, But
as I have not as yet been reimbursed the Same, I have
taken the Liberty of making Application to Your Honor
&c to request you will be pleased to interpose with his
Excellency on this Behalf, or that you will permit the
Amount to be carried to my Credit in my Account with
the Commissary General as your Honr &c shall think
most proper.=

Fort St George
15 Janry 1773

I remain with due Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Archdale Palmer

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Dr His Excellency Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn Cr

1767 Month	31	To Ballance of the last Account sent the Commissary General for Repairs done at Madurah to this time	2723	49	61	1769 Feby 14	By Ballance due	Pagodas 4205	83 41
1768 Novr	30	To Repairs done at Madurah from 25 August 1767 to 30 Novr 1768	360	24	40				
1769 Feby	14	To D from 1 December 1768 to 14 Febry 1769	1122	9	20				
		Pagodas	4205	83	41				

E E

P Archdale Palmer

Paymaster

183 Fort St George 8 Feby 1773

The foregoing Letter was received before the last Dispatches but from the hurry of Business could not be taken into Consideration till Now.

From an Order transmitted by the Secretary to Mr Palmer Dated 10 March 1767 it appears that he was directed to put a Stop to any further Repairs at Madura till the Advances for that Purpose were made by the Nabob, as a Considerable part of the present Charge has been incurred since that Period, the Secretary is directed to apply to Mr Palmer on this Subject, & to report his Answer to the Board.

Received the following Report of the Committee of Accounts on which the Board have been pleased to pass the several Orders entered hereafter.

To the Honble Josias Du Pré Esqr
President & Governor & Council of
Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

Report of the Committee of Accounts with Orders thereon

We have examined the Accounts of the following Out Garrisons Viz

Ongole
Nellore
Amboor
Trichinopoly
Vellore
Madurah
Palamcotah

for November

Camp Disbursements of the Troops under Lt Col Braithwaite
D° D° under Lieut Col Bonjour for October

And beg leave to remark to Your Honors
that in the Camp Disbursements of the Troops under
Lieut Col Bonjour for October

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1st. The Number of Lascars under the Commissary of Stores has been increased from 65 to 115 so great an Addition We suppose to be owing to Stores having been sent thither, Nevertheless we think it incumbent on Us to communicate it to Your Honor &c.

1. The Increase of Lascars for the Month of October is explained by Lieut. Col. Benjamin having commanded by two Battalions of Sepoys in the Course of that Month. The Charge is therefore allowed.

2d. The Account of Mr Wm Cunning's Expences referred to Us by your Honor & We have examined, & are of Opinion that as in his Capacity of Paymaster at Madura he is allowed Travelling Charges to & from Palamcotta, the 96 Pagodas charged for Pallamcotta Boys should be struck off.

2. As Mr Cunning is not allowed any additional Charges for travelling from Madura to Pallamcotta, & as the expences incurred that the Expence be incurred in keeping Pallamcotta Boys was in Consequence of his being obliged to hold himself in Readiness to march with Lt Col Braithwaite's Detachment & as the Board did not allow his Charge of Pay & Batta as Paymaster to the said Detachment, It is Agreed to admit his Charge for Pallamcotta Boys.

3. The Tents purchased by him according to P. 91. 28 Mr Hunter on the Expiration of the Expedition, should be delivered to the Military Storekeeper, & carried to Account by

3. Ordered accordingly

185 Fort St George 8 Febry 1773

by Lauvs.—

Fort St George
21 Janry 1773

We are with the Respect
Honble Sirs & Sirs
Your most Obedient Humble Servants
John Smith
Sam Johnson
John Holland
Geo Moubray
Edw Saunders
John Reveley
Joseph Revell

The President informs the Board that he has received
Advice of the Death of Capt Bassett at China, & of Lieut Roger
Brown at Ramree by private Letters, also of the Deaths of Ensigns
Stanton, Dugald Campbell & Cary — In Consequence of which
the following Promotions are ordered to take place Viz

Lieut Thomas Bowles — Captain in the Room of Capt Bassett deceased 27th Novr 1772 — Date of Commission 8 February 1773

Ens. Jos. W Butler Lieut-in Room of L. Roger Brown deceased 23 Decr 1772 — 8 Feby 1773

