

Minutes
from 1st Nov 1780

Friday 14th Novem^r 1783.

The Committee considered of some regulations necessary to be adopted in the Bill Office, when the Bills & Notes shall be deposited in the New Safe erected there.

Adjourn'd to 18th Nov^r 1783.

Tuesday 18th Novem^r 1783.

M^r Church
examined

The Committee examined M^r Church regarding the Mode of doing business, when the Bills & Notes shall be deposited in the New Bill Safe, to which there are two keys: &

Resolved, That a Cashier is the proper person to have the charge of one of the keys; & the Chief Clerks of the Bill Office should have the charge of the other.

M^r Gooch
examined

They also examined M^r Gooch of the Discount Office regarding the time at which the several Clerks there leave the Office: &

²
Regulations for the charge of the
keys of the Discount Safe.
Resolved, That the two Keys of the Discount
Safe, adjoining to the Bill Safe, should be
kept by the Chief of the Discount Office while
he remains there; & should be delivered by
him at his quitting the Office every day, to
such 2 of the Clerks as he shall direct to
remain last in waiting, & these are to lock
up the Bills & Notes discounted that day in
this Safe; & afterwards leave their Keys
separately at the Houses of the Chief Cashier
& Chief Accountant — where such provision
is to be made for the care of them as shall be
hereafter determined on.

Adjourn'd to 19. Nov^r 1783.

Wednesday 19^m Novem^r 1783.

Mr Thomas, of the
Accountants Office,
examined

The Committee called in. Mr Thomas, of
the Accountants Office, who said,

time of service

" He had been 21 years in the Bank;

business

" that his business is to add up the

" Cash-books worked in the Hall, the

" amount of which he sets down in a

" little book, from which he gives a

" ticket of the total every day to the

" Deputy Accountant: He informed

" the Committee, that these Cash-books,

" which are worked the first day

" in the Hall, are on the second day -

" brought into the Accountants Office:

" to the Posters of the Ledgers, on the

" third day lie with the Clerks of the

" Cheque, & on the fourth come to him

" for the purpose before mentioned: -

& attendance

" That his business takes him up from

" 9 o'clock till 12 or 1, & sometimes later;

" when he cannot finish by 1 o'clock,

" he then goes to dinner, & returns at 3;

" in this case it is sometimes 4 or 5

" o'clock before he can finish."

he signs
Dividend Warr^{ts}

Mr Thomas said, that he is one of

" the persons appointed to sign

" Dividend Warrants, for which he

allowance for it.

" has an additional allowance of £20

" a year."

. Mr Laverick, of the Accountants Office, being
of the Accountants called in, said,

Office, examined.

time of service,

business, &

attendance.

. Mr Holdsworth's
attendance.

customary
attendance of the
Clerks in the
Accountants Office.

Clerks in waiting

" He had been 20 years in the Bank;
" that his business is to assist . Mr
" Holdsworth in abstracting the old
" Notes unpaid from the old Ledgers
" into clearing books; that his attendance
" is from 9 in the morning till 3, when
" he goes away, as he takes no dining
" hours. That . Mr Holdsworth's
" attendance is in general the same
" as his."

. Mr Laverick said, " that the custom
" throughout the Accountants Office
" is for the Clerks either to stay till
" their business is done, which is
" usually about 3 o'clock, & then go
" away for the day; or else, to quit
" the Office at 1 o'clock & take 2 hours
" for dinner time, & afterwards return
" to finish their business. That 3
" Clerks must be in waiting every
" afternoon to examine Notes
" brought in for payment till the Hall
" work is over: this waiting is
" taken by rotation of all the Clerks
" in the Office. That in general the

the entering &
posting the specie
& cash notes is
the last part of
the business.

the Hall-work
is checked 3 ~
times over.

Gratuities

M. Gribble, of
the Accountants
Office, examined.

time of service
&
business

Gratuities

M. Southey, of the
Accountants Office
examined

time of service

" business of entering & posting the specie
" & cash notes is over about 1 or 2 o'clock,
" but as the posting is the last part of the
" business, when the work is heavy it
" sometimes lasts much longer. "

M. Laverick said, " that the Hall-work
" is checked 3 times over in the Accountants
" Office. "

(He farther said, " that there are no ~
" Gratitudes whatever received from the
" Publick in this Office; nor did he ever
" hear of a Clerk making any present to
" the Heads of the Office for leave of absence
" or other indulgence. "

M. Gribble, of the Accountants Office, being
called in, said,

" (He had been 3 years in the Bank);
" that he was one of the Abstractors of the
" Cashbooks into their respective Cheques,
" that in a common day this work is ~
" over before 2 o'clock).

" That he never heard of any Gratitudes
" being given by the Publick; or of any
" presents being made to the Heads of
" the Office by an inferior Clerk for any
" indulgence. "

M. Southey, of the Accountants Office, being
called in, said,

" (He had been 25 years in the Bank);

& business.

employed in
posting Bills
& Notes discounted.

Clerks appointed
for this service.

& allowances for
it.

attendances on
that business.

" that he is one of the pricklers of the Cheque,
" which business on a common day is over
" about 2 o'clock. That besides this business,
" which concerns the Specie or Cash notes,
" he is one of the 15 Clerks employed under
" Mr Pollard in posting Bills & Notes
" discounted into the Discount Ledgers:
" As this business must always be done
" at a late hour, it has been usual to
" appoint the Clerks who transact it
" from among the whole number employed
" in the Accountants & Drawing Offices,
" by way of extra work; for which they
" are allowed £18.5 each *per Annum*
" above their salaries. That the work of
" entering the Discounts & of the payments
" is extremely heavy - on a moderate day
" he never gets away till 6 or 7 o'clock, &
" frequently he is much later: many
" of the other Gentlemen, particularly
" those who post the payments upon,
" must remain 2 hours longer."

Mr Bentley, of
the Accountants
Office, examined.

time of service

business

attendance.

Mr Bentley, of the Accountants Office, being
called in, said,

" That he had been upwards of a year
" in the Bank; that he is one of the
" Posters of Specie or Bank notes paid,
" that on a common day he can get

7
" this business done about 4 or 5 o'clock;
" after which time (as he is one of the
" Posters of Bills & Notes discounted) he
" applies to the work of posting the
" Payments upon, this never takes ~
" him up less time than two hours & a
" half or three hours, but very frequently
" 4 or 5. That he is very seldom out of
" the Office before & at night, if the business
" is heavy much later, & on a Saturday
" generally 'till 10 or 11 o'clock."

Adjourn'd to 20. Nov^r 1783.

Thursday 20th Novem^r 1783.

M^r Villeau, of
the Accountants
Office, examined

M^r Villeau, of the Accountants Office, being
called in, said,

keeps the Balance
book,

& superintends
the posting of
Bills & Notes
discounted

his attendance

he likewise adds
up the Journal
of Notes discounted.

" That he had been 23 years in the Bank;

" That he keeps the Balance book & enters

" the totals in the G Cash book, by way of

" completing the balance of it, every day.

" That besides this business, he superintends,

" under M^r Pollard, the posting of Bills

" & Notes discounted, that his part of the

" business is, jointly with M^r Pollard, to

" agree all the Accounts in the Ledgers:

" That this business generally obliges

" him to stay till 5 or 6 o'clock every

" evening, & M^r Pollard usually stays

" as long: that it is farther his province

" to add up every week the Journal of

" Notes discounted kept in the Discount

" Office."

M^r Villeau to shew the immense labour
attendant upon this business of entering Bills &

number of Bills & Notes discounted, stated, that there had been
& Notes discounted 137000 discounted in the course of the last year,
in the course of last year; which must be posted to the Account with, & to
the manner of the Account upon, at the time of discount; &
posting them; from the Account with, & from the Account
upon, at the time of payment; besides every

every article being added or subtracted: And also
Order of Office that it is the order of Office, that no Clerk who is
respecting it. posting payments shall deduct a bill from either
of the Accounts with or upon, untill he has
searched & found that the bill actually stands
upon the account.

Gratuities

Mr. Pelleau said, "that there are no
" Gratuities in his Office from the Publick;
" nor did he ever hear of any presents
" being made by the Clerks to any of the
" Heads of the Office."

Mr. Newton, of
the Accountants
Office, examined

Mr. Newton, of the Accountants Office, being
called in, said,

time of service: " That he has been 23 years in the Bank;
has the care of " that he has the care of the D book, which
the D. book, " is an effectual check upon the account
which is referred " of Bills & Notes discounted, & reference
to in case of " is constantly had to it in case of failures
failures or " or any disagreement in the Accounts.
disagreements " That his business frequently employs
in the Accounts. " him up till 3 or 4 o'clock, & if he takes
attendance " any dining hours he returns again
" to finish his work: that he allway
" comes on a holiday to ease the business
" which otherwise would be too heavy."

Mr. Beardsley
examined,
keeps the Journal &
Dividend Ledgers

Mr. Beardsley being called in, said,

" That he keeps the Journal, & supplemental
" or Dividend Ledger, which contains the

contents of the
latter.

" Exchequer. Audit Roll account & the
" Accounts of all Annuities & Dividends
" paid."

He shewed these books to the Committee, who
examined the Mode of keeping the accounts.

. Mr Tollard,
being abroad, could
not be examined

. Mr Tollard, Head of the Specie & Cash notes
of the Bills & Notes discounted, both kept in the
Accountants Office, being now abroad on the
business of this House, the Committee had not
an opportunity of examining him.

Adjourn'd to 25 Nov^r 1783.

11

Tuesday 25th Nov^r 1783.

Mr Aldridge, of
the Bank post bill
Office in the
Accountants Office,
examined.
Time of service
the process for keeping
the account of the
post-bills is the
same as for the
specie or cash notes.

attendances.

Mr Aldridge, Head of the Bank post bills
Office, being called in, said,
" That he has been upwards of 30 years
" in the Bank; that the process for
" keeping the account of Bank post bills
" is an epitome of that used for the specie
" or cash notes.

" That the attendance in his Office is from
" 9 in the morning till the business is
" finished, which is usually about 1 or
" 2 in the afternoon; that one of the
" Clerks, by rotation, must be in waiting
" till 5 o'clock; & when this comes to his
" turn he takes 2 hours for dinner.
" That the places of his Office are
" esteemed easy, & therefore are commonly
" given to those who have served many
" years in the House.

Gratuities

" That there are no gratuities whatever
" from the Publick known in his Office."

Mr Betsonworth
Head of the Drawing
Office, examined.

Time of service,
Clerks under
him.

Mr Betsonworth, Head of the Drawing Office,
being called in, said, that

" He had been upwards of 31 years in
" the Bank; that the number of Clerks
" under him now in the Office is 15,
" which he deems being full handed

attendances

" (That the attendance is from 9 in the
 " morning till business is finished, &
 " the Clerks seldom go to dinner unless
 " the work is unusually heavy, as the
 " chief part of it is commonly over before
 " 2 o'clock; but there is always one
 " person in waiting in the Office
 " who remains till 5 o'clock, & on a
 " holiday 2 of the Clerks are appointed
 " to wait - one in the morning till 2
 " o'clock, the other for the rest of the day:
 " these waitings are taken by rotation
 " of all the Clerks except the Head.

The Clerk in
 waiting sees
 sundry books
 deposited in the
 strong room.

" (The Clerk in waiting is required at
 " 5 o'clock to see all the Drawing Ledgers,
 " as well as the 2 General Ledgers, the
 " Journal, & the Tin box which he
 " receives from the Deputy Accountant,
 " carried to the strong room near the
 " Rotunda, & locked up there: after
 " which he is to deliver the key at the
 " apartment of the Chief Accountant,
 " unless the Clerks of the Transfer
 " Offices should chance to be later in
 " locking up their books than he is;
 " in which case he may deliver the
 " key to one of them, who is then
 " held accountable for it."

. Mr Betonworth observed, "that there

the General Ledger
is locked.

" is a Lock to the General Ledger to prevent
" its being opened or looked into."

Gratuities.

. Mr Betsworth said, "that there are
" some gratuities given by the Publick at
" Christmas, which amount to about £100.
" or £150, but never have exceeded £200
" in any one year; & that there are no
" other presents whatever: that these
" gratuities are thrown into one general
" fund & distributed by him equally among
" all the Clerks.
" (That no presents are ever made, by an
" inferior Clerk to the Head, for leave of
" absence or other indulgence)."

. Mr Holmes, of
the Drawing Office,
examined.
time of service
&
attendances

. Mr Holmes, of the Drawing Office, being
called in, said,
" He had been near 19 years in the Bank;
" that the business of the Office on a common
" day is over about 2, or before 3 o'clock; but
" the Clerks at the Ledgers often come before
" 9 o'clock in the morning to forward their
" business."

. Mr Holmes said, "that he was the Clerk
" in waiting last night, & therefore it was
" his business to cause the following books to
" be locked up in the strong room: viz.

Books locked
up in the strong
room;

" The Drawing Ledgers,
" The General & Dividend Ledgers, } receiv'd from the
" The Journal, & } Dept^y Accountant.
" A Tin box,

the key of which
is delivered at
the Chief Accountants
house:

" after he had locked these up in the
" strong room, he delivered the key
" at the Chief Accountants house. "

(Being asked from whom he received the key,
he answered,

of taken from
thence.

" (That he had it from the same place)
" where he left it: for the Clerks in the
" Transfer Offices having locked up
" their books before he was ready to
" deposit his, had left the key of this
" strong room at the Chief Accountants
" apartments. "

Clerk in waiting
signs an ac-
knowledge-
ment of the deposit.

MP Holmes informed the Committee,
" (That within the last fortnight an order
" has been given for the Clerk in waiting
" to sign his name every evening in
" a book kept for the purpose, as an
" acknowledgement that he has safely
" deposited all the effects above
" enumerated. "

Gratuities.

" (With regard to gratuities, " MP Holmes
" said, " the amount of them is
" uncertain; they arise from presents
" given by the Publick, which are
" distributed equally among all the
" Clerks in the Office, & may amount
" to about £8 a piece annually.
" (That he never knew a present
" given by any of the Clerks in this
" Office to the Superiors for leave

15.
" of absence or other indulgence: & that
" Mr Betsonworth, the present Head, he
" is confident would never allow of a
" transaction of this nature."

Mr Osmond
of the Drawing
Office, examined

Mr Osmond, of the Drawing Office, being
called in, said,

Time of service

" He had been in the Bank about
" half a year; that he is one of the

5

attendance

" Junior Clerks in the Office; his
" attendance is till a later hour than
" most of the others, & that he frequently
" comes after dinner."

Gratuities

" That he never heard of any present
" being given, by an inferior Clerk to
" the Head of the Office, for leave of
" absence or any other indulgence;
" & he is sure Mr Betsonworth is not a
" man that would allow a thing of
" that sort."

Adjourn'd to 26 Nov^r 1783.

Wednesday 26th Nov^r 1783

Mr Edwards
Deputy Accountant
examined.

The Committee called in Mr Edwards, the
Deputy Accountant, who said,

time of service " (He had been 25 years in the service
" of the Bank. "

General Ledger

&
balances

He shewed the Committee the General
Ledger, which is kept entirely by himself: He
takes the balances of all the Accounts therein
6 times a year, but without balancing the
Accounts themselves in the said Ledger. The
copies of the two half years balances, which
are taken previous to the Declaration of the
half-yearly Dividend are laid before the Directors,
& the Accounts are all closed, & a general Balance
Sheet entered in the Ledger itself once a year.
Some few of the articles in this Ledger, when
passed from one account to another, are not
entered in the Journal, but the Debits & Credits
are posted without any reference to it.

Great Accounts
checked with the
Chief Cashier.

Mr Edwards said, " that he checks all
" the great Accounts in the Ledger, such
" as Cash, Bullion, Exchequer bills
" deposited, Bills discounted, & some
" others with the Chief Cashier every
" week).

check on the acc^t
of Cash: bills cancelled.

" That he keeps an Account of Exchequer

" bills cancelled in small books, by way of
" Check on the great Account kept by
" . Mr Payne. "

Care of his books.

. Mr Edwards said, "the books used by
" him remain in his Office not locked up
" in the day time, because, this place -
" being considered as sacred, no person
" ever presumes to go into it, except
" . Mr Beardsley, who helps to prick
" the Ledger. Of a night the General
" Ledger, having a padlock first put
" upon it, of which he keeps the key,
" is locked up in the strong room; his
" other books are locked up by him in a
" Book-case in his Office; & when he
" has done with any old books they are
" carried to the Chief Accountants Office. "

Sundry books
are put in a
Tin-case every
day.

. Mr Edwards remarked, that the method practised
for a few years past of taking every day out of the
Committee room the Red-book of General Balances,
the Treasury book, the Exchequer book, & the 2 books
of delivery of Exchequer bills, & of putting them
into a Tin-case, which is locked by him, &
& locked up in afterwards deposited in the strong room, appears
to him more insecure & liable to greater objections
than the old mode of suffering them to remain
all night in the Book-case in the Committee room,
where they are kept in the day time: for the
business of the Transfer & Drawing Offices

the strong room
which he thinks
liable to objections.

18
requiring that the Books belonging to them should be carried to their respective places early in the morning, before the Clerks come to work; the Watchmen of course are entrusted with the key of the strong room to take out these books, & at the same time one of them takes this Tin-box & brings it into the Accountants Office, where it remains exposed till Mr Edwards comes down, which is a considerable time after it is placed there; the Watchman frequently taking it out at 6 or 7 o'clock.

Mr Wayne, Chief Accountant, being called in, shewed his book in which he keeps the Account of Exchequer bills, which shews an exact State of all the Exchequer bills, in the possession of the Bank, on the Land & Mail Taxes - a check to which is kept by the Deputy Accountant, as mentioned in his examination.

An account of Exchequer bills deposited is given by Mr Cowper in his examination of the 4th of June 1783 to be given by him to the Chief Accountant, is in fact given to the Cash-book, from whence it goes into the Journal, & thence posted into the General Ledger.

Mr Wayne being asked, where the old Ledgers are kept, answered

Care of the old
Ledgers

19
" That they are locked up in a press in
" the Office next to the Chancery Office,
" of which press he keeps the key: —
" And said farther, that the half
" yearly Accounts for the inspection of
" the Directors (when done with), as
" well as all other books in use are
" kept locked up in a press within his
" Office; but that the books containing
" the Exchequer bills account are placed
" in an open Book-case over his desk."

Adjourn'd to 27 Nov^r 1783.

Thursday 27th Nov^r 1783.

Mr Edwards.

he keeps a
duplicate of
general balances,

& checks them
with the Chief
Cashier.

An acct. is kept
of the total of
Bank notes in
circulation,
which checks the
acct. in the
General Ledger.

Gratuities

Mr Edwards being called in again, said,

" That he keeps a Duplicate book to the
" Red book of General balances in the
" Committee room: that he takes out
" of the General Ledger, & enters into this
" book every Monday morning, the
" amount of the several Accounts, &
" checks each with the Chief Cashier,
" who keeps in his Office a State of all
" the great Accounts: from this book
" kept by the Deputy Accountant the
" Red book of General balances is copied
" weekly every Tuesday, & includes the
" Balance to the Saturday night preceding.

" That the Head of the Species or Cash-
" note Office keeps an account of the
" total of Bank notes in circulation, -
" which enables the Deputy Accountant
" to check that Account in the General
" Ledger weekly. "

Mr Edwards said, " that he receives no
" Gratuities whatever from the Publick as
" Deputy Accountant, & that whenever
" any have been offered to him, he has
" always refused them; & that he believes
" there are none of the like Gratuities annexed
" to the place of Chief Accountant. "

Adj^d to 28 Nov^r 1783.

Friday 28th Nov^r 1783.

Mr Payne
questioned as to

Mr Payne being called in again & questioned
with regard to Gratuities, said,

Gratuities

" That there were not any whatever —
" received by him from the Publick; —
" that some trifling ones have now &
" then been offered, but he has always
" refused them, conceiving it totally —
" inconsistent with his Station, to accept
" of any, as it is undoubtedly his duty
" to do the business of the Publick with
" the Bank, without receiving any
" emolument from them for so doing. "

The Committee informed Mr Payne that
they should proceed at their next meeting to examine
into the manner in which the business is conducted
in the Transfer Offices, & should begin with the
Bank stock Office, as they apprehended. Mr
Millington the head of this Office was a very
proper person to give them a general account
of the Mode of transacting business there.

Mr Payne said, " Mr. Millington —
" was now at home very ill, & most
" probably would never come out again;
" & that Mr Browning was at the head
" of the Office; that Mr. Millington
" imputed all his illness to the closeness

his opinion of
the unhealthiness
of the Transfer
Offices.

"Unwholesomeness of the Office." &
Mr Payne took occasion to represent,
"that all the Transfer Offices, through
"their not having any chimnies or
"other apertures for the admission of
"fresh Air, are so unwholesome as
"greatly to prejudice the health of the
"Persons employed in them: & mentioned
"it as a matter deserving consideration."

Adjourn'd to 3^d Dec^r 1783.

Wednesday 3^d Dec^r 1783.

The Committee proceeded to examine into the Mode of conducting business in the Transfer Office:

Mr Browning, & called in. Mr Browning of the Bank stock Office, of the Bank stock Office, examined who said,

time of service " (That he had been near 15 years in the
" Bank: That he acts as Chief of the
" Office of Bank stock & Consolidated Long
" Annuities in the absence of Mr Millington,
" whose ill health renders him unable
" to attend at present. "

gives an account of the business in this Office; Mr Browning gave the Committee a full account of the Mode of transacting the business of this Office; & the Committee went into the Office to see the whole process in the books, which appeared to them very satisfactory, so many checks being established as to render it scarcely possible that an error should be overlooked.

description of the drawers ~ Mr Browning said, " that the drawers
" under the Counter, being four in number,
" containing the Dividend Warrants in
" course of payment, have sliders on the
" tops of them, which are locked by the
" Clerk in waiting every evening at 5 o'clock
" & are immediately carried by him to be
" locked up in the Strong room, & that

Warrants unpaid
for more than
4 years are
lodged in the
Cheque Office.

" during the day & untill the time they
" are so carried away, these drawers -
" remain in their places unlocked.

" That in these drawers are kept all
" unpaid Dividend Warrants for
" 4 years back, - all of an older date
" are lodged in the Cheque Office till
" called for by the proprietors.

" That the keys of these drawers are
" kept in a store-desk in the Office;
" the key of which store is kept in a
" common desk, & to this all the Clerks
" have keys."

