

Mr Mulligan  
 Mr Gowland  
 Mr C Bosanquet  
 Mr Plummer  
 Mr Boddington

Mr Aislaby 287  
 Mr Wedderburn  
 Mr D Lyon  
 Mr Renny  
 Mr Aislaby

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

Resolved, That Application be made to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty requesting that the next Convoy for the West Indies may be appointed to sail from Portsmouth the 21<sup>st</sup> December, waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs.

Sailed 26<sup>th</sup> December 1799 under Convoy of the 10<sup>th</sup> Regt of Foot

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office January 7. 1800.

Present

Beeston Long Esq. in the Chair

Mr Bosanquet  
 Mr Temperon  
 Mr D Lyon  
 Mr Renny  
 Mr Davidson  
 Mr Lang

Mr Adam  
 Mr Mulligan  
 Mr Boddington  
 Mr Turner  
 Mr Gowland

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Resolved, That Thomas Neave Esq. be added to the Committee appointed on the 4<sup>th</sup> October

Mr Beeston Long laid before the Meeting

some Letters that had passed between him and Mr. Nepean in which he had requested the last Convoy to sail punctually notwithstanding a great number of Ships were detained in the River by contrary Winds and the Frost and desiring that another Convoy might be appointed as soon after as possible.

Resolved,

That as a very great proportion of the West India Trade and more particularly for Jamaica remains yet in the Thames, loaded with Supplies which are much wanted in the Islands, but which though many of them were cleared out a Month or Six Weeks ago have been detained to this late Season by the Frost in the River and the late prevalence of an Easterly Wind. The Chairman be requested to represent to the Lords of the Admiralty the very great and urgent necessity there is for their granting an Immediate Convoy for the West Indies in order that the Islands may get their needful Supplies as soon as possible and that the Ships may return Home at a favourable Season.

That on these Grounds the Chairman do earnestly urge that a Convoy may be ready to take the West India Trade from Spithead on the first fair Wind after the 25<sup>th</sup> January, waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs.

Resolved,

That a Committee consisting of the following

- |           |                      |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Gentlemen | Beeston Long Esq.    | Samuel Turner Esq.   |
|           | Thomas Neave Esq.    | Robert Milligan Esq. |
|           | William Manning Esq. | George Hibbert Esq.  |

In the 18<sup>th</sup> February 1800 Under Convoy of Islands Subject of Army Lists.

289  
be appointed to take into Consideration the present Overplus  
in the Import of Sugar above the probable demand for Home  
Consumption or Export, and after enquiring how far an extra  
Consumption of this Article might with Policy and Prudence  
during the present Scarcity of Grain, be encouraged either in the  
Distilleries or Breweries and to ask a Conference with the  
Chancellor of the Exchequer, in order to suggest to him the  
adoption of such measures as may relieve the Sugar Market

At a Meeting of the Committee of West  
India Merchants, appointed on the 7<sup>th</sup> Instant, held at  
Mr Alderman Hibberts Miring Lane London 14<sup>th</sup>  
January 1800

Presents

Mr Alderman Hibbert

Mr Milligan

Mr Neave

Mr Beeston Long

Resolved, That Mr Beeston Long be desired to  
request of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he will  
grant a Conference to a deputation from this Committee  
on Wednesday, or Friday next, at Eleven o'clock in  
the Morning, concerning the expediency of encouraging,  
at this time, the Use of Sugar in the Distilleries, and  
the Breweries, and that Mr Long and Mr George  
Hibbert be deputed for that purpose.

A Meeting of the West India Merchants held at  
the Marine Society's Office, London, 12 February, 1800.

Present.