Myn. Richard Carter Ens. in the D. of Ens. Stanton — — — D° 30 August — D°

Blick Sanders Bate Ens. D° — — Cary — — — D° 3 Feby 1773 — D°

James Place — — D° — D° — — Dugald Campbell 4 D° — — — — D°

Thomas Parr — — — D° — D° — A Flag Butler promoted 5 D° — — — D°

Mr Thomas Blackden having applied for a Commission in
the Artillery in Consequence of the Order of the Board of
the 2d November made public to the Cadets, he is accordingly
appointed Lieut. Fire Worker & to rank from this
Day being the 8th Feby in the Room of Lieut Fire Work
Fleming gone to Europe on the Norfolk

Read the following Letter from

Mr Mackay

For

186 Fort St George 8th Feby 1773

To the Honble the President
& Council of Fort St George
Gentlemen

Letter from Mr Brodie applying for Copies of the Minutes & Paras in the General Letter, which reflect upon his Character

As I have reason to believe that for a few Years I have been suspended from the Service several Things are mentioned on your Minutes, & in the General Letter to Europe by the Nassau that greatly affect my Character as a Servant to the Company & as a Member of Society, I make this publick Application to you to desire you will be pleased to furnish me with Copies of Every Accusation your have sent home against me, that I may be enabled to answer them fully by the first, & I doubt not to the satisfaction of the Honble Court of Directors. - I am Gentlemen

Your most Obedient & most humble Servt
Geo Mackay

Fort St George
8 Feby 1773

Mr Mackay's Application for Copies of Paragraphs from the General Letter & Extract from the Minutes being taken into Consideration, the following Opinions are given:-

Mr Strahan. I think Mr Mackay should have a Copy of the Proceedings on the Day he was suspended the Service, but of nothing since that time, nor Copies of any parts of the General Letter as I conceive that to be contrary to the Custom of the Service & prejudicial to the Interests of the Company. -

Mr Stone I am of the same Opinion

Mr Johnson I think Mr Mackay should be furnished with Copies of every Accusation against him, either in the Minutes of Consultation, or in the General Letter, & also think that Mr Mackay should have signed the General Letter by the last Dispatch as he was a Member of the Board when almost the whole of it was writt. -

Mr C Smith I am of Opinion that Mr Mackay should be furnished with Copys of all that has passed relating to him to the 31st Ult

the

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The Day on which it was by a Majority of the Board suspended from the Service until the pleasure of the Honble Court can be known; Cannot make me wish to give Mr Mackay Every Opportunity of justifying himself, but Apprehend it will be contrary to the Usage of the Service to grant him Extracts from the General Letter to England & Nayaun or that he should now have Access thereto—

Mr Petrie Will. Dane Opinion that Mr Mackay should only be furnished with a Copy of the Proceedings on the Day he was suspended the Company's Service.—

General Smith declines giving his Vote on this Question as the Subject under Consideration occurred before he resumed his Seat at the Board

Mr D Smith the Only a Copy of the Proceedings on the Day he was suspended the Service

The President the Only till then

Ordered accordingly that a Copy of the Proceedings on the Day Mr Mackay was suspended the Service be delivered him by the Secretary.—

Mr Johnson delivers in the following Minute which he desires may be taken into Consideration.—

Mr Johnson desires the Board will please either to direct the Secretary, or allow him to take Extracts of such Paragraphs of the General Letter to the Honble Court by the Nayaun, which he has already declared his Intentions he would dispute, in order that he may reply to them in that Ample & Satisfactory Manner he thinks them Subject to require for the Justification of his own Conduct.—

Mr Johnson's Desire made for Leave to make Copies of certain Paragraphs in the Letter to which he purposes replying

The same being duly considered the President moves, that Mr Johnson may have free Access to the Genl

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Records in order to answer those parts of Consultations or General Letters, where he conceived his Conduct censured, & that he may receive such Instructions he judges Necessary in the said Answers. to which Motion, the Board unanimously agree.—

Letters from the Naboc N 15—

Received a Letter from the Naboc dated 31 Ulto as entered in Country Correspondence N 15 with Pr 16.666.24 on Account of his Engagements for last Month.— 16

Letter from the Naboc N 16

Another Letter from the Naboc of the same Date N 16 with P 3500 on Account of the Rent of the next 6 Months for the Pomaroon District.— 17

A Wynch
John Smith

Ormsby Sumner
Saml Johnston
Jno Wynch
C Boylston

1773 Fort St George 12th Febry 1773

The following Letter was this Day wrote to Mr Stratton at Vizagapatam.—

To George Stratton Esqr
Chief of Vizagapatam
Sir

Letter to Mr Stratton on the subject of the Effective European at Vizagapatam.—

We have received your Letter of 27th Ulto respecting the European Soldiers whom we had ordered to Masulipatam to complete the Battallion at Ellore.—

Although We cannot be of Opinion that there is any Expediency, far less Necessity, for keeping a Body of Effective Europeans in Garrison at Vizagapatam, Nevertheless as We have determined to station a Party of European Invalids there We direct that the effective Men shall remain until they are relieved by the Invalids after which you will take the first Opportunity of remitting them to Masulipatam.— We are

Sir

Your affectionate Friends

Fort St George
10 Febry 1773

Alexr Wynch & Council

At a Consultation Present

Friday
12 Febry

Alexander Wynch Esquire Governor President
John Smith , Joseph Smith
John Whitehill , Charles Smith
Samuel Johnson , John Maxwell Stone
Edward Straey.

