

and that Sir Richard be desired to request leave to add the names of the following Witnesses proposed to be called.

John Hutchinson Lord Sheffield

Henry Watson Successor

Master of the Triton

Harris Passengers in it
at Sir John's Plymouth Dock.
Pilot's Brig

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants, for conducting the Charges against Commodore Norman, January 2nd 1796.

Mr Sewell

Mr Medderburn

Mr Webster

Mr Milligan

Mr George Hibbert

Resolved,

That in order to bring home by evidence, the Charges exhibited against Captain James Norman, it is proper that the Solicitor, Mr Shawe, should summon immediately such Witnesses as he may think will be necessary for that purpose, assuring each of them on the Authority of this Committee, that their expences upon that occasion shall be defrayed out of the Fund of the West India Trade, and also intimating that such as shall fail to obey with punctuality the Summons, will be considered by the whole Body of West India Merchants,

as

70
as having neglected a most essential Point of Duty.

That Mr Allen be requested to convey the above Resolution to Mr Shawe, instructing him to convey the same to each of the Witnesses summoned and to request their Answer.

A Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants for conducting the Charges against Captain Norman, held at Mr George Hibberts, Mincing Lane, 5 February 1796

Present

Mr Hibbert

Mr Hedderburn

Mr Milligan

Mr Shawe (Solicitor),

Resolved,

That as Captain Norman is at length arrived at Portsmouth, with his Witnesses, it is expedient to apply to the Lords of Admiralty, and to request that a very early Day may be appointed for the proposed Court Martial, as the material witnesses against Captain Norman, will most probably depart upon the first Change of Wind

That Mr Shawe, Solicitor to the West India Merchants, in the business be requested to wait upon Mr Nepean with the above Resolution, and to receive the determination of their Lordships thereupon.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at
the Marine Society's Office, London 8th March 1796.

Present

Sir Richard Neave Bart. in the Chair

Mr. G. Hibbert	Mr. Beeston Long
Mr. Sewell	Mr. Grant Allan
Mr. Lyon	Mr. Neave
Mr. Wedderburn	Mr. Helster
Mr. Deffell	Mr. G. Douglas
Mr. Plummer	Mr. Milligan
Mr. Boddington	Mr. Boddington
Mr. Aislavie	Mr. Hunt
Mr. Turner	

The following Report from the Committee
appointed to conduct the proceedings against Captain James
Norman, was read.

Mr. Sewell acquainted the Committee
" that having received Notice, that a Court Martial
" was ordered to be held on board His Majesty's
" Ship, Prince George, in Portsmouth Harbour, on
" Monday the 8th day of February last, for the
" Trial of Captain James Norman, Commander
" of His Majesty's Ship Medusa, for Neglect &
" Misconduct towards the Fleet which sailed
" from Jamaica, in the Month of July last
" under his Command; he had proceeded to Portsmouth,
" and had there, as Agent for the Island of
" Jamaica

"Jamaica, and also on behalf of the Merchants, and
 "Others interested in the West India Trade, conducted
 "the Prosecution against the said Captain Norman.
 "That the Trial commenced on Tuesday the 9th day
 "of February, and ended on Monday the 29th day
 "of the same Month, when Captain Norman was
 "by the Court Adjudged to be Reprimanded
 "and to be continued on Half Pay for the
 "remainder of his Life.

"Mr Sewell laid before the Committee
 "a Copy of the Sentence, which is as follows, viz

"At a Court Martial assembled
 "on board His Majesty's Ship Prince
 "George, in Portsmouth Harbour, on the
 "ninth day of February, and continued
 "by adjournment from Day to Day
 "(Sundays excepted) until the twenty
 "ninth day of February, one thousand
 "seven Hundred and Ninety Six.

"Present
 "Sir Roger Curtis Bart. Rear Admiral of the
 "Red, and Second Officer in Command of His
 "Majesty's Ships, and Vessels at Portsmouth, and
 "Spithead. President.

Rear Admiral Richard Rodney Bligh	Captain Charles Edmund Nugent
Captain John Thomas	Sir Richard Dickerton Bart
Robert Montagu	Edward Thornbrough
Sir James Saumarez	
	Pursuant

73

Pursuant to Order from the Right Honourable
" Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, dated the
" fifth day of February Instant, and directed to the
" President setting forth, That Sir Richard Neave,
" Chairman of the Committee of West India Merchants,
" had by desire of a Meeting of the said Merchants,
" transmitted to their Lordships a Report made
" by the said Committee on the 9th of December last,
" inclosing a brief State of Facts, respecting the
" Conduct of Captain James Norman, Commander
" of His Majesty's Ship Medusa, to the Fleet which
" sailed from Jamaica under his Convoy, and
" that of the Triton Frigate, on the twenty sixth
" of July last, collected from and signed by the
" Commanders of several Merchant Ships who
" sailed in the said Fleet, in which Statement it is
" represented, that from the Misconduct of the said
" Captain in the Instances therein described, and
" his neglecting to shorten Sail, in order to afford
" every opportunity for the Sternmost Ships of the
" Fleet, to get up with him, many of the Ships of
" the said Fleet were left the greatest part of the
" Voyage entirely without his protection, and
" several of them (to the number of sixteen Ships)
" were in consequence thereof captured by the Enemy.
" The Court proceeded to enquire into the Conduct
" of the said Captain James Norman upon the
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" several Charges of Misconduct and Neglect
 " towards the Fleet under his Command, as exhibited
 " against him, in the Statement of Facts above
 " alluded to, and to try him for the same accordingly
 " and having heard the Evidence produced in support
 " of the Charges, and by the said Captain James
 " Norman in his Defence, and what he had to
 " alledge in support thereof, and having maturely
 " and deliberately weighed and considered the
 " whole. - The Court is of Opinion that the
 " Charges have been in part proved against the
 " said Captain James Norman, but in conside-
 " -ration of the want of Obedience to Signals
 " and other Circumstances attending the Voyage,
 " doth Adjudge him only to be Reprimanded,
 " and to be continued on half Pay for the
 " Remainder of his Life - And the said
 " Captain James Norman is hereby Reprimanded
 " and ordered to be continued on half Pay
 " for the Remainder of his Life accordingly."

" Roger Curtis "

" R. R. Bligh "

" E. Nugent "

" John Thomas "

" R. Bickerton "

" Adm^l Montagu "

" Edw^d Threlbrough "

" James Saumarez "

" Mr Greenham Junr. "
 " Jud^l Adv^o for the time being "

" a Copy M^d J^o "

75

"Mr Sewell having further represented to the
Committee, that certain insinuations had been made
" by Captain Norman in the course of the Trial,
" intimating that the Testimony of Captain Parker
" Commander of His Majesty's Ship Triton, who
" was examined on the part of the prosecution,
" was given under the impression of Presents
" supposed to have been made him by the West
" India Merchants. "

Resolved, That the Committee disdaining
to notice an attack, so highly detractive
of the integrity of Captain Parker, and
of the reputation of the whole Body of
West India Merchants, further than to
acknowledge, in the most unequivocal
terms, the justice of Captain Parker's
positive confutation of all manner of
pretext for so unfounded and scandalous
an allusion.

That the Committee observes
with Concern in the Sentence of the Court Martial,
a general Charge against the Captains of Merchant
Vessels for disobedience of Signals. That such
Disobedience will at all times incur not only the
punishment to which by Law it is subject, but
also the utmost Discouragement on the part of the
Committee.

