1. Number of pages, 193
2. Date of repair, -30-6
3. Initials of Reference. [illegible]
177

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.

RJ
18.6.42

Mb 45/1

193 Fort St George 15th Febry 1773

At a Consultation Present

Monday 15 February

Alexander Wynch Esqr Governor President

John Smith

John Whitehill . Charles Smith

Samuel Johnson , J. M. Stone

Edward Straiy

General Smith Indisposed

Letter from the Nabob respecting the Jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court over his Servants & Dependants.

Read a Letter from the Nabob as entered in Country Correspondence N°12 representing the evil Consequences of the Mayor's Court, exercising their Jurisdiction over his Servants & Dependants, complaining of the Arrest of Abdon Mahomed, the Cutwall of Arcot, & requests that the Mayor's Court be prevented from interfering in the Disputes of his Servants.

A Letter to be wrote the Mayor's Court on this Subject.

It is Agreed that a Letter be wrote to the Mayor's Court on the foregoing Representation from the Nabob, and that they be desired to give the Board a more precise and determinate Answer to the Opinion of the Honble Court of Directors on the Privilege claimed by the Nabob, contained in the 72 Paragraph of their General Letter dated 25 March 1772.

Mr Wilson Surgeon to the Hospital at Pondamalee & Mr Prindle to Vingapatam

Mr Peters having been recalled from the Charge of the Hospital at Tonamalee on Account of his Indisposition, Mr Wilson is appointed thereto & Mr

19 Fort St George 15 Feby 1773

Patrick Dowglas who was Sent to reliev Mr Pelon is removed to
Viragapatam in the Room of Mr Willson.

W Lynch

John Smith

Chas Smith

Sam: Johnston

Jeffs Hall

Wm Smith

Fort St George 13 Feby 1773

Received the following Letter from Sir Robt Fletcher after the Consultation of this Day.—

To the Honble Alex Wynch Esqr
&. Council of Fort St George

Gentlemen

Letter from Sir Robt Fletcher for Accomodations upon the Triton to enable him to proceed to England.

The Tendency of your Proceedings of the 12th of last Month was too clear to me at that time. The Subsequent Measures you have adopted, leave me without a Doubt that I am no longer in the Company's Service. I shall therefore in its proper place shew that there was no Ground for your Proceedings against me, upon a Plea of Privilege of Parliament. In the mean time I desire you would be pleased to furnish me with Accomodations upon the Triton to enable me to proceed to England.

I am
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient & most Hble Servant
Robt Fletcher

Fort St George
15th Feby 1773

As the foregoing Letter was received after the Council had broke up, the Secretary was directed to send Sir Robert Fletcher's Letter to the several Members for their Sentiments upon it

16th

In Consequence of which the two following Letters were this Day wrote.—

To Sir Robert Fletcher

Sir

Letter to Sir Robert Fletcher to inform him that Capt Uptons will be desired to furnish him with Every Accomodation in his Power

I am directed by the President & Council to acknowledge the Receipt of Your Letter of Yesterday, & to acquaint You in Answer that they will write to Capt Uptons to receive you on board with your Necessaries, & that it will be recommended to him to give You Every Accomodation in his Power

I am

196 Fort St George 16 Feby 1773

Fort St George
16 Feby 1773

Sam
Sir

Your most Obed.t Humble Servant
William Petrie Junr

To the Honble Wm Upthinston Esqr
Commanding the Ship Triton

Letter to Capt Uptheinston to receive Sir Robt. Fletcher on board & to give him every Accomodation in his Power.

Sir Robert Fletcher having applied to the President & Council for a Passage & Accomodations on the Triton, I am directed by them to desire you will receive him & his Necessaries on board & that you will give him every Accomodation in your Power.

Fort St George
16 Feby 1773

I am
Sir

Your most Obedient Hble Servant
Wm Petrie Junr

17

Capt. Upthinston's Letter to the Jury

Received the following Letter from Capt Upthinston dated 17th

Sir

Be so good as to acquaint the President & Council that Sir Robert Fletcher shall be received on board according to their Desire, whenever he applys to me, the only Accomodation I can give him will be a Cabbin in the Steerage, the great Cabbin being already disposed of by their Order.—

Madras
15 Feby 1773

I am
Your most Obedient Hble Servant
Wm Upthinstone.—

To Wm Petrie Esqr
Junr

197 Fort St George 22d Febry 1773

Monday
22 Feby 1773

At a Consultation Present

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

The Minutes of last Consultation read & approved.—

Mr Johnson desires the Board will declare whether they consider Sir Robert Fletcher in the Service

The President then lays before the Board the following Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher which he received the 15th in the Evening

Letter from Sir Robt Fletcher to the Presidt on the subject of his recommendation on the Fritton & requesting that a Counsil may be call'd to take his Letter to the Board into Consideration

To the Honble Alexr Wynch Esqr
President of the Council
Sir

I applyed to You, & you promised to lay my Application before the Council the 9th Inst for Accomodations upon the Fritton to enable me to proceed to England, I applyed afterwards to the Captain of the Ships, who said he had no place for me but the Great Cabbin, which was at the Disposal of the Governor & Council as Representatives of the Company. Your Orders of the 12 Inst have removed me totally from the Service, And as it is now become my indispensible Duty to proceed to give my Attendance in Parliament, I this Day repeated my Application in a Letter to the Board, & I now request of You, that a Council may be call'd as soon as possible to give me an Answer. I told your Secretary Mr Petrie, last Night, & told Mr Johnson, one of Your Members this Morning, that my Letter would come before the Board this Day, but it seems the Board adjourned two Hours before

the

Fort S.t George 22.d Febry 1773

the Usual Time. Irequest your Answer & am

Fort S.t George
15 Feby 1773

Sir

Your most Obd.t Hble Servant

Bob.t Fletcher

To which Letter the President returned the f.ol.

Letter from the Presid.t to Sir R. Fletcher. that his Letter to the Board did not arrive till after Consultation & that he would have an Answer the next Day.—

=lowing Answer.=

Sir

I have just received your Letter of this Evening, had that of this Morning come to me & the Gentlemen of Council come in before the Business of the Day was over you would ere this have had an Answer to it As it is, you cannot have one before to morrow—

I am

Febry 15.th 1773

Sir

Sir Robert Fletcher

Your most Obed.t Servant

/signed/ A.t Wynch

The Secretary being called upon for an Explanation of that part of the foregoing Letter which relates to him ac=quaints the Board that he had no Reason to think himself authorized to report officially to the Board what was mention=ed to him in Common Conversation, but on the Contrary, he could never conceive the Propriety or Delicacy of representing to a publick Board what was mentioned to him only as an Intention, & that only by Accident, in familiar Discourse.—

The Board now proceed to take into Consideration

Mr Johnson's Question.=

Mr Stracey. Sir Robert Fletcher having been exonerated from all Service to the Company in Consequence of his Plea of Privelege of Parliament, must in my Opinion be deemed out of the Service.=

Mr Stone The Board having declared Sir Robert Fletcher free and exonerated

19 Fort S. George 22 Febry 1773

exonerated from all Service to the Company in Consequence of his Plea of the Privelege of Parliament, & Sir Robert Fletcher having availed himself thereof, & left the Command of the Fort & Garrison of Trichinopoly, without applying to the Board for Leave to do so, & proceeded to Madras in order to take his Passage to Europe to attend his Duty in Parliament I cannot but look upon Sir Robert Fletcher as entirely out of the Service.-

Mr Johnson. I do also consider him as out of the Service & will give my Reasons on a Subsequent Occasion.-

Mr Ch.e Smith. It can never be supposed, that Colonel Sir Rob.t Fletcher could with any Propriety continue in the Service after the Resolution of the Board of the 29 Ult.o in exonerating him therefrom, & reinstating General Smith in the Command of the Army, & in his Seat in Council. Indeed it is Evident that Sir Robert considered himself as no longer in the Service immediately after the Receit of the General Orders of that Day, otherwise I think he would be liable to be called to a severe Account for having quitted the Command of the Fort & Garrison of Trichinopoly in the Manner he did. These are sufficient Reasons to induce me to declare that I deem Sir Robert Fletcher no longer in the Service, & there is no Doubt but the Board thought so for the 12 th Inst. otherwise they could never have ventured to make the Military Promotions which took place on that Day.-

Mr Whitehill I consider Sir Robert Fletcher as out of the Service.

General Smith. Join of the same Opinion for the Reasons set forth in Mr Stones Minute.-

Mr Dr.e Smith. I look upon Sir Robert Fletcher as out of the Service for the Reasons which appear from the foregoing Minutes.-

The President. Sir Robert Fletcher whilst under Command to the Company

200 Fort St. George 22 Febry 1773

Company, claimed this Privilege of Parliament in which the Board admitting of, exonerated & freed him as far as in them lay from all Obligations to serve the Company, in which he avail-=ing himself of, quitted the Command of a Garrison, he was in Charge of, & came here, as he acquainted me to settle his Af-=fairs, & proceed to Europe, by which Action in my Opinion he withdrew himself from the Company's Service, & I do = therefore consider Sir Robert Fletcher as out of the Service.=

Read the following Letter from Capt Torriano with his Account of Charges incurred & the purchase of Horses for the European Troops.=

To the Honble. Alexr Wynch Esqr
President & Governor &c Councils
Fort St. George

Letter from Capt Torriano with his Acct. Offers to contract on Capt Conley's Terms & represents the Necessity of having a Surgeon with the Troops

Honble Sir & Sirs

I have the Honor to lay before you my Account with the Honorable Company including the Charges incurred by Batta during my Absence on the Service & Trumpets furnished the Cavalry, with the price of the Horses purchased according to the Return I had the Honor to deliver some time ago.=

I have duly credited for the ten Thousand Pagodas received from Burkanjee Esq. Cassedos. In answer to the proposal you were pleased to make of a Contract for the Cavalry, I shall readily agree to the same terms Capt Conley had; but as the Honorable Company will have a considerable Demand upon me for the Accoutrements sent over from

2d Fort St George 22 Febry 1773

from Europe, and it will be long before I can be reimbursed
I must intreat the Indulgence of a little time to discharge
the same.

I beg leave to represent that
the Troops I have the Honor to command are greatly
in want of a Surgeon which was always allowed the
Corps and is highly Necessary for the Good of the
Service, I could therefore wish the Honorable Board
would be pleased to take this into Consideration.—

I have the Honor to be with
great Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedt
& humble Servant
J. Col. Tonyn

Fort St George
18th Feby 1773

The—

202

The Honble Company ——— Dr

Sept 1772	To 1 Captain Batta			
from 5 to 11	To 1 Comet D°			
	To 1 Serjeant & 8 private D°			
	To 1 Havildar 1 Naigue & 12 Sepoys D°		13 .. .	94 8 44
	To 1 Captain Batta		49 25 16	
6th 1772	To 1 Comet D°		24 33 48	
	To 1 Serjeant & 8 private D°		22 17 30	
	To 1 Havildar 1 Naigue & 12 Sepoys		15 21 ..	112 13 34
	To 1 Captain Batta		48	
	To 1 Comet D°		24	
Novem 1772	To 1 Serjeant & 8 Private D°		21 29 20	
	To 1 Havildar 1 Naigue & 12 Sepoys D°		15	108 29 20
	To 1 Captain Batta		35 8 32	
	To 1 Comet D°		17 25 16	
Dec 1772	To 1 Serjeant & 8 private D°		15 38 20	
	To 1 Havildar 1 Naigue & 12 Sepoys		11	79 29 60
6th — 7th	To 2 Horses Purchased at Tripetty		300	
11	To 5 D°	D° D°	750	
12	To 2 D°	D° D°	400	
13	To 21 D°	D° D°	3100 .. .	
14	To 9 D°	D° D°	1435 .. .	
15	To 2 D°	D° D°	300	
16	To 1 D°	D° D°	170	6055 .. ..
Nov 8	To 1 Horse purchased at Arcott		200	
10	To 1 D°	D° D°	150	
14	To 3 D°	D° D°	600	
16	To 2 D°	D° D°	400	
20	To 1 D°	D° D°	250	
23	To 3 D°	D° D°	600	
29	To 2 D°	D° D°	300	
Dec 3	To 2 D°	D° D°	300	
9	To 3 D°	D° D°	450	
13	To 2 D°	D° D°	295	3545 .. .
	To 60 Hussars Cloaks for the Cavalry		300	
	To 2 Silver Horse Trumpets		100	
	To Banners for D°		100	500

Pagodas 10,394 31 78

203 Per Contra Cr

By Cash received for Bill on the House of Backcanjee Cajee & Co	10000	.. ..
By Ballance due		394 38 78
	Pay dar	10,394 38 78

J. Col Tonyn
Capt. of Hove

Fort St George 22d Feby 1773

Ordered that Capt Tonyn be paid the Ballance of the foregoing Account. The Board accept Capt. Tonyns Proposal for taking the Contract on the same terms as Capt Cowley had it, & it is Ordered that the Contract shall commence the 1st next Month. The Board cannot consent to the Appointment of a Surgeon to the Troop, as it does not appear to them Necessary - At present they are cantoned at Cuddalore, where they can have the Assistance of the Surgeons there, & when in the Field, they are seldom or ever detached from the Army or Party of Troops that they are employed with.

The following Letter is read & ordered to be sent to the Mayor's Court in Consequence of the Minute of last Consultation

To the Honble the Mayor's Court
of Madraspatnam

Gentlemen

The Letter of the 31 December from your Rec'd is to the President & Council hath been duly received In Answer to which I am directed to represent to You that as by your Reply to the 72d Paragraph of the Letter from the Honble Court of Directors of 25th March last, as contained in the abovementioned Letter of 31 December, The Board are left in Doubt whether you deem the Opinion given by the Court of Directors recited in the said 72d Para. as consistent with the Jurisdiction of his Majesty's Courts & the Laws of the Realm. The Board think it necessary to request that you will be pleased to give them your precise Declaration thereon, such as may be sufficient for the Guidance of this Government & of all others whom it may concern -

The

205 Fort St George 22d February 1773

The 12th Paragraph of the Letter from the Honble Court of Directors abovementioned was written in Answer to a Representation from the President & Council founded on an Application from the Sheriff of Madras praying Assistance in the Execution of a Warrant issued out of the Mayor's Court for seizing & taking the Body of one of the Servants of the Nabob of the Carnatic. The President & Council think it proper that you should be informed that although the Court of Directors in writing to them appear to speak their own Opinion only, yet it is their Constant Custom upon all Matters referred to them respecting the Law, or Judicial Proceedings to take the Advice & Opinion of Counsel learned in the Law, & their Instructions to the President & Council on such Points are founded on the Opinion of their Council. -

The President & Council have further directed me to acquaint You, that the Motive which induces them to make this Application proceeds from the Necessity of the thing itself, & which has been made appear by an Instance which has lately occurred respecting the arresting one Abbas Mahomed a Servant of the Nabob by a Warrant from the Mayor's Court. This Abbas Mahomed, they are informed is Cutwall of Arcot, & having been ordered by the Nabob to Madras to settle some Accounts relative to his Employ: One Ignatio De Rosario obtained a Warrant of Arrest against him, in Consequence of which he was seized & admitted to Bail. This is a Matter which has given the Nabob great Uneasiness, he has been assured that the Members of the Court in their Judicial Capacity are by no Means Subject to the Orders & Controul of this Government

That

Fort St George 22d February 1773

That all the President & Council is to represent to the Court any Grievances he may have to complain of, It must rest with the Court to act therein, as shall appear to them proper & Consistent. The Nabob hath addressed a Letter to the President & Coun. - cil, representing the Indignity he will suffer if his Servants & Dependants whom he finds it necessary to call to Madras are liable to be there arrested & Sued, & the great Detriment the Affairs of his Government must sustain thereby, that if such Practice be continued, He will be under the Necessity of leaving this place

As the Court can know Nothing as a Court, but what is brought before them regularly & officially the President & Council think it Necessary that you should be made acquainted with the following Circumstances, as they may be presumed to have great Weight in your Deliberations on this Subject.

His Majesty hath been pleased to appoint a Min- - nister Plenipotentiary to the Princes of India. His Com- - mission under the Great Seal of Great Britain hath been certified to the President & Council From the Tenor of which hath been communicated to the President & Council of his Maj- - esty's Instructions to his Minister, the Nabob is considered as one of those Princes. The Minister hath also certified to the President & Council that the Nabob is an Ally of our most gracious Sovereign, in which Light therefore the Presi- - dent & Council conceive the Nabob must be considered in the Matter in Question. -

It hath been found that the Nabob's Residence at Madras, besides the Advantage it is of to the Colony, is es- - sentially Necessary for the more speedy & Convenient Dis- - patch of the many Affairs transacting between him & his Government, & which are of the greatest Importance

to

20th Fort St George 22d Feby 1773

to the Interests of the Nation & of the Company. And in Case he should be obliged to leave the place in Consequence of any Resolution which the Honble Court may come to on this Subject it might be productive of great Inconvenience & Detriment to the Interests of the Nation the Company & the Nabob.—

I am only further directed to request that after You shall have well weighed & considered the above Circumstances as well as whatever may occur to You on the Subject that You will be pleased to give them your Clear & precise Sentiments respecting the Privileges claimed by the Nabob as it appears to the Board, that the Nabob hath a just & Natural Right to be informed in what Degree the Court shall think it Consistent to support him or restrain him in that Privilege — or in other Words — Whether in your Opinion the Servants & Dependants of the Nabob are in any Shape, & how far exempted from being Sued or arrested by Verbal Warrants from the Court. I am with Respect

Gentlemen

Your most Obedient Hble Servant

Wm Petrie Secy

Fort St. George
22 Feby 1773

The President lays before the Board the following Arrangment of Field Officers, & also the Distribution of Invalids recommended by General Smith, Approved & Ordered accordingly.—

for Arrangement of Field Officers—

Arrangment of Field Officers

1 Battallion of 1 Brigade Col Lang — Vellour

Lieut Col Fraizer
Major Fitzgerald } Vellour

2d Battalion of 1 Brig. Lieut-Col Vaughan
Major Madge } Madras

1 2

202 Fort St George 22d Febry 1773

1 Batalion of 2d Brigade — Lieut Col Bargeour } Trichinopoly
Major Harper } Vellum

2 D---- of D---- Col Flint
Lieut Col Braithwaite } Allore
Major Bellingham

Present State of Infantry Invalids on the Coast of Choromandel from the Returns of December 1772

Garrisons	Serjeants	Corporals	Drummers	Privates
Chinglepute	7	3	4	25
Cuddalore	33	12	2	73
Madras	1	2	"	26
Trichinopoly	27	9	4	122
Vellour & Amboor	4	3	"	67
Masulipatam	9	13	1	113
Vizagapatam	1	"	"	2
Total	82	42	11	428

Arrangment of Infantry Invalids 22 Febry 1773

At Chinglepute				
To join from Trichinopoly	7	3	4	25
——— Cuddalore	9	"	"	"
——— Vellour & Amboor	"	3	"	"
	"	"	"	45
	16	6	4	70
To be removed	"	"	2	"
Total	16	6	2	70
At Masulipatam				
To join from Cuddalore	9	13	1	113
——— Trichinopoly	7	"	"	"
	"	"	1	
Carried forward	16	13	2	113

209 Fort St George 22d Febry 1773

	Sergeants	Corporals	Drummers	Privates
Brought over	32	19	4	123
At Vizagapatam	1			2
Sojours from Madras	1	2	"	26
——— Cuddalore	6			
——— Chingleput				2
——— Vellour & Ambur	4	3	"	22
Total	12	5	2	50
At Cuddalore	20	9	2	73
At Trichinopoly	18	9	3	122
Grand Total	82	42	11	428

Subaltern Officers recommended to the Invalid Ser

Lieut Rankin

Ens. Moody

Minran Mathews

Train

Do. Stewart 1 Bat. of 1 Regt

Cholet

Madurk.

The following Certificate respecting Cornet Gun is laid before the Board & approved.—

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

Whereas it is Ordered by the Regulations for transacting the Business of the Honble Company's Fund for the Relief & Maintenance of European Officers & Soldiers, Invalided, or Superannuated, their Widows & the Widows of Officers & Soldiers dying in the Service that they produce a Certificate from the Commanding Officer

Certificate respecting Cornet Gun

218 Fort St George 22 Feby 1773

Officer as one of the Corps is to receive Cloathing to the Provision made by the said Military Fund.

I do Certify that George Gunthorp has served the Honble Company two Years, was a Cornet of Cavalry on this Establishment, & died at Madras in the Month of April One Thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy two.-

Given under my Hand at Fort St George in the East Indies the 19 Day of Febry 1773

Joseph Smith

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

Read the following Report from the Committee of Accounts.-

To the Honble Alex. Wynch Esqr President & Governor & Council of Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

We have examined the Accounts of the following Out Garrisons for December Viz

Ongole
Vellour
Amboor
Trichinopoly
Vellum
Madura
Palamcotah

& Camp Disbursments by Lieut Col Boyce

& by Lieut Col Braithwaite & have to remark

In the Camp Disbursments of the Paymaster to explain the Troops commanded by Lt Lane.-

Col Boyce's Charge is made for

Repairs of Quarters of P. 61. 38 Lewis

211 Fort St George 22d Febry 1773

Necessary this Charge may be,
We beg leave to point out to Your
Honor &c as being irregular. — We are with Respect

Fort St George 20 Febry 1773

Horible Sir & Sirs

Your most Obed. Hble Servants

John Smith
Charles Smith
Ge Moubray
Ed. Saunders

Inr Renton
Joseph Revell

Letter from the Nabob with Bills for 90,000 Ps —

Received a Letter from the Nabob as entered in Country Correspondence N26 with two Bills on Buckanjee & Govindjee for 90,000 Pagodas payable 21 h Inst. on Account of the Hire for Trichinopoly &c —

W Monck
John Smith
Joseph Smith

Charles Smith
Sam. Johnston
J Hinde
Ch Stracey

212 Fort St George 1st March 1773

Monday 1 March

At a Consultation Present

Alexander Wynch Esqr. Governor President
John Smith . Joseph Smith
John Whitehill . Samuel Johnson
Charles Smith . John Maxwell Stone
Edward Stracey

The Minutes of last Consultation read & approved

Mr Johnson having Signified at the last Consultation, that he would give his Reasons for being of Opinion that Sir Robert Fletcher was not therein the Service he accordingly delivers in the following Minute.-

Mr Johnson's Minute on the Question whether Sir Robert Fletcher is considered in the Service or not.

At the last Consultation I gave it as my Opinion that Sir Robert Fletcher was not therein the Service, Because at the Council the 12 January declared they meant not to deprive him of his Seat at the Board, or the Company of his Military Abilities, & in Answer to Sir Robert's Letter of the 13th & 14th January, the Board wrote to him on the 18th last, that their Proceedings with respect to him were not intended to operate as a Dismission, yet without any fresh Matter & after Sir Robert had known the most premature Obedience to the Board, & to the Order if served by the Governor the 13 January, the Board did on the 30th of the same Month deprive Sir Robert of the Command of the Army & his Seat in Council, It is therefore my Opinion that Sir Robt: Fletcher has been driven from the Service contrary to the Desire, & the Real Interests of the Company's Affairs.-

Peter Perkins

Mr Johnson delivers in the following Dissent to the Resolution of the Board the 12th respecting the Military

Fort St George 1st March 1773

Military Promotions —

Mr Johnson's Dissent to the Military Promotions —

I objected in Council of the 12th to the Military Appointments then made, & altho' I did not peremptorily declare an Intention to dissent yet on a Reference to the Company's Orders on this Head, I think myself obliged to enter my Reasons for the same, Because by those Appointments, Lieut Col. Flint is promoted to the Rank of a full Colonel, Major Fraizer to a Lieut Col. & Captain Madge to a Major & which is altering the Establishment fixed by the Honble Court at the Recommendation of Lord Clive & the General Lawrence & Coote that Establishment was made for two Colonels only, so that when I consider the late Argument opposed to Sir Robert Fletcher's Request of an Aid de Camp & which did not before occur to me, namely the additional Expence it would be to the Company it seems highly inconsistent to admit of the present Promotions —

The Board will also recollect to their Remembrance that Sir Robert Fletcher very lately, & in Consultation expressed Sentiments not at all favourable to Major Fraizer's Promotion & which was the Cause of his being ordered hither from Ellore. This I thought it my Duty to remind the Council of when General Smith delivered in his Minute of the 12th Instant desiring to be excused from taking the Command of one of the Brigades —

I am & shall always be concerned when I may be obliged to differ in Opinion from the rest of the Board but will ever endeavour to preserve a Consistency of Conduct & to abide by that System, & those Orders which the Honble Court have laid down for our Guidance. —

Thos. Johnson

The

24th Fort St George 1st March 1773

The following Letter has been received from Sir Robert Fletcher

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esqr
President & Governor &c Council
of Fort St George
Gentlemen

Sir Robert Fletcher for Copying the Paras in the last General Letter, which reflects on his Conduct

In my Letter to You of 20th of last Month I expressed a Desire that you would furnish me with Copies of Every thing You might write to the Honble the Court of Directors touching my Conduct: if any Information be true some of the Paragraphs of your General Letter by the Nassau, are filled with the grossest Assertions very injurious to me. I therefore request You would furnish me with Copies of those Paragraphs that I may take Measures to refute them by the most solemn & incontestible Evidence of Gentlemen who were Witnesses to Every part of my Conduct at this Board, I desire also to have an Opportunity of signing those Consultations & Select Committee at which I sat & voted as a Member.

I am
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient & most Hble Servant
Rob.t Fletcher

Fort St George
24th February 1773

The Board cannot allow Sir Robert Fletcher Extracts from the General Letter

The Board, Mr Johnson excepted, are of Opinion that Sir Robert Fletcher cannot be furnished with any Paras from the General Letter to the Honble Court, being they conceive, contrary to the Custom of the Service. And were such a Practice to be once introduced the Consequences might prove very prejudicial to the Company's System — Sir Robert Fletcher is well acquainted with the Grounds of the Proceedings against him — They appear upon the publick Record, & can fully & candidly be represented to the Honble Court, when

will judge & determine as they see proper.—

Sir Robert Fletcher is at Liberty to come to the Office & sign the Consultations & Select Committees at which he was present

Mr Johnson is of Opinion that Sir Robert Fletcher should be furnished with Copies of the Paragraphs of the General Letter where his Character has been unfavorably represented to the Honble Court that he may have an Opportunity of Vindicating himself.—

The following Letter having been received from Sir Robt Fletcher is now laid before the Board

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esq
& Council of Fort St George
Gentlemen

Letter from Sir Robt Fletcher to be reimbursed his Expences & for House Rent &c.

When I left England, I was informed by Mr Perling the Chairman, that it was very probable I should find Disturbances upon my Arrival on this Coast in Consequence whereof I found that Captain Morris of the Coldbrook had resolved to stop Madras, & to proceed directly to Bengal, I took my Passage from the Cape to Anjengo upon the Brittania which put me to the Expence of one hundred Pounds to Capt Smithson of the Brittania for my Passage, & two hundred Pagodas to Capt Richardson of a Country Ship for bringing my Baggage from the Coldbrook after her Arrival in Bengal. When I was ordered by the Board to repair to Trichinopoly in the Month of February last, altho' the Order was afterwards countermanded by the Governor, I was at the Expence of Eighty Seven Pagodas which I paid to Messrs Davidson & Petrie for Palanqueen Boys which were placed upon the Road for me by those Gentlemen.—

I beg leave to apply to You to reimburse me in those Expences, & likewise in that of House Rent which

T. Fl.

216 Fort St George 1st March 1773

Mr Du Pre promised me from the time of my Arrival at Madras. &c

Fort St George
25 Febry 1773

Sam
Gentlemen
Yours most Obed. Humble Servant
Robt Fletcher

Cannot indemnify Sir Robt for his Expences from the Cape

The Board having taken Sir Robt Fletcher's Application to be reimbursed the Expence he incurred by taking his Passage from the Cape on the Brilliania into Consideration are of Opinion that it cannot be allowed as the Honble Court have signified their Disapprobation on similar Circumstances more particularly in their General Letter 25 March last & it however Agreed to represent Sir Robt's Request to the Court of Directors — As to the Expence Sir Robt was put to in paying Pattamkarrs Boys on the Road to Trichinopoly. It is Agreed that he be allowed full Batta from the time he received the Orders to hold himself in Readiness to proceed to Trichinopoly, until the Order was countermanded by the Governor conformable to the Usage of the Service in like case.

to have full Batta from the time of the Order to hold himself in Readiness until countermanded by the Governor

— Respecting the Application for House Rent, it is the Sense of the Board that no Allowance can be made on that Account, as there is no Precedent for doing so, but as Sir Robert Fletcher represents that Mr Du Pre made him a Promise of House Rent; the Board think it will be proper to represent this Matter to the Court of Directors.

His Application for House Rent to be referred to the Court of Directors —

Read the following Letter from Mr Macleay Dated 26 Febry

To the Honble Alexr Wynch Esqr
President & Governor & Council of Fort St George
Gentlemen

Letter from Mr Macleay on the Conduct of the Majority of the Council during his Absence

Your Secretary has sent me the Minutes of Your Consultation

217 Fort S. George 1st March 1773.

Consultation of the 30th January, the Day you thought proper to
Suspend me from the Company's Service, I shall answer them
fully, & doubt not but I shall make it appear to the Court of
Directors, that your Resolutions against me have been more
guided by Violence & Oppression, exercised in the most arbitrary
Manner, than by that Equity & Moderation which is always
so strongly recommended recommended by our Employers.
Your only charge against me except in that your late
President says in a separate Minute, & to which I shall answer
in its proper Place, is betraying a private Conversation
& the Word private you have taken from myself, I did
call the Conversation private, not from its Nature & Tendency which was public enough, but because no one was
present when it passed between Mr Du Pré & myself, &
as I could never imagine so ungenerous & unfair a Construction would be put on my calling it so. If you really believed
that what I repeated at the Board did happen, & your
Accusation against me could be only founded on such
Belief; you must give up entirely the Veracity of Mr
Du Pré, for he declares in the most solemn Manner
that he never expressed himself in the
Manner I had insinuated to the Board, if on the Contrary, you believed Mr Du Pré with what Propriety?
or on what Grounds can you accuse me of betraying
a Conversation in which I had no existence, as the only
part of the Conversation you can find fault with,
is the part he positively denies. There is likewise
one other Circumstance you seem not to have attended
to which is, That to betray any thing necessarily
implies a Confidence reposed by enjoining Secrecy
Nothing of that kind appears, and it be supposed

Turn Ty

Fort St. George 1st March 1773

from Mr Du Pre's first Declaration which he afterwards so flatly contradicts for after denying the Conversation he says he would deliver in a Minute in the Afternoon Since Mr Mackay had avowedly betrayed the Confidence of private Conversation & the Majority give their Opinion & pass Sentence on that very Supposition, and what is still more Extraordinary, and shews with what little Attention Votes are sometimes given at the Board on the most Serious Subjects, the two Members who voted against my Suspension, call it betraying a private Conversation; because Mr Du Pre says so on his Motion; & I had unintentionally called it a private Conversation myself - After Mr Du Pre had effected his Purpose on my leaving the Consultation Room, by persuading the Members that the Conversation was only private but Confidential, let me request your Attention to what he says in the Minute he entered on the Records in the Afternoon or hereafter declaring that he could not flatly contradict what I had said or any thing else I might impute to him, that I was his Persecuter & inveterate Enemy, he goes on by Saying. Now I appear to every Man of Candour upon Earth, whether there is a Similitude or Probability, that to such a Man I should open myself with so much Confidence even had my Opinion been so, which it is not &c. Can Your Gentlemen, require a stronger Proof than this that the Conversation was not confidential, & had Mr Du Pre made this Declaration in the Morning before you gave your Opinions instead of making it in the Afternoon, Can I possibly suppose you would have given the Reasons you did to the Court of Directors, for suspending me from the

Service

24 Fort St George 1st March 1773

Sir, Have your Accusations against me been for slandering the Presidents Character, there might be some Colour of Justice for believing you, so till I had given sufficient Proof of the truth of what I asserted, but as your Sentence now stands recorded it is flatly contradicted by the very Man you mean to join in Opinion with.—

It is said by Mess. Du Pre, Stone & Stracey that I thought Mr Wynch unfit for the Government & could have objected to the Paragraphs about him in the General Letter by the Nottingham & to his being called up from Masulipatam, this Remark is just, & I will answer it by acknowledging that it was my Duty to have objected on the Occasions abovementioned, that I sincerely intended doing it, & that Nothing prevented my doing it, but the very bad Opinion I flatteringly entertained of Mr Du Pre Sir Robert Fletcher & myself had many Conversations on the Impropriety of his going Home before a Successor was appointed, & particularly of his leaving the Government in such Hands, & this I persisted longer than Sir Robert Fletcher did, in thinking that We could not consistently with our Duty avoid protesting against such a Measure; yet We at last agreed in Opinion that the Service might better suffer by the Absence from Mr Wynch's want of Abilities than from Mr Du Pre's want of Principles, as well as from his violent & unruly Temper, which made it impossible to differ in Opinion with him without quarrelling.—

If what I have said already, is not sufficient to convince you As an Incontestable Proof that Mr Du Pre has been guilty himself of what he has so unjustly charged me with, let me once more refer you to the

Letter

22 Fort St George 1st March 1773

Letter to Sir John Lindsay of the 29 May 1771 wherein Mr Du Pré confesses, that the Conversation he mentioned in a former publick Letter to that Gentleman was positively agreed to be private. It is not enough for Mr Du Pré to say in Excuse that Sir John Lindsay had first mentioned another Conversation that he thought was private this not positively & expressly agreed to be so. For, however it Cannot be Sir John Lindsay might be, it is certain Mr Du Pré by his own Confession did betray a Conversation that he had agreed to keep private, let me also refer You to Your own Minutes of 14 January, wherein a great part of that long Consultation is taken up with Mr Du Pré recalling what passed in private between Sir Robert Fletcher & himself, which I believe you will allow was not intended to be made public, & with which Sir Robert Fletcher taxed him at the Board.—

Tho' the Proof I have given You of the Truth of what I asserted at the Board the 30 January would be sufficient to convince unbiassed Judges, since it is the strongest Evidence the Law requires, yet to Your Gentlemen I will give another Proof equally strong, & much more Circumstantial, & which was totally unknown to me at the time I mentioned to You my Conversation with Mr Du Pré; It is a Declaration on Oath from Sir Robert Fletcher of what passed between himself & Mr Du Pré on the same Subject, you will therein see Mr Du Pré Opinion, not only of Mr Wynch, but likewise of the rest of the Board; I send You enclosed with it a Copy of my Application to Sir Robert Fletcher & his Answer, & beg that both with the Declaration may be entered on your Record. But Gentlemen allowing your Accusation

23d Fort St George 6th March 1773

Accusation against me be Carried by me in the Manner you have stated it to the Court of Directors, Carry on Proceedings against me be in any Degree warranted by the Spirit of an English Government, Can you possibly suppose it to be consistent with any Idea of Justice. That after I was forced by your Order to leave the Consultation Room, Mr Du Pré & Mr Wynch should be suffered to remain there, Sit in Judgment upon me, Move the more exasperated against me, because to expose the false Assertions of Teale for the Service in One, I was obliged to mention the Incapacity of the other, Mr Du Pré in the Chair too, aggravating Every Circumstance against me & influencing your Minds so strongly by biased before in his Favour & to my Prejudice on Account of the Opposition I made to some of his & your Measures, whilst I was precluded from saying a Word in my own Defence tho' I had so much at Stake.—

Depriving a Member of the Government & one of your Fellow Servants of the Exercise of the Power with which he is invested by the Constitution, & passing a Sentence to ruin him in the good Opinion of his Employers are Matters of so serious a Nature, that whatever your own private Opinions might be of my Offence you ought to have allowed me at least a Hearing, before you came to a final Determination; but instead of doing me that common Justice, you decided that Affair immediately after I left you, & tore of the Majority against me two Parties concerned: I might, if I had been allowed urged many things to the Board, that would have had Weight, for I dare say Some of the Majority had Scruples & Doubts about what they did; I might also on Reflection have requested Leave to withdraw what I said in a

ga in to

222 Fort St George 1st March 1773

with respect to Mr Lynch when I can sincerely say I
was happy, as my Design was not to injure him, but to
acquit myself of what I conceived to be my Duty to the
Publick, by giving my Reasons for the Dissent I entered
on Consultation the 27 January against the extrava-
gant Pretensions to Zeal, Mr Du Pre had assumed in the
General Letter from the Civil Department to which
it is so contrary to his Real Character, as appears from
the Conversation I have recited as well as from Numer-
ous other Facts, that I deemed it unjust to the Publick
the Court of Directors I should be informed of it & could by
no Means join in giving him a Merit I knew he did
not possess. Yet I am stigmatized by Law for this Con-
duct as if I had been guilty of the greatest Fraud & Perjury-
sions, but I have this Satisfaction that it is not in your
Power to fix the least Blemish on my Character with
Respect to Integrity, Capacity, or Attachment to the
Service, wherein I am very certain you would have
done it; whether the Crime you have now made up
against me merits the Censure you have past, I
submit to Your Masters & mine. —

