

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

relative to the Establishment of a Marine Police Office for
the prevention of River Plunder being laid before the
Meeting, and read.

Resolved, That an Extract of the Letter be made
out, and sent to each Member of the Committee, and that
this Committee do meet again on Friday next at twelve
Clock, and in the Mean-time that every Member of this
Committee be requested to consider whether any Alteration
of the Plan can be made conducive to the intended purpose.

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants
appointed to consider of the proposed Plan for establishing a
Marine Police Office, held at the Marine Society's Office
January 26th 1798.

Mr Dodderington
Mr Turner
Mr Milligan

Mr Deffell
Mr Harrison

The above Gentlemen assembled at this
place in consequence of the Resolution of 23rd Instant, and
after conversing on the Subject, agreed to adjourn the
further Consideration till the next Meeting.
Adjourned Chair not taken

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants,
(adjourned from 26th Inst.) held at the Marine Society's Office,
January 30th 1798.

Deceston Long Esq^r in the Chair
Mr Bosanquet
Mr Harrison
Mr Deffell
Mr George Hilbert
Mr Turner

The Letter of Mr Colquhoun proposing

a Plan of a Marine Police Office, calculated to prevent Plunderage on board the West India Ships having been attentively considered.

Resolved, That it appears to this Committee that the Establishment of a Marine Police Office, modelled in many Respects after Mr Colquhoun's Plan, and under the entire Direction of the Committee of West India Merchants is a measure which under the present Circumstances of this Port is highly judicious and promises to afford means of checking the enormous Plunderage on board West India Ships in the River

That the Chairman be requested to ask the favor of Mr Colquhoun's Attendance at this Committee, on Friday, the 2^d February, at 12 o'Clock, in order that the means of establishing such an Office may be farther considered.

A Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office February 2^d 1798.

Decester Long Esq^r in the Chair

Mr Duffell

Mr Turner

Mr Manning

Mr Posanquet

Mr Puddington

Mr Decester Long acquainted the Committee that he had transmitted to Mr Colquhoun the Resolutions of the last Meeting, and had received the following Answer

Dear Sir,

Charles Square, Boston

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31 January 1798

I had the Honor of your Letter last Night including a Copy of the Minutes of the Committee of West India Merchants who were appointed to consider the Plan for establishing a Marine Police Office, and requesting my Attendance, at the Marine Society Office, on Friday next at 12 o'clock

I shall therefore arrange my business so as to meet you punctually at that Hour on Friday, and previous to this I will endeavour to see the Duke of Portland on the business As it is now in that Shape which will authorize me to mention it to His Grace I have the Honor to be with great Respect

Dear Sir,
Your obedient & faithful
humble servant

(Signed) J. Colquhoun

Mr Colquhoun in consequence attended, and laid before the Committee the following Note from the Duke of Portland.

The Duke of Portland presents his compliments to Mr Colquhoun and has the satisfaction of acquainting him that it appears very desirable to such of His Majesty's Confidential Servants as the Duke of Portland has acquainted with the purport of Mr Beeston Long's Letter to Mr Colquhoun that Mr Colquhoun should meet the West India Merchants Tomorrow, the result of which Meeting the Duke of Portland will be anxious to be informed of.

Thursday Night

1 February 1798

Mr Colquhoun acquainted the Meeting that he had not anything further to suggest in addition to the Plan for establishing a Marine Police Office except as far as related to particular Duties of the Persons who

who may be employed at the Office which he at a future opportunity would lay before the Committee
 Resolved, That Mr Colquhoun be requested to acquaint the Duke of Portland that the Committee intend to take the earliest opportunity of laying the Plan before the General Body of West India Merchants for their Sanction.

At a Monthly Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office, February 27 1798.

Present

Deeston Long Esq^r in the Chair

Mr Ingram J	Mr Davidson
Mr H Jackson	Mr Wedderburn
Mr Turner	Mr Wedderburn
Mr Allan	Mr Temperon
Mr W Vaughan	Mr Plummer
Mr Deffell	Mr Keighley
Mr Lyon	Mr Gowland
Mr Doddington	

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

Mr Deeston Long acquainted the Meeting, that he had delivered the Resolution respecting the Convoys Homewards, and was informed they would

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immediately be sent to the Commanders on the West India
Stations.

[The Minutes of the Committee of 30th January
appointed to consider the means of carrying into Execution
a Plan of a Marine Police Office proposed by Mr Colquhoun
being read.]

Resolved, That this Meeting do approve of the same,
and request the Committee to take such measures as they
may think expedient for establishing the said Office.

* Resolved, That the following Gratuities be given
to the Marine Society.

Forty Guineas for the Use of the Committee Room for Two Years.

Six Guineas to Mr Newby: Secretary. Ditto

Four Guineas to Mr Walker Messenger. Ditto

The Act for ascertaining the Average of
Sugar, and the Bounty and Drawback expiring this
Session.

Resolved, That the Chairmen be requested to confer
with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Expediency of
the Repeal or renewal of said Act.

The Bills relative to Convoys, and a new
Duty on Exports and Imports being laid before the
Meeting.

Resolved, That the above Bills be referred to a
Committee consisting of the following Gentlemen,

Sir Richard Neave	Chairman	Mr C. Bonquet
Mr. Buxton Long	Mr H Jackson	Mr. Turner
Mr Manning	Mr G. Hilbert	Mr Deffell
Mr Doddington	Mr Milligan	Mr Davidson

And that they Report their Opinion to this Meeting

Mr Beeston Long informed the Meeting that he had attended a General Meeting of Merchants and Owners of Ships on the expediency of bringing in a Bill for the Relief of Owners of Ships, and that a Petition was agreed upon to be presented to Parliament for that purpose.

A Bill for reducing the Number of Holydays in certain Public Offices - being laid before the Meeting
 Resolved, That it be recommended that the Clerks in the Long Room, at the Custom House, attend in their places from Ten till Three o'clock instead of the present Hours settled by Law, from Nine till Twelve.

That the Hours of Attendance of the Landwaiters, at the Legal Quays, be from Six o'clock till Three (without Interruption) from first May, to first November, and from Eight o'clock, till Three from first November, to first May, and that the Landwaiters afterwards take up the Warrants of the Day, and issue their Orders in consequence for landing the cargoes.

That the Hours of Attendance of the Searchers be from Six o'clock, till Four (without Interruption) from 1st May to first November, and from Eight o'clock till four from first November to first May.

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A. Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants
appointed to consider the Bills relative to Convoys, Imports
& Exports, held at the Marine Society's Office March
2^d 1798.

Present
Preston Long Esq^r in the Chair.
Mr Davidson
Mr Milligan
Mr Bosanquet
Mr Turner

The Bill for preventing Ships from
sailing from any Port or Place whatever without Convoy
being read.

Resolved, That it appears to this Meeting, that
the Restriction may not be detrimental to the West India
Trade Outward, provided regular and frequent convoys are
appointed, whenever required, for the Protection of the Trade,
and that in certain Cases, Licenses are granted for sailing
without Convoy whenever particular Circumstances may
require it.

That with Respect to the West India
Trade Homeward, great Delays and Inconvenience may
arise from Ships being obliged to sail with Convoy, unless
Convoys are appointed more frequent than of late Years,
and in particular Cases unless the Governor, Lieutenant
Governor, or the President of the Council for the Time being,
have the power to grant Licenses for Vessels to sail without
Convoy.

That in the Clause requiring every Policy of Insurance to have a Warranty of Departure with Convoy, it should likewise be inserted, unless by particular License according to the provisions of the Bill.

That it be recommended that a Clause should be inserted for preventing Ships from discharging in less than 14 Days, in case the Ship shall arrive before the Convoy, unless the Ship should require to be unloaded from particular Circumstances

The Bill for laying a Duty on all Imports and Exports being read

That it appears to this Committee that the Principle of the Bill for laying a Duty on the Imports and Exports according to the Value to be ascertained by the Importer, or Exporter, with a Liberty for the Officers of Customs to detain the Goods in case the Value should not appear to them to be the true Value, will be extremely vexatious as great difficulties will arise in ascertaining the Value before the Sale of the Produce Imported, and likewise in valuing the Goods exported previous to their Clearance Outwards

Resolved, That the Resolutions be sent to each Member of the Committee for their Consideration previous to the next Meeting

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A Meeting of the West India Merchants,
held at the Marine Society's Office, March 6th 1798.

Deeston Long Esq^r, in the Chair.

Mr Jackson

Mr Davidson

Mr Gowlan

Mr Allan

Mr Rosanquet

Mr Mitchell

Mr Keighley

Mr Webster

Mr Deffell

Mr Turner

Mr Alderman Lushington

Mr Adam

Sir Francis Baring

Mr Plummer

Mr Wedderburne.

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

Mr Deeston Long reported that since
the last Meeting, the Clerks in the Long Room, at
the Custom House, and the Landwaiters, and Searchers
had waited upon him, in consequence of the proposed
alteration in the Hours of Attendance, and had requested
him to communicate to this Meeting, their Wish
that the Hours might in some Instances be changed.

Resolved,

That upon further Consideration of the
alteration proposed in the Hours of Attendance, of the
Clerks in the Long Room, and of the Landwaiters,
and Searchers.

It be Recommended,

That,

That, in future the Clerks in the Long Room, at the Custom House, attend in their places from Ten, till Two o'clock.

That the Hours of Attendance of the Landwaiters, at the Legal Quay, be from Seven till Three o'clock, from first April, till First November, and from Nine o'clock, till Three from first November, to first April without Interruption, and that the Landwaiters afterwards take up the Warrants of the Day, and issue their Orders in consequence for landing the Cargoes.

That the Hours of Attendance of the Searchers, be from Nine o'clock till Four from first April, till first November; and from Nine o'clock, till Three from first November to first April, without Interruption, and That upon Application to the Commissioners of the Customs, on particular Emergencies, the Landwaiters and Searchers be obliged to attend either before, or after the abovementioned Hours.

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting to consider of the Bills relative to Convoys, and Exports, and Imports

That it appears to this Meeting, that the Restriction may not be detrimental to the West India Trade Outward, provided regular and frequent Convoys are granted whenever Application is made for the Protection of the Trade, and that in certain Cases, Licenses are given for sailing without Convoy, whenever particular Circumstances may require it.

That with respect to the West India Trade Homeward, great Delays and Inconveniences may arise from the Restriction on Ships to sail with Convoy, unless convoys are appointed more frequent than of late Years, and in particular Cases unless the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or President of the Council for the time being, have the Power to grant Licenses for Vessels to sail without Convoy, for which License, No Fee, or Reward shall be taken.

That in the Clause requiring every Policy of Insurance to have a Warranty of departure with Convoy, it should likewise be inserted unless by particular License according to the provisions of the Bill.