The Meeting afterwards adopted the following Resolutions

the Destination to Madeira was altered, as it did not appear that any Ships intended to touch there.

Mr Beeston Long likewise acquainted the Meeting, that the following application had been made to Mr Pitt relative to the Bill for regulating the Average Price of Sugar.

That as the present Bill for regulating the Average price of Sugar, is only during the Continuance of the War. it is requested that it may be continued at least for one Year certain, and the ensuing Sessions of Parliament, and that the next periods for taking the Average may be the 23^d of October next, & the 23^d of February, & 23^d of August, & 23^d October following

23^d April 1796.

Mr Beeston Long having reported that upon hearing that the Fleet which sailed from Jamaica in January last, had been dispersed by a Gale of Wind off the Banks of Newfoundland, he had immediately made Application to the Board of Admiralty, requesting that Cruizers might be so stationed as to protect them in our own Seas, from the Enemies Privateers.

Resolved,

That the Chairman be requested to express to the Lords of the Admiralty, the Satisfaction with which

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which this Meeting observed that the Object of 79
the Application abovementioned has been so effectually
obtained, by a judicious Disposition of Naval Forces,
in, and near the British Channel, that not One
of the separated Vessels has been carried into any
of the Enemy's Ports, altho' two of the Ships had
been captured by the Enemy's Cruisers, which
were afterwards recaptured and brought into
our Ports.

The Secretary informed the Meeting of
the Death of Samuel Allen employ'd in the
Service of the West India Merchants as Deputy
Constable.

Ordered,

That Thomas Hunter Constable do
employ William Wells as an Assistant, until the
Vacancy be filled, and that he be desired to
attend at the next Meeting.

Ordered,

That Thomas Hunter Constable
Bill for Prosecutions and Wages to 31st January
last be paid, amounting to £39-17-u, and
likewise his Bill to this Day amounting to £34-18-

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office October 18. 1796

Present

Brester Long Esq^r in the Chair

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Mr. Bosanquet | Mr. DeFell |
| Mr. Turner | Mr. Lyon |
| Mr. Allan | Mr. Heister |
| Mr. Adam | Mr. Wedderburn |
| Mr. Boddington | Mr. Vaughan |
| Mr. Manning | Mr. Milligan |
| Mr. Oliver | Mr. Mitchell |
| Mr. Long | Mr. Hunt |
| Mr. Heibert | |

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Treasurer Samuel Long Esq^r laid his Accounts before the Meeting by which there appeared a Balance in his Hands of £139 13. 9

Resolved,

That Twenty Guineas be given to the Marine Society for the Use of the Committee Room, and Three Guineas to Mr Newby, Secretary, & Two Guineas to Mr Walker, Messenger.

Mr James Dixon attended by desire of the Wharfingers of the Legal Quays to request that Application may be made for permission to ship
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Free Goods from the Legal Quays on a Holiday.

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Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to consider of the above Application, and likewise any further remedy, in the present Inconveniences of Shipping and landing Goods at the Legal Quays.

That the Committee consist of

Sir Richard Seave Bart

Mr Picston Long

Mr Manning

Mr G. Hilbert

Mr Boddington

Mr H. Vaughan

Mr Mulligan

Mr Duffell

Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to wait upon the Lord Mayor and to acquaint his Lordships that the Soldiers frequenting the Legal Quays are represented upon good Authority to this Meeting as not only generally much addicted to Pilferage, but as having in several Instances impeded the Civil Officers in the execution of their Duty, - And to confer with his Lordships upon the best means of applying a speedy remedy to an evil of so great consequence to the West India Trade.

Resolved, That the Thanks of this Meeting be transmitted to Captain Lewis of His Majesty's Ship Minotaur, and to Captain Mackenzie of His Majesty's Ship the Shearwep for their great Care and Attention to the protection

Protection of the Fleet from the Leeward Islands
whereby this valuable Convoy was brought home without
any Loss, and that the same be conveyed to them in a
Letter from the Chairmans.

Resolved, That the Thanks of this Meeting be
transmitted to Captain Roddam Stone of His Majesty's
Ship Africa for his great Attention to the Convoy which
sailed under his Command from Jamaica in June last,
also to Captain F Gardner and J Douglas of His Majesty's
Ship Iphigenia and Scorpion Scho'r for their Assiduity
and Attention in the Preservation and Protection of that
Convoy, and that the same be conveyed to them in a
Letter from the Chairmans.

Resolved, That Mr Beaton Long be requested to wait
upon the Commissioners of Excise and to represent to them
that the increasing Impediments which occur in the River
Thames to the Discharge of Shipping at the Legal Quays
will render the seizures of Coffee and Rum frequent, without
any Party concerned in the discharge of the Ships being justly
liable to Censure on that account and that it therefore
appears reasonable that Petitions presented to the Commissioners
of Excise for the release of Goods seized on that Account should
be immediately taken into Consideration, and meet with
a favorable hearing and expeditious Answer - To represent
that several petitions upon this Ground have been rejected,

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the cause of which the Petitioners cannot learn, and to request from the Commissioners such a communication as may when made known to the Trade facilitate the Release of Goods which have been seized for not being landed in time arising to the impediments above stated.

Resolved, That Sir Richard. Keave and. Mr Preston Long be desired to make application to the Lords of the Admiralty and to request that a Convoy may be appointed to sail from Portsmouth for the West Indies the 20th November waiting 24 Hours after the Wind becomes fair for the Ships from the Downs; and that another Convoy be appointed to sail on the 20th December from Portsmouth for the West Indies waiting in like manner for the Ships from the Downs; that it be understood that it is the Wish of this Meeting that these times of departure should be strictly observed and that it is essential that the Jamaica Ships which may take advantage of either Convoy but particularly of the second may sail under a protection which is to convey them directly and without delay to that Island.

That a Convoy from Cork for the West Indies may be ready to depart about the 20th January from Cork.

The following Letter from Evan Nepean Esq^r to Preston Long Esq^r was laid before the Meeting

Admiralty Office
17 October 1796.

Application having this Day been made
by

Portsmouth
Convoy
to be sent from Portsmouth by January 19th
that Convoy is sent about 20th Dec 1796

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by the Chairman of the West India Merchants
 of Bristol for Convoys for the Trade bound to
 the Leeward Islands and Jamaica which may
 be assembled at Cork on the 25th of next Month
 I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners
 of the Admiralty to acquaint you therewith,
 and that it is their intention to provide a
 Convoy accordingly I am Sir
 Your very Obedt^{serv}
 (Signed) Evan Nepean,

A Letter from Mr Crouther Solicitor of which the
 following copy was read.

Deposition of Thomas Richardson
 The enclosed case is one the
 16 October 1796 having obtained a search warrant
 on suspicion of coiners, instead of which found John
 otherwise Andrew Pity a German
 residing in 21 Langens Lane & of which
 were very large quantities of
 dated in April last & not having a warrant to search
 remarking that the Shutter is kept close Night and Day
 his address is 77 Green Dragon Alley near Crane Street
 books by himself signed to be a for Thomas Richardson
 further states -

intended Bill is calculated to reach -
Under the existing Law the Magistrate
could not take cognizance of this.

I am Sir
 Signed T. H. Crouther

Resolved,

That the said Letter be referred to
 the Committee above mentioned

A Letter from Thomas Hunter the
 constable was read to be taken into Consideration next
 Meeting

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At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants, ^{B5}
held at the Merchant Steamers Office, October 21. 1796.