Mr Stracy in his Minute declares that it is
with extreme Concern & Regret that he gives an Opinion
on this Occasion, but has given it, because it appeared to
him the Conversation was not only private but Con-
fidential, that his Friend Mr Du Pre just before, done
in the most Solemn Manner the Existence of such
Conversation, & given abundance of Reasons to prove
that it could not have been Confidential. I agree
entirely in Opinion with Mr Stracy, that if private
Conversations which have passed among Gentlemen

a Member

 Fort St George 1st March 1773

of the Board are to be kept up. In a word a Matter of Business is impossible that Harmony & mutual Confidence can subsist but if this had been really the Case with regard to me, why should Mr Stracey be so violent on this particular occasion & pass over in Silence the many private Conversations brought by Mr Du Pré to the Board. Mr Stracey should have first pulled out the Beam out of his own Eye before he ventured to have seen for my having a Mote in mine, he should have avoided lending Money to the People of the Country at the exorbitant Interest of about 3 P Cent P Mensem payable Every two Months Non Link with accumulated Interest comes at the End of the Year to about 50 P Cent, well knowing that such usurious Practices as well as Lending Money at any Interest more than 12 P C P Annum, is contrary to the repeated & positive Orders of the Court of Directors. -

Mr Stone in his Opinion, is not satisfied with my merely not-
-ing for my being Suspended from the Service, but he must add Insult to Injustice, by declaring that he thinks me unworthy to continue a Member at the Board, Were Mr Stone's Private Character to be strictly examined, I am persuaded greater Flaws would be found in it to render him unworthy of a Seat there, than any thing that can be imputed to me, for saying that Mr Du Pré thought Mr Wynch unequal to the Charge of Government. Mr Stone's Arbitrary Principles & Overbearingness to the Will of Majority Power, are sufficiently well known not to need any Comment from me -

I hope what I have said & the Reasons I have given for mentioning the Conversation in Question will be thought a sufficient Justification for my having done it & that the Charge of betraying private Conversation brought against me will be in General Terms but without proper

Distinction

Fort St George 1 March 1773

Distinction of Circumstances will be deemed very different from the real State of the Fact.—

Your refusing me a Copy of the Paragraph wrote against me in the General Letter by the Nassau is, I think a Clear Proof you were convinced Your selves it could be easily refuted, has Tho' given me an Opportunity of answering it, but as You have not, I can only rely on the Justice of the Court of Directors, that they will not take my Character from your ill grounded Assertions & Misrepresentations for I am perfectly well satisfied that Every thing you have Said, or can Say against me will not convince any Man of Candour or Honor, that ever knew me well, that I am malicious designing, or a bad Member of Society.—

Your late President in his separate Minute entered in the Afternoon of 30 January, Says, that I am a designing, himself an undesigning Man, that he has too great a Regard to Truth to assert positively what did pass between Us, that I had been for some Months before this Conversation his Secreter at the Board, his inveterate Enemy, that I objected & disputed almost Every thing he proposed which would admitt of a Colourable Opposition, that I harrassed him with vexatious Litigations under a pretence of a Freedom of Debate, that I forced him with others to clear the Govern= ment at an improper time, & wanted to wrest the Power from him, & that he is unable any longer to hold the Reins of Government &c. Such Exclamations, Gentlemen, are but the Ravings of a Man detected in bad Actions, which he knew he could neither answer to his Employers or to the Publick & there= fore I shall not take up your time with answering Such Inconsistencies for you must know & Every Individual in Madras knows, that Mr Du Pre had determined on going

Home

225 Fort St George 1 March 1773

Home, & had even taken his Passage on the Nassau before the
latter End of October, when the first Dispute in Council happened
except my Difference with him about the Maravar Expedition
& Mr Benfield's Appointment to Balumtang han, & this saying
that I had been for a Considerable time his Persecuted Adver-
-sary Enemy, agrees but very ill with his having been always
House a very few Days before my Suspension at an Entertain-
-ment made on purpose for him & others. I believe you never
all present, & till I was Suspended, I never to my Knowledge
missed being at his House once a Week on Council Days had
he mentioned any particular Instances of my having acted
in the Manner he imputes to me, I could easily have answ-
-ered them, but as Nothing of what he says appears on the Rec-
-ords, & as his Accusations are General, I can only say in General
that they are false & without the least Foundation, Still
Nevertheless recall to Your Memory Some Particulars from
which I hope it will appear to the Court of Directors that
you have represented my Character & Conduct to them in
a very unfair & partial Light, & that instead of my from-
-ing Disputes & Dissentions, I have often for the Sake of Peace
& Harmony consented in Measures from which did not materi-
-ally affect the Service, that never contrary to my own Sen-
-timents & Opinions, that I co-operated cordially with
Mr Du Pré as long as I could persuade myself his Ac-
-tions tended in any Degree to the Good & Credit of the Ser-
-vice, & that my Opposition to his Measures & Principles
was the Effect of Necessity & not Choice, leaving me Alter-
-native but either to do so, or to prostitute my Sense &
Judgment to his Arbitrary & Tyrannical Will. How ill
I can be believed, that any Man in his Senses who knew
Mr Du Pré's Temper & Principles as well as the Inhabitants
he

he had on the Majority of his Council would have opposed him merely for the Sake of Opposition, for if he could have proceeded such Length in endeavouring to reign Monarch we are willing to stand or fall by the Rectitude of those Measures, what Chance could a Faction & Opposition have had of escaping the Destruction they would have merited — I cannot be well known to You, Gentlemen, that General Smith resigned the Service in August last out of Regard & Friendship to Sir Robert Fletcher, or from other Motives but known to himself, otherwise it is reasonable to suppose that he would have kept the Command, till the Moment he embarked for Europe, this whole Transaction I have Reason to believe, was known to Mr Du Pre & approved by him for I have heard him more than once declare, how much he wished to see Sir Robert Fletcher at the Head of the Army, but Notwithstanding this, you must remember how very different such Declarations were from the Manner in which he introduced to the Board, General Smith's Letter of 11th August requesting Leave to resign the Service & recommending Sir Robert Fletcher as an Officer of great Abilities, when I found that Letter was given Credit to General Smith without the Leave of the Board, & that he had determined himself or been prevailed on by others not to resign the Service, I confess I was active in bringing the Matter then before the Board, as the Minutes has been taken when the Letter was first read, as well from a Conviction that the Service would greatly benefit from Sir Robert Fletcher being at the Head of the Army, as from a Belief that Lenox extremely ill used, by both Mr Du Pre & General Smith, & it was in Consequence of my having waited on Mr Du Pre Friday Morning the 6th of August that General Smith was sent

for

Fort St George 1 March 1773

for that Day to Council that his Letter of the 11th might be taken into Consideration & tho' the whole of what passed that Day at the Board is not entered on your Minutes, yet it is very Material for me Now, it should be known to the Court of Directors, in order to shew them how little disposed I was to enter into Contests with the President & a Majority of the Board. After the Council met, I desired General Smith to lay before the Board his Letter to them of the 11th he answered, that he had Wrote it, I told him as the Purport of it was but short he might write another then at the Board he then said, that People laughed at him for giving up what was his Right, & that he could not mean to resign the Service till he went away, unless it was taken from him, or Words to that Purpose, I then moved, that General Smith's Letter of the 11th desiring Leave to resign the Service should be taken into Consideration, & afterwards added, that instead of accepting his Resignation immediately he should be desired to continue in the Service, till he had given an Answer to the Letter wrote him by the Board regarding the Disrespect shewn the Young Nabob by the Troops & had given an Explanation of what passed at Hyderabad relative to the Plunder taken from that Fort. Mr Bar Pre objected to the last part of my Motion, I wanted to insert in the Room of it, that General Smith be desired to continue in the Service without any Limitation, he offered likewise to put a previous Question, but dropped it many asking him if he meant to surprize us, what I had to offer to the Board. Nevertheless to avoid Contests, I gave up my Motion with a Declaration that I thought the Method proposed, the most to General Smith's Credit, since no good Reason could be given, but the one I mentioned for not

complying

Fort St George 1st March 1773

accepting Sir Reignation immediately, & more particu-
-larly as he had in his Letter so strongly recommended the
Officer who was to succeed him, & when the Council broke up
it is agreeing that Nothing of what passed should be mi-
-nuted, but the President finding it was publickly talked
of brought it on again a few Days afterwards, & General
Smith of his own Accord at the Desire of others wrote another
Letter desiring Leave to resign the Service, &c. Reference to the
to the sentiments of the Board with Regard to General
Smith's Conduct in their Letter to him of 2d Nov. 1767 in their
Remarks on one of his Letters entered on Consultations to the Date
of my Remembrance in March 1769, all penned by Mr Du
Pre, & then let the Court of Directors judge, whether the good
of their Service was Mr Du Pre's motive & Intent, for wishing
that General Smith might continue in the Service whether
he wanted to resign it, to resume the Command again,
after Sir Robert Fletcher was in the Command. As I
know very well he was not a Man to be led to approve of any
thing he disliked, & as I know his Temper
Temper could not bear any Contradiction, I requested and
obtained a Promise from Sir Robert Fletcher, that he
would make his Study to agree with Mr Du Pre in every
thing while he continued in the Government, provided
he could do so with Honor, & the Duty he owed to the Service
To confirm the Truth of what I say I beg leave to refer Your
not only to Sir Robert Fletcher Letters of, but likewise to
Mr M. Pherson, who was one of Mr Du Pre's Family &
cannot be supposed to be prejudiced against him, when
it was proposed at the Board I believe Soon after the Di-
-spute about Lieut. Hempson's Appointment happened to
Come to some Resolution regarding the Lives of Natives
but

22d Fort St George 1st March 1773

Military Duty to be observed between the Governor & Commanding Officer of the Troops. I put down my Opinion in writing, Mr Stracey did the same, & both were read at the Board & approved by the Governor, tho' not entered on the Minutes, As the Consideration of that Subject was put off. They leave to send you mine. Now, that the Court of Directors may see my Opinions & Principles are not such as you have represented them. I understand Mr Du Pre has said, that on my Journey against him proceeded from his refusing to write to his Friends in Europe to interest themselves to get the Bar I was under in the Service taken off. all that Ever passed between him & me on that Subject I do write with Mr Mc Pherson in Letters acquainted, was one Morning I was with him in his Carriage, I told him I was desirous to get that Bar removed & asked him if he thought any thing could be done here to bring it about. he replyed, that Nothing could be done in that line, it must be done at home. I immediately turned the Discourse to something else, & never before or after, opened my Lips to him about the Matter, & so far was I from pressing him as he has insinuated, that I would not let Mr Hastings speak to him in my Behalf, tho' he offered to do it. & so little Resentment did I bear to Mr Du Pre on that Score, that I continued for many Months afterwards as much attached to him as Ever. I was, & never missed going to his House almost Every Day till the Dispute happened about taking off Mr Bensfield's Suspension, & there a Circumstance or two is Necessary to mention. When my Reply sent to Mr Sec. F. to Mr Du Pre Dijeun for taking off Mr Bensfield's Suspension was read at the Board he turned Pale with Anger & Rage, & said he was too deeply affected to sit there, but that they might come to what Resolution on it they thought proper

he

Him withdrew, & Said the same of my own accord. The Consequence was, that for the Sake of Peace & Harmony which I declared at the Board was my only Motive, I not only consented to withdraw such parts of my Reply as gave him Offence to Mr Du Pre, but even consented to make him an Apology for having wrote what I then was true, & what he furnished Us. I should not appear on the Record this Mr Du Pre gave this as a Proof of my unbecoming Behaviour, & Says, that the Board obliged me to ask his Pardon; let Sir Rob! Fletcher who proposed measures more than any Member at the Board to yield to Mr Du Pre, be asked whether he did so from a Conviction that I was in the Wrong, or for the Sake of Peace & Harmony. Had my Reply contained any thing that would have injured me in the Opinion of the Court of Directors is it not more reasonable to suppose that Mr Du Pre would have insisted on Every Word of it being entered on the Records, than that any part of it Should be withdrawn, that reply is still in your Secretary's Office in its Original Form, & I have no kind of Objection, to have that part of it which was then withdrawn, now entered on your Records that the Court of Directors may see, whether I deserved the Censure which Mr Du Pre says was passed on me or whether my Motive was such as I have said above, It was whilst I was drawing out the Reply, that I found out in the Secretary's Office a Consultation of 10 June drawn out fair & ready for signing, with long Remarks on one of Mr Benfield's Letters wrote by Mr Du Pre in which Remarks has never been read at the Board nor sent round to the Members when Summoned this in Council Consultation Directs on the first Minutes of that Consultation being brought more into Such Remarks more mentioned, Mr Du Pre called me

me whether I meant to return the Secretary. tho I was perfectly well Convinced that the Secretary would never have entered any thing on the Consultations that had not passed at the Board, unless directed by the President so to do, I dropped the Matter for the Sake of Peace & Quietness & contented my self with entering my Dissents to some of the Remarks.

The last Instance I shall mention is, That on the 11 Janry the Council was adjourned to Thursday the 14th to take Mr Du Pres Minute regarding the Line of Military Duty between him & the Commanding Officer of the Troops into Consideration, & it is so wrote in the first Minute but when the Secretary some Days afterwards brought the Minute drawn out at large to be read & passed at the Board, it was only ordered, That the Consideration of Mr Du Pres Minute should be deferred to the next Military Consultation I took Notice of this Deviation from the first Minutes, because I thought it very Material & had it immediately altered at the Board, & it now stands on the fair Consultation as it did originally on the first Minutes, let any one who reads this declare, whether he thinks how Alteration & have mentioned was made by Accident or with Design to make the Adjournment correspond with the extraordinary Council called on Tuesday Morning the 12th. –

Whether all those Particulars I have mentioned are Proofs of the Principles which Mr Du Pre & the Majority have imputed to me, or Proofs of Mr Du Pres own Principles, I leave the Honble Court to judge. –

Your having denied me Access to the Records has put it out of my Power to give my Reasons at large to the Court of Directors for the Dissents I entered on Consultation 27 Janry to parts of the General Letter from the Bengal Department

232 Fort St George 1 March 1773

Depatchments Dated Nevertheless I say a few Words here from my Memory, if Inhaccts be mistaken in any thing I quote I hope I shall be excused. The Court of Directors as well as Ingenuity that the present Method of setting in their Commanders by the Duke of Grafton, order that the Circars particularly that of Cicacole, should be let to renters, that is to the highest Bidder provided they gave first rate Security for paying the Rent, In the General Letter you tell the Court of Directors as well as Ingenuity that the present Method of setting with the Zemindars is more for the Company's Interest than Letting the Country to Renters, & you refer to Reasons given by Mr Andrews against adopting this last Mode it is very important that this Gentleman would have used any other Method of managing the Revenues than the one he followed himself, & by which he gained in so little, that he has carried Home a considerable Fortune after a Residence of about two Years & a half to the Northward, that was my Reason for saying, that I thought his Authority ought not to be altogether Credited, It does not add nor diminish of the least Doubt with me, but that there have been very great Abuses committed in the Management of the Company's Territorial Revenues, & more particularly in the Circars, & therefore no better Proof of it than the Fortunes that have been acquired by the Chiefs of Masulipatam & the late President & I pray your Reasons to believe that I am neither Boundsman to any New Revenue under this Presidency might be enjoined to two Lacks of Pagodas a Year more than they yield at present to the Company without destroying the Inhabitants, but to effect this Gradual Reformation must by a Law, You are the best Judges in what Manner they are to be brought about. —

The

233 Fort St. George 1 March 1773

The whole of Sir Robert Fletcher's Conduct is sufficiently represented to the Court of Directors in the General Letter from the Military Department, but more particularly in that you urge as a Reason for not taking his Letters of the 13 & 14th January into Consideration before his Departure to Trichinopoly, That the whole Military Corps had their Eyes fixed on the Contest between the Governor & Sir Robert in patient to know on which side the Scale of Power would preponderate, Bold Assertions whether true or false make Impressions at first, & it must be on this Principle, the Board have made this Declaration for I am sure they cannot have risen it on any Principle of Truth, Sir Robert Fletcher, it is well known was exceedingly desirous of establishing Strict Order & Discipline in the Army, & soon after his Coming to the Command, declared often that he found it impossible to do so under those Restrictions he found the Command oppressed with & considering himself as the responsible Officer, he thought it his Duty to complain of those Restrictions & to learn from the Board in what his Line of Duty was: The Board were so sensible of the propriety of coming to a Determination on that Point, that they actually appointed a Day to take into Consideration the Line of Military Duty to be observed between him & the Governor, It must also be fresh in the Memory of Every Member how often Sir Robert Fletcher declared at the Board as well as in his Minutes, That he wanted no more than to know his Line of Duty pointed out by the Board, & that he would always act strictly in Obedience to that Line, whatever it might be. How then can you with any Justice attempt to throw an Odium on Sir Robert Fletcher, as if he had been the Means of raising a factious Spirit in the

238 Fort St George 1st March 1773

in the Army in how great a Station, I have so far Sport exerted
that if it had existed, it could not be imputed to Ignor-
The Example of Obedience you talk of is a most manifest
but the Pretence if it does not answer to serve the Pur-
pose to which you have applied it.-

I am sorry I have been under the Ne-
cessity of making this Address so long, but I thought
it was all I had said was necessary for my Justification

I am Respectfully
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient &
Most Humble Servant
Geo Mackay

Fort St George
26 Feby 1773.-

To Sir Robert Fletcher

Sir

As I am certain I must have mentioned to You some
Months ago, a Conversation that passed between Mr De Pui
& myself on the Impropriety of his leaving the Govern-
ment in the Hands of Mr Wynch, & as I have been Sus-
pended from the Company's Service for having written
that Conversation at the Council Board, I must request
that you will declare what you recollect about that
Matter, as well as the Conversations you & I has had
on the same Subject, & the Reasons that induced
you to protest positively against Mr De Pui going home
before a Successor was appointed. I must further request
of you to declare whether any thing ever passed between
Mr De Pui & yourself on this Subject, & the particulars
of what did pass between you. As it is very Material for
me Your Declaration on these Matters should Commode

235 Fort St George 1st March 1773

in the most Solemn Manner, Sworn and sign that You will make Oath to the Truth of it, before a proper Magistrate; I must also inform you, that in a Minute entered by Mr Da Pri on the Consultations the 30 Janry he says that if he is to be blamed for quitting the Government at an improper time, I know who opposed it Sampson in Council ought to answer for it; The first Opposition began in Council about the Nabob's Title the 30 October & I believe that you know as well as any one that Mr Da Pri was resolved long before that time on going Home.—

Fort St George 20 Febry 1773

I am
Sir
Your most Obedient Humble
Humble Servant
Geo Mackay

(Copy)

To Geo: Mackay Esqr

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 20th Inst. The Circumstances you mention are so nearly affecting both You & the Company, that I cannot Hesitate in any Point in withholding from you that Information which lies in my Power to give, as well for the Vindication of your Character & Conduct, as for the Support of Truth, & thus exposing those injuries by Falsities which have been maliciously exerted against you. I therefore send You herewith a Declaration of what I recollect touching the Subjects of your aforementioned Letter.—

I am astonished at those bold Assertions which were advanced & urged by Mr Da Pri on the 30 Janry.—

Do

236 Fort St George 1st March 1773

I do not know that I ever had a Dispute in Council with Mr Du Pre but the 29 or 30th of October last, & there is no Doubt that his Passage was taken in the Nassau long before that Period.

Fort St George
22d Feby 1773

I am
Sir
Your most Obedt
& Most humble Servant
Robt Fletcher

In Consequence of a Letter which I have received from Mr Mackay Dated 20 Inst. I declare that on the Beginning of October last, I did more than once wait on Mr Du Pre, & represent to him the Impropriety of his quitting the Government before the Appointment of a Successor to the Chair, & leaving the Management to Mr Wynch and a Weak Council, Mr Du Pre did by express Words, acknowledge the Weakness of Mr Wynch & the Council, but said "that by taking Mr Cotsford into Council & calling him from Ganjam in "times of Difficulty & Trouble, we might conduct the "Affairs of Government without him" Mr Du Pre "declaring that he would go home, because if Sapor "Jan did not come to India, Mr Sullivan he thought "would, whose Connections with the Nabob would make his Government very unpleasant to him" or Words to that Purpose. I recollect also Mr Mackay mentioning to me I think in September last, that he had represented to Mr Du Pre the Impropriety of his leaving the Government to a Man of Mr Wynch's Weakness & that Mr Du Pre had acknowledged the Truth of his / Mr Mackay's / Observation with Respect to Mr

Wynch

237 Fort St George 1st March 1773

Wynch, but said, he must go Home, or Words to that Purpose, & Sev-
=eral Letters in Mr Mackay's custody long in Opinion,
that it would be necessary to protest against Mr Du Pré's guid-
=ing the Chair, before the Appointment from Long Land of a
Surveyor, & my Leaving told him, I think in November, that
upon the whole I thought the publick Affairs were in more
Danger from Mr Du Pré's Weakness, than from Mr Wynch's
Weakness, or Words to that Effect.

Fort St George 22 Febry 1773 Rob.t Fletcher

I swear to the Contents of this Paper
Rob.t Fletcher

Madras 25 Febry 1773 Sworn before me
John Mc Pherson
Mayor of Madras

That the Governor is Commander in Chief of all the Forces under this
Presidency, & may exercise that Authority whenever he thinks
proper, admits not in my Opinion of the least Doubt, but how
far the Court of Directors mean, or the Good of the Service requires,
that he should act in that Character, is a Point not so clear.
As a Civilian, he cannot be supposed to have sufficient Mili-
=tary Knowledge, to execute Every part of the Duty of Comman-
=der in Chief, & if he had that Knowledge his Time is so
much taken up with the other important Duties of Govern-
=ment, that it is impossible he could attend to the Details
Discipline of the Army which of Course become the immedi-
=ate Province of the Officer next to him in Command, there-
=fore it appears to me that no other Military Duty is ex-
=pected from the Governor, but to controul & Superintend
that Department as he does all other Branches of the
Service & the Acting Officer at the Head of the Troops is to
be accountable to the Governor as well as to the President &

Council

238 Fort St. George 1st March 1773

Council for the good Order & Discipline of the Army in Respect to an Head Officer has a Constant Seat at this Board I think that all Orders relative to the abovementioned Points should pass thro' him, at least I think that no Military Orders whatever, should be given out without his Knowledge & his Opinion being asked when he is upon the Spot, To settle the exact Boundaries between the Governors Power & the Duty expected from the Commanding Officers of the Troops is a difficult Matter for unless a perfect Harmony subsists between them, & proper Allowances are made on both Sides, the Service must greatly suffer, The latter is most undoubtedly to obey all Orders he receives from the Governor, if he thinks them improper, or inconsistent with the good of the Service, he is to have Recourse to the Board. —

December 1772.

Geo. Mackay

The Board will not here enter into a Defence of their past like Measures respecting Lieut. Mackay — They flatter themselves that the Justice & Rectitude of their Conduct will be evinced by their Proceedings & their General Letter by the Nassau — Insinuations unsupported by Proof & manifestly dictated by the Spirit of Animosity & Resentment will have no Weight with the candid & important & must in the End redound to the Shame & Disgrace of the Author. —

The Board will have Occasion to enlarge upon the Subject by the Triton —

Letter from the Navo complaining of having been misrepresented to the Company. —

Read a Letter from the Navo dated 26th Ulto & entered in Country Correspondence N° 33. —

Ordered to lie on the Table to be further considered. —

239 Fort St George 2nd March 1773

Received the following Letter from Sir Rob.t Fletcher

To the Honble Alex.r Wynch Esq.r
President & Governor & Council
Gentlemen

Letter from Sr. Rob.t Fletcher, complaining his Letters of the 13th & 14th Jan.y respecting his claiming the Privilege of Parliament &c.

I did intend to have sent You a Letter to Day on which I may require some Consideration but I cannot properly fix. = nish it until I receive your Answer to my Letter of the 25 Ultimo.

By my Letter of 13 February, I meant to inform You in Gen. = eral Terms, that I had never claimed the Privilege of Par. = liament, & never there any Doubt with You on a Subject of such Importance, I am of Opinion you should have called upon me for an Explanation, since that time I have received & read your Consultation of 29 January wherein Mr Du Pre Minute it is said, "Sir Robert Fletcher in a Letter of "the 13th claimed his Privilege as a Member of Parliament to return to his Duty as such." & again in a subsequent Letter "of the 14th availing himself of this Plea of Privilege as a "Member of Parliament, he protests against the Conduct "of the President for a Conduct he deemed Contrary to Law "& the Privilege he is entitled to as a Member of the Legisla. = "ture" I am astonished at finding those Words upon Your Records, for if you will Carefully peruse my Letter of the 13th & 14th Jan.y you will find that Mr Du Pre's Construction is unjust, perhaps there might be a Poss. = bility for me applying, or mis apprehending the Purport & Intention of my Letter if there were Mr Du Pre has industriously availed himself of it to gratify his personal Resentment, & accomplish his further Views, but had I con. = ceived such unjust Advantages would have been taken I should have been Careful to have expressed myself in

Terms

Possibly
or Terms which could not have been prevented.-

It is my Duty to disclaim, & I do hereby disclaim in the most pointed Manner any Such Plea of Privilege of Parli-ament. I hope Ever to approve myself too good a Servant of the Honble Company's, to introduce any Practice prej-udicial to their Interest, & this in particular, which may be productive of so much Inconvenience, My Intention in my Letter of the 13th was to ask your Permission to go to my Duty in Parliament provided only, & in no other Case, you warranted to draw me from the Service of the Honble Company, & in my Letter of 14th I thought my self obliged to protest against Mr Du Pre's Conduct for refusing to call a Council which I thought contrary to their Privilege I was intitled to, not as a Member of Parliament but as a Servant of the Company, & a Member of your Board I cannot think of being heard in my own Defence before you in his more my Judge, in Case I had not a Power of justifying Every part of my Conduct.-

The General Order of the 30 January I conceived as an Effectual Dismission, for nothing Else could have induced to return to the Presidency without Orders for that Purpose but as I now understand it is doubted whether you really dismissed me or not, this is a Point Beg. You'll early & finally to determine. What is still extraordinary Genl Smith has given it to me under his Hand, that he believed from your Letter to him, I was determined I was determined to quit India immediately, & that Cudalore Necessity, & altogether against his Inclination resumed the Command. That there should be two Sentiments of Gen Smith is no more than consistent with his former Conduct. It may be necessary to declare to You Gentlemen that the sole Intention of quitting the Service of the Company

24 Fort St George 1 March 1773

if you would have suffered me to remain, Have Shade of claim-
=ing the Privelege of Parliament, & Thinks my going to Eng-
=land quite, is very Sufficient Declaration of my Intentions

Let me now beg of you Gentlemen, to reflect Dispas-
=sionately, & then declare whether you Think it consistent
with the Principles of Justice, & with the Interest & Hon-
of the Company, that a Member of this Government,
should first be forced to absent himself from the Board,
that he should then be accused by one who has before shewn
the strongest Marks of Resentment against him, that
he should be condemned upon that Accusation & prevented
from ever returning to justify himself. I leave You to
judge, also, & I leave the Honble Court to judge also whe-
ther such Measures may not be productive of the utmost
Detriment to their Affairs =

I Have the Honor to be
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient &
Most Humble Servant
Robert Fletcher

Fort St George
March 1. 1773

Mr Johnson moves that the foregoing Letter from Mr Johnson's Mo-
Robert Fletcher be taken into Consideration & that his Letter tion =
of the 13th & 14th January may be read at the Board. The
Letters are accordingly produced & read

Determination of the Board —

The Board having no Cause to alter their Opinion
which they have given in their last General Letter on the
Meaning & Tendency of the foregoing Letter they
deem it unnecessary to resume the Consideration of the
Subject.

Subject.

Read

242 Fort St George 1st March 1773

Read the following Letter from Lieut Col Vaughan as President of a Committee appointed to scale the Off Reckonings.—

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esq
President & Governor & Council
of Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

Letters from Lt Colonel Vaughan, President of the Committee for settling the Off Reckonings.—

A Military Committee met in September last to settle the Off Reckonings for the preceeding Year, in w[hi]ch observing the Lateness of time for adjusting those Accounts made an Application to Sir Robert Fletcher to endeavour by Representation to the Honble Board to get the Impediments to the settling them at an earlier Period removed by procuring an Order for all Military Stoppages to be paid in future at the Presidency—The Board were pleased to issue Orders for that Purpose. But a New Committee having met by the information of the Agent find that the Application of the former One has served to embarass rather than expedite the Business of the Off Reckonings, for the Agent has as yet received only the most inconsiderable of the Abstracts, & by the late Order no Off Reckonings can be received but in One Payment after the expiration of the Year. The Troops who are always Cloathed in Advance cannot leave their Cloathing made up, Nor the Captains leave Advance made them / which they have a Right to Action require for want of Stoppages in the Hands of the Agent. If the Honble Board will therefore be pleased to remedy this Inconvenience by directing all Military Stoppages to be paid at the Presidency Every three Months regularly & annual Abstracts of the whole to be given to the Agent

on

Fort St George March 1773

the Month of January of the Succeeding Year, Nothing can prevent the Military Accounts from being made up, now the Shares of Off— —Reckonings from being paid the latter End of March of Every Year. to forward the Busines of the Military Accounts, it is also thought Necessary by the Committee that Orders should be given for the Annual Indents for Cloathing to be lodged with the Agent by the first of January Every year.—

As the Agent informs us that it has been Customary to cloath the Recruits on their Arrival tho' they are entitled to cloathing again in the Month of December, The Committee are of Opinion, that the Recruits ought to be cloathed as in the Kings Service only one in the Year, & that Dead Mens Coats &c might serve them from the time of their Arrival until the annual Suits were served out to them— We have the Honor to be with the great Respect

Hon'ble Sir & Sirs

Fort St. George
26 Feby 1773

Your most Obedient Humble Servants
Rich'd Vaughan Lt Colonel
President for the Committee

The Board approve of the Proposal for cloathing the Recruits on their first Arrival from England with the Dead Mens Coats &c as is practised in his Majesty's Service, & the Necessary Orders for this Purpose, are according ly to be issued.

Dead Men's Coats to the Recruits

The Orders to the several Paymasters respecting the Stoppages for Cloathing to be again repeated.—

The General lays before the Board the following Letter from him to Capt. Wood, which as it relates to a Matter on publick Record, he desires may be entered with the Letters from Col. Lang & Flint on the same Subject.—

Letter from Capt. Wood &c

Fort St. George 25 Feby 1773

Sir,

Permit me to endeavour to Save the Honours of the Commands

Officers

24th Fort St George March 1773

Officers of the 2d Brigade to Letter inviting Them to Join Society to address them on a Subject you are already acquainted with & in which Justice to myself & the late Government obliges me to request you will lay before the Honble the President & Council, whatever material Business does not engage their Attention —

On this Occasion I am conscious I have every thing to hope from their known Candour & Justice, & am encouraged in the good Opinions of several Members of the Honble Board as flattering to me, may I presume to request, that some thing may be entered on the face of their Proceedings in Support of my Character, ensured by a General & Gallant my self a Groundless Charge —

I have only further to request, that should the Honble Board think it necessary to enter any Minute on this Subject that I may be permitted to have a Copy of it for the Satisfaction of my Friends, & in Vindication of my Conduct happily approved of till this time by many Commanding Officers of Distinction during a Course of thirteen Years Service —

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Truth & Respect

Sir

Your Obedient & Obliged Humble Servant

Rob! Wood

Brig General Smith

To Capt Wood

Letter from Col. Lang to Capt. Wood

Sir

I have a particular Satisfaction in answering your Favour of the 19th Inst: because it gives me an Opportunity of vindicating your Character from any Imputations or Opinions that may have been thrown out against it.

245 Fort S. George 1 March 1773

d. With Singular Pleasure Therefore I Recognize it under my Hand, that as a Captain under my Command on actual Service, your Conduct was on Every Request highly approved by all who knew you, & that in the Offices you may fill I have not experienced a single Instance of Your Incapacity or Backwardness.

You will be pleased to make such Use of this as you may find requisite, & if any Personal Testimony at any time thought necessary, I beg you will not hesitate Ceremony call upon

Madras 23 Febry 1773

Sir
Your Friend & Servant
Ross Lang.

Fort S. George 20 Febry 1773

Letter from Col Ross & Capt. Wood —

Sir

I have received your Letter of Yesterday's Date, & in Compliance with your Request, do herewith assure You in Justice to Yourself, that I never heard any One say, or insinuate that you was an improper Person to succeed Capt Chaigneau as Town Major of Madras, nor ever did in the least Harbour Such a Thought, to the Contrary, but have always found during the Pleasure I have known you to act as becoming a good Officer, & it is still my further Opinion that you are very Capable of putting the Duty of a Town Major in Every Respect, Should You think it necessary to make Use of my Name

You are at Liberty so to do

I am
Sir
Your very Obedt
Humble

246 Fort St George 1 March 1773

To Capt Rob: Wood
Town Mejor -

Humble Servant
W: Flint

Sentiments of the Board thereon —

The Board will only observe on the foregoing Letters from Colonels Lang & Flint that their Testimonies to the Character of Capt Wood, correspond with the Opinion the Board have always entertained of his Conduct as an Officer, & in his Station of Town Mejor

Read the following Letter from Mejor Green.

Fort St George 21 Feby 1773

Letter from Mejor Green recommending some Alteration in the Arrest —

Honble Sir

In a Letter to the Committee of Stores dated 20 June I mentioned that Forty Thousand Stand of Arms was the Number proposed as Necessary for the Garrison Store, this Letter was laid before the Honble the President & Council on which occasion the following Minute in the Consultations of the 29th June.

We cannot see the Reason of forty or forty Thousand Stand of Arms as Necessary for the Garrison Store, when from the Number of Troops on the Coast, We should think twenty Thousand would be quite sufficient, & which We understand One Wing of the Arsenal will contain, the other Wing may therefore be converted into Store Rooms.

Considering the Constant Demands this Presidency is liable to from the Army, Sailors and Settlements, Native Troops, & in Case of a War, arming the Inhabitants of the Black Town as Militia with Short

regular

Fort St George 1 March 1773

requisite for any Thousand Stand of Arms for the Garrison Store,
the upper part of the New Building would nearly contain
this Number provided it is finished as was originally in-
tended, the Quantity of Ammunition in Store exceed twenty thou-
sand, if One Wing is appropriated for Store Room many of
the Arms must remain in Chests, dividing the Building
will likewise be attended with a good Deal of Expence in the
Walls to separate it, & another Flight of Steps, Should the
People must pass thro the Armory to go into the Store
Rooms which will be inconvenient to obviate any Objection
that may be made to the want of Store Rooms, the Wings
of the old Arsenal may be made convenient at a small Expence,
one End for Artillery, the other for Military Stores.

The Windows of the Arsenal above Stairs is exceeding
difficult to open & shut owing to the Thickness of the Walls,
this, & make them more Useful, the Walls may be cut
down to the floor, leaving sufficient Thickness for the Win-
dow frames to rest, & Seat Twenty Inches high may be put
into Each Window, with the Top to open with Hinges,
which will hold a Number of Stores, particularly the
Bayonet & Sword Scabbards, waist Belts, Slings, or any
Article made of Leather liable to be destroyed by Cockroaches,
or other Vermin.