Beeston Long Esq<sup>r</sup> in the Chair

Mr Nunners

Mr Wedderburn

Mr Adams

Mr Farbutt

Mr Wildman

Mr Lang

Mr Duffells

Mr Hughan

Mr Lison

Mr Thomas Neave

Mr Lushington

Mr Aislable

Mr Rosanquet

Mr Long

Mr Taylor

Mr Simpson

Mr Gowland

Mr Penny

Mr Turner

Mr Davidsons

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

Mr Beeston Long read before the Meeting  
several Letters that had passed between Mr. Hepcan and  
himself relative to the immediate departure of the Convoy

Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to represent  
to the Lords of the Admiralty that the detention of the  
Outward bound Fleet now assembled at Portsmouth, which  
consists of the bulk of the West India Shipping from this  
Port, and contains the greater part of the Supplies for the  
Use of the Plantations must in any degree, but more  
especially should it be extended until a Change of the  
present highly favourable Wind, prove directly injurious  
to

No. for consequence of the  
Application made by my 13th  
Page 288.

to the Shipping Interest and to the Welfare of the Colonies, and  
necessarily protrude to an unfavourable Season the Return of the  
Ships, and that their Lordships are therefore earnestly entreated  
to give Orders that the Convoys may sail immediately

Mr Beeston Long Reported that in consequence  
of the Resolution of the Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> Uls<sup>r</sup> He with Mr George  
Hubbert had twice seen Mr Pitt, and had represented to him that the  
Quantity of Sugar yet on hand was so great, and the Season already  
so advanced that there was no probability of pushing it off into  
Consumption unless some decided and extraordinary encouragement  
should be afforded to its Use in the Distilleries and a permission  
granted to its Use in the Breweries. Measures the temporary  
adoption of which would be probably found advisable on the  
ground of the present great and apprehended greater Scarcity  
of Grains. And they proposed either that a Drawback of about  
10%  $\&c$  should be allowed on Sugar which under Certificates  
and Cheques of the Excise Office should be shewn to have been  
reduced into Wash for the Use of the Distillers; or that a  
proportionate Reduction of the Excise Duty should be deducted  
from the Wash produced both by Sugar and Melasses. In  
respect to the Breweries they did not ask that any Drawback  
should be granted as it could not be done without subjecting  
those Works to a stricter superintendance of Excise Officers  
than they now are liable to, but merely that the penalties on  
the Use of Sugar therein should for a limited time be removed.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer altho he  
admitted fully the propriety of the Claim, so far as respected  
the Sugar Importation, and acquiesced in the principle of the  
Measures

Measures proposed, was yet of opinion that unless it should be thought fit entirely to forbid the distillery of Grain, the Drawback on Sugar used in the Distilleries, or the Reduction of Duty on Wash produced from Sugar and Molasses, could not with safety to the Revenue be granted. And he stated that objections on the same ground had been made to the permission for using Sugar in the Breweries. Upon further enquiries and Investigation and upon Applications made to him from other Quarters it is understood that he had come to a determination that the Distillery from Grain ought not at present to be stopped, a determination which he has declared would in his mind carry with it great difficulty in granting the proposed Drawback on the Sugar used therein or reduction of Duty on the Wash produced from Sugar or Molasses.

In respect to the Use of Sugar in the Breweries altho' he confessed that he did not think the objections made to him on that head insuperable yet he did not intimate any decided opinion.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer appearing to give much weight to the advance which in the beginning of the Year took place in the price of Sugar - was assured that the demand must slacken and the prices fall unless some encouragement to the Consumption resulted from this application and he has since been informed by the Deputation that such is actually the Case.