Present

Beeston Long Esq in the Chair,

Mr. Beddington

Mr. Mannino

Mr. Milligan

Mr Long was desired to write a Letter to Mr. Lawrence, relative to a farther quantity of Corn required to be exported.

Mr Crowther attended the Meeting and it was agreed to state to him the Objections to the Increase of Rates, proposed by the Tackle Porters.

A Petition from George Forrester, Edward Rogers, and Joseph Haines for a Gratuity for their trouble, and attendance at the Old Bailey, on the Conviction of Michael Thiel, and apprehension of Isaac Moses, was recommended to the consideration of this Committee, by Mr Crowther the Solicitor.

Resolved, That Five Guineas be given them for their Attendance, and that Messrs Crowther & Seal be desired to pay the same.

A Letter from Messrs Muilman relative to some Stores embarked from the Duke of Scotland being read

That the Owners of the Ship should prosecute the Parties concerned in case they can substantiate the Facts, but this Meeting cannot interfere.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at
the Marine Society's Hall, October 28th 1796

Present

Duston Long Esq. in the Chair

Mr Adam

Mr Webster

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Boddington

Mr Allan

Mr Vaughan

Mr Davidson The Minutes of the two former Meetings
were read, and confirmed.

(Curtis) Mr Duston Long reported that he had
waited upon the Lord Mayor, with the Resolutions of the last
Meeting, relative to the Interruption of the Civil Officers in
their Duty upon the Legal Quays by the Soldiers, when his
Lordship had assured him, that proper Steps had already
been taken to remedy the Evil complained of, and that his
Lordship intended to make a Representation of the
Circumstances to the Duke of York, and to request that the
Soldiers might not be allowed to frequent the Quays unless
they were actually engaged to serve there.

Mr Long acquainted the Meeting that he
had transmitted the Letters of Thanks of the Meeting to the
Captains of His Majesty's Ships, with the first Convoy from
Jamaica, and the Leeward Islands, and that he had received
the following answers -

Admiralty Office
October 20 1796

To Duston Long Esq. Sir,

I have received your Billet
of

The West

87
"Yesterday's date, transmitting Letters addressed to the
"several Captains of His Majesty's Ships therein mentioned,
"conveying the Thanks of the West India Merchants for
"their great Attention to the Convoys which have sailed
"under their protection from Jamaica, and the Leeward
"Islands; And I am to acquaint you that I have forwarded
"the said Letters, and that my Lords Commissioners of the
"Admiralty have great Satisfaction in receiving so strong
"a Testimony of the good Conduct of those Officers in the
"execution of the Service, on which they have been Employed.

I am Sir Your
(Signed) Evan Nepean,

Minotaur Harbour October 2. 1796

Gentlemen,

"I cannot but feel myself highly gratified by the
"handsome manner in which you have communicated to me
"your Approbation of my Conduct in the Attention paid to
"the Convoy under the protection of the Minotaur, and
"Sheerness; tho' I can arrogate no merit to myself in
"having barely performed my Duty, yet it is a circumstance
"of great pleasure to me that my Endeavours were successful
"that I have been considered as having done a Service
"which entitles me to the Thanks of so respectable a
"Body, will always be flattering to Gentlemen

Your most Obedt
servant
(Signed) Tho' Louis

The West India Merchants.

Mr. Beeston Long received the following Answer
from Mr. Nepean, that the Convoys applied for in the
Months of November, and December from Portsmouth, and
in January from Cork, should be ready.

Admiralty Office

20th October 1796

To Beeston Long Esq^r

Sir

Having laid before my Lords Commissioners
of the Admiralty, your Letter to me, of Yesterday's date,
enclosing by desire of the West India Merchants, an
Extract from the Minutes of their Meeting, and desiring
that you may be acquainted whether the times thereon
pointed out, for the sailing of the Convoys for the West
Indies, meet the Concurrence of their Lordships, I
have their Commands to acquaint you, for the
information of the Merchants concerned, that Convoys
will be appointed to sail at the times proposed in
the said Minute.

I am Sir,

Your most obed^t
humble Serv^t

Signed, Evan Nepean

Mr. Beeston Long likewise reported that he
had transmitted to the Commissioners of Excise,
the Minutes of the last Meeting relative to the
Seizures of Coffee, and Mr. George Hilbert and himself
had attended the Commissioners and after a long
explanation of the manner in which decisions
are made upon Applications to the Board of
Excise.

89

Excise for redress from Seizures, it appeared that in case any difficulty of a general Nature, should arise to impede the landing of Coffee, and Rum, within the time limited by the Excise Laws, it would be necessary to make an Application to the Lords of the Treasury for Relief from Seizures.

A Letter from Mr Crowther, being read as follows.

The Committee appointed by the Court of Common Council to prepare a Bill for the better Regulation of the Tackle, and Ticket Papers, have directed me to transmit to you for the Information of the Committee of West India Merchants, a Table of the Rates now payable distinguishing the Articles in which an Increase is proposed to be made.

And I am further directed to state that they will meet at Guildhall, on Wednesday the 2^d November 1796 at 11 o'clock, to receive any Information or Objection that the West India Merchants may have to offer in respect of the proposed alterations.

"Guildhall"
15 October 1796.
Resolved,

Sam^l Crowther
Signed P^r W Crowther

That the Chairman be requested to transmit to Mr Crowther, a Copy of the Increase of the Rates made by the West India Merchants the 20th December 1793, on an Application from the Posters called Jangson, and to acquaint him, that it appears to this Meeting that the Charges already imposed on the Articles the Produce of

of the Sugar Colonies, at the Port of London, are already so excessive, as to give a decided Preference to the Outports.

Mr. Preston Long acquainted the Meeting, that he had seen Mr. Hume Secretary of the Customs, relative to the Application from the Wharfingers for leave to ship free Goods on a Holiday, and he understood that upon Petition, to the Commissioners the Officers were allowed to attend.

Mr. Long likewise informed the Meeting, that as the Corn allowed to be exported to the West Indies, before the end of November, had been entered out, he made Application to the Lords of Council for Trade, for the following Quantities to be granted in addition,

	Quarters		Quarters
Barley	500	Rye	20
Peas	3000	Wheat	50
Oats	4000	Wheat Flour	100 Tons
Oatmeal	Tons 50	Biscuit	20
Peas	500	Crocks	4

Which he understood would be complied with.

A Letter from Mr. Southey Solicitor, being read relative to an Alteration of the Bury Port Act.

Resolved,

That the Chairman, Mr. Manning, Mr. Hibbert, Mr. Vaughan, Mr. Lushington, Mr. Davidson & Mr. ~~Clark~~ ^{Dr. Duffell} be a Committee to consider the same.

Mr. S. P. ~~Paranquet~~ ^{Paranquet}

Mr. J. ~~Richard~~ ^{Richard} ~~Neave~~ ^{Neave} ~~Dart~~ ^{Dart}

The Draft of a Bill to Parliament for preventing the desertion of Seamen from Merchant Ships being laid before the Meeting, Resolved,

Resolved, That it be referred to the Consideration of
the above Committee, and that Mr Milligan be added ⁹¹

A Petition from Thomas Hunter the
Constable, praying for an Increase of Wages being read, &
stated in Consideration.

Resolved, That Thomas Hunter be allowed an addition
to his Wages of Five pounds, Ten Shillings per Annum,
from the Expiration of last Quarter, which commences in
this Month being in the whole Thirty Guineas per Annum.