The Double folding Doors over the Arsenal Gate
was designed for a Crane to hoist up Chests of Arms it is
now found to be entirely useless as four Lascars can bring
up a Chest of Arms in less time than it could be got up
with a Crane, the taking down this Door & the building
up the Wall will be a great Addition to the Inside as it
would admit of a Circle of Arms opposite the Entrance

What I have here mentioned with respect to

finishing

25th Fort St George 1 March 1773

Finishing all the upper partments on Arrowsey, altering the Windows & Doors & converting the two Wings of the Old Arsenal into Store Rooms meets with my own Approbation. I shall be entirely glad, or I mean not to make any Alterations in the Arrangements, but what shall be entirely to Your Satisfaction. — I am with the Highest Esteem Respect

Fort St George
21st Febry 1773.

Honble Sirs
Your most Obedt & most hble Servant
Jno Green Inspector of Stores.

Minute in Consequence.

The Considerable Expence which would have attended Majr Greens Proposal for erecting Store Rooms & other Buildings, had it been carried into Execution, was the Reason why the Board on the 29 June last passed the Minute quoted in the foregoing Letter, but since the Number of Hands & Arms recommended by Majr Green can be nearly contained in the upper part of the Building without requiring any Additional Buildings, the Objections no longer exists, & the Board agree to the Number proposed, they also agree to Majr Greens Proposal Method of disposing of the Arms in the Arsenal & the Alterations which he recommends. It is Agreed to refer what Majr Green recommends in respect to the Windows to the Chief Engineer in his Consideration his Report to the Board. —

agree

The Storekeeper at the Naboh's Garrison to send in Duplicates of their Monthly Returns. —

It having been agreed to furnish the Naboh with Monthly Returns of the Stores which are lodged in his Fort under the Charge of the Company's Storekeepers. It is now Ordered that the several Storekeepers be directed to send in Duplicates of their Monthly Returns to the Governor that the Naboh may be furnished with a Copy. —

Letter from Rencon. &c. Rencon N°12

Received a Letter from Rencon. &c. Dondish as entered in Country Correspondence N°32 advising that Lacks of Rupees

219 Fort St George 1st March 1773

Rupees on Account of the Nabob has been paid to Benedict &
Coja Annaden.

Recd Advice a Letter from the Nabob Dated 28 Ultimo
as entered in Country Correspondence N 35 with Pd 4,000 on
Account of the Nabob for the use of the next Months for
the Poonamalee Districts

1st

Wynch
John Smith
Joseph Smith

Recorded Secretly
Saml Johnston
Sec.
Wynch
Hornby

25 Fort St George 2d March 1773.

Tuesday 2 March

At a Consultation Present

Alexander Wynch Esqr Governor President

John Smith's , Joseph Smith's

John Whitehill , Charles Smith's

Samuel Johnson , John Maxwell Stone

Edward Straey

Minutes of last Consultation read & approved.-

Read the following Letter from Lieut Col Ross:

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esqr
President & Governor &c of Fort St George

Honble Sir

Letter from Lt Col Ross on the Mode of conducting the Business of his Department, recommending a Survey of the Circars, & desiring the Assistance of six Gentlemen of the Corps to superintend the Works.-

1st As you was pleased to express a Desire to establish the Mode of conducting the Business of my Department in an uniform Plan, I now take the Liberty of laying before you my Ideas of the Subject, if they can in any Degree be of Use in fixing a General System for the carrying on of the Honble Company's Business, it will give me the most sensible Pleasure.-

2d Imagine it will be thought proper before any Engineers are detached from the Presidency, that the Chief Engineer should be acquainted with the Intentions of the Honble Board (unless they are of such a Nature as to make it improper to divulge them) & be directed by them to recommend the Persons for the particular Services intended, if they expect he is to be responsible for their Conduct.-

3d All Engineers detached from the Presidency should receive the Orders of the Board thro' the Chief Engineer from whom they should receive their final Instructions respecting the Manner of conducting the particular Business they are intended for.-

2d

25 Fort St George 2 March 1773

4th. When an Engineer is detached for the Service of a Subordinate, he should be directed to put himself under the Orders of the Chief & Council where he may be, & to receive their Approbation of whatever he does. But if he is appointed for any Particular Service, he is then to receive his Instructions from the Board, that the Chief Engineer, with whom he is to correspond from time to time, acquainting him with his Progress & whatever else he may judge Necessary for the Information of him, or the Honble the Governor & Council.

5th. I have the Honor to lay before you Such Forms for the Guidance of the Engineers in Garison, as will render it Easy for them to ascertain the Price & Quantity of all the Materials received & expended in a given time, which if transmitted to me at the Presidency duly, I shall be enabled to inform the Honble Board of the Quantity of Materials in Each Garison, their Price & the Quantity that are supplied Monthly, So that on the first Intimation of a Design being formed against any place under my Direction, no time Need be lost in finding from the Presidency, Such Supplies as are wanted, & cannot be immediately procured on the Spot.

6th. With respect to the Distribution of the Corps at present, in order to fulfill the Intentions of the Honble Board, I must propose that only One Captain, & 1 Subaltern of the Corps, Should remain with me at the Presidency & that We be assisted in the carrying on of the Works of the West Front by Six or Eight Gentlemen from the Army, whose Allowances will be amply repaid the Company by their Diligence in making the People attend to their Business & prevent Fraud. Two of these Gentlemen should constantly attend upon the Works whilst the People are employed.

7th. It will be proper that One Subaltern remain with

Majr

Fort St George 2d March 1773

with Major Mitchell at Masulipatam, if any Considerable Work is to be undertaken, that he be directed to apply to the Chief there for Assistants from the Army, the present Establishment of Engineers, being much too small to answer all the purposes intended by it.—

8th.— As the Circars are very extensive & as the Survey of them, which is now rendered more & more a great & useful Undertaking, I think as many People as can possibly be spared should be employed on that Service in Order to have it completed with Accuracy & Dispatch while the Country is in Peace, for which Purpose I would have the Survey formed into two Divisions, under Capts Stevens & Pittman with as many intelligent Assistants as can be procured.—

9th.— As Capt Stevens has already surveyed a Considerable part of the most Southerly Circars, I would recommend that he with at least One Assistant, should be directed to finish them completing the most Southerly parts first & then to make Northward.— That Capt. Pittman in like manner should begin to the Northward, where Mr Cotsford has left off & work toward the South until he connects Capt. Stevens's Both these Gentlemen should be directed to observe the same Stations, that their Surveys may correspond when done.—

10th.— The Gentlemen employed on this Survey should be directed to inform the Chiefs in whose Districts they may occasionally be, of the Plan they mean to pursue in carrying the Survey into Execution, to whom they are to apply for their Allowances, & such Assistance as they may stand in Need of during the Continuance of it.—

11th. They should be directed to ascertain the Company's Boundaries with Precision.— The Coasts of the Rivers, the

Direction

Fort St George 2 March 1773

Direction of the Roads, together with the Inlets from the Country, by which an Enemy can enter it as well as the Lying of the Sea Coast, & whatever Else may be required to form a complete Chart. The particular Survey of the Forts, Ports, Passes &c fortified Pettahs &c, should be protracted on a Scale of One hundred feet to One Inch, that Every thing may be expressed distinctly. The General Survey on a Scale of an Inch & a Third to a Mile, which is the Scale Capt Stevens has begun on. The Engineers are from time to time to forward their Surveys to the Chief of the Settlement under which they may act who will transmit them to the Board taking Care that one Copy be kept here, & that new Copies of them be taken. The whole of which should afterwards be reduced to a Scale of twenty Miles to an Inch to agree with the General Survey of Bengal, that is now taking by Order of the Honble the Court of Directors.—

12th. Lieut Maule should return to Vellore as soon as His Health will permit to execute the Orders of the Honble Board.— Remain most respectfully—

Honble Sirs

Your most Obed.t & most Hble Servant

Patricke Ross. Lieut Col.t & Chief Engr.

Fort St George
27 July 1773

Names of the Gentlemen Assistant Engineers

Lieut Ross begs leave to recommend as

Lieut Hyslop
Lieut Patricke M.Gill
Lieut Blackden
Mr Peter Campbell
Mr James Campbell
Mr Southerland

The Board approve of the Method recommended by Lieut Col. Ross for surveying the Circars & direct that the Necessary

254 Fort St George 2d March 1773

Necessary Directions Orders & Instructions be given to Capt Stevens & Pettinger in order that they may proceed accordingly.

The Board consent to allow the five Gentlemen of the Army to be employed for the present with the Engineers in superintending the Works now carrying on. But they defer the Consideration of the Mode proposed by Lieut Col Ross for conducting the Business in this Department until a future Opportunity

Lieut Maude to return to his Station at Vellum when his Health will permit.

Lieut Maude had Leave to proceed to Cuddalore on Account of his bad State of Health, he will of Course return to his Station at Vellum, whenever his Health will permit

W Brooke
John Smith
Joseph Smith

Charles Lindley
Sam. Johnston
[illegible]
[illegible]

255 Fort St George 3d March 1773

By Order of Council the following Letter was this Day

wrote

To Sir Robert Fletcher

Sir

Letter to Sir R. Fletcher in Answer to his Letter of the 24th & 25th Ult.

I am directed by the President & Council to acknowledge the Receipt of Your Letters of the 24th & 25th Ult. & the 1st Instant

In your Letter of the 24th Ult. you desire to have Copies of Certain Paragraphs in the last General Letter to the Court of Directors touching your Conduct as you have been informed they contain grounds less Assertions very injurious to You, You also apply in the same Letter for an Opportunity of signing the Consultations & Select Committees at which you were present. I have the Orders of the Board to inform You that You cannot be furnished with Copys of any parts of the General Letter, but you are at Liberty to come to the Office & sign any Consultations & Select Committees at which you were present.

In your Letter of the 25th Ult. you apply to be reimbursed the Additional Expence you incurred by taking your Passage from the Cape on the Britannia, & the Expence incurred in bringing your Baggage from the Colbrooke after her Arrival at Bengall, you desire also to be repaid for the Hire of Palankeen Boys on the Trincomalee Road when you were under Orders to proceed thence in the 6 Gun Brig in 1772 & you likewise apply for the Allowance of House Rent which you say Mr Du Pre promised You from the time of Your Arrival at Madras.

The Board cannot make You any Allowance for the Expence you were put to on your Passage by leaving the Colbrooke at the Cape, & coming on the Britannia to Anjengo because the Honble Court have frequently expressed their Disapprobation of Allowances having been made on similar Circumstances more particularly in their General Letter of 21st

256 Fort St George 3d March 1773.

on the road to Sreecheinapoly

25 March last. And as to the Expence of Palamboun Boys, the Board have directed that you shall be allowed full Batta from the time of your receiving the Order to proceed to Trichinopoly until the Order was countermanded by the late Governor, conformable to the Usage of the Service in like Cases. - Respecting your Application for House Rent, it is the Determination of the Board that no Allowance can be made as they have no Precedents for doing so, they have therefore judged it expedient to represent this Circumstance to the Court of Directors, as well as your Application to be reimbursed for the Expences of your Passage to the Cape.

Your Letter of 1 Inst. is entered in Consultation for the Inspection of the Court of Directors. I am

Sir

Your most Obed.t Humble Servant

Wm Petrie Secy

Fort St George
3d March 1773

At a Consultation Present-

Friday
5 March

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

The Minutes of last Consultation read & approved

President explains to the Board his Reasons for summoning this Council.

The President acquaints the Board that he summoned them to meet this Morning in Consequence of a Letter he received last Night at 8 PM from Mr Johnson, telling him that he had Matter of great Importance to lay before the Board, that would not admit of Delay, & requesting that a full Council might be summoned this Morning to take the same into Consideration.

Mr Johnson's Letter is as follows.

257 Fort St George 5 March 1773

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esq.
President & Governor of Fort St George

Honble Sir

Having Matter of great Importance to lay before the Board which will not admit of Delay, I request that you will please to direct that a full Council be summoned to meet to Morrow Morning in Order to take the same into Consideration

I have the Honor to be
Honble Sir
Your most Obed. & most humble Servant
Samuel Johnson

Garden
7 o Clock Thursday Evening

To Samuel Johnson Esq.
Sir

I have just received your Letter & as you tell me that the Matter on which you have to lay before the Board is of great Importance & will not admit of Delay, I have directed the Secretary to summon a Council to morrow forenoon at 11 o Clock, altho it was determined to Day to have no further Meetings of the Board as possible, that the Business for the evening Despatch might not be impeded. I am

Sir
Your most Obed. Hble Servant
A Wynch

Gardens
1/2 9 o Clock
March 4th

Mr Johnson begs leave to apologize for having desired a Council to be called without communicating to the President the Subject he had to lay before the Board. Circumstances prevented him from reading on the President last Night as he actually intended, but he declares that Nothing was further from his Intention than to mean any Disrespect to the President, & he flatters himself that above part of his Conduct can give Validity to such a Supposition. If he has committed an

him self

258 Fort St George 5th March 1773

Coxe, having very fairly stated the Opportunity of testifying the great Respect & Deference, which he shall ever pay not only to the Chair, but Listening to the Observations fell from Mr Johnstone desires to add, that he reserved the Minute which he is now to deliver in, to the President before the Meeting of Council.—

Mr Johnstone then delivers in the following Minute.—

Mr Johnstone's Minute & Motion for the Reinstatement of Sir Robt Fletcher.—

Sir Robert Fletcher in his Letter to the Board of the 13 Inst desires Leave to return to England on the first Ship that should be dispatched thither in order, as he informs us, to prosecute what he might deem his Duty to the Publick as a Member of Parliament, since the Board had deprived him of the Means of duly executing his Functions as Commander of the Forces & a Member of the Council & Select Committee.— Before this Letter reached the Board, Sir Robert in Council of the 12th Inst in Consideration of the Application of returning to England, declared his Resolution of obeying their Orders of the 12th Inst for proceeding to Fort William & of remaining & serving the Company in India until the Pleasure of the Court of Directors respecting him should be known.— I cannot help observing that dispassionate Men & such as had no ill Will or Malice to Sir Robert Fletcher would have let the Subject rest here & taken no further Notice of those two Letters than what pertaining thereunto the Records for the Information of the Honble Court, & Palliation of their Conduct, such as had a sincere Desire to preserve & promote the Honor & Interest of the Company would consider the State of our Affairs, & the Uncertainty of Gen Smith remaining in the Command of the Army till the Pleasure of the Court of Directors shall be known, for

to

Fort St George 5 March 1773

heartily well pleased at Sir Robts Resolution to stay.—
But instead of this the late President after Sir Robert Fletch-
=er's Departure for Trichinopoly declared his Letter of the 13th.
to be a piece of Privelege of Parliament / from no other
Ground as I conceive than that the Word Parliament happ-
=ened to be expressed in it / & without regarding his Letter of
the 14th which evidently invalidated any such Plea /
even allowing it had been made in that of the 13th. He the
President, on the specious Pretence of not being acquainted
how far the Privelege of a Member of Parliament in such
Cases extends, frees & enumerates Sir Robts Fletcher from
all Duty or Obligation to serve the Company—I cannot
help here remarking that should any Inconvenience
hereafter arise from these Delicate Subjects being thus
discussed, it must be ascribed to the Majority of the Board
who discussed them, & who might & ought with great
Propriety have waved all Consideration of it in the
Manner I have above pointed out. Indeed in all Matters
which have the least Tendency towards involving the
Court of Directors in Difficulty at home / implying any
Judgment & Knowledge of them more exceeding by Clear /
I should wish to refer to them as they can have the best
Counsel to assist them, & Notwithstanding the unlimited
Abilities of the late President on which he so highly values
himself, must themselves be more competent Judges
of such Subjects than either I or We can pretend to.—

The General Orders of the 30 May which pro-
=nounce Sir Robt Fletcher as above mentioned do in fact
dismiss him from the Company's Service, because being
freed from all Duty to serve he is no longer in a State of Su-
=bordination. But to put this Question beyond a Doubt

Genl

2d Fort St George 5 March 1773

General Smith by the same General Order is appointed to supply his Place.—

Sir Robert Fletcher in his Letter of the 1st Inst. states his late Conduct & present Sentiments so very clearly, that We cannot possibly misapprehend him. We solemnly disavow, his having entertained or ever meant to use the pretended Plea of Privilege of Parliament, which he declares to be so repugnant to his Character & Duty as an Officer & Servant of the Company.— And as there We can no longer exist even an Appearance of this pretended Plea, & that being the only Reason We know ever to have been urged for dismissing him from the Service, & as We to be consistent, it behoves me to ask, you Gentlemen on what Ground he is now withheld from it.—

Our Situation I believe you will allow is in Several Respects, extremely Critical, & requires not only Wisdom & great Judgment in our Councils as well as a sincere Zeal for the Interest of our Employers, but Extensive Capacities in those on whom they have the Command of our Army, Without these We may find Ourselves in many Cases under Difficulties. In time of Peace We may be able to support & preserve the Dignity & Rights of our Employers, but in times of War & in Defensive Wars of the Nabob may be in Danger, I do not confine my Views to the times present, nor do I mean to make Reflections upon any that compose the present Government, I therefore desire to be thus understood, I have a Private Letter of 28th Feby from Lord North, that Sir Eyre Coote was Ordered to Bengal to command their Forces, & Colonel Fletcher stationed, to not only to command the Forces but to

Fort St George 5 March 1773

to assist in our Deliberations in the Council & Select Committee
your applying to General Smith to resume the command
in my Opinion, very fully implies, that you knew he the
Officer who would otherwise have succeeded, were as ill qual-
-ified for the several Functions I have particularized, as
you have declared Col Wood to be.—
Sir Robert Fletcher in his Letter of the 14 Janry declares his
Resolution to serve the Company, & of course lay your Or-
-ders, until the Pleasure of the Court of Directors should be
known, General Smith has made no such Declaration—
On the Contrary what he has written to Sir Robert
Fletcher the 30 Janry plainly shews that he underst[oo]d
Sir Robert had determined to quit immediately, & that
are the Generals own Words, & that otherwise he would not
have resumed the Command of the Army.—
To this Passage of the Generals above Letter may be added
the Declaration he made to the Board on Monday last
Viz that he wished they would reinstate Sir Robert
Fletcher, observing he could be ready to embark at two
Hours Notice.—
Sir Robert Fletcher having thus by his Letter of the 14th
Janry plainly convinced both the Board & General Smith
that he never meant to resign the Command of the Army,
& as he has Never thro' [illegible] deprived of it entirely thro' the
late President's forced Construction of his Letter of the
13 & 14th Janry it seems agreeable to the Generals unas-
-quested Letter to Sir Robt Fletcher, that the General
should join in requesting the Board to reinstate Sir
Robt Fletcher in the Command of the Army & in his
Seat in the Council & Select Committee.—
I need not mention the Grounds on which the General

resigned

Fort St George 5th March 1773

resigned the Command of the Army to Sir Robert Fletcher.
In full Confidence therefore that it will be agreeable to his
Sentiments & Inclinations, I move that Sir Robert
Fletcher be desired to resume his Station at the Head of the
Army &. & that General Smith be permitted to embark
for England.

The Question being called for on Mr Johnson's Motion
the following Opinions were accordingly given.

Mr Stracey — The Board have already requested General Smith to re-
=sume the Command, & I request him to continue with-
=out

Mr Stone — I see no Reason to alter the Opinion I gave when I concur'd
with the Majority in desiring General Smith to resume the
Command of the Army, I am therefore against the
Motion.

Mr C Smith — When I gave my Voice in Consultation the 12th Instt
for appointing Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher to the Com-
=mand of the Fort & Garrison of Fort St George, it was with
a View to restore Peace & Tranquility to our Councils as I
was fully sensible there was no Prospect of Harmony if he
then continued at the Board & flattering myself how-
ever that some Measure might be fallen upon to be adopted, by which
the President & Sir Robert Fletcher might Each respect-
-ively transact the Duties of their important Stations
to their Mutual Satisfaction, declaring at the same
time, that it was not my Meaning or Intention to
deprive Sir Robert Fletcher of the Command of the
Army & his Seat at the Board or the Company of
his Military Abilities — And when I gave my Voice in
Consultation the 29th January from a reasonable
Robert Fletcher from all future Obligations to serve
the Honble Company & was on a Supposition that
Sir

Fort St George 5th March 1773

Sir Robert Fletcher had made a Claim of his Plea of Privi-
=ledge as a Member of Parliament, & on that Account de-
=manded Permission to return to Europe as I expressly say
in my Minute entered on the Records of that Day, that I found my-
=self in every situation to enumerate Claims if he still persisted to wherein
But as it was not clear to me that Sir Robert Fletcher would
persist in his Plea of Privilege as a Member of Parliament
& as I had declared on the 12 Instt, that it was not my Meaning
or Intention to deprive Sir Robt Fletcher of his Seat at the
Board &c, I thought it would be premature to apply to Gen.l
Smith to resume the Command of the Army & unless Sir
Robert Fletcher should still persist in his Claim of Privi-
=ledge as a Member of the House of Commons, Wherefore I was
against the Motion for applying to General Smith to resume
the Command of the Army &c.

Sir Robert Fletcher has since declared that it was not his
or his Meaning or Intention to claim his Privilege as a Mem-
=ber of Parliament, but that on the Contrary he is ready & Wil-
=ling to receive & execute the Orders of the Board in his Servi
=ces as Commanding Officer of the Troops on this
Establishment, & as a Member of the Council & Select Com-
=mittee. This being the Case should General Smith still
wish to return to Europe, & the Board be inclined to order
it to be so, I see no Objection to Sir Robt Fletcher's
Proposition as he has been declared to be out of the Service
I should have no Objection, on the Contrary I should very
readily give my Assent thereto. By my not to be understood
that I have even the Shadow of an Objection against Gen.l
Smith, I declare upon my Honor I have not on the Contrary
that I have the highest Respect & Veneration for him &
that it gave me much Concern when he first determined on

262 Fort St George 5th March 1773

on quitting the Service.—

Mr Whitehill Against the Motion

Gen.l Smith considers himself as particularly situated in Respect to the Motion, & that he ought to decline giving his Opinion upon it.—

Mr Smith I am against the Motion

The President I am against the Motion

The Majority of the Board being against the Motion

Mr Johnson delivers himself as follows.—

Mr Johnson's Motion

The Duty I owe to the Company, & the Trust I have for their Interest obliges me to desire the Board will call upon General Smith to declare, whether he will remain in India or the Command of the Company's Forces until the Pleasure of the Court of Directors can be known.—

Mr Stone's Motion

Mr Stone thereupon made the following Motion. Consider the above Motion as a Question on General Smith's Honor after the Recent Instance he has given us of his Zeal for the Service, that I think the Board cannot with Propriety put the Question.— I am therefore against the Motion

Mr Stracey

Mr General Smith has given the first Instance of Zeal for the Service, I desire not for any Necessity for putting the Question, having not the least Doubt in my own Breast, but that the same Zeal which actuated him before, will continue to actuate him as long as his Services in India shall be required

Mr Johnson's Motion

Mr Johnson delivers in the following Minute

Mr Johnson begs leave to observe that he by no means intends from his foregoing Motion to reflect either upon General Smith's Honor or Zeal for the Service. But as he is in a Passage of the Minute just delivered in, has given the General Occasion to make a Declaration of his Intentions, "whether he would remain in the Command of the Army till the

Pleasure

265 Fort St George 5th March 1773

"Pleasure of the Court of Directors should be known, that the
General had not thought it proper to make such Declaration
Mr Johnson conceived there was a Necessity for making
that Motion. As a further & essential reason he thinks
it Necessary to mention, that he had been assured the Gene-
=ral had been heard to say he would not remain in this ci-
=ty longer than October Next, at which the Army would have been
without a Commander. This he hopes will justify him for
having made the above Motion, & prays to the Honble
Court that Nothing but his sincere Desire to clear up a
Point of so Material Consequence, could have induced
him to it.=

Mr Ch.r Smith As I have the highest Opinion of General Smith's Honour &
Zeal for the Service, I cannot entertain a Doubt but that he
will remain therein, until he can relinquish it with
Propriety. I therefore really do not see the least Necessity
for Mr Johnson's Motion, so am against it. Mr Jansen
convinced Mr Johnson only meant thereby to procure a
proper Officer in the Command of the Troops.=

Mr Whitehill Joins against the Motion

Gen.l Smith — will deliver in writing his Sentiments to Mr Johnson's Motion.

Mr J. Smith Joins against the Motion.=

The President I am against putting the Question to General Smith as it implies a
Doubt I have entertained of his quitting the Service at a time
when his Services might be unpalatable to the Company. The
Testimonial he has manifested in a Recent Re-
=sistance to the Company, added to the Declaration he now
makes, convinces me that there is no Reason to appre-
=hend he will leave the Service at a time when it may be
attended with Prejudice to the Company's Affairs.=

91

Fort St George 5th March 1773

It is accordingly determined by the Majority that the Question be put

Read the following Letter from the Mayors Court

To the Honble Alexr Wynch Esqr
President & Governor &c Council
of Fort St George

Letter from the Mayors Court disputing the Privilege claimed by the Nabob &c

Honble Sir & Sirs

I am Ordered by the Honble the Mayors Court to acknowledge the Receipt of Your Letter of 22d Ult. & I am further directed by the Court to signify to Your Hono & Council that the Information contained in your Letter relative to the Nabob shall be taken into their Consideration when the Matter comes Judicially before them.

I am with Respect

Fort St George
4 March 1773

Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obt Humble Servant
James Taylor Regr

Signed by Order of the Mayors Court

The Subject to be Perused in Our Address by the Editor to the Honble Court.

referred to the Court of Directors

President's Reputation disputing Col Wood

The President acquaints the Board, that Col Wood has signified to him his Desire to withdraw his Cause with the Company from the Mayors Court, & to refer them to the Decision of the Select Committee as he finds there is so little Probability of bringing the Matters to a Final Issue in any Reasonable time by a Course of Law.

As the Honble Court have been advised of the Suit commenced in the Mayors Court between the Company & Col Wood, as also of the Reasons which induced the Select

26p Fort St George 5th March 1773

Select Committee to think they could not take upon them to deter-
mine the same, to which Letters we may expect Answers by
the Ships of this Season. The Select Committee then to they
cannot now with Propriety take the same under Consid-
deration &c

Wynch
John Smith
Joseph Smith

Alexander Lindsay
Sam! Johnston

Sitting
Straang

Fort St George 8th March 1773

At a Consultation Present

Monday
8 March 1773

Alexander Wynch Esq. Governor President
John Smith , Joseph Smith
John Whitehill , Charles Smith
Samuel Johnson , John Maxwell Monr
Edward Stracey

Minutes of last Consultation read & approved

General Smith delivers in the following Minute respecting Capt Wood which he desires may be entered

General Smith's Minute in favor of Capt. Wood

Capt Wood having requested of General Smith a Certificate of his Conduct during his Service in this Country, the General in Justice to his Character as an Officer, declares, that he has on Every Occasion observed Capt Wood perform his Duty with Alacrity, has become a good Officer, & entirely to his Satisfaction. The Post he now fills of Town Major he is every capable of, & will he is persuaded gain the Approbation of his Superiors & Seniors

March 6th 1773

General Smith desires that the two following Minutes may be read & entered

Mr Johnson having entered his Dissent to the Resolutions of a Majority of the Board, at a Consultation of the 12th Day of February respecting the Promotions then ordered to take place in the Military, General Smith desires Permission to enter the following Reply

Gen Smith's Minute on Mr Johnson's Dissent to the Resolution of Cons. 12th Inst. to the Promotion of Cols. Aline &c.

The Reasons Mr Johnson gives for his Dissenting are, first because he considered the late Promotions as altering the Establishment, & deviating from the Company's Orders, which Servants should be the Rule of his Conduct

If Mr Johnson will read the Company's Orders of 3d January 1770 he will find, that with the Advice

and

Fort St George 8th March 1773

and Opinion of the Board of General Officers which he mentions, they directed, that the Infantry on this Establishment should be formed into two Brigades, Each to be commanded by a Colonel. Conforming this Arrangement, as General Coote was appointed to the Command of the Troops on the Coast, I mentioned to him (with the Knowledge of some of the Council) my Desire of being appointed to the Command of the 1st Brigade, as a Matter of Choice, tho' not exactly agreeable to the Company's Orders that they should be commanded by Colonels — but on my resuming the Command of the Troops (as the Reasons I have mentioned no longer subsist) the Arrangement was made exactly conformable to the Company's Orders, by which neither the Number or Rank of the Officers are increased, or exceed the former. As this is the Case, & as the Propriety of the Brigades being commanded by Colonels & themselves by a General Officer, appeared Evident to our Honble Masters, I do not see why Mr Johnson should have any Objection, or consider it as contrary to their Orders. —

The other Reason Mr Johnson gives for his Dissent, was the Additional Expence which seemed to him highly inconsistent to be admitted in the present Case, as the Board had opposed that as an Argument to Sir Robert Fletcher's Request for an Aid De Camp. —

The Board did not think proper to give General Lawrence, Caillaud, or myself an Aid De Camp, exception Servia (if they do not choose to increase the Expence of our Establishment in this One Instance, surely that may not be a Bar to all other Appointments in General which Ever so useful & necessary, therefore cannot be the smallest Objection to the Late Arrangement of the Military. Fort St George 8th March 1773

General

Gen Smiths Observations on Mr Johnsons Motion to know if the Genl would stay in Bengal till the February Fort of Directors can be known.

27th Fort St George 8th March 1773

General Smith begs Leave to make the following Reply to Mr Johnsons Motion of 5th March.

I cannot help being greatly surprized at Mr Johnsons Motion. Nor can I well conceive what Reason he could have in desiring this Question to be put to me, Tho' the Negative must be put by the Honble Board to his Motion, I owe Duty to the Service, as well as for the Information of our Hond Masters at Home, make the following Observations from whatever future Intentions, as well as past Conduct may be honestly understood, & considered upon.—

Soon after the Surrender the Southerns was made, I solicited & obtained Permission of the Hond Board to retire from public Service, happy in having a Reason also our Hond Masters Permission by sending them out in Ships & Stations to have a good Opinion of my only wish was now to return to my Native Country, so soon as I could settle my private Concerns, Tho' as I had in some Degree accomplished that, I was upon the Point of embarking I was called upon by the Government to resume my Station in Southern as No Man of Power could refuse complying with in my Case, Tho' I have returned only to comply and with their Request to serve Every thing to the Hond Company, have now in their Service I might Rank & Fame at Every Step acquired, all this independent Fortune, yet I hope what will decently support me In gratitude for which I think myself bound to render them Every Service in my Power, & as I am yet past my own private Views in Competition to what I owe to both Masters therein my best Endeavours to support them I shall leave the Command I have been thus called upon

27 Fort St George 8th March 1773

to resume, before our Hon'ble Masters have provided a Successor, or
when the Hon'ble Board have pleased to dispense with
my further Services.

Mr Stracey explains the Grounds of the Opinion he gave on Mr Johnson's Motion the 3th Inst.

Mr Stracey delivered the following Minutes.—

For Consideration the 3th Inst Mr Johnson moved,

"That Sir Robert Fletcher be desired to resume his Station at
"the Head of the Army & that General Smith be permitted
"to embark for England" — My Opinion relative to which was
recorded on the Minutes, of that Day was "The Board have already re-
="quested General Smith to resume the Command, & Request
"him to continue in it" With the Permission of the Board I
beg Leave to record the Ground of that Opinion — Sir Robert
Fletcher has it is true, as Mr Johnson states it, thought proper to waive his
Plea of Privelege of Parliament, but who can answer that
he will not insinuate the use of it again, & if he does as the Board
have once admitted of the Plea, to be consistent they cannot
again admit of it — I must say, I do not think I could make
use of it, however Government ought never to proceed on the
Surest Grounds. But this is by no Means the only Objection
against the Motion, in Consequence of Sir Robert's having
advanced the Plea before mentioned, he was freed & removed
from all Service to the Company, in Consequence of his
Exoneration, General Smith was requested to take upon him
the Command of the Troops, which he accordingly accepted
of, & now holds. The Point therefore in fact, judging from
the Records brought before the Board to determine on
Mr Johnson's Motion was this; whether General Smith,
who in Consequence of the Request of the Board is now
Commanding Officer of the Troops & who has made no Appli-
=cation whatever to resign, should be continued in the Ex-

Command

Gen Smith's Observations on Mr Johnsons Letter to know if the Genr would stay in Bria till the Jalousy of the Court of Directors can be known -

27 Fort St George 8th March 1773

General Smith begs Leave to make the following Reply to Mr Johnsons Motion of 5th March -

I cannot help being greatly surprized at Mr Johnsons Motion Nor can I well conceive what Reason he could have in desiring this Question to be put to me, but this a Negative put by the Honble Board to his Motion, I never thought for the Satisfaction, as well as for the information of our Honble Masters at Home, make the following Observations from which they future Intentions, as well as past Conduct may be thoroughly understood & considered upon -

Soon after the War Service to the Southward was over, I solicited & had granted Permission of the Honble Board to return from public Service, happy in having a Prospect of our Honble Masters Journal by rendering them out in Peace & Station, to have a good Opinion of my only wish was to return to any Native Country, as soon as I could do my private Concerns, Such as I had in some Degree accomplished, this I was upon the Point of embarking for when called upon by the Government to command on South Seas as Major of Horse which offer was complying with in my Case, I have returned any thing more than engrafted part of Men had Perfect a ready Compliance with their Request, from Duty Hoping to the Honble Company, have not in their Power to Reward Parts & Services they required, all the Support of Fortune, yet I hope what will decently support me In gratitude for which I shall endeavour to make them Every Service in my Power, & Leave it to my own private Views in Competition to what I owe Such Masters there is no just Reason to suppose that I can leave the Command I have been thus called upon

27th Fort St George 8th March 1773

to resume, before our Hon'ble Masters have promised a Successor, or
when the Hon'ble Board shall have pleased to dispense with
my further Services.—

Mr Strahey explains the Grounds of the Opinion he gave on Mr Johnson's Motion the 3d Inst.—

Mr Strahey delivering the following Minute.—

In Consultation the 3d Inst Mr Johnson moved

"That Sir Robert Fletcher be desired to resume his Station at
"the Head of the Army & that General Smith be permitted
"to embark for England"— My Opinion relative to which was
recorded on the Minutes of that Day, was "The Board have already re-
=quested General Smith to resume the Command, & Request
"him to continue in it" With the Permission of the Board I
beg Leave to record the Grounds of that Opinion— Sir Robert
Fletcher's it is true, as Mr Johnson states it, has once waved his
Plea of Privelege of Parliament, but who can answer that
he will not hereafter make use of it again, & if he does, as the Board
have once admitted of the Plea, to be consistent they cannot
again admit of it— Instant Say, I do not think I could make
use of it, however Government ought ever to proceed on the
Secret Grounds. But this is by no Means the only Objection
against the Motion, in Consequence of Sir Robert's having
advanced the Plea before mentioned, he was freed & exonerated
from all Service to the Company, & in Consequence of his
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the Records brought before the Board to determine on
Mr Johnson's Motion was this; whether General Smith,
who, in Consequence of the Request of the Board is now
Commanding Officer of the Troops & who has made no Appli-
=cation whatever to resign, should be continued in the Ex-

Command

272 Fort S.t George 8th March 1773

Present.

Command.r in Chief, Mr Sherwood, Mr Pigot, Mr Greenhill, Mr Greenway, Mr Monckton, Mr Boddam, Mr Hornby, Mr Call, Mr Lushington, Mr Hodgson, Mr Brooke, Mr Hollond, Mr Johnson, Mr Stratton, Mr Maskelyne, Mr Hastings, Mr Russell, Mr Taylor, Mr Ducarel, Mr Lloyd, Mr Bourchier, Mr Bourdieu, Mr Hudleston, Mr Lindsay, Mr Bruere, Mr Ross

Fort St George 8th March 1773

have not omitted to throw out many injurious Reflexions on the Minority, with a View no Doubt to assert their Cause as much as possible, by giving an unfavorable Impression of their Personal Character, it must be a bad Cause however that requires such Helps, & Great is wholly on the Candour of the Honble Court, that the Conduct of the Majority in this Respect will be considered as proceeding from Prejudice & Resentment. It is certain there is nothing I more earnestly desire, than the Patience of the Honble Court, to the whole of the late Proceedings, & to that I shall now beg leave to remark on many Immaterial Passages of our last General Address.