That it be recommended that a Clause should be inserted for preventing Ships from Reporting or Discharging in less than Fourteen Days, in case the Ship shall arrive so long before the Convoy unless the Vessel shall require to be unloaded from particular Circumstances.

The Bill for levying a Duty on all Imports, and Exports being Read.

Resolved, That it appears to this Meeting that the Principle of the Bill for levying a Duty on the Imports and Exports according to the value to be ascertained by the Importer or Exporter, with Liberty for the Officers of Customs, to detain the Goods in case the value shall not appear to them to be the true value, will be extremely vexatious, as great difficulties will naturally arise in ascertaining the value before the Sale of the Produce imported; and likewise in valuing the Goods Exported, previous to their Clearance Outwards.

This Meeting therefore hope in case it should be thought expedient to raise a Revenue on the Imports, and Exports, that some other Criterion may be fixed on for levying a Duty less injurious to the Commerce of the Country.

Resolved, That it be submitted to the Consideration of His Majesty's Post Masters General, whether some other System should not be adopted for the Packets to and from the West Indies, as the present Establishment is attended with much uncertainty, and disappointment, very great Inconvenience having arisen from the want of a regular Correspondence with the West India

India Islands, owing to the capture of several of the
Samaica, and Leeward Island Packets.

That a Deputation be appointed to
wait on His Majesty's Post Masters General, to represent
the above Circumstances

That the Deputation consist of
Mr Deeston Long Mr John Deffell
Mr Charles Bosanquet Mr Henry Jackson

A Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at
the Marine Society's Office March 20. 1798

Present

Deeston Long Esq^r in the Chair.

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| Mr Jackson | Mr Temperon |
| Mr Govulana | Mr Hibbert |
| Mr Boddington | Mr Allan |
| Mr Deffell | Mr Keighley |
| Mr Milligan | Mr Hedderburn |
| Mr Mitchell | Mr Plummer |
| Mr Bosanquet | Mr Turner |

The Minutes of the last Meeting were
read, and confirmed

Mr Deeston Long reported that the
Deputation had waited upon the Post Masters General
agreeable to the Resolution of the last Meeting, and had
represented to them the great Inconvenience that had arisen
from the frequent Capture of the West India Packets, the Post
Master General entered into a long discussion, and produced
several Papers by which it appeared that much attention had
been

been paid by them, in order that another System should be established that might produce more general Satisfaction and that the Ten last Packets had been built on a different Construction. The Deputation acquainted the Post Masters, that a Committee of West India Planters and Merchants had been appointed to take the Matter into Consideration to whom they should report what had passed.

Vide Copy of
Memorandum
in Minutes Book of
West India Planters & Merchants
16 March 1798
Page 223.

Mr Beeston Long acquainted the Meeting that he had received from his Brother Charles the Draft of a Bill for the Renewal of the Average Sugar Act, with a Request that it might be returned to him immediately. Mr Long had in consequence written the following Letter.

I return you the Bill for ascertaining the Average of Sugar, and upon consulting some of the West India Merchants, it appears to us that the periods for taking the Average should be 23^d June, 23^d August, 23^d October, and 23^d February, and that it should continue during the continuance of the War, and to the end of the next ensuing Session of Parliament.

I must at the same time apprise you, that at a General Meeting of the West India Planters, and Merchants, on Tuesday last they came to a Resolution to make some Representation on the Repeal of the Act, and

and likewise on the Periods for taking the ¹³⁹
Average

Bishopgate Street
Thursday March 15th 1798.

Resolved, That in case there be a Renewal of
the Average Bill, which, this Meeting will not be
thought necessary, that the Periods mentioned by Mr.
Beeston Long in the foregoing Letter, are the most proper
for taking the Average.

Mr. Beeston Long produced a Letter from
Mr. Treveling acquainting him that the Post Masters General
had applied to the Lords of the Admiralty for a Cutter to
take the Letters to Barbados and Jamaica, and to bring back
Letters in return from Jamaica, and Cape Nicola Mole,
and that the Mails would be dispatched from the Office on
Wednesday.

A Letter from Messrs Blackman & Co. of
which the following is a Copy being read.

Messrs Blackman & Co. present their
respects to Mr. Allen and inform him they have been
applied to by the Solicitor for conducting the Prosecution
against the Men for robbing the Adamant to advance
him 100 Guineas to defray the Expences in part - and from
the present appearance they would not be surprised if
the whole should amount to £300 - a Sum far greater
than they were aware of, but no doubt 'tis or will be
enhanced by seeing Counsel and carrying Witnesses to
Kingston - As they have thrown themselves on the
West

West India Merchants they wish to know from Mr Allen if he is aware of such heavy expence and if he thinks them justified in advancing the Money will be thankful for his answer if return as the Solicitor will call for the Money this Morning The Affairs began the 21st at Kingston
19 March 1798.

Resolved, That this Committee considers itself as bound by its Resolution of 12th January to defray the Expences incurred in the prosecution of the Plunderers on board the Adamant. But that Mess^{rs} Blackman be desired to communicate to Mr Colquhoun the wishes of this Meeting that any extra Expence, and particularly of Fees for Counsel should be avoided, as there will certainly be Gentlemen on the Home Circuit competent to the conducting of the Business, and as this Committee consider that the fate of the Cause must depend wholly upon the nature of the Evidence produced.

Mr Milligan having mentioned to the Meeting, that he was carrying on a Prosecution against certain Persons accused of being concerned in plundering the Cargo of the Ship Bushy Park, and having signified his Expectation that his Expences would be reimbursed.

Resolved, That he be requested to lay the necessary papers before the next Meeting, when the Subject will be taken into Consideration.

To strike under Entry of the Alarm
22 April 1798 about 14.50

Resolved

Order

13. Sailed under Convoy of the Alarm
22nd April 1798 about 14 Sails

Resolved, That it is expedient to apply to the Board of Admiralty for a Convoy to depart from Portsmouth, for the Leeward Islands, and Jamaica the first fair Wind after the 20th April, waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs, and that the said Convoy may be directed to call at Madeira, but as there is at this time at Portsmouth a considerable number of Vessels, which have long been loaded but were left in the Downs, at the time the last West India Fleet sailed, it be submitted to the Board of Admiralty that if an immediate extra Convoy could be granted to those Ships, it would certainly contribute to the early return of the Produce of the West India Islands.

Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a Fleet which departed from Jamaica the 20th January, may be daily expected, on which from the failure of the Packets little Insurance has been effected, and that it is therefore particularly desirable to the Individuals interested, that measures may be taken for their Protection on their approach either collected or dispersed to the British Channel.

Ordered, That Thomas Hunter the Constable's Bill be paid amounting to £58.4

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office
March 30th 1798. Present
Breston Long Esq. in the Chair
Mr Bosanquet Mr Roddingtons
Mr Harrison Mr Turners

The Minutes of the West India Merchants of 30 January, and of 27 February, and likewise of the Standing Committee of West India Planters and Merchants of which the following is a Copy were read of 21st Instant "The Extract of a Letter from Mr Colquhoun, to Mr. Preston Long, and the Minutes of the West India Merchants, relative to the Establishment of a Marine Police Office being read"

Resolved, "That this Committee agree in Opinion with the Resolution of the West India Merchants of 30th January last, and recommend that a Marine Police Office may be established under the direction of a Committee of West India Merchants"

Mr Colquhoun attended the Committee and submitted several Regulations to be considered in the Establishment of the Marine Police Office.

Resolved, That Mr Colquhoun be requested to draw up in a concise manner the Plan for a Marine Police Office, and that this Committee do desire an Interview with the Duke of Portland to lay the same before his Grace, to obtain his sanction for carrying the same into Execution

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At a Monthly Meeting of the West India Merchants¹⁷⁹⁸
held at the Marine Society's Office, May 8 1798.

Present

Sir Richard Neave Bart. in the Chair.

Mr Beeston Long

Mr Adam

Mr Allan

Mr Vaughan

Mr Higgin

Mr Plummer

Mr Blackman

Mr Bosanquet

Sir Francis Baring

Mr Jackson

Mr Hankey

Mr Duffell

Mr Milligan, and Mr Blackman having
presented to the Committee the Bills of Expenses for the
Prosecutions against the Lumpers for Plunderage on
board the Dusky Park, Adamant, and the Prince

Resolved,

That the same be referred to a Committee
and that Mr Beeston Long, Mr Milligan, Mr Blackman
Mr Charles Bosanquet, Mr George Hibbert, and Mr
Plummer be of that Committee.

Mr Beeston Long reported that in
consequence of the Resolution of the last Meeting application
had been made to the Admiralty, and Cruizers had been
immediately despatched, for the protection of the Fleet
then expected from Jamaica, and most of the Ships had
fortunately arrived safe.

Mr Beeston Long acquainted the Meeting
that Mr Charles Bosanquet, and himself had waited
upon the Duke of Portland with the Plans for the Establishment

of a Marine Police Office when his Grace was pleased to express his approbation of the measure, and that he would immediately consult with Mr Pitt on the Expediency of carrying it into Execution

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 26th Instant, waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs, and that the said Convoy may be directed to call at Madeiras.

It being represented that the two last Leeward Island Packets had not brought any Mails from the Islands of Grenada, Vincent, and Stago.

Resolved, That a Deputation be appointed to wait upon the Post Masters General to represent the Inconvenience that has arisen from the want of Advices from those Islands

Resolved, That the Deputation consist of the following Gentlemen
Mr Charles Pasquet Mr Henry Davidson
Mr J. P. Hankey

The Bill relative to the Duties to be levied on the Imports and Exports being laid before the Meeting

Resolved, That the following Gentlemen be a Committee

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to take the same into consideration, and they be
requested to draw up their Remarks upon the said Bill
and to submit them to the Meeting of Merchants
convened for that purpose.

That the Committee consist of

Mr. Turner
Mr. Blackman
Mr. George Hibbert

Mr. Henry Jackson
Mr. Beeston Long
Mr. Charles Bosanquet

At a Meeting of the Committee of West
India Merchants, on the proposed Marine Police
Establishment, held at the Marine Society's Office
June 8th 1798.

Sir Richard Neave Bart. in the Chair.

Mr S. Turner
Mr Milligan
Mr G. Hibbert

Mr Manning
Mr Bosanquet
Mr Beeston Long

The following Letters were laid before
the Meeting and read

From Rt Hon^{ble} Lord Penrhyn, to Beeston
Long Esq^r
 Grosvenor Square
Wednesday

"I received your Letter yesterday, and have
"enclosed you, the Duke of Portland, on the Marine
"Police - If you wish to see the Duke, I will
"attend you there, and will fix the time with him
"on the receipt of your answer. I am Dear Sir
Your Obedt ^{Servant}

From His Grace the Duke of Portland to
Lord Pembroke
Wednesday 16th May 1798

My Dear Lord,

I have but this moment received
Mr Pitt's answer to the proposal I made to him respecting
that part of the expence of the Marine Police Establishments
which it appeared to me ought to be borne by
Government, and I have the Honor to acquaint you
that he entirely agrees in opinion with me, and your
Lordship will therefore have the goodness to inform
the Gentlemen whom you are to meet this Morning
that the Articles which I pointed out to you Yesterday
and which are numbered 2, 4, 8, 9 and 10 in the plan
which was put into my hands will be defrayed by
Government, and that I shall be ready to give every
assistance and facility in my power to the accomplishment
of this measure.