Mr Allen the Secretary informed the
Meeting that he had paid Thomas Dawson, a Gratiuity of Two
Guineas, for detecting Two Soldiers carrying Cotton to the
Dwelling House, of John Smith, No 1 Princes Place, Back Lane,
St. Georges, who was apprehended on suspicion of receiving the said
Cotton as stolen, and examined before Doctor Reynolds. Released
on the Appearance of Richard Perkins Gangster, & Mr Henry
Collier Clerk both of Wiggins Quay, they proving Smith
having purchased said Cotton of Richard Perkins.

Ordered, That Forty Shillings be paid to ^{two} Men and the
same Sum between George Smiley ^{and} Bray Thomas Doggerell and Joshua
Bray as a Reward for the former detecting David Sanders and
Williams Phillips stealing 48 lbs Sugar out of a Lighter
at Wiggins Quay from the Simon Taylor, & the last four named
persons for their assistance & Conviction of the Two Men

A Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at
the Marine Society's Office November 8. 1796

Present

Breton Long Esq^r in the Chair

Mr. Milligan

Mr. J. W. Adam

Mr. Vaughan

Mr. G. Allan

Mr. Weddellburn Jun^r

Mr. Roddington

Mr. Manning

Mr. Breton Long informed the Meeting,
that a Deputation of the Commanders of the Jamaica
Ships had waited upon him, with a Resolution from that
Body, requesting that this Meeting would take into
consideration what effectual measures might be adopted
to prevent the exactions of Seamen for their Run Money
and desertion from Merchant Ships in the West Indies

Resolved,

That Mr. Breton Long and Mr. Manning
be requested to wait upon Mr. Peperan, and to confer
with him on the Means of preventing the desertion
of Seamen from His Majesty's Navy and likewise
from the Merchant Ships in the West Indies, and to
put an end if possible to the exaction of Seamen of the
enormous Sums that are paid for the Run home.

A Letter from Messrs. Crowther
and Peale, to Breton Long Esq^r enclosing the Contents
of

of the proposed Bill for the better protection of Property
in the Port of London being read

Resolved, That Mr Beeston Long, and Mr Manning
be requested to consult with Mr Crowther on the most effectual
means of carrying the proposed Bill into Execution

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at the
Grain Society's Office, November, 15, 1796.

Beeston Long Esq. in the Chair.

Mr Allan

Mr Milligan

Mr Turner

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Wedderburn Junr

Mr Davidson

Mr Hunt

Mr Plummer

Mr Ingram

Mr Doddington

Mr Goulard

The Minutes of the last Meeting were
read, and confirmed.

Mr Beeston Long reported that himself
with Mr Manning had in consequence of the Resolution
of the last Meeting, waited upon Mr Nepean at the
Admiralty, and had a Conference with him on the Means
of preventing the desertion of Seamen from the
Merchant Ships in the West Indies, and the enormous
Sums paid for the Run home. Mr Nepean acquainted
them that the Lords of the Admiralty were perfectly aware
of this great Evil, and would be ready to cooperate with the
Merchants in any Plan that may be thought advisable
to prevent it in future.

Several Papers from the Captains of the
 and Leeward Islands, being submitted to the
 of this Meeting.

Resolved, That the said Papers be referred to the
 Consideration of the Committee appointed on the 28th
 October.

The following Letter from Mr Hume
 Secretary of the Customs, in Answer to the Resolution of
 this Meeting dated 28 October last, being read

Mr Hume presents his Compliments to
 Mr Long, and has to acquaint him, that having made
 every enquiry in his power, he cannot learn, that a practice
 ever did prevail with the Searchers, of attending to ship
 free Goods on Holidays, without the permission of the
 Commissioners; but that, when it has been necessary
 for the Merchant to ship his Goods on those Days,
 whether free or otherwise, it always has been usual
 and still is so, to make Application to the Commissioners
 for the Searchers to attend, and which is uniformly
 granted.

A Letter signed by the Commanders
 of the Jamaica, and Leeward Islands soliciting an
 Increase of Freight Outwards, being read

Resolved, That the Rates of Freight remain as
 at present.

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India ⁹⁵
Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office, November
29th 1796

Present
Beeston Long Esq^r in the Chair,
Mr Turner
Mr Posanquet
Mr Roddington
Mr Milligan
Mr Vaughan

Several papers sent from the Committee
at the Jamaica Coffee House, and likewise from the Captains
of Merchant Ships, recommending several New Regulations
to prevent the enormous Sums paid to Seamen for the Rum,
were laid before the Committee

Resolved, That the Heads of these Papers be sent to
each Member of the Committee, and to request their Sentiments
on the Subject.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants
held at the Marine Society's Office, December 13.
1796

Present
Mr Adam
Mr Manning
Mr Douglas
Mr Sumner
Mr Lyon
Mr Willcock
Mr Cowland
Mr Posanquet
Mr Rucker
Mr Oliver
Mr S. Oliver
Mr G. Douglas
Mr Milligan
Mr Aislavie

The Minutes of the last Meeting
were

were read and confirmed

Resolved,

That the Chairman (Sir Richard Meave, and Mr Deeston Long) Mr Manning and Mr George Hibbert be requested to wait upon Mr Pitt to state to him that unless a proportionate Drawback and Bounty upon Raw and Refined Sugar is granted upon the Export of that Article in consequence of the additional Duty proposed to be laid on Sugar they are convinced that the whole Burthen will fall upon the West India Planters instead of the Consumer, and that they be requested at the same time to represent that the proposed Alteration in the Drawback of Coffee will materially affect the Interest of the Planters who have lately very much increased the Culture of that Article

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Captain Albany Otway of His Majesty's Ship Powerful for his great Care and Attention to the Fleet that sailed under his Convoy from Jamaica in May 1794 and that the same be conveyed to him by the Chairman and that the Chairman be requested to express the Concern of this Meeting, that Captain Otway's attentive Services on that Occasion had not before been taken Notice of

Resolved, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Captain Mr Dewall of His Majesty's Ship for the great Attention which he paid to the Convoy

97

that sailed under his Protection from the Leeward Islands
and that the same be conveyed to him in a Letter from
the Chairman.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants
held at the Marine Society's Office, January 10. 1797.

Present

Beeston Long Esq. in the Chair,

Mr Allan

Mr Hibbert

Mr Milligan

Mr Yount

Mr Lyon

Mr Sumner

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Maitland

Mr Jackson

The Minutes of the last Meeting
were read, and confirmed

Mr Beeston Long Reported that
agreeably to the Resolution of the last Meeting, Mr Manning,
Mr George Hibbert and himself had waited on Mr Pitt, and
represented to him, the necessity of accompanying the New Duty
on Sugar, by a proportionate Drawback, and Bounty, and
also stated that the Article of Coffee was becoming of increasing
Importance in the British Islands, and that the Removal of
the present Drawback on that Article, would act as a Discourage-
ment to its Growth in our Colonies; when the Chancellor of the
Exchequer declared to them his intention of proposing that the
additional Duty should be wholly drawn back on the
Exportation of Raw Sugar, and that a Bounty upon Refined
Sugar

Sugar, proportionate to that fixed at 26^½ when the Duty was 15^½ should be allowed upon all Sugar, refined from the Raw Commodity, which had paid the New Duty.

Respecting Coffee, Mr Pitt attended to the Representation made to him of the beneficial Effect which its increasing Cultivation had produced in the Islands, and said that he would consider the Subject further before he proposed that the present Duty of Customs on it, should cease to be drawn back on Exports.