To begin. In the 4th Para it is said, that a Spirit of Dissention has arisen in our Councils. I believe no Person can lament more seriously than I do that any Difference of Opinion should have arisen at the Board. But I can by No Means admit, that such Differences should be termed a Spirit of Dissention. The Majority having the Power in their Hands, may load the Proceedings of the Minority with what Terms of Reprovach they please, but I rest wholly on the known Candour of the Honble Court, that they will be no otherwise received than as partial Declarations. With respect to the present Conjuncture which is said to be Critical, & so declared as an Aggravation of what is called a Spirit of Dissention in the Minority, I do not know that it is more Critical either with respect to the Nabob or the Ministry than probably may be hereafter, or that there has been so much pressing Business on hand as to leave no time for any of the Members to attend to the Duty they owe themselves, & their Employers, by dissenting against Measures they cannot

approve

Measures they cannot approve This Argument of the Majority with respect to the Multiplicity of publick Business on hand now it true, cannot I presume be allowed in such Extent as to preclude from the Members all Power of dissenting or Protesting they may deem actually necessary for tho it should be admitted in the present Case, For the Majority do not even pretend, there was any Opposition from without at the time of the late Differences within, all tho there had been it might again be such Opposition, & as to the want of time to attend to every Branch of the Company's Affairs, if it can be admitted now I am persuaded it must be considered as a decisive Argument against Dissents in general, for when are the Council to find more Leisure? Assuredly the Court of Directors will hardly chuse to give up this only Channel they have of precise Information, this only Check on ill Designing Men. The Truth is, in a tho the Act deprives the Constitution of this useful Member, it must be far more Oblig it to for the Council to assemble of time, & yet notwithstanding the repeated Complaints the Majority make of want of time I do not know of more than two extraordinary Councils all the while I have been at the Board, when 5 Hours in the Week was thought too much time the Council sat; It was surely frivolous to pretend Want of time in Competition with so essential a Part of Government as the Right of dissenting must ever be considered, for neither is being vindicating of the Writers Sentiments, or tending to throw Light on Material Questions in Agitation, it does not appear proper to that Dissents can well be dispensed with on Occasions that require them, & tho only 8 last Chuse there is one serious Member in, that just Displeasure of the Honble Court, which I trust will Ever be their Lot.

Co

Fort St George 8th March 1773

Par 11th To this Paragraph I must observe, that I do not conceive there is even the Appearance of a good Argument against the Plan for stationing the Troops, except it be what the Majority have so boldly affirmed of the Nabobs Dislike to the Scheme on Account of the Expence it might draw him into. Their Reasoning on this Matter carries no Doubt an Air of Plausibility, & which if not refuted may be admitted. Impressed therefore, I declare, I heard Sir Robert Fletcher say, before the Matter was debated at the Board, That the Nabob had expressed himself perfectly disposed to concur in the Plan for cantoning a Brigade at Conjeveram, & though it was noted by one of the Members, that it would be but proper, & just to consult the Nabob on a Matter in which he was to be so much interested, thereby complying with a Step that had been taken, yet upon Sir Robert's immediately asking the late President, if the Nabob had not been consulted on this very Business Mr Du Pre acknowledged that he had. But this is not all. The Nabob did not only signify an entire Approbation for the Measure itself, but for the Means & Support of it, as far as was just & reasonable. He not only declared this to Sir Robert Fletcher, but also to myself, & I have not the least Doubt had the Plan been carried into Execution, he would have been as good as his Word.

It would be tedious to enter into the Arguments & Speculations of the Majority on what they say of the Improbability of the Nabobs Assistance to forward the Plan "that he had not been consulted, that no Estimate "had been made of the immediate & Consequent Expence, "nor any Statement formed of our Cash Demands, or "Resources" What I have just observed are Facts to which I could take my Sacrament, & Consequently the Nabob

Does

Fort St George 8th March 1775

Letters to the Board on the Subject of Expences, & this Answer to make what are called necessary Repairs to this Fort, are I think Trifles too slight to be weighed against them. If the Majority had thought it Convenient, for I cannot admit of their plea of want of time to explain the Nature of their Reasons they say they have on Record against the Measure. There No Doubt, but there may in any Difficulties might easily have been obviated to the Satisfaction of the Court of Directors, & I think it extreamly improper to recommend Mr Du Pre to the Honble Court as a Person upon a Question which he opposed with so much Warmth.—

Par 27th.— The Reasoning of the Majority in the beginning of this Paragraph appears well calculated to mislead the Judgment by representing a pleasing Image of Harmony & Cordiality subsisting in former times at the Board with a View, No Doubt to contrast it with a Confusion they were pleased to think which it is said has lately prevailed among the Dissenters— It would be difficult to determine the precise Meaning of the Majority respecting these favourite Words, Harmony & Cordiality. Differences in Opinion have surely ever prevailed among such a Number of Persons as this Council is composed of, & Dissents must in Duty have been the Consequence. To attempt an Explanation of the Causes why one Set of Men should be extolled, & another Stigmatized, & Calumniated, all this to the pursuing a like Line of Conduct, would unpleasantly lead to a painful & disagreeable Examination of Character, I shall therefore wave the Discussion, & omitting former Periods, & Occurrences proceed to a Consideration of the Late Controverted Point. And First I declare I do not know that any thing like a Dispute has happened at the Board

277 Fort St George 8th March 1773

Board since my being a Member, for such I cannot call what passed between Mr Du Pre & Sir Robert Fletcher regarding the Line of Military Duty. Sir Robert Thorneyhurst protested immediately repeatedly that he would strictly conform to any Rule the Majority of the Council might resolve upon. To the latter part of this Paragraph I say, I know [illegible] that all Councils with Sir Robert Fletcher & can safely aver, that so far from making Interruptions to good Order Business, he has done Every thing in his Power to prevent them, Never declared against Interruptions, & repeatedly said he only meant to perform his Duty, by entering his Opinions on the Record for the Information of the Honble Court. As an incontestable Proof of this Disposition, the first part of his Minute, upon Adjutant Kempson, may stand as a most remarkable Instance & Shews, that he so much lamented Interruption to Business of which the Majority complain is evidently fixed on Mr Du Pre himself. As to the Observation the Majority make of his Dissent in April, which must have been on the Maravar Expedition, they mean no Doubt to insinuate that, all the entered by Messrs Stratton & Mackay, they were privately instigated by Sir Robert Fletcher who did not succeed to a seat at the Board till August. Such General Insinuations thrown out at Random, cannot I presume but be deemed very unbecoming in the Authors of them, highly injurious to Messrs Stratton & Mackay, & strong Indication of that Temper in the Majority, above noted & improving the Court with unfavorable Ideas of the Minority at whatever Hazard, &c

With Respect to the Reasons that might induce General Smith to resign the Command in Chief

Fort St George 8th March 1773

August last, I cannot pretend to enter into them. They are either declared in his Address to the Board of the 11 August or otherwise best known to himself. As to what is said of Causes that do not appear on the Records, I am wholly at a Loss to know what is meant. Supposing the Board to have been ever so well satisfied with the General's Conduct, I am persuaded their desiring to retain him in the Command, when he had express'd his Desire to resign it in the Manner he did, had declared his Intentions of going Home by the first Ships, & had strongly recommended Sir Robert Fletcher as a Capable Officer for the Service was by no Means Necessary since they should rather have been led to oblige him in so reasonable a Request & might by Letter, have given him Every merited Testimony of their Approbation. I cannot however avoid observing here, that if the Majority did mean any Mark of Approbation in what is said in their 27 Paragraph relative to General Smith, it is wholly inconsistent with the Opinions the President has expressed on the strongest Terms at other Periods of his Government, & therefore never can be received by the General, or the Honble Court as his genuine Sentiments, but must rather be suspected of being assumed to serve a purpose. But if they do not intend it of such Testimony, I must acknowledge I am unable to comprehend what they mean by "doing Justice to General Smith &c." I am well persuaded Sir Robert was incapable of receiving Disgust at the Board's doing Justice to General Smith, or that Disgust could influence his public Conduct, but I think it possible enough he may have conceived Disgust against the late President as he declared to him often, as Sir Robert has told me upon the

279 Fort St George 8th March 1773

the General's Resignation, that he would not for Nothing so much as to see him (Sir Robert) at the Head of the Army. Mr Mackay has likewise declared to me that the late President had often express'd the Same Sentiments when Mr Hastings was at the Board. They do but ill agree however with what the Majority have insinuated of the Pain they were put to when General Smith resigned — Pars 28 & 29. — In reply to the Contents of these Paragraphs it is to be observed first with respect to the Inference Mr Mackay & myself drew in our Dissent on the Proceedings of the 12 Inst. that whatever Conclusion the Majority may please to draw from it, the Inference itself cannot be denied to be Just. I persuade myself the Honble Court on a Reference to the Cause which produced that Remark will not consider it as an intended Reflexion on any One, but rather as an Invo= =luntary, & Natural Observation on that Argument of the Majo= =rity, for persisting away Sir Robert to Torture purely to which it is meant as a Reply. Instead of being construed as a Reflex= =ion on any One, it might, if the Majority thought proper have been taken as a Commendation of those Periods of his Government, during which there had been no Dissents, & tho' there were Men of Resolution, Honesty & Ability at the Board. I do not presume to enter into the Ability or Inability of any of the present Members — But I can by no Means allow, that the Same, or perhaps any Cause given for Dissents while Mr Hastings was here, have been credibly informed, that Nothing of Consequence was ever brought to the Board while he sat at it without his previous Concurrence, & it may reasonably be supposed that his Opinion previously declared may have prevented many things he disapproved of from being brought to the Ar=

Fort St George 24 March 1773

all. I am convinced the Majority do not help their Cause by endeavouring to invest Mr Mackay's Army Words to such a Forced Construction as to make them imply any Reflexion against Mr Hastings's Character, for whom None of the Majority can entertain a truer Esteem than I do, & I here declare that I never professt the highest Opinion of his Abilities, Spirit & Integrity. Want of Cordiality cannot justly with Justice be attributed to any of the Gentlemen you style the Minority. It was so late as the 11 January I heard Sir Robert Fletcher declare at the Board, that at this he found himself obliged to differ from Mr Du Pre on public Affairs, yet he would not suffer those Differences to influence his private Conduct. Sir Robert dined & supped that very Day with Mr Du Pre & the next was voted from the Board. Mr Mackay & myself have likewise shewn the same Inclination towards the late President, & endeavoured by Every Means in our Power to convince him, that our Differences at the Board, were founded merely on public Principles, & not dictated by the Majority - so unjustly say, by a Spirit of Resentment What is said of the temporary Relief, the Board might have had in sending Sir Robert to Trichinopoly is answered, because all this Sir Robert had expressed himself to the purport the Majority have set for the, yet it is likewise to be observed Mr Du Pre had agreed with Sir Robert, as the latter long since assured me, that for Reasons which they judged sufficient he should not proceed upon his New Discipline, & Consequently his Circuit until after General Smith's Embarkation for Europe. I am perfectly of Opinion from Sir Robert's Conduct, that, it never was his Wish or Intention to undermine the Military Authority of the Governor, nor to aim at the

Fort St George 8th March 1773

the directing Powers of the Board. I am equally confident that whoever attempted to form a Party, & have often heard him say "he should have a despicable Opinion of any Member of the "Council who would give up his own Judgment to Solicit him or "any other Man" I have Reason to believe he was Sincere in such Professions, & for my own part am conscious of never having swerved any other Bias than that as an Honest Man I owe to the Interests of my Honble Employers. As for Representations set forth in strong Language & supported by a Majority of the Council may, I am well aware, give false Impressions; but I trust the Honble Court will give their Assent to them in proportion only as they may find them confirmed by Facts.

Par 32 & 38. I never understood Sir Robert Fletcher's Letter upon the Receipt of yours of 12 Janry to be a Demand for a Passage Home, but a Request that you would permit him to go Home by the first Ships to his Duty in Parliament as the only Alternative left him, supposing the Proceedings of the Board of the 12th tended to drive him from the Service or to deprive him of the Means of reforming the Army. If Sir Robert had had the Idea of claiming Privilege of Parliament, he had no Occasion to ask our Permission, nor even to have acted to Trichinopoly, but might have resigned his Commission immediately. In his next Letter mentioned in this Par. I deny that his Protest can be construed to refer to his Request of a Passage on board the Nassau, called by the Frankness his Plea of Privilege. Sir Robert's Letter does not declare this Meaning, & it is I think far from being the obvious meaning. The Protest as well as I can understand it refers evidently to the President's refusing to call a Council, & his putting off the Council beyond the usual Day, thereby depriving Sir Robert of his Privilege & his Right

of

Fort St George 8th March 1773

of being heard in his own Defence, before our Minutes against him of the 12th were read over & Confirmed. Tho the Board was = mmediately after Mr Hall & Sammy Sir Robert called upon the President in Council to produce, & to recon any Charges he might have against them, declaring he would justify himself to all the World, but the President refused, as appears upon our Consultations of that Day. Nevertheless the President brought those Charges on Tuesday the 12th in Sir Robert's Absence which he positively refused to produce face to Face on Monday the 11th when he was called upon, & the Charges were grounded upon a Paper which is entered on the Proceedings of the 11th. but which was not read at the Board that Day. For my own part I declare I know Nothing of it's having been entered until after Sir Robert's Return from Trichinopoly. It is the very Paper that contains those Charges from which he justified himself to the Board on the 14 December, & I have no Doubt he would have justified himself with Equal Success on the 12th. Sammy had he been allowed that Privilege which he sought & which no British Subject can by any be refused, that is the Privelege of being heard in his own Defence. But even the Board do not seem to think that what they have called a plea of Privelege is of itself a sufficient Ground for the Steps they have taken against Sir Robert Fletcher, or they would not have thought it necessary to address any other, by declaring the Experience they had of Sir Robert's past Conduct made it the more necessary to take the Command from him. If the Board acted this mere Deference to the Privileges of Parliament, why was the Consideration of those Privileges delayed from the 13 to the 29 January. The acknowledged Privileges of the

House

Fort St George 8th March 1773

House of Commons, are not, I presume, to be slighted on imagi-
=nary Considerations, & yet they have been declared by one to
yield to them in the Case of Sir Robert Fletcher, for who but
must consider this Assertion as imaginary that "the whole
"Military Corps were now looking with Impatience on the
"Scale of Power, do not for which Side would preponderate."
As an honest Man, I am bound to declare in the most
solemn Manner, that I think there was not the Colour
of a Ground for an Assertion of this Kind being firmly
convinced, that Sir Robert did not contend for Power, but
merely for Reformation, & I believe that any such Idea as
that above Quoted, ever entered the Head of any Military
Man on the Establishment. The Council could in reality
have gone on no other Ground than that Sir Robert Fletcher
being a Member of Parliament, & as such entitled to Privi-
=leges, was for that Reason a very unfit Person to have the Com-
=mand of the Company's Troops. Notwithstanding the
positive Declaration he made that he would continue
in India & act under the Orders of the Board until the
pleasure of the Honble Court should be known. - But
if it be true that a Member of Parliament may by a
Claim of Privilege quit the Service whenever he may think
proper, it is no less true that he has not the Power to divest
himself of that Privilege, & if it be admitted that he
has not this Objection made by the Board against
Sir Robert Fletcher with respect to his continuing
in the Command of the Army may with Equal Pro-
=priety be made against other Member of the Legislat-
=ure; the Court of Directors however not having thought
it any Objection either on the Appointment of Sir Rob.
Fletcher, or on former Occasions. I cannot avoid being

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Fort St George 8th March 1773

of Opinion that the Board's Proceedings in this Instance against Sir Robert Fletcher are directly repugnant to the Humble Court, as well as inconsistent with the profound Veneration they have professed for the Honble House of Commons.—

Par 37.— Because I do by no Means assent to, or put any Faith upon Sir Robert Fletcher, nor will I allow that which the Board has attributed to Sir Robert, as a Mistake from the Vehemence of his Temper. I believe Sir Robert's Temper is Naturally warm, but I never saw that Warmth exerted at the Board, nor even the Colour of it, but in Support of the Company's Interests. Sir Robert assured me on the Morning of the 11 January that he would not recind his Minute upon Ensign Hempson, unless Mr Du Pré compelled him by the Revival of past Disputes. That Mr Du Pré did compel him by that Revival, I am still of Opinion by the Minute he entered on the 11th upon the Plan for the Brigade at Conjeveram. I agreed with Sir Robert in Opinion, that that Minute was virtually, although not literally the same with Mr Du Pré former Minutes. I said of the same Tenor & Tendency & I say so still. Sir Robert had no Objection, he could have no Objection to any parts of the former Minutes, but the offensive Parts which arraigned his Conduct, & had Mr Du Pré Minute of 11 January been confined to the Matter of the Dissent only, which it was said to be a Reply to, I have every Reason to be assured Sir Robert would not have recintered his Minute upon Mr Hempson. In Mr Du Pré former Minutes which were withdrawn, he accused Sir Robert of Litigation at the Board which would interrupt the Current Business, as well as the Harmony which ought to reign at the Board & against If such Neccities are to be made Matter of Contest Confusion must be the End. Sir Robert's Reply of the 12th

December

285 Fort St George 8th March 1773

December turns the Litigations from business & fixes it upon Mr
Du Pré: & then the whole is withdrawn. Notwithstanding these
Disputes were to be forgot by Mutual Agreement Mr Du Pré
on the 11th Janry instead of confining his Dissent to the Sub-
=ject of the Plan & previous Question, rips up the in General
Terms the whole of the past Disagreements & says "Scarcely
"believe more Questions of this Kind have been moved at the
"Board within three Years from the past than in the whole
Course of my former Service at it" & again - "the Oppositions
have in a great Degree subsided, & yet the latter Part
"from without, in the latter part has been much more
"painful to me, than the former, I am now out with"
"the Fatigue of writing Vindications against Dissents"
& the Minute concludes with a direct Declaration that
these Disputes are again to be ripped up in England -
Let the Hond.le Court therefore judge, how far Sir Rob.t
is "is not justified in reentering that Minute, for the
Doing of which he has been condemned by the Board; and
let the Hond.le Court judge, how far We are justified
in our Opinion, that the Minutes are in Effect the
Same in the offensive Parts, & to leave no Doubt as to this Opi-
=nion, I say I do not know of any Dissents of Sir Robert's that
Mr Du Pré could allude to in his Minute of 11 Janry except-
=ing that upon Mr Thompson, which had been so withdrawn
because I never heard of any other that had given Offence
to Mr Du Pré, or at least that Mr Du Pré had ever ex-
=pressed any Personal Offence at. But supposing as is said
that Sir Robert & I were mistaken in this Point, I am
sorry to say, I cannot think it candid in the Majority
to desire our Hond.le Masters, to judge of all the other Ar-
=guments of the Dissenters from this one. It is further
said, & I beg the Hond.le Court's Attention to it that

D.

Fort St George 8th March 1773

"I founded my Opinion upon a Statement of Facts from Sir Robert
"Fletcher, different from that which has been delivered by the Pre-
=sident. The Opinion of the Board was asked upon a Narrative
"of Facts related by the President the 11th, which Narrative was
"by Sir Robert Fletcher then declared to be just, & attested by Mr
"Wynch &c — The Truth is, Sir Robert said "the President had
"not misstated what he has related of those private Conver-
=sations." But it appeared clearly from Sir Robert's own Rela-
=tion of them a little Afterwards at the Board from Minutes
which he had kept, that the Relations differed very mate-
=rially, much being in Sir Robert's which was not in the Presi-
=dents, and when Sir Robert had read the whole the Pres i-
=dent did not contradict one Word of it, but said # that "he kept
"No Minutes." Mr Wynch could attest Nothing but what past (5)
in his Presence, & the most material parts must have passed when he
was not present. Sir Robert read the same Papers to Mr Wynch,
the next Day
=ay & may suppose it was only to attest to be what he had read at
the Board. But supposing there had been No Difference
between Mr Du Pre's & Sir Robert's Relations of those pri-
=vate Conversations, the Argument the Majority have used is not
Just, for the Relation upon which I gave my Vote at the Board,
was the Relation of the President made not on the 11th in Sir
Robert's Presence, but on the 12th in his Absence, & I question
much if any Member at the Board on the 12th, could have
laid his Hand upon his Heart & said, the President's Re-
=lation of the 12th was the same with his Relation of the 11th
Indeed as often as the Matter has since been talked of, or
& confirmed at the Board, I question much if any two Mem-
=bers would agree in their Account at this Moment, were
they called upon without having Recourse to the Record.

Par 39 — I dissented to this Para on the Day after Mr
Macrae's

Fort St George 8th March 1773

Mackay's Suspension. If I was shocked then at so unprecedented, & violent a Resolution of the Board, I was still more so at the Reasons given to the Honble Court in Support of it. I think it unnecessary to enter into the Motives which may have induced Mr Mackay to recite the Conversation mentioned in this Paragraph, because he has himself explained them in his Letter of the 26th Ult. & the Honble Court will be the best Judges, how far those Motives may be deemed to justify, or at least to extenuate what he had said at the Board. But with respect to the severe Condemnation passed upon him in the General Letter I cannot but think it wholly ungenerous & unjust. Believe Every unprejudiced Person who has been long, & well acquainted with Mr Mackay will agree with me in this Opinion, & it is the more Extraordinary that this severe Judgment should be past, when it is known that most of the Members of the Board, & particularly Mr Du Pre have for many Years been upon Terms of Friendship with Mr Mackay. I was very desirous that Mr Mackay's Reasons for mentioning the Conversation might appear, before any Sentence should be passed & I cannot help thinking Now, that had Mr Mackay's Reasons been produced on the 30th January, as they are set forth in his Letter of 26th Ult. the Board would not have Suspended him from the Service. I am, &c.

Although the foregoing Dissent requires many Strictures & Animadversions, yet the shortness of time till the Dispatch renders it impossible to enter into a particular Discussion on the Minutes. But as there is an indispensible Necessity that the Board should clearly explain many parts of Mr Johnson's Dissent for the Information of the Honble Court, it is judged expedient

Fort St George 8th March 1773

expedient to refer the further Consideration of it to our Address by the Triton. Despatches & Travelling have prevailed so much of late at this Board that it is a difficult Matter to conduct the Common Business of the Department, much less to receive upon Subjects which admit of Controversy & Debates:— Freedom of Sentiment & manly Debates is the undoubted Right of every Member at the Board: But when that Freedom degenerates into licentious Opposition it becomes an Evil to Government, & is productive of the most mischievous Consequences.—

The following Letters from Sir Robert Fletcher dated 3d March having been received, are now read at the Board—

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esq
President & Governor &c Council
of Fort St George

Gentlemen

Letter from Sir Robt Fletcher on the Proceedings of the Board respecting him

Since you have refused me Access to your General Letter by the Nassau which it seems is filled with Misrepresentations of my Conduct in Council I shall proceed to Account it.—

Before I heard of the Orders of the 12th I could not be convinced of your Determination to support the late Measures which were dictated by the passionate Resentment & Apprehensions of a Man who dreaded an Enquiry into his past Conduct, & was adopted by You, without even the Colour of Reason & Argument. But when I saw you still pursuing & confirming those Measures, I take it for granted the same Influence prevails, & that there is at present no Cure for the Wound you have given to the Constitution of the Service; forsaking therefore my mistaken Hope of Reparation to myself, or Amendment in You, allow me to recapitulate the Heads of past Transactions, as a Subject for reviewing the

289 Fort St George 8th March 1773

serious Attention of your Honorable Masters. —

On the 14th December immediately after I had read & delivered to the Board my Reply to Mr Du Pre's Minute upon the Appointment of Adjutant Kempson; Mr Du Pré read a Paper containing Several Charges against me for inter- fering as he said in his Duties as Governor. The Charges were grounded upon a Conversation which pass'd at the Board the 7th December. When the Paper was read, I answered particularly to each Charge, & justified my self to the Board. I declared upon my Honor, that I meant not to arraign the Governor's Conduct, that I intended neither for Penalties nor Right: but for Discipline & Reformation; that I acted not- where the Power was lodged provided I were suffered to do my Duty to the Army, & that I was desirous to clear my self from the Imputation of concurring in Military Orders which had given Offence, & I thought not without Reason to the Troops in Garrison of which Complaints had been made to me by Lieut-Col Ross the Commandant of the Garrison, by Capt- Marcell the Commandant of the Regiment, & by some other Officers, I say, I justified my self then to the Board because No Member made any Reply, Mr Du Pré him- self was satisfied, & We proceeded with Cordiality to the other Business of the Day. —

It had lately been the Practice to hold Conversations & even to pass Resolutions in Council which were not to be recorded. All I said on the 7 December was so meantas appears by my not recording a Word of it; And I said at the Board on the 14th December that if Conversations of "this kind were to be digested in the Closet, & afterwards "unexpectedly to be brought to the Board to be recorded, I "knew not how far any of us might be." In this I alluded

to

29th Fort St George 8th March 1773

to my having heard Mr Du Pré in Council speak very unbecomingly
of the Court of Directors — Mr Du Pré made Answer "that he
"did not desire to record any thing if I did not." Some of the Mem-
=bers expressed a Desire that I would for the Sake of Harmony
withdraw my Minute upon Ensign Thompson's Appoint-
=ment. I consented, declaring I did so in hopes that Mr Du
Pré would establish some Rule by which I might be enabled
to discipline & reform the Army & to this Mr Du Pré agreed.
The only part of my Conversation at the Board of the 7 Decem
which I wished to appear on the Proceedings, was the Town
Major's Profit from the Arrack Farmer this I declared
to be highly improper. Mr Du Pré on the 14th then acknow-
=ledged the Fact, said it was only 250 Pagodas a Year, &
proposed a Continuance of it. I confess I was struck with
Astonishment of the Proposal presumed
& against it, declaring I would write about it
to give Satisfaction as much directly from the Treasury. Mr Du
Pré then gave up the Argument, promising to put a
Stop to it, & the Board adjourned in that Harmony &
good Humour which I repeatedly declared to Your Board
ever preserve whatever might be our Differences of Opinion
upon public Measures. — On the 11th January however
it appeared that Mr Du Pré in this Minute of that Day
arraigned the whole of my past Conduct even more than
in this Minute of the 7th December which had been
withdrawn by Mutual Agreement. It is Necessary to re-
=mark that three of the 7th December were the only
Minutes of Mr Du Pré which were withdrawn for that
of the 14th December upon the aforementioned Conver-
=sation at the Board was not given to the Secretary to be
entered, I concluded that either he was ashamed to read
it after what I had said in Reply, or that his Design

me

was only to dispute, & to get me to withdraw mine which had
been read & delivered on the Appointment of Ensign Hempson.
Whatever were his Real Intentions, I understood on the 10th
January at Night that I might expect some unfair Treat-
=ment the next Day in his Reply to my Dissent upon the
Defeat upon the Plan for stationing the Troops, as I
said at the Board I had scarcely time to prepare myself
before the Council met. As soon as Mr Du Pré had read his
Minute, I declared that I rejected the Attacks, & had there-
fore that Moment copied in the Consultation Room a Paper to
introduce again my Minute regarding Ensign Hempson
I desired Permission to read the Paper, but was not permitted
until Mr Du Pré had gone thro' other Business in the
Course of which he delivered to me a Letter & a Paper with-
-out saying what they contained. I layed them on the Ta-
=ble by me, & gave my Attention to the Business then
before the Board. When that Business was finished
I resumed the Subject of my Paper, & after declaring I meant
not to arraign any part of Mr Du Pré's Conduct, but merely to
exculpate myself from Blame, when the State of the Army
should be the Subject of future Discussion, I read & delivered
in my Paper, & I entered my Minute regarding Ens Hemp-
=son. Mr Johnson will do me the Justice to say that on the
Morning of the 11 January, I assured him I would not recenter
that Minute, unless I should be compelled to it by a Revival
of past Dispute, which We had agreed to forget. Mr Du
Pré's Minute of that Day will shew how well he kept that
Agreement, Mr Du Pré of Course likewise reentered his
Minutes of 7 December. Here Mr Wynch observed that so
much Writing might interrupt the Business of the Ship.
Dispatch. I answered that rather than interrupt the

Dispatch

292 Fort St George 8th March 1773

Dispatch, I would defer it till the Next Dispatch" Mr Du Pré as it has since appeared had run the risque to record the before-mentioned Conversation Paper which must have been written about the 3rd of December, & against the Charges contained in which I have said, I justified myself on the 14th December However Nothing of this Paper having been entered until I received the Consultation at Trichinopoly as will appear by the Minutes of that Day / the 11 Janry / where "I called upon Mr Du "Pré to record any Charges he thinks he can bring against me" & he declined saying "he would explain himself at home to "the Court of Directors" In Consequence of a Motion of Mr Du Pré the Board adjourned to Thursday the 14th Janry which was fixed for an Extraordinary Council to consider Mr Du Prés Paper regarding the Line of my Duty. It was a Copy of this Paper which he delivered to me at the Board with the Letter already mentioned, They were read at the Board towards the Close of the Proceedings of that Day, & I gave my Reasons to the Board against the Paper, declaring at the same time, that I would strictly conform to any Regulations which should be approved by the Board or ordered by the Gaunner. Notwithstanding the Adjournment to Thursday the 14th. We were the next Morning / the 12th / surprized by a Summons for a Special Council immediately. The Board met & Mr Du Pré being sure of his Majority moved that I should withdraw the Motion was immediately carried. When I was gone he assumed in his own Person, the Capacities of Judge & Party & in Contradiction to his Declaration in Council the Day before when called upon by me to produce his Charges, he now entered it, & carried one after another a Chain of Charges which had been framed but a few Hours before for my Defence. They Pardon, I should not have said in Contradiction

to

to this Declaration, because all this Mr Du Pré positively re-
= fused to produce any Charge the Day before in my Presence
saying "He would explain himself to the Court of Directors
"at Home" it is clear Now, that he only waited for an Oppor-
= tunity to effect in my Absence, that which he knew my
personal Defence would prevent. The Charges were grounded
upon Matters which I spoke in Conversation as a Member
of the Board; from which I again repeat, that I justify
myself to the Board on the 14th December. Nevertheless
Mr Du Pré by an Artful String of Questions prevailed & con-
founded some of the Members obliging them to consider him
at the Board without respect to me in his Capacity of Commander
in Chief. This Mr Johnson confesses was his Case & that
he was forced to consider Mr Du Pré & me in our Military
Characters at the Board, mine of Course the inferior —
By such Acts were some of the Members ensnared perplexed
& misled in their Judgment & compelled to deliver Opinions
different from those they would have given had they con-
= sidered Mr Du Pré & me merely in our Capacities as
Members of the Board. In Council, Mr Du Pré was known
to me, & ought to have been known to the whole Board in no
other Capacity than as President of the Council & I in no
other than as one of its Members. —

How then could the Board canvass my Conduct to-
= wards him as Commander in Chief, & proceed in Consequence
to a decisive Opinion that I had been guilty of Want of =
Candour & Duty towards Mr Du Pré in his three different
Capacities, Governor, Commander in Chief & President of
the Council, at a time when he acted, & could only act in
that of the Latter. Mr Johnson After recollecting himself applied to
Mr Du Pré by Letter for leave to alter his Answer, but this

Request

29th Fort St George 8th March 1773

Request was denied, at the Mr Johnsons Application, & the Presidents Refusal happened before the Minutes of the Consultation was read & approved, such Privelege had always before been granted to Members, & a short time afterwards Mr Macleay obtained Leave to alter Minutes. What is still more worthy of Remark many Instances may be produced wherein the Proceedings of the Board which had been written fair to be sent Home were altered by Mr Du Pré's Directions without the Knowledge of the Council, such Proceedings are strong Proofs of Mr Du Pré's violent & unfair Method of conducting Publick Business. But the Impropriety & alarming Consequences of such Measures are so fully pointed out by Mssrs Johnson & Macleay in their Dissent entered the 18 Janry, that I trust the Court of Directors will seriously consider a Subject of so much Importance to their Government. The Majority say, That considering my Ideas of the Line of my Duty so contrary to the System of the Service, the Affairs of Government cannot be carried on with ease at the Board." I have again & again declared at the Board, & it is impossible the Majority can have forgotten those Declarations, that whatever were my own Ideas of the System, I wanted only to know the Sense of the Board to frame in any Line they might think proper, & for a Proof of such Declaration, I refer to my Reply to Mr Du Pré's Minutes upon the Appointment of Adjutant Hempson, & to the Dissent of Mssrs Johnson & Macleay entered on the 11 Janry, but where are the Instances which their Affairs have been interrupted. Were you obliged to hold Extraordinary Councils? or have you ever, on a Council been more than 5 or 6 Hours in the Week employ'd upon the Affairs of the Company. The Majority in their Proceedings of 12 Janry declare they do not mean to deprive me

Fort St George 8th March 1773

me absolutely of my Seat at the Board but they forme immedi-
-ately at Trichinopoly at the Distance of 250 Miles from that
Seat. Your Letter of 12 Janry order me immediately to Trichi-
-nopoly, the Sense of it is the next Day explained by a Disgrace-
-ful General Order, & circulated with the Extraordinary Dispatches
over the whole Country. It may be proper to mention here,
that I had frequently at the Board declared myself
against disobeying, or setting aside the Company's Orders.
It appeared to me that the Board meant to set aside some
of those Orders, particularly with respect to the Circars
Revenues, & the Town Major's Appointment, & that Mr
Du Pré never felt that his Plans for your future
Conduct would not bear that Honest Inspection & Discus-
-sion, which he had Reason to fear from those who consid-
-red themselves not as his Tools, but as Men who had
sworn Fidelity to the Company.—

I have ever looked upon the Managment of the Circars
Revenues to be a Shameless Scene of Plunder & Robbery.
My Sentiments on this Matter were known to Mr
Du Pré, & I had declared to Messrs Johnson & Mackay my
Determination to bring the Mode of those Collections
& some other Enormities publickly before the Board
previous to Mr Du Pré's Departure.— I concluded ∴
therefore that the violent Proceedings on the 12 Janry
would end in Nothing but depriving me from the
Service, either by a direct Act of the Board or by such a
Series of unworthy Treatment as must force me to a
Resignation. Such was my Opinion. I went to Mr
Du Pré on the Evening of the 12th Janry & expressed this
Opinion, desiring at the same time a Passage to En-
-gland on the first Ship, he told me to apply to the

Council

29 Fort St George 8th March 1773

Council. I accordingly wrote you a Letter on the next Day the 13th
not as you have been pleased to say, "assuming my Privelege
"as a Member of Parliament, but to endeavour to obtain
"your Permission to return to my Duty to the Publick; pro-
"vided you was resolved not to allow me to do my Duty to the
"Company." I made it my first Business upon my Arri-
=val on the Coast to inspect, & to enquire very strictly
into the State of the Army. I heard of General Coote's Opi-
=nion which is Recorded. I had a miserable Example before
my Eyes in the Troops doing Duty there in Madras, & I
found from the best Intelligence of the different Corps that
without a speedy Reformation, & an uniform System Plan of Dis-
=cipline, I could expect neither Security to the Company,
nor Credit to my self. These Melancholy Truths I often
mentioned to Mr Hastings, & I never ceased to represent
them to Mr Du Pre. Those Gentlemen were sensible
of the Justness of what I said, & Mr Du Pre often said to
me, & I believe often expressed the same Sentiments to
Mr Hastings, That he wished for Nothing so much as
to see me at the Head of the Army. He was privy to
Every Thing that passed between General Smith & my-
=self with respect to the General's Resignation, until
a Day or two before the General's first Letter desiring to
resign, I had Reason then to know that he was acting
a Double & designing unmanly Part, & from what appeared
on the Records, I taxed him at the Board on the 7th
December, with that Day's Conduct & I had not sat long in Council before I told
Majr Johnson & Mackay, That I believed him to be a
Man void of Every Principle of practical Virtue
I had now been near five Months in the Commands
constantly complaining to Mr Du Pre & sometimes
to

29 Fort St George 8th March 1773

to the Board, That the Army was going to Destruction & as your Order of 12 January seemed to exempt me from any Responsibility of Reformation, I was surely justified in Every Word of my Letter of the 13th, which likewise served to shew You my sense of your Newly adopted Mode of expelling & condemning unheard in the Space of half an hour, one of Your Members, in Consequence of the Personal Prejudice of your late President whom you suffered contrary to Every Principle of Justice to preside as Judge, when he was in Reality a Party actuated by the Vehemence of Resentment My being hurried off to one of the Nabob's Garrisons was a Real hurt to the Service, at a time when I had prepared & only waited for the time agreed upon between Mr Du Pré & myself to proceed in Person to the different Cantonments to establish a New Discipline & Thorough Reformation in the Army. Being myself therefore incapable of rendering any Service to the Company in India, I had no Choice left but to endeavour to return Home by the first Ship to attend my Duty in Parliament, But as I wrote to You in my Letter of the 1st I asserted no Plea of Privelege of Parliament nor had Occasion to do so, being very Certain that my Resignation was wished for, & would not have been refused whether I were, or were not a Member of Parliament, Mr Du Pré concluded between his own Intentions, & therefore I wrote to him on the 13th requesting he would call a Council to consider, & to answer my Letter, he wrote to me in Answer "That it would not be convenient to call a Council before "Saturday the 16th, that my Letter would then be considered "But that in the Meantime he expected a punctual "Compliance with the Order for me to be gone by the 15th His then refusing to call a Council, his putting off the