The Committee enquired why the drawers
are not locked up every day at 3 o'clock, being the
hour at which the delivery of Dividend Warrants
ceases: Mr Browning replied,

he foresees no
inconvenience
from the drawers
being locked at
3.

" That it had not been the practice of
" the Office, but said that he did not
" foresee any inconvenience that would
" attend its being done."

number of Clerks
in this Office.

Mr Browning farther said, " that
" the establishment of Clerks in this
" Office is 10 in number when compleat,
" & that they do the business of both
" Stocks in common among them, though
" Mr Douglas acts as head of the Long
" Annuities under Mr. Millington.

Supervisors
of the Transfers,
their business.

" That there are 2 Supervisors in this
" Office, one for Bankstock, being M^r
" Browning, the other for Long Annuities,
" being M^r Cooke. That their business
" is to see that all Transfers are made
" out by the other Clerks conformable to
" the Tickets, & in general that there are
" no mistakes in either; & as a mark
" that they are right, they sign their
" names in the margin of each Transfer,
" & by a regulation peculiar to the
" Bankstock Office the Transfers of that
" stock are required to be executed in the
" presence of a Supervisor. That each
" Supervisor is allowed by the Bank
" £10 a year Gratuity.

attendances.

" That the attendance of the Clerks is
" from 9 to 3 o'clock every day except on
" holidays; no dinner hours are allowed
" but to the Clerk in waiting, who takes
" from 1 to 3 o'clock & then returns &
" stays till the Strong room is locked up.
" That this waiting is taken by a weekly
" rotation of the 6 or 7 Juniors in the Office."

good conduct
of the Clerks.

M^r Browning said, " that the conduct
" of all the Clerks in this Office is
" unexceptionable as to their business
" in the house, & from what he has heard
" equally so out of it. That he never

he never heard
of money being
given to the
Chief for any
indulgences.

" heard of money being given by any
" Clerk to the Chief for leave of absence
" or other indulgence, & is confident that
" M^r. Millington would feel himself
" grossly affronted at any offer of this
" kind being made, as he most certainly
" should ~~be~~ himself.

Gratuities.

" That there are several gratuities ~
" received in this Office from the Publick,
" & which are supposed to be allowed of;
" These are as follows.

" (For entries of Wills 2/6 each & if
" very long sometimes 5/-)

" (For making out Powers of Attorney
" in the Long Annuities a profit
" is made on each of about 1/6.
" (The Powers of Attorney for Bank
" stock are made out in the
" Secretary's Office).

" For every model for a Power of
" Attorney 2/6.

" For every private Transfer 2/6.

" (For making out Lists of the
" Warrants for persons who receive
" many Dividends some voluntary
" presents are given, but these
" are never asked for)

" These several articles together may
" amount, communibus annis, to
" £200 or £300 a year, but the last
" year owing to a great increase of

" private Transfers in the Long Annuities

" they amounted to full £400.

" Whatever money is thus collected is ~

" divided out quarterly among all the

" Clerks in this Office in equal proportions."

. Mr Browning being asked, whether he knows
of any Clerk in his Office acting as a Stock Broker,
answered,

" That he does not believe any of them

" act as Brokers in their own persons,

" conceiving it to be forbidden by the

" Regulations of the Bank, but that

" they buy & sell Stock for their friends

" through the means of a Broker who

" generally allows them $\frac{1}{3}$ ^d & sometimes

" a larger proportion of the Commission,

" which he does not understand to be

" contrary to the order of this house."

the Clerks buy
& sell Stock by
a Broker.

Adjourn'd to 4th Dec^r 1783.

Thursday 4th Dec^r 1783.

Conversed with Mr Newland,

Mr Mayow, &

Mr Bourne, about the

regulations necessary for keeping the Bills in
the New Safe in the Bill Office.

Adjourn'd to 5th Dec^r 1783.

Friday 5th Dec^r 1783.

Conversed with Mr Church, about the
regulations for the New Safe: & settled the
former Minutes.

Adjourn'd to 9th Dec^r 1783.

Tuesday 9th Dec^r 1783.

The Committee went into the Bill Office, & having seen the Bills discounted & those paid in on sundry. Accounts deposited in the Drawers in the respective compartments of the New Safe, &

The Committee having called upon M^r Newland to attend them, deliver the Keys of the New Bill Safe they delivered one of the Keys to the Chief Clerks of the Bill Office, while the other was delivered to the Cashiers by M^r Newland to M^r Larchin, one of the Cashiers,

& gave directions with directions that either M^r Larchin or M^r Jackson, respecting them, the two Cashiers who sit on the side of the Hall

adjoining the Bill Office, should attend the Chief Clerks at all times whenever the business of the Office requires either compartment of the New Bill Safe to be opened, & to wait while it remains open, & to take care that, if any thing requires both these Cashiers to be absent at any one time from their places, another Cashier should be called to attend this business untill the return of one of them.

The Committee recommended to M^r Newland to advert particularly to any difficulties that might occur in the execution of this new mode

of keeping the Bills, in order that they might be obviated as soon as they arise; & directed the Chief Clerks to give immediate information to Mr Newland of such difficulties, who as well as the Chief Clerks is likewise to communicate them to the Committee

Mr Browning of the Bank Stock Office being called in & asked, whether it is the custom of the Supervisors to compare the signatures of all persons transferring Stock with their acceptances, in order to see if the writings are alike, answered,

says it is not the practice to compare the signatures of the Transfers with the acceptances.

"That it has never been the practice,
" nor does he understand it is required
" by the orders of the House."

A Clerk compares the Transfer ticket with the Account.

Mr Browning said, "before any
" Transfer is put into the Books, the
" Clerk who is to make it first looks
" into the Ledger to see that the Sum
" mentioned in the Ticket stands upon
" the Account."

The drawers of Dividend Warrants are now locked at 3 o'clock.

He also informed the Committee,
" that, since his last examination,
" they have constantly locked the
" Drawers in his Office containing

" the Dividend Warrants, at 3 o'clock;
" as suggested to him by the Committee:
" & which is not attended with any
" inconvenience. "

Adjourn'd to 10 Dec^r 1783

Wednesday 10⁽¹³⁾ Dec: 1783.

Mr Bibbins
of the Bank Stock Office
examined,

Mr Bibbins of the Bank Stock Office
being called in, said,

time of service " That he had been near 11 years in the
" Bank.

the Supervisor
takes an Abstract
of Transfers,

" That the Supervisor takes every Transfer
" day, in a book kept for the purpose, an
" Abstract of all Transfers made that
" day, which he compleats before he
" leaves the Office.

4. & the Clerk in
2. waiting makes
5. out a Duplicate
of it,

" That the Clerk in waiting, immediately
" after 3 o'clock, employs himself in
" making out from the Transfer-books
" a Duplicate of the before mentioned
" Abstract & casts up the total of the sums
" transferred, which he compares with
" the total of the Abstract: & at the close
" the day, this Duplicate is given to a
" Porter who comes for it & puts it up in
" the Mail, which is a Leather case, that
" he understands is carried out of the
" House every night. This duplicate is
" the next day brought into the Parlour
" & afterwards carried again into the Office,
" where it is read over & compared with

which is carried
away every night
by a porter,

& brought into
the Parlour the
next day.

" Supervisors. Abstract; & this is done both
 " in Bank stock & Long Annuities. —

" (The other business of the Clerk in waiting,
 " which requires his attendance till 5 o'clock,
 " is to receive orders for & make out Powers
 " of Attorney, & to attend the Notaries who
 " may apply for the inspection of any
 " Accounts in the Ledgers.

" That one of the Watchmen is appointed
 " to serve as a Porter to the Bank stock Office,
 " who comes about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 o'clock to
 " collect the books which are to be
 " deposited: these are

" The 8 Ledgers, being 4 for each stock
 " with their alphabets,

" The 2 Abstracts of Transfers, one
 " for each,

" The 2 Journals for entering scrip,

" The 8 Dividend books, being 4 to
 " each stock, &

" The 4 drawers of Dividend Warrants,
 " comprehending both stocks.

" All these are carried a little before —
 " 5 o'clock into the strong room, & are
 " there deposited in the presence of the
 " Clerk in waiting: the last of all the
 " Clerks in waiting is charged with the

the Clerk in
 waiting receives
 orders for & makes
 out Powers of
 Attorney, &
 attends the Notaries.

Books which
 are deposited
 in the strong room
 every night.

disposal of the
key of it,

of the key of
the Bank stock Office

Books which
remain in the
Office.

" Key & required to deliver it at the
" Chief Accountants. That he
" delivers the Key for opening the strong
" room, when they want to make their
" Deposits, is fetched by the Watchman
" from the Chief Accountants; as
" undoubtedly it is in the morning,
" when they first open the strong room
" to bring all the books & drawers
" belonging to the Transfer Offices to
" their respective places. After the
" Watchman has done this, he locks
" the Bank stock Office & leaves the
" key at the Gate porters Lodge, where
" it is taken up by the Clerk who comes
" earliest.
" The Clerk in waiting at night leaves
" the key of the Office with the Watchman,
" & he understands one or other of them
" always sleeps there."

Mr Bibbins observed, " that Books
" for registering of Wills & Powers of
" Attorney remain locked up in the
" Office; & that the Transfer books are
" first in an open Cupboard under the
" Counters: none of these being deposited
" in the strong room with the other
" books."

Being asked what method was practised

questioned as to in the Office to ascertain that the Sum set down
 the checking the
 Transfer tickets in any ticket to be transferred actually stands on
 with the Acc^{ts} the Account, answered,

Balance sheets
 are taken for
 that purpose

" That reference is allways had to the
 " Ledgers, either at the time or at a
 " preceding hour; & to facilitate this
 " business Balance sheets are taken,
 " upon which are set down beforehand
 " the Credits standing upon the Accounts
 " of such Jobbers & others as they have
 " reason to suppose will make Transfers
 " in the course of the day, & to this are
 " added occasionally the names of such
 " other persons as come to make Transfers,
 " at the time the tickets are delivered in.
 " So that these sheets contain a short
 " Account of all Transfers made, & serve
 " as a check on the account of Transfer
 " money received."

Gratuities

With regard to Gratuities, he described them
 to be the same as Mr Browning did in the
 Minutes of the 3^d Instant, but farther added,

" That in making Long Annuity scrip
 " into stock, an accommodation is
 " sometimes given to the Publick by
 " allowing them to transfer what is
 " made into stock the same day it is

" entered: for this a gratuity of 5/ is given
 " to the Office, whether for transferring the
 " whole or any part of it, but if the sum
 " be under £10 a year, the gratuity is only
 " 2/6. "

method practised
 by the Clerks in
 buying or selling
 stock.

M^r Bibbins said, "that when any of
 " the Clerks in the Office have occasion
 " to buy or sell any stock for their friends,
 " they always employ a Broker to do
 " the business, & he believes that most of
 " them are upon such good terms with
 " the Brokers that they rarely, if ever,
 " charge them any brokerage," & he
 " farther said, "that if the business is
 " to be transacted in the stock of their
 " Office they can always do it without
 " the intervention of a Broker, by
 " speaking to one of the Jobbers, who
 " will as readily deal with them as
 " any other: except in this way
 " neither he himself nor he believe
 " any of the other Clerks in the Office
 " act as Brokers. "

he never heard
 of a present being
 given to the Chief
 for any indulgence.

M^r Bibbins said, "that he never
 " knew nor heard of a present being
 " given by any of the Clerks to the
 " Chief or other Superiors for leave of
 " absence or other indulgence. "

M^r Gale
of the same Office
examined. said,

M^r Gale of the same Office being called in,

time of service

" That he had been near 3 years in the
" Bank, but only 9 months in the
" Bank stock Office. "

he has always
locked the drawers
of Dividend Warr^{ts}
at 3

He said, " that it has always been his
" custom, when in waiting, to lock the
" drawers of Dividend Warrants at 3 o'clock. "

gives an acco^t
of the locking
up the Books &
in the strong room,

He gave an account of the manner of
locking up the Books & drawers in the strong
room, similar to the foregoing one, & added,

signs his name
when he leaves
the key at the
Chief Account^{ant},

" That when (as being the latest clerk
" in waiting) it falls to his Lot to
" carry the key of the strong room to the
" Chief Accountant's, he signs his name,
" in a book kept there, as a voucher
" that he has seen the strong room properly
" locked & has duly delivered the key: -

when he
deposits the books

" besides which, every night, the Clerk
" in waiting subscribes, in a book kept
" in the Office, a declaration that the
" books & other effects have been properly
" deposited by him in the strong room.

Gratuities

" With respect to Gratuities, " M^r Gale
said, " that he believed they were in
" general such as have been before stated;
" that the distribution of the amount is

" equal among all the Clerks, & he
 " thinks, from what he has already
 " received, may amount to nearly
 " £40 a year each.

he believes the
 Clerks do
 occasionally buy
 or sell stock, but
 not in their own
 persons.

" (With regard to the Clerks acting
 " as Brokers, he can say but little
 " as he has been so short a time in
 " the Office): he believes they do
 " occasionally act for their friends
 " in the way mentioned by M^r
 " Browning & M^r Bibbins, but
 " not in their own persons."

M^r Payne
 questioned as to
 what is done
 with the Duplicates
 every night.

M^r Payne, Chief Accountant, being called
 in, was asked what is done every night with
 the Mail, containing the Duplicates of the
 Abstracts & Transfers made every day in all
 the Stocks in the House; he answered,

" That it was carried every night
 " to the Counting-house of Edward Payne Esq^r
 " as Senior Director, & fetched back
 " again every morning: that it is the
 " business of the House-porters to go
 " round & collect the Duplicates & put
 " them into the Mail, & afterwards
 " to carry them away - this business
 " is done by the Porters in weekly
 " rotation."

Ja. Flude,
a House porter,
examined as to
the collecting them,

Ja. Flude, one of the House-porters, being
called in & asked about the Mail, said,

" That the Porter who has the charge of it
" goes round every night to collect all the
" duplicates, which are 21 in number, &
" when he has got them all, he locks the
" Mail with the Key that hangs up in
" a cupboard in the 3^d Cent Consol. Office
" & puts the key there again. "

& locking them
up in the Mail.

Adjourn'd to 11 Dec: 1783.

Thursday 11th Dec^r 1783.

The Governor having returned the second Report to this Committee, & mentioned that it had been laid before the Committee of Treasury, from whence it was intended to be brought before the Court of Directors this day, but that the Committee of Treasury was of opinion some alteration should be made in that part of the Plan annexed to it which relates to the counting & sealing up the Store Notes in the Warehouse, proposed to be done by one Cashier & they are of opinion ought not to be entrusted to the care of a single person, which he therefore recommended to be reconsidered by this Committee.

Resolved

That it is proper to make an
 Amendment of amendment to the Plan, & that the following words therein be erased:—"by him in paper parcels of 50 Notes each which he shall seal, writing upon the outside the sum contained therein with his name & the date when he counted the Notes, & shall then require one of the Store-keepers to fix his Seal to it likewise."

& that the following words be inserted in their room: — "after being likewise counted by one of the Storekeepers, in paper parcels of 50 Notes each, which they shall both seal, writing on the outside the sum contained therein, & the date when counted, & shall then sign their names thereto." — & that at the Bottom of the 2^d Report the plan the following words be added: —

"The part of this plan interlined by us is — altered at the recommendation of the Governor & Committee of Treasury, as we entirely concur in opinion with them on the propriety of the Amendment." — which has been accordingly done by the Secretary.

Adjourn'd to 17 Dec: 1783.

Wednesday 17th Dec^r 1783

Mr Turner
Head of the 3^d & 6th
Reduced Office,
examined.

time of service.

Capital stock
&

number of
Proprietors.

establishment
of Clerks.

Lookers for
examining
Transfer tickets.

& Enterers for
making out
the Transfers.

The Committee called in Mr Turner, Head
of the 3^d & 6th Cent Reduced Office, who said,

"That he had been 24 years in the Banks.

"That the sum of the Capital stock in

"this Office is near 40 Millions, & the

"number of Proprietors thereof about

"33000.

"That the establishment of Clerks when

"complete is 29 in number, divided as

"follows.

"The Chief Clerk.

"2 to register Wills

"2 to make out Powers of Attorney &c

"3 to each of the 3 divisions into which

"the Office is now distributed.

"That the 5 first mentioned sit in an

"enclosed place at one end of the Office,

"where they are much crowded for want

"of room, which is a complaint throughout

"the Office. That 1 of the 3 Clerks in each

"division is called a Looker, & employs

"himself chiefly in examining & Transfer

"tickets & seeing that the sums to be

"transfer'd stand on the respective

"Accounts, the other 2 are called

"Enterers, & make out the Transfers

"from the Tickets, after they have been

" approved by the looker.

" That the additional Salary he receiv'd,
 " on being appointed head of the Office,
 " was £20 a year, but the Supervisorship
 " was of course given up by him at the
 " same time, & therefore the real additional
 " Salary which he acquired was only of
 " £10 a year. That Mr Reeves is considered
 " as next to him & acts as Chief in his
 " absence.

additional
 salary to the
 Head of the Office.

Supervisors
 allow: " to them
 their Business

" That 6 of the senior Clerks are appointed
 " Supervisors, for which they have an
 " addition of £10 a year each to their
 " Salaries. Their business is to see that
 " all the Transfers have been properly
 " made & executed in all their branches,
 " & to sign each Transfer."

Mr Turner gave a full account of the Mode
 of doing business in this Office, which appear'd
 similar to that practised in the Bank stock Office,
 & said,

Books.

" That in each division of the Office, there
 " are
 " 2 Transfer books,
 " 2 Dividend books, &
 " 2 Ledgers, or, as they are called
 " at present, a Ledger & a Supplement."

Mr Turner gave an account of the manner of
 consolidating of the 4 P^{cs} into this stock, & remarked
 " That when this operation took place

numbers of new
Accts when the 4-
46th were consol.
with this stock.

much inconvenience
arises from the
interference of
Transfers with
the paying of
Dividends.

means of altering
it.

Clerks in waiting

deliver the
Duplicats to
the Porter.

conduct of
the Clerks

" some time since), there were 19500

" New Accounts opened in one day.

" That at the time of opening the Books,

" much inconvenience frequently arises

" from the number of Transfers to be

" made & of Dividend Warrants to be

" delivered being required to be done at

" the same time: he thinks the time

" for putting in Transfer tickets might

" be restrained to 1/2 past 12 o'clock, ~

" without any inconvenience to the

" Publick, which would in some ~

" measure remove this difficulty.

" That 2 Clerks in this Office are in ~

" waiting every afternoon to attend the

" Notaries & Powers of Attorney, & to lock

" up the Books. That the Clerks in

" waiting have now Orders to deliver

" the Duplicate of the Abstracts to the

" Porter to be put in the Mail, & not to

" leave them to the chance of his finding

" them in the Office, as was the practice

" some time since."

. Mr Turner gave a very good account of
the Clerks in his Office as to their conduct within
this House, & to the best of his knowledge without
doors.

" That they were all in a proper degree

" of subordination & in general well ~

" qualified for their places, though he

" cannot pretend to say they are all

" equally expert & Masters of their
" business.

he never heard
of a present being
given to the Chief
for any indulgence.

" That he never knew or heard that it
" was the custom for any inferior Clerk
" to give a present to the Head or other
" Superior for leave of absence or any
" indulgence, nor does he believe it has
" ever been practised."

Gratuities

(With regard to gratuities, Mr Turner
represented them to be of the same nature in
his Office as before mentioned in the Bank Stock
Office,

" That they are divided equally among
" all the Clerks, & amount at present
" to 24 Guineas a piece, or thereabouts."

he never jobs
or acts as a
Broker.

Mr Turner said, " that he never jobs
" or acts as a Broker himself, but when
" he has any thing to do for his friends
" he always employs a Broker, who
" very willingly allows him a part
" of the Commission: he cannot pretend
" to say as much for every Clerk in the
" Office, he is afraid some of them do
" act as Brokers & may be likewise
" concerned in Jobbing."

Mr Gibbons
of the same Office
examined.
time of service.

Mr Gibbons of the same Office being called in,

said,

" That he had been 3 years in the Bank.

manner of
carrying away
& locking up the
Books.

Now the Abstracts
are disposed of.

& checked.

Gratuities

he never jobs
or acts as a
broker.

Mr Pilliner
of the same Office
examined.

He said "he was the Clerk in waiting
" 3 nights ago - & gave an account of
" the manner of carrying away & locking
" up the books."

He remarked, "that the Primary Abstract
" is that which is brought into the Parlour
" for the inspection of the Directors, & that
" the Duplicate, which is put in the
" Mail every night, is brought the next
" morning into the Consul. Office, from
" whence it is fetched into the Reduced
" Office; & the Clerks there every Saturday,
" if not otherwise employed, prick it
" off against the long Abstracts & the
" Ledgers."

Mr Gibbons gave the same account of
Gratuities as Mr Turner had done, & said

"His Share might have amounted for
" the last year to 20 or £25, but he
" cannot exactly recollect."

"With regard to acting as a Broker,"
he said, "he had never done anything
" in the Stocks without employing a
" regular Broker to do the business;
" & that he never jobs himself either
" in his own name or in that of any
" other person."

Mr Pilliner of the same Office being called
in, said,

"That he had seen upwards of

time of service)
he never heard
of a present being
given to the Chief
for any indulgence.

" 2 years in the Bank.
" (That he never heard of a present
" being given by an inferior Clerk
" to the Head for leave of absence or
" other indulgence."

Gratuities.

(He gave the same account of Gratuities as
has been before mentioned, but did not imagine
his share had amounted to more than 18 or
£20 a year at most, yet did not pretend to
recollect with any degree of certainty: & said,

he never jobs
or acts as a
Broker.

" (That he never acts as a Broker
" himself nor employs one to act for
" him; nor does he act as a jobber
" in his own name, or in the name
" of any other."

Adjourn'd to 18 Dec^r 1783.

Thursday 18th Dec^r 1783.

A Petition
from the Clerks
employed in
posting discount
bills referred to
this Committee.

The Governor having shewn to the Committee a Petition from the Clerks employed in posting discounted bills in the Accountants Office, ~ praying an increase of their annual allowance for doing this extra work: & having desired the Committee would give their opinion ~ thereon, & of the propriety of granting the same.

Resolved

Resolution
thereon.