Minutes of last Consultation read & approved.—

General Court martial

The Proceedings of a General Court Martial held in this Garrison, are read & taken into Consideration.—

Thereupon

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	Crimn	Sentence
Prisoners — Kendricke White, Francis Neagles, John Dubbleman, Andrew Brown	for Desertion	To Thirty Days at the Discretion of Lieutenant upon a Drum Head, & the Next Thirty Nine Lashes Each Shall be Further Punishment to the Man to Die. —
Jacob Vandeburg, Fran. Frankeyson	for Desertion	To receive Each five hundred Lashes on their bare Backs with a Cat of Nine Tails by the Drummers of the Garrison
Patrick Cranny	Desertion	The Court is under the Necessity of acquitting the Prisoner Patrick Cranny for want of Sufficient Evidence. —

The President and Council approve of the Sentence of the Court Martial passed on Kendricke White Francis Neagles, John Dubbleman & Andrew Brown, as also of the Sentence passed on Jacob Vandeburg and Francis Frankeyson, and order the same to be carried into Execution on Tuesday the 16 Inst. —

Sentences ordered to be carried into Execution on Tuesday 16 Inst.

With respect to the Sentence passed on Patrick Cranny the President & Council disapprove thereof. —

Disapprove the Sentence on Patrick Cranny

General Smith acquainting the Board, that although he has taken upon him the Command of the Troops in this Establishment, he is desirous to decline the immediate Charge of either of the Brigades, that he may be employed on the Army in General, for his Duty as a Member of the Board & Select Committee & therefore recommends that Lieut Col. Flint be appointed Colonel, & to command the 2d Brigade, that Major Fraser be appointed a Lieutenant Colonel, & that Capt Nadgett be appointed a Major — In which the Board acquiesce & the

General Smith recommends the Promotion of Lieut Col. Flint to the Rank of Col. & his Command of a Brigade

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and the following Promotions are ordered to take place accordingly

		Date of Commission	Date of Rank
Lieut Da Galbraith	Capt-in-my Room of Thomas Madge	12 Feby 1773	12 Feby 1773
Ens. Sam'l Sorrenson	Lieut — D° — of Lt Galbraith	— D° —	D° —
Mr Sam Teath	Ensign — D° — of Mr Sorrenson	— D° —	D° —

Capt. James Powel to Command the 2nd Circar Batt.n

Captain James Powell is appointed to the Command of the 2d Circar Battallion of Sepoys vacant by the Promotion of Capt Madge

Read the following Letter from Capt Pascal

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esq
President & Governor &c Council
Honble Sir & Sirs

Letter from Capt Pascal for Repairs to be allowed for the Separation Wall between the Wicket & the Gate of the outer Fort of Chingleput

Having taken down the old Decayed Wall of the Outer Fort, & finished a New one, find on Examination with the Master Bricklayer, that the Separation Wall between the Wicket and the above Gate is so much shaken being made of loose Stones without Cement, that part of it must be taken down & rebuilt before the Gate & Wicket can be put up. Materials being wanted to compleat the inner facing of the Rampart to the N. the Lascars & three Stone Cutters are employed to break upon a Quarry in the Fort for the above Purpose, the New Outer Wall of the same Face is long since finished to the Height of the Cordon, the Want of Bricks for the Parapet in the Bastions this is not compleated. I am with Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient & very humble Servant

Edmd Pascal

Chingleput
7 Feby 1773

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At a Consultation held in Council the 24th December

That no Works be carried on at Chinglepute but what are absolutely
necessary for the Defence of the place until the Works there are
finished. Resolved that Capt Pascal be directed to repair
as much of the Redoubt Wall, as is indispensably requisite for
the Safety of the Gateway, but that no other Work must
for the present be undertaken for the Reasons set forth
in Consultation the 24th December

Wynch
John Smith
Joseph Smith

Ench Lewis Sarrette
Sam Johnston
Wm Hall
Geo Stratton