Fort St George 8th March 1773

the Council beyond the usual Day for the Current Business,
this Reporting to me that a punctual Compliance with
this Order was expected from me, were circumstances which made
it Evident that he was apprehensive I would claim my
Seat in Council, & endeavour to obtain an Hearing in my
own Defence; I was therefore reduced to the Alternative of
bearing my Injuries with Patience, submitting to the
Torrent of Violence, or of becoming liable to be charged with
Disobedience of Orders in attempting a Personal Justifica-
tion of my Conduct. I chose the former as most Consistent
with my Duty to the Company, & my Regard for their
Interest. On the 14th I wrote another Letter to the
Board, recalling my Application for a Passage Home, &
that No Doubt might be left with respect to my Inten-
tions, I acquainted You in the same Letter that I
would obey the Board's Orders of the 12th which were af-
terwards explained to me by General Order, & that I should
wait with Patience ready to execute the Duties of my Station
as Commanding Officer & submitting my Conduct to
the Decision of the Honble Court of Directors, but as a
Member of this Government, & the Legislature, I protested
against the Conduct of the President, not for a Breach of
Privelege of Parliament, as he has made you believe
but for refusing to assemble the Council at which I
meant personally to exculpate myself from those
Charges which had been the Day before so unjustly
brought against me by Mr Du Pre, & which had not yet
been read & approved by the Board. This it was which
deemed contrary to Law & the Privelege I was entitled to.
Viz that of being heard in my own Defence, a Privelege

to

Fort St George 8th March 1773

to strike the meanest Subject of Britain is entitled, & as a Member of the Board, I protest also against such parts of your Conduct as I thought was partial to Mr Du Pré, & derogatory to the Rights of your Members & to the Constitution of the Service. On the 15th I departed in Obedience to the Order. On the 16th the Board met, but instead of considering the necessary Letters of the 13th & 14th as Mr Du Pré had promised by Letter to do, he moved to defer the Consideration of them to a Subsequent Council not on Account of other Business as appears from the Early Adjournment of the Board, & by Mess. Johnson & Mackay's Negative to Mr Du Pré's Motion, but that I might receive no Information of your Intentions until my Arrival at Trichinopoly by which Means, Every possibility must be cut off of my embarking upon the Navy, the Ships then under Dispatch. The last Paragraph of my Letter to You of 20th January from Vellemore, convinced You that I considered myself then in the different Capacities set forth in my Letter of the 14th January. On the 26th Answer to my Letters of the 13th & 14th I received one from You of the 18th in which the undersigning Mr Du Pré, as he calls himself, had taken Care to send under Cover to Lieut Col. Flint at Trichinopoly, desiring him to deliver it to me upon my Arrival at Trichinopoly, in order to prevent my receiving & answering it at Caddalore where all Letters addressed to me were of Course stopped till my Arrival. In this Letter you expressly declare, that no part of your Conduct with respect to me was meant as a Dismission, or to operate as a Dismission & say this "is "the single Point which seems to require an Answer". You do not even receive the other parts of my Letters for a future Day's Consideration but tell me that when I shall

Leave

Fort St George 8th March 1773

have complied with your Orders you will attend to any thing I may
afterwards have to represent. My Answer repeated my former
Declarations of Attachment to the Service, & Obedience to your
Authority. It is evident that Mr Du Pre had no Idea of Privi-
=lege of Parliament when you wrote this Letter of the 13th De-
=claring your Proceedings against me were not meant to operate
as a Dismission, yet Mr Du Pre in his Minute of 29 January
does not blush to contradict himself by a direct Insinuation
that it was his Intention as early as the 13 January to displace
me from the Command which must effectually operate
as a Dismission, but it was to operate at a time when no
Possibility remained of accomplishing my Desire of returning
Home by the first Ships, all this what is called my Plea of
Privelege of Parliament is so united with my Application
for a Passage on the first Ships, that it cannot be consider'd
Separately. The Consideration of the Privelege of Parliament
lay unattended to, it seems from the 13th to the 29 January
& then they were produced & made Use of without the least
Ground, as a Pretence to deprive me of the Service, Such
Proceedings cannot but be deemed a Contempt of the House
of Commons, & no Eyes so, the false & factitious Reasons Your
late President urges for delaying to consider of what he
calls my Plea of Privelege of Parliament. He says there
was a Contest for Power, that the whole Colony knew it
& that in the Army an Example of Obedience to the su-
=preme Government was Necessary. I have heard that
this Idea had been carried further, & that the whole
Military Corps is charged with an impatient Attention
to the Scale of Power, dreading that on which Side it would turn
if this Was really been asserted, I will venture to call it

a

Fort St George 8th March 1773

a Notorious Falshood, as criminal in the Assertion of it, as it is injurious to the whole Army, & it is my indispensible Duty to contradict it in the most positive Manner, as I think a Report of that Nature going abroad in England may at least have a Tendency to produce dangerous Effects in India Stock, but there indeed are Consequences, which the Majority seem to consider as Trifles in Competition with the private Ends they have in View.—

I have likewise heard that in your Letter by the Nassau you have given me Credit for Dissents, in which were entered in April before I had a seat in Council. It is a Justice I owe to Mess. Stratton & Mackay, the Dissenters upon that Occasion to declare that I had no Hand in those Dissents but I will freely acknowledge that their Dissents were perfectly agreeable to my Opinion upon the Subject of the Marawar Expedition. Prior to the General Letter by which the Troops marched, that I thought it a Service very inadequate to the Army which was ordered for that Purpose, & that the Europeans ought to be spared when Sepoys could do the Business without them. Those who were on the Expedition & have seen Barramahal can be best able to judge whether I was Right or wrong, & whether Mess. Stratton & Mackay merit the Approbation or Disapprobation of the Honble Court for their Dissents.—

I call upon you, Gentlemen, to say where you came by those Assertions of mine upon which your Orders of 30 July are founded, or by what Means any Claim of mine ever came before you by which you thought yourselves compelled to exonerate me from all Obligations "to serve the Company" This is a fair Request & perhaps

my

Fort St George 8th March 1773

may not now be inconsistent with your Justice to answer.

On the 11th I understood that you had suspended Mr Mackay at the Motion of Mr Du Pré for an Act of his himself Year for the Service, because that Year expired the real Conduct of Mr Du Pré, who Year Upon to enter into a Falshood & a Crime, that when both I am certain, he himself knew to be a Truth. On the 21th I learned that you had, because I was a Member of Parliament displaced me from my Station in Contradiction to Your Declarations of 12 January, & the Spirit of your Letter of the 18th. I found on the same Day, that General Smith had been imposed upon & deceived, for I have his positive Declaration that he never would have resumed the Command of the Army, had he not understood from your first Letter to him, that I was determined to quit immediately The Board had no Authority from me to give such a Reason to the General, nor could any thing be further from my Wishes than to quit the Service, whilst the most distant Possibility remained of my being allowed to effect that Reformation which the Board when I was sent upon

I am sorry Gentlemen for the Share you have had in these Transactions. For my own part I am willing to ascribe them to the raging Malice of one Man, who after Way of thinking, it has long been believed exempts him from every Restraint, & from every conscientious Check The great Pains he has taken to prevent my embarking with him for England, shewed that he placed his whole Dependance on the first Impression, & that he meant immediately on his Arrival at Home to avail himself of your precipitate Disposition by using your Names to

authenticate

303 Fort St George 8th March 1773

authenticate Assertions contained in your Letter to the Honble Court, which our Principle of Honr can justify —

Mr Du Pre's Administration has been marked & his Character fixed by a Series of Disgraces, those of the former part were alarming when they happened & look back with Pain, & perhaps with Resentment to the Detail of National Honr sacrificed, the Character & Reputation of the Company sunk in the Eyes of the Indian Powers, An unjustifiable* written to the Company by Him Lapsing in the Year 1770 entitled Reflexions & Considerations &c giving a false Account of the Situation of this Government, & Numerous Army corrupted & Debauched, the Company's Possessions at this Moment exposed at this Moment to the Insults of a despicable Enemy, who knowing his Timidity, hath dared to treat Us with Contempt, Misrepresentations sent home injurious to the Characters of some of the Company's best Servants, whose Zeal & Integrity ought to secure to them Every Mark of Favour & Protection; the Orders of the Company set aside without even the Shadow of a Reason. The Fortifications altogether neglected & the Town left insecure in opposition to my Representations when large Disbursments were made to carry on Publick Buildings, which seem to have been contrived & carried on to enrich Individuals not to serve the Company. Military Expeditions for private Reasons, delayed many Months after they were resolved upon, & made public by which Means the Enemy had time to satisfy & to furnish them. = selves with Military Stores from the Dutch & Danish Settlements; Members of the Board called Factious for giv. = ing their honest Sentiments in Council against Measures

which.

* The word omitted by Sir B. Fletcher

Fort St George 8th March 1773

which they could not approve, & which he would not have dared to propose, till that time came, when he cared no longer for the Company's Resentment, & the Commanders of the Army beyond & disgraced in the Eyes of the Troops, & in those of the whole Country. Not for any Disobediences or Neglect but for supporting the Credit & the Honor of the Company.

These are the Effects, this is the Issue of that uniform consistent Plan which Mr Du Pre in his Minute of the 11 January says, is suited to the Tenor & Spirit of the Company's Orders. Mr Du Pre in his private Character has broken several Solemn promises to me, he hath betrayed & recited private Conversations, which when they passed, he was told were confidential, & he has advanced upon your Consultations shamefull Falsehoods. I am not, as I have already animadverted upon a footing with Mr Du Pre at Weapons like these, but conscious of the Honorable part I have acted, I forget my own Insufficiency, & am satisfied that with my Cause, requires no very able Advocate. Professions of Honesty in times like these may be suspected, let the Merits speake. let the Hon'ble Court determine, whether I have been moved by a Desire to interrupt the Publick Affairs, or whether I have been animated by a Sense of my Duty to promote their Interests. If they shall be of the former Opinion, I Desire neither favor nor Mercy. On the Contrary should the Letter be their Decision, I shall look for a Satisfaction equal to the Violation of their Orders & of the first Principles of their Constitution, a Violation which is raised to a Precedent for future Examples, & which turns the Theory of our System into Ridicule & Scorn, the Practice into Tyranny & Oppression. —

Your

305 Fort St George 8th March 1773

You have not allowed me time to reply to the grounds & Assertions which appear upon the face of your Proceedings. I must do it at home, contenting myself for the present with sending you some Remarks, which I have made upon Mr Du Pre's Minute of the 11 Janry. I find you have recurred upon the Minutes of that Consultation Mr Du Pre's Account of the private Conversations between them two, which they say are admitted by Sir Robert Fletcher, & attested by Mr. Wynch. But you say not a Word of my Account of those Conversations which I read on the same Day at the Board from a Paper I had in my Pocket. It is true I said that "Mr Du Pre had not misrepresented any thing that did "pass so far as his Account went" but I shewed clearly by my Account of those Conversations, which Mr Du Pre did not contradict, that much more did pass than he thought proper to relate. The only Answer he made was as that "he kept no Minutes." The Paper however was attested the next Day, by Mess. Johnson & Macleay to be what I read at the Board & I now send it to You to be entered upon

Your Records.

I am
Gentlemen
Your most Obed. & Hble Servant
Rob. Fletcher.

Choultry Plain.
3d March 1773

Some Remarks upon Mr Du Pre's Minute of the 11 Janry -

My Dissent to the Proceedings of Council upon the Subject of the Plan is sufficiently explanatory of my Conduct throughout the whole, to render it unnecessary for me to follow him thro' all the Intricacies of this subtle Performance, which is meant not to inform but to mislead, & bring others to a Belief that my Conduct has been the very reverse of what he in his Remonstrance

Sentiments, believe, But he says "Sir Robert Fletcher has gone beyond
"the Merits in order to set the Conduct of the President in an unfavo-
"rable Light" I believe that the I confined my self strictly to the
Merits & that his Conduct will suffer more from his own Treac-
-hery of his own Tongue, than from any such Deviation of
mine. Excepting in the single point of the previous Question
I do not know that I have gone beyond the Merits, Nor that
the Honble Court will judge how far I was right or wrong &
how far he has kept his Promise to the Board collectively
& to me separately to confine his Reply to that single Point.

On the 30th December from a Motive of Candor & not
Duty, I read to him my Dissent in the presence of Mr Wynch.
His Answer was neither more nor less than "I have no Objection
"to it, but I shall be obliged to say a Word in reply to that
"part which relates to the previous Question." I made an
Addition to the Dissent, & carried it again to him at his
Garden House, He then told me in very good Humour, that
"what I had written about the previous Question was not
"justly stated & he would answer that part of the Dissent."
I asked "Do you mean not truly stated?" And he replied
"I do not mean not truly stated" Nothing more to the Pur-
-port passed between us on the subject. How far our Accounts
agree, & where the Imputation of Injustice ought to be
placed, I leave to those who are best acquainted with the
Characters of the Parties. But why so much useless Argument
to prove a Proposition which I never disputed, & whether ad-
-mitted or denyed is a Matter of Indifference. What is it to the
Purpose whether his Declaration be taken literally or not?
If it be fair in him to move a previous Question upon every
Question I shall propose on a Day set apart, at my Request

for

307 Fort St George 8th March 1773

for the particular Purpose of altering the Stations of the Troops, but may I think with equal Fairness & Propriety move a previous Question upon all other Occasions whereon any particular Duty is not supposed to be so immediately concerned. But this is going beyond the Minute which alone invited him to write, in Order to set in a just point of View a part of his Conduct which is not disputed. That now other Persons did dispute it will be seen by my Answer to the Question he put to the Board on the 11 Inst. My Chief Reason for shewing him the Dissent before it came to Council was purely to explain, & to alter such parts as might not clearly be understood, & I would have done so, at either of the previous Meetings, had he been open enough to tell me what he meant by not justly stated. I can never therefore believe, Sir, that the whole of his Minute contradicts his first Declaration to the Board, that "he would not reply to any thing the Minority "might write," his second to me on the 30 December & his third at the Garden House mentioned as above. It contradicts likewise his Agreement on the 14 December not to record former Disputes, & fixes upon him as the second Charge upon which I am arraigned & condemned the 12th Inst, as appears in my Letter to the Board of the 20th. In his written Declaration of the 24th December, he says "I differ in Opinion as to some "points, but I would by no Means be understood to disapprove "the whole of the Plan." In his Minute of the 11 Inst he says "Neither myself or any other Member objected absolutely & "decisively to any part of the Plan" What is this perplexing Distinction which he would endeavour to unite with the Conduct of public Affairs? If it be not a Contradiction it requires Even this Sophistry to explain it, he says "Neither

was

Fort St George 8th March 1773

"was I prepared to propose any other Agreement." Had I seen the least Disposition in him to be prepared at any future time I would be gladly have adjourned the Consideration to a distant Day. But the Truth is, he had long resolv'd to oppose the Plan & believe for no better Reason, than because the Idea was not his own. The Consideration was brought before him, when General Coote was here, it was before him the year after, I brought it before him in the Month of March last & in the Month of November last. At length I was obliged to apply to the Board, where I declared & expressed my Intention many Days before the Business came on. Where then is his Excuse for not being prepared? It is in that Arcana of Grounds & Reasons & Motives & Reasons at-large, too sacred to be recorded here, but which is to be opened to the Worthy Court at Home. New Lights may then indeed appear to change my Opinion of this System, but I trust he will find the Court of Directors too wise to suffer themselves as I have done to be perplexed & compounded with Endless Subtleties & dishonest Artifices "Greater Obstacles restrained by many Circumstances" are vague & indefinite Arguments without Foundation or Truth, which I defy any one then he shall be pleased explain himself. The Majority mention Objections on the part of the Nabob. I have great Reason to think that all this Mr Du Pre used his Influence to prevail upon the Nabob to approve the Plan; yet his Highness was, his stedfast Friend to the Plan, & I will say further that I believe the Nabob to be very sincerely attached to the Interest of the Company & ready to assist them to the utmost of his Power. But Mr Du Pre says "I had a Chain of Deduction to draw the Board into an apparent Contradiction or Inconsistency." I deny the appearance as well as the Reality of the unwarranted

Charge

Fort St. George 8th March 1773

Charge. The Members were apprized of the Nature of my first Ques-
= tion long before it came to the Board. The second was to fix that
part of the first which they had already approved & to clear
it from those Incumbrances with which his written Decla-
= ration had clogged it, & the third if they had not thrown out the
second, was only to build Quarters not immediately, but when our
Circumstances would permit us. This open fair & candid
Proceeding it seems is termed by Instruct & Questions
Succeeding Question. If he has stated my Conduct truly. I must
have been too absurd to require the Exercise of his Abilities to
expose me, & too trifling to vex & tease a Man of his acknow-
= ledged Understanding, supported by a great Majority of a
Board where Debates are too little known to prevent a Short
Negative upon any Question whatsoever. The Candid Reader to
whom he appeals, will judge of my Inclination or Power to
tease, & to vex, & whether Pique & Resentment have, or have not
had too great a Share, in his Proceedings, merely because I
preserved my Duty to the Publick to reject his mean Compli-
= ances to which no Consideration shall ever make me stoop.
"I verily believe more Questions of this kind & so known upon
Questions of this kind ever moved at the Board before excepting
upon the Award dated the 29 October last. He intended I had
recourse to a previous Question, in which I carried, But upon his
Declaration, that he would bring his Motion to Every future Ques-
= tion & thereby interrupt the Current Business, till he should
carry his Point. The following Monday was fixed for a further
Consideration, & upon that Day a Majority of one did the Busi-
= ness. It was my turn then to declare that such Practices could
tend to no good, but to the Dishonour of the Board I hope the
Honble Court will turn their Eyes to the Proceedings of the

20th.

Fort St George 8th March 1773

28th & 29th or 30th October. They will therefore see that all the Power of the Board appeared clearly & strongly against the Arrack, yet on that Friday he presented on the Execution. & the Board agreed to determine it on the following Monday. –

I hope with Mr Du Pre that the Honble Court will search the Records for the Dependts of Caste Men tho' I think they will do Honor to those who come to them. Had I been a Member of Council in former parts of this Government, & on the latter parts of that of his Predecessor, wherein I acted a principal Part, I should upon all Occasions have studied to preserve Harmony & to avoid Every Personal Animosity, but he would not in all Cases have found that Unanimity on which he seems now to boast. – Two Years ago Mr Du Pre adhered rigidly to the Letter of the Company's Orders, & swore, that if they directed a Bastion to be sent Home, he would endeavour to embark it. Here he seemed to be guided by a just sense of his Duty & Obedience to his Master. Now that he has benefited so largely by their Favours, & thinks he has Nothing to apprehend from their Displeasure, Even the sense of Shame is no Obstacle to a mean Prostitution of those Abilities, which might have rendered him an Honor to the English Name

Fort St George 31 January 1773 Rob Fletcher

After the select Committee the 26 December, I shewed the Governor some Orders & Regulations for his Approval He expressed his Approbation, but said that the Situation in the Black Officers hall Mounting would be attended with an Additional Expence – On the 30 December last I desired the Brigade Major to send them to Capt. Wood, who as appears upon our Consultations acts as Adjutant General & Governor's Aid Du Camp as well as Town Major, & who is the only

Fort St George 8th March 1773

only Person who is understood to circulate Orders & Regulations to all parts of the Army, being allowed Extra Writers expressly for that purpose, & no other Staff Officer being allowed any Writer. – Capt. Wood very properly carried the Paper to the Governor, who sent for me, & after saying Something about the Command of the Parade on New Years Day, he mentioned the Paper of Orders which lay upon his Table, & said "You cannot give out any Orders here" which surprized me because they were the Orders the Governor had before approved. He said they must come through the Board, or from the Governor, I answered that I had no Doubt about the Propriety of the Mode I proposed, but that rather than the Service should be interrupted, I would agree to any Mode he liked best, & I said "If you please you may write at the Top, Orders by Sir Robert "Fletcher & approved by the Governor." The Governor answered, "Right that very well, but I must tell my Surveyor" He called Mr Wynch in, & said, "Sir Robert Fletcher proposes "that they should be said to be approved by the Governor." I told Mr Wynch, that I only proposed it, because the Gover-nor would not agree to my Mode, & that I would do any thing rather than the Service should Suffer. The rest of the Meeting passed on the Subject of my Dissent upon the Plans for Stationing the Troops, which I read to the Governor & to Mr Wynch, & the Governor said "I have no Objection to it" Some time after Capt. Wood came to me from the Governor, with the Memorandum mentioned in the Governor's Letter under Date 2d Janry – My Answer to Capt Wood was, as therein related. I wrote two Answers to the Governor's Letter but finding my Military Notions so contrary to his, I thought that sending either of them would only produce fresh Dis-

putes.

3d Fort St George 8th March 1773

Disputes, which I wished to avoid during the short time I had to stay in the Government, especially as I had great Reason to think that Mr Wynch would not suffer trifling Punctilios to interrupt the Service. I therefore waited on the Governor the next Morning, in hopes of getting an Explanation of Mr Whitehill's Rule, & I desired the favour that Mr Wynch might be present. I read what I had written, but said that I did not mean to give it in writing, hoping that We both meant the same thing, & that the difference of Form might be amicably settled. We talked a good Deal & I believe might have come to some Agreement, if the Governor had not insisted that I would give no Order whatever to Lieut Col Vaughan Commanding the Battalion in Madras without sending it first to Col Lang at Vellore, who would send it to Lieut Col Vaughan at Madras. This appeared to me extremely irregular & detrimental to the Order & Discipline of this Battalion, wherein many Disorders may happen under my immediate Eye, without my having the Power of any immediate Authority to correct them or any Power to give a Order in case it may be immediately necessary for the good Order of that Corps. We concluded our Conversation with a Mutual Promise each to commit his Ideas to Paper, & to endeavour some how or other to accomodate Matters for the good of the Service. I wrote mine, but they were so different from the Governor's declared Opinions that I was afraid of fresh Disputes, & wished at least to see his, before I delivered my own. I met the Governor at Mr Straiey's on Friday the 5th & I asked him if he had written his Opinion upon the Mode of my issuing Orders. He said No — I told him that mine were very different from what I had before heard him express, & repeated that

Fort St. George 8th March 1773

what he had said about Lieut Col. Vaughan as an Instance but upon the whole I told him, as I have ever done, that I would submit to any thing, rather than let the Service suffer, & said that if some Method were not allowed by which I might distribute & enforce my Orders, I could not be answerable for the Discipline - The Governor said he would enquire & consult, or Words to that Purpose - I said will you set up the Opinion of the Town Major in Opposition to that of the Commander of your Army? The Governor answered "I will consult Boden" In this Conversation I repeated to the Governor, what I had long before recommended, that the Recruits of last Year, might be incorporated in the different Regiments. The Governor answered he would be but a fortnight longer here. This I think is a Matter of Consequence to the Army, & I mention it merely lest I should be blamed for a Neglect - and so the Matter rests. -

The Governor seems to be in Doubt about my issuing Orders in Madras, provided I were Commandant of the Garrison. As tho' it would be difficult for one Person to attend strictly to the Duties of Commandant of this Garrison, to attend to the Superintendency of all the other Garrisons where We have Troops, for our whole Army is in Garrison, to send his Orders & Regulations to all the Corps, & to answer all the Letters the Commander of the Army must receive from different Officers, yet Supposed to be Commandant provided the Town Major were obliged to do his Duty, & unless he does, it is impossible for a Commandant to be answerable for the Performance of the Garrison Duties. The Governor said on the 3d Inst.

to

314 Fort St. George 31. March 1773

it would be inconsistent with my Station to be Commandant of
this Garrison

Madras 10 Janry 1773

Rob Fletcher

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esqr
President & Governor & Council
of Fort St George

Gentlemen

on the Application of Chris. Bryan for a Passage on the Triton his contracted time of Service being expired

Christopher Bryan Matross in the Corps of Artillery having served eight or nine Months beyond his contracted time, & finding his several Applications thus made according to the Mode prescribed however irregular it may be, ineffectual, has solicited me to take him to England; I represented to him the Difficulties attending Applications of this Nature last Year, when although the Men could not procure a Passage, till they prevailed on the Captains of the Ships to carry them, that the Captains declined it without an Order, & that the granting of Leaves was generally evaded.—

I cannot help giving you my Sentiments on any Affair however trifling it may appear to you, seems to me of great Importance to the Interests of the Honble Company. The Privilege of returning to England at the Expiration of five Years allowed to the Soldiers for a long Course of time by your Honble Masters is now certainly as Justitute, as it was at the first Institution; I may be allowed to say more at this Juncture, when the late frequent Desertions from your out Garrisons & even the Presidency seem to call for any Method of Treatment to the Soldiers, that has a tendency to increase any unreasonable Discontent. The intent of the Law

315 Fort St George 8th March 1773

The intent of the Liberty of returning to Europe at the Expiration of this Term seems to me to be an Encouragement for Men to enter into the Service - it certainly is so, grant that, & a prohibition contemporaneous cannot be said from any Law must have a Contrary Effect -

I should be glad if you would order Capt Upshire to receive Christopher Bryan on board of the Triton agreeable to the Intentions of the Honble Court of Directors. -

I have the Honor to be
Gentlemen
Your most Obed. & Humble Servt.
Rob. Fletcher

Shoultry Plain
8 March 1773

The Board will reply to those parts of Sir Robert Fletchers Letter which merit an Answer, by the General Letter to the Court of Directors - They will only here remark, that Sir Robert has very unfairly stated Christopher Bryan's Case, in Order to support his Charge of Oppression & Want of Policy in this Government - But a plain Relation of Facts will shew the Grounds Sir Robert has gone upon, & clearly evince his Motives for addressing the Board on this Subject. -

Case of Christopher Bryan

Christopher Bryan applied for, & obtained his Discharge from the late President in October last, but as Capt Coates would not take him on board he could not procure a Passage on the Nottingham, Capt Gore also refused him a Passage on the Nassau, both Ships having Several Charter Party Passengers, so that this Man has been detained Several Months in the Country after the Expiration of his contracted time, because he has not been able to obtain a Passage to Europe, & not from any Fault in the Governor & Councils, as Sir Robert Fletcher is pleased to assert in his Letter.

The

316 Fort St George 8th March 1773

Resolutions of the Board

The Board cannot give an Order to Capt Elphinstone to receive Christopher Bryan on Board & to permit him with a Passage to England, as they know not whether they have Authority to do so. It has never been Customary on Occasions Instances to give Orders to the Captains, but only previously to receive such Men on Board as have served their contracted time, & Their Decisions pertaining to Lunacy

We therefore Agree that a Permit be given Capt Elphinstone to receive Christopher Bryan on Board the Triton & that the Matter be referred to the Court of Directors

General Smith delivers in the following Remarks on Sir Robert Fletchers Reflexions on the State of the Army contained in this foregoing Letter. –

† General Smiths Remarks on Sir Robt Fletchers Reflexions on the state of the Troops in the Establishment.

† General Smith thinks it incumbent on him to take Notice of that part of Sir Robert Fletchers Letter to the Board of the third March relative to his Charge of want of Discipline in the Army, & the Conversations he says passed between him & Mr Hastings on that Subject. General Assertions ought to be well founded before any Credit should be given to them. This want of Discipline among the Troops is a very extraordinary Charge to come from Sir Robert Fletcher who forms his Judgment from the Troops doing Duty on his arrival at Madras. If Genl Smith was at that time there was only two or three Companies of Europeans belonging to the young Battallion formed by General Coote out of the Recruits brought out the Season he arrived, & to whom were posted the King's Officers sent out that Season. This Charge if just, reflects great Dishonour on those Officers, but from the Attention he observed those Officers paying to the forming first Battallion, while at Pondamelore before I went to the Southward. I cannot conceive this Charge to be well founded. It is true in Madras the Men cannot be kept

Fort St George 5th March 1773.

kept in so good Order as in Out-Garrisons. They have too many opportunitys of getting Liquor in spite of all the Vigilance of their Officers, nor has Sir Robert Fletcher during his Command put the least Stop to this Inconvenience. The Troops doing Duty there, were the 1st & 2d Battalion, both of which I venture to affirm were in exceeding good Order & were capable of performing such Evolutions, as but three or four years ago, Sepoys were thought incapable of being brought to. The greatest part of the Troops in the Carnatic were then with me to the Southward. Inspr to the State of their Discipline the Monthly Reports of the Reviews, I had the Honor to send the Board from Trichinopoly, a little before the Tanjore Expedition, & I dare declare upon my Honor, that no Favour or Particularity was shown to any part of them in those Reports, but their Condition was stated as they justly merited. The Gallant Behaviour of the Troops on every Occasion I have commanded them demands of me to declare them as brave a Body of Men on Service as ever was in this Country, & hope I shall not be thought too presumptuous when I assert, that I could do as much with these Troops, so much decryed, as Sir Robert Fletcher could with the Equal Number of the 79th Regiment, which he asserted in General Orders would do more than twice their Number of any other Troops he had ever seen in India. With respect to forming a plan of Discipline that should be thro followed by the whole Troops it had been for some time preparing, this could only be adopted when the Troops were in Cantonments; & as I proposed leaving the Command to Sir Robt. Fletcher, I left him to fix on such a One as he should approve of.

As he has not published any yet, I shall as soon as

Convenient

Fort St George 8th March 1773

Convenient submit a Form to the Board to be by them ordered to be adopted, if approved, & it will then be necessary Province to see the several Corps observe it.—

Letter from Nabob in Council dated 8th Jan. 1780 being the remainder of the Treasury for Ramnaud & Carnatic.

Read a Letter from the Nabob dated 3 March as entered in Country Correspondence

Presidents Report respecting the Nabob.

The President acquaints the Board that Mr Stracey at the desire of the Nabob had informed him, that he the Nabob wishes the Board should be convened that one of their Members share a sincere Desire to preserve his Friendship, from whence he communicate the Company and send him to write his Letter to the Governor & Council of the 7th Inst. & that the same was intended merely to satisfy his Doubts respecting the Manner he has been represented to the Court of Directors

Read the following Report from the Committee of Stores.—

To the Honble Alexr Wynch Esqr
President & Governor &c Council
of Fort St George

Report from the Committee of Stores

Honble Sir & Sirs

We have the Honor to lay before you No. 1 to 5 Inclusive our Minutes of the 3d Inst. & also our Report of Proofs of Powder at this Presidency. We are with Respect

Fort St George
March 4. 1773

Honble Sir & Sirs
Your very Obed Servts
Humble Servants
Joseph Smith
John Whitehill
Patrick Roy

319 Fort St George 8th March 1773

At a Committee of Stores Present

Wednesday March 3d — Brig. Gen.l Joseph Smith, Patrick Whitehill Esqr.
Lieut Col Ross, Lieut Col James

The Committee having met this Morning to examine Gun Carriages at the Contractor's Yard in the Black Town, the following being found Equal to those already delivered & being approved of were agreed to be received & compleat the Number of Gun Carriages contracted for. Viz

24 Pdr Field Carriages with Limbers — 9
18 D° — D° — 9
8 Inch Howitzer — D° — 14
5½ D° — D° — 10
12 Pdr Garrison Carriages — 65
18 Pdr Iron — D° — 20
12 Pdr D° — 10

The Committee have to observe that the Contract is finished four or five Months within the time limited, & that the Carriages seem to be well made & in Every Respect agreeable to Contract.—

Lieut Col James represents to the Committee that the Gun Carriages made by the above Contract, for want of being painted, will suffer much from the Heat of the Sun, & the Land Winds.— Agreed that it be recommended to the Board that they be painted with all Convenient Expedition.—

Lieut Col James lays before the Committee the following List of Gun Carriages & Mortar Beds Necessary for Garrison & Field Service. Viz

Fields

320 Fort St George 8th March 1773

Field Carriages with Limbers complete for Brass Guns 18 Pdrs 10
Do Do ——— Do Boxes complete for Light Guns — 12 C — 16

Beds for Mortars

13 Inch ——— 13
10 D ——— 9
8 D ——— 19
5½ D ——— 27
4½ D ——— 24

And which the Committee finding to be reasonable wanted agreed that it be recommended to the Board that they be made as soon as possible —

Seven 5½ Inch Ryal Mortars being produced & certified by Lieut Col James requesting the Examination of the Committee they are found to be too low to receive the Shells, & consequently unfit for Service, but it being represented that they may be raised here to the proper Dimensions. Agreed that as Time remains, & that it be recommended to the Board, that two of them be sent Home by the Ships under Dispatches for the Inspection of the Honble the Court of Directors —

The Military Storekeeper lays before the Committee sundry Reports of Proof of Powder which are Ordered to be laid before the Board —

The Military Storekeeper lays before the Committee an Indent of Stores for Rammad aproam as entered hereafter. A List of what can be spared in part of the said Indent is Now made out —

The Military Storekeeper lays before the Committee Indents of Stores for Vizagapatam & Tanjore, which are Agreed to be complied with —

Report

321 Fort St George 8th March 1773

Report of the Proof of Powder with a Brass Ten Inch Mortar at Fort St George November 2d 1772

Quality of Powder	Nos firing	Weight of Powder	Nature of Mortar	Weight of Shell	Elevation	Range	Medium Range	Remarks
		lb oz	Inches	lb oz	Degrees	Yards	Yards	
Madras	1	2 "	10	96 "	45	950	881½	
	2	" "	"	" "	"	813		
	3	" "	"	" "	"	880		
Old Mint Powder	4	" "	"	" "	"	794	789	
	5	" "	"	" "	"	795		
	6	" "	"	" "	"	779		
New Mint Powder	7	" "	"	" "	"	827	856	
	8	" "	"	" "	"	886		

Report of the Proof of Powder with a 10 Inch Brass Mortar at Fort St George February 10th 1773

Quality of Powder	Nos firing	Weight of Powder	Nature of Mortar	Weight of Shell	Elevation	Time of Flight	Range	Medium Range of 3 Firings	Remarks
		lb oz	Inches	lb oz	Degrees	Seconds	Yards	Yards	
Madrass Price	1	2 "	10	96 "	45	15	1069	1059	
1st Barrel	2	" "	"	" "	"	15½	1157		
	3	" "	"	" "	"	14	952		
2d	4	" "	"	" "	"	15	1020	974	
	5	" "	"	" "	"	14	974		
	6	" "	"	" "	"	14	929		
3d	7	" "	"	" "	"	14	869	880½	
	8	" "	"	" "	"	14	892		
4d	9	" "	"	" "	"	14	897	884½	
	10	" "	"	" "	"	14	972		

322 Fort St George 8th March 1773

Report of the Proof of Powder with a 10 Inch Brass Mortar at Fort St George January 9th 1773

Quality of Powder	No of firings	Weight of Powder lb oz	Nature of Mortar Inches	Weight of Shell lb - oz	Elevation Degrees	Time of Flight Seconds	Range Yards	Medium Range of 3 firings Yards
Europe								
Ships Norfolk	1	2 "	10.	96 "	45	14 1/2	945	1069
	2	" "	"	"	"	15 1/2	1062	
	3	" "	"	"	"	16	1200	
Lions	4	" "	"	"	"	15 1/2	1072	1015
	5	" "	"	"	"	14 1/2	1002	
	6	" "	"	"	"	14 1/2	973	
Anson	7	" "	"	"	"	14 1/2	1000	1044
	8	" "	"	"	"	15 1/2	1065	
	9	" "	"	"	"	15 1/2	1099	
Lincoln	10	" "	"	"	"	14	940	940
	11	" "	"	"	"	14	911	
	12	" "	"	"	"	14	967	

Report of the Proof of Powder at Fort St George 6 January 1773 with a 10 Inch Brass Mortar