The following Letter from Captain William Albany Otway was read, addressed to Preston Long Esq^r.

Transport Office

5 January 1797.

Sir,

"On my Return to Town Yesterday I was honored with your Letter of the 14th Ult^o. conveying me the Thanks of the West India Merchants, for my Care and Attention of the Fleet, that sailed from Jamaica in May 1794, under Convoy of His Majesty's Ship Powerful which I then commanded.

"In Answer to which I request you will be pleased to inform the West India Merchants that I am much flattered that the manner in which I executed the very important Duty entrusted to me, should be approved of by such a very respectable body, and I beg leave to offer you my sincere thanks, the very polite manner in which you have communicated this information.

I have the Honor to be
 In your most obed^t
 humble serv^t
 (Signed) W^m Albany Otway

Sailed 16 February 1797 under
 Convoy of the James
 Tartar

Resolved,

That Twenty five Guineas be presented as a Subscription from this Committee to the Committee for American Captures, and that the Secretary pay the same at the Bar of Lloyds Coffe Houses.

An Application from Mr Isaacs, of Revis Marks, St. Mary Axe, demanding Rewards for Conviction of Plunderers of Sugar, agreeably to the Resolution of the Sub Committee of 19th September last.

Resolved,

That the Letter of Mr Isaacs be referred to the Solicitors of the said Committee Messrs Crowther, and Peale.

That Mr. Plummer be requested to inform Messrs Crowther, and Peale that this Committee wishes to decline the continuance of the Rewards on Conviction of Plunderers of Sugar offered on the 19th September last, and that Messrs Crowther & Peale be instructed to give any Notice thereof which they may think requisite

Resolved,

That as a considerable Number of Ships are ready and now on their Way to Portsmouth, or loaded with Plantation Stores for the West Indies, Sir Richard Neave, and Mr Beeston Long be requested to make application to the Lords of the Admiralty, and to desire that a Convoy for the West Indies, may be ready at Portsmouth, on the 31st Instant to depart positively the first fair Wind within 24 Hours, for the Ships from the Downs, and that the said Convoy may contain a force which may conduct the Jamaica Trade directly, and without delay to that Island.

Convoy of the Jamaica
Tartars

A Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants
relative to Seamen's Wages, held at the Marine Society's
Office January 20th 1797

Present

Deeston Long Esq. in the Chair

Mr. Duffell

Mr. Davidson

Mr. Lushington

Mr. J. Turner

Mr. Milligan

The following Clauses were agreed to be
recommended to be inserted in a Bill to prevent the
desertion of Seamen, and the enormous Sums paid for the
Run home

1st Every Seaman who deserts a Ship, and
enters on board another by the Rear, to forfeit not only
the Wages due to him from the Ship he deserts from,
but also the Wages he may become entitled to, on board
the Ship he enters into. The same to be paid to the Owners
of the Ship he deserts from.

Every Master of a Ship who hires a
Seaman knowing him to have deserted from another
Merchant Ship to forfeit £50—

3 Masters of Ships to deliver on their
Arrival to the collector of the respective Ports an
exact List of the Crew, and likewise afterwards a List
and description of the Seamen who have deserted

4 The Governors of the Plantations or
the chief Magistrate of the District, to have
power

power from time to time to fix the Amount of Seamen's ¹⁰⁰
Wages by the Voyage, or Run, or 4 Months from the Colonies
to any Port, or Place allowing a Sum not exceeding
double Current Wages given by the last Fleet from Great
Britain, and every Obligation or Engagement for a
larger Sum to be void.

5 That every Ship shall be obliged to take One
Apprentice for every 100 Tons Measurement, the same
to be exempted from being impressed as in their Service,
and the Indentures to be enrolled.

That the Articles be revised and a
new Form adopted in which every Seaman shall
be obliged to perform the Voyage out and Home
under a Penalty of £20 - or Imprisonment for
One or three Months, and the Master to be liable to
the like Penalty, and the Proceedings to be summary
before two Magistrates.

That Mr. Deeston Long, Mr. Alderman
Lushington, & Mr. Manning be desired to wait upon the Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty, to request their Concurrence
and Support in a Measure so essential to prevent the desertion
of Seamen in His Majesty's Navy, as well as from the
Merchant Service.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at
the Marine Society's Office 24 March 1797

Present

Preston Long Esq. in the Chair

Mr Adam

Mr Boddington

Mr Turner

Mr Oliver

Mr Mulligan

Mr Neave

Mr Jackson

Mr Herbert

Mr Duffell

Mr Higgin

Mr Pousquet

Mr Preston Long informed the Meeting
that the Convoy appointed for the West Indies on the 31 January,
last, sailed on the 16 February, and that finding several Ships
had been prevented from taking the benefit of that Convoy,
he had made the following Applications.

Mr Preston Long presents his Compliments
to Mr Nepean, and by desire of the West India Merchants,
requests him to make Application to the Lords Commissioners
of the Admiralty, that a Convoy may be appointed to sail
from Portsmouth, the first fair Wind for the West
Indies, as several West India Ships are now there, that
were prevented from taking the Benefit of the last
Convoy.

Sailed 15 March 1797 Under
Convoy of the *Albatross* &
Agulhon

Bishopgate Street
February 22. 1797

Mr Preston Long acquainted the
Meeting that the Treasurer Samuel Long Esq. had
paid Messrs. Coother & Dale, Three Hundred pounds
on Account of their Expenses, and laid before the Meeting
following

John S.

To the

was upon
Ordered,

A Plan being now under consideration of the
 Committee of West India Merchants, which appears to be better
 calculated to suppress the System of Plunder on board the
 Ships in the River, than that of Rewards upon the apprehension
 and Conviction of Offenders. We beg leave to notify the same to
 you, in order that no further Commitments may take place
 under the sanction of the Notices which were published offering
 Rewards of Five Guineas on Commitment, and £50 on
 Conviction the payments whereof we have been directed to
 discontinue in future. We have the Honor to remain

Yours with much Respect & Esteem
 Your obliged & obedient humble servant
 Signed) "Crowthor & Seale"
 Guildhall
 9 February 1797-

A Plan being now under the Consideration
 of the Committee of West India Merchants, which appears
 to be better calculated to suppress the System of Plunder
 on board the Ships in the River, than that of Rewards
 upon the Apprehension and Conviction of the Offenders.
 We are therefore desired to signify that the payment of the
 Rewards of Five Guineas on Commitment, and £50
 on Conviction of such offenders will in future be discontinued

"Guildhall" We are your Obedient
 9 February 1797. "Crowthor & Seale"
 To the Police Officers at Tradewell.

The Bill for the Protection of Property
 was upon further Consideration postponed till another Session
 Ordered, That Thomas Hunter the Constable's Will
 be

be paid for Prosecutions and Wages to the 24 January
last amounting to £45.15.

Resolved, That Application be made to the Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a Convoy may be
appointed to sail from Portsmouth for the West Indies,
the 10th April, waiting 24 Hours for the Ships in the
Downs, and that the Convoy may touch at Madeira, and that
it be represented that the Convoy cannot with Propriety
be delayed to a later Period, as reckoning upon some stoppage
at Madeira, the time but barely admits the Probability of
the Ships sailing loaded from the West Indies with the last
Summer Convoy; and that the lateness of the Season makes
it peculiarly necessary that the said Convoy should contain
a Force to conduct the Jamaica Trade directly, and without
Delay to that Islands.