I have the Honor to be
My Lord,
Your Lordships most
Obedt^h humble
Signed, "Portland"

From Patrick Colquhoun to Peeston Longley
James Street, Buckingham Gate
30th May 1798.

Dear Sir,
I am glad to perceive from your favor of the
29th that the Duke of Portland has written Lord Pembroke
as Chairman of the West India Planters and Merchants
approving of the Marine Police Office and intimating that
Government

"mean to be at a part of the Expence. That part, as I understand, relates only to the Rent of the House, and the Salary of the local Magistrate and the Clerk: and I have reason to believe that although it is proposed to free the West India Char-^{ters}, and Merchants of the expence of the Establishment on the score of Justice so far as that in a Judicial sense may be of a general Nature, there is no intention of interfering in any Patronage farther than merely to approve of the Persons chosen or named by the Committee.

"Under these Circumstances the Establishment will acquire considerable Strength without any Inconvenience from the more immediate connection of the Executive Government, as by this means all opposition from the Customs or Excise or from any other quarter will be prevented or borne down.

"Upon duly weighing the nature of this new Institution and the Phalanx of Enemies of some power and influence who will from interested views attempt by indirect means to disturb it. I should conceive that the proposed connection with Government would prove beneficial and not injurious.

"I know well from experience that everything will be left to the Committee of the Merchants, and that there never will be the least Interference on the part of Government. This is the case at present with respect to the Police Offices which are suffered to remain without the least inquiry whether they are well or ill conducted.

"I thought it my duty to mention these particulars that you may be satisfied that the objections arising from Government wishing to be at a part of the Expence will not at all alter the System or disturb, or impede in any degree the energy which

"which must necessarily enter into it - On the contrary so
 "direct a Sanction as is by this means given, will in my
 "opinion have very beneficial consequences: for being then
 "on an equal footing with all other police Establishments
 "and equally protected by Government the obstructions
 "contemplated from the Jealousy of the other Establishments
 "will be done away.

"I shall be prepared soon with a complete
 "Bill for improving the Broom boat Act revised by a
 "professional Friend of great accuracy and intelligence, and
 "as it will (when taken in connection with the enormous
 "evils that are meant to be cured) be liable to no objections. I
 "should hope that such a Bill may be passed without the
 "least difficulty in the course of the present Session.

I am &c.

Signed "P. Colquhoun"

"P.S. I hope to have the Bill ready to submit to the
 "Committee next week, or to yourself Mr Manning and
 "such others of the Merchants and Planters as are in
 "Parliament on any early day that a Meeting can be
 "convened. The time now presses exceedingly for both
 "objects, as not only the Session of Parliament is far advanced
 "but in a short time the Leeward Island Fleet will be expected.

"Public Office Queen Square
 "Patrick Colquhoun Esq. to Preston Long Esq. 25 May 1798.

"I will thank you to inform me whether the Duke
 "of Portland has written you a Letter giving his Sanction to
 "the Marine Police Office. From the enclosed Letter it
 "would

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"would appear that His Grace has completely approved of
"the Plan, and that if he has not already written he will
"certainly write you in a Day or two - Under these circumstances
"I have become anxious to know when I am likely to be called
"upon that I may as soon as possible make those arrangements
"which will leave me at liberty to devote to this new Institution
"that portion of time which may be necessary.

I am turning my attention to the Burn
"boat Act for the purpose of framing a Bill calculated in
"the fullest manner to aid, and give effect to this new
"Establishment, and if it could be passed into a Law this
"present Session, I do not hesitate to pledge myself that
"River Plunder so far as respects West India Produce will
"very soon be eradicated and complete protection extended
"to the Planters, Merchants, and Ship Owners".

"I have the Honor to be with great

Respect for &c.

(Signed) J. Colquhoun

"From Lord Scourby, to Beeston Long Esq."

Thursday

Dear Sir,

"I saw the Duke of Portland, after I
"had received his Letter - He seemed to think every thing
"was settled - I imagine you may now proceed - and
"should any difficulty arise, I have no doubt of his
"readiness and assistance to remove it. I am Sir,

"I return Mr Colquhoun's Letter (Signed) "Scourby"

21 James Street Westminster 4 June 1798

Dear Sir, "Would it be possible to give me an opportunity
of meeting you and such Gentlemen interested in the
West India Trade as are Members of Parliament on an
early day this Week? I wish to submit to you and their
consideration the Bill I have prepared with very able
assistance for perfecting the Plan of the Marine Police
so as to give it that effect which is wished for - The total
"prevention of River Shudder"

The more I reflect on the circumstance of
Government manifesting its approbation in so decided a
manner "by proposing to bear part of the Expence" the
more I am convinced of the benefits that will result
from it in placing the Establishment on that firm
basis which is not to be shaken, and in forming a ground
for calling for the support of Government to any Bill
calculated to improve the System

"As the Time presses and as the object of
the Meeting is truly important and interesting in the
highest degree, permit me to hope that it may be in your
power to fix such Meeting for Friday next at farthest."

I hope you received my Letter of
the 30th Ultimo

Yours

Signed J. Colquhoun

Beeston Long Croft

James Street 6 June 1798

I will certainly do myself the pleasure of
attending you and the Committee on Friday - Having
drawn the Bill for giving effect to the System. I mean to
submit it to the consideration of the Committee. I should be
graciously

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exceedingly gratified if as many of the Members of the House
of Commons as are interested either as Planters or Merchants
could be present that we might discuss how far it would be
possible to carry the Bill through the House during the
present Session - I think I can offer reasons which will
impress upon the minds of the Committee the absolute
necessity of at least making the attempt, and these reasons
I trust will appear of so imperious a nature as to induce
Administration to give it the utmost support, and events
make it a measure of Government in which case it would
pass without difficulty

Sam^r D^r

Resolved, ^B That in consequence of the Sanction
of the Executive Government to the Establishment of a
Marine Police Establishment conveyed in a Letter
from His Grace the Duke of Portland to the Right
Honorable Lord Penrhyn, that the said Marine Police
Establishment shall be forthwith carried into effect.

Resolved, That Beeston Long Esq^r Charles
Bisquet Esq^r and Samuel Turner Esq^r together with
Patrick Colquhoun Esq^r be, and they are hereby empowered
to rent, or purchase the Lease of any House or Premises
situated at or near Wapping New Stairs which shall appear
to be sufficiently commodious for the purpose of a Marine
Police Office to contain 1st a proper Apartment for a Court
Room. 2nd a Committee Room 3rd a Magistrates
private

private Room 4th An office for the Clerk of the
 Court. 5th An office for the Superintendent of
 Turnpikes. 6th An Apartment for the Cashier. 7th
 A waiting Room for Constables. 8th A waiting Room for
 Turnpikes assembling to be enrolled or for the purpose of
 receiving their pay. 9 a Porters Room. 10th Apartments for
 the Clerk of the Court. 11 Apartments for the House Keeper
 12 A Warehouse or Warehouses for depositing Goods seized
 by Officers. 13 A Lock up House for Prisoners apprehended
 in the Night.

Mr. Colquhoun represented to the Meeting
 that as the Law now stands great doubts have arisen as
 to any existing power to appoint Constables with authority
 to act in the four Counties - That Justice had been greatly
 crippled and defeated under the present Turnpike Act
 where a penalty of 40^s prevents punishment. And that
 several other imperfections in this Act renders an Act to
 amend it indispensably necessary to insure success to this
 new Institution - That impressed deeply with the necessity
 of such a measure he had prepared a Bill with the
 assistance of a person of great legal knowledge in which
 are the deficiencies and imperfections of the existing Laws
 for preventing depredations on the River are removed, and
 that infinite advantages would arise to this new
 Institution if the Executive Government who had made it
 its own measure by insisting on paying part of the
 Expence

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Expense would agree to bring forward this Bill during the present Session of Parliament - Mr Colquhoun having produced the said Bill.

Resolved, That application be made by the Chairman to the Chancellor of the Exchequer stating the great advantage which a System of Marine Police would derive from an Act of Parliament, to explain and amend an Act of the 2^d Geo. 3 Cap. 28 to prevent the committing of Thefts and Frauds by Persons navigating Burn boats and other Boats in the River Thames, That a Bill prepared for that purpose be submitted to his examination and that the expediency of passing it in the present Session of Parliament into a Law be strongly urged. should it be found to be liable to no opposition from Individuals or Public Bodies, and meet with the approbation of the Law Lords, that in order to satisfy the Chancellor of the Exchequer on those points. Mr Colquhoun be desired to wait upon the Lord Chancellor, and upon the Lord Mayor of the City of London to explain to them the necessity of the Bill and to obtain their approbation of its Clauses and that if parts of the present Bill should on such reference prove exceptionable, they be for the present omitted.

Resolved, That Mr Colquhoun be requested to consider of the proper Persons to be appointed to fill the different departments in the Establishment of the Marine Police Office

Office, and he be requested to submit them to the
consideration of the next Meeting.

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India
Merchants, & the Marine Police Establishment,
held at the Marine Society's Office June 15 1798
Dreeston Long Esq^r in the Chair

Mr Dosanquet

Mr J. Turner

Mr Milligan

Mr Harrison

Mr Doddington

Mr Long

Mr Dreeston Long acquainted the Meeting
that Mr Pitt had not yet appointed an Interview
on the subject of the alterations proposed in the
Bumboat Act.

Mr Colquhoun attended, and the following
Letter was laid before the Meeting, from the Duke of
Portland, to Mr Colquhoun.

"As the Planters and Merchants
interested in the West India Trade have solicited the
Sanction of Government to the Establishment of a
Marine Police, conformably to a plan which you have
given them of such an Institution, and as I am
of Opinion that very considerable advantages will arise
to the public from your superintending its being carried
into effect. I second with great pleasure the wishes

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"for your assistance which have been expressed to me
"by that very respectable Body, and very heartily join
"in the request they have made to you to that Effect.

"As I am fully sensible by your
"acceding to this proposal that a certain portion of the
"time you so usefully devote to the duties of your present
"station must be dispensed with, and as I am aware that
"that Circumstance may operate upon you in such a
"way as to induce you to decline this offer - I think it
"necessary to acquaint you that in case of your assenting
"to the above proposal - I have secured you a proper
"Substitute who will take upon him Your duty, at
"Queens Square, at the times at which you must
"be necessarily absent from it; and that I have taken
"care that a proper provision shall be made for the
"remuneration of the Gentleman during that
"periods.