Quality of Powder	No of Firings	Weight of Powder lb oz	Nature of Mortar Inches	Weight of Shell lb oz	Elevation Degrees	Range Yards	Medium Range Yards	Remarks
	1	2 "	10	96 "	45	939		
Egmore	2	" "	"	" "	"	1044	1038	
	3	" "	"	" "	"	1132		
Old Mill	1	" "	"	" "	"	1022		
Powder	5	" "	"	" "	"	976	999	
	6	" "	"	" "	"	1021		
	7	" "	"	" "	"	921		
	8	" "	"	" "	"	901	911	
	9	" "	"	" "	"	1003		
	10	" "	"	" "	"	1031		
	11	" "	"	" "	"	944	970	
	12	" "	"	" "	"	939		

323 Fort St George 8th March 1773

As the Committee of Stores have recommended that
the Gun Carriages be painted to prevent their suffering by the
Land Winds & the Heat of the Sun, the Board approve of this
Method, & direct that it be accordingly done as soon as possible

Ordered that Mr Whitehill be directed to deliver in a
Calculation of the Amount of the Gun Carriages & Mortars Bed
represented by the Committee to be much wanted for the
Garrison & Field Service

The Board approve of making an Experiment on the
Mortars which upon Examination have been found to low to
receive the Shells, & they direct that two of the Mortars with Some
Shells be sent on the Triton for the Inspection of the Bombardiers

The Board see the Necessity of falling upon Some Method
for providing greater Quantity of Gun Powder, & will take this
Subject into Consideration after the Dispatches, when the Re-
ports of the Proofs of Powder will be brought before the Board

Read the following Letter from Major Horne

To the Honble Alex[r] Wynch Esq[r]
President Governor & Council of
Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

When Majors Billingham & Harper were appointed Super-
numerary Majors on Account of the Tanjore Expedition, I applyd
to the late Governor for the same Indulgence, assuring my
Claim to it as a Senior Captain in the Service with Such
other Reasons as I conceived equitable entitled me to that
Rank as their Senior Officer, But I did not then succeed, two
Years having since elapsed, two
More Gentlemen being originally in the Service before me the
Same was, As the Board were informed, tho' not by any Order
from the Honble Court of Directors, that the Company had
agreed

Order thereon

Calculation

Letter from Major Horne

 Fort St George 8th March 1773

refused agreeing to allow the Artillery Officers to rise in the General List of the Army, notwithstanding he had been recommended by Col Pattison who was consulted on forming the present Establishment — Adding that I must know this Circumstance —

At the time I learned the above Reasons for setting me aside, the time was very unfavourable for a Man of Honor & Spirit to make further Application, more especially as I was situated with a Commission the Confidence of General Smith, then going on a very important Service, I therefore resolved to postpone vindicating myself from the above Censure & of urging such other Reasons in Support of my Claim as I thought well founded untill that Service should be over: At this in Case of Success, the Difference of Prize Money would in all probability be very considerable, & the Gratification it must be to see an Officer I deemed my Junior acting in the same Army, in a Superior Station. As soon as it was in my Power to make further Application, more especially as I was situated with a Commission the Confidence of General Smith, then going on a very important Service, I therefore resolved to postpone vindicating myself from the above Censure & of urging such other Reasons in Support of my Claim as I thought well founded untill that Service should be over: At this in Case of Success, the Difference of Prize Money would in all probability be very considerable, & the Gratification it must be to see an Officer I deemed my Junior acting in the same Army, in a Superior Station. A severe fit of Illness immediately after that Campaign ended prevented my then doing it & other Circumstances concurring obliged me to postpone it untill the Maravar Expedition was over: about which time the General Orders of June 23d July 3d appearing, in the latter of which Major Billingham succeeds to a Majority & directed to be looked upon as Senior Major on the Establishment, I therefore could not conceive any further Application Necessary as I had succeeded long before to a Majority on the Establishment of Course by that Order was his Senior & had my proper Rank. However on my Arrival at Madras, I thought it necessary to clear up that part of my Conduct respecting what I knew relative to the Regulations made for the Rise of the Artillery Officers in the Army — This I did in an

Address

325 Fort St George 8th March 1773

Address to the Governor, In which I gave such Reasons as I imagine amounts to a Proof, that the Honble Court of Directors meant the Artillery Officers should rise by Brevet to preserve their Rank. Some after which, I left Madras fully satisfied, with having as I imagined my proper Standing in the Army - But on Major Harpers being appointed a Major on the Establishment October 20th 1772 on Col. Hartis Resignation, & Ordered to rank as a Major on the Establishment from the 13 August 1771 upwards of 14 Months before that Vacancy happened I found the Order of the 3d July set-aside, & those Gentlemen appointed Senior Majors on the Establishment to me who had succeeded to a regular Vacancy 17 Nov 1771 This Circumstance makes it necessary to apply to the Honble Board on Behalf of what I conceive to be an Injury done to me. As a Senior Major to either of those Gentlemen on this Establishment, except Local Rank is allowed to take place, in which Case I must beg Leave to renew my Application for an Equal Indulgence & to lay before Your Honor such Reasons as I hope will convince You that I am justly entitled to it.-

The most material point which not only affects me but Every other Artillery Officer is to ascertain whether the Honble Court of Directors came to a Resolution to allow their Artillery Officers to rise by Brevet to preserve their Rank in the Army or not. This can only be done by a Reference to them, as they have given no publick Directions on that Head, But in the mean time, if I can advance such Reasons as it strictly probable, they meant to give Every Encouragement to the Officers of that Corps

Among st

Fort St George 8th March 1773

Amongst other Hints as that of rising by Brevet occasionally was included, I hope I shall enjoy the Benefit of this Intention untill it can be ascertained, especially as there is no Additional Expence attending it, which was not the Case, when the Captain Lieutenants were appointed full Captains. However they even approve of their enjoying Brevet Ranks.—

When I arrived in England in 1767, I applyed for an Appointment in the Infantry, I was desired by Mr Rous, then Chairman, to give my Reasons for wishing to quit the Artillery. I did so, & fully shewed the very disadvantageous footing that Corps was then upon compared to the rest of the Military Establishment, He seemd Sensible of the Impropriety of its remaining longer on such a footing, & declared his Intentions of laying the substance of what I informed him before the Direction, But desired I would think of remaining in the Artillery, & draw out my Ideas in Writing of the most proper footing to put the Artillery upon, & shewed it to General Lawrence for his introduced Name recommended me to the Chairman & Every other Director then in the House. And if approved by him it would come with the greater Weight before the Direction This I accordingly did, & left with the General who approved of it Some after which, the principal Offices lately returned from India were requested to meet & hear the Directors with their Advice in forming this General Military Establishment of which then in Town were Generals Lawrence & Caillaud & Col Campbell met, & after Several Days Consultation General Lawrence carry'd their Plan to the India House where I at his Direction

met

Fort St George 8th March 1773

mod him, The Establishment of Artillery for this Coast was to consist of a Battallion of 520 Men, to which there should be a Colonel a Lieut Col. & a Major. As then the Artillery Officers would be on as good a footing as the Infantry they were to rise in that Corps only, & there could be No Necessity for desiring to be removed, when they came by long Service to be well acquainted with that Essential Branch. They recommended sending out an Officer of Reputation & Experience from his Majesty's Royal Artillery the Colonel of this Corps, And the General again introduced me, & recommended my being sent out one of the Field officers This Plan was approved of for some time & Mc Scrafton applied to Col. Pattison of the Royal Artillery to recommend a proper Person for this Post. And also a Number of Cadets from the Academy of which he was Lt. Governor Capt. Williams an Officer of Reputation was pitched upon, & introduced by the Colonel & approved of by the Directors, & he was making preparations to come out when General Carnac arrived in Town to whom the intended Military Arrangment was shewn, he submitted another for the Bengal Establishment which was to consist of one Battallion of Artillery, six of Infantry, to Each of which there should be One Lieut Colonel & 1 Major that the Infantry together with the Regular Sepoys should be divided into three Brigades to Each of which a Colonel should be appointed to command. This being approved, the Court adopted the same plan for the Artillery on this Coast, & for Bombay. Capt. Williams was informed of this Alteration & offered to be sent out as Lieut Colonel Commandant, But he refused quitting his Majesty's Service for less than a Colonels Commission in

The

 Fort St George 8th March 1773

the Company's, this not being agreed to, Col Pattison was again applied to, but disliking the Alteration made for the Artillery declined recommending any Officer, or admitting any of the Cadets from the Academy to enter into the Service, whilst not on a footing in Every Respect with the Infantry, & proposed the Officers rising in one General List, this was not complyed with, but the Directors who had this Conference with the Colonel consented that their Artillery Officers should occasionally have Brevets to preserve their standing in the Army. Williams still refused accepting the Command of the Artillery on these Terms; The Colonel then recommended Butler, who being promised to rise to a Colonels Brevet, when his standing as Lieut Colonel entitled him to it, but was not to be removed from the Artillery. He accepted of it, & was appointed. For the Truth of this Assertion & Promise made Butler, I appeal to Genl Smith before whom Col Butler at Trichinopoly avowed this as a Fact. And further corroborated what he asserted by reading a Paragraph of a Letter he had just received from Col Pattison to whom he wrote on that Subject soon after his Arrival at Madras. As he understood no Express Orders had been sent out relative to it. That Letter as it was proper he might have occasion to quote. I obtained on Col Butlers Death from his Papers then Capt Mannering & have sent it to General Smith, & request that part relative to the present subject may be read to the Board, & thought Necessary entered on Record. Not satisfied by General Report & the Assurance of Col Butler who then became unanimous with at the time the Appointments were taking place. And which by this Alteration occasioned my being only appointed the Senior Captain, I waited on Mr Rous to

 Fort St George 8th March 1773

to know from him whether we were to be allowed to preserve our Stand-
=ing in the Army by Brevet, if not I observed they had done little towards
rendering that Corps on an Equal Footing with the rest of the
Army. He assured me they were very Sensible of the Imper-
=tance of the Artillery Branch, & meant to give Every Encour-
=agement to those Officers, & that they would occasionally be
allowed to preserve their Rank by Brevet, but that No Person
could in future be allowed from one Corps to another, Adding
he was sorry at my Disappointment - But as I was going
as Eldest Captain, I could not long be without the Rank of
a Field Officer. This is the Light I understood the Regulations
intended for the Corps of Artillery when I took up the
Commission granted me by the Honble Court of Directors, If
any others of a Contrary Tendency have since been adopted
I am a Stranger to them, I cannot therefore justly be
censured for applying for what I have such Reasons to
look upon, as in Justice due to me from the apparent
Intentions of our Honble Masters, when they put the
Corps on its present footing; However it would be Presu-
=mptious in me to suppose the Honble Board will
adopt this as a Rule for them from any Intimation
I have advanced; But as it is a Circumstance of the ut-
=most Importance to the Artillery Corps in General &
me at this Juncture in particular, I must hope the
Board will be pleased to lay the Substance of my Appli-
=cation before the Honble Court of Directors, for their
Determination. -

In Answer to the other Objection, that the pre-
=sent Majors were originally in the Service a few Days
before me, I must observe can be of Little Importance to
them; My present Rank in the Service is from
an

330 Fort St George 8th March 1773

an Appointment given me by the Honble Court of Directors after I had been 20 Months out of their Service, it therefore became a fresh Appointment in this Service from which my Rank must hold good: & take place on Every Respect as was shewn in the Appointments of the same Season of the three Members of Council who came out on the Civil List, or of Col Butlers Majors, Lt Incles, & Donalson in the Military Line was an entire New Appointment as well as the others, & my Commission of a superior Date to that I had held from the Governor & Council of Bombay. A Retrospection therefore into the time of my first coming into the Service is Genuine setting aside the Appointment of the Honble Court of Directors. However if it can be said appear to have been a Rule observed in the Service to regulate the Appointment of Field Officers, when an Artillery or Cavalry Captains have had Pretensions to Rank not strictly a Retrospection into the time of their Entrance into the Service. I will very readily waive my Pretensions; But, if on the Contrary, their Rank as Captains has generally been the Rule observed in appointing Field Officers, without going further back, If I have fulfilled the Duties of my Commission & no Objections appear against me either as an Officer qualified for such a Station, or as a Gentleman deserving of that Rank, I hope it will not appear presumptuous in me to expect the same Rules being observed in my favour, & this Service was so in the Cases of Barron Vaspar Barker, Donald Campbell, Elly Kirkpatrick, Fitzgerald the two Cutler Juniors at their coming into the Service Above my self, when the Cutler of those Gentlemen were added to a Majority in the Infantry from a Captain of Cavalry

Corps

331 Fort S.t George 8.th March 1773

Captain Billingham's Pretensions as Eldest Captain of Infan-
-try, & originally his Senior was urged as I have been informed
by his Friends. But was carry'd against him in favour of
Fitzgerald in Consequence of being esteemed the Senior Capt.n
- If the above Instances are right ly Stated & no Regula-
-tions have been made publick for any other Rule to be
observed in appointing Field Officers; I hope I shall
stand justified in giving the Honble Board this
Trouble. That Officer who won't use Every Endeavour to
preserve Every Title of Right to his Military Rank can
have very little Military Ardour & is undeserving the
Honor of a Commission. -

I have been thus plain in my Application to
enable Every Member of the Honble Board who were
not present at my former Application to form a
Right Judgment of my Conduct. I mean not by this
plainess to shew any Disrespect, or to be wanting in
that Deference due to the Members that compose it.
If any part of this Address appears to be too presuming
I must request it may be overlook'd as proceeding from
a too great Warmth in the Support of a Cause I am
greatly interested in. I have only further to beg
if there is any Difficulty in adjusting my Preten-
sions, they may be referred Home as early as Convenient
to the Honble Court of Directors for their final Deter-
-mination

I am with the greatest Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Mathew Horne
Colonel

Vellour
25 Febry 1773

Fort St George 8th March 1773

Extract of Letter from Colonel Pattison to Lieut Colonel Burdett

But I was much concerned to learn that the Indian Directors have given so little to the Articles stipulated between them & me on your Account which was among others that if by the Fortune of War any Junior Officer of the Troops was promoted to the Rank of Colonel, in that Case you was to have your Rank & Seniority preserved to You by Brevet, this was formally & solemnly agreed to, & I will not scruple to say if they do not perform this Agreement that they cannot expect to be well served by Men of Spirit & Honor.—

Referred to the Court of Directors

Agreed to refer Major Hannies Application to the Court of Directors, As the whole of what has passed respecting him is already before them— The Board however think it Necessary to observe, that there appears to be much Weight in Major Hannies Representation, & they make no Doubt but the Honble Court will pay a proper Regard thereto.—

Received the following Letter from Mr Peters

Revd.—

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esq
President & Governor & Council
of Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

Letter from Mr Peters to take Rank of the Cadets who were never in the Army as he was an Officer in the Militia—

Having had the Honor to serve the King some Years as an Officer, I humbly presume to address myself to your Honor, requesting to have the same Privilege granted me, that has been conceded to Officers in the British Service, & which I was promised by the Court of Directors before I left England that is a prior Right of a Commission to those Cadets of this Season who

Fort St George 8 March 1773

who have not Served in the Army before. I humbly beg Leave to enclose my Commission & Certificate from his Grace the Duke of Northumberland. And most humbly request Your Honrs will be pleased to take this into Consideration.

Honble Sir & Sirs I am with the profoundest Respect Your most Obedient & Devoted Humble Servant

Pondamalee March 7th 1773 John Glover Cadet

As many Gentlemen in the Military are in the Same Predicament with Mr Glover, & have never benefited by their Rank in the Militia, the Board cannot grant his Request

The following Memorial has been received from the Field Officers & Captains of Engineers.—

To the Honble Alexr Wynch Esqr
President & Governor &c. Council of Fort St George

Memorial of the Field Officers & Captains belonging to the Corps of Engineers on this Establishment

Respectfully sheweth

Memorial from the Field Officers & Captains of the Engineers for a Share in the Off Reckonings or an Equivalent.—

That your Memorialists by having no Share hitherto allotted them, out of the Off Reckonings allowed to the Field Officers & Captains in every other Branch of the Military Establishment of this Presidency nor receiving any Equivalent for the same, are greatly inferior in point of Income & Emolument to every other Officer of the same Rank in the Service.—

Under these discouraging Circumstances they throw themselves on the Candour & Justice of the Governor & Gen=eral Council. If from a Consideration of the General Importance of this Branch of the Service, of the Expensive Education & constant Study requisite to form an Engineer & the Superior Degree of Fatigue & Danger as well as Ex=pence to which they are continually exposed, in the Execution of their Duty to their Garrison & in the Field

Fort St George 8th March 1773

Field, the Board shall be led to conclude that the Gentlemen of this Corps deserve at least equal Encouragement with the other Branches of the Military, they will not reject their present Application for receiving a Share in the Off Reckonings on the same footing with the Artillery, or being allowed such an Equivalent for the same as the Governor & Council shall think proper.—

And your Memorialists shall ever pray &c.

Patrick Ross Lieut. Col & Chief Engineer
A Mitchell Maj. & Director of Engs
Wm Stephens Capt & D. Engineer
Ph. Pittman D. — D.
Wm Campbell D. D.
J. Williven Lieut & Engineer

Fort St George
28 Febry 1773

Minute thereon.—

Altho' it must be allowed that the Engineers in point of Emoluments & Advantages are on a footing more inferior to those of the Army, yet the Board cannot take upon themselves to change the System is established for the sharing of Off Reckonings, nor to make the Officers of Engineers any Allowance as an Equivalent to the Off Reckonings, all they can do is to refer the Consideration of the foregoing Memorial to the Court of Directors.—

W Fraser
John Smith
Joseph Smith

Charles Sevestre
Jno. Hodgson
Jno Hay

Fort St George 13th March 1773

At a Consultation Present

Saturday
13 March 1773

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

Minutes of last Consultation read & approved.—

Mr Stracey begs Leave to enter the following Minute.—

Having represented that part of Mr Johnson's Dissent which relates to the Subject of stationing a Brigade of Troops at Conjeveram, considering myself as the Member of the Board therein pointed at, I beg leave to record the following Minute. Mr Johnson says, that it was noticed by one of the Members of the Board, that it would be but proper & just to consult the Nabob on a Matter in which he was to be so much interested—the Nabob on a Matter in which he was to be so much interested implying thereby that this Step had not been taken; yet upon Sir Robert Fletcher's immediately acquainting the late President & the Nabob had been consulted on this very Business, Mr Du Pre acknowledged that he &

Mr Stracey's Minute in Confirmation of the late President's Report respecting the Nabob's Disapprobation of Sir Robert Fletcher's Plan for stationing a Brigade at Conjeveram.—

It is very true when this Subject was discussed & Sir Robert Fletcher was urging & pressing the Board to come to an immediate Resolution thereon, I did represent by Reference both the Propriety & Necessity of the Nabob being first consulted on a Matter in which he was to be so much interested, but it is also true, that those Representations in my part were made solely from a Conviction of the Propriety & Necessity of the Step & not with a View as Mr Johnson I must say uncandidly states it, that it might from thence be implied that no such Step had

actually

Fort St George 13th March 1773

actually been taken. I am, I would ever wish to be exceeding cautious of mentioning Conversations that pass between the President & the Council, & the Nabob, at which I am present merely in the Character of Interpreter. As Sir Robert Fletcher however drew from the late President by his printed Question at the Board an Acknowledgment that he had talked with the Nabob in general Terms upon the Subject aforementioned. As it is mentioned also in the Letter to the Honble Court by the Nayaw, that if the Nabob should persist in the Sentiments he has verbally expressed to the President &c. &c. he will never consent to the Extraordinary Expences, which must necessarily be incurred by this Measure; & as Mr Johnson says in his Dissent, that the Nabob did not only signify to him & Sir Robert Fletcher an entire Approbation for the Measure itself, but for the Means & Support of it, as far as was just & reasonable, & that he heard further Sir Robert Fletcher say, before the Matter was discussed at the Board, that the Nabob had expressed himself perfectly disposed to concur in the plan for cantoning a Brigade at Conjeveram, thereby in some Measure at least calling the Veracity of the late President in Question: I think Justice to him, & in Duty also to the Board, in his own Defence to the Honble Court by the Nayaw in the Manner abovementioned required, that I should declare, that the Nabob in those General Conversations which passed between the late President & him on the Subject aforementioned, at which I was present, although he gave no determinate Opinion thereon, seemed rather to disapprove than approve the Plan.—

Sir Robert Fletcher having thought proper to protest against all the Members of the Board, General Smith, Mssrs. Charles Smith & Johnson excepted, for dissenting from

337 Fort St George 13th March 1773

as Individuals in their private Capacities are severally liable to him for all Damages he may sustain by by being removed from the Command of the Army & his Seat in Council. The Protest he has received in order that the same may be entered. —

To Alexander Wynch Esq.
Fort St George
Sir

Sir Robert Fletcher's Protest against Mr Wynch —

Tho' you have thought proper violently & oppressively to join with other Members of the Council of Fort St George in depriving me of my different Stations Civil & Military in the East India Company's Service where the Constitution of the said Service & the Orders of their Court of Directors had placed me, I do declare myself to have been very essentially injured by their Proceedings in my public Character, my private Features & as a Subject of Great Britain. —

I have already protested against the Members of the Board collectively, & I do now hereby protest against You particularly & Separately as an Individual, holding you in your private Capacity accountable to me for all such Losses & Damages, as I have suffered & sustained & I shall or may hereafter suffer & sustain in Consequence of your illegal & Unconstitutional Conduct. I am

Sir
Your most Obed.t Hble Servant
Rob.t Fletcher

Fort St George
10 March 1773

The Protests delivered to Mess.rs Smith, Whitehill, Stone & Stracey are entirely the same

Mess.rs Stone & Stracey also deliver in the following Protest addressed to them as Attorneys to Mr Dav Price —

To —

338 Fort St George 13th March 1773

To Messrs John Maxwell Stone, Edward Strachey & Co
Fort St George Attorneys to Josias Du Pré Esqr

Sir Robert Fletcher's Protest against the Attorneys of Mr Du Pré.—

Gentlemen

As I have suffered & may suffer very materially in my public Character, & in my private Fortune from the Violent, illegal, & oppressive Conduct of Mr Du Pré, I think it necessary to lodge this Protest against him in your hands as his Attornies, holding him & his Estate answerable to me for every Loss & Damage which I have sustained, or may sustain in Consequence of his Conduct towards me.—

Fort St George
10 March 1773

I am
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient Humble Servant
Robert Fletcher

A true Copy from the Original
W Petrie Secretary

Read the following Letter from Sir Robt Fletcher

To the Honble Mess Wynch Esq
President & Governor &c Council

Gentlemen.—

Copy from Sir Robert Fletcher for Extract of the Charges against him in the General Letter or to have Recourse to the Paragraphs

I have already asserted that the Accounts you have sent to the Honble Court of Directors by the Nassau &c. regarding my public Conduct are highly injurious to me altogether groundless in themselves, & an Imposition upon your Honble Masters.— I cannot doubt but you will observe the same Conduct by the Traitor & as it is necessary for me to take Measures for the Defence of my own Character & Conduct, I again apply to You, & insist that you either furnish me with Copies of all such Allegations so sent, or to

339 Fort St George 13th March 1773

to be sent home against me, or allow me to have Recourse to Your Records, for Information, & your ultimate Refusal shall be at your Perill.

Fort St George
13 March 1773

I beg the favour of an Answer
& am
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Robert Fletcher

At the Board have already more a great-
Deal on the Subject of the foregoing Letter, & have ultimately
determined that no Extracts from the General Letter can be
to/ given Sir Robert, they think it necessary to take any fur-
-ther Notice of Sir Roberts Application - Sir Robert Fletcher
being no longer in the Company's Service cannot be permitted
to have Recourse to the Records. -

General Letter rec.d

General Letter to the Honble Court by
the Tintin now under Dispatch read & approved. -

Mess.rs Charles Smith & Samuel Johnson
beg leave to object to some parts of the General Letter which they will deliver
in as soon as they possibly can their Reasons in support
of their Objections. -

The following Letter was received from Sir
Robert Fletcher, & read this Day at the Board. -

To the Honble Alex.r Wynch Esq.r
President & Governor & Council of Fort St George
Gentlemen

Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher, with Remarks on the Consultations of his Reasons for not signing them of 8th Instant

When I went to the Office yesterday to sign the Consul-
-tations, I found myself under the Necessity of refusing to sub-
-scribe to the Minutes of the 8th & 11th January as they now
stand, I could not put my Name to those of 8 January on the
Subject

3d Fort St George 13 March 1773

Subject of the Paddy Godowns as they appeared to me to have been erroneously drawn out, & as I observed no mention was made of the Examination of Mr Macklin, & the two Black Mais-=tays, who were on that Day called before the Board to give Information on the Subject of the Paddy Godowns. This is in my Opinion a part of the Proceedings which should by No means have been omitted as it is materially relating to the Subject then under Consideration. This true I did a-=gree to defer coming to a decisive Opinion on Mr Macklins Evidence, but I did agree upon Condition as I then told Mr Du Pré, that Mr Macklin should appear at the next Civil Council to give clear & deliberate Answers to such Questions as might be asked him. -

It appears from the Minutes of the above Consultation which were presented to me to sign, that Lt Colonel Ross on that Day summoned before the Board "because the late "President (Mr Du Pré) thought his Sentiments necessary "upon that Occasion." I cannot in Justice to Truth avoid ac-=quainting you that it was I who moved for him to be called before this Presidency necessary to answer to the several Questions asked him, that the Insinuations of Mr Du Pré might not injure Lt Ross in the Opinion of the Honble Court of Directors, & that an Odium which was due to them might not be fixt upon him. -

I refused to sign the Consultation of Monday 11th Janry because instead of setting forth upon the Minutes that on that Day the Board unanimously agreed to hold an Extraordinary Council on the following Thursday declaredly my sole Subject for Mr Du Pré's Honr to consider & decide upon Military Duty, it is inserted that the President then moved to adjourn which was accordingly done & the further Consideration of the Subjects now laid upon

the

341 Fort St George 13th March 1773

The Board deferred it's Consult Yesterday. Mr Mackay took Notice of this Error on the 12 Janry so then at my Desire it was brought in Minutes of the 11th were read over, & no Alteration desired. — Mr Mackay afterwards observed the same Error, & on the 13th caused it a second time to be altered, when the said Minutes of the 11th were read & approved. Notwithstanding such Error has been twice thus publickly exposed & corrected, & the Fact set forth in Mrs. Johnson & Mackay's Dispatch of the 13 Janry it still stands unchanged upon the Consult taken which was Yesterday offered me to sign. —

Fort St George
11 March 1773

I am
Gentlemen
Your most Obed.t
Humble Servant
Robert Fletcher

This Matter has been fully explained in our General Letter. —

A Consult Suivette
Jno. Johnson
John Smith
Joseph Smith.

A Consult Suivette
Jno. Johnson
John Smith
Joseph Smith

342 Fort St George 15th March 1773

At a Consultation Present

Monday 15 March

Alexander Wynch Esqr Governor President
John Smith , Joseph Smith
John Whitehill , Charles Smith
Samuel Johnson , John Maskell Stone
Edmd Stracey

Mr Charles Smith having in Consultation Saturday last, signified his Disapprobation of Some parts of the General Letter, & declared his Intention of giving the Reasons for his Objections, In Consequence of which he delivers in the following Minutes

Mr Ch. Smith's Minute on some parts of the General Letter

I cannot altogether approve of what the Board have been pleased to write in the General Letter to the Honble Court & Triton on the Subjects of Sir Robert Fletcher & Mr Bradyll, & must beg Leave to dissent to such parts thereof as do not correspond with my Sentiments as stated in the several Minutes, I have entered on our Records, wherein these Matters have been discussed, & to which I must beg the Permission of the Honble Court to refer them

The Board in my humble Opinion have been to severe in their Representation of Mr Johnson's Conduct, as I conceive, he had any other Motives for the several Dissents he has entered on our Records, than a Zeal for the Service in the Consideration of the Matters which came into Debate. In supporting his own Opinions, he has in some places used a Warmth & Freedom of Expression which may be construed into a Want of that Deference to the Resolutions of the Board, from which I readily allow, that No Member who finds himself under a Necessity to dissent, should deviate, I am thereby fully convinced

convinced in my own Mind it did not arise from any Disres-
=pect to the Board & far less from any Deliberate Intention to
arraign & stigmatize their publick Conduct. If it is not at
all times the good Fortune of a Member of this Board in
contending for those Measures which appear to him to be
proper, to preserve that Guard upon his Expressions, or that
Check upon his Feelings, which those who have been long
accustomed to Discussions find by Difficulty in observing in
observing. I submit to the Board whether he may not
claim a Reasonable Indulgence, for any hasty Expressions
which a more mature Deliberation & a longer Experience
he might have avoided. Freedom of Sentiment & Debate
in all our Deliberations, in my Opinion is no less to be
wished for, & preserved, than a Decency & Decorum in
conducting them. The whole of Mr Johnson's Dispute &
Reasons will now be before the Honble Court, & I could wish
the Board would have been contented with representing &
leaving the same to their impartial Judgment & Consid-
=deration, as there is No Doubt, but that Matters of such great
Importance to the Interest of the Honble Company, will
be by them very minutely investigated.—

Charles Sweetth

Mr Johnson delivers in the following Minute

Mr Johnson's Minute explaining the motives of his Conduct in the several Measures which have lately come before the Board

My feelings on the Occasion of this Address are much too
poignant & the time I have too short to admit of my
answering with Propriety & precision, those parts of
the General Letter which so severely reflect upon my Conduct
& tend to impress the Honble Court with Sentiments unfa-
=vorable to me; I can do little more at pre-
=sent than intreat them to suspend their Judgment there-
=upon, until such time as they may be furnished with

Fort St. George 13th March 1773

n that I have further to say. From the Idea I have of their Can-
-dour, & disinterested Regard to Justice, I implicitly rely upon
the Hope that they will comply with my Request, & indeed
this Idea, & that Hope, are what have hitherto enabled me
to support myself under the many Mortifications I have
lately so severely felt.

The extraordinary Council I applied for was upon
a Matter I thought of Importance. However conceiving that
the Manner wherein I applied for it, or applying for it at
all might possibly be judged improper, I waited upon the
President in the Morning immediately succeeding my
Application, previous to the Meeting of the Council, &
apologized for what I had done, I assured him that if I
had acted wrong it only proceeded from my Ignorance of
the Rules of the Service in this point, & a want of proper
Reflexion, but by no Means their Disrespect or want of
Confidence towards him & a Proof thereof, I then read him
the Minute that I intended to lay before the Board. The
President made no Objection to it, & that the Apology
was then judged sufficient, appears from neither he,
nor any of the other Members conversing me on this head,
or remarking that I had done wrong. Had the Board
then thought so, & had they spoken accordingly, I should
have endeavoured to have given them every Satisfaction in
my Power, & such as might have rendered the present
writing upon it unnecessary. Indeed this Observation holds
equally good with respect to all my other Dissents & par-
-ticularly that of the 8th Inst. on which Nothing was re-
-marked at the time it was read at the Board. This being
the Case it is impossible to express what was my Astonishment
when I found myself so severely attacked, but a time when

I

345 Fort St George 15th March 1773

I could not be supposed to have either Leasure or Inclination to defend myself, but how much more was my Astonishment encreased, & what were my other feelings when I reflected on the Nature & Tendency of that Attack—

I can declare, that the only Incitement I ever had for the part I have taken in publick Measures was an ardent Zeal for the Company's Welfare, which even supposing I may have been mistaken in my Judgment, I thought merited some Consideration, & at least entitled me to their Indulgence. But instead of this, to have my Conduct arraigned & other Motives, & such as are inconsistent with the Character of a Man of Integrity, I shall at all hazards endeavour to maintain, & incompatible with the Company's Interest, would deeply affect any one, who had the least Pretensions to Honor & Veracity, but must in a much greater Degree affect me, when I consider my present Situation, Gentlemen, so very different from Yours, many of whom are possessed of Affluent Fortunes, and of Independent Ones. Myself, after a Service of twenty Years can say that I am still poor & wholly dependant upon those very Employers, whose favourable indulgent Sentiments Towards me your present Orders seem but too well calculated to destroy; & here Gentlemen I submit to the Candour of discerning Men, if it can possibly be supposed that one in such a Situation would wantonly venture to oppose a great Majority of the Council, or whether it be not manifestly obvious that he must have acted solely upon publick & honorable Principles; Before I conclude this Paragraph, I must assure you, that the only Motive which induced me to apply for the Council & visite the Presidency Where I delivered, was, my having been informed

that

346 Fort St George 15th March 1773

That General Smith had declared his Intention of going to Europe by the first Conveyance that should offer after the Departure of the Triton, the Duty I owe to the Company would not permit me to remain in Doubt, & I wished to be satisfied in the fairest Manner with respect to the Person who should command the Army. I confess that I wished also, supposing there to have been the Sentiments of the Board, that Sir Robert Fletcher should be restored to the Service, & the more particularly as he had disavowed the part of his Conduct, which had occasioned his being removed & had also shewn himself so well inclined to submit to the Will & Pleasure of the President & Council. —

With respect to the Inconsistency which appears to you, in my Opinion on the Subject of Sir Robert Fletcher's Plea of Privilege as a Member of Parliament in order to return to England, I cannot help saying that you have certainly misapprehended them. On the Supposition, that Sir Robert Fletcher might have made Use of such a Plea, I gave it as my Opinion, that he might, if such were the Case be permitted to go home, but I certainly never could decide or give it as my Opinion that he had really made Use of the Plea, & when this Letter reached the Board, wherein he positively disavows the same, & wherein by his Manner of Expression he gives the fullest Assurances that he would do it, nor could do so, I was clearly & distinctly of Opinion that he ought to be restored to the Service, because the Motives for our having removed him from it was thereby destroyed, & no ostensible, or good Reason, could in my Opinion be assigned for our withholding him from the Service, & permitting him to succeed to the Command, wherein I should again relieve General Smith to resign it to

347 Fort St George 15th March 1773

These Gentlemen are the sentiments on this Subject that I have ever entertained, however dubiously I may have expressed myself.

I cannot sufficiently express the Concern I am under that the Board should have thought some of the Expressions I have used in my several Dissents so very disrespectful, It never was any Intention they should be so & had the Board remarked & pointed them out to me at the time, I declare I would, with the greatest Chearfulness, have substituted such others in their place as might have been satisfactory, & I would indeed have altered them in any Manner, so that the sense & Meaning might have been preserved.—

Mr Johnson begs Leave to add this Apology which he hopes the Board will accept of— That if he has, in his Minutes Reasonings, or Dissents, deviated from that Respect & deference which is undoubtedly due to Government the regard they will consider his Conduct with Candor & Lenity, & further begs Leave to assure them, that had he really imagined his Writings susceptible of such Colours, he would have been the first to see & acknowledge its Impropriety.—

7 O'Clock PM The Board having met to sign the General Letter the same is accordingly done & the Packet Ordered to be closed.—

Wm Aldrich
John Smith
Joseph Smith

Charles Smith
Jean J. Pechelier
J. Hollond
B. Torin

348 Fort St. George 22. March 1773

At a Consultation Present

Monday 22d March

Alexander Wynch Esqr Governor President

John Smith — Joseph Smith

John Whitehill — Charles Smith

Samuel Johnson — John Maxwell Stone

Edward Stracey

The Minutes of last Consultation read and approved.

In consequence of the Order of Consultation the 2d Inst. for surveying the Circars, the following Instructions from the Chief Engineer to Captain Stevens, are read and approved by the Board.

To Captain Stevens

Sir

Lieut. Colonel Roy's Instructions to Capt. Stevens for Surveying the Circars, dispatch on Masulipatam.

The Governor and Council have been pleased to Order the Circars to be surveyed, and have thought it proper to nominate You one of the Gentlemen to be employed in the performing of that Service. You will therefore proceed with all Dispatch to and take upon You the Charge of one of the Divisions of Surveyors appointed for that Duty. For the more speedy executing of which is appointed to assist You.

As You have already surveyed a considerable Part of the most Southerly Circars you will proceed to finish them, completing the most Southerly parts first; from whence you will continue to work Northward until you meet Captain Tillman, who is put in charge

369 Fort St. George 22 March 1773

charge of the Northern Division, and directs to begin where Mr Cotsford's Survey ends, and to continue his Route to the Southward until you meet. In order to ascertain the Accuracy of the Survey, you will be pleased to intersect some of Captain Pittmans Stations, which, on closing the whole, should correspond with Yours. I would likewise recommend to You the fixing the Latitude & Longitude of the principal Places by astronomical Observation.