That the 16 Clerks employed in the Accountants Office upon the Business of entering & posting discounted Bills into the Discount Ledgers appear to this Committee to be paid very inadequately to the additional trouble & labour bestowed by them in doing this Business, receiving the sum of £300 only, which divided among the whole number amounts to about £18.5 each in addition to their Salary, although they work in an Office which does not partake in the smallest degree of any present or gratuity given by the Publick, & are allways kept till a very late hour at night: & that it be recommended to the Governor & Committee of Treasury to take their case into consideration. which was done accordingly on the back of the Petition.

Adj^d to 19th Dec^r 1783.

Friday 19th Dec^r 1783

M^r Walker
of the 3^d & 4th Reduced
Office, examined.

M^r Walker of the 3^d & 4th Reduced Office was
called in, & said,

time of service.

" That he had been near 3 years in the
" Bank; about one year of that time
" in this Office.

he is an
Enterer

" That he is fixed as an Enterer at one
" of the 8 divisions of the Office, for the
" purpose of making Transfers &
" paying Dividends. "

questioned as to
the time when
the supervisors
overlook the
Transfers.

Being asked at what time the Supervisors
overlook the Transfers made each day, he answered,

" That he believed they generally did it
" on the succeeding day, as they have
" not time to do it on the same. And
" informed the Committee, that the 6
" Supervisors in this Office are disposed
" as to their standing business in the
" following manner:

the other business
of the supervisors.

- " 2 to register the Wills,
- " 2 to make out Powers, & the others are
- " 2 of the senior Lookers. "

he does not
lock the drawers
of Dividend Warr^{ts}
till near 5.

(He said farther, " that it has not
" been his custom, when in waiting,
" to lock the drawers of Dividend
" Warrants till near 5 o'clock. "

Gratuities

(With regard to Gratuities, he related

them to be the same as before stated; & that his proportion for the last year came to about £24.

he never heard
of a present being
given to the Chief
(for any indulgences

he never jobs
or acts as a
broker.

Mr Drinkwater
of the same Office
examined.

time of service

he is a Looker

clerks who pay
Dividends after
the transfers are
completed.

Mr Walker said, "that he never heard
" of a present being given by any inferior
" Clerk to the Head or other Superior of the
" Office, for leave of absence or other
" indulgence: & declared that he has
" never acted as a Broker or Jobber himself.
" With regard to what others do he can
" form no judgement having been so
" little a time in the Office."

Mr Drinkwater of the same Office being
called in, said,

" That he had been 3 years in the Bank.
" That he is a Looker at one of the 8
" divisions of the Office, & that he
" considers it as his duty to see that
" every Transfer ticket is right before
" he gives it to the Enters to make out
" the Transfer.

" That as soon after 1 o'clock as all the
" Transfers are completed, one only
" of the entering Clerks applies himself
" to pay such Dividends as may be
" demanded, & the other 2 employ
" themselves in posting the Transfers
" into the Ledgers; but in the hurry
" of the business at the commencement
" of a payment, they all 3 are employ'd

" in paying Dividends, & in this case
 " they post up the Transfers after the
 " time of payment is over.

indulgence
 when the business
 of any division
 is completed.

" That when they are full handed in
 " the Office & the business of any division
 " is completed, one out of the 3 belonging
 " to it has leave from the Chief Clerk
 " of the Office to go away a quarter or
 " half an hour before 3 o'clock; & this
 " liberty is granted them in rotation,
 " but the Chief Clerk himself he believes
 " always stays till 3."

Supervisors
 inspect the
 Transfers the
 day they are
 made.

Mr Drinkwater said, "that he
 " understands the Supervisors generally
 " look over the Transfers the same day
 " on which they are made."

Gratuities.

He gave a similar account of Gratuities to
 what has been before set down, but added to it

" That sometimes a stranger coming
 " to make a Transfer will employ one
 " of the Clerks to make out the ticket,
 " & in this case will often give 2/6,
 " but that nothing is asked for on this
 " account."

he never jobs
 or acts as a
 Broker.

Mr Drinkwater said, "that he never
 " acts as a Broker or Jobber."

Mr Walton
 of the same Office
 examined.

Mr Walton of the same Office being called
 in, said,

time of service

" That he had been near 16 years in

he is a
supervisor

" the Bank; & is one of the Supervisors
" in this Office. "

he explained
the account of
Dividend Warr.
sent to the
Exchequer

He shewed to the Committee the Books, & the manner of making out the account of Dividend Warrants unpaid, which, (together with the account of Warrants paid from the Cheque Office), is sent to the Exchequer annually, as soon after the 30th of Sept: as the accounts can be got ready.

The Committee
enquire the cause
of the complaints
from the Publick
of delay in obtaining
their Dividends.

The Committee had much conversation with M^r Walton on the manner of conducting the business in general in this Office, & made particular enquiries of what might probably be the cause of the complaints, often made by the Publick, of the delay they meet with in obtaining their Dividends.

his answer

M^r Walton said, " that the Transfers,
" which ought to be made between 11
" & 1 o'clock, not being all completed
" by the stipulated time, interfere
" with the payment of the Dividends
" which are directed to begin punctually
" at 1: & this interference is considerably
" increased by the confined state of the
" Office, so inadequate to the business
" carried on in it that the Clerks
" are obliged to put the Books upon
" one another, there not being space

" sufficient in the Office to lay them
 " separately. This interference of
 " Transfers & Dividends is never felt
 " so much as on the first day of
 " opening the stock for Transfers,
 " which a great number of people
 " imagine to be the first day for
 " payment of Dividends, & of course
 " come in greater numbers on that
 " day than on any other. He submitted
 " it as worthy consideration, whether
 " it would not be proper to give orders
 " that no Dividend Warrants should
 " be delivered after 11 o'clock on the
 " first day of opening the stock."

Gratuities

" With regard to gratuities," he said,
 " they amounted to about 24 or £25
 " each, as mentioned in Mr Turner's
 " examination."

he never heard
 of a present being
 given to the Clerk
 for any indulgence.

" That he had never heard or known
 " of a present being given by an
 " inferior Clerk to a Superior for
 " leave of absence or other indulgence."

he never jobs
 or acts as a
 Broker.

. Mr Walton said, " that whenever
 " he has occasion to do any business
 " in the stocks for his friends, he
 " always employs a Broker, & he
 " believes most of the other Clerks do
 " the same. That he never acts as

" a Jobber either in his own name or
 " by any other person: he cannot answer
 " for all the other Clerks in the Office, but
 " can say that he knows nothing
 " positively of his own knowledge as to
 " their acting as Brokers or Jobbers."

. Adjourn'd to 23. Dec^r 1783.

Tuesday 23. Dec^r 1783.

Settled the Minutes of the former day's
 proceedings.

. Adjourn'd to 24. Dec^r 1783.

Wednesday 24th Dec^r 1783

Mr Reeves
of the Reduced Office
examined.

Mr Reeves of the 3^d Cent Reduced Office
being called in, said,

time of service)

"(That he had been 22 years in the
" Bank.)"

conduct of the Clerks.

(He gave a satisfactory account in general
of the conduct of the Clerks, & of the manner in
which the business is done in this Office: & said,

he thinks the
restraining the
Transfers to 1/2
past 12 would
facilitate the
Brokers' business

"(That he thought the time for
" putting in Transfers might be
" restrained to 1/2 past 12 o'clock, &
" that no objections would be raised
" to it by the Principal Brokers:—
" for it would facilitate their
" attendance at the East India house
" & South Sea house, where the
" time of Transfer is from 12 till 1
" o'clock, which at present interferes
" very much with their business
" at this house)."

he never jobs
or acts as a
Broker.

Mr Reeves said, "that he neither
" acts as a Broker nor as a Jobber
" himself, nor does he know that
" any of the other Clerks in the
" Office act in either of those
" Characters."

Gratuities.

His account of Gratuities was the same
as before mentioned.

Mr Grose
of the same Office
examined.

time of service.

he does not job
or act as a Broker.

Gratuities

Mr Grose of the same Office being called in,

said,

" That he had been 30 years in the
" Bank.

" That he never acts as a Broker,
" nor has he done any thing as a
" Jobber for many years. "

(His account of gratuities was the same
as before mentioned.)

Mr Kingdon
of the same Office
examined.

time of service.

he never job'd
or acted as a
Broker,

but was once
concerned in a
Bargain for time.

Mr Kingdon of the same Office having
been called in, said,

" That he had been 6 years in the
" Bank; 3 of them in this Office.

" That he had never acted as a
" Broker or a Jobber by himself or
" by any other for his use, but

" acknowledged that a few months
" ago he purchased £2000 stock
" for time on account of a friend,
" who afterwards refused to take
" it in, by which he was obliged
" to pay the difference upon it
" amounting to £150 or upwards.

" That this has been such a warning
" to him, that he will never be
" concerned in a transaction of the
" same kind again. "

Mr Richardson
of the same Office
examined.

Mr Richardson of the same Office

being called in, said,

time of service
he is a
supervisor.

" (That he has been 17 years in the
" Bank; & is one of the Supervisors
" in this Office: That if the Clerks
" have finished the posting of the
" Transfers in good time, he
" supervises them the same day;
" if not, this business is deferred till
" the next, which most generally
" happens. "

he never jobs
or acts as a
Broker.

(Mr Richardson said, " that he
" never acts as a Broker or jobber
" himself, nor does he know of any
" other Clerk in the Office that does;
" nor does he believe that any one
" of them is concerned as a partner
" with any Broker directly or
" indirectly, but that he employs a
" Sum of Money of his own in jobbing
" in the Reduced Stock for ready money
" transactions only, in partnership
" with a Person, not in the service of
" the Bank, who undertakes the whole
" management of it, & therefore it does
" not interfere with his (Mr Richardson's)
" business in this House. "

Gratuities.

His account of gratuities was the same as
before mentioned.

Adjourned to 30 Dec: 1783. ^(B)

Tuesday 30th Dec: 1783.

Mr Fisher
of the Reduced Office
examined.

Mr Fisher of the 3^d P^t Reduced Office was
called in, & said,

time of service
he is a
supervisor

"That he had been 21 years in the
" Bank; & is now one of the Supervisors
" in this Office. "

conduct of business
&
Gratuities.

His account of the conduct of business, & of
Gratuities in the Office was similar to what
has been already mentioned in a former
examination.

On the question being put to him, he
assured the Committee,

he never jobs
or acts as a broker.

"That he does not act as a Jobber or
" Broker. "

Mr Tomkins
of the same Office
examined

Mr Tomkins of the same Office being
called in, said,

time of service
he is a
supervisor

"That he had been 22 years in the
" Bank; & that he is one of the
" Supervisors. "

conduct of business
&
Gratuities

His account of the conduct of business, &
of Gratuities in the Office contained nothing
new: & he assured the Committee,

he does not act
as a jobber or broker

"That he did not act as a Jobber or
" Broker. "

Mr Steary
of the same Office
examined

Mr Steary of the same Office being called in,
said,

time of service

"That he had been near 2 years in

he never jobs or
acts as a Broker.

89
" the Bank; & that he never acted as
" a Broker himself, but always employed
" a regular one to do the business of such
" friends as entrust the care of their
" concerns to him; nor does he ever job
" with stock in his own name, or in
" that of any other person."

The Committee having mentioned to Mr. Seary, that there was an Order of Court against any Servant of the Bank acting as a Broker, he answered,

" That he had not heard of this Order
" till very lately."

The Committee sent to the Secretary's Office for a Copy of the Order of Court, which, extracted from the Minutes, is as follows.

14th Feb^y 1771

Ordered

That henceforth no Servant of the Bank presume to transact any business as a Broker in buying or selling any stocks or Annuities whatsoever, on pain of the displeasure of this Court.

And that the said Order be transcribed & affixed at the respective transfer Offices.

Mr Seary said, "that this Order is
" not fixed up in any of the Offices
" at this time, nor has been since

Order of Court
against any
servant of the
Bank acting
as a Broker,

is not fixed
up in any of
the Offices

" he has been in the service."

The Committee
see the Mode of
transacting business
in the Reduced Office.

The Committee went into the Reduced Office
& saw the Mode of transacting the business there,
& the manner in which the Books are kept &
the Clerks are disposed.

Mr Miller,
Head of the 3^d & 4th
Consol^d Office from
A to K, examined.

The Committee then proceeded to call in
Mr Miller, Head of one part of the 3^d & 4th
Consol^d Office from A to K, who said,

time of service.

" That he had been above 40 years in
" the Bank.

" That the other part of the Office, being
" from L to T, is under the direction
" of Mr Vickery.

" That in the whole Office there are

Books.

" 22 Ledgers & alphabets,

" 24 Dividend books, &

" 48 Transfer books:

Clerks.

" & when the establishment is
" compleat, there are 54 Clerks, thus
" distributed,

" 3 Principal Clerks, that is, one at
" the Head of each Office, with one
" Assistant in case of absence.

" 3 to register Wills, &

" 3 to make out Powers of Attorney,

" And the remainder are distributed

" into 4 subdivisions, A to E, F to K,

" L to R, & S to T, but of this

" number are generally 8 or 10

" absentees from illness or other

" causes.

Supervisors.

" That there are 12 Supervisors, & that
 " 2 of the Clerks are in waiting every
 " evening to lock up the Books in the
 " strong room. "

interference of
 Transfers with
 the paying of
 Dividends, after
 1 o'clock.

. Mr. Miller complained, " that there
 " making out Transfers greatly
 " interferes with the payment of
 " Dividends after 1 o'clock. That if
 " the time for putting in Transfer
 " tickets were restrained to $\frac{1}{2}$ past
 " 12 o'clock, it might give some small
 " relief, but would not be of any
 " effectual service, as in the multi-
 " plicity of business transacted in
 " this Office, less than an hour's
 " intermission between the time of
 " putting in Transfers & that for
 " payment of Dividends would not
 " be of any material use. That of
 " late they have frequently been
 " obliged to tell those persons who have
 " come to receive Dividends at 1 o'clock,
 " that they must wait till the Transfers
 " are finished: & this necessarily occasions
 " many complaints from the Publick.
 " It is however a constant rule in this
 " Office to make no distinction of persons,
 " but to dispatch every one in the order
 " he comes, as far as they are able to
 " judge.

requires an
 hour's intermission
 to prevent it.

the Clerks have
 frequently been
 obliged to delay
 the payment
 of them.

The acct for
the Exchequer
is made out
annually

" That the account for the Exchequer of
" Dividend Warrants unpaid is taken
" out annually, on the 1st or 2^d of Jan^y;
" & made up as soon after as can be,
" but it is generally 5 or 6 months before
" it is completed. This account is
" always made out immediately
" under his inspection.

Gratuities

" With regard to gratuities, he
" stated them to arise,

" From Private Transfers,
" From the Registering of Wills,
" From making out Powers, &
" From such presents as are
" given by the Merchants who
" have long Lists of Dividends
" to receive: "

(The Fees paid for these several Articles
are the same as before mentioned for Bankstock
& Reduced Annuities:

" The whole sum collected is
" equally distributed among all the
" Clerks, & has of late amounted to
" £40 or upwards a piece; at other
" times, when there has been no
" subscriptions, it has not exceeded £10."

he never jobs
or acts as a
broker

" Mr. Miller said, that he never acts
" as a Broker himself, nor jobs; nor
" does he know it to be the practice
" of any of the other Clerks in the Office."

Adjourn'd to 31 Dec^r 1783.

Wednesday 31st Dec^r 1783

M^r Vickery,
Head of the 3^d P^o C^t
Consol^d Office from
L^d to L^d, examined

time of service
his superintendence

M^r Vickery, Head of the part of the 3^d P^o C^t
Consol^d Office from L^d to L^d, being called in, said,

" That he had been 20 years in the Bank.

" That he is Joint Chief Clerk with M^r

" Miller to superintend the above mentioned

" half of the Office constantly, & the other

" half in the absence of M^r Miller & at

" other times occasionally. That he

" has a place for himself inclosed, but

" he seldom attends there, as he is always

" about the Office; & avoids as much as

" possible applying himself to any

" particular business, conceiving the

" general inspection of the Office to be

" more immediately required of him).

" That M^r Miller is more employed in

" writing at his own desk, of which he

" does as much as any Clerk in the Office,

" but this prevents his giving so much

" attention to the other Clerks."

"

M^r Vickery said, that as soon as he

" heard this Committee was appointed,

" he informed all the Clerks under him

" that, when called before the Committee,

" he should openly & candidly declare

" all he knew concerning their conduct."

"

makes it his
business to
superintend
the Office.

M^r Miller is
more employed
in writing.

custom with
the Clerks of
absenting
themselves
without leave,

ought to be
restrained.

The Clerks can
give a preference
in making out
Transfers &
paying Dividends.

he never permits
any person to
go behind the
Counter, if he
can prevent it.

M^r Vickery said, "that a custom
prevailed among the Clerks of
going out frequently during the day
without making application to him
for leave: & that some do give in
their names as having had leave
till 10 in the morning, without his
knowledge, alledging that they had
obtained leave from the Chief or Deputy
Accountant; that this practice
ought to be restrained: for which
purpose, it seems necessary that the
Chief Accountant should be desired
not to give such leave, without
the assent in writing of the Head of
the Office to which the Clerk belongs."

M^r Vickery acknowledged, "that the
Clerks have an opportunity of giving
a preference to their friends, both in
making out Transfers & paying Dividends,
& is afraid it is sometimes made use
of on account of the Clerks acting as
Brokers, which he believes several of
them do to no inconsiderable amount."

He farther said, "that he never permits
any person whatever to go behind the
Counter, if he can prevent it; but
there are 2 or 3 Gentlemen of the first
consideration in Trade who persist
in doing so, notwithstanding his
remonstrances against it."

he never jobs
or acts as a
Broker.

Mr Vickery said, "that he never acts
" as a Broker himself, but whenever
" he has business to do for a friend, which
" often happens, he employs Mr Salmon,
" now a regular Broker, who allows
" him a part of the Commission, but
" that he is no ways concerned in
" partnership with Mr Salmon or any
" other Broker: That he never jobs
" himself either in his own name or
" in that of any other person. He
" cannot pretend to say that none of
" the other Clerks in the Office act as
" jobbers, but believes it is not to any
" large amount, nor a common
" practice among them."

Adjourn'd to 2^d Jan^y 1784.

Friday 2^d Jan^y 1784.

Mr Turner
directed to order
the drawers of
Dividend Warr^{ts}
to be locked at 3
in the Reduced Off^e.

Mr Turner of the 3^d & 4th Reduced Office being
called in, was directed by the Committee, to order
throughout his Office, that the Drawers of
Dividend Warrants should be locked every day
immediately after 3 o'clock: which he said
could be attended with no inconvenience.

Mr Aldridge
of the 3^d & 4th Consul^r
Office, examined.

Mr Aldridge of the 3^d & 4th Consul^r Office being
called in, said,

time of service

" That he had been near 4 years in the
" Bank, & about 2 of them in this Office.

he is a Voter.

" That he is a Voter at the division.

" L. A. R. "

his long
absence from
the Bank,

(Being questioned regarding his long absence
from the services of this House, ever since June
last, he informed the Committee,

accounted for

" That in that month he had the
" misfortune, by a fall, greatly to injure
" his right hand, which has occasioned
" his not being able to write; that he
" has frequently appeared at the Bank,
" but was not in a condition to do his
" duty; that his hand is now partly
" recovered, though still too weak to
" go through much writing, however
" he now means to attend constantly &
" to undertake such other work as
" shall be allotted for him to do. "

Gratuities

With regard to Gratuities, he gave the same account of them as Mr. Miller, but added,

" That a gratuity is given for the
 " allowance of transferring New scrip
 " made into stock on the same day,
 " though he could not exactly say how
 " much. He did not imagine his
 " share of gratuities for the year 1782
 " had exceeded £19.7. ; his proportion
 " for the year 1783 he has yet no
 " account of "

he never jobs

Mr. Aldridge said, " that he has
 " never job'd in his Life, but that he
 " has now & then acted as a Broker
 " though generally he has employed
 " one to do what little business he
 " has been charged with for his friends.

if will not in
 future act
 as a Broker.

he never heard
 of the Order of
 Court against
 the practice.

" That he never knew there was an
 " Order of Court against the Clerks
 " acting as Brokers, though he had
 " heard the practice was disapproved
 " of; but that, in observance of this
 " Order now shewn him, he will
 " abstain from this practice in future."

Adjourn'd to 6 Jan^y 1784

Tuesday 6th Jan^y 1784

M Selby of the
3^d & 6th Consols
examined

M Selby of the 3^d & 6th Consols being called
in, said,

times of service

" That he had been near 23 years in
" the Bank & all that time in this
" Office.

he makes out
Powers of Attorney,
& is a supervisor.

" That he is at the department of
" making out Powers of Attorney, &
" is also a supervisor."

conduct of business

M Selby gave an account of the manner
of transacting business in general, & particularly
with regard to the Transfers interfering with the
payment of Dividends soon after 10 o'clock, he
said,

interference of
Transfers with
the paying of
Dividends.

" That the number of tickets for
" Transfers put in in the last quarter
" of an hour before 10 o'clock is more
" than the whole number given in
" during the rest of the day: these
" take so much time to be entered,
" that it is usually 2 o'clock or very
" near it before they are completed.
" This of necessity compels the Clerks
" very frequently to desire those
" persons who come for Dividends to
" wait till the Transfers are finished,
" & is always cause of much complaint:
" & the Roster has it not in his power
" to assist the Dividend payer in any

" great degree, because of the foreign
 " Accounts, which the Notaries come
 " to inspect in the Ledgers, in order to
 " certify the Sums standing in any
 " particular names. The Notaries
 " generally come about 5 o'clock &
 " expect to find the Articles posted. —
 " That he apprehends the time for
 " putting in Transfer tickets might be
 " restrained to 12 o'clock without any
 " inconvenience. "

M. Selby said, with regard to the attendance
 of the Clerks,

" That the Posters stay till their
 " posting business is completed, —
 " which in a common day may be
 " about 4 or 5 o'clock; besides which
 " they are required to take the Long
 " Abstracts. The Dividend payers,
 " after they have done delivering the
 " Warrants, are required to make out
 " the Abstract & Duplicate: when
 " they are allowed to go away, except
 " 2 of them who take the waiting by
 " rotation. These must stay to lock
 " up the Books. "

He farther said, " that the Mail for
 " carrying out the Duplicates every
 " evening is kept in this Office, not
 " in the care of any particular Clerk
 " but is left entirely to the charge of

the putting in
 Transfer tickets
 might be restrained
 to 12 o'clock.

attendances.