Mr. Preston Long reported that
observing at the General Post Office the following Notice

Post Office March 15 1797.

"The Jamaica Mail of this Month
remains at Falmouth there being no Packet
at present to carry it out, and the Leeward Island
Mail of this Night must be delayed for the
same purpose.

He had written to Mr. Freeling one of the Secretaries
of the Post Office the following Letter

Sir,

I am requested by the West India
Merchants

105
Merchants to desire that you will represent to His Majesty
Post Masters General the great Inconveniences they shall experience
from the Delay in forwarding the Letters of this Month in
consequence of the Notice at the Post Office.

That the Jamaica Mail and likewise the
Leeward Island Mail of this Month must be delayed at Falmouth
there being no Packet at present to carry them out, and they leave
to submit to the Consideration of His Majesty's Post Masters
General how far it may be advisable to make Application to
His Majesty's Ministers that some other Conveyance may be
provided to carry out the Mails immediately to Jamaica and
the Leeward Islands.

That this Committee observing with Concern
that no Packets are at Falmouth to convey the Mails of the present
Month to Jamaica and the Leeward Islands, cannot but advert
to the disappointments which have lately occurred in the
Correspondence with the West India Islands, occasioned by the
Capture of Six Packets during the present War.

That it is fairly to be presumed that the
Reduction of the Establishment of the Packets, adopted with a
view to Economy previously to the War, however expedient at
that period, has rendered them unequal to encounter the Risk of
Capture from the numerous Privateers of considerable Force now
fitted out by the Enemy.

That a regular Correspondence is a
Circumstance so essential to our valuable Commerce with the West
India Islands, as to supersede the Consideration of a small
Saving in the outfit of Packets for those Parts, and that it is
therefore expedient to submit to His Majesty's Post Masters
General

the Propriety of immediately causing the Sackets for the West Indies to be put on such an Establishment as may enable them to defend themselves against the Attack of any Privateers or other Vessels of the same Tonnage as themselves

That Sir Richard Neave and Mr. Deiston Long be requested to communicate the above Resolutions to His Majesty's Post Masters General, and to transmit a Copy thereof to His Majesty's Ministers.

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants to take into Consideration the intended Merchant Seamen Bill, held at the Marine Society's Office May 9th 1797

Present

Deiston Long Esq^r in the Chair

George Hilbert Esq^r

Robert Mulligan Esq^r

Mr. Alderman Lushington

Samuel Turner Esq^r

Beddington Esq^r

The Bill for preventing Desertion of Seamen &c. &c. as amended on Recommendation being read.

Resolved, That the said Bill with such Alterations as have now been further suggested, be approved of by this Committee, and that Alderman Lushington be requested to communicate the same to Colonel Gascoyne.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at
the Marine Society's Office 25th May 1797.

Present

Beeston Long Esq^r in the Chair.

Mr Plummer

Mr Lyon

Mr Roddington

Mr Allan

Mr Adam

Mr Mitchell

Mr Davidson

Mr Hedderburn

Mr Wildman

Mr Manning

Mr Hibbert

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read.

and confirmed.

Mr Beeston Long reported that the Lords of the Admiralty had appointed a Convoy agreeable to the request of the last Meeting.

A Letter from Mr Peepan dated 18th Instant, and a Petition from several Captains of Merchant Ships now detained at Torbay for Convoy, dated 15th Instant praying that the Convoy may not call at Madeira, being taken into Consideration.

Resolved,

That considering the further detention which has happened to the Fleet since the date of the said Petition, and it being now impossible that any of the Ships should sail loaded homeward from the Leeward Islands, or Jamaica, within the period of short Insurance, It does not appear to this Meeting proper to change the destination of the Convoy, and that the Chairman be requested to communicate this Opinion to the Lords of the Admiralty.

The case of the Ship Owners being taken into Consideration.

Resolved, That Mr Gregg be requested to submit to the Opinion of Counsel whether the Insertion in the Bills of Lading

"All and every the Danger and Accidents of the Seas and
"of Navigation excepted" will secure the Owners of Ships
from such Claims as are stated in the Case of the Ship
Owners and which have not hitherto been admitted
according to the Custom of Merchants

That the Chairman be requested to represent
to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that it will be necessary
in the Course of the present Session of Parliament to revive
the last extension of the Average Price regulating the Export
of Sugar, and that considering how late the bulk of the
Importation is to be expected, and that for some Months
to come the Quantity at Market can be but trifling, the
Month of October is the earliest period, at which an
Average regulating the Export can with propriety be
taken

The following Letter from Mess^{rs} Grouther and
Deales Solicitors to Preston Long Esq^r was read

Sir, Mr. Allen having communicated your
desire to be furnished with an Account of Monies paid
by us, and for Business done respecting the prosecution
of the Plunderers of West India Produce on the River,
We have done ourselves the pleasure to enclose the same, all
the Parties having been tried, and the Rewards paid
Balance remaining due to us on the two former } 178. 15. 7
Accounts delivered
Bill for Business 285. 2. 5
Account of Disbursements 672. 15. 2
£ 1130. 13. 2

We have the Satisfaction to remark that at the
last

109

last Survey a Waterman (an Old Offender) was convicted of receiving some Sugar out of a West India Ship, and notwithstanding his defence that he had received it in the Way of his Business, as he should have received any other Fare to have carried ashore, it was decided that his case came within the Act of Parliament, and he was sentenced to Transportation for 14 Years, which Conviction we flatter ourselves will be attended with salutary effects as the Watermen finding themselves subject to this Punishment, will of course be extremely cautious in assisting the Lumpers, without whose Aid its impossible the Plunderage can be carried on as heretofore.

We have the Honor to remain Sir,

Your most obedient Servants
Crowther & Peake
Guildhall 17 May 1797.

That a Sum of upwards of Eleven Hundred Pounds being due from this Meeting to Mess^{rs} Crowther & Peake Solicitors at Law for the Expences of prosecuting Pilferers &c and also a Sum of upwards of Five Hundred Pounds to Mr Richard Shawe for Expences of prosecuting Captain Norman for Neglect of Convoy, and the annual produce of the present Fund raised by the Trade being barely adequate to the ordinary incidental Expences thereof.

Resolved, That it is expedient to raise upon the present Years Crop Sixpence of Cask of Sugar, Puncheon of Rum, Bag of Cotton, and 1000 lbs Weight of Coffee, and in proportion on all other Articles of West India Produce under the denomination of Trade, and also Two pence of Cask, Puncheon &c

in like manner every succeeding Year in order to render
the Fund adequate to the ordinary necessary purposes of its
Institution, and that in the present Year One Penny
per Ton extra be raised towards the Trade upon Shipping

Resolved, That both these Resolutions be transmitted to
Lord Pembroke by the Chairman, and also to the principal
Mercantile Houses

To the Right Honorable the Lords Commis-
sioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

My Lords, We beg leave to enclose your Lordships Copy
of the Minutes of the West India Merchants requesting that
the Packets for the West Indies may be put on such an
Establishment as to be enabled to defend themselves against
the Privateers or other Vessels of the Enemy of a similar Tonnage
and urging the reasons why the Prayer of their Request
should be complied with

To enable the Packets to defend themselves
against vessels of their own size and burthen would require
44 Guns and 100 being about 179 Tons, but the Packets from the
Nature

General

111

Nature of the Service, cannot be fitted out as Ships of War, yet, as we are of Opinion they might carry Ten or twelve Guns, and 40 Men, instead of Six Guns and 28 Men as at present, We have directed our Inspectors of Packets to make out an Estimate of the Expence of such additional Armament for the Twenty Packets on the Falmouth Station, including those on the West India, American, and Lisbon Stations. We state the Expence at the Rate of the Wages and Victualling now paid will amount to £8,258 per Year including £20 a Year each for Gun-powder and other Warlike Stores; and that the outfit to be occasioned by the Purchase of Gun Powder and Warlike Stores, and alterations on board the Twenty Packets to render them capable of receiving Four Guns in addition to their present number may be estimated at £2,256 at least.