I am with great regards

"Your most obed^t
" & humble serv^t
"Portland."

To Patrick Colquhoun Esq^r "

(Signed)

Resolved,

That Mr Colquhoun be requested to
treat with Mr Parker for the purchase of the remainder
of the Lease of his House at Wapping, and that he be
empowered to draw on the Treasurer ^(Samuel Long Esq^r) for the Purchase Money,
and for such further Sums as may be necessary for Furniture,
and for Repairs of the Premises.

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"for your assistance which have been expressed to me
"by that very respectable Body, and very heartily join
"in the request they have made to you to that Effect.

"As I am fully sensible by your
"acceding to this proposal that a certain portion of the
"time you so usefully devote to the duties of your present
"station must be dispensed with, and as I am aware that
"that Circumstance may operate upon you in such a
"way as to induce you to decline this offer - I think it
"necessary to acquaint you that in case of your assenting
"to the above proposal - I have secured you a proper
"Substitute who will take upon him your duty, at
"Queens Square, at the times at which you must
"be necessarily absent from it; and that I have taken
"care that a proper provision shall be made for the
"remuneration of the Gentleman during that
"periods.

I am with great regard

Your most obed^t
" humble Serv^t
" Portland.

"To Patrick Colquhoun Esq^r"

(signed)

Resolved,

That Mr Colquhoun be requested to
treat with Mr Parker for the purchase of the remainder
of the Lease of his House at Wapping, and that he be
empowered to draw on the Treasurer ^(James Long Esq^r) for the Purchase Money,
and for such further Sums as may be necessary for Furniture,
and for Repairs of the Premises.

Resolved, That Mr Harriott be recommended by this Committee to the Duke of Portland as a proper Person to fill the situation of resident Magistrate, at the Marine Police Office.

Resolved, That Mr Yearly be likewise recommended to fill the situation of Clerk of the Court.

Resolved, That Mr Preston Long be desired to transmit the above Resolutions, to the Duke of Portland, and to request His Grace's immediate appointment of the abovesmentioned Persons, and that His Grace will be pleased to give Orders, that Mr Harriott may be put in the Commission for the Counties of Middlesex, Surrey, Kent and Essex, and for the Liberty of the Tower of London.

This Committee having taken into consideration how materially the efficiency of the System of River Police intended to be adopted is likely to depend on the Energy, and Ability of the superintending Magistrate.

Resolved, That application be made to His Grace the Duke of Portland, earnestly requesting that His Grace will be pleased to appoint Patrick Colquhoun Esq^r Superintendant Magistrate of the Marine Police Office in Wapping.

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Resolved, That Mr Henry Lang be appointed Solicitor at £100 a Year to assist in the Office under the direction of the superintending Magistrate, and to attend Trials, but that the management of Prosecutions should be left to Mr Chetham.

Resolved, That a Chief or superintending Constable be appointed at £100 a Year who shall have the management of the Others, and that Mr Armstrong be recommended as appearing to this Committee the proper Person to fill that situation

Resolved, That it appears expedient that the Lumpers to be employed in discharge of West Indianmen be registered at the Police Office, and that the Owners of Ships do on the arrival of their Ships respectively apply to the office for Gangs to work them out

Resolved, That Mr Charles Bosanquet and Mr Harrison be requested to consider with Mr Colquhoun in what manner the Lumpers can in future be engaged to work out the West India Ships, according to the Rules to be established at the Marine Police Office, and likewise on what Terms the Owners of West India Ships may be supplied with the said Lumpers on application at the Office

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants
held at the Marine Society's Office, on the Marine
Police Establishment June 19 1798

Present

Samuel Long Esq^r in the Chair
Mr Harrison Mr Manning
Mr Bosanquet Mr Boddingtons
Mr D. Long Mr J. Colquhoun

By Mr Bosanquet, and Mr Harrison
report their Opinions

That the following Persons be advertised
for, and on producing satisfactory Testimonials of
Character to the Magistrate be enrolled at the Marine Police
office viz

70 Constables
35 Foremen, who know something of Seamanship
350 Lumpers, some of whom must also understand
the business of a Ship

That the above Numbers shall be increased
or diminished as may hereafter be found necessary.

That they be divided into 35 Gangs, each
to consist of the following persons.

2 Constables

1 Foreman

4 Lumpers, Holders

6 or 7 Deckers or Capstan-men

That this Establishment be made known by
public advertisement, and that on application being made
at

at the Office, a Gang shall be sent on board of any Ship that has ¹⁵⁰ already been reported at the Custom House, and that such Ship be supplied with one such Gang, the Gangs to be taken in rotation) every day till discharged unless the same is not required so often.

That the Gangs shall be new formed every Monday Morning.

That the Men shall enroll themselves upon the following conditions

1. The Constables to watch Ships Stores and Cargo, attend Lighters up to the Ties, until discharged, and carry all offenders before the resident Magistrate at the Police Office.

2. The Foremen to receive the Orders of the Superintendent of Lumpers, and see that the Gangs perform their duty with diligence and attention.

3. They shall attend at the Office every Morning at 5 o'clock in Summer, and not later than 6 in Winter.

4. Repair immediately with their Gang to such Ship or Vessel, as the Superintendent Lumpers shall direct.

5. The Lumpers shall submit to the Orders of the Foreman of their Gang when they have left the Office, and whilst they are at work.

6. They shall strike Yards and Topmasts, get up a Derrick and prepare everything as hitherto done by Lumpers in the River Thames for discharging a Vessels Cargo in the port place, and having done so proceed to discharge the Cargo without delay.

7 Their working Hours shall be from 6 o'clock in the Morning till 6 at Night in Summer, and from Sun Rise till sun set in Winter.

8. They shall not quit the Vessel on board of which they are at work all day.

9 If from the want of Entries or other circumstances it shall so happen that a Gang cannot be employed on board of the Vessel they first attend in the morning, in that case the whole Gang shall immediately repair to the Office for fresh Orders.

10 They shall not wear Trowsers or Frocks, but Stockings, Breeches, and round Jackets

11 On quitting a Ship they shall be searched by her own Officers, the Constables and Foreman of the Gang.

12 On going on Shore the whole Gang shall land in a Boat with their Foreman

13 They shall breakfast and dine on board of such Vessel as they are at work in upon Provisions to be found by the Ship, and be allowed half an Hour for the former at 8 o'clock, and One Hour for the latter at One o'clock

14 Their Wages shall be as follows

Constables 5/- & day cash

Foremen 5/- ditto

Boilers

Deckers or } 3/6 ditto

Capstern men

15. They shall be paid their Wages every Saturday, Night in the following manner. Their Foreman shall deliver in

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day,
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in a List of his Gang, and their Work for the Week to the 101
appointed Cashier or Clerk at the Office, receive for the whole and
distribute to each man his due.

16 Whilst they are on board of any Ship the Constables
and Foremen in particular and the rest of the Men shall pay
every possible respect to her Master Officers, and Crew.

17 That any one breaking these Conditions neglecting
or quitting his Work shall forfeit all the Wages which would
otherwise be due to him.

Resolved, That Mr Richard Patchellor be
appointed Superintendent of Lumpers at such Salary
or other emolument as may be hereafter fixed.

That a Cashier and Assistant Clerk
be taken into the employ of the Office. £

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants
held at the Marine Society's Office June 19. 1798.
Samuel Long Esq^r in the Chair.

Mr Jackson

Mr Aislalie

Mr Wedderburn

Mr Keighley

Mr Harrison

Mr Boanquet

Mr S. Long

Mr Manning

Mr Poddington

Mr Blackman

The Minutes of the Committee appointed
to take into Consideration the Establishment of a Marine
Police Office being read.

Resolved,

Resolved, That this Meeting do approve of the Plan suggested by the Committee, and that it be recommended that the said Plan be immediately carried into Execution.

Resolved, That Application be made to the Trinity House to grant Warrants to all Peace Officers who shall be recommended by the Marine Police Establishment, and that Mr Colquhoun be requested to explain to the Elder Brethren, the nature of the Establishment, and the motive for his application.

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants, to whom were referred the Bills for sundry Prosecutions, held at the Marine Society's Office June 20th 1798.

Present

Preston Long Esq^r in the Chair
Robert Mulligan Esq^r
George Blackman Esq^r

The following Bills were laid before

the Meeting

Mr Chatham Solicitor prosecution on several Indictments, against George Bird, John Chambers, James Flowers, John Coulthurst, Aaron Baker, & John Ansell, on the part of Messrs Mulligan & Mitchell for stealing & receiving Sugar out of the Ship Bushy Park.

163. 8. 2

Amount brought up for Bushy Park 103. 8. 2
Mr Chetham Solicitor Prosecution of
Messrs Paillie & Lang against Flowers &
Coulthurst for stealing and receiving Sugar 78. 6. -
from the Ship Prince.

Mr Chetham Solicitor Bill Prosecution of
Messrs George Blackman & Co against Mr
Faulkner Benjamin Wolfe, Honor Simpson
John Jones, Charles Faulkner, John Tenhagen
John Anrup & John Althurst for stealing
quantity of Sugar from on board the Ship
Adamant 216. 10. 10

£158. 5. -

Mr Richard Batchellor for Expenses in the prosecuting
of Ships Bushy Park, and Prince 43. 7. 4
Cash paid witnesses 32. 19. - & Civil Officers 49. 13. - 93. - 4

Mr R Batchellor for Expenses of Adamant 125. 19. 11
ditto Expenses for Bushy Park & Adamant 19. 15. 6

238. 15. 9

Mr Richard Batchellor Gratuity for his Time,
Trouble & Attendance during the whole of the above
sundry Prosecutions.

105. - -

Travelling and other Expenses for Witnesses paid by
Messrs G Blackman & Co at Kingston for Ship Adamant 28. - 6

£330. 1. 3

Resolved, That the above be submitted to the
Consideration of a Monthly Meeting, on Tuesday next
the 26th Instant.