The Mail is
 kept in this
 Office.

Gratuities

"The Porter.

"With regard to Gratuities, that they
" are the same as has been before ~
" mentioned, & he believes they do not
" amount on an average to more
" than £30 a year to each Clerk."

he never jobs
or acts as a
Broker

. Mr Selby said, "that he never acts as
" a Broker or Jobber himself; & that
" he cannot speak with any certainty
" of the practice of the other Clerks in
" the Office."

he never heard
of a present being
given to the
Chief for any
indulgence.

(He also said, "that he never heard
" an instance in this Office of any
" gratification being given by an
" inferior Clerk to a Superior for
" leave of absence or other indulgence."

Mr. Martin, of
the same Office,
examined

. Mr. Martin of the same Office being called
in, said,

time of service
he is a Div. payer
takes his turn
in waiting

Mode of locking
up the Books.

"That he had been 11 years in the Bank.
" That he is one of the Dividend payers,
" & consequently takes his turn as Clerk
" in waiting to lock up the Books. The
" Mode of doing this is the same as is
" practised in the Bank Stock Office,
" & the effects locked up, are

effects locked up

" The Ledgers & alphabets,
" The 2 last Dividend books,
" The Abstracts, &
" The Drawers of Dividend Warrants,
" of which there are about
" 16 or 18 in number:

signed for

Clerk in waiting
likewise locks
the Cupboards

drawers.

If the Posters
have not done
at 5, they remain
charged with
the care of locking
up the effects.

The Clerks require
the Publick to
wait for their
Dividends, till
the Transfers
are entered.

The Dividend-
payers make
out the Abstracts.

71
" And they sign their names as a proof
" that these things are properly deposited,
" in the same manner as is practised in
" the Bank Stock Office. Besides this, they
" are required to lock all the Cupboards,
" containing Powers & other papers, before
" they quit the Office; but it has not
" been the custom to lock the drawers
" of Dividend Warrants till a little before
" 5 o'clock: That if the Posters have not
" done their business at 5 o'clock, the
" Clerks in waiting lock the drawers &
" cupboards & leave it to some of the
" Posters to lock up the above mentioned
" effects in the strong room, - the key of
" which they take charge of & are required
" to deposit, when done with, at the
" Chief Accountants & to sign for it there."

Mr. Martin said, "that it is a very
" common practice at the Dividend Books
" to require the Publick to wait for their
" Dividends untill the Transfers shall
" be entered, which is commonly within
" an hour after the time limited for
" putting in the tickets, but on a very
" heavy day it is much later.

" That the Dividend payers employ
" themselves in making out the Abstracts,
" after the Transfers are finished, provided
" no Dividends are called for; but if

he never jobs,
but has acted as
a Broker,

he will in
future abstain
from it, agreeable
to the Order of
Court.

Mr Vickery is
suspected of
being a partner
with Mr Salmon.

Mr Martin
applies to the
Head of the Office
whenever he
wants leave of
absence.

" any persons are waiting for Dividends
" the Abstracts must be deferred."

Mr Martin said, "that he never jobs,
" but that he has acted as a Broker to
" do business for his friends. That
" he did not know there was any
" standing Order of the House against
" it, though he had heard one was
" likely to come out; that when he
" came into the Office, he found it
" was customary for the Clerks to
" act as Brokers, & that it is well
" known that a great number do so
" constantly, & he therefore thought
" he might do like the rest: but, being
" now informed of the Order, he will
" certainly abstain from the practice
" in future."

On the question being put to him, whether
Mr Vickery is esteemed in the Office as a partner
with Mr Salmon, he answered,

" That he had heard it was suspected."

Mr Martin said, "that whenever
" he has occasion for leave of absence
" for half an hour or so, he always
" applies to Mr Vickery for it as Head
" of the Office; & if he should have
" occasion to ask leave for a day, he
" would apply to Mr Vickery in the

" first instance, before he goes to the
 " Chief Accountant, but he is afraid
 " this is not generally practised."

he never heard
 of a present being
 given to the
 Chief for any
 indulgence.

He farther said, "that he never heard
 " of any gratification being given by
 " an inferior Clerk to a Superior for
 " leave of absence or other indulgence."

Adjourn'd to 7 Jan^y 1784

Wednesday 7th Jan^y 1784

M^r Vickery
questioned, as
to the interference
of Transfers with
the paying of
Dividends,

& Mode of
remedying it.

M^r Vickery of the 3^d & 6th Consol^d Office being
again called in, & questioned with regard to the
time of paying Dividends interfering with that
of filling up the Transfers after 1 o'clock, & what
Mode could be adopted to remedy the inconvenience
it occasions to the Publick, & having had various
alterations suggested to him by this Committee,
answered,

his answer

" That if the time for payment of Dividends
" in the afternoon should be restrained
" to the hour from 2 to 3 o'clock, it will
" remedy the confusion complained of in
" the hour between 1 & 2, as he is clearly
" of opinion this hour will be sufficient
" to complete the Transfers on a common
" day's business; but as to Settling days
" & other extraordinary ones, of which
" but few occur in the year, it is in vain
" to attempt adopting any standing
" regulation that can be effectual:
" That, if it should be thought the 2
" hours, from 9 to 11, now allotted for
" payment of Dividends will not be
" sufficient for the accommodation of
" the Publick, the Dividends may continue
" to be paid till 12, but in this case it
" will be necessary that 4 extra^r Clerks
" be appointed in each grand division
" of the Office, for the purpose of entering

" the Transfers that may be put in between
 " 11 & 12 o' clock, as it will be absolutely
 " necessary not to take off the Dividend
 " payers (whose business it now is to
 " enter all Transfers) at that time, when
 " the concourse of persons claiming Dividends
 " will naturally be the greatest: he added,
 " that these clerks will be of considerable
 " use in the Office, at other times, by being
 " at the disposition of the Chiefs to be sent
 " occasionally where the Business of the
 " Office may require assistance. That on
 " the Opening day of the Transfer books, after
 " each Half yearly shutting, & on the
 " following Transfer day, it may be
 " adviseable that no Dividends should be
 " paid in the afternoon: for on these days,
 " the weight of Transfers is so very heavy,
 " it is impossible to adopt any plan that
 " can remedy the confusion, if payment
 " of Dividends be allowed after 12 o' clock."

Most Transfer
 tickets are put
 in in the last
 quarter of an
 hour.

" M^r Vickery stated, " that to the best of
 " his Judgement, more Transfer tickets
 " are commonly put in in the last
 " quarter of an hour before 1 o' clock than
 " in the whole preceding part of the day.

Gratuities

" With regard to Gratuities," he said, " that
 " the amount of them is between £30 &
 " £40 a year to each Clerk at present;
 " that they consist of the Articles before
 " enumerated by M^r Miller, & farther of

" the sum of 5/ £1000 on scrip, if
 " transferred the same day it is made
 " stock, but if the sum desired to be
 " transferred be considerable, it is
 " frequently done at a lower rate, as
 " the party concerned & the Clerk can
 " agree. "

No Re-transfers
 allowed the same
 day, except in
 extraordinary
 cases.

M Vickery farther said, " that no
 " Re-transfers of stock are allowed to be
 " made the same day on which the
 " stock is posted to the Transferers
 " Account, except in very extraordinary
 " cases; & then the party gives a gratuity
 " of 2/6. "

he does not believe
 any Clerk in the
 Office is in
 partnership with
 a Broker,
 but believes that
 several of them
 act as Brokers.

M Vickery said, " that he did not
 " believe any one of the Clerks in the
 " Office is in partnership with a
 " Broker, but has good reason to
 " believe that several of them act as
 " Brokers to considerable extent. "

he never heard
 of a present being
 given in this Office
 to the Chief for
 any indulgence,

He said, " that he never knew an
 " instance, in either division of this
 " Office, of a gratification being
 " given by any inferior Clerk to
 " a Chief for leave of absence or other
 " indulgence, but knows it has
 " happened in the Accountants Office. "

but knows it has
 happened in
 another.

Adjourn'd to 8. Jan. 1784.

Thursday 8th Jan 1784.

M^r Vickery
conversed with
in respect to
the better
regulating of
time of making
Transfers &
paying Div^{ds}.

The Committee called in M^r Vickery again,
& farther conversed with him on the possibility of
adopting some Plan for better regulating the
time of making Transfers & paying Dividends.

M^r Turner
heard on the
same subject.

The Committee afterwards called in M^r
Turner, Head of the Reduced Office, & heard what
he had to say on the same subject.

Adjourn'd to 9th Jan 1784.

Friday 9th Jan^r 1784

M^r Walsh
of the 3^d P^l Consols
examined.

M^r Walsh of the 3^d P^l Consols being
called in, said,

Time of service
his situation
at present,

" That he had been 12 years in the
" Bank, & for the last 4 years one of
" the 3 Chief Clerks of this Office, being
" appointed Assistant to M^r Milner &
" M^r Vickery.

& during his
service.

" (That when he first came into the
" Bank, he was placed in the
" department of the Chief Cashier,
" where he went through the Offices
" of Out Teller & In Teller, & was some
" time at one of the Cash Books, &
" assisted in the Bullion Office at the
" time of taking in the deficient
" Gold Coin; he was afterwards
" removed into the Accountants
" Office, which he went through;
" & from thence to the 3^d P^l Consols,
" where he had seen every part of
" the business before he was appointed
" one of the Chief Clerks.

he makes up the
Exchequer acc^t

the present state
of it.

" That it falls to his share to make
" up the Exchequer account, which
" of late years has been so complicated
" that it has been sometimes 9 Months
" before it could be completed: &

an alteration,
requisite in the
Mode of doing the
business in the
Cheque Office.

Adam has been
proposed by him
respecting it.

" if the stock should continue to increase
" as it has done of late years, from the
" amount of new Loans, it will be ~
" almost impossible to make up this
" Account, unless some alteration in
" the Mode of doing the business in the
" Cheque Office be adopted. That he
" has submitted a plan for such an
" alteration to the Accountant General." — &

he proceeded to explain the nature of it to the
Committee.

In taking out
the Exchequer
acct., it is ~
necessary to
make a List of
the Dividends
unpaid for the
last 8 half years.

Mr Walsh said, " that in taking out
" the Exchequer account, it is not
" sufficient in this Office to make a
" List of the Dividends unpaid for the
" last 2 half years only, but it is
" necessary to extract those likewise
" that remain unpaid in the 6 ~
" preceding ones, that is for 8 half
" years in all: for the number of
" Warrants is so great, that it would
" not answer to strike off the paid
" Dividends from the sheets, as ~
" practised in the Reduced Office."

This opinion
respecting an
alteration in
the time for
payment of
Dividends.

(With regard to the alteration proposed in
the time for payment of Dividends, he gave his
opinion,

" That it would be attended with

" great inconveniences if the payment
 " in the afternoon should be restrained
 " to the hour from 2 to 3, because it
 " would drive all that business so
 " late that there would be a great
 " concourse of people still remaining
 " to be paid at 3 o'clock, who must be
 " sent away unsatisfied. Besides
 " which, the great number that will
 " have received their Warrants in the
 " last quarter of an hour before 3 o'clock
 " going all at once to the Pay Office will
 " occasion such confusion there as
 " must greatly delay the Tellers Accounts:
 " & this will operate in protracting
 " business throughout the House, & in
 " consequence postpone the nightly
 " balance in the Hall.

" he thinks the
 " putting in transfer
 " tickets might be
 " restrained to 1/2
 " past 12.

" (What he thinks the time for putting
 " in transfer tickets might be restrained
 " to 1/2 past 12 o'clock, without any
 " inconvenience to the Publick; & it
 " would be a considerable relief to
 " the Office. "

" he never acts as
 " a Broker,

" M^r Walsh said, that he never acted
 " as a Broker, but cannot say that
 " many others in the Office do not:

" nor did he ever
 " hear of the Order
 " against it.

" And informed the Committee, he
 " never heard there was a standing

" Order against the Clerks acting as Brokers.

" That he had reason to believe that some
 " of the Clerks in the Office make a practice
 " of asking leave of absence from the Chief
 " or Deputy Accountant, without applying
 " to the Heads of the respective Offices."

Mr Watch said, "that in this Office he
 " never heard of any gratification being
 " given by an inferior Clerk to the Head
 " for leave of absence or other indulgence."

Adjourn'd to 13 Jan^{ry} 1784

he believes leave
 of absence is obtained
 without application
 to the Heads of the
 Offices.

he never heard
 of a present being
 given in this
 Office to the Head
 for any indulgence.

Tuesday 13 Jan^y 1784.

M. Moorhouse
of the 3^d & 6th Consols.
examined

M. Moorhouse of the 3^d & 6th Consols being
called in, said,

time of service

"That he had been 25 years in the Bank."

There are not
Hands sufficient
to enter the Transfers
& pay Dividends
at the same time,
between 1 & 2 o'clock.

He said, "that there are not Hands
sufficient in the Office to enter the
Transfers & pay Dividends at the same
time, in the hour from 1 to 2 o'clock;
& that the delay occasioned by it, in
paying the Dividends, produces the
frequent complaints made by the
Publick."

he has not always
applied to the Head
of the Office for leave
of absence.

M. Moorhouse allowed, "that he had
not always applied to the Head of his
Office when he had had occasion for
leave of absence, but will always
in future."

he has acted as a
Broker, but never
before now saw
the Order against
it.

He acknowledged, "that he had acted
as a Broker, & said, that he had
never seen the Order against it, till
it was now shewn him by the
Committee: That he never jobbed
in his Life."

he never jobs

Gratuities

His account of Gratuities was the same as
has been before mentioned; & he thought

"The amount of them was about £25
to each Clerk, one year with another."

he never heard
of a present being
given in this
Office to the Head
for any indulgence.

" That he never heard in this Office of
" any gratification being given by an
" inferior Clerk to the Head for leave of
" absence or other indulgence. "

M Windsor
of the same Office
examined.

M Windsor of the same Office being called
in, said,

time of service.

there is a want
of Hands between
1 & 2 o'clock.

" That he had been 24 years in the Bank.

" That there is a want of Hands, in the
" hour between 1 & 2, which prevents the
" Dividends being paid with the regularity
" & expedition the Publick require.

when the business
will allow, the
Clerks are permitted
to quit the Bank
before 3.

" That whenever the business will allow,
" some few of the Clerks are permitted to
" quit the Bank at $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour
" before 3 o'clock, but it is understood
" that this indulgence must not be
" made use of without the knowledge
" of the Head of the Office. That it is
" required of every Clerk, who has
" occasion for any leave of absence, to
" apply for it to the Head of the Office
" in the first instance, & afterwards
" to the Chief Accountant, in case it
" be such an absence as the Head of
" the Office does not chuse to give leave
" for: This he thinks highly proper
" & a compliance with it ought to be
" exacted, as the Head of the Office ~

every Clerk is
required to apply
to the Head of the
Office for leave of
absence, in the
first instance.

Heads of the
Office stay till 3

he has acted as a
Broker, but usually
employs one:

he did not know
of the Order against
it.

he has not jobbed
of late years,

but in a little
stock which he
has held for his
friends.

Gratuities

he never heard of
a present being
given in this Office
to the Head for any
indulgence.

M Crockford
of the same Office
examined

time of service.

he is a supervisor.

" should be acquainted with the Clerks
" who are out of their places, that he
" may see the business of the Office is
" properly executed. That the 2 Heads
" of the Office stay themselves till 3 o'clock."

M Windsor said, " that he has acted
" as a Broker himself, but usually
" employs one to do his business; & that
" he did not know there was an Order
" of Court against the practice: That
" he has not jobbed of late years, though
" he has now & then sold & bought a
" little stock which he has held for his
" friends.

" With regard to Gratuities, he thought
" the amount of them was from £20 to
" £25., one year with another, but of
" late, on account of Loans, they have
" come to about £40 each.

" (That he never heard in this Office, of
" any gratification being given by
" any inferior Clerk to the Head for
" leave of absence or other indulgence)."

M Crockford of the same Office being
called in, said,

" That he had been 22 years in the
" Bank; & that he is one of the
" Supervisors in this Office."

acts as a Broker,
but did not know
of the Order against
it.

he does not job

it used to be the
custom to ask the
Chief or Deputy
Accountant for
leave of absence
for an hour or two,

but of late they
have applied to
the Head of the
Office for it.

Gratuities

M^r Carpenter
of the same Office
examined.

times of service.

he is a supervisor
of the Office

He acknowledged, "that he does act
" as a stock broker, but that he did
" not know there was any standing
" Order of Court against it, & farther
" allowed, that he had made Bargains
" in stock for time, both on his own
" account & on that of his Principals,
" but that he does not do any thing
" in what is usually called jobbing."

M^r Crockford said, "that it used to
" be the custom some time since to ask
" leave of the Chief or Deputy Accountant,
" whenever any of the Clerks wish for
" an hour or two's licence in a morning:
" but that lately the practice of asking
" leave of the Head of the Office he
" believes is pretty generally complied
" with, but not altogether.

M^r Crockford thought "his share of
" Gratuities for the last year had
" amounted to £37 or £38."

M^r Carpenter of the same Office being
called in, said,

"That he had been 17 years in the Bank,
" 14 of the time in this Office; that he is
" one of the Supervisors, & a Master in the
" division F to K, over which he exercises
" a kind of superintendence."

With regard to altering the time for putting in Transfer tickets, he gave his opinion,

His opinion
respecting an
alteration in
the time for
putting in
Transfer tickets.

"That 12 o'clock would be too early an
" hour to restrain it to, but thought $\frac{1}{2}$
" past 12 would be a very proper time,
" & would be attended with no inconvenience,
" nor be disliked by the Brokers in general.
" That he imagines the half hour between
" this time & 1 o'clock would be sufficient
" in general to finish the Transfers, &
" that the Clerks would thereby be at
" liberty to begin paying Dividends ~
" immediately at 1 o'clock, or within a
" few Minutes after."

asking leave of
the Head of the
Office is not
always practised.

He said, "that although it is expected
" that leave of absence should be asked
" from the Head of the Office, yet he is
" apprehensive it is not always ~
" practised."

he acts as a Broker,

M^r Carpenter acknowledg'd, "that
" he acts as a Broker in ready money
" transactions, but never deals for time;
" nor is he concern'd in jobbing."

but is not concern'd
in jobbing.

he never heard
of a present being
given in this Office
to the Head for
any indulgence.

"That he never heard of any gratification
" being given in this Office, by any Clerk
" to the Head for leave of absence or other
" indulgence."

Gratuities

He said, "his share of gratuities before
" the late War amounted to £15 or £16."

" a year, but that now it amounts to
" between £30 & £40, in which he includes
" his proportion of the Gratuity allowed
" by the House for consolidating the new
" Loan."

Adjourn'd to 14th Jan^y 1784.

Wednesday 14th Jan^y 1784

Mr Payne laid
before the Committee
Mr Walsh's plan
for an alteration
in the Mode of
entering the Div^d
Warrants in the
Cheque Office:

Mr Payne, the Chief Accountant, laid
before the Committee, the plan proposed by
Mr Walsh for an alteration in the Mode of
entering the Dividend Warrants in the Cheque
Office, with a view to facilitate the making up
the Exchequer account.

His opinion
the Warrants in
the Cheque Office
are kept in a
very insecure
place.

He also gave it as his opinion, that
" the paid & unpaid Warrants now
" deposited in the Cheque Office are kept
" in a very insecure place, exposed to the
" danger of fire & other accidents. "

Mr Coxeter
of the 3^d & 6th Consols
examined

Mr Coxeter of the 3^d & 6th Consols being called
in, said,

Time of service
he is at the
Registry of Wills.

" That he had been 20 years in the Bank;
" & that he is at the Registry of Wills in this
" Office.

he never acts as
a Broker or job.

" That he has never acted as a Broker; -
" nor is any ways concern'd in jobbing. "

Mr Edwards
of the same Office
examined.

Mr Edwards of the same Office being called
in, said,

Time of service
he is a Supervisor

" That he had been 18 years in the House;
" he is one of the Supervisors. "

he sometimes acts
as a Broker, but
never jobs.

He acknowledg'd, that he sometimes
" acts as a Broker, in a very small way;
" but that he never jobs at all.

he has an agreement with the stationer to supply pens.

M^r Nesbitt of the same Office examined

time of service.

he is a supervisor,

& examines the Powers of Attorney for Transfers throughout all the Offices.

he acts as a Broker, because he found the Order against it not attended to,

but never jobs.

Gratuities

" That he has an agreement with the
" Bank Stationer to supply some of
" the pens for the use of this Office, but
" that he had not given a gratification
" to any person for procuring him this
" agreement. "

M^r Nesbitt of the same Office being called in, said,

" That he had been 14 years in the Bank,
" 11 of them in this Office. That he is
" one of the Supervisors; besides which, it
" is his province to examine & pass all
" the Powers of Attorney for Transfer of
" stock throughout all the Offices, & for
" which he receives an extraordinary
" Gratuity: the last year it was £30. "

M^r Nesbitt said, " that he acts as a
" Broker, which he has done because
" he found the Order against the practice
" so little attended to, as to be in a manner
" obsolete. He has often condemned the
" practice in his own mind, & wished it
" suppressed. That he never jobs at
" all.

" That he thinks his share of Gratuities
" on an average amounts to between
" £30 & £40 a year, but made this
" distinction, that a part of it (namely
" £16 in the last year) arose from

" his share of the distribution made by
" the House, of the allowance from ~
" Government for consolidating Loans."

Adjourn'd to 15th Jan^y 1784.

Thursday 15th Jan^y 1784

M^r Sutton
of the 3^d & 6th Consols
examined:

The Committee called in. M^r Sutton of the
3^d & 6th Consol^d Office, who said,

time of service.

he is a supervisor
of Dividend payer.

business as a
supervisor.

" That he had been 13 years in the Bank;
" that he is a supervisor of a Dividend
" payer at Letter B. That his business
" of supervisor only requires that he should
" look over the Transfers to see there are no
" literal errors in them, but it is not
" expected he should take notice whether
" the names & descriptions of the parties
" are rightly entered.

he & M^r Fonton
deliver 9000
Warrants between
them.