As an office of Revenue (the Packet Postage having never amounted to a Sum equal to the expenditure) We should not think ourselves justified in recommending a measure that will be attended with such a considerable increase of Expence, At the same time We cannot but state that thirteen Packets have been captured since the commencement of the War, for which we have or shall pay the Sum of £34,909. 8. 10

Your Lordships can best judge whether the Convenience of the great and respectable Body of the West India Merchants, and the Importance of the Dispatches which are almost invariably sent out by the Packets does or does not make an additional Force necessary.

The Peace Establishment of the Packets is such as to give general Satisfaction to the Merchants &c.

Wearc My Lords &c

Chesterfield
Leicester

General Post Office
April 14 1797.

The subjoined Account shows that most of the
 Packets have been captured by Vessels of far superior Force to
 any Armament the Packets are capable of
 An Account of Packet Boats on the Portsmouth
 Station captured by the Enemy between December 23 1794
 and 11th March 1797.

Packets Names	By what Vessel Captured	When Captured	Value of each Packet	Total
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West India Packets

Queen Charlotte	Republic Frigate	19 April 1795	3,281 14 10	
Prima Will Henry	Vengeance Privateer	7 April	2,462 17 7	
Active	Votiqueur	30 Sept 1796	2,598 10 4	
Princess Elizabeth	Actf. 14 Guns 130 Men	23 Feby 1797	4068 1 9	
Sandwich	Engoy, Prt 13 Guns 200 Men	10 March	2073 12 4 1/2	44,184 10 10

American Packets

Antelope	Squadron of Frigates	19 Sept 1794	2320 1 6	
Tankerville	Seller de Privateer	10 Feby 1795	2360 12 2	
Tartar	Eagle 16 Guns 100 Men	10 June	2382 9 10	7,564 36

Lisbon Packets

Expedition	Thames Frigate	23 Oct 1794	3207 4 3	
King George	Frigate	24 July	2864 1 8	
Thynne	Squadron of Frigates	23 Sept	2557 2 7	3628 86

Corunna Packets

Arab	Insurgent Frigate	24 Dec 1794	2084	
Cross Brunswick	Adventure 14 Guns 130 Men	17 Aug 1795	2148	4232

£ 34,909 8 10

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at
Beeston Long Esq. Bishopsgate Street June 10. 1797

Present

Beeston Long Esq. in the Chair

Mr Richard Neave Esq	Mr Sumner
Mr Alderman Lushington	Mr Hibbert
Mr Turner	Mr Maitland
Mr Wildman	

A Bill for giving Relief to the Owners
and Masters of Ships being read Clause by Clause, with
several Amendments proposed by this Meeting.

Resolved, That a copy of the said Bill with such
Alterations be transmitted by the Chairman to Mr
Chapman to submit to the Committee of Ship Owners.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held
at the Marine Society's Office July 7. 1797.

Mr Richard Neave Esq in the Chair

Mr Wildman	Mr Hankey
Mr Wedderburn	Mr Turner
Mr Wedderburn	Mr Adam
Mr Aislatic	Mr Allan
Mr Boddington	Mr D H Rusker

The Minutes of the two former Meetings
were read, and confirmed

Mr Beeston Long acquainted the Meeting

that he had communicated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer the Resolution of the 23rd May relative to the Bill for regulating the Average of Sugar, and that he had since been informed the Bill did not expire till the end of the next Session of Parliament that in regard to deferring the time for taking the Average from August to October, it was not at present thought expedient, but that during the next Session, if Parliament when the Bill expired, the matter might be fully considered.

Resolved, That the above Report respecting the Average Bill be communicated to Lord Ferrisburgh for his Lordship's consideration if a General Meeting should not be called.

Mr Preston Long acquainted the Meeting that from the Opposition to the Bill for the Relief of the Ship Owners, he was much afraid it would not pass this Session.

Resolved, That the following Words be introduced in the Bills of Lading in case the Bill for giving Relief to the Owners and Masters of Ships should not pass this Session.

"All and every the Dangers and Accidents of the Seas and of Navigation of whatsoever Nature"

Some destined to convey the Jamaica Ships immediately and without delay to that Island.

That respecting subsequent Convoys, one of which will be wanted from Portsmouth in the Month of December, and one from Cork in the Month of January, more particular application will be made to the Lords of the Admiralty after the arrival of the expected Fleets from the West Indies.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office, 19 September, 1797.

- Present
- William Vaughan Esq^r in the Chair
- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Mr Hilbert | Mr Adam |
| Mr Bosanquet | Mr Turner |
| Mr Plummer | Mr Biddington |

The Claims of Entry Outwards to the West India Islands, being already made at the Custom House, for nearly the whole Quantity of each kind of Grain, and other Articles allowed under the Act of 31st of his present Majesty, and by order of the Lords of Council to be exported from the Port of London, within the 3 next Months, and many of the principal Merchant Exporters not being included, or provided for therein - It is expedient to make application to the Lords of the Privy Council, and to represent that although from views of precaution like Claims have been heretofore eagerly made immediately on the issuing of their Lordships Order, yet that it will appear from examination of the Custom House Books that the quantity allowed

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117
to be exported in any Year has never yet been actually exported,
that very great inconvenience and trouble, as well as irregularity
in the Species of Grain exported has happened in former Seasons
owing to the transfer of Entries, which such overrated Claims have
occasioned, and that in the present Season, the far greater part
of the Export being expected to take place, in the next three
Months, it will be impossible under the present State of the
Claims, and the insufficient Allowances to give each Merchant
Exporter the means of executing his Orders.

Resolved, That under these Circumstances it be
requested of their Lordships to grant further permission for
the export of the quantities set opposite to the Names of the
Merchant Exporters; (as a Copy transmitted to the Lords of the
Privy Council)

That this application be made by the
Chairman to the Lords of the Privy Council, on the 23rd Instant
previous to which the following Notice be put up at Lloyds,
and the Jamaica Coffee Houses, and communicated by the
Secretary to each Member of this Body.

Resolved, That such Persons as have occasion to export
Grain, Flour, Bread &c. from the Port of London, to the West India
Islands, in the next three Months, be requested to furnish Mr
James Allin, on or before the 22nd Instant with the respective
Quantities of each, in order that application may be made to
the Lords of the Privy Council for an Order permitting the
same to be exported.

A Monthly Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at The Marine Society's Office October 24. 1797.

Deeston Long Esq. in the Chair

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Mr Dosanquet | Mr Wedderburn |
| Mr Neave | Mr Wedderburn |
| Mr Davidson | Mr Lyon |
| Mr Hibbert | Mr Plummers |
| Mr Jackson | Mr Maitland |
| Mr Duffell | Mr Goulard |
| Mr Milligan | Mr St Vaughan |
| Mr Roddington | Mr Manning |
| Mr Anderson | |

Resolved, That Fifty Guineas be given to the Committee of Ship Owners, towards defraying the Expenses of the Bill for the Relief of the Owners of Ships.