103. 8. 2

of the
that it be
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Officers
Please
requested to
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Chair
is before

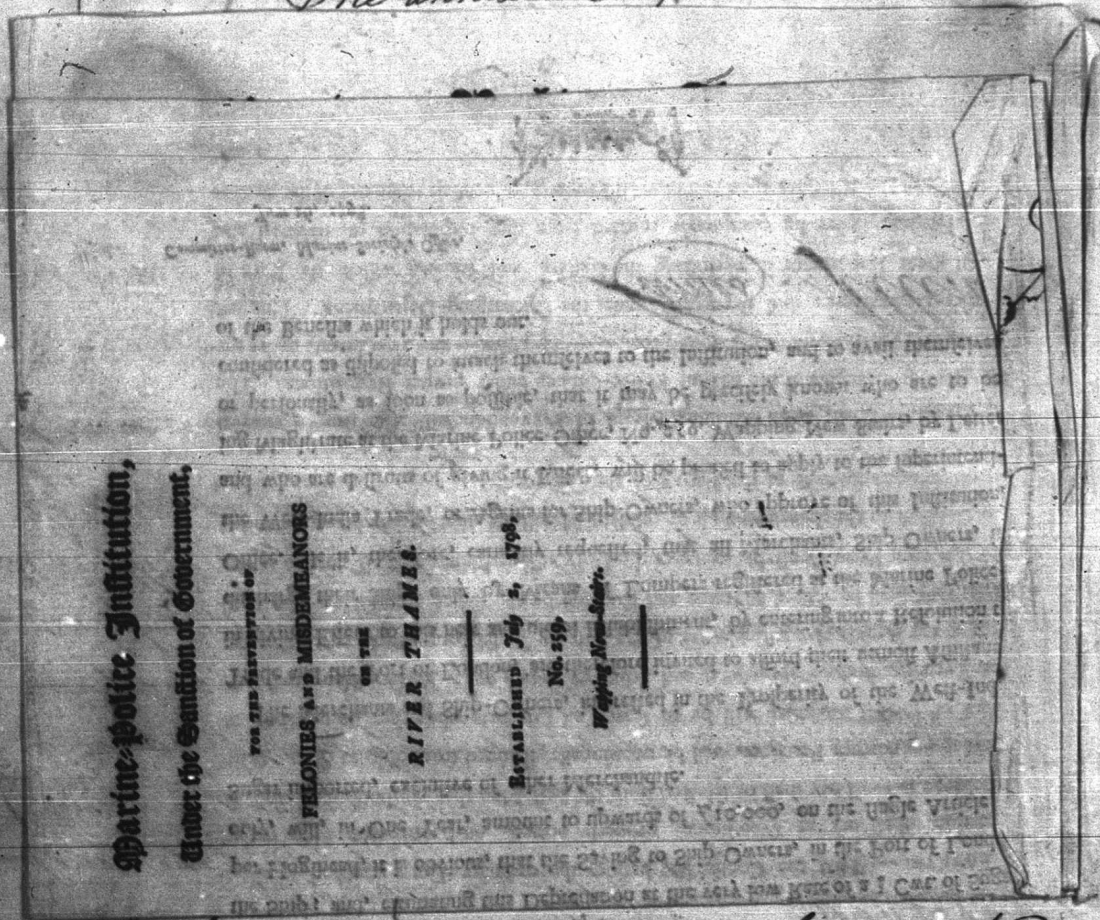
At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office June 26th 1798.

Burton Long Coy^r in the Chair

Mr Medderburn
Mr Vaughan
Mr Turner
Mr H Jackson
Mr Harrison

Mr Harrison
Mr & Medderburn
Mr Doddingtone
Mr Hibbert

The annexed Report was read.



Resolved, That the said Report be approved

The Minutes of the Committee of 20th Instant, being read.

That the Expenses of Prosecutors carried on by Messrs Blackman & Messrs Mulligan & Mitchell

Long
+ Messrs Mulligan & Mitchell
Fund
St
held
Mr
Mr
Mr

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of the
Police
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ts, held
1798.
+ Mr. ^{Long} ~~Ball~~ ^{Long} amounting to £ 830. 1. 3 be defrayed out of the ¹⁰⁵
Funds of this Meeting.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants
held at the Marine Society's Office, July 13th 1798.

Beaton Long Esq. in the Chair

Mr. Bosanquet

Mr. Vaughan

Mr. Jackson

Mr. Turner

Mr. Harrison

Mr. Boddington

Mr. Long reported that he had communicated
to the Lords of the Treasury, to the Commissioners
of the Customs, and Excise, the Plans of the Marine
Police, and had received the following Letter from
the Commissioners of the Customs -

Sirs

"I have it in command to acknowledge
"the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, together
"with the plan of a Marine Police Office therein
"referred to, and to state to you for the information
"of the Committee of West India Merchants, that
"this Board will be extremely ready to render any
"assistance in their power in the furthering such
"plan for the important objects of the benefit of
"the Trade of this Port and the prevention of abuses,
"but that at present the Commissioners are not aware
"in what way any directions from them could
"contribute to the better execution of the said Plans,
"if however the same are pointed out and found to be
"consistent with the system of management of the
"Revenue of Customs, this Board will give them
"due

of 20th

executed
Milligan
& Mitchell

"due attention; but I am at the same time to
"Apprise you that at all events the usual
"Mode of communication on occasions of this
"Nature is through the medium of the Lords
"Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

I am
Sir, Your most obedient and
Very humble servant

Custom House of
5th July 1798.

Signed J. Hume

Mr. Long had also received sundry letters from
Mr. Colquhoun, who being ^{also} present - Delivered in a Report
of the general Statement of the Institution and of the
plans that had been adopted for carrying the same
into execution on the arrival of the Seaward Island Fleet

Report from Mr. Colquhoun to the Committee
of West India Merchants stating his progress in
carrying into effect the Marine Police Establishment
at Wapping and offering certain propositions to
the consideration of the Committee for the
purpose of perfecting and improving the System

Marine Society's Office
Bishopsgate Street 13 July 1798

Gentlemen

Since I had the pleasure of meeting you
in this place on the 26 of last month, I have been
constantly and laboriously occupied in the arduous
task of methodizing and carrying into effect the
Marine Police Establishment at Wapping, which
commenced on the 2^d of the present Month - and has
now

now assumed the following form in its Methodized
State - 167

1st - A Judicial Establishment where a superintending
and a resident Magistrate provides to take
cognisance of all Offences committed on the
River Thames and the Vicinity thereof, as
expressed more specifically in the Warrants of
the Constables -

2nd - An Establishment of Constables duly
Registered, and sworn, for the protection of
the Ships under discharge, and for the River
and Quay - of this Class 215 Persons well
recommended have been Registered and of these
are employed in the following departments -

6 Persons who act as Boat Surveyors, each
of whom have a division of Ships
assigned them, and their duty is to
superintend the discharge, to visit their
respective Ships twice a day and once
during the Night, and to see that the
Constables on Board, and the Lumpers
do their Duty -

4 Persons who act as Surveyors of the Quays,
and who superintend Night and Day; 25
Sworn Officers who watch the Quays, and
Wharfs & Craft Night and Day, who are
changed every six hours, and whose Duty it
is to receive the Lighters into their charge
from the Constable sent on Shore, and to
protect the Property from Pilferage in
every Stage until deposited in the
Warehouse of the Merchants -

12 Constables who act as Watermen to the
River Surveyors -

25 Constables who are employed under the
Surveyors of the Quays, as Guards to the
Lighters & to the Property there

47. Persons brought from the other Side
 113. Constables employed as Guards on board
 of 57 Ships who have applied for Lumps.

Total employed - 160

Registered & not employed - 76 of which 12 have been sworn
236

3^d An Establishment of Lumpers consisting of,
 Foremen of gangs, Holders & Capstan men,
 of this Class 65 Masters have been registered
 & 55 are employed; and out of about 1000 former
 Lumpers that have been registered 850 are
 employed -

4th An Establishment of Clerks consisting of the following

- 1st a Solicitor or Law Clerk ... M^r Lang -
- 2^d a Cashier or Check Clerk ... M^r Morroke -
- 3^d a Book Keeper ... M^r Bell -
- 4th a Collecting Clerk ... M^r Farley -

5th An Establishment for the Department of the Lumpers.

- 1st One Superintendent of Lumpers M^r Batchelor
- 2^d a Clerk in the Superintendent's Office M^r Sykes

This for the Establishment has been arranged -
 the early arrival of the Leeward Island Fleet at a
 moment when the System had scarce assumed a
 form, and before any part of the Institution was
 methodized, required not only great exertions, but
 compelled me to have recourse to temporary expedients
 for the purpose of carrying the Design into effect
 until Time would permit me to digest the various
 parts of the System more fully - among these
 Expedients was the Paper (No 1) entitled "Rules &
 Orders"

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"Rules & Orders," and also the "Caution" (No 2) -
which were hastily drawn up and printed as temporary
Instructions to Surveyors, Constables, and Lumpers
as well as information to Ship Masters and Masters
until leisure will permit separate Instructions to
each fully digested -

The Misrepresentations of the Council of
the Institution rendered it necessary to print the Notice
(No 3) addressed to Ship Owners; & the very reprehensible
Conduct of some of the Revenue Officers in offering the
grossest Insults to the Police Constables occasioned the
printing and the circulation among the different
Ships of the "Order" (No 4) -

The evil and refractory Conduct of a Junta of
the Master Lumpers who actually formed a combination
for the purpose of defeating the good objects of the Institution,
after their Names had been registered, rendered the
Circular Letter (No 5) necessary -

By the firmness that was manifested and the
Measures that were pursued when the conspiracy was
discovered the Object of the Ring leaders was defeated,
and Peace restored, altho' the aspect was not favorable
at the Outset as the combination was formed on the
very morning when Calls were expected upon the
Office for Lumpers -

Not has the Opposition been alone confined to
Old Master Lumpers and Customhouse Officers - The
Chief part of the Masters and not a few of the Captains
of the Ships now arrived have shown much hostility to
this new Institution, and 50 of the latter are said to have
entered into an Agreement to use their utmost efforts
to suppress it - The undue means used by several of
the

for Provisions, yet it would appear from a careful
 consideration of the Table (p. 9) as formed by the
 Committee that some beneficial and satisfactory
 Modifications may be made, and instead of
 including the Expence of the Constable & Watchman
 in the dues, if it were made a separate charge as
 heretofore, the rates would (by being thereby reduced)
 not appear at the first glance to be so unreasonable
 as they do at present, and by such a reduction
 while the same Money was ultimately obtained
 nothing would appear out of the common course,
 and those who wish to take advantage of every
 ground of misrepresentation to defeat the good
 Intentions of the Institution would be disappointed.

On the general subject of Expence I beg leave
 to refer the Committee to the Letter No 10
 written to me by Mr. Barnes; and I request to
 submit to its Consideration also the following

- Propositions -

1. That - Constables should be on the regular
 Establishment -

480 -	6 -	Surveyors of Buoys	Salaries . . . £ 60 - - -
120	2 -	Extra Surveyors . . .	
	4	Superintendants of the Quays altogether	120 - - -
80	2	Confidential Constables at the Office . . . each	40 - - -
<u>680</u>	14	Superior Officers -	
	100	Constables to guard Ships & detect plunder . . . each	10 - - -
	100	Extra or Glut Constables to be called for occasionally & paid as they are employed -	

2^d - That - 70 Select Master Surveys be taken upon the
 Register at 6^d a day instead of 5^d when employed.