As the Circars are very extensive and as the Survey on which you are to be employed is a great and very necessary Undertaking intended to answer many very useful purposes; it is impossible for me to point out with Precision every Step it may be necessary to take to accomplish the whole. I shall therefore only mention in general what will require your chief Attention, and leave the Mode of Execution for You and the Chiefs of the Settlements to determine from local Knowledge and from the Exigencies of the Service at the Time.

As a perfect Knowledge of the Country may be of the greatest Consequence to the Honble Company, You will endeavour to acquire all such Information as may be of use to their Affairs, or that can time to forward the Service you are to be immediately employed on. For which Purpose you will keep an accurate Journal or Field Book, in which you will enter the Bearings and Distances of your Stations and of the principal Objects — Also the Properties of the Water and the Means of procuring it; the Nature of the Soils, their Productions, with their Effects on the Health of Animals, and the Salubrity or Unwholesomeness of the Air, accompanied by such Reports & Explanations, as may render them perspicuous to the Honble Board, and enable them to judge of their

35th Fort St. George 22d March 1773

Sir Fitness & Propriety.

Your First Attention will be to ascertain the Companys Boundaries with Precision, the Direction of the principal Roads, together with the Inlets from the Country by which an Enemy can enter it, and the Proper Coasts to be occupied on Such an Emergency, the Particulars of which should be expressed by clear and intelligible Drawings.

The Courses of the Rivers; the lying of the Seacoast, and the Boundaries of the Carnatic low Districts or Provinces, with whatever else is wanting to form a complete Chart, will require your most Attention.

The particular Surveys of the Forts, Cantonments, Capes and Fortified Pettahs &c. you will protract on a Scale of one Hundred Feet to one Inch, that every thing may be laid down expressed distinctly. The General Survey may be laid down to a Scale of Six or Twelve Inches to a Degree as may be thought most proper for the Purpose and the whole as surrounds form one or a Scale of three Inches to a Degree agreeable to the Orders of the Honble. Court of Directors.

Whilst you are employed in this Service you will inform the Chiefs in whose Districts you may occasionally be, of the Plan you are to pursue in carrying the Survey into Execution, to whom you will communicate these Instructions, and apply to for your Allowances and such Assistance as You may stand in need of for conducting the Business with Dispatch — As soon as Sketches of your Survey are finished, You will from Time to Time forward them with the Extracts from your Journal relative thereto to the Chief of the Settlements under which You

Fort St. George 22d March 1773

You may act, to be transmitted by him to the Honble the Presi-
dent and Council.

You are to take particular Care that no one have
any of your Plans: and You are not to take, or allow any
Copies of them to be on any Account taken without the express
Leave of the Governor Council.

You will be pleased to inform me of Your
Progress once a Month, or oftener, should you judge it
necessary; together with whatever else You may think proper
to communicate to me for the good of the Service, or the Infor-
mation of the Honble the President & Council.

I am Sir
Your most obed.t & Hble Servant
J. Ross.

Fort St. George
March 1773

The same Directions to be given Captain Cott-
man, corresponding to the Survey he is directed to make of
the Districts dependent on Vizagapatam.

The same Directions to be given Captain Cottman, for Survey-ing the Circars depen-dent on Vizagapa-tam.

Letters to the Chiefs of Masulipatam and Vi-
zagapatam are ordered to be wrote acquainting them of the
intended Surveys, and also transmitting them Copies of the
Instructions to the Surveying Engineers.

Letters to be wrote to the Chiefs of Masulipatam & Vizagapa-tam.

Mr. Cotsford to be wrote to, if he has survey-
ed any of the Districts dependent on Ganjam, to transmit
Plans of his Surveys to the Board; and as Captain Cottmans is
ordered to make an annuate Survey of the Circar Coast,
commencing to the Northward of Vizagapatam where the
latest Surveys end, Mr Cotsford is to be directed to acquaint
Mr Stratton, when it is necessary for Captain Cottman

Letter to Mr Cotsford to be wrote for his Surveys. & to acquaint Mr Stratton when Captain Cott-mans Survey ought to commence.

To

Fort St. George 22. March 1773

To Cogin his Work.

The Secretary Laid before the Board the follow-
-ing Letter from Mr. Casamajor Paymaster at Vellour.

To William Petrie Esqr.

Secretary to the Military Department

Fort St. George.

Letter from Mr Casamajor with Returns of Invalids Cuniniers & Seapoys

Sir

I beg leave to transmit You a Return of Sea-
-poys who have been paid for Years past at this Place as Invalids
and Cuniniers without any Certificates — Also a Return of Sea-
poys paid as sick Men of the 3d Lagnur Battalion, who are
in Fact Invalids, and who appear totally incapable of any
Service —

I am

Sir — Your most obed.t Hble Serv.t

Vellore 13 March 1773

Ja.s H.y Casamajor
Paym.r

Ordered, that Certificates be made out
conformable to Mr. Casamajor's Return, and also that the sick
Seapoys of the 3d Lagnur Battalion, who have been on pay
ever since the Battalion was reduced, be put upon the Invae-
lid List. — *

Certificates for Invalid Seapoys

* The Committee appointed for this Garrison for the Examination of Seapoy Prisoners having reported to the Board, Certificates are ordered to be made out for those Persons recommended as proper Objects for the invalid List. —

A Jemadar of the 11th Battalion and a Lagnur of the 2d Battalion, being recommended for the Invalid List & approved by the Board, Certificates are accordingly ordered to be made out.

The following Certificate for Thomas King Found Matross in the Artillery to have in the military Pound and approved.

We

Fort St. George 22d March 1773

We the Commanding Officer, Fort Major

Certificate respecting Thos King

and Surgeon of Fort St George do hereby recommend Thomas King Matross in the Honble Companys Service, to the Honble Companys Bounty; he having served his contracted Time, & hath his left hand the Sight of his left Eye, & otherwise wounded in firing a Salute.

Ed James, Commanding Officer
Robt Wood, Fort Major
Jas Anderson, Surgeon

Fort St. George
7th March 1773

The following Memorial from Captain Clifton having been delivered in the Day before the Despatch of the Triton, could not be inserted in the Proceedings but was sent a Number in the Packet to the Honble Court.

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

Honble Gentlemen

Memorial from Captain Clifton to the Court of Directors

The Case and Memorial of Capt. Charles Clifton setteth forth, That having received his Appointment of youngest Captain of Artillery at Fort St. George in the Beginning of April 1771 after which Time their Attention of the Honble Court of Directors was too much employed to trouble them then with further Application, to express their Memorialist right to the Officer immediately preceding on the List the Consequence of which has subjected him to great Loss of Rank. Through the unforseen Occurrences of a long Voyage and Passage by the Madras to Bengal from the Neglect of the Masters

Fort St. George 22d March 1773

Monsoon Season; Whereby his Delay unavoidable in his
arriving sooner at Madras has deprived Your Memorialist
of the Rank he otherwise must have had, and which he could
not in any Measure have suggested to have Effected him so
much or he could not have reconciled the Want of being a Senior
in Appointment next to Some one, and is assured the Honble Court
of Directors would not have refused him this Favor which
Your Memorialist neglected to obtain through the Shortness of
his Time in England after his Appointment.

Thus Honble Gentlemen Your Memorialist is
totally disappointed for having solicited You to appoint him
to his proper Rank in Bengal, but if not suitable to Your af-
fairs there he requested it youngest at Fort St. George which
Standing being next to Captain John Little (since deceased) was
his proper Rank and immediately before Capt. Lieut. Stout
Him the oldest Captain Lieut on the List, But on Your Memo-
rialists Arrival Captain Lieut. Stout, Kennedy, and
Dimorgan had succeeded to Six Companies through un-
foreseen and unexpected Vacancies, and the Suspension of the
two last Gentlemen did not take place 'till after your Memo-
rialists Arrival at Bengal, who was then liable to all
Services that could occur, and surely as much in the Honble
Companys Territories as if at Fort St. George from which
Place he was detained through the improper Season of the
Year for leaving Bengal.

Let me now observe, that had the Natives of
the Honble Companys Affairs in Bengal required Your
Memorialists Services, he should not have hesitated to
undertake them, which might have rendered his Arrival at
Madras

Fort St George 22d March 1773

Madrass uncertain, and certainly consequently Lay considerably
lastening their arrival and of Course subverting the Ration of
his Appointments in not taking Rank till his Arrival
Three as he humbly thinks the Honble Court of Directors
would not permit it to hold good in this Case, as it would
be hard on Officers on their Service doing their Duty in one Part
of their Territories should be loosing Rank by not arriv-
ing at his Destined Place, seeing thereby that an Appoint-
ment like Yours Memorialists is proper to take Place only on
Arrival can bear no other Meaning than to Enable an Officer
to his Post who by entering into Cap.t Rank might be
supposed to delay, and not that he should suffer thro'
Distressful Circumstances such as being cast away or
contrary Winds as this would Occasioning Misfortune to Mis-
fortune and wherever this is the Case the Honble Court of
Directors will extend their Consideration and as in the present
Case of their Memorialist through the Lateness of the Season
the Ships passing Madrass to Bengal. subjecting him
to irremediable Loss of Rank, and by his not being ar
rived not to any one, it accidentally defeated the Motive
he has of requesting their Madrass Establishment, which was
that it would have given him the Rank due to him on
that Coast, more preferable to your Memorialist than to
have sailed in the least Diminution at Bengal
in which Place he could not have served with any Degree
of Pleasure such in his Proper Rank, as to Few others
eminently more culpable in a Resignation than himself
hold from him his Station without any other Cautions
than accidental Favour and thereby the Sufferings of

Your

Fort St. George 22 March 1773

your Memorialist for an Error in taking your Petitioner
notice would have been too Severe for him that
has the least feeling or Sense of an Indignity, your Memo-
rialist thinks he is safe of the Honble Court of Directors
not placing him in his full Rank at Bengal, pointed
out as he thought a thing it was then now easy to him &
of his Indignity to himself but in this also he is disap-
pointed as the Tenor of his Memorial shews, therefore
his Memorialist is still left in a Disagreeable Situation
and intreats the Favor of the Honble Court of Directors
Emioluation to remove him to Bengal with his proper
Rank there it being no kind of Hardship to the Superior
Officers in the Corps unless they would condemn and punish
him Fault of Resignation in your Memorialist alone
which is so ungenerous a Supposition should your Memo-
rialist entreat you to confirm the Appointment given
at Madras with the Additions of a stepping him immedi-
ately before Captain Stoat it would give him his proper
Rank there, but Honble Sir & Sirs as your humble Petitioner
your Memorialists Offence of Resignation in appoint-
ing him again in the Service, the greatest Favor you
can and which with the greatest Justice in the World &
Propriety may do is to appoint him again on the Bom-
bay Establishment immediately before Captain Willi-
am Baillie, for which favor your Memorialist will
retain the most grateful Sense. Your Memorialist
hopes Leave to remark that having sent a Memorial last
Year nearly to the Purpose of this, since which the Hble
Court may have ordered disarranging the Appointments
of

Fort St. George 22d March 1773

of Captains Lieutenants of Artillery to full Captains, which gave this Memorialist prior Rank to two of the four that had received those Appointments he therefore apprehends the Honble Court of Directors may conclude that this Orders may have placed this Memorialist in his proper Rank and Unity not have taken notice of his Memorial in Consequence of which apprehension it is that he hopes he shall not be thought Troublesome, also Sir Eyre Coote for the Probability of this Memorial which the necessity of the Case and for Perspicuity Sake he finds himself obliged to observe, and is with the greatest Respect and Attachment

To the Honble Company's Service

Honble Gentlemen

Your very obedient Obliged Servt

Chs Clifton

Fort St. George

13 March 1773

The Secretary lays before the Board the following Letter from Mr. Archdale Palmer, on the Subject of his Charge for Repairs to the Fortifications at Madura.

To William Petrie Esqr

Sir

I have this day favored with Your Letter of the 11th inst. commencing the Board orders relating to my Accounts — In Reply to which I must request You will please to acquaint them that in Obedience to their Commands of the 5th March 1767 a Stop was put to the Works then carrying on at Madura, that the recommencement of them was at the imme-

diate

× Letter from Mr. Palmer on the Subject of his Charge for Repairs to the Fortifications at Madura —

Fort St. George 22d March 1773

dicate Request of Colonel D'Bork, the then Commanding
Officer, which was during the War with Hyder Ally and who
died at that Time soon after receiving advice from the
Field that it was reported that Hyder Ally would despatch
a Part of his Army into that Country. I would therefore hope
that it will appear that the recommencement of the Works at
that Period proceeded from no other View than the Publick
Service and that the Board will be pleased to allow me the A-
mount thereof in Account. I remain

Sir

Your most obed.t Serv.t

Archdale Palmer

Masulipatam
23d Feby. 1773

Minute in Consequence.

Although it might have been imprudent
to renew repairing the Fortifications at Madura, when the
Approach of an Enemy was reported, nevertheless it was in-
cumbent on Mr. Palmer to give Notice of it to the Board &
to obtain their Sanction; by his having omitted to do this
the Board cannot take any Steps for recovering the sum
expended on such Repairs.

Received the following Letter from Captain
Saint Mauroy.

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esqr.

President & Governor & Council
of Fort St. George

Letter from Captain Mauroy to be allowed Commissary of Stores Pay in Garrison.

Hon.ble Sir & Sirs

I humbly beg leave to represent that I
have been doing the Duty of Commissary of Stores in this Garrison
under the Denomination of Inspector of Stores, ever since the
Commissary's

359 Fort St. George 22d March 1773

Commissarys Pay was taken off. & I was appointed Commissary of Stores by the Honble Board, I beg Leave to present some Particulars relative thereto, and which induced me to believe it was not a Temporary Employ; but given me in Consideration of the long Time I had acted in the Employ without the Pay; and also as an Equivalent for the Two Years Rank I lost in the Service, through the Employ. — At both the Sieges of Madura I was Clerk of Stores to the Army; but at the Second Siege Mr Palk appointed me a Lieut Fireworker, and Mr Daniel to the Charge of the Stores; Lieut Colonel Charles Campbell & Mr Call being extremely desirous of having me continue in the Employ, used many Arguments to prove, that it was not my Interest to have a Commission; and in case I did not accept it they promised to ensure me Commissarys Pay: & As they could not prevail on me to give up the Commission; they endeavoured to persuade Mr Palk to revoke it, which they effected.

Thus was I Honble Sir & Sirs deprived of a Commission; whereby I have lost two years Rank in the Service, and by further one who had it on any other Occasion shewn themselves my real Friends, and for no other Reason than that of being an useful Person in the Charge of Stores, as those Gentlemen were pleased to term it in their Letter to Mr Palk. This is not the only Time I have been prejudiced in the Service on the same Account.

Just before the Assault on Madura my Arm was broke by an Eighteen Pounder Shot; not in doing any own Duty, but that of Commissary of Stores. The Morning after I was wounded, Colonel Campbell and Mr Call came to my Tent, and begged I would endeavour to

Supply

supply the Batteries, otherwise the Service would suffer.
Supplied they knew it was Dr Briggs Opinion I could not
— Nevertheless I would try; and accordingly supplied the
Batteries, tho it was several Days before my Men could
be set. — to express their Sense of my Behaviour on this
Occasion, they recommended me in the strongest Terms to Mr
Palk to have me appointed Commissary of Stores — to which
Mr Palk replied — that I could not possibly appoint two
or two Commissarys of Stores could not be on the Establish-
-ment. Mr Parson being then Commissary of Stores at Ma-
-dras — I was informed then, that on his Return to the
Coast, I should succeed to the Employ; Shortly after on
Mr Parsons Death, I was Gentlemen applied again to
Mr Palk to have me appointed, but not succeeding afford
me, as they could not get me appointed Commissary of Stores,
they wanted use their Interest with Mr Palk to give me back
the Commission, which I had been deprived of through
their Means. Some Time after Mr Call acquainted me
he had fulfilled his promise, as Mr Palk had ordered me
a Commission of the same Date as the former — At his De-
sire I waited on Mr. Palk to return him Thanks, when he
told me that he had or would desire Mr. Stone to make
out a Lieutenants Commission to rank just above Mr Mark-
-ey; which gave me my former Rank; but some Days after
I was surprised with a Lieut. Fireworkers Commission
which a Peon brought me, as I thought there was some
Mistake I waited upon Mr Palk, but before I could open
the Business I came on, he took me by the Hand, and said

to

361 Fort St. George 22d March 1773

he was sorry he could not keep his Word by giving me the Rank
I had lost — desired I would keep the Commission
and he would make it up to me upon his leaving the Country. —
But before he embarked for Europe, he ordered me to take
Charge of the Stores for the Expedition against Hyder, on
which I begd Leave to be excused from going on the Expe-
dition in any other Capacity but that of an Artillery Officer
unless I Lading my Rank restored, or was appointed Commissa-
ry of Stores, he then assured me, that the Honble Board
would appoint me Commissary of Stores as soon as I join'd
General Smith, then we March to join the Subah —
on this Condition I took Charge of the Stores, join'd General
Smith; but heard no more of the Appointment, the first
Call I made Mackay aimed in Camp — when on the General's
this Application to the Honble Board, I was at last
appointed Commissary of Stores — and from the Paragraph
in the General Letter to the Bengal Deputies relating thou-
to — the General Orders given out in Consequence thereof — the
long Time I had done the Duty without the Pay — with
the Rank I had lost — and Mr Palks Promises, I concluded
it was not a temporary appointment. For if it was not the
Intention of the Honble Board to continue me in the Employ,
with humble Submission, where lays the Difference of any
Appointment by the Honble Board, and either by the
Commanding Officer on the Spot? — They continued in the
Employ during the Campaign as well as myself — At the
first Siege of Madura both Commissary Bay & Battie on the same Conditions: For Lt
Monson in the Person of Mr Call and Major Preston
ordered

Fort St. George 22 March 1773

ordered me to draw it; and Said he would countersign the Bills.
But Mr Call advised me not to draw it, as it would certainly
be Struck off when the Campaign was over; whereas if I waited
till the Honble Board were pleased to appoint me, I
might be certain thro' the continuance of the Employ; this
indicates Mr Calls opinion of my Appointment by the
Honble Board.

At present I am not only doing the Duty
of Commissary or Inspectors Pay; but have also Charge of
the Magazeins — 'tis true 'twas not by order of the Honble
Board that I took Charge of them; but at the Request of
Mr Call on a very particular Occasion. — After Mr Calls
Departure I was continued in Charge of them by desire
of Mr Stratton; and then by Express Order of Mr Dubois.
— As 'tis obvious a Person should have Charge of the
Magazeins, who is particularly acquainted with that
Duty, and also that 'tis not the Duty of an Inspector.
I therefore humbly beg Leave to submit these Particulars
to the Consideration of the Honble Board; and having
a perfect Reliance on their favorable Disposition am in-
clined to hope they will be pleased to grant me Commissarys
Pay in Garison, or an allowance for the Charge of the
Magazines; which will be gratefully acknowledged. —

I am with Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your very obedient Humble Servt
F. Manoury

In Consideration of Captain Manourys
long Service, Attention, & Capacity in his Employ, & the
Particulars

Fort St. George 22d March 1773

Necessity of having such a Person to superintend & inspect into the Stores, The Board have resolved to grant his Request & he is accordingly appointed Commissary of Stores in this Garrison —

The great Number of Europeans in the Carnatic under Musulipatam, rendering the Assistance of a Chaplain very necessary, the Reverend Mr. John Thomas is appointed to reside there until further Orders —

The Reverend Mr. John Thomas to reside at Masulipatam Cuttack until further orders —

As the Recruits may be expected from England & the Recruits at Poonamalle are ordered to Europe and got in readiness for their Reception — Ordered that the Troops now stationed there be drafted to the different Battalions —

The Pioneers at Poona must be got in readiness for the Recruits from Europe & the Troops which are there at present to be drafted to the different Battalions —

The following Promotions have this Day taken Place Viz.

Andrew Running Captain Lieut. of Artillery in the Room of Capt. Lieut. Macallaster at Trichoor — Date of Rank 25th Feby — Date of Com. 22d March

Charles Barron Lieut. of Artillery in the Room of Lieut. Running — 25th Feby — 22d March

Benjamin Southwell Lieut. Fireworker in the Room of Lieut. Barron — 25th Feby — 22d March

Peter Campbell Ensign in the Room of Ensign Howard dec.d — 9th March — 22d March

at Manilah & Ellore.

Recd Letter from the Nabob as entered in Country Correspondence No. 16 with Pag.s 16000 which completes the Sum due for the Hire of the Ship Mary to the 21st Instant Sir Maj.y's Sloop of War the Hawke from the Cape of Good Hope.

Sent Letter to

Directed

Agreed

Accounts Examined

364 Fort St. George 24th March 1773

The following Letter was this Day wrote and dispatches p. Diana Captain Hewet to Mr. Brooke at Masulipatam.

To Henry Brooke Esqr.

Chief of Masulipatam

Sir

Letter to Mr. Brooke p. Diana advising of a Detachment of Europeans for the Battalion at Ellore.

To compleat the Battalion at Ellore we have embarked on Board the Diana Captain Hewet 30 Private — Colonel Flint, Captain Dixon & Lieut. Seymour goon Board the Diana to join the Battalion at Ellore.

We have put on Board Provisions for victualling the Private Europeans, and upon their Arrival at the Diana at Masulipatam, You will receive from the Capt. what remains unexpended.

We have appointed the Rev.d Mr. John Thomas Chaplain to Masulipatam & the Troops dependant thereon.

A Return of the Military Pay List of Provisions shipped on Board the Diana accompany this.

The Officers Sea Batta You will pay on their Arrival at Masulipatam.

We are Sir Your affectionate Friends

Fort St. George
24th March 1773

Alex. Wynch &c. Com.

A1

365 Fort St. George 27th March 1773

At a Consultation Present

Alexander Wynch Esq.r Governor President

John Smith — Joseph Smith

John Whitehill — Charles Smith

Samuel Johnson — John Maxwell Stone

Edward Stracey

Saturday 27th March.

The Minutes of last Consultation read & Approved.

The Business of the Civil Department on which the Board assembled to Day being dispatched the Proceedings of a General Court Martial held in this Garrison the 25th Inst.t are now taken into Consideration.

Prisoner	Crime	Sentence
John Dixon	Mutiny	Guilty and to receive 500 Lashes on his bare Back with a Cato' Nine Tails from the Drummers of the Regiment

The Board approve the Sentence last mentioned of the Prisoner by the Court Martial & the Probability that he was actuated by the Spirit of Mutiny at the Time the Crime was committed, they have thought Proper to Pardon him.

Sentence approved.
The Prisoner pardoned by the Board.

Read the following Report from the Committee of Accounts—

To the Honble Alex.r Wynch Esq.r
President & Governor &c.a &c.a
of Fort St. George
Honble

366 Fort St. George 27th March 1773

Honble Sir & Sirs

Report from the Committee of Accounts

We have examined the Accounts of the Out Garrisons for the Month of January as follows & have nothing to remark on them to Your Honor, &c.

Angole	Vellaur
Imboor	Trichinopoly
Vellum	Madura &
	Palamcotah —

We are with Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obd.t Hble Servants

John Smith
Charles Smith
Sam.l Johnson
John Holland
Geo.e Mowbray
Edwd Saunders
C. B. Dent
John Ruston.
Joseph Revell —

Fort St. George
22d March 1773 —

Received the following Letter from Lt.t Colonel Vaughan President of the Committee of Offreckonings —

Letter from Col.l Vaughan President of the Offreckonings Committee

Honble Sir & Sirs

Before the Military Committee was assembled to settle the Offreckonings for last Year, we beg leave to

367 Fort St. George 27th March 1773

To solicit the Orders of the Honble Board regarding Captains Rumley & Weller — The former enjoying a Place of considerable Emolument with the Nabob while others are doing his Duty in the Service, the Committee are unanimously of Opinion that he could not Reputably be entitled to a Share in the Military Offreckonings. — The Latter having been absent twelve Months at Bengal, and as they imagined by the Length of his Absence with Expectations there; The Majority were of Opinion that he ought not to Share in them before he returned to his Duty on the Coast.

We request that the Honble Board will be pleased to favor us with their Determination in these two Points, that we may without Difficulty be able to settle the Shares of the Offreckonings for last Year.—

We are with the greatest Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obedt & hble Servants

Rich.d Vaughan

Lieut.t Col.t & President for the Committee

Fort St. George

23 March 1773

Resolutions thereon

The Board having considered the Subject of the foregoing Letter are of Opinion, that as Captain Rumley enjoys an advantageous Command in the Nabobs Service, which whatever Officer is doing his Duty in the Companys Troops, he cannot with Propriety receive Offreckonings, more especially as Captaine Matthews, who was in a similar Situation, never asserted any Claim to Offreckonings. — As to the Case of Capt.n Weller. The Board cannot be of Opinion that his absenting Bengal disqualifies him from receiving Offreckonings as he

No. 36. Fort St. George 27th March 1773

He had the permission of the Board to proceed thither in order to settle his private Affairs.—

Read the following Letter from Major Grant.

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esq.

President & Governor &c. &c.

Honble Sir,

Letter from Major Grant respecting his Salary & Hundred Rat

The Difficulty I have met with in procuring Cash for Bills on Calcutta obliges me to request the favor of saving my Salary & House Rent paid, as hitherto I have not received any Part of either

I arrived here from England the 16th Day of April 1771 from that Day my Salary commenced at the Rate of £400 P Ann. — I neglected addressing Mr. Du Pre on this Subject 'till a few Days before his Departure, multiplicity of Business prevented him from settling it. I made him Sensible of it & then he same Time seemed to doubt whether I could be allowed my Salary from this Establishment during the Time I had Permission to stay at Bengal; upon this I take the Liberty of observing that it was not my Fault that I was not employed immediately upon my Arrival from Europe — The Reason of my not being employed was, that the Arrival was shattering; nor could I hint in my Appointment from the Company on this Establishment 'till it was finished, I had the permission of the Honble Board to go to Bengal, and remain there under the Orders of that Presidency, 'till my Attendance was necessary here, but that Restriction prevented my being appointed to do Duty at Fort William, and Prepared Either as soon as I understood that I

369 Fort St. George 27th March 1773

I might begin to arrange the Stores, and carry on the Business of the Arsenal.

This being a plain State of the Case, I beg leave to observe that it will be a particular Hardship on me if any Part of my Salary is deducted for my Stay at Bengal, especially as my Salary from the Company was an Annual Appointment to commence from my Arrival in India, and to continue till I had completed the Objects of that appointment in the respective Presidencies. I have every Inducement to wish the Dispatch of my Employment. While I am so happy to have your Approbation and that of the Honble Board, and as my Absence was with their Permission and for the Reasons given I cannot well understand why I am should be any Deductions from my Salary. But submit this entirely to your Determination Sir & that of the Board, and have only to add that my Expenses to & from Calcutta are little inferior to the Difference of Salary. The Expences tho' particularly allowed Each by the Company, besides my Salary, I did not mean to charge to their Account, as I had not previously finished my Business here.

I beg Your Consideration of this Circumstance

Sir, I have the Honor to be with Respect.

Your most obedient Humble Servt

John Grant

Fort St. George
26th March 1773

Peter Auriol

The Board taking into Consideration the Subject of Major Grants Letter are of Opinion that he is entitled to his full Salary of £400 p Annum & the Allowance for House Rent conformable to the Terms of his Agreement with the

To Fort St George 2d March 1773

The Honble Court of Directors - and it is Ordered unan-
dmsly. -

Wm Brooke

John Smith

Joseph Smith

Charles Smith

Jam. Johnson

Wm Ward

Geo Vansittart

37 Fort St George 30th March 1773

The following Letters were this Day wrote &c

dispatches.

To Edward Saltsford Esqr

Resident at Ganjam.

Letter to Mr. Saltsford to inform Mr Stratton how far South of Ganjam he has been surveyed that he may give the necessary Directions to Captain Pittman. Found his draft of Surveys to Madras.

Sir

We have ordered Captain Philip Pittman on a Survey of the Districts dependant on Vizagapatam, Part of his Work is to commence where the latest Surveys end northof Vizagapatam; You will be pleased to inform Mr Stratton how far he has been Surveyed to the Southward of Ganjam that he may give the necessary Directions to Captain Pittman.

We desire You will transmit to us Drafts of the Surveys which may have been made in your District.

We are Sir Your affectionate Friends

Alexander Wynch &c Council

Fort St George
30th March 1773

To George Stratton Esq.

Chief — Vizagapatam.

Letter to Mr Stratton respecting the Survey of the Coast to be taken by Captain Pittman

Sir

Having judged it necessary to send Captain Pittman on a Survey of the Districts dependant on Vizagapatam, You will be pleased to furnish him with every Assistance for accomplishing the same.

Capt

To Fort St George 27th March 1773

The Honble Court of Directors - and it is Ordered accor-
dingly. -

W Ward
John Smith
Joseph Smith

Charles Lovedon
Wm Johnston
Geo Stratton

37 Fort St. George 30 March 1773

The following Letters were this Day wrote &

dispatches.

To Edward Cotsford Esqr

Resident at Ganjam.

Letter to Mr. Cotsford to inform Mr Stratton how far South of Ganjam he has Surveyed that he may give the Necessary Directions to Captain Pittman Desiring Plans of his Surveys &c

Sir

We have ordered Captain Philip Pittman on a Survey of the Districts dependant on Vizagapatam, for his Work is to commence where the latest Surveys end now of Vizagapatam; You will be pleased to inform Mr Stratton how far he has been Surveyed to the Southward of Ganjam that he may give the Necessary Directions to Captain Pittman.

We desire You will transmit to us Drafts of the Surveys which may have been made in Your District

We are Sir Your affectionate Friends

Alexander Wynch &c Council

Fort St George
30 March 1773

To George Stratton Esq.

Chief Vizagapatam.

Letter to Mr Stratton respecting the Survey of the Circars to be taken by Captain Pittman

Sir

Having judged it necessary to send Captain Pittman on a Survey of the Districts dependant on Vizagapatam, You will be pleased to furnish him with every Assistance for accomplishing the same.

Capt

372 Fort St George 30 March 1773

Captain Pettmans Survey is to commence where the Latest Surveyors have left off to the Northward of Vizagapatam and he is directed to transmit to you his Surveys from Time to Time that the Same may be regularly forwarded to us - Copy of the Instructions from the Chief Engineer to Captain Pettman is herewith enclosed.

I am Sir
Your affectionate Friend
Alexander Wynch
& Council

Fort St George
30 March 1773

To Henry Brooke Esqr
Chief of Masulipatam

Letter to Mr Brooke enclosing the Chief Engineers Instructions to Capt. Stevens

Sir

We have judged it necessary to order Captain Stevens on a Survey of the Circars dependant on Masulipatam with an Assistant Engineer - You will therefore furnish him with every necessary Assistance which he may require for carrying on the Same - He is directed to transmit to you his Surveys from Time to Time which you will be pleased to forward to us - Copy of the Instruction from the Chief Engineer to Captain Stevens is herewith enclosed.

I am Sir
Your affectionate Friend
Alexander Wynch
& Council

Fort St George
30th March 1773

April 4th

This Day Wentlay Esqr Ship the Buckinghamshire arrived from Bombay

373 Fort St. George 5th April 1773

At a Consultation Present

Monday 5th April — Alexander Wynch Esqr. Governor President
John Smith — Joseph Smith
John Whitehill — Charles Smith
Samuel Johnson — John Maxwell Stone
Edward Stracey

The Minutes of last Consultation read and approved.

Read the following Letter from Lieut. Colonel James Pt. Major Horne.—

To Brigadier General Smith
Commanding Officer of the Forces

Sir

Letter from Lieut. Col. James Pt. Major Horne containing a Proposal for forming the Artillery. Invalids into Companies &c. Garrison Duty &c thereby keeping the effective Company together preparing their Regulations for the Artillery Corps.

Reflections having long ere last both by General Coote & Sir Robert Fletcher on the want of Discipline & good Order in the Troops on this Coast; which, altho' we do not conceive were aimed at the Corps of Artillery, or meriting by the Rest of the Troops, yet as it is our particular Province to see that Corps brought into such order and Knowledge of their Duty in all its various Branches, as will enable them to render the Honble Company the Service expected from them; We must beg Leave to represent to You, Sir; That as the Battalion is now divided into so many small Parties, and distributed

3/4 Fort St George 5th April 1773

Stated in so many different Places, it is impossible to bring the whole into regular Order, and in many Places for want of proper ordinances, and other conveniencys to teach either the young Officers or Men the most essential Part of an Artillerist's Duty, great Numbers both of the Officers and Men have but little Experience or Opportunitys of learning even the practical Part or the Ground Work of their Profession; Hence for the good of the Service to have an opportunity formerly this Evil and to prevent Reflections being cast on us should any of His Majestys Artillery come out, and ours should on a Comparison be found unequal or much inferior to theirs; I am able as to do this am humbly of opinion the Invalids which now amount to 122 Invalids in any now in the Effective Companies, which are only fit for Invalids were made such use of as they are capable of performing. Officers who are found incapable of Active Service allpointed to them, the greatest Part of the Effective might be stationed together from hence all Detachments wanted might be supplied. If the Service in Time of Peace will admit of the Major Part of our Corps being Stationed together, we are well persuaded great Advantages would ensue in the Knowledge good Order, Discipline & Improvements of this Corps, which at present Labours under many Disadvantage and Discouragement, being an unequal Footing with the rest of the Army, distributed all over the Coast under the Command of Inferior Officers, who will not admit of any Orders or Regulations from the Commanding Officer of Artillery or any Question relative to the Management or Removal of

375 Fort St. George 5th April 1773

of any Officers or Men, but through the Governor or Commanding Officer of the Army, these and many other Hardships we have long labourd under, though we have taken a Just Proportion of all Hardships, Dangers &c. We therefore beg Leave to request you will please to represent our Situation to the Honble the President & Council, that if the Service will admit of it, our Men may be stationed together, where we may have the Government of them, and an Opportunity of disciplining them: or if that cannot be allowed, or conveniently put in Execution but that our Men must still be distributed in the different Garrisons, We beg Leave to request we may be allowed to have Command in our Turn with Officers of other Corps of Such Garrisons, As we are Subject to all Martial Laws, Dangers, Hardships &c. with other Men, we hope for equal Honor & Advantages. Our Platoons, if our Men must continue divided cannot consist to them for at present have is no one Platoon above a Captains Command, and we conceive it would be left for the good of the Service to put our Companies under the immediate Care of Captains, as our Attention is due to every other Company as well as our own; they have each an Officer more than the others, which we imagine was on Account of our Duty requiring our Attention to the whole & of no one particular Part, so that no additional Number of Officers are necessary.

With due Respect we are

Sir

Your very humble Servts

Ed. Sames

" Matw Horne

376 Fort St. George 5th April 1773

The Board taking the foregoing Letter into

Minute thereon General Smith's Opinion to be obtained

Consideration, think it expedient to obtain the Sentiments of General Smith on the several Regulations proposed by Lieutt Col. James & Major Horne for the Corps of Artillery.

The General is accordingly desired to deliver in his Opinion in writing and also to represent to the Board any other Matter which he may approve for the better disciplining & regulating the Artillery.

The following Letter having been received from Mr Brooke is now read at the Board.