" That he & M^r Fonton, who is a Dividend
" payer at Letter A, have 9000 Warrants
" to deliver between them; & he thinks on
" a busy day they may have occasion to
" refer to the Ledgers 4 or 5 times, as for
" instance, this very day, on which they
" have done a great deal of business, it has
" not been necessary above 3 or 4 times.

they have but
seldom occasion
to refer to the
Ledgers.

" That he is of opinion a plan for
" separating the paying of Dividends from
" the making out Transfers would be a
" very desirable object to be obtained; &
" that the 2 Offices would be sufficiently
" large for these purposes, if the business
" were separated."

he thinks the
separating the
paying of Dividends
of the transferring
very desirable.

he neither acts as
a Broker, nor job.

M^r Sutton said, that he does not act

Gratuities

In this Office, no
mark is put on
the Warrants &c.
to express a
non-acceptance.

" as a Broker, nor is a partner with
" one; nor does he ever job.

" . As to gratuities, he said, the amount
" of his share for the last year was about
" £25, independent of £16 granted by the
" House as his proportion of Gratuity ~
" allowed for taking in the Loan."

" M. Sutton said, "that in this Office
" there is no mark put on the Warrant
" or in the Dividend books, to express ~
" that any stock has not been accepted, ~
" consequently the Dividend payers ~
" allways deliver the Warrants without
" requiring the parties coming for them
" to put their acceptances in the Transfer
" book, unless the parties themselves take
" notice that their stock has not been
" accepted."

Adjourn'd to 16 Jan^y 1784.

Friday 16th Jan^y 1784.

M^r Ward
of the 3^d & 4th Consols
examined.

M^r Ward of the 3^d & 4th Consols being called
in, said,

time of service).

he is at the
Registry of Wills
& a supervisor

" That he had been 38 years in the Bank.

" That he is at the Registry of Wills, & a
" supervisor.

" That he has gone through every part
" of the Office; & that, when he was a

" Dividend payer, a mark, to express

" that the stock was not yet accepted, was

" always put upon the Warrant, in

" consequence of which he required the

" party to accept the stock before he paid

" a Dividend."

when he was a
Dividend payer,
non-acceptances
were marked on
the Warrant.

M^r Ward said, " that he thought the

" place for making out Transfers & that

" for payment of Dividends ought to be

" separated; that it would give great

" satisfaction to the Publick & might be

" accomplished without any material

" inconvenience."

he thought the
place for paying
of Dividends & for
transferring
ought to be
separated.

He recommended, " that the Dividend

" books should be bound up with a

" blotting paper between each leaf, which

" would prevent any person, signing

" the Dividend book, from looking over

" more names than those contained on

" the page which his name stands on,

he recommends
that the Dividend
books should have
blotting paper
bound up with
them.

he neither acts
as a Broker, nor
jobs.

Gratuities

" whereas at present he can see 2 whole
" pages. "

Mr Ward said, " that he does not act
" as a Broker, nor job; & that he was
" well apprized of the Order of Court
" against a Clerk's acting as a Broker.
" That he thinks his share of gratuities
" has amounted of late to £28 or £30
" a year, without including the sum
" allowed by the House for taking in
" the Loans. "

Adjourn'd to 20th Jan^y 1784.

Tuesday 20th Jan^y 1784.

The Committee
take notice of
Mr Windsor's
absenting
himself without
leave.

The Committee called in Mr Windsor again & took notice that he was absent from his place on the 16th Instant, without having previously obtained leave for it from the Head of the Office, & admonished him not to make a practice of absenting himself in this manner, but to be more regular in his attendance in future.

Mr Fenton
of the 3^d Pl^t Consols
examined.

Mr Fenton of the 3^d Pl^t Consols being called in, said,

Time of service
he is a supervisor
of Dividend payer.
he neither acts as
a Broker, nor jobs.

" That he had been 12 years in the Bank;
" Is a supervisor of Dividend payer.
" That he does not act as a Broker, but
" takes care to be allways at his book &
" never goes into the Market, nor does
" he job.

Gratuities

" He thought his share of gratuities of
" late years had amounted to £20 or £25,
" not including the gratuity for the Loan:
" but formerly it was less. "

Mr Morrell
of the same Office
examined.

Mr Morrell of the same Office being called in, said,

Time of service
he neither acts
as a Broker, nor
jobs.

" That he had been 10 years in the Bank.
" That he does not act as a Broker, nor
" ever jobs, & that he is allways in his
" business. "

Mr Lazenby
of the same Office
examined.

Mr Lazenby of the same Office being called
in, said,

time of service

he acts as a Broker
& never knew of
the Order against
it;

he does not job.

examined concerning
his attendance.

" That he had been 4 years in the Bank.
" Allowed that he does act as a Broker,
" but in a very small way; & said, -
" that he never knew there was an
" Order of Court against the practice:
" but he does not job."

He was examined concerning his bad
attendance in his place, & admonished to be
very careful & regular in future.

Mr Brown
of the same Office
examined.

Mr Brown of the same Office being called
in, said,

time of service

he has acted as a
Broker & did not
know of the Order
against it;

he never jobs.

" That he had been 10 years in the Bank.
" That he has acted as a Broker occasionally,
" but in a very trifling way; that he
" did not know there was any Order of
" Court against it: that he never jobs."

Mr Fenning
of the same Office
examined.

Mr Fenning of the same Office being
called in, said,

time of service

he acts as a
Broker & never
heard of the Order
against it,

but does not job.

" That he had been 2 years in the Bank.
" That he does act as a Broker, & that
" he never heard there was any Order
" of Court against the practice; but
" that he does not job."

Mr Hutchinson
of the same Office
examined.

Mr Hutchinson of the same Office being
called in, said,

time of service

" That he had been 2 years in the Bank.

he does not act
as a Broker, tho'
he had not heard
of the Order against
it;
nor does he job.

Mr Gandon
of the same Office
examined in, said,

time of service.

he has not acted
as a Broker since
he heard this
Committee
disapproved the
practice;

he never jobs.

Mr Malpas
of the same Office
examined in, said,

time of service

he neither acts
as a Broker,
nor jobs.

Mr Shudall
of the same Office
examined in, said,

time of service

he has acted as
a Broker & never
knew of the Order
against it, but
never jobs.

he has done
business for time
an account of a
Principal, but
never for himself.

" That he does not act as a Broker, though
" he had not heard that there was an
" Order of Court against the practice; &
" that he never jobs. "

Mr Gandon of the same Office being called
in, said,

" That he had been 2 years in the Bank.

" That he does not now act as a Broker,
" though he did so untill he heard that
" this Committee had expressed their
" disapprobation of the practice; that he
" had not heard of the Order of Court
" against it; & that he never jobs. "

Mr. Malpas of the same Office being called
in, said,

" That he had been 3 years in the Bank.

" That he does not act as a Broker, or is
" concern'd in jobbing, nor does he ever
" go into the Market. "

Mr Shudall of the same Office being called
in, said,

" That he had been 4 years in the Bank.

" That he has acted as a Broker, & never
" knew there was an Order of Court
" against the practice; but that he
" never jobs. That he has done business
" for time, & in one instance lost
" differences to the amount of £340, which
" his Principal left on his hands & he ~

" found means to settle, but has never
" been concern'd in a transaction of this
" kind on his own account. "

. All the Clerks examined this day were
questioned as to the Mode of doing business in
this Office, but gave no new information
necessary to be set down here.

Adjourn'd to 21st Jan^r 1784.

Wednesday 21st Jan^y 1784.

The Committee, at the desire of the Deputy Governor, sent for the Smith, & gave him directions about making 2 small Iron Chests to be fixed up in the Houses of the Chief Cashier & the Chief Accountant, for receiving the Keys from the Chief Cashier's Office, according to the plan proposed in the 3^d Report of this Committee: & directed him to give them a plan for this purpose tomorrow morning.

The Committee give directions to the Smith to make 2 small Iron Chests, for receiving the Keys from the Chief Cashier's Office.

M^r Dell, Head of the Office for Consol^d 28 years. Ann^y 1726, examined.

M^r Dell, Head of the Office for Consol^d 28 years. Ann^y 1726, being called in, said,

time of service.

" That he had been 23 years in the Bank.

Capitals.

" That the Capital of the stock in this Office
" is as follows.

" £404,331. 8. 5 ^p. Annum of the 28 years

(. Ann^y 1726)

" £1,000,000. — of the £3 ^p 1726.

establishment of Clerks.

" The establishment of Clerks is 5 in number,
" that is, 4 besides himself. (That the greatest
" harmony subsists in the Office, & without
" attaching themselves to any particular
" part of the business, each one applies
" himself to transact what is requisite to
" be done.

Books.

" That for the Ann^y 1726, they have

" 2 Ledgers,
" 2 Dividend books, &
" 1 Transfer book:

" For the 28 years Ann.

" 4 Ledgers,

" 2 Dividend books, &

" 2 or 3 Transfer books. "

process of
business.

Mr Dell gave an account of the process of
Business, which appeared similar to the practice
of the other Transfer Offices, observing,

non-acceptances
are marked on
the Warrant.

" That they always mark on the Warrant
" the Non-acceptances; & until stock has
" been accepted, no Dividend is paid.

the drawers of
Dividend Warr.
are now locked
at 3.

" That the drawers of Dividend Warrants were
" not formerly locked till near 5 o'clock, but
" since he has understood that it was the
" wish of the Committee they should be
" locked at 3, it has been complied with.

Gratuities

" That the gratuities in this Office arise
" from the same kind of perquisites as
" have been enumerated in the other
" Transfer Offices, which are equally
" divided among all the Clerks throughout
" the Office, & have amounted for the last
" 4 or 5 years on an average to about £36
" a year to each. "

he has acted as a
Broker, but never
intends to do so again.

Mr Dell said, that when he has any
" business to do in the Funds for his friends,
" he usually employs a Broker, but has
" occasionally acted himself, which he
" never intends to do again; that he
" has heard there was some Order against
" the practice, but he never saw it, or
" knew particularly what it was till
" it was now shewn him.

The Orders concerning the Clerks are but little known,

It would have a good effect to distribute them amongst the Clerks.

he never heard of a present being given to the Head for any indulgence.

Mr Reid of the same Office examined.

(time of service).

it is a constant rule in this Office to begin paying Dividends at 1, the Transfers may not all be entered at that time.

they require the Brokers to wait, because they were so late in putting in their tickets.

he neither acts as a Broker, nor jobs.

Gratuities

" That he thinks all the Orders concerning
" the Clerks in different Offices throughout
" the House are but little known &
" understood, & that if they were to be
" printed & given out to the Heads of
" Offices, to be distributed by them to the
" respective Clerks under them, it would
" be attended with a very good effect.

" That he never heard of any gratification
" being given by an inferior Clerk to the
" Head for leave of absence or other indulgence."

Mr Reid of the same Office being called in,
said,

" That he had been 20 years in the Bank.

" That it is a constant rule in this Office

" to begin paying Dividends at 1 o'clock

" & to continue paying them as long as

" demanded, although they may have

" Transfer tickets unentered at that time;

" & if the business of entering Transfers

" & that of paying Dividends interferes

" so much that both cannot go on

" together, they always tell the Brokers

" that they must wait for their Transfers,

" because they were so late in putting in

" their tickets, but they never allow

" themselves to postpone the delivering

" of Dividend Warrants on this account."

Mr Reid said, that he neither acts as
a Broker, nor jobs.

And he thinks his share of Gratuities

" has been between £32 & £36 a year,
 " on an average for some years past. "

Mr Francis
 of the same Office
 examined.

Mr Francis of the same Office being called
 in, said,

times of service)

he never acts as
 a Broker, nor jobs.

" That he had been 14 years in the Bank.

" That he never acts as a Broker, nor
 " jobs, though he has now & then sold or
 " bought £100 - but never goes into the
 " Market to transact the business; nor
 " has he any partnership or connection
 " with a Broker.

Gratuities.

" That his share of gratuities has been
 " between £30 & £40.

he never heard
 of a present being
 given to the Head
 for any indulgence.

" That he never heard an instance
 " of any gratification being given by
 " a Clerk to the Head for leave of absence
 " or other indulgence. "

Mr Marston
 of the same Office
 examined.

Mr Marston of the same Office being called
 in, said,

time of service).

he has acted as a
 Broker, & did not
 know of the Order
 against it:

" That he has been 2 years in the Bank.

" That he has occasionally acted as a
 " Broker, but not above half a dozen
 " times, & that he did not know there
 " was any Order of Court against the
 " practice: That he never jobs.

he never jobs.

he never heard
 of a present being
 given to the Head
 for any indulgence.

" That he never heard an instance of
 " any gratification being given by a
 " Clerk to the Head for leave of absence
 " or other indulgence.

Gratuities

" That he believed his share of
 " gratuities for the last year had

" amounted to upwards of £30. "

Mr Walsh
questioned as
to the marks
of non-acceptances
being discontinued.

Mr Walsh, one of the Chief Clerks of the B^o of E^{ng}l^{and} Consols being called in, was asked, What was the reason that the custom of putting a mark on the Dividend Warrants of such stock as had not been accepted was discontinued? he answered,

" That the omission has arisen from
" the multiplicity of business, which
" rendered the Clerks unable to get
" through it: & stated, that in this
" last shutting particularly, the time
" had been curtailed several days,
" which rendered it impossible even
" to attempt it: for to get the Dividends
" ready in time, they were obliged to
" work the whole Sunday preceding
" the payment, & the Clerks in general
" made exertions that to him were
" surprising, & without which, the
" Dividend could not have been paid
" at the time appointed. "

his opinion in
favor of the
separating
the paying of
Dividends & the
transferring.

The Committee conversed with Mr Walsh upon the subject of separating the places for making Transfers & paying Dividends, & heard his opinion, which was greatly in favor of a Plan for this purpose being adopted.

Adjourn'd to 22 Jan^y 1784.

Thursday 22nd Jan^r 1784.

Mr Turner's
opinion of a
plan for dividing
the business of
transferring &
that of paying
Dividends.

The Committee convers'd with Mr Turner of
the Reduced Office, upon the possibility of adopting a
plan for dividing the business of transferring &
that of paying Dividends, who gave it as his
opinion,

" That such a Mode would be agreeable to
" the Publick & a considerable ease to the Clerks;
" & would render the posting business less
" liable to mistakes, by preventing the errors
" which occasionally happen, through the
" hurry & noise attending the present mode:
" but he thinks the alteration would require
" a few additional Clerks. "

The Smith order'd
to prepare 2 small
Iron Chests, to be
placed at the Chief
Cashiers & Chief
Account^{ts} houses.

The Committee received a drawing from the
Smith for the 2 small Iron Chests intended to be
placed in the Chief Cashier's & Chief Accountant's
houses, & gave him orders to prepare them as soon
as possible.

The Committee afterwards went to Mr Newland
& Mr Payne's respective houses, to determine the
places where the Chests are to be fixed.

Adjourn'd to 23rd Jan^r 1784.

Friday 23^d Jan^y 1784.

M^r Settle, of the
Office for Ann^y 1726
& Consol^s 28^y Ann^y
examined.

Time of service
he is a supervisor.

he never acts as
a Broker, nor jobs.

M^r Settle of the Office for Ann^y 1726 & Consol^s
28 years. Ann^y being called in, said,

"That he had been 27 years in the Bank;

" & is a supervisor in the Office.

"That he never acts as a Broker, nor jobs."

M^r Settle gave no new information to the
Committee regarding the business.

M^r Poppleton
of the 3^d & 6th Consols
examined.

Time of service
he is a supervisor
& Broker.

M^r Poppleton of the 3^d & 6th Consols being
called in, said,

"That he has been 16 years in the Bank.

"That he is a supervisor, & a Broker in the
Office L to L."

he is of opinion
it would be very
desireable to
separate the
transferring &
paying Dividends,

he sees no objection
but the distance of
the ledgers from the
Dividend payers.

He gave it as his opinion, "that if it
could be so contrived that the Business
of transferring & that of paying Dividends
could be separated, it would be very
desireable on many accounts, & he sees
no other objection to it than that by the
Ledgers being placed at a greater distance,
it will occasion more delay to the Dividend
payers, when it is necessary to refer to
them."

he acts as a Broker,

M^r Poppleton acknowledg'd, that he acts
as a Broker, but said he does not often
go into the Market."

On the impropriety of the practice being stated
to him by the Committee, he promised

but will not in future. "That he would not do so in future."

he never jobs.

Gratuities.

He said, "that he never jobs.

" With regard to gratuities, thought his
" share of them had not exceeded £25
" a year. "

M^r Poole, Head of
the 4th & 6th Consols & Short
Ann^y, examined.

M^r Poole, Head of the 4th & 6th Consols &
Short Ann^y being called in, said,

Time of service.

" That he had been 25 years in the Bank,
" & about 3 at the Head of this Office.

Capital stocks.

" That the Capital of the 4th & 6th is £29,750,000.
" Of the Short Ann^y £25,000 & Ann^y.

Clerks.

" The establishment of Clerks 26 in number,
" & the Books

Books.

" 8 Ledgers, & } for the 4th & 6th, &
" 8 Dividend books }

" 1 Ledger, & } for the Short Ann^y "
" 1 Dividend book }

Business.

M^r Poole gave a full account of the manner
in which they transact business, which, being
exactly similar to what is practised in the other
Transfer Offices, is not set down here.

he is very strict
in regard to
acceptances,

He said, "with regard to acceptances,
" he was very strict in his Office in
" requiring that all stock should be
" accepted, before the Dividend Warrant
" for it be delivered; but with respect to
" the stock bought in by Jobbers & resold,
" they found it very difficult to bring
" the parties to make all their acceptances,
" the Jobbers alledging its not being
" required in any of the other Transfer

but finds it difficult
to bring the Jobbers
to make theirs.

" Officers, & he wished for some instructions
 " whether their acceptances should be
 " absolutely insisted on.

Stationery.

" That he gives orders for all the stationery
 " that is wanted in his Office, which is
 " distributed by one of the senior Clerks,
 " under his directions."

he neither acts as
 a Broker, nor jobs.

. Mr Poole said, " that he himself neither
 " acts as a Broker, nor jobs."

conduct of
 the Clerks.

. And he gave a very satisfactory account of
 the conduct of all the Clerks in his Office in general,
 but said,

" (That he believed some of them do act
 " as Brokers, & are concern'd in jobbing.

the drawers of
 Dividend Warrants
 are locked a little
 after 3 o'clock).

" (That the custom of his Office is to lock
 " the drawers of Dividend Warrants a little
 " after 3 o'clock, at the return of the Clerks
 " in waiting from their dinner; & till
 " this time he generally stays himself.

he does not allow
 one Clerk to pay
 another for doing
 his business.

" (That he never allows one Clerk to pay
 " another for doing any part of his work,
 " as nothing tends more to protract business."

the Transfers &
 the delivery of
 Dividend Warr:
 interfere from
 1 to 2 o'clock.)

He said, " that the Transfers & the
 " delivery of Dividend Warrants do interfere
 " considerably in the hour from 1 to 2 o'
 " clock, particularly on settling days &
 " times of great hurry, but that notwith-
 " standing they never delay the payment
 " of Dividends, always dividing their
 " Hands in such a manner, that the

but the payment
 of Dividends is
 never delayed.

" payment of Dividends may go on at
 " the same time with the entry of
 " Transfers.

he never heard of
 a present being
 given to the Head
 for any indulgence.

" (That he never heard an instance of a
 " gratification being given by any
 " Clerk to the Head for leave of absence
 " or other indulgence).

Gratuities

" That the gratuities, received from
 " the Publick in this Office, arise from
 " the same articles that have been
 " enumerated in the other Transfer Offices,
 " the amount of which are equally
 " divided among all the Clerks, & the
 " share to each is between £20 & £30."

. Mr Toole was asked, whether he ever permitted
 any person, not being a Clerk in the Bank, to
 do any part of the business of the Office? he answered,

he never allows
 a single figure
 to be put in any
 of the Books by any
 one but a Bank
 Clerk.

" (That he had never allowed a single)
 " figure to be put in any of the Books
 " by any one but a Bank Clerk, but
 " he believed they had not been so strict
 " in some of the other Offices."

. Mr Fernborton
 of the same Office
 examined.

. Mr Fernborton of the same Office being called
 in, said,

time of service).

he is 2^d in the Office,
 a supervisor, &
 writes in scrip.

" That he has been 24 years in the Bank;
 " that he is 2^d in the Office, & a supervisor,
 " & writes in the scrip to be made into
 " stock."

The scrip receipts
 after they are entered
 go to the Cheque Office.

He gave an account of the process of this business.
 He said, that the scrip receipts, after they are

" entered, go to the Cheque, the Clerks of
 " which Office sign for them in the
 " scrip Journals, by way of vouchers that
 " so many receipts are actually come in."

he acts as a Broker,

M^r Pemberton acknowledged, that he
 " acts as a Broker, but said he never
 " solicits for business."

is admonished
 against it:

The Committee admonished him not to continue
 this practice, & explained to him how opposite it was
 to the standing Orders of the House.

he has jobbed
 but little of late.

He said, "he had jobbed, but of late
 " had done very little in this way."

he never heard of
 a present being
 given to the Head
 for any indulgence.

" That he never heard an instance
 " of a gratification being given by
 " any Clerk to the Head for leave of
 " absence or other indulgence."

Gratuities.

With regard to gratuities, he said,
 " that he had received at times as his
 " share 16 guineas a year, at others 40,
 " & he imagines, if there should be no
 " more new Loans, they will not
 " amount to more than £18 or £20."

Adjourn'd to 27 Jan^r 1784.

Tuesday 27th Jan^y 1784.

M^r Blackbeard
of the 4th & 6th Cons^l Office
examined.

M^r Blackbeard of the 4th & 6th Cons^l Office
being called in, said,

Time of service.

"That he had been 36 years in the Bank;

he is a supervisor,
& enters scrip rec^d

" that he is a supervisor, & enters the
" part of the scrip receipts from L to L.

the Dividends are
paid immediately
after 1 o'clock.

" That it is the constant rule of this Office
" to accommodate the Publick with the
" payment of their Dividend immediately
" after 1 o'clock, as fast as the hurry of
" business will possibly allow of."

he does not act
as a Broker, except
in a few small
Bargains;

M^r Blackbeard said, "that he does
" not act as a Broker, except by transacting
" a few Bargains for a friend or two,
" the Commission of which may amount
" to 2 or 3 guineas a year; & that he
" never jobs."

& never jobs.