3^d That the Holders receive $\frac{1}{4}$ a day instead of $\frac{3}{16}$ & Duties as at present -

4th That the Salaries of Clerks shall be postponed until their merits, and the Nature & Extent of their Labour can be better ascertained -

5th That Circular Letters be written to all Consignees interested in property now protected in the Lighters and on the Quay by Police Watchmen, requesting they will pay into the Funds of the Marine Establishment the Money they were accustomed to pay formerly to their own Watchmen who were numerous and expensive but for want of superintendance and Authority under a Public Establishment could never be depended on, and did no Service -

6. That a New Table of Surveys Dues be settled charging the Watching Dues separately

7. That a Representation of the Nature of the Institution as now modelled and improved be sent to Mr. Curling previous to the Meeting on Tuesday of the Ship Owners - & to state the Combination among the Ship Masters, recommending Resolutions to defeat it -

8th That a Letter of Thanks be written to the Master Wardens &c of the Trinity House for their public Reception of Mr. Colquhoun & their unanimous Declarations of a Disposition to countenance and support this new Institution

9-
10-
11-
12-

The
Resolved,

Measures
Institution

Curling
of Ships,
of Captain

Resolved,

to Mr. Cur
be necessary

the Elder
the Natio

- 9- That in case a sufficient sum be not collected for
the Lumpsum Dues on Saturday that a writ be given
to draw on Mr Long -
- 10- That Messrs Prescott & Co. shall be the Banking
house of the Institution.
- 11- That the Cashier shall be authorised to draw
for Money and shall find the usual security £1000.
- 12- That in order to remove all prejudices against
this Institution Mr Colquhoun be requested to
draw up an account of the Institution showing its
Advantages &c.

The Report being read and the Minutes followed up -

Resolved,

That Mr Colquhoun be requested to take such
Measures as may be best for carrying the purposes of the
Institution into execution.

Mr Long reported he had sent to Mr Robert
Curling the Plans of the Marine Police for the discharge
of Ships, requesting him to lay the same before the Meeting
of Captains of Ships which are to meet next Tuesday.

Resolved,

That Mr Colquhoun be requested to write a letter
to Mr Curling containing such further explanations as may
be necessary.

Mr Colquhoun reported that he had waited upon
the Elder Brethren of the Trinity House to state to them
the Nature of the Institution and that they had expressed
their

their great readiness to countenance the plan

Resolved, That a Letter be written to the Elder Brethren of the Trinity house thanking them for their friendly Attention and for their unanimous Declaration to countenance and support this new Institution.

Resolved, That the Monies collected for the use of the Marine Police Office be paid into the hands of Messrs Prescott & Co Bankers.

Resolved, That Mr Wm Brooke be appointed Cashier on giving a Security of One thousand Pounds, and that he be authorized to draw upon Messrs Prescotts for Monies for the use of the Marine Police Office and that the Drafts be countersigned by Mr Colquhoun or Mr Harriet.

Resolved, That a Letter be written accordingly to Messrs Prescotts & Co.

A Meeting of the West India Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office 18 July 1798.

Breton Long Big in the Chair.

Mr G. Hibbert
Mr Woodington
Mr Eden
Mr Higgin

Mr Blackmore
Mr Milligan
Mr M. Davidson

Mr. B. Long reported that he had seen Mr. Nepean at the Admiralty who represented that as the Lords of the Admiralty were informed that only 8 Ships were at present at Portsmouth ready to avail themselves of the Convoy appointed for the 15th Instant, it was proposed by their Lordships to delay the Departure of said Convoy till some day at the End of August

Resolved,

That as the Act lately passed prevents Vessels in general from running out as usual at this Period of the Year without Convoy, it is essential to those which are loaded with perishable Articles however few, that a Convoy should be granted them as near as possible to the Time already appointed - that it appears there were 6 Ships sailed from the Downs the 17th Instant, the names of which are subjoined, that being the first Wind within this fortnight of which they could avail themselves, and that it is doubtful if they have had fair Wind enough to carry them to Portsmouth - and that on these accounts it is particularly requested that their Lordships would allow them Convoy to depart the first fair Wind, waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs -

Beddington	} to Jamaica	3
Lord Stuffle		
Mars		
Smalleridge	} to Leeward Islands	3
Lady Mary		
Gov ^r Wentworth		
	at Portsmouth	8
		14

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Resolved,

That the Chairman be requested to apply to the Lords of the Admiralty, urging the necessity of their Lordships deputeding an Authority to the different West India Islands (such Authority to be easily accepted) under which Vessels in various particular Circumstances may be allowed to depart from the West India Islands without Convoy - since many Cases may be stated to their Lordships wherein the want of such an Authority might prove a great hardship upon particular Ships and very detrimental to the Commercial Interests of the Islands -

Resolved

That the Chairman be desired to represent to their Lordships that the Fleet expected to depart from Jamaica about the 10th June will consist of a great number of Ships and of immense Value, and that it is of the most material importance that Measures should be timely adopted for their Protection in approaching the British Channel - more particularly in case of dispersion and that to the safety of the expected West India Fleet a few Cruisers between the Western Islands and Newfoundland would at this time of the year materially contribute.

A Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office July 20th 1798 -

Brewster Long Esq in the Chair

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Mr Turner | Sir Richard Neave Bt |
| Mr Duffell | Mr Manning |
| Mr Boddington | Mr Bosanquet |
| Mr Barrington | Mr Vaughan |

The Minutes of the last Committee were read and confirmed -

Mr Colquhoun delivered the following Report from the Surveyors of Boats or Chief Constables (being old Masters of Ships) -

Marine Police Office. 19 July 1798

The Report of the Surveyors -

In obedience to the Superintending Magistrate's Order of this date, requesting to know the particular State of the River Thames since the Arrival of the West India Fleet now under discharge, and what effect, the new Police System, & particularly the Establishment of Boat Surveyors flying in the Night as well as by Day, has produced in preventing Felonies, Larcenies, and Misdemeanors upon the said River -

We -

We the undersigned Surveyors acting
 under the Marine Police Establishment
 Do report that we have regularly visited every
 Ship twice in the day in our respective Divisions,
 where the Ships have been discharged under the
 direction of this Establishment. And as old
 Ship Masters acquainted with Nautical Affairs;
 We have regularly surveyed the work performed
 by the Lumpers, and given such directions, as
 appeared to us to be proper, not only for the
 purpose of facilitating the discharge, but also
 with a view to prevent Injury to the Casks and
 Packages, and to preserve the Cargo from being
 plundered, with this view we have constantly
 visited the Hold and given such directions and
 cautions to the Foremen Lumpers & Constables,
 who are sworn Officers, as our experience suggested
 and we have great satisfaction in reporting;
 that as far as we have been able to judge, the
 Cargoes have not only been discharged in good
 order, but pillage and plunder have been
 completely prevented, some of those Boats, which
 were accustomed constantly to hover about Ships
 under discharge are now to be seen, as Two
 Boats are constantly on duty in the Night, for
 the purpose of visiting every Ship, with a view,
 not only to detect the Constables, who may be
 help

vigilant than their predecessors, but also to search and
 seize all boats conveying stolen property from the Ships.
 We further report, that at no period since we have been
 acquainted with the River Thames, has it ever appeared
 so still and quiet as since the commencement of the
 Marine Police Establishment and although we have
 made it a point to board every boat, we have met with
 from London Bridge to Deptford, a single instance has
 not occurred that we have met with any thing even of a
 suspicious Nature, although one boat has plied on each
 side the River nearly at the same time from ten o'clock at
 night until five o'clock in the Morning. It may be
 proper also to add, that the Watermen who used formerly
 to attend the Footmen and Passengers, during the discharge
 of West India Ships are no longer to be seen, and the means
 of conveying plunder on shore totally done away, and we
 cannot help observing that, that Class of Men, called
 Beakent, who used formerly to go out in the Night under
 pretence of grappling for old Ropes (but whose principal
 object was stealing Cordage from the Ships) have dis-
 appeared since this Institution took place -

We cannot close this Report, without remarking
 the great diminution of Expence in cooping the Casks,
 which we attribute to the difficulties, which have been
 thrown in the way of plunder, thereby preventing that
 unnecessary demolition of Casks and packages, which
 formerly took place, for that particular object -

We -

We are desirous for thee to observe, that in performing that part of our Duty, which consists in boarding in the Night, we have occasion to cross Vessels not discharging through the Medium of this Office - In which case it rarely occurs that we can find any Person on Deck -

Signed John Gatty
 Jno Tiffin
 Jno Arnott
 G. Ross
 Tho^s Thompson

Mr Robt. Curbing and a Committee of Owners and Masters of West India Ships attended and laid before the Meeting several Papers for the Consideration of the Marine Police Establishment, and it appearing that the Charge for Lumping the Ships was calculated on the Number and not on the Size of the Casks by which the Charge of Lumping was considerably increased and the small Packages were charged at too high a rate -

Resolved, That in future the charge for Lumping the Ships be in proportion to the Weight and Size of the different Packages, as near as they can be ascertained -

It likewise appeared that no account whatever of the Number of Packages delivered on board the Lighters was taken, either by the Constables or Lightermen

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Resolved,

That the Masters or Stewards of West India Ships be requested to give a signed List of the Number and Marks of the Casks and their Contents, Relivered from the Ship into each Lighter to the Constable who attends the Lighter to the Quay, and that the said list be afterwards given to the Superintendent at the Quays, and that he be directed to give charge to the Guard at the Quay to attend to the safe landing of the Goods from each Lighter -

Resolved,

That the Masters or Stewards of the said West India Ships be likewise desired to take from the Lighterman a Receipt for the Number of Casks and other Packages -

Resolved.

That the above Resolutions be transmitted to the Marine Police Office -

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office July 27th, 1798,

Present

Prudston Long Esq, in the Chair

Mr^r Dodderington

Mr^r Vaughan

Mr^r Jackson

Mr^r Colquhoun attended the Meeting and likewise Mr^r Curling and a Committee of Captains, and Owners of Ships -

Resolved

Resolved,

That it be taken into Consideration whether in future the Charge of Lumping out the West India Ships should be as follows -

Sugar	{ Hogshhead Tierce Barrel	} 1 ⁰ ^{per gross}
Rum	{ Puncheon Hogshhead	9 ⁰ 6 ⁰
Cotton	{ Bag Tocket	6 ⁰ 3 ⁰
Coffee or Cocoa	{ Hogshhead Tierce Barrel or Bag	} 1 ⁰ ^{per gross}
Simento or Turmeric	{ Casks above 2 Bags	6 ⁰ 2 ⁰
Ginger	{ Casks above 2 Bags	6 ⁰ 1 ⁰
Indigo	per package	6 ⁰
Castor Oil	per Cask	1 ⁰
Spice goods, and other articles		4 ⁰ ^{per barrel bulk}
Hides, p 100 Hides		5 ⁰
Elephants Teeth	each	6 ⁰
Logwood, Justice, Mahogany, and other Woods		per Ton 1-6 ⁰
Sawwood Spars		1 ⁰ each

That 6⁰ per Ton be charged for the Expense of the Marine Police Watchmen, and that in the first Instance the Captains be desired to pay the Office

Office of the Surge for Lumping and the remainder ¹⁸³
whenever the Sandwaiters Accounts can be made out

At a Monthly Meeting of the West India Merchants
held at the Marine Society's Office, August 3^d, 1798.