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esqr

President & Governor &c. Council of

Fort St. George

Letter from Mr Brooke proposing an Embassy to Hydra Ccd to inform them of his management towards Basalut Jung & their desertion from Moro.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Having regularly advised the President of the Desertions from Moro as they happened and having forwarded to him the Proceedings of the General Court Martial held upon them I will not intrude upon your Time with a particular Account of them. The Numbers that have gone off will sufficiently shew Your Honor &c. how greatly this Spirit has prevailed and I hope cause my taking the Liberty of proposing that some effectual Means may be taken to prevent the Evil from spreading further. When Captain Marall marches a Detachment from Moro to the Carnatick in may last, the last thirty Men who were received by Bon Enfant in the Gunjon Circar & sent by him to Adoni

The

377 Fort St. George 5th April 1773

The Representation which was made by the Late President upon the Occasion to Bazalet Jung strongly pointed out the Injury which the Company sustained in the Loss of so many of their Men, and expressed his Expectation that Bazalet Jung would discourage such a Practice in future Assist the Company in recovering from Bon Esfaut those Men whom he had taken into his Service. Two Sentances now before Us Since the little Effect this Representation had upon him, and Leave us little Room to hope that a second Application of the same Kind would be more regarded, indeed if I may be allowed to declare my Opinion I must say I think the Conduct of Bazalet Jung in Supporting in his Service and loading with Honors & Favors a Frenchman, and by entrusting him with the Collection of the Revenues and Management of a Country which owes in a great Measure to the Bounty of the Company, & this in Contempt of their Remonstrances & friendly Applications, indicate a Mind so little favorable to the Company, that it may reasonably be apprehended the Company would not lose a good Opportunity of joining with their Enemies. His Intrigues with Hyder Ally in 1767 shew that that this is not an Idle Apprehension & his late Conduct is in my Judgement sufficient Ground to put us on our Guard. I am indeed therefore to propose to your Consideration the sending a Person to the Soubah to remonstrate to him upon the Conduct of Bazalet Jung & for as our Connection with the latter proceeded upon the

his

3/4 Fort St George 5th April 1773

In Affinity to the Soubah, and as there is an Article in the Treaty expressly providing for the delivery of disobedient & Refractory Servants of whatever Rank, and more especially as the Soubah insisted very Strongly upon this Article when Ashaverow, who was driven out of his Dominions in the Carnatic Carr by Fazul Beg and took Shelter in these Districts, and lastly as we faithfully observed this Article, by obliging Ashaverow to remove to some other Country - I think for all these Reasons We have just Cause to remonstrate to the Soubah & to desire his Assistance in recovering the Deserters and for preventing the Continuance of this Practice - If we should insist upon Bon Enfant to deliver up our Capitulation Consequence of this in his Service, it will effectually discourage others from deserting, & by rendering that Garrisons Number considerably upon his Influence in the Country - On the other Hand if the Soubah should disregard our Complaints, or evade the Performance of his Engagements in this Article of the Treaty, Your Honor Wea may think the opportunity favorable for taking Measures to have Bon Enfant removed from the Gunton Circar in which if he is suffered to remain unrestrained he cannot fail to establish a Powerfull Influence and in Case of a French War, or of our Troops being engaged in any distant part of the Country at the Time of Bazalet Jungs Death be enabled to dispute for a Time the Possession of that Circar with the Com-

Chaves

3/9 Fort St George 5th April 1773

pany. I submit these considerations to your better Judge-
ment and am respectfully

Hon'ble Sirs

Your very obed.t hble Serv.t

Henry Brooke

Masulipatam
14th March 1773

The Board cannot be of Opinion with the Hon.ble
Mr Brooke, that an Embassy to Hyderabad to represent the con-
duct of Bāza la Sing in giving Encouragement to our
Deserters from Ellore will answer any good Purpose —
On the Contrary it may produce many Inconveniences
— It may create Suspicions in the Minds of those who
are already but too jealous of our Negociations with many
of the Country Powers — Representations were made last
Year by the late President & by the Chief of Masulipatam
to the Soubah on this Subject, who after Some Time
thought proper to return an Answer by his Dewan Ro-
-zum Ud Dowlah, who inclosed a Letter to Monsieur
Bon Enfant, desiring him to desist from molesting the
Company's Circars and recommending them to his protec-
tion — At the Sending of Such a Letter might be
understood to disgrace the Cause of the Company in
the Eyes of Bā Zalu Sing & Bon Enfant, the Letter was
never sent — Thus the Deputation to the Court of Hyderabad
had which Mr Brooke recommends to take Place was
apprehended for Some of the Embassy would be made by
the Force

Fort St. George 5th April 1773

the Same as the late President's Remonstrance to the Soubah
— The Board cannot conceive they have any Right to
controul Ba Zata Sing in his Choice of Servants, it is
hereon not to be expected that he would be induced
from their Representations to dismiss Ban Infans &
greatly upon them for the defence of his Country — In
regard to the frequent Desertions of late from Ellore,
the Board flatter themselves the Severe Examples which
have been inflicted on the Deserters who were apprehended
going off, in consequence of the Sentence of the General Court Martial,
will in a great Measure deter others from the like Attempts,
and if the necessary Precautions are taken it appears
next to an Impossibility for the Men to get away from
the Company's Territories — The Commandant formerly
received Orders not to suffer any Europeans to pass
thro' their Districts without a Pass from the Chief or
Commanding Officer at Ellore, it is therefore Necessary
that Mr Brooke be directed to repeat and inforce those
Orders, and also to direct that the Colonel & Peons be
vigilant in the Discharge of their Duty — A Letter
conformable to the foregoing Minute is accordingly
Ordered to be wrote to Mr Brooke

The President laid the following Letter
from Mr Brooke before the Board.

Honble

384 Fort St. George 5th April 1773

Manelipatam 29 Mar. 1773

Honble Sir

X Letter from Brooke, the Non Commissioned Officers are to suffer Death, and two of the Private

This Day at Noon arrived here Lieut Colonel Wintworth the Officers and the Detachment.

I believe I have mentioned to You that I should forward both the Courts Martial as soon as received from Ellore; in the Interim I observe that the non commissioned Officers are Sentenced and are to suffer on the last Day of this Month; and of the remaining Seven Private two are to Suffer according as the Lott shall fall, the others sentenced to receive Corporal Punishment by the Court are to receive it also agreeably to the Sentence

I have the Honor to be very respectfully

Your most obdt Humble Servt

Henry Brooke

To

The Honble

Alexr Wynch Esqr

Read the following Letter from Lieut Colonel Bonjour

Honble Sir & Sirs

X Letter from Lieut Colonel Bonjour Tenderory Billah Died at Dindigul and the Country of Le Pettah Manawar to all appearance pretty well settled.

Enclosed I send You a Monthly Return of the Troops under my Command, and have the Pleasure to inform You that to appearance the Country is pretty well settled, which by the Death of Tenderopilly in the Dindigul District, as many expect will remain so, unless a Revolution takes Place.

I have

382 Fort St George 5th April 1773

I have the Honor to remain with
a Profound Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obdt Hble Servt
A. Banjour

Camp near Nimmoor
the 15th March 1773

The President acquaints the Board, that the Nabob has informed him that he expects the Troubles in those Districts will soon be so perfectly suppressed as to render it unnecessary for the whole of the Troops to remain any longer in those Parts.

Read the following Letter from Lieut. Colonel Ross

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esq.
President & Governor &c Council of
Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

Letter from Lieut. Colonel Ross, he advises that Shutters down of the Arsenal are put up to the Floor for Fear of awakening the Building

In obedience to your Commands of the 1st Inst. desiring me to report to you my Opinion respecting Major Gives Proposal of putting down to the Floor the Windows of the Arsenal above Stairs, that the window Shutters may be opened and Shut with more Ease, and that a Seat be made in each Window, to open and Shut such Articles as are made of Leather &c.

I take the Liberty of informing You that I am apprehensive the Putting down Windows of the Arsenal may in some Measure weaken the Building, and

as

383 Fort St George 5th April 1773

as Some of the Frankincense Tree to open So to not inma-
gine it will be advisable to do anything that might abri-
dge its Strength, until we are certain it is come to
its Earings. & as two Lancet ramp round the Windows
in half an Hour, or an Hour, I do not see any very
great inconvenience that can arise from the remaining
as they are - Should wooden Seats be fixed in the Win-
dows, it will be very difficult if not impossible to keep
Cockroaches, and other Vermin out of them, and if they
once Leave their Eggs, & begin to breed there, I fear
it will be scarce possible to prevent the Leather Or-
tides from suffering more than if they were in moveable
Boxes, that can be taken out and cleaned occasionally
which I would recommend in preference.

I am with Respect

Hon^ble Sir / Sir

Your most obl^d Hum^e Servt

Patrick Ross

Fort St George
27th March 1773

At the Board as communicated of the Utility
of Major Grant's Proposal, would it with safety be car-
ried into Execution, they think it necessary to call upon
Lieut. Colonel Ross to receive from him further Infor-
mation on this Subject, and as he particularly objects to
Major Grant's Scheme being carried before the Build-
ing comes to its Earings, that he be desired to say when

Colonel Ross to be called upon to give the Board further Information on this Head. ~

384 Fort St. George 5th April 1773

He thinks the Building will be in a Condition to admit of the Alterations recommended by Major Green —

Lieut. Colonel Ross being called in repeats his Colonel Ross representing the Danger which will attend cutting down the Windows &c. if it is intended to adopt the Proposed Alterations —

Objections to the Cutting down the Windows, as he thinks it cannot be done without endangering the Safety of the Arsenal, as several of the Cracks continue Open to open and as he cannot inform the Board when the Building will come to its proper Bearings, It is Agreed to defer making any Alterations, until these Items are finally disposed of, in which Time a more certain Judgement may be formed of the Strength of the Building —

Cutting

The Secretary lays before the Board the following Letter from Mr. John Ross Paymaster to Lieut. Colonel Bonjours Detatchment

To Mr. William Petrie

Secretary to the Military Department of Fort St. George —

Letter from Mr. Ross explaining the Charge for the Repairs of Quarters at Ramnaud for am.t

Sir

I have received your Letter dated the 20th Instant enclosing an Extract from the Report of the Committee of Accounts regarding a Charge of Pagodas 61 : 32 — for Repairs of Officers Quarters.

You will please to acquaint the Honble President & Council that this was in Compliance with an Order from Lieut. Colonel Bonjour who directed me to provide 20 Bricklayers & 100 Coolies and to deliver them to the Quarter Master for the Purpose of repairing the Quarters allowed to the Offi-

cers

Fort St. George 5th April 1773

-ers at Rammandaporam, which stood very much in need of
them: and it was thundering three Monsoon, and the Gunn-
Stones required immediate Compleatment. The Indents for
these People who were only ten Days, is still in my Possession

Sam,

Sir,

Your most obed.t Hble Serv.t

John Ross

Comp.y to the Detachment

Camp near Ratterungcolah
27 March 1773.

The Board consent to admit the Charge as Mr.
Ross acted by the Orders of Lieut Col. Bonjour for the Repairs
of the Quarters at Rammandaporam appear to have been very
necessary. However it would have been proper & Regular
for Mr. Ross to have given the Reasons for this Charge
when he transmitted his Accounts to the Commissary General.

The Board admit the Charge for the Repairs of Quarters at Rammandaporam.

Received the following Letter from Captain
Collins commanding at Vellum.

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esq.
President & Governor of
Fort St. George &c.

Honble Sir,

I have received your Letter of the 17th inst.
and on the Engineer Return from Cuddalore which I very shortly
by Expect, will forward the Estimate You require for the Re-
pairs Satisfaction.

Letter from Captain Collins commd.g at Vellum

I am Lieut. Colonel Vaughan commanding
Sir

Fort St. George 5th April 1773

how, he was acquainted, Sullivan by Mr. DuPré, that one Isaac was to Compound or Customs Levied from the Bazar or Inhabitants South wards about on Account of the Nabob for a certain Period or until the Pagoda Pattah should be settled. — The Killedar informed me Yesterday that he had received Orders from Mahomedan Ali Mullock to collect Customs &c.a at this Place in the same Manner as is collected in other Parts of the Nabobs Districts — It is obvious to Him as well as myself that the Place is not yet sufficiently settled to admit of the above Demands, the chief Inhabitants for the Pattah not being yet return'd, or a proper Bazar established — Our Supplys of Rice & other Grain is obtained from the neighbouring Villages on whom we depend entirely, that when they have no Grain to dispose of, or are shut bringing it to our Bazar, the People are without Rice for a Day or two together, which has already been the Case, & I imagine will often be so after the Customs begin to be levied.

The Killedar has therefore desired having the Customs remitted he knows further from the Nabob, this he has not done by my Directions, but from the Result of his own Solicitations in the mean Time I would wish to be favored with your Sentiments on the Occasion, Lieut Colonel Vaughan's Directions about the Customs being dispensed with, I could wish to be favored with, as to their being again demanded.

In my last I touched upon the Necessity there is for a Couple of Field Guns at this Place as well for the Purpose of instructing the Artillery in their Duty as for a Detachment if required — From being mostly young Artillery Men it must be supposed they are unacquainted with the Theory of their Profession of Course it is high

387 Fort St George 5th April 1773

by many, they should be allowed Privateers. Should such a Mortar arrive be spared from Trichinopoly for that Purpose as they are much in want of every kind of Provision.

Mr Light the Storekeeper is about to forward to Madras an Indent for certain Articles of Stores which are very much wanted here - Gun Powder in particular of which there are only seventy seven Barrels that is not damaged Take the Liberty of mentioning this Circumstance as Indents are too frequently taken less notice of than they should for the good of the Service.

Ammunition is requisite for the good of the Service.

Ammunitions are also much wanted, as scarce assume there is not a single Article of that Sort for use in any Battalion except Cartridges of which a Number should be exchanged - Flints too are in general bad having been in use with the Battalion since it being first raised, & the greater Part of that Time on Service in the Field - Some with Despatch

Honble Sir

Your most obdt & most Hble Servt

Col. Geo: Colins

Pallam
27th March 1773

P.S. The Killedar informs me that the Rabobs Custom will amount to about thirty Pagodas pr Month -

The General expressing the Expectancy of having Field Pieces and a Mortar at Pallam for the Purpose mentioned by Captain Colins, they are ordered to be sent from Trichinopoly

Minutes thereon

The President acquaints the Board that Mr Light's Indents have been received and laid before the Board which approved by him they will be complied with as far as the

389 Fort St George 5th April 1773

The State of our Stores will admit

The President lays the following Letter from

Mr Dawson before the Board.

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esqr

President & Governor of Fort St George

Hond Sir

I have transmit you enclosed the Returns

of this Garrison for last Month, and beg Leave to remark,

that Captain Troupe returns all Sixty eight Horses in

the Troop, which being more than the Establishment allows,

I submit the Same to your Consideration and request you

will be pleased to give me your Orders accordingly.

I am with great Respect

Hond Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Gu. Dawson

Cuddalore

2d April 1773

Letter from Mr Dawson Cuddalore

Ordered, that the Horses in the Troop exceeding the Number allowed by the Establishment, be disposed of at Publick Sale and that a Letter be wrote Mr Dawson to this Effect.

The Treasurer acquaints the Board that the Town Major represents to him that in the Time to provide the Stores for the Recruits shortly expected from Europe and begs that an advance may be allowed him for that Purpose. It is

Ordered that the Sum of three Thousand Pagodas be paid

For Horses exceeding the proper Number in the Troop to be sold at publick Outcry.

President Minute for an Advance to the Town Major for providing Stores for the Recruits Ordered an Advance of Rs 3000

390 Fort St George 5th April 1773

paid out of Cash to the Town Major, and that it be returned after the Receipt of the Season are Arrived—

The President delivers in the following Protest from Mr. Markay which he desires may be entered, and to minute that all the Members of the Board have been served with the same—General Smith, Messrs Charles Smith & Johnson excepted—Mr. Markay has also protested against these Stone & Strange as Attorneys to Mr. Dubré—

To The Honble Alexander Wynch Esq.
President & Governor of Fort St George

Letter from the Notary Public with a Protest from Mr. Markay—

Honorable Sir

I one of the Notarys of Fort St George Commanded by George Markay of the said Place Esquire to deliver to You the enclosed Protest with his Declaration I am with Respect

Honorable Sir

Your most obedient & very humble Servant

Fort St George
2d April 1773

Charles Bromley
Not. Public

On this Day being Thursday the Twenty Fifth of March in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy three before me Charles Bromley Notary Public dwelling and practising at Fort St George in the East Indies by Lawful Authority

30th Fort St. George 5th April 1773—

Being duly admitted and Sworn came George Mackay of the said Place Esquire and declared as follows, that he has lately been one of the Council of Fort St. George one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace and one of the Judges of His Majesty's Court of Oyer & Terminer and Goal Delivery, and of the Court of Appeals at that Place, and also Assay Master of the Mint there, to which Posts or Stations he was appointed by the orders and Authority of the Honble the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies on or about the Month of February in the Year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred & Sixty Six, that he the said Deponent was at that Time in England, to which he had returned with his Family and with a Fortune which he had acquired in the East Indies as a Free Merchant But not enjoying his Health in England he did apply to the Court of Directors for Leave to return to the East Indies and his request to be appointed made a Member of their Council at Fort St. George and Assay Master of the Mint at that Place after having Sixth qualified himself during his Stay in England for this Last Employment by acquiring a sufficient Knowledge of the Art and Mistery of Assaying Gold and Silver that he the said Deponent did soon after such appointment and in Consequence thereof proceed to Fort St. George bringing with him his Family and his Fortune, entertaining the reasonable Hopes of serving the East India Company and promoting their Interest with Credit, and with Honor & Profit to Himself, that he arrived at Fort St. George and took his Seat as one of the Members of the Council there

and

and entered upon the Office of Storage Master of the Ninth on or about the Month of August in the same Year, the said Dudaant further saith, that in Consequence of his being one of the Members of the Council he did become invested with the Office and Authority of one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace and one of the Judges of the Kings Court of Oyer & Terminer and Goal delivery in criminal Cases and one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals in civil Suits and Actions for the said Presidency of Fort St George agreeable to the Appointment & Authority of his Majesty's gracious Charter for the Administration of Justice that he was Commanded to execute the several Functions and Duties which belong to each of these important Stations to the best of his Knowledge and Ability with Integrity & Attention until the Thirtieth Day of January when the said Dudaant attended the Council Board in Conjunction with Such other Members as were then upon the Spot and did officiate at the opening thereof to wit, Sonias Dupre Esqr. President, Abraham Wyatt, John Smith, John Whitehill & Charles Smith Samuel Johnson John Maxwell Stone and Edward Stracey that he this Dudaant having then had Occasion to mention at the Board a particular Circumstance in relation to the President, which disputed the Resolution, he the said President had taken of relinquishing that high Station and Trust which he was then about to quit, and which appeared to him the said Dudaant to be flagrant & palpable a Contradiction to that Report & Representation which he the said President had given of himself and of his Conduct

Fort St. George 5th April 1773

in the Letter to the Court of Directors which was then to be
Signed by the several Members of the Board and was to
accompany the President to England that he this Declar-
ant found himself under a Necessity in the important
Discharge of his Duty to the Company to take Notice
of such Circumstance tho' in the said Declarant wished
to have avoided it, as being unfavorable to the Gentlemen
upon whom the said Office of President & the Council was
to devolve, that it was not the wish or Intention of this Declar-
ant to make those Matter Publick, which he then mentioned
at the Board, where he the said Declarant naturally con-
cluded, that it would remain Private, and should only
be communicated to the Court of Directors, agreeable to the
Custom of the Service, that this Declarant does aver &
verily believes that it would have commanded Lord not
the said President been instigated by a violence of temper
which was altogether arbitrary and which could bear
no Opposition, under the Influence of which He the said
President took the highest Offence at the Conduct of this
Declarant and rather than not wreck his the said Presi-
dents Vengeance against him, he did not hesitate to take
the most effectual Means to make the said Matter Pub-
lick to the whole World, which he thought highly for-
an inst in this Declarant to make any mention of with-
in the Walls of the Council Chamber and to get a Majority
of his the said President's Council to concur with him in the
same Act, by this Means he the said President should Sac-
rifice the Regard to the Reputation of his Character as far as it
depended upon him than he had before shown, when he

394 Fort St. George 12 5th April 1773

expressed that Opinion of him which this Declarant now
found himself under a Necessity to repeat, but it was only to
his fellow Members. and as the said Declarant gently believes
that it would not have created much Surprise in them
had not the Violence & Impetuosity of the President invaded
and turned him from the Consideration of the Subject which
it also prevented this Declarant from explaining himself
thereupon or giving any further Satisfaction to the
Board, which upon a Debate might produce a very
different Conclusion from what happened. for this Declarant
says that the said President contrary to his Duty and with
out Regard to that impartiality which his Station and
the Rules of Common Justice required, did make himself
a Judge in his own Cause without any Opposition from the
Council as to the Regularity of such Proceeding and before
they gave any Power or Opportunity to this Declarant to
propose his Objections thereto, he the said President did
move that this Declarant should immediately with-
draw from the Council Board, tho the Matter whatever
to be debated was in Effect a Charge against the President
himself. But this Declarant refusing to withdraw, the said
President again moved that he this Declarant should
be obliged to withdraw and did vote that this Declarant should
immediately withdraw from the Board in which vote he was
joined by the said Alexander Wynch, John Smith, John
Whitehill John Maxwell Stone and Edward Strange, that
but this Declarant was thereupon forced from his Seat
at the Board and that immediately after his Depar-
ture

Fort St. George 5th April 1773

the said President Louis DuPre did seize hovering in the same illegal Unwarrantable Manner desire the Opinion of the Board whether this Declarant should not Forfeit his Seat there and he the said Louis DuPre and the said John Smith, John Whitehill, John Maxwell Stone and Edward Strang did in an Arbitrary illegal and unprecedented Manner vote and resolve that he the Declarant was not fit to have a Seat at the Board but to this Resolution two Members of the Board Charles Smith and Samuel Johnson did dissent he the said Alexander Wynch desiring to be excused from giving his Vote on the Question as he might be disputed of Irregularity, being so nearly concerned in the Subject under Debate, but the Board requiring his Opinion he delivered the same in favor of the President's Motion after which the President did move that the Declarant should be suspended from the Service till the Pleasure of the Court of Directors should be known, to which Motion the said President together with the said Alexander Wynch, John Smith, John Whitehill, John Maxwell Stone and Edward Strang did agree, but the said Charles Smith & Samuel Johnson did dissent & insists that by this unjust and violent Proceeding of the said President and the said Alexander Wynch John Smith, John Whitehill John Maxwell Stone & Edward Strang the said Declarant was so deprived of his Seat at the Council Board and does so stand suspended thereby and from all the Functions of the several Offices which he held as Judge of the Civil and Criminal Court and that it was very soon after determined

396 Fort St George 5th April 1773

informed of the Office or Post of Alcay Master of the Pinnace
all which Proceedings have tended and do tend to his great
Prejudice and Damage as well in his private as in his
publick Character and Capacity which this Deponent does
aver and declare to be an unjust illegal and violent attack
upon the Constitution of the Service of the Company and a
Precedent highly detrimental to their Interest and which
Security Policies to have proceeded from the Violent &
arbitrary disposition of the said Josias Dupre and his
said Confederates who did so join with him and Submitted
to or Supported his Opinion and who as this Deponent firmly
believes do look upon all Opposition to their Measures as
highly culpable upon which arbitrary and unwarrantable
able Principle and not from any just Reflection or
Consideration of his Conduct in that Post on the Thirty-
-th Day of January last or at any Time before in
Relation to the Affairs of the Company this Deponent
does verily believe that this Expulsion from the Board
and Suspension from the Service is founded and this
Deponent does further say that having good Ground
and Reason to believe that the same malicious Temper
and Disposition which dictated this injurious Measure
may also have instigated the said Josias Dupre
Alexander Hyndman John Smith, John Whitehill, John
Marwood Stone and Edward Stacey in Support of
his atrocious Proceeding to represent him this Deponent
and to report his Conduct to the Honble Court of Di-
rectors in Terms the most ingenious and unworthy and
the most Prejudicial to his Private and Public

Character

397 Fort St. George 5th April 1773

Character, for which he does further declare that he dares the said
said Julius DeBree, Alexander Wynch, Johnsmith, Peter
Whitehill, Peter Maxwell Stone and Edward Strany and
each of them answerable to him for all Damages which he has
sustained or may sustain from any scandalous abuse or false-
Petitions which may have been or made use of in any Minutes
of Thurs or any of them or in any Letter addressed to the Honble
Court of Directors or otherways and upon the whole Matter
the Defendant does further say that he has just cause &
is likely to sustain a considerable Damage not only in
his Fortune and Circumstances but also in his Character
and Credit as a Merchant and that this Pronding is
a great indignity and injury to his Publick Character
as one of the Judges of the Civil & Criminal Courts and
that he does conceive an undispensible Duty which
he owes to himself to the East India Company and to the
Society of which he is a Member to protest against
the said Julius DeBree Alexander Wynch Johnsmith
Peter Whitehill Peter Maxwell Stone and Edward
Strany and each of them for the Injury which he hath
already sustained and may hereafter sustain by Reason
or Means of this Pronding, and to charge them and
each of them and the said Executors & Administrators
of each of them respectively with the Same and with
all Loss and Damages of whatsoever kind which the
Laws of this Country may any way entitle him to or
his Heirs Executors or Administrators and to and for
that Purpose and to that Effect I the said Charles
Bromley Notary Publick do by these Presents and

(at

398 Fort St George 5. April 1773

at the special Instance & Request of him the said Declarant George Mackay protest against the said Josias Dupré Alexander Wynch, John Smith, John Whitehill, John Maxwell Stone & Edward Strang and each of them and against the Heirs, Executors, Administrators of each of them for all and every such Damages Losses Costs and Charges which he the said Declarant George Mackay hath sustained or shall or may suffer or sustain by Reason and Means of the illegal and arbitrary Expulsion & Suspension of him the said Declarant George Mackay from the Service of the said United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies in Manner as aforesaid

Thus done and Protested in Fort St George aforesaid the Day and Year first above written.

Charles Bromley
Not. Pub.

Wynch
John Smith
Josh Smith

Edwd Strang
Jas Whitehill
J. Stone

399 Fort St. George 9th April 1773

The following Letter to Mr Brooke was this Day

wrote and dispatched.—

To Henry Brooke Esqr

Chief of Masulipatam

Letter to Mr Brooke in reply to his Scheme for recovering the Deserters from Sultan Gang

Sir

We have received your Letter of the 17th Ult. communicating a Scheme for recovering the Deserters from Allore, and for preventing Desertion in future. — After Mature Deliberation on the Subject We are of Opinion that the Deputation of a Person to the Soubah to remonstrate against Bazalat Jung & Bon Esprit can answer no good Purpose, but may prove the Source of many inconveniences — to explain the Reasons on which we have formed this Opinion it is necessary to recapitulate what passed last Year on the same Subject. — The late President & the Chief of Masulipatam addressed Letters to the Soubah, complaining of the Encouragement which was given to our Deserters, contrary to the Alliance & Friendship which subsisted between us & the Court of Hydrabad. To those Letters, for a long time, no Answer was returned, at last a Letter was received from the Soubahs Dewan Rauzun Ool Dowlah, inclosing a Letter to Bon Esprit, the Purport of which was to recommend the Company's Affairs to his Protection, and observing that he would not molest them in future — For obvious Reasons

100 Fort St George 9th April 1773

Reasons this Letter was not Delivered.

In regard to the late Desertion at Ellore, We hope the severe Examples which have been made will in a great Measure put a Stop to it, and if Care is taken to observe the necessary Precautions it appears to us next to an Impossibility for the Men to get away - We Lemindars formerly received Orders not to suffer any Europeans to pass through their Districts without a Pass from the Commanding Officer, these Orders you will please to repeat and enforce, & likewise direct that the Cuttwal & Peons be vigilant in the Discharge of their Duty.

We cannot conceive that We have any Right to command Balala Sing in the Service of his Servants or Officers, nor do we believe that our Remonstrances would ever prevail upon him to discharge Bin Cutsans & his Followers from his Service, since he finds him so useful, & dependeth chiefly upon them for the Defence of his Country.

We are Sir Your affectionate Friends

Alex Wynch

P. ordre

Fort St George
9th April 1773

At a Consultation Present

Monday 12 April

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

No. 1

Fort St George 12th April 1773

Five Minutes of last Consultations read and approved

Read the following Letter from Captain Rumley

To The Honble Alexander Wynch Esqr

President and Governor & Council of

Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Letter from Capt. Rumley on a dispute between Cornet Rattrace from Coutenay Captain in the Nabobs Service

Having some Business with Colonel Benjour which made my coming to Madura necessary, I therefore left my Detachment Yesterday for that Purpose and this Morning received the inclosed from Cornet Rattrace.

It is needless to point out to you Gentlemen the fatal Consequences that may attend the having undetermined that Point of Rank between the Honble Companys Officers and the Nabobs, which untill lately was never disputed, and tho it may not in the present case be productive of any Mischief, yet may in Cases of greater Moment, when a Remedy could not be applied so expeditiously as can in the present by my Return, which shall be as expeditious as possible. I have the Honour to remain

Gentlemen

Your most Obdt Hble Servt

C Rumley

Madura

5th April 1773

Letter from Cornet Rat. relative to Capt. Rumley suspending him of Captain Lindsay & Lavirin

Dear Rumley,

I am sorry you left this without appointing any Commanding Officer. My Circumstances I hope will be my excuse

No 102 Fort St George 12th April 1773

Sir — I am to mention of which you are so well acquainted, that I am not to be commanded by a Rabobs Officer Captain without Book Order, & that from proper Persons — in Consideration of this will not be commanded by Captain London — Your Message he came into my House and insisted upon the Command — if not he would do it by Force, Swore damned & kicked all the World would get You and every Company's Officer turned out of the Rabobs Service and every Sawdar broke that would not obey his Command — I am still quiet and take no Notice Regiment but if Captain London should come and or any of his Men against me, or any other Person of your Regiment Certainly meet Resistance and Harm —

Enclosed I send you a Note full of Complaint — but I did not receive the Sawdar — I would wish to see You returned — I remain D^r Sir

Yours most sincerely

J. Ratzell

3^d April 1773
10 o'Clock night

To M^r Ratzell

Sir — Order the Artillery Sawdar Prisoner immediately for not waiting on me for Orders to join the

John London

Gen.

3^d April 1773.

Although the Board cannot but be sensible of the ill consequences which may Result from these Disputes subsisting Between the Company's Officers and the Rabobs yet they do not think it is not in their Power to apply a Remedy

403 Fort St. George 12th April 1773

at present_ The Subject has been fully explained to the Honble Court and until their Determination arrives the Board can only represent to the Nabob the many inconveniencies which may attend the Claims of his Officers to rank with the Company's especially if asserted in such a violent and irregular Manner.

Letter to the Nabob Wt. to stopping Payment of what is due for the Extraordinary Current Charges and adviding of the Profits on the Contracts.

Read Draft of a Letter to the Nabob as entered in Country Correspondence No 54. with the an Amount of the extraordinary Charges from 1st May to 31st October 1772 and desiring Payment of what is still due on that Account amounting to Pagodas 110,590-3-1 The Profits on the Contract amount to Pagodas 52,399-13-32 which are carried to the Credit of the Nabob.

Letter from the Nabob to call Lt. Col. Benjamin Detachment and to leave a Body of Troops with Capt. Brown for the Defence of the Country.

Read a Letter from the Nabob as entered in Country Correspondence No 53. representing the Propriety of recalling Part of the Detatchment under the Command of Lt. Colonel Bonjour, and of leaving a small Body of Troops under the Command of Captain Brown consisting of One Thousand Sepoys & One Hundred Europeans with the necessary Stores & Artillery to cooperate with Nazibsaun in preserving Peace in the new Conquered Country.

Orders in Consequence.

In Consequence of the foregoing Letter it is determined that Captain Brown with his own Battalion of Sepoys, the European Company of Grenadiers with a Brigade of Guns & proportionate Number of Artillery Lascars remain in the Maravar & Nuddy Districts to act with Nazibsaun in reducing the Polygars & settling the new Conquests_ As the Board wishes to have recalled the Europeans from the Detachment to join their Battalion as sickness only, Nevertheless they thought they could not avoid

Fort St. George 12th April 1773

And complying with the Rajahs request, in representing to him the Necessity of the European troops necessary for the Defence of that Country

In consequence of the foregoing Resolution, Lt Col. Bangeur will be ordered to Trichinopoly with the Battalions of Captains Hopkins & Johnson, & the five Companys of Seapoys from the Garrison at Madura, will be ordered to their Stations there

The President laid the following Letter from Capt. Cooke before the Board.

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esq.

Governor &c. &c.

Letter from Capt. Cooke advising of two Dutch Deserters having come to Palamcotah from Tuticorin and desiring orders how to act should they be demanded by the Dutch.

Honble Sir,

This Day two very likely Men came here. they say they are Germans & deserted from the Dutch at Tuticorin two Days ago, they are willing to entertain in our Service I will keep them 'till I am favor'd with your Orders how they are to be disposed of.

I should be glad of your Honors Instructions how to act on this as well as any future Occasion, should the Dutch Chief make a Demand for them to be returned.

I am
Honble Sir with much Respect
Your most obedt Servant
Will Cooke

Palamcotah
4th April 1773.

As there is a Cartel subsisting with the Dutch for the mutual delivering up of Deserters it is resolved that Capt. Cooke be directed to advise the Dutch Chief at Tuticorin of the said Deserters and to desire him to send a Party for them &c

To be delivered up in consequence of the Cartel

At Fort St. George 12th April 1773.

To whom Captain Cook under date the 10th Instant sent up upon application of this Young Gentleman.

The President acquainted the Board that he had an Application from Mr. Tony to be received on the List of Cadets for last Year in Consequence of his Appointment at the India House – That Mr. Tony attended on a Bombay Ship a little before the Expedition took Place against Barooche; that he was employed on the said Expedition and acted as an Engineer during that Service – Mr. Tony also produced a Recommendation from the Commanding Officer of the Troops at Bombay, as to his good Behaviour during the Campaign against Barooche – Mr. Tony also informed the President that he was appointed a Cadet on the Recommendation of Mr. Verelst and mentioned some Circumstances which caused the malidity of his Protestations. –

Mr. Tony applies to be received on the Establishment as a Cadet

Reasons for granting his Request. –

All the Mr. Tonys in the List of Cadets sent from the India House, nor is he mentioned in any of the General Letters of last Year, nevertheless from the Circumstances just now related and the Governor & Council of Bombay mentioning him as a Cadet on this Establishment, & appointment as such seems to be proved beyond a Doubt – and as the Board observe a Blank left for the Insertion of a Name in the List nominated by Mr. Verelst, it is, more than probable that Mr. Tony is the Person intended to fill up that Place – from all these Circumstances the Board think themselves authorized to give Mr. Tony the Rank which he claims and he is accordingly appointed next to John Simpson on the List of Cadets.

To take Rank on the List of Cadets next to John Simpson

The Board having heard the Opinion of General Smith on the Scheme proposed by Lieut. Colonel James Pettigrew

Vorno

General Smith's Minute recommending that the Corps of Artillery be stationed at Chingleput Pommanallee or Tarangoley - Proposes a Distribution for the Invalid Artillery

Fort St. George 12th April 1773

Hon.ble Inspecting the Corps of Artillery the General delivers in the following Minute.

The Hon.ble Board having desired General Smith's Opinion on a Letter received from the Field Officers of Artillery - gives his Sentiments thereon as follows.

Present Stations of the Artillery Corps

Stations	Companys
Fort St. George	1½
Mount	1
Vellour	1
Trichinopoly	1
Vellum	½
	5 Companys

The Field Officers of Artillery having set forth the great Advantages their Corps would derive from being kept together as much as possible and the General being entirely of the Same Opinion the following Mode of Distribution I.s submitted to the Consideration of the Hon.ble Board.

There are at present on the Invalid List 122 Artillery Men and many more will be returned unfit for Field Duty from that Corps, on the Arrival of the Recruits of this Season. These men may answer in time of Peace many Purposes, for the out Garrisons that our Last Men can do. Chingleput, Pommanallee or Tarangoley is proposed

Fort St. George 12th April 1773

proper'd as most convenient and contiguous to Madras to contain
the Corps of Artillery at - The former & latter of these Plans
will require Barracks for Compleat three and Barracks for
between two & three Hundred Men each for two Officers Quarters
for two Officers & Men - The latter is provided already and
if appropriated to that Purpose the Recruits may be stationed
and at Trichinopoly where Captain Sotland informs me there
are Accommodations that might be procured for their Reception at a very small Expence.

The Company of Artillery at Vellour should
be kept at thirty compleat, and might furnish the Garrison of
Masulipatam with Dow Subaltern & 20 Men to be relieved
monthly

Two Artillery Invalids at Masulipatam
to be ordered to the Southward.

The Garrisons to furnish Madras with
half a Company of Artillery Men to be relieved Monthly.

For Vellour 12 Invalid Artillery Men. There
are no Guns mounted on the Garrison or a Carriage fit to
put them on - of Course at present there is no occasion for
a Company of Artillery there

For Vellum - 1 Subaltern - 20 Invalids
Madura — 12 Do
Palamcotah — 8 Do
Fort Trichinopoly