That the Wind being at present set in to the Eastward the Vessels ready to clear out for the West Indies cannot get down the River and that if no Change of Wind speedily happens a postponement of the Convoy appointed to depart the 29th Instant will be necessary contrary to every reasonable expectation when that time was named - But that in case the Wind should allow the Vessels now ready to clear out to depart within the first Week of November from Spithhead, a great proportion of the Trade particularly

Mr Deeston Long arguing a Resolution that the West India Merchants would be well served to take the Advantage of the Convoy appointed for the 29th Instant in order to get down the River before the 1st of November.

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particularly for the Island of Jamaica is in such ¹¹⁹
a State of forwardness to render it expedient that another
Convoy from Portsmouth should be appointed to depart
the first fair Wind after the 30th November.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants,
held at the Marine Society's Office, November 3, 1797.

Present

Beeston Long Esq^r in the Chair

Mr G Blackman Mr S Turner Mr Summers
Mr D Davidson Mr Deffell Mr Bosanquet
Mr Rucker Mr Poddingtons Mr Jackson
Mr Lyon

The Minutes of the last Meeting were
read, and confirmed.

Mr Beeston Long having acquainted
the Committee that the Wind still continuing contrary
for several Days after the last Meeting, he had applied to
the Lords of the Admiralty that the Convoy might be
delayed till this Day, and having since received a Letter
from Mr Nepean informing him that Captain Bayly
of the Ship Trent, waited at Spithead till further
Orders.

Resolved, That Application be made to the Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the Convoy now ready
at Portsmouth, for the West Indies, may be appointed to sail
on Wednesday the 8th Instant, waiting 24 Hours for the Ship
in.

in the Downs, after the Wind comes fair, which will allow the Vessels that have been detained in the River, to take the benefit of the said Convoy.

Mr Jackson proposed Mr Heighley to be a Member of this Meeting, and seconded by Mr St Davidsons

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office 28 November 1797

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Mr Hibbert | Beeston Long | Esq. in the Chair |
| Mr Jackson | Mr Mitchell | |
| Mr Long | Mr Lyon | |
| Mr Desanquet | Mr Blackman | |
| Mr Maitland | Mr Weddorburne | |
| Mr Aislabe | Mr Gaward | |
| Mr Wildman | Mr Vaughan, | |
| Mr Adam | Mr Boddington | |
| | Mr Milligan | |
| | Mr Duffell | |

Resolved; That Application be made to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty requesting that the Convoy now assembling for the West Indies may be appointed to sail from Portsmouth the first fair Wind after the 9th December waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs; Also representing

Sailed 8th January 1798 from Calcutta
under Convoy Acad. 40 Guns
Bergen 44 ditto
At this 24 Hours 16 Guns
Vide Lloyd's List 9 January 1798.

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121
 that the said Convoy will be numerous and valuable,
 and that a respectable Force will be necessary for its
 protection, and also for the purpose of conveying the
 Jamaica Trade, which forms a large proportion of
 this Convoy, directly and without any Delay from the
 Leeward Islands, to Jamaica, and that another Convoy
 for the West Indies will be required in the Month of
 January of which the Vessels recently arrived from
 the West Indies will be ready to take Advantage.

That the Thanks of this Meeting be
 transmitted to

- Captain Watkins of His Majesty's Ship Resources
- Captain James Bissett ditto Janus.
- Captain James Cornwallis ditto Sheerness.
- Captain Miller ditto Vanguard
- Captain Charles Sidney Davers ditto Scipio

For their assiduous Attention to the respective Convoys
 which have in the present Year sailed under their
 Protection from the Leeward Islands and Jamaica

Ordered, That Thomas Hunter Constables Bill
 be paid amounting to £52.13.9

Mr George Hubbert proposed as Members
 to this Meeting
 John Vincent Surrier Esq.
 Joseph Temperon Esq.
 Leth Esq.
 Harrison Esq.

122
At a Meeting of the West India Merchants
held at the Marine Society's Office, January 12. 1798

Present

Mr Richard Neave Pres^t in the Chair

Mr Allan

Mr Beeston Long

Mr Mitchell

Mr Mulligan

Mr Wedderburn

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Adam

Mr Keighley

Mr Ingram

Mr Turner

Mr Duffell

Mr Gilbert

Mr Lyons

The Minutes of the last Meeting
were read and confirmed.

Resolved, That Application be made to the Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that a Convo
may be appointed to sail from Portsmouth for the
West Indies, the first fair Wind after the 11 February
waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs; and
that the said Convo may contain a Force destined to
convo the Jamaica Ships immediately and without
Delay to that Islands.

That it is expedient to represent to the
Admiralty that a considerable proportion of the West
India Trade having departed earlier than usual this
Season an opportunity presents itself of getting home the
Bulks of the Produce from the West Indies early in the
present Year. A Circumstance so desirable on various accounts
that it is unnecessary to dwell upon its Advantages. That

That for this End, Instructions may be sent to the ¹²³
Admirals on the respective Stations to grant a Convoy not
later than the 10th day May, both from the Leeward Islands
and Jamaica; and another from both Stations not later than
the 30th June, and that there will then probably remain but
a small proportion of the Trade to come home on the 26 July
at which Season however being the expiration of short Insurance
another Convoy from each Station will be necessary. That
the particular times of Departure may best be concerted
with the Planting and Mercantile Interests in the West Indies
but that Instructions urging the dispatch of early Convoys,
as nearly as possible to the times abovesaid will be necessary
and that the force out of which such Convoys are to be formed
must of course be timely provided.

That a Convoy in the Month of October,
from Jamaica is at all times necessary, from the circumstance
of that Island collecting a considerable part of its produce
subsequent to the 26th July, and that much Loss and
Inconvenience has arisen from the omission to grant one in
the last Year.

A Letter from Mr Colquhoun relative to the
Establishment of a Marine Police Office for preventing in future
the enormous Plunder on the River Thames being laid before
the Meeting

That the said Letter be referred to a Committee
to consider of the Means of carrying the same into Execution,
and that the following Gentlemen be the Committee.

Mr Manning	Mr J. Hibbert	Mr Posaquet
Mr Boddington	Mr Milligan	Mr Turner
Mr D. Long	Mr Harrison	Mr Duffell.

A Letter from Messrs Blackman & Co being laid before the Meeting relative to some prosecutions carrying on under the Sanction of Mr Colquhoun, and Mr Bosanquet having likewise acquainted the Meeting that some Persons are in Custody for stealing Sugar on the River Thames.

That the above Gentlemen be requested to carry on the said Prosecutions, and that this Meeting will defray the Expences.

Ordered That Daniel Senson, John Crane, & Simeon Haven be paid the Reward for each Conviction of Forty Shillings, of Thomas White, & Henry Smith sentenced for 7 Years Transportation stealing Turn out of a Bonded Vault in Seething Lane

That Thomas Spinney be paid the same Reward for Conviction of Henry Cannon stealing 28th Sugar out of the Warehouses, Botolph Wharf marked SV No 247th Thames from Jamaica, consigned to Samuel Vaughan Esq Son.

At a Meeting of the ^{Committee} West India Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office, January 23. 1798.

Beeston Long Esq in the Chair

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Harrison

Mr Milligan

Mr Turner

Mr Defell

Mr Boddington

A Letter from Mr Colquhoun to Mr Beeston Long