Present.

Sir Richard Neave was in the Chair

Mr Adam

Mr G. Hibbert

Mr B. Long

Mr Stummis

Mr S. Turner

Mr Boddington

Mr W. Vaughan

Mr Preston Long reported that Sir
Richard Neave and himself had transmitted the
Minutes of the last Meeting to the Admiralty, and
they had been informed by Mr Nepean that a Convoy
for the West Indies had been ordered to sail the first
fair Wind, agreeable to the request of the West India
Merchants; and that Mr Nepean had desired them
to state the Reasons that induced the West India
Merchants to require licences to be granted in certain
Cases for Ships to be permitted to depart from the
West India Islands without Convoy, and that Mr Long
had in consequence transmitted the following Paper.

Reasons why a discretionary Power from the
Admiralty should be sent out to the West India
Islands allowing Vessels of certain Descriptions
and under certain Circumstances to depart from
thence

thence without Convoy -

7. The Regulations of the new Act will not supersede the utility of Insuring at the long premium i.e. without a Warranty of Convoy, but stipulating a return for having sailed with it, since so nice have been the questions in the Courts of Law upon this point (Vessels which actually had all the benefit of Convoy having been adjudg'd not to have perform'd their Warranty) that Shippers will not chuse to leave it a matter of dispute.

The Practice therefore of Insuring at the long Premium continuing, the Masters of Vessells knowing their Ships Insur'd against quibbles, will be the more desirous of following a Convoy should they arrive a few hours too late at the place of Rendezvous which may happen after every fair precaution to the contrary, owing to Currents, contrary Winds, or Accidents, but unless the Master can speedily obtain some Authority for so doing, he must under the new Act wait for another Convoy, by which he may incur to his Owners great Loss, and Expence -

It may happen that a Ship respectably arm'd and sheath'd with Copper is in the above predicament, full a match for any Enemy she is likely to meet near the Islands, and well able to overtake the Convoy before she be in the reach of danger, such

a Ship if even a few Days too late for the Convoy¹⁸⁵
might with safety and with great advantage to Commerce
be allowed to follow it -

^{the} 2 - African Vessels which arrive in the West Indies
from the Coast of Guinea at all times of the Year, all
Copper'd and armed, often have their returns in
part made by Shipments on themselves of West India
Produce - These Vessels must make their loading
in the Islands a secondary Consideration, it being
essential they should arrive in Great Britain at the
Season suitable for their outfits again to Africa; the
least delay to such Vessels may be the ruin of their
succeeding Voyage, and they are calculated to elude
or to resist the attack of an Enemy.

^{the} 3 - From the 26th July to the 12th January in Jamaica,
more than five Months, the opportunity of collecting
Vessels sufficient for a Convoy may but rarely
occur, yet the few Ships which are left at that Season,
particularly from Ports on the North side of the
Island, may suffer very material Injury by a
detention till the 12th Jan^y, at which time it is
probable the earliest Convoy would depart - at
that Season of the Year it is more particularly
desirable that Copper'd Vessels of force should be
allowed to depart alone, or two, or three in Company,
rather than wait two, three, four, or five Months
for Convoy, at a heavy expence, and possibly under
the disadvantage of a sickly Crew -

These are Instances which readily occur, but of so
new

now a regulation it is impossible to foresee all the particular hardships, if it be not accompanied with a dispensing Power, and if that Power be not easily accessible. If for Instance the Admirals have alone that power and they be on a Cruise, or at a different Island, and have not had the liberty to depute some Person Stationary in the respective Islands to grant Licences in their absence, the benefit to result from this power may be irrecoverably lost -

29 July 1798 -

And that in answer Mr B. Long had received the following Letter from Mr Nepean -

Admiralty Office 7 Aug^r 1798.

Sir,

In answer to your Letter to me of yesterday Date, I am commanded by my Lords Comm^{rs} of the Admiralty to acquaint you that the Governors of His Majesty's Islands in the West Indies will be authorized to grant Licences for Ships to sail without Convoy - I am

Sir,

Your most humble servant

Signed Evan Nepean

Burton Long Esq. St Marys Ave -

Resolved,

That the Rate of Two Shillings p Ton for Lumping, and Six pence p Ton for Watching be upon the Report of the Ship Laid upon all such as shall discharge their Cargoes by means of the New Marine Police.

Police Office, in lieu of the Charge hitherto levied, and ¹⁶⁷ that of the same rate shall not be found adequate (as it is hoped it will) to the actual expence of the Office, that any excess shall be paid by each Ship on her delivery being completed.

Resolved, That it is expedient to represent to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, that the quantity of Rum expected in the approaching Fleets as unusually great, and that the price has been for some time past dropping, and from the state of the demand is likely further to fall, inasmuch that it has been stated to this Meeting that Contracts for Rum of the quality used in the Navy, may now be made at a price nearly as low as for Spanish Brandy, which it is understood is now purchased for that Service in considerable quantity, and that should the price of Rum even exceed that of Spanish Brandy a few pence in the Gallon it is to be presumed, that consideration would be counterbalanced by the superior Policy of affording encouragement to our own Plantations rather than to Aliens and Enemies; and that it be therefore earnestly recommended to the Lords of the Treasury to direct that the Victualling Board may report the comparative Prices at which Contracts for Rum, and for Spanish Brandy, may at this time be made, and that their Lordships will give directions that a reasonable preference be immediately given to the use of British Plantation Spirits.

Resolved, That the above Resolution be transmitted by the

Chairman to the Chancellor of the Exchequer

Resolved,

That Application be made to the Lords of the Admiralty for Protection from the Troop to be granted by means of the New Marine Police Office at their recommendation to such Mates of Homeward bound West India Ships, whose presence on board their Ships may be found to be indispensable for the protection of their Cargoes, in which the Revenue is so much interested.

✓ Mr Boston Long laid before the Meeting the Resolutions of a General Meeting of the Merchants and Ship Owners of which the following is a Copy—

London Tavern 29 June 1798.

✓ At a General Meeting of the Merchants & Ship Owners convened by public Advertisement and held here this day, for the purpose of considering of the propriety of introducing a new form of Bill of Lading into general use—

Edward Forster Esq in the Chair

Resolved,

That the Exception in the Bill of Lading as thus altered ("The Act of God, the King's Enemies and all Fire, and every other Dangers, and Accidents of the Seas, Rivers, and Navigation of whatever Nature or kind soever excepted") and now pro-

Resolved,

Resolved

Resolved

produced, be recommended to be generally adopted ¹⁸⁹
by the Merchants, and Ship Owners - but that in
respect to the West India Trade, where a certain
Risk of Boats is understood to attach to the Ships,
it be recommended to insert in the Bills of Lading
the Words (Save risk of Boats, so far as Ships are
liable thereto) immediately previous to the concluding
Word excepted.

That in the Coasting Trade, where no Bills of
Lading are used, the Words of the Exception be
recommended to be introduced into the Receipts given
for Goods -

Resolved,

That Mr. Allen be desired to prepare Bills
of Lading according to the above Resolution and send
them to the different West India Houses.

Resolved

That the Chairman be requested to direct that
a Copy of the Resolutions entered into at a Meeting of
Ship Owners &c at the London Tavern on the 29th Inst^o
be transmitted to each of the West India Islands with
Bills of Lading printed in the form therein recom-
mended for the Trade of the West India Islands.

Resolved

That it appears from several Letters from the
Leeward Islands that from the excessive Rains which
have fallen in the Month of June, which have retarded
the Crop in the Islands, a very large quantity of Sugar
will remain to come Home after the departure of the

To August Fleet, that the Lords of the Admiralty be requested to send out directions for a Geny to be appointed to sail from the Seward Islands on the 10th October next, or as soon after as may be convenient

Ordered

That Mr. Gregg the Solicitor's Bill amounting to £52-2-10 be paid for Expenses in procuring a Bill for preventing the Desertion of Seamen from West India Ships -

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office August, 8th 1798 -

Sir Richard Neave Bart. in the Chair

Mr. B. Long

Mr. J. Turner

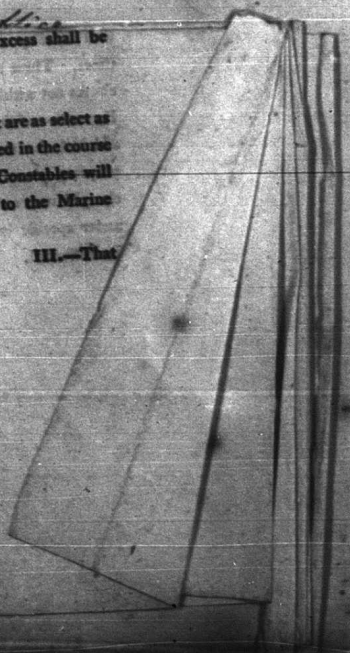
Mr. Harrison

A Report having been laid before this Committee from Mr. Colquhoun the Superintending Magistrate of the Marine Police Office

be found adequate (as it is hoped it will) to the actual expence of the Office, any excess shall be paid by each ship on her delivery being completed.

II.—That for the purpose of enabling the proper officer to provide gangs of men, that are as select as possible, and to ascertain the number that will be required for the two fleets expected in the course of the present month; the names and tonnage of the ships for which Lumpers and Constables will be wanted, be transmitted as early as possible, after receiving this proposition, to the Marine Police Office.

III.—That



Resolved.

That the Report as now read be approved, and that a copy of the said Report, likewise of the comparative View of the Old and New System be transmitted by the Chairman to the Consignees and Owners of Ships in the West India Trade.

That the Consideration of the Memorial relative to Sweepings be deferred till the next Meeting, and likewise of the Appointment of a Committee for auditing the Accounts.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office London 7 September 1798

Present

Beeston Long Esq^r in the Chair.