Lyrautivities

He said, "his share of Lyrautivities, on
" an average of the last 3 or 4 years, had
" amounted to £25 or £30 annually."

M^r Vonholte
of the same Office
examined.

M^r Vonholte of the same Office being called in,
said,

Time of service.

"That he had been 28 years in the Bank;

he is a supervisor.

" that he is a supervisor; & that he finds

the Transfers & Div^d
greatly interfere
for 1/2 an hour after

" the making out Transfers & paying of
" Dividends greatly interfere with
" each other, for 1/2 an hour after
" 1 o'clock."

he neither acts as
a Broker, nor jobs.

“ That he does not act as a Broker, but
“ employs one to do his business, nor is
“ he a partner with one; & that he
“ never jobs.

Gratuities

“ That his share of gratuities has been
“ on an average between £20 & £30
“ during the War. ”

M^r Pearce
of the same Office
examined.

said,

time of service.

“ That he had been 22 years in the Bank,
“ & is a Supervisor.

he is a Supervisor

there is a confusion
in paying the
Div^d & transferring
from 1 till 1/2 past

“ That there is often a great confusion in
“ paying the Dividends from 1 till 1/2 past
“ 1 o'clock, on account of the interference of
“ the Transfers, but they always contrive
“ to continue the delivery of Dividend
“ Warrants, whatever hurry of business
“ they may be in.

he does not act
as a Broker;

he jobs with
stock in his own
name, but employs
a person to transact
the business.

“ That he does not act as a Broker, nor
“ is a partner with one; that he jobs
“ with some stock of his own, which he
“ has standing in his name, for which
“ he employs a person who is always
“ in the Market, & that he never leaves
“ the business of the Office to transact the
“ jobbing by himself.

he never heard of
a present being
given to the Head
for any indulgence.

“ That he never knew of a gratification
“ being given by any Clerk to the Head,
“ for leave of absence or other indulgence.

Gratuities.

" With regard to gratuities, he said, -
 " the average for his share during the
 " War had been about £30. "

McWalker
 of the same Office
 examined.

McWalker of the same Office being called in, said,

time of service.
 he is a supervisor

" That he had been 25 years in the Bank,
 " & is a supervisor. "

there is great
 confusion for some
 times after 4, by the
 interference of
 Transfers & Div.

He said, that it frequently happens -
 " for some time after 4 o'clock, that
 " there is great confusion in the Office,
 " on account of the interference of
 " Transfers & Dividends; & then it is
 " the custom to do their utmost to
 " accommodate the Publick with both
 " at the same time.

he never jobs,
 but has acted as
 a Broker in a
 small way.

" That he never jobs; that he has acted
 " as a Broker in a very small way,
 " but not done any thing out of the
 " Office. "

McCobb
 of the same Office
 examined.

McCobb of the same Office being called in, said,

time of service.
 he is a supervisor.

" That he had been 23 years in the Bank,
 " & is a supervisor.

he never acts as
 a Broker, nor jobs.

" That he never acts as a Broker, nor jobs. "

MSparke
 of the same Office
 examined.

MSparke of the same Office being called in, said,

time of service.
 he makes out
 Letters of Attorney,
 & prepares the
 Balance.

" That he had been 10 years in the Bank;
 " that he makes out the Letters of Attorney,
 " & prepares the Balance. .

he neither acts as
 a Broker nor jobs.

" That he does not act as a Broker himself,

" but employs one for what he has to do;
 " nor does he job."

Mr Taylor
 of the same Office
 examined. said,
 time of service.

Mr Taylor of the same Office being called in,

" That he had been 18 years in the Bank.

" That he acts as a Broker in a very
 " trifling way; that he employs one of
 " the jobbers to job with some of his
 " own stock, which he has put in the
 " jobber's name, but he don't interfere
 " with the management of it himself."

he acts as a Broker;
 he employs one of
 the jobbers to job for
 him.

Mr Corbin
 of the same Office
 examined. said,

Mr Corbin of the same Office being called in,

" That he had been 14 years in the Bank;
 " that he registers Wills.

" That he acts as a Broker, but does not
 " job, though he now & then buys & sells
 " a little stock."

time of service
 he registers Wills.

he acts as a Broker,
 but does not job.

Mr Giles
 of the same Office
 examined. said,
 time of service.

Mr Giles of the same Office being called in,

" That he had been 15 years in the Bank.
 " That he has acted as a Broker; & that
 " he has jobbed, but not done any thing
 " for several months past, having quite
 " laid the practice aside."

he has acted as a
 Broker & jobbed,
 but has discontinued
 it.

Mr Turner
 of the same Office
 examined. said,
 time of service.

Mr Turner of the same Office being called in,

" That he had been 10 years in the Bank.
 " That he neither acts as a Broker, nor jobs."

he neither acts as
 a Broker, nor jobs.

Mr. Norris
of the same Office
examined

time of service

he has acted as a
broker, but never
jobs.

Mr. Ripp
of the same Office
examined.

time of service

he neither acts as
a broker, nor jobs.

Mr. Norris of the same Office being called in,

said,

"That he had been 10 years in the Bank.

"That he has acted as a Broker in a
very trifling way, but never jobs."

Mr. Ripp of the same Office being called in,

said,

"That he had been 3 years in the Bank.

"That he neither acts as a Broker, nor jobs."

All the Clerks examined this day were
questioned as to the Mode of doing business in
this Office, but gave no new information necessary
to be set down here.

Adjourn'd to 28 Jan^y 1784.

Wednesday 28th Jan^r 1784.

M^r Landifield
of the Chancery Office
(examined).

M^r Landifield of the Chancery Office being
called in, said,

Time of service.

he acts as Head of
the Office in the
absence of M^r Smith

" That he had been 17 years in the Bank;
" that he acts as Head of this Office in the
" absence of M^r Smith, whose ill state of
" health prevents his attendance. "

Business in this
Office.

M^r Landifield gave a full account of the
proceeds of the Business in this Office, which is
kept in

Books.

" 2 Journals, &
" 5 Ledgers

" containing the Accounts of all the
" Sutors in the Court of Chancery - at
" present 2650 in number.

The Acc^{ts} correspond
with those of the
Accountant Gen^l
of the Court of
Chancery.

a general balance
of them is taken
every year,

" These Accounts are exact counterparts
" of those kept by the Accountant General
" of the Court of Chancery, & serve as a
" check with him - a general balance
" being taken every year in the month
" of October, when the Account is pricked
" over & agreed with the Chancery Account:
" after which it is signed by the Head of
" this Office, & then certified by the Chief
" Accountant of the Bank; when it is
" sent to the Accountant General of the
" Court of Chancery, who delivers it to
" the Lord Chancellor.

certified, &

sent to the
Accountant Gen^l

for the Lord Chancellor.

" These Accounts comprise all monies

Articles the Acc^{ts}
consist of

Dividends & Interests
are receiv'd by one
of the Cashiers of
the Bank,

& paid to the C^{ash}
Cash Book.

the number of
Acc^{ts} have been
increased, by
separating the
joint ones.

" received or paid by the Bank, on
" account of the Court of Chancery,
" by virtue of Orders under the hand
" of the Accountant General of that
" Court; as well as the Capital sums
" of the different Funds & other
" Securities purchased or placed to
" the respective Accounts of the
" several Suitors of the Court, on
" all which the Dividends & Interests,
" as they become due, are receiv'd by
" one of the Cashiers of the Bank,
" by virtue of a general Power of
" Attorney from the Accountant
" General to the said Cashiers; & ^{thoroughly}
" the Cashier so receiving pays the L. Book,
" amount to the C^{ash} Cash Book, from
" whence it comes into the Chancery
" Office to be posted to the respective
" Accounts."

M^r Landisfield farther said, that
" the number of the Accounts has
" greatly increas'd of late, which
" is in a great measure occasioned
" by an order of the present Chancellor,
" which requires that when
" several Children are entitled by
" devise or otherwise, a particular
" Account shall be kept with each
" Child, & not as formerly in one
" joint Account, which remained

" to be explained & unravelled by the Sisters
" themselves, as they became entitled to their
" Shares

establishment
of Clerks

" That the establishment of Clerks in this
" Office is 3 in number, besides the present
" Chief Clerk, who is incapable of business.

attendances

" That their attendance is from 9 to 5 o'clock,
" with such an allowance of time for dinner
" as leaves always 2 in the Office untill
" 3 o'clock, after which only 1 attends till
" 5: & then he locks up the Ledgers &
" Journals in the strong room; but does
" not sign any book to shew that they
" are deposited. "

the books locked
up in the strong
room are not
signed for:

recommended
to be done in
future.

The Committee recommended to Mr Landifield
to provide a book, & cause it to be signed, as
practised in the other Offices.

Gratuities.

. Mr Landifield informed the Committee,
" that there are no perquisites or gratuities
" of any kind whatever receiv'd in this
" Office from the Publick or from the
" Court of Chancery; but that the last
" year he receiv'd by an Order of the
" Court of Directors, as a gratuity, the
" sum of £40, & the 2 Junior Clerks ~
" receiv'd, one £30, the other £20. "

he never acts as
a Broker or Jobber.

He farther said, " that he never acts
" as a Broker or Jobber "

Mr Justins
of the same Office
examined.

in, said,

he does not act as
a Broker or Jobber.

he never heard
of a present being
given to the Head
for any indulgence.

Gratuities

Mr Justins of the same Office being called

" That he does not act as a Broker or
" Jobber.

" That he never knew an instance in
" this Office of any gratification being
" given by a Clerk to the Chief or other
" Superior for leave of absence or other
" indulgence.

" That there are no gratuities whatever
" now received from the Publick, though
" before it was separated from the
" Bank Stock Office they shared in
" what was receiv'd in that Office. "

Adjourn'd to 29 Jan^{ry} 1784.

Thursday 29th Jan^y 1784

M^r Vickery of
the 3^d & 6th Councils
examined, re-
specting the
marks of non-
acceptances on
the Div^d Warr^{ts}
being discontinued.

The Committee called in M^r Vickery of the
3^d & 6th Council Office, & examined him particularly
concerning the reasons why the custom of marking
the non-acceptances on the Dividend Warrants
had been laid aside in his Office: he answered,

" That the practice had been discontinued
" before he became a Head of the Office; that
" he apprehends the reason for it was
" the great increase of business, which
" made the work so heavy during the
" shuttings, that it was found necessary,
" to pass over the non-acceptances, as being
" that part of the business which could
" best bear it; that in the last Dividend
" the time of the books being shut was
" curtailed 6 days, which rendered it
" impossible even to attempt to look out
" the non-acceptances, for as it was the
" Clerks were obliged to work the whole
" of Sunday preceding the payment.

" That if the non-acceptances were to be
" mark'd on the Warrants, & the Publick
" required to accept all their stock before
" they receive a Dividend, it would
" occasion an intolerable delay, besides
" a great confusion: for the Dividend
" payer would be obliged to go all over
" the Office to search for & procure the

"Transfer books wanted, while the number
 " of persons coming for their Dividends -
 " would be constantly increasing, & making
 " complaints that there was no Clerk
 " stationed at the Book to deliver their
 " Warrants to them."

he thinks a Porter,
 or two are much
 wanted in the Office,

M Vickery said, "that a Porter or two
 " are much wanted, to attend in the
 " Offices to carry about the Transfer books
 " & arrange them in order; as well as to
 " keep an eye upon persons loitering
 " about; as one instance of such attention
 " being requisite, he mentioned, that
 " there was a Pick-pocket in the Office
 " last week who robbed a Lady of 30
 " Guineas."

& conveniences
 for putting away
 Transfer tickets.

He said, "there were some conveniences
 " wanted for hanging up or putting
 " away the files of Transfer tickets, which
 " at present lay about the Office in a
 " very slovenly manner."

he agrees with
 the Committee
 in the utility of
 dividing the
 business of the
 Offices.

The Committee asked M Vickery his
 opinion on the subject of dividing the Offices
 into 2 departments, one to be appropriated for
 the payment of Dividends only, the other for
 Transfers & posting the Books: he gave it,
 by entirely concurring with the Committee
 in the utility of such an alteration; & thought,

"That to be carried into compleat
 " effect, it might be necessary to add

additional clerks
such an alteration
would require,
the particular
business for them.

" to the present establishment of Clerks
" about 4 in number, whose particular
" business might be, to examine into
" any intricate Accounts, or where
" differences appeared between the
" Claimants of Dividends & the payers;
" to attend also to the non-acceptances,
" & cause such stock to be accepted before
" the Dividends thereon are paid, which
" under this regulation would be easily
" accomplished; they may moreover
" look out Warrants for all old Dividends:
" & these accommodations would prevent
" the Dividend payers being called off
" from their business as they now frequently
" are, to the great delay & vexation of the
" (Publick) "

Adjourn'd to 3 Feb 7 1784.

Tuesday 3^d Feb^r 1784.

The Committee called in Mr. Miller of the
3^d of C^t Consol^d Office, & convers'd with him upon
the subject of dividing that Office into 2 parts,
for the purpose of making Transfers & paying
Dividends separately: he gave it as his opinion,

Mr. Miller's
opinion of dividing
the business of the
3^d of C^t Consol^d Office.

" That the measure is not only adviseable
" but is become in a manner absolutely
" necessary, at least some material
" alteration of the method of doing business
" is become necessary, on account of the
" great increase of it & the confusion
" arising therefrom, which so much
" affects the Posters as to render them
" very liable to make many mistakes:
" & this is of infinite ill-consequence in
" an Office of such magnitude. "

for which purpose,
it will be necessary
to remove the Ann^t
1726 & 28 y^r Ann^t

to have additional
Clerks.

(He said, " that this measure may with
" great ease be carried into execution, as
" he thinks there is room sufficient in
" the 2 Offices to transact separately the
" 2 Branches of the business, provided
" the Ann^t 1726 & 28 years Ann^t be
" removed; but it will require some
" additional Clerks, besides what they
" now want to compleat their number
" & to fill up the void occasion'd by
" those who through illness are unable
" to attend. "

Mr Walsh of the same Office was called in, & being questioned upon the same subject, he gave his opinion,

Mr Walsh's
opinion thereon.

the number of
additional Clerks
it would require

division of the
Clerks, in case of
an alteration, &
their stations.

" That the proposed alteration was very
" desirable; that the advantages of it
" will greatly overbalance the inconveniences;
" that he has well considered the Plan, &
" thinks it may be accomplished with 7
" additional Clerks; that the present
" establishment is 54 in number, & in case
" of the alteration 61 will be requisite,
" to be stationed in the manner following:

" In the Office for Transfers,

2 Chiefs,
20 Posters,
16 Enterers.

in all 38

" In the Office for Dividends

1 Chief Clerk
6 for the Wills & Powers, as at present;
but perhaps this will require 7.
12 Dividend payers,
4 Supernumeraries, whose province
it must be to go with the parties
claiming Dividends, to cause
them to make their acceptances;
& also to examine & look into
the intricate & disputed Accounts.

in all 23:

" with this number he thinks no difficulty
" would arise."

Mr Vickery

Mr Vickery of the same Office being call'd in,
said,

agrees with Mr
Walsh as to the
number & stations
of the Clerks necessary,
& sees no objection
to the measure's
being adopted.

" (That he had maturely considered of the
" (Plan for dividing the Offices, since)
" his last examination; & agrees with
" the information of Mr Walsh regarding
" the number & stations of the Clerks -
" that will be necessary; & that he cannot
" see any objection to the measure's being
" adopted."

Mr Edwards
Deputy Accountant

apprehends some
inconvenience
may arise from
the distance of
the Ledgers.

Mr Edwards, Deputy Accountant, being call'd
in, convers'd with the Committee a long time about
dividing the Offices, & express'd his apprehension
that the measure would be attended with some
inconvenience, on account of the Ledgers being
kept at a distance from the Dividend books: but
said,

it would be a
great accommodation
to the Publick).

" (That if it could be accomplish'd without
" protracting business, it would certainly
" be a great accommodation to the Publick)."

the requiring the
acceptances would
cause many
complaints

Mr Edwards gave his opinion, that if
" it should be required of the Publick to
" make all their acceptances before they
" receive their Dividends, it would cause
" many complaints; & still more, if it
" should be required of all the Jobbers to
" do the same, before they were suffer'd to
" transfer."

The Committee
examine the
Clause in the
Act of Parliament
concerning transfers.

The Committee sent for one of the Acts of
Parliament regarding the Stocks, & examined the

Clause concerning Transfers: by which, it appears
to them, the acceptance is made a material part
of the operation.

Adjourn'd to 9th Feb^y 1784.

Monday 9th Feb 1784.

Mr Payne's
opinion in favor
of separating
the Transfers &
Dividends of the
3^d & 6th Consols.

Mr Payne, Chief Accountant, being called
in, gave his opinion strongly in favor of the
Plan for separating the Transfers & Dividends
in the Office of 3^d & 6th Consols; & said,

"That if there should appear to be
" room sufficient in the Office to ~
" transact the Business separately,
" he did not apprehend any difficulty
" would arise in the execution of it."

which Office should
be prefer'd for
paying of Dividends.

Mr Payne remarked, "that it would
" be proper to appropriate that Office
" for paying Dividends which is ~
" nearest to the Pay Office: both on
" account of this vicinity, which
" will facilitate the Publick in ~
" obtaining Money for their Warrants;
" & also because many more Coaches
" set down at the front door than
" stop in Bartholomew Lane."

Mr Edwards's
opinion upon
the same subject.

Mr Edwards being called in, & again
questioned upon the subject of dividing the
Office, said,

he is for dividing
the Business in
both Offices.

"That in his opinion, the separation
" of the Office would be best effected
" if both Offices were to be divided

" between Transfers & Dividends laterally,
 " that is to say, Dividends to be paid along
 " the South side of both Offices & the
 " Transfers to be made on the opposite side,
 " in such a manner that the Transfer books
 " of each Letter shall be nearly opposite the
 " Dividend books of the same Letter; & by
 " this means the Transfers & payment of
 " Dividends would be going forward in
 " both rooms at the same time. "

Mr. Edwards's reasons for wishing this alteration in the plan were not satisfactory to the Committee, or such as induced them to join with him in opinion.

Mr. Baillie
 Head of the Cheque Office
 examined.

Mr. Baillie, Head of the Cheque Office, being called in, said,

Time of service.

" That he had been 23 years in the Bank;
 " 18 of them Chief of this Office. "

Business
 of the Office.

He gave an account of the manner in which they transact their business, which is always on the day subsequent to that on which the Warrants are paid; & these, together with all the Pay books containing the entries of them, are fetched from the Warrant Office every morning by one of their own clerks: & the better to understand it, the Committee went into the Office & saw the whole process; as well as the manner of keeping the paid & unpaid Warrants, which, though perfectly

insecure situation
of the Warrants
placed there.

regular, yet lie exposed, both with regard to
Fire & Thieves, in a manner very alarming.

reason of the
establishment
of this Office.

M^r Baillie informed the Committee,
" that the Cheque Office was first established
" about 22 or 23 years ago, because a
" Clerk then in the 3^d & 4th Consol^d. Office
" had taken out a large number of old
" unpaid Warrants, to which he had
" forged the signature & received the
" amount

all the Offices,
except the 3^d & 4th
Consols, read over
the unpaid Dividend
yearly.

That every Office in the Bank, except
" the 3^d & 4th Consols, send up to his Office
" every year & read over a List of the
" unpaid articles standing on their
" old Dividend books against the unpaid
" Warrants themselves kept in the Cheque
" Office: This was established as a
" check on the fidelity of both Offices.
" The Consols have omitted this practice
" for 3 or 4 years, or perhaps more.

establishment
of Clerks, &
attendance.

That the establishment of Clerks in
" this Office is 12 in number, & the
" attendance in general from 9 to 3 o'
" clock; but that one is always in
" waiting till 5, & this is taken by
" rotation of all the Clerks except the
" Head.

conduct of the Clerks.

M^r Baillie gave a very good account of

the attendance & conduct of the Clerks both in & out of this House, & said,

" That a proper degree of subordination
" subsists in the Office.

Gratuities.

" (With regard to gratuities, he said,
" that they receive none whatever from
" the Publick). "

Plans -
proposed for
keeping the
Pecchequer acco^t -

The Committee mentioned to Mr Baillie the Plan proposed by Mr Watch to facilitate the keeping the Pecchequer account: He said,

" That to carry it into execution would
" require 6 additional Clerks, & he is not
" clear that the business could be so well
" done as it is at present: That he
" proposed some time ago to the Chief
" Accountant, that if he could have
" 2 additional Clerks he would take
" upon himself the whole business of
" settling & tracing out the errors in the
" Pecchequer account, after the sheets
" from the Dividend books were delivered
" in. "

Adjourn'd to 10 Feb^r 1784.

Tuesday 10th Feb^r 1784

Mr. Payne,
Walsh, & Baillie
examined
concerning a
Plan for keeping
the acct. of Dividend
Warrants in the
Cheque Office.

The Committee called in Mr. Payne the Chief Accountant, Mr. Walsh of the 3^d & 4th Consols, & Mr. Baillie Head of the Cheque Office, & examined them concerning the practicability of the Plan, - some time since proposed by Mr. Walsh, for keeping the Account of Dividend Warrants at the Cheque Office, & heard their respective opinions thereon: And the Committee approved of a proposal from Mr. Baillie, that he would endeavour to trace out the errors & settle the Exchequer account yearly from the sheets delivered in by the Clerks in the 3^d & 4th Consol. Office, in proper time to be delivered into the Exchequer, provided 2 additional Clerks be allowed him.

errors observed
in the additions
of the sheets.

The Committee remarked to Mr. Walsh upon the number of errors observable in the addition of the sheets, although the several additions are marked with the Initials of the Clerks who cast them up: He allowed the observation to be just, & said,

" That it had been attempted in the Office
" some time since, to impose Fines for such
" mistakes, but they had not been able to
" accomplish this scheme; which however
" is very necessary."

The Committee informed Mr. Payne, that if the separation of Transfers & Dividends in the 3^d & 4th Consol^d Office should take place, it will be requisite to remove the Office for Ann^y 1726 & Consol^d 28^y Ann^y from thence; & that they proposed that it should be placed in the 4th & 5th Office, but in this case the Chancery Office now kept there must be removed, & questioned him where it could be carried to: He answered,

" That he thought it might be brought
 " into the room adjoining to the present
 " Chancery Office, in which the General
 " Cash Book is kept, which will bring
 " the 2 Branches of the same business
 " nearer together."