Mr Bosanquet

Mr S. Turner

Mr Milligan

Mr Allan

Mr Wedderburn

Mr Maitlands

Mr G. Hibbert

Mr Adam

Mr Blackman

Mr Plummer

Mr Vaughan

Mr Ingram

Mr Jackson

Mr Timperon

That a Committee be appointed to consider Mr Colquhoun's Report relative to Sweepings and that the following Gentlemen be a Committee

Mr Milligan

Mr G. Hibbert

Mr Turner

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Wedderburn

And that the

same Gentlemen be a Committee for auditing the Accounts

Mr. Hubbert laid before this Meeting the following Copy of a Memorial presented to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

London 4 September 1798

To the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury

My Lords,

The Committee of West India Merchants beg leave to represent to your Lordship that the Ships of the last Fleets from the West Indies which reported from the 14th to the 18th August found the Legal Quay considerably preoccupied by the Ships of the first Leeward Island Fleet still undischarged, and that owing to the confined space at the Quays, and to the usual impediments in the River, more than ordinarily experienced by such numerous arrivals, very little progress has yet been made in their discharge and that many, waiting their turn in Rotation, have not commenced working that the quantity of Rum imported by those fleets greatly exceeds what has of late Years been usually imported in like number of Ships, and that a consequent depression of Price and dullness of demand have impeded the disposal of that Article, even could the Samples have been obtained which has not been in many instances possible. That in respect to Coffee its removal from the Quays, and consequently its delivery from the Ships has been impeded by a scarcity of Landwaiters and of Cart Followers at the Legal Quay, and that altho' the Commissioners of the Customs

have readily granted all the aid in their power when¹⁷⁹³ applied to, a delay in the progress of discharging the Ships has thereby been occasioned, that it will be therefore totally impossible to have the whole of the Rum and Coffee landed out of the generality of the Ships within the time appointed by Law

The Committee therefore intreats that in consideration of these circumstances Your Lordships will be pleased to direct the Commissioners of Customs and Excise to grant Ten Days time in addition to the time at present allowed from the date of the Ships Reports for the landing the Articles of Rum and Coffee out of such West India Ships of the Fleet now discharging as shall be found to require such Indulgence.

Mr Deeston Long laid before the Meeting the following Note, in reply to the foregoing Memorial.

Downing Street
September 5 1798.

"Mr Pitt presents his compliments to Mr Deeston Long - He has received his Note enclosing a Memorial of the West India Merchants, and has in consequence given directions for the same Indulgence being shewn on the present occasion, as in the Year 1793."

That a Committee be appointed to consider of the Act for preventing the desertion of Seamen from British Ships, with such Amendments as may be thought requisite.

Mr Hibbert

Mr Mulligan

Mr Maitland

That the capture of the West India Packets, becoming by its frequency an increasing Injury to commercial Interourse. It is necessary to renew the application made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on that Subject and earnestly to recommend to his immediate adoption measures in extenuation of an Evil now grown to a magnitude subversive of much of the benefit of the British Colonial Trade

That, in Confirmation of this representation it may suffice to state that since the 16th March, the date of a Memorial of this Committee upon the subject One Homeward, and Three Outward bound West India Packets are already known to have been captured, and in that number the Princess of Wales Packet with the Mail of May, which conveyance was principally to be relied upon for the advice of Shipments by the Fleet of July from Jamaica, a Fleet of imminent Importance and now
far,

advanced on its way, although a great part of the Shipments upon it are yet unadvised of. That when the Capture of the Princess Wales Packet was known here the Mail of July was about to depart, and that the important dispatches entrusted to the former, were renewed by the Duke of York Packet with the Mail of July, now also known to have been captured - That these repeated disappointments cannot be sustained without great expence and hindrance of business and that the consequent interruption of regular advices from the Islands at this important Season must produce (as happened from like causes in respect to the last winter Fleet from Jamaica) heavy and extensive losses to Individuals whose Property remains thereby uninsured.

That it is deserving of Notice that owing to the Changes which sometimes occur in the Ships that convey the West India Trade, Bags of Letters are not now as formerly made up for the Men of War appointed to that Service Outwards, and that the Trade is thus unprovided with that mode of Conveyance which in time of War has been deemed the most secure

That so long therefore as it shall be thought fit to persevere in the present Establishment of the Packets the Well being of the West India Trade requires that there be, at stated periods, every third Month for Instance, a Cutter, Sloop or Sloop of War, dispatched with the first Mail of the Month to the Leeward Islands and to Jamaica

and the rotation of such vessels being once determined and made known, Deeds and Dispatches of Importance might be reserved for their departure and advices of comparatively less consequence be entrusted to the common Packets.

That the above Resolutions be transmitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and His Majesty's Post Masters General.

That in respect to any early Convoy from Cork to the West Indies this Meeting cannot judge of its expediency, as the Ships from this Port will not require any Convoy from Cork on this side of Christmas, But that frequent Convoys having been rendered necessary by the Act of last Session it will be expedient that a Convoy for the West Indies should depart on the first fair Wind after the 13th October from Portsmouth sailing 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs, and that Provision should be made for granting one to depart in like manner about the middle of each of the four succeeding Months, with the usual provision of a separate Force to convoy the Trade bound for Jamaica directly to that Island.

That in reply to the application of the Madeira Merchants they be acquainted by the Chairman that this Meeting does not object to any Convoy that may depart previous to October calling at

Madeira

Indes under Convoy of the Medway
 Regularly Subscribed to by the
 with a large Part 20 November 1798

but that it will be inexpedient for the Interests ^{of} the Islands that any Corvoy departing in the Months of October, November or December should call at Madeira.

Mr George Hibbert proposed as Members to the Meeting
Robert Taylor Esq^r & Alexander Penny Esq^r

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office London
27 November 1798.

Present

Peeston Long Esq^r in the Chair.

Mr Blackman

Mr Lyon

Mr Adam

Mr Vaughan

Mr Wedderburn

Mr Wedderburn

Mr Higgin

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Reidley

Mr Maitland

Mr Alder Hibbert

Mr Turner

Mr Allan

Mr Goodington

Mr Milligan

Mr Long

Mr Gowland

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr George Hibbert reported that in the absence of the Chairman he had attended the Admiralty and he understood a Corvoy would be ready to sail from Portsmouth for the West Indies the 15th October, and

provision

Provision should be made for future Convoys, whenever they were required. Mr. Beeston Long informed the Meeting that the Resolutions relative to the West India Packets had been transmitted to the Chancellors of the Exchequer and the Post Masters General, and he understood it was in contemplation to allow Cutters to be dispatched at certain periods to convey Deeds and other Papers of consequence to the West Indies.

Mr. Beeston Long likewise acquainted the Meeting that as he found the Quantity of Corn allowed to be exported to the West Indies in the Months of September, October, and November, had been entered out at the Custom House. Mr. Long had made application to the Lords of Council for Trade, and they had allowed the following additional Quantities to be exported, during the Month of November

Barley	500 Quarters	Rye	20 Quarters
Beans	3,000 dt	Wheat	50 dt
Oats	4,000 dt	Wheat Flour	100 Tons
Oatmeal	Tons 50	Biscuit	20 dt
Peas	500 Quarters	Gratts	4 dt

Resolved,

That the Chairman be requested to make application to the Lords of the Admiralty for a Convoy to sail from Portsmouth, for the West Indies, the first fair Wind after the 28th December, waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs, and also to inform their Lordships that in case the Wind should favour the Departure of the Fleet

Resolved under the King of the
 Arms, 17th of Nov. 1799

26th of Nov. 1799
 of the Board of Admiralty

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3662 4th March 1799 Convoy
of the Fleet of Guiney

Fleet at that time (which being a point of great Importance ¹⁰⁰
it is understood that no application from this Meeting will
be made for Delay) another Convoy will be wanted to depart
from Portsmouth in the course of the succeeding Month,
the Day to be fixed on the departure of the Fleet of December,
and that a Convoy will likewise be required to sail from
Cork, for the West Indies, on the 25th January next.

Resolved, That it is expedient to call to the
Recollection of the Lords of the Admiralty the many advantages
that will result from the appointment of early convoys from
the West Indies, as recommended in the Resolution of this
Meeting passed on the 12th January last viz

- From Jamaica { One not later than the 10th May
- and from the { One on or about the 30th June
- Leeward Islands { One on the 26th July

From Jamaica One in the Month of October.

And that as the good effects expected from
that Recommendation were last Year defeated by the late receipt
of the West India Resolution, it is trusted that by conveying
it thus early there may be an opportunity of its being timely
made a part of the Instructions to the Admirals on the respective
Stations, who will fix the precise time of the departure of
such convoys as most convenient to the Planting and
Mercantile Interests in the West Indies.

Resolved, That the Chairman be also desired to
acquaint the Lords of the Admiralty that it is very desirable
that

that the Ships bound for the Island of Jamaica, which Island is now much infested by small Privateers should receive Protection along the Coasts of that Island until arrived at their respective Ports.

That the Report transmitted by Mr. Colquhoun to the Chairman in his Letter of the 26th November, be referred to the Committee appointed for the Business of the Marine Police Office, and that it be an instruction of the said Committee to take into their Consideration how far the advantages proposed in that Institution have been obtained, and how far the Expence incurred has been compensated by such advantage, and also by what means the expence already incurred, and any future expence that may attend that Establishment may be best provided for, and to Report the result of their Enquiry to this Meeting; and that the Committee be requested to meet at this place on Friday next, at 12 o'clock precisely.

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India²⁰¹
Merchants, relative to the Marine Police, held at the
Marine Society's Office November 30. 1798.

Present

Decester Long Esq^r in the Chair
Mr G. Hibbert Mr Turner
Mr Maitland Mr Milligan

Mr Colquhoun attended the Committee
and laid before the Meeting several papers relative to the
Marine Police Institution

Resolved, That Mr Colquhoun be requested to
prepare a Memorial briefly stating the Advantages
resulting to the General Commerce of the Port and to His
Majesty's Revenue from the New Marine Police Institution,
that the West India Body do not feel themselves called upon
to defray the expence of certain parts of that Institution especially
during the period when their Trade is not in Port, and the
Reasonableness therefore that the annual expence of the River
Guard, so generally beneficial to the Commerce and Revenue
of the Port, and also the expence incurred in the purchase of
Officers &c. for this Institution, should be defrayed by
Government until the adoption of some System by which
the Legislature may otherwise provide for all the Expences
of that useful Institution

That, as the Treasurer is in Considerable advance
for the Trade, the Secretary be desired to call upon the
respective

Imputers for the Charge of Trade, upon the quantity of Produce Imported, and Tonnage of Shipping up to this Day. Mr George Hibbert laid before the Meeting Copy of an Act for preventing the Desertion of Seamen from British Ships.

Resolved, That each Member of the Committee to whom the Consideration of the same was referred, be furnished with Copies of said Act; as also Mr Sewell for their Remarks; and that he be requested to attend the said Committee to be summoned to meet at Mr Alderman Hibberts Muscing Lane, on Wednesday Evening the 12th December, at 12 o'clock precisely -

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants relative to the Marine Police Establishment, held at the Marine Society's Office January 4th 1799.

Present

Beeston Long Esq^r in the Chair.

Mr Wedderburn

Mr Bosanquet

Mr S. Turner

Mr Alderman Hibbert

Mr Harrison

Mr Colquhoun presented to the Committee a Draught of a Memorial which in consequence of the Recommendation of the 30 November, he had prepared and which the Chairman judged it advisable immediately to transmit to the Duke of Scotland