The Committee having seen the Room ~ thought it might serve the purpose, 'till some better place can be found out.

Adjourn'd to ^m Feb^y 7 1784.

it will be
 requisite to
 remove the
 Ann^y 1726 & Consol^d
 28^y Ann^y to make
 room in the 3^d & 4th
 Office for the
 separation of
 Transfers & Div^d
 & they may be
 placed in the 4th
 & 5th Office, by
 removing the
 Chancery business

into the Room
 adjoining to the
 General Cash Book

Wednesday 11th Feb^r 1784.

The Committee began to form a Report upon the subject of dividing the 3^d & 4th Consol^d Office into two, for Transfers & paying of Dividends.

Mr Dell
approves of
the place proposed
for his Office:

The Committee afterwards went into the 4th & 5th Office with Mr Dell, Chief of the Ann^l: 1726 & Consol^d: 28 years Ann^l:, to see whether the space now occupied by the Chancery would be sufficient to carry on the Business of his Office; & he made no objection to it.

Mr Landisfield
of that for him.

The Committee afterwards went with Mr Landisfield into the Room in the passage leading to the Discount Office, intended in future for an Office for him, which he found rather small; but made no other objection to it.

Adjourn'd to 12th Feb^r 1784.

Thursday 12th Feb^r 1784.

The Committee proceeded in framing the Report.

Adjourn'd to 13th Feb^r 1784.

Friday 13th Feb^r 1784.

The Committee farther proceeded on the Report.

Adjourn'd to 16th Feb^r 1784.

Monday 16th Feb^r 1784.

The Committee farther proceeded on the Report.

Adjourn'd to 17th Feb^r 1784.

Tuesday 17th Feb^r 1784.

The Committee drew up a part of the Report, concerning the Cheque Office.

Adjourn'd to 18th Feb^r 1784.

Wednesday 18th Feb^r 1784.

The Committee reduced the whole Report into form & added a plan of the Alterations, to be annexed to it.

Adjourn'd to 20th Feb^r 1784.

Friday 20th Feb^r 1784.

The Committee having examined the fair copy of their fourth Report, sign'd & deliver'd it to the Governor: being as follows.

The fourth Report of the Committee appointed to inspect & enquire into the Mode & execution of the Business as now carried on in the different departments of the Bank.

To the Governor, Deputy Governor, &
Committee of Treasury.

Having in our former Reports taken notice of such Things within the department of the Chief Cashier, as appeared to require immediate attention: We now proceed to submit, for the consideration of the Court, such observations as have occurred during our examination into the conduct of business in the Offices within the department of the Chief Accountant.

This department we find divided into 15 Offices, most of them superintended by a Chief or Head Clerk, viz^t

The enterers of the Credits & payments of
Bank Notes.

The same of the 7 days sight Notes.

The enterers, serialism, of Bills & Notes discounted.

Those of Bills & Notes discounted into the
(Discount Ledgers.

The Drawing Office, which checks with the
(Drawing Office in the Hall.

The Office of Bank Stock, & Consol. Long. Ann.

do. of Consol. Reduced.

do. of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cent Consols.

do. of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cent Consols, & the Short Ann.

do. of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cent. Ann. 1726, & the Ann.
(for 28 years.

The Chancery Office.

The Cheque Office.

The Writer of the Journal.

The Account of Exchequer bills, kept by the
. Accountant General & checked by the Deputy
Accountant.

The General Ledger, kept by the Dep^y Accountant.

We have examined the Chiefs & most of the other
Clerks in all these Offices relative to the Business of
each, as well as to the Behaviour, abilities, &
attendance of the Clerks themselves; but in this
Report we mean to confine ourselves to such

observations as we have made in the Stock & Cheque Offices, & to the suggestion of such alterations with respect to them as in our Opinion will be material improvements.

The Stock Offices being the first in point of importance, especially to the Publick, naturally claimed our earliest & closest attention, & a good deal of our time has been employed in endeavouring to ascertain how far the very frequent complaints, in regard of the delays & inconveniencies experienced by the Publick in receiving their Dividends, are well founded, from what causes they arise, & to what degree they may be remedied. To this end, we directed our principal enquiries to the Office of 3 & Cent Consol. Ann^s, where from the largeness of the Capital & number of the Proprietors, these inconveniencies must of necessity most prevail.

The Hours from 9 to 11 in the forenoon & from 1 to 3 in the afternoon are fixed for the payment of Dividends; & from 9 to 1 for Transfers: & every Transfer ticket must be put in before 1 o'clock, or is accounted a private Transfer, & must be paid for as such. This regulation, made undoubtedly with a view to prevent the business of transferring from interfering with that of Dividends, in order that all Transfers might be over before the

payment of Dividends in the afternoon commenced, is now entirely counteracted by the Brokers & Jobbers, who commonly deliver in more Transfer tickets, during the last quarter of an hour of the time allowed, than in all the preceding part of the day. The entering & executing these Transfers generally employ the greatest part of the hour between 1 & 2 o'clock (sometimes much longer), & whilst this is doing, it is the common practice of the Office to require all Persons applying for Dividends, to wait till the Transfers are finished, on the plea that the Tickets having been put in within the time prescribed, they must be completed before any Dividend Warrants be delivered. This interference of two different Branches of business in the hour between 1 & 2, we conceive to be the principal source of most of the disagreements between the Publick & the Clerks, the former strenuously insisting that the time from 1 to 3 being allotted by the Bank for payment of Dividends they have a right to be immediately satisfied, whilst the latter (however willing to accommodate them) find it impossible to comply with their demands.

Before we propose a remedy for this inconvenience, we shall proceed to state another matter which in our apprehension deserves notice. From our examination of the Clerks, we find that the

method formerly practised universally throughout the Transfer Offices, of marking the non-accepted Stock on the Dividend Warrants, in order that the parties claiming their Dividends might first be called on to make their Acceptances, has been for some time discontinued in this Office; nor are the Jobbers now required to accept Stock, before they are allowed to re-transfer the same; notwithstanding that the words of all the Acts of Parliament which establish the Government Funds so couple the Acceptance with the Transfer as if the Transfer could not be considered as complete without it. The reason given to us for the omission, is, that the short time (in respect to the amount of the Capital) allowed for the shuttings previous to the Dividend, had rendered it sometimes impossible for the Clerks to look out & mark the non-acceptances; & it has been stated that even if this could have been done, the delay occasioned by obliging all persons to accept, before they were permitted to receive their Dividend Warrants, would have been so great & inconvenient to the Publick, that it became necessary, some years ago, to lay aside the practice altogether. The omission, in this Office, has been drawn into precedent, by the Jobbers in the other Transfer Offices, & has been used as a plea, why they

should not be strictly required to make acceptances there; & really it seems to be an unanswerable argument, that if an acceptance be unnecessary in the great Stock of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cent Consols, it must be equally so, in those of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cents, Reduced, & other smaller Stocks.

Whether Acceptances should, in pursuance of the words of the Acts of Parliament, be rigidly insisted on, before Dividends are paid, or Re-transfers allowed, however inconvenient it may prove, to the Parties, (& it has been very forcibly represented to us by the Deputy Accountant that the Jobbers will complain heavily if they should be obliged to comply with that practice), is a matter we must leave wholly to the consideration of the Court.

We have been sedulously occupied in endeavouring to discover some means of removing the cause of the complaints arising from the interruptions in the payment of Dividends, particularly in this Office, without at the same time protracting the general business or producing other ill-consequences; but of all the various Modes that have been suggested to us, there is but one, which in our opinion is not accompanied with great inconveniences, & as that does not seem liable to any material objections,

we now offer it to the consideration of the Court.

The business of making Transfers & that of paying Dividends, being entirely independent of each other, we recommend that they be separated, & transacted in different Offices. The two now used for the 3^d & 4th Gent Conso^l. Ann^l will, we think, in every respect answer the purpose for this Stock, if one of them be appropriated to the purpose of Transfers only, the other to that of Dividends. In this case a smaller number of Clerks will be sufficient for the Dividend branch than are now employed in that service, because the payment will continue the whole day without intermission, & they will not be subject to be called off from this peculiar business: but then a few Clerks extraordinary will be required, to have the charge of settling the disputed or intricate Accounts; of attending such Persons as may have acceptances to make; & of looking out the Warrants for claims of old Dividends: every part of which is now done by the Dividend payers themselves, to the great delay & dissatisfaction of the Publick. If these circumstances alone be considered, it will be found that additional Clerks are wanted even at present; but if the proposed separation should take place they will be unavoidably necessary, on account of the Ledgers being then fixed in the other Office. And should

the Court think proper to direct that all Acceptances be required in future, the present regulation will enable the Head of the Office to carry their Orders into execution, through the assistance of these Clerks; which in our opinion cannot in its present state be effected. We may also observe, that by the proposed alteration the Transfers will certainly be carried on with more ease & ^{be} less liable to Errors than they can be in the present state of the Office: for neither the Clerks nor the Publick will meet with the interruptions they now find, from the confusion occasioned by two different Branches of business going on in the same place at one & the same time.

(We have not ventured to suggest this alteration without first taking the Opinions of the Chief & Deputy Accountants, the Heads of all the Transfer Offices, & many of the most experienced Clerks, as to the practicability of the plan, who uniformly allow its tendency to facilitate the publick business of the House, to promote the ease of the Clerks, & to increase the Security of the Bank: they have expressed their wishes for its adoption, & we can discover no objection of moment to its being carried into immediate execution.

We annex, by way of Appendix, a Scheme of the requisite Alterations. They are such as

may be easily effected: And by an addition of only 7 Clerks to the present number, a Regulation so extremely useful to the Publick & conducive to the honour of the Bank may be compleatly established.

We now proceed to state some observations on the manner of keeping the Dividend Warrants in the Cheque Office, where all Warrants after payment are deposited, & where the old unpaid or Back Warrants, down to within 4 or 5 years of the running Dividend, are kept; & here we found matters deserving very serious consideration.

To obtain information in respect of the Mode of conducting business here, we pursued the method, invariably practised by us, of going into the Office, to see the process of a day's work, on the spot. And our first business was to enquire, where the unpaid or Back Warrants were kept, & what precautions were taken for their safety: our surprise was great indeed to find they were placed (to the amount of £75,000), in a wooden cupboard under one lock, to which each of the Clerks has a key. This appeared to us the more extraordinary as the Chief Clerk informed us, that this Office was established, about 22 years

ago, principally to prevent the repetition of a fraud perpetrated by one of the Clerks of this House, who by having access to these Back Warrants was tempted to forge the signatures to a large parcel of them, & afterwards to receive their amount.

With a view of keeping a check upon this store of unpaid Warrants, we find that all the Transfer Offices send once a year to compare these Back Warrants with their Lists, except the 3 Cent Consol. Office, in which the practice has been discontinued for several years. We deem it however so essential an examination that we cannot avoid recommending that Orders be given for its being constantly attended to in future.

Farther, the paid Warrants in course for sending up to the Exchequer, or settling the Exchequer Account, being extremely numerous, & necessary for the sake of references to them to be in or near this Office, are now kept in numerical order in large boxes; but the place not being large enough to contain them all, some are in an outer room adjoining, within a low wooden partition, & others in the open Lobby, where they are much exposed to accidents. It is true that these Warrants are cancelled, & therefore the Bank runs no risk of paying them a second time: but if any of them

should be lost or destroyed, we apprehend it would raise an almost insuperable difficulty in settling with the Exchequer; where they scrupulously require every single Warrant to be produced.

But this is not the only danger this Office is subject to. From its situation over the Gate & House-porter's Lodges, where fires are constantly kept a great part of the year, no doubt can be made of its being more exposed to accidents from fire than any other part of the House; a consideration too alarming not to be immediately attended to, by adopting any alteration that will fix an Office of so much importance in a place of greater security.

For this purpose we recommend that the Warrant Office, now kept in the Old General Court room, be removed to its former station over the gate-way into the Room now occupied by the Officer on guard, which is large enough for the business; & that the Cheque Office be placed in the Old General Court room. This exchange will fix the Cheque in the interior part of the House, afford ample space & security for all its operations with the paid Warrants; & allow of a proper situation for erecting an Iron Safe or Chest

for depositing the Back Warrants. And the present Cheque Office may be fitted up for the use of the Officer on guard.

We have consulted the Chief Cashier & Chief Accountant, who both concur in the propriety of this exchange of Offices, on the grounds before assigned.

S. Bosanquet

Bank of England

19th Feb: 1784

Thomas Dea

Benj. Winthrop

The Alterations proposed in order to separate the two Branches of transferring & paying Dividends in the 3^d Cent Consols.

1st To remove the Chancery (now in the 4th Cents) into a room adjoining to the other Chancery Office; or into a part of the Rotunda to be taken off for the purpose; or into any other part of the House thought more convenient

2^d To remove the Office of Ann: 1726 & 28 years (now in the 3^d Cent Consols) to the place now occupied by the Chancery in the 4th Cent Office.

- 3^d To appropriate the Office of the 3^d Cent Consols nearest Bartholomew Lane, for the Transfer business only; & in some convenient part of this Office, Book cases to be placed that may contain all the Transfer books, not in immediate use, ranged in succession according to their Marks, & one Porter (or more if necessary) to be appointed for keeping these Books in order, of handing them to the Clerks when wanted, & afterwards of returning them into their proper places.

The establishment of Clerks in this Office
to consist of 38. vizt.

| | |
|-------|----------|
| 1 | Chief |
| 1 | Second |
| 20 | Porters |
| 16 | Enterers |
| <hr/> | |
| 38 | |

- 4th To appropriate the other Office of the 3^d Cent Consols, for the payment of Dividends. From which purpose the Dividend Warrants to be divided into 12 Books as nearly equal, with regard to the number of names in each, as a succession of the letters of the alphabet will admit of, none of which will exceed 6000. At each book a Clerk to be stationed for the purpose of paying Dividends from 9 to 3, without intermission or the interference of any other business.

147

5th Four Supernumerary Clerks to be appointed, to examine & settle all disputed or intricate Accounts; to fetch from the Cheque Office any Back Warrants for old Dividends that may be claimed; to see acceptances made that may have been omitted; & in general to undertake any business that might otherwise call the Dividend payers from their Books.

The establishment of Clerks in this Office, to consist of 17. vizt

| |
|---------------------|
| 1 Chief |
| 12 Dividend payers. |
| 4 Supernumeraries. |
| 17 |

The 6 Clerks employed in registering Wills & making out Powers, to be stationed in whichever of these Offices may be thought by the Chiefs the most convenient.

Thus, the whole number of Clerks employed will be,

| | |
|--|----|
| In the Office for Transfers. | 38 |
| In the Office for Dividends | 17 |
| For the Wills & Powers. | 6 |
| in all | 61 |
| The present establishment is | 54 |
| Proposed increase of Clerks | 7 |

6th Two Openings for communication behind the Counters to be made, in order to facilitate recurring to the Books & prevent any obstructions to the Clerks as they pass from one Office to the other.

McLewin,
the Secretary,
examined,

Time of service.

his Office is
unconnected with
the 2 great depart^{ts}

& the establishment
consists of himself
& an Assistant.

His business

The Committee called in. McLewin, the Secretary, who said,

"That he had been 60 years in the Bank;
" for the last 40 as Secretary."

He said, "his Office is totally unconnected
" with either of the two great departments
" of the Chief Cashier & Chief Accountant."

"That the establishment consists only
" of himself & an Assistant Secretary."

"His business is to attend the Court &
" take Minutes, to fill up Bonds &
" Covenants for Cash Notes, & the Servants'
" Security Bonds, to draw up the forms
" of Affidavits, to attend the stopping of
" Notes, & to keep Copies of all Instruments
" passing the Court."

Gratuities.

"With regard to Fees & Gratuities," he
informed the Committee, "that he more
" commonly receives one Guinea from
" each new Clerk on his election into
" the service of the Bank, & he believes
" his Assistant receives half a Guinea
" or more, but of this he is not certain,
" besides which, the Clerk pays 6/- for

" the stamps on each bond of his Securities;
 " farther, on a lost Note being stopp'd in
 " this Office, it is requir'd of the party to
 " make a deposit of 10s, called Caution
 " money, which is paid to the Chief
 " Accountant, who carries it to the Acco^t
 " kept in the books under the title of
 " Caution money, the party is also
 " requir'd to enter into a covenant of
 " indemnity for which he pays 7/6,
 " that is 1s 6 more than the stamp by
 " way of Fee to the Secretary; when an
 " Order of Court is obtain'd for payment
 " of the value of the Note the 10s are
 " return'd by the Bank to the Party, but
 " he then pays 14/6 for a Bond of
 " indemnity executed by him, which
 " includes 6s for the stamp; The Secretary
 " also takes for all Forms of Affidavits
 " written by him 1s 6, & has the same
 " profit upon Letters of Attorney made
 " out for Bankstock: His gratuities
 " amount in the whole to more than
 " £60 a year in common, one year
 " they exceeded £100; but he cannot
 " speak as to the emoluments of the
 " Assistant Secretary.

attendance.

He said, " that the attendance in the
 " Office is from 9 to 3 every day, except
 " on close Holidays. "

The Committee could not examine the Assistant Secretary, as he is now out of the Kingdom on business relating to the House.

Adjourn'd to 23 Feb^y 1784.

Monday 23 Feb^y 1784.

The Committee began to frame their fifth Report, on the conduct of the Clerks, particularly respecting their acting as Brokers & Jobbers in the Funds; & concerning the Gratuities receiv'd in most of the Offices of the House.

Adjourn'd to 24 Feb^y 1784.

Tuesday 24 Feb^y 1784.

The Committee finished the Report, & ordered it to be written out fair.

Adjourn'd to 25 Feb^y 1784.

Wednesday 25th Feb: 1784.

The Committee having examined the Report, sign'd & presented it to the Governor: being as follows.

The fifth Report of the Committee appointed to inspect & enquire into the Mode & execution of the Business as now carried on in the different departments of the Bank.

To the Governor, Deputy Governor, &
Committee of Treasury.

Our former Reports being in a great measure confined to the suggestion of such alterations as in our opinion would operate as very essential improvements, with respect to the accommodation of the Publick, as well as to the Security of the Bank, (we trust that in submitting our Ideas on those subjects we have not gone beyond the line prescribed to us by the Court):

We shall now proceed to report the result of our examinations, into the conduct & behaviour of the Clerks; an object doubtless of very great importance, & at all times highly deserving the utmost attention; but as we

deem it unnecessary to descend to minuteness on this occasion, we think it will be sufficient, if we state such matters only as appear to require correction or regulation: referring those Gentlemen, to our Minutes, who may require more particular information.

(To conduct with propriety, safety, & effect, an Establishment of this kind, consisting of more than Three hundred Men, who from the nature of their situation must & ought to be governed rather by gentle than by harsh means, will seldom be found so very easy in practice as it appears in theory: however, when we consider the various discordant humours & passions of Men, & the natural unwillingness to obey, where no distinct line is drawn, of Power on one side, or of Obedience on the other; we must acknowledge on the whole, that, after a minute enquiry, we have found no very material causes of complaint subsisting, either in regard to their behaviour towards one another, or in regard to the conduct of their business. We have notwithstanding thought it incumbent on us, to recommend in the strongest terms to the Inferiours, a due

subordination to the Superiors, & a ready compliance with their orders; & for we conceive that nothing will tend more, not only to the existence of harmony amongst themselves, but to the proper execution of the business of the House, than the maintenance of a considerable degree of attention in the Junior Clerks, towards the Heads of their respective Offices.

There are however some matters on which it is our duty to report & which in our opinion deserve on many accounts very serious consideration. One of them has already in some degree engaged the attention of the Court; we mean, the conduct of the Clerks in the Transfer Offices, with respect to the very general practice amongst them of transacting Business, as Brokers & Jobbers, in the Publick Funds.

We shall not endeavour to enumerate all the ill consequences that must inevitably flow from a continuance of this practice: nor need we mention the many obvious inconveniences that the Banks as well as the Publick must frequently experience, arising from the neglect of Duty & inattention to their business, which it must unavoidably introduce among

the Clerks; by seducing their minds from regular employment in an easy service, & attaching them to objects inviting though dangerous, & which appear so much more immediately interesting to themselves.

The Publick, the Brokers, the Directors, all feel & have long complained of this evil; yet no steps seem to have been taken to provide an adequate remedy for it, except an Order of the Court of Directors dated the 14th Feb^r 1771, which is in the following words.

"Ordered

"That henceforth no Servant of the Bank
"presume to transact any Business as a Broker
"in buying or selling any Stocks or Annuities
"whatsoever, on pain of the displeasure of this Court.

" . And that the said Order be transcribed
" & affixed at the respective Transfer Offices."

This Order we are led to imagine was considered as obsolete, or was forgotten almost as soon as made: for on examination of nearly all the Clerks in the Transfer Offices (& here we take occasion to declare that, as far as we can judge, we have experienc'd great candour in their acknowledgements on this head, & we believe, truth, in their answers to such questions as

were put to them) as well on this as on other subjects), the major part avowed an entire ignorance of such an Order having ever existed; others had heard of, but never seen it; & the general idea seems to have been, that if the Business of the House were properly done, they were no way culpable in endeavouring to procure Orders for transactions in the Funds, which they might either execute themselves personally, or by the interference of their friends in the Stock Exchange; & in regard to Jobbing, that no particular restraint lay on them, from their situation, as Clerks of the Bank, though many of them might abstain from that traffick on other motives.

. As we are decidedly of opinion that the practice of the Clerks acting as Brokers or Jobbers is not only inconvenient & pernicious in itself, but that it may eventually lead to even fatal consequences by the powerful temptations it holds out to Men, not in affluent circumstances; we think the Court cannot too soon interpose its Authority, in order to put a stop to an evil of such magnitude. And for the effectual accomplishment of so salutary a regulation, we deem it expedient & fair, that the Clerks

should be formally made acquainted with the solemn determination of the Court, to cause its former Order (or a new One, as shall be thought most adviseable) to be strictly enforced, & that Punishment, even to dismissal from the Service, will be the certain consequence of future disobedience.

We are farther of opinion that, to prevent for the time to come, the plea of ignorance on the part of the Clerks, & that the Publick may also be acquainted with this Regulation, there be painted on the Wall in some conspicuous part of the Rotunda & of each Transfer Office, Words to the following effect.

"By order of the Court of Directors, the
 "Clerks of the Bank are not permitted,
 "to act as Brokers or Jobbers in the
 "Publick Funds."

Before we conclude this subject, we shall venture to add, that as, by far the greater part of the Clerks themselves seem very sensible of the impropriety of this practice, especially when carried on against an express Order of the Court, & that several of them have wholly abstained from it on other considerations,

we have no doubt, but that with some little attention & perseverance on the part of the Directors, this Evil may be wholly remedied.

Another matter which we have thought it our duty to enquire into, is, that of the Fees & Gratuities receiv'd by the Clerks from the Publick. Our Minutes books contain the information we have collected on this head, but we desire it to be understood that we annex very different ideas to the words, Fees, & Gratuities. Under the former we class such small sums as are receiv'd for private Transfers, for registering of Wills, for making out Powers of Attorney, for Bonds, Affidavits, & Powers, & generally all such as from their publick notoriety & fixed rates may not unreasonably be supposed to have obtained the sanction of the Court of Directors, as required by the 11th Bye Law. By the latter we understand all presents given to the Clerks for doing what is, in fact, no more than the ordinary business of the House.

From the Chiefs as well as many of the inferior Clerks, in every Office, we have gathered sufficient information to justify us in asserting

that the Practice, under both heads, has been carried to an extent that requires particular notice; but however desirous we are to promote the Honour & the Prosperity of the Bank, by advising such Regulations as we conceive may tend to both, we must leave to the consideration of the Court, how far the practice of receiving money from the Publick under the name of Gratuities, (expressly contrary to the Letter & Spirit of the 11th Bayes Law), is an evil that can be prevented altogether: for at the same time, that we express our particular disapprobation, of the introduction & continuance of a custom, not only disgraceful in itself; but liable to occasion dissatisfactions & heart-burnings amongst the Clerks themselves, from the unequal distributions in some of the Offices; & what is a matter of much more serious consequence, to give rise to partialities & unjust preferences, towards the Publick; (& we have very strong grounds for believing that in this respect, the custom, bad as it is, has been most shamefully misused): yet we have found it so firmly established, so operating as part of the legal emoluments of Office, handed down to the Clerks from their Predecessors; that we think it requires, not only solemn deliberation,

but an accurate & nice Judgement, to determine, whether it were wiser to endeavour at abolishing the practice altogether; or to regulate it, by excluding the Chiefs from any participation, & ordering equal distributions amongst the inferior Clerks, by which means the Chiefs would become a check on the inferiors & prevent unreasonable exactions on the Publick: but in this case, it will be equitable to allow an increase of salary to the former by way of compensation.

In regard however to the Fees now established in the Transfer Offices, there is one which we think should be regulated; it has become usual to charge Five shillings for every £1000 of scrip transferr'd the same day it is made into Stock, an imposition esteemed so heavy by the Clerks themselves, that, where the sum required to be transferred is large, they generally moderate their demand, & agree with the parties on the best terms they can: If the Publick be indulged in having these Transfers; we see no reason why they should pay in proportion to the sum: but rather think, that each Transfer should be chargeable with the payment of Five shillings, instead of half a crown the fee

of a private one; in order to prevent the practice from becoming too general.

Bank of England
25th Feb. 1784.

S. Bosanquet.
Thomas Dea.
Benj. Winthrop.

The Committee went into the Strongroom, where the Books & Drawers of Dividend Warrants are kept on nights, & took notice of the smallness of it, which will but just contain the Articles now placed there.

Adjourn'd to 26th Feb. 1784.

Thursday 26th Feb^r 1784.

The Committee met the Deputy Governor in a consultation on the proper method of carrying into execution the 2^d Report, on the subject of paying away ready made Bank notes; when the Deputy Governor directed M. Newland to get the things ready, for 2 Pay Clerks & their Assistants to be employed, & to carry into immediate execution that part of the Plan concerning the Store of Notes kept in the Warehouse; & authorized the Committee to see to the execution.

Adjourn'd to 27th Feb^r 1784.

preparations
ordered for
carrying the
2^d Report into
execution.

Friday 27th Feb^r 1784.

Cupboards
directed to be
made to hold
the Store Notes
& Pay Clerks'
drawers.

The Committee conversed with M^r Newland,
& again consulted the Governor & Deputy Governor;
& afterwards went into the Warehouse, & found it
necessary to give orders for a set of Cupboards,
with proper Locks, to be made, in order to hold
the Store Notes, with a compartment sufficiently
large to contain the Pay Clerks' drawers on
nights; that they may be under the Locks of
the Store keepers & not remain open in the
Warehouse. At the same time the Committee
gave directions for 2 Drawers, for the use of the
Pay Clerks, to be prepared; & ordered the
Smith to get proper Locks made immediately.

Adjourn'd to 1st March 1784.

Monday 1st March 1784.

The Committee
consider the state
of the Library.

Clocks appointed
to the care of it

Mr Padman,
one of them,
examined.

Time he has been
in this Office, &
allowance.

arrangement
of the Books.

The Library is
cold & damp,

& will very soon
have no convenient
room for more
books.

The Committee took into consideration the state of the Library, & finding that Mr Pollard, who had the charge of the Books there belonging to the Accountants Office, is deceased; & that Mr Wylde, who has the care of those of the Transfer Offices, is very ill & unable to attend; they called in Mr Padman of the Bank Post bill book, the other Librarian, who has the charge of the Books belonging to the Hall: he said,

" That he had been 3 or 4 years in this
" Office, & receives £10. a year by way
" of gratuity for his troubles."

He said, " the Books are arranged with
" labels on their backs, denoting their
" dates & contents. That there is no
" catalogue of the Hall books, but believes
" there is one of those of the Accountants
" Office."

He informed the Committee, " that the
" Library is very cold & damp, however
" that the books are not in a perishable
" state, as he apprehends. That there
" will very soon be no convenient
" room for an addition of more books,

useless articles
therein, which
might be destroy'd.

" unless some of the old ones are removed.
" That there is a vast number of files of
" money tickets & other apparently
" useless papers, which he thinks might
" just as well be destroyed as left there,
" as they occupy a great deal of room to no
" purpose."

Mr Edwards,
Deputy Accountant,

Mr Edwards, Deputy Accountant, being
called in, said,

thinks many
useless books in
the Library might
be burnt,

" That he apprehends a great number
" of the books in the Library are entirely
" useless; such as the Appearance books,
" the long Abstracts, & a variety of others,
" which might be safely destroyed:—
" but suggested that, before this should
" be done, it would be proper to appoint
" some Clerks from each Office to inspect
" them, & make a list of such as might
" be burnt."

after an inspection
of them by some of
the Clerks.

He farther stated, " that the Library
" is so cold & damp for the greatest
" part of the year, that the Clerks are
" afraid of continuing there the necessary
" time for doing the business required."

It is too cold &
damp for the Clerks
to do their business
therein.

Adjourn'd to 2. March 1784

Tuesday 2^d. March 1784.

M. Alcock,
principal Door-keeper
to the Court,
examined.

time of service).

the Door-keepers &
House-porters are
in the Chief Cashier's
department.

he keeps the
Appearance books
of the Clerks,

he makes out
the Lists of the
Directors' waitings.

Gratuities.

The Committee called in Matthias Alcock,
principal Door-keeper to the Court, who said,

"That he had been 6 years in the Bank; &
" that he & the other Door-keeper are consider'd
" as in the Chief Cashier's department, as
" well as the 5 House-porters, over whom
" he exercises some little kind of superintendence.

"That he has the charge of keeping the
" Appearance books of the Clerks throughout
" the House, in which, by order, he draws a
" line every day about 10. Minutes after 9,
" to mark the names of those who do not
" come to their time: of those who are not
" present to sign, he sets down the names,
" & marks against them either leave of
" absence or sickness, as the case may be;
" but for this he has no other authority
" than the information given by the Clerks
" themselves."

He farther said, "that he usually makes
" out the Lists for the Directors' waitings,
" which he shews to the Accountant General,
" who has occasionally made alterations in
" them.

"With regard to Gratuities, he said, he
" has had now & then a small present

" from persons making deposits, which
 " some years may have amounted to £3
 " or £4; & some of the Tradesmen of the House
 " now & then give him a Christmas box; he
 " does not recollect any other gratuities
 " received from the Publick."

Tho^s Brand,
 senior House-porter,
 examin'd.

Tho^s Brand, senior House-porter, being call'd
 in, said,

Time of service

the business of
 the House-porters,

" That he had been 32 years in the Bank.

" That the business of the House-porters is,
 " to clean & light the fires of the Offices in
 " the interior part of the House.

" To attend the Treasury, the Vaults, &
 " the Bullion Office.

" To assist in weighing money in the
 " Hall, & put tickets on the bags.

" To carry in & out of the strong the Trucks
 " of Books belonging to the Hall department.

" To collect the duplicates in the Transfer
 " Offices at nights, & to carry them out in
 " the Mail; & in the morning to fetch the
 " Mail, & return it to the 3^d Cent Consol.
 " Office; & to carry such messages as they
 " may be sent on.

their attendance,

" That their attendance at the Bank is
 " from 6 in the morning in summer, &
 " from 7 in the winter, till the Hall
 " balance is over at night, for which at
 " least 2 of them always wait.

" With regard to Gratuities, he said, that the
 " only ones they receive from the Publick, are,
 " the presents given for their trouble in
 " putting down & taking up deposits, for
 " carrying out bags of money, & for
 " weighing Dollars & such things in the
 " Bullion Office: all that is received is ~
 " equally divided among the 5 House-porters
 " daily: "

The Committee's
 observations &
 recommendations
 respecting the
 Library.

The Committee went into the Library with
 Mr Padman, & examined the state of the Books in
 each Story, which they found by no means to be
 in a perishing condition, but the paper very dry;
 They found a great number of files of money
 tickets, of orders for making out Bank Post bills, &
 of other papers of the same kind, which lie about
 the floor & take up a good deal of room.

They took notice that the Windows were all
 shut close, although it was a fine day, & recommended
 to Mr Padman that at all times, when the weather
 is not very damp, the Windows should be set open
 some part of the day.

They afterwards call'd in Tho: Saltwell, the
 Day porter who attends the Library, & directed him
 constantly to attend to the opening of the Windows.

Adjourn'd to 4th. March 1784

Thursday 4th March 1784.

a place order'd
to be prepared in
the Hall, for the
Pay-Clerks & their
Assistants.

The Committee having received directions from the Governor, to order a place under the dial in the Hall to be fitted up for the use of 2 Pay-Clerks with their Assistants, & to have it made sufficiently large to accommodate 3, if so many should be appointed, sent for the Carpenter & gave him a plan, according to what had been approved of by the Governor, with orders to be prepared as soon as possible.

Adjourn'd to 8th March 1784.

Monday 8th March 1784.

The Committee began to frame their sixth Report.

Adjourn'd to 9th March 1784.

Tuesday 9. March 1784.

The Committee proceeded in framing the Report.

Mr Rogers,
Head of the
Discount Office,
directed to use
the New Safe,

& to have the
Keys thereof
properly disposed
of every night.

They gave directions to Mr Rogers, Head of the Discount Office, to make use of the New Safe provided for the Discount Office in the Bill Office, conformable to the Minute of the 18th of Nov: 1783, copy of which they gave him in writing; & farther directed, that the 2 Clerks who remain last in the Office every night do put the Keys, N: 1, into the Iron Chest at the Chief Cashier's house & N: 2, into the Chest at the Chief Accountants, which Chests are prepared with holes to receive the Keys when dropped into them. Adjourn'd to 10. March 1784.

Wednesday 10. March 1784.

The Committee went into the Chief Cashier's Office with the Deputy Governor, & examined the condition of the two small Iron Chests in the outer & inner Office, for keeping the Keys, which they judged very insecure; & the Deputy Governor authorized them to give directions for a New Chest to be made, & divided into 2 parts, to answer the purpose of the 2 small Chests.

A new Chest
directed to be
made for
keeping the
Keys in the
Chief Cashier's
Office.

Adjourn'd to 11. March 1784.

Thursday ^{6th} 11. March 1784.

The Committee gave directions to the Smith to make the Iron Chest, mentioned in the Minutes of yesterday.

Regulations They resolved that the follow^g Regulations for the better conduct of the Servants are proper to be adopted.

for the Transfer-
Offices,

That, in the Transfer Offices, when the articles of unpaid Dividends are taken out upon sheets & cast up, in order to make out the Exchequer account of unpaid Dividends: every Clerk who signs his initials to a wrong addition in the sheets shall forfeit One shilling to the Clerks of the Cheque Office, if the error shall be detected there; & if detected in the Transfer Office, to the particular Clerk detecting the same.

the Door-keepers,

That all the Clerks in whatever department of the House shall be set down by the Door-keeper in the Appearance books as absent who does not appear at the usual time to sign his name: & that no excuse of leave till 10, or of sickness, shall be allowed or set down against the name of an absentee unless certified in writing to the Door-keeper by the Head of the Office to which the Clerk belongs.

of the granting
leave of absence.

That the Chief Cashier & Chief Accountant
or their Deputies do not grant leave of absence to
any Clerk without the consent of the Head of the
Office to which he belongs, expressed personally or
in writing.

Adjourn'd to 17th March 1784

Wednesday 17th March 1784

The Committee agreed to the form of the
Report & directed it to be written out fair.

They also directed an Extract of the Minutes
of the 11th Instant, containing the Resolutions
concerning the Servants, to be made out to be laid
before the Governor.

Adjourn'd to 18th March 1784

Thursday 18th March 1784.

The Committee presented the Copy of the Resolutions to the Governor.

They read over the Report, & signed it, & then presented it to the Governor; which is as follows.

The sixth Report of the Committee appointed to inspect & enquire into the Mode & execution of the Business as now carried on in the different departments of the Bank.

To the Governor, Deputy Governor, &
Committee of Treasury.

Having now finished our enquiries into the Mode & execution of the Business carried on in the different departments of the Bank, & having in our preceding Reports submitted such matters as appeared to us worthy of observation to the Committee of Treasury to be laid before the Court, we conceive that the object of our appointment is, as far as depends on us, accomplished, & that our Commission of course draws towards an end: Before however we finally conclude we shall add a few remarks, which we hope may be found of use, either as applicable to

the general management of the Business of the House, or to some particular matters that in our Opinion deserve very serious attention.

And first with respect to the Clerks, the number of whom most certainly renders them an object of considerable moment; we could wish for an establishment of a better defined system of subordination, throughout the House, than seems actually to exist, so as to form a chain of obedience, from the Juniors towards the Heads of their respective Offices, & from these towards the Chiefs of the two great departments; in order that the Superiors by possessing a more direct & acknowledged controul may in some sort be held accountable for the conduct of those immediately under them. And here we must take notice of a practice that strikes us as a very extraordinary one, which is, that the Chiefs of the two great departments, & the Heads of most of the Offices throughout the Bank, are the first to quit the House, some at a certain hour; & others as soon as their particular part of the business is over; leaving the charge of every thing to the vigilance & honesty of Junior Clerks, (frequently such as are very young in Office), & not considering it as any part of their duty to attend to the

subsequent transactions of the day. This practice, beyond a doubt, must have crept in by degrees, for we deem it impossible that it ever could have received the deliberate approbation of a Court of Directors; & however Time may have sanctified the custom, the reverse of it would have appeared a much more natural regulation: for surely if in any situations of Trust a compleat superintendence is desirable, it must be more immediately necessary where the Trust is of such infinite importance.

(We therefore submit to the consideration of the Court, what has already been touched on in our third Report, whether means may not be found to enable the two Chiefs or their respective Deputies to give a more constant attendance at the Bank, & to exercise a general superintending care untill the business of the day is closed, & the Keys properly disposed of.

(With respect to the admission of Clerks into the service, we hope it will not be deemed improper if we recommend to the Gentlemen in the Direction to pay great attention to the abilities & characters of those they nominate; & at the time of Election, to their performances: for though amongst so great a number it cannot be expected that all shall be equally capable, yet care should be taken not to elect such as are apparently

175

liable to exception. Great regard ought also to be had to the qualifications of those Clerks who may be removed from one department or Office to another. These removals are commonly determined by Seniority, which, though a fair & equitable rule to govern promotion, generally; will not apply in all cases, nor ought it to be resorted to where particular Talents are required.

The usage of admitting Brokers to identify the persons of their Principals, (who transfer Stock & are not known to the Clerks), by signing their names in the Transfer books, is a matter well worthy the very serious consideration of the Court, as some late instances have proved this practice to be most shamefully & dangerously abused. Unless the Brokers become in some shape responsible for the Truth of what they sign, so as to be held liable, in case of loss attending a confidence in their Veracity, we do not see of what use, in point of security, this custom can be. If as the Law stands now they undertake nothing, (& this is a question on which we should wish to have the best legal Opinions), we think a remedy might be found without much difficulty, either by introducing words purporting a special

undertaking on the part of the Brokers, or by procuring a clause in an Act of Parliament, to subject them to responsibility.

In the course of our enquiries, we examined into the state of the Library, where are deposited all or most of the Books used since the institution of the Bank, with all cancelled Bank notes, & heaps of old papers, consisting of files of money tickets, orders for Bank post bills, & the like: As we are of opinion great part of these may be destroyed without any possible injury or inconvenience to the Bank, & that room will be wanted for those Books & papers which it may be thought necessary to preserve, we submit whether it might not be proper to direct a catalogue of the Books & papers now there to be drawn out by some clerks of the different Offices, & then to order such as are apparently of no manner of use, to be burnt; & in future to cause the Books & papers to be arranged in regular order, marked with their contents & dates, & the catalogue of them kept up, so as that immediate reference may be had to any of them when required.

As the best Regulations for the conduct of Men are found by length of time to lose their spring & effect, when the eye of vigilance & an

immediate superintending care are removed, & as we know how impossible it is for the Committee of Treasury, from their various & important avocations in the business of the Bank, to be directly attentive to the conduct of the Clerks on every occasion, we submit whether it might not be attended with very good effects, if a Committee were appointed from the rest of the Direction, for that special purpose, to sit as often as might be judged convenient, to visit & examine the different Offices from time to time, to hear complaints in the first instance, in short, to see that the Business of the Bank, as far as regarded the Servants or Clerks, were properly conducted, & to make their Reports to the Committee of Treasury. We cannot but think that the establishment of such a Committee, & a proper degree of attention in the Gentlemen composing it, would answer many good purposes.

Our Minute books containing the detail of all our Proceedings & particularly the examinations of the principal Clerks in the different Offices may possibly hereafter be found of some use, it may therefore be adviseable to preserve them: & here we take occasion to recommend to your favour our Secretary, M^r. Aslett, who has been very diligent in his Duty & in his attendance

on us, thinking him entitled to a compensation for the extraordinary trouble we have given him.

We beg leave to express our acknowledgements to the Gentlemen of the Committee of Treasury for the attention we have experienced from them, & to the Court in general for the candour with which our Reports have been received. If we could have rendered these more complete, it would have afforded us the highest satisfaction: & for having extended them so far, we trust the greatness & variety of the Objects to which our Enquiries have been directed will be thought a sufficient excuse.

When we contemplate the immense importance of the Bank of England not only to the City of London, in points highly essential to the promotion & extension of its Commerce, but to the Nation at large, as the grand Palladium of Publick Credit, we cannot but be thoroughly persuaded that an Object so great in itself & so interesting to all Ranks of the Community, must necessarily excite care & solicitude in every breast, for the wise administration of its Affairs, but principally & directly in those who

are entrusted with the immediate management of them: We deem it therefore superfluous to say a single word to the Court with a view of inculcating a religious Veneration for the glorious fabrick, or of recommending a steady and unremitting attention to its sacred Preservation

(Signed)

S. Bosanquet.

(Bank of England

Thomas Dea.

^{tho} 18 March 1784.

Benj: Winthrop

Adjourn'd to 19. March 1784

- N^o. 11 Duplicate of Discount Repository in the Bill Office. (N^o. 1)
 12 - - - - - of - - - - - (N^o. 2).

The two following parcels, containing the Keys of an Iron Chest which is to be changed for a new one, were not numbered but a cross put on each to indicate that these keys are to be taken away when the new Chest shall be finished.

Two duplicates of In-Teller's key of small Iron Chest in Chief Cashier's outer Office.

Two duplicates of Cashier's key of - - - - -

Adjourn'd to 6th April 1784.

Tuesday 6th April 1784.

The Committee opened the parcel of Keys in the Safe in the Committee room, marked N^o. 6, & took therefrom one of the In-Tellers Keys, which they delivered to M^r. Newland, on account of one of the keys in use being broken: leaving only,

One duplicate of Cashier's & one duplicate of (In-Tellers' keys in said parcel.

They also deposited the following keys

- N^o. 13 Duplicate of the key of the store in the Warehouse (or Treasury N^o. 1.
 14 Duplicate of - - - - - N^o. 2).

Wednesday 13th Oct^r 1784.

By direction of the Deputy Governor, the following parcels of Keys were deposited in the Iron Safe in the Committee room.

- N^o 15 Duplicate of Cashiers key & duplicate of Im-Tellers key of the division of the Iron Chest in M^r Newland's outer Office, under 2 Locks.
 .N.B. One of each of these keys remain out for use.
- 16 Duplicate key of the division of the Iron Chest in M^r Newland's outer Office, under one lock; & duplicate of the padlock key belonging to it.
 .N.B. One of each of these keys are allways in the custody of the Chief Cashier or his deputy.

The Duplicate key of the Chancery Safe, being in an open paper, was sealed up, numbered, & labelled as follows.

- N^o 17 Duplicate key of the Chancery Safe.

The two parcels of Keys deposited the 19th March 1784, & marked with a cross, — being duplicates of the Cashiers & Im-Tellers keys of a small Iron Chest in M^r Newland's outer Office, — were delivered out as useless: the said Chest having been exchanged for a new one, of which the duplicate Keys are this day deposited.

Wednesday Nov: 18. 1789

Two new Keys to the great ~~Iron~~ Stone Safe
having been made instead of the old one which
was broke - the broken one was destroyed, one of
the new ones was left with Mr. Edwards for use
and the other numbered as follows, was deposited
N^o. 18 Duplicate Key of the ^{with the rest}
Stone Safe in the Vestibule for the Books -

Tuesday March 16. 1790

The Key N^o. 18 was taken out and delivered to Mr.
Edwards to lay with him sealed up & to be used only
in case of accident to the other Key. -