Resolved, That the Committee appointed on the 7<sup>th</sup> Ult. be desired to continue their endeavours to obtain some encouragement

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to the Consumption of Sugar in the Distilleries and the <sup>203</sup>Procured  
and that it also been Instruction to that Committee to represent  
to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that it is probable considering  
the very heavy duty on Sugar that a continuation of the Bonding  
System will be found absolutely necessary, as also that it will be  
highly expedient (under the present state of the demand for <sup>both</sup>)  
to keep that Door open altho there should be a few Weeks in which  
the price of what Sugar is sold should exceed an Average of

<sup>70 p c t</sup>  
Resolved, That it be an Instruction to the Committee  
appointed on the 7<sup>th</sup> Ult. That they take into their consideration  
the great Inequality which at this Time prevails in the Duties  
imposed on Sugars from the East and from West Indies and  
the peculiar hardship which attaches on the latter, as the Act  
of Parliament for imposing the Duty of £ 37, 10, <sup>0</sup> on the  
Sale price of East India Sugar, was expressly intended as a  
protection for that imported from the West Indies, whereas at  
this time the actual duty on the former is considerably less than  
on the latter. That they also be desired to consider how far  
it is eligible to propose to Government that the Duties on Sugar  
should for the future be levied on the value or Sale price, and not  
on the quantity or Weight - And by what means such an  
alteration in the mode of imposing the Duty can be carried  
into Execution.

Resolved, That William Lushington Esq. be added  
to the Committee appointed on 7<sup>th</sup> Ult.

Mr Beeston Long having laid before the  
Meeting a Letter from Mr Freeling, and having stated that the  
Post Master General had expressed an Inclination to send an  
extra Packet to Jamaica in case it should be required.  
Resolved,

Resolved, That Mr B Long be requested to represent to the Post Masters General the very great Importance to the West India Merchants that the Packets may be punctually dispatched the beginning and middle of each Month as their frequent delay is attended with great Inconvenience, and that an extra Cutter instead of an extra Packet may be sent out early in the ensuing Month in order to provide for the Security of <sup>Papers of consequence</sup> Letters expected to contain the Orders for Insurance on the first Fleets from the West Indies, which the frequent capture of Packets renders highly important.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office London  
18 February 1800

Present

Deeston Long Esq<sup>r</sup> in the Chair

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mr Adam         | Mr A Wedderburn |
| Mr D Wedderburn | Mr C Bosanquet  |
| Mr Doddington   | Mr Hughan       |
| Mr Jackson      | Mr Turner       |
| Mr Deffelle     |                 |

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and Confirmed

Mr Deeston Long reported that he had transmitted to the Admiralty the Resolution of the



last Meeting, relative to the immediate departure of the <sup>295</sup>  
Corvoy, and he understood the Corvoy had sailed the next  
day (the 13<sup>th</sup>) from Portsmouth.

Mr Beeston Long likewise acquainted the  
Meeting that he had transmitted the Resolutions to the  
Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he had not since heard from  
him on the subject.

Mr Beeston Long laid before the Meeting  
the following Letter from Mr Freeling.

General Post Office  
17 February 1800

Sir

I have laid before My Lords the Post Master General  
the Extract transmitted by you from the Minutes of a Meeting  
of West India Merchants, on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> Instant.

Their Lordships command me to acquaint  
you, that with an ample provision of Packets for our regular  
Service, and with the means of offering you the extra  
Accommodation of a Packet to Jamaica, they cannot with  
any Propriety apply to the Board of Admiralty for a Cutter;  
but if the West India Merchants obtain one upon their own  
application, My Lords will most readily direct the Mails  
to be delivered to the Commander of that Cutter.

With respect to the more regular departure  
of the Packets, I presume it is well known to the West India  
Merchants, that their detention is not attributable to this  
Office, to which an early and constant sailing of the Packets  
would be a material object, but that they are occasionally  
detained

detained, to answer the great and essential purposes of  
Government.

I have the Honor to be

Your most <sup>in</sup> obedient  
humble servant  
(Signed) F. Freeling.  
Secretary.

Resolved, That Application be made to the Lords  
Commissioners of the Admiralty requesting that a  
Convey may be appointed to sail from Portsmouth for  
the West Indies, the first fair Wind after the 15<sup>th</sup>  
March, waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the  
Downs, as it is material that the Ships may have an  
opportunity of discharging their Cargoes, and taking  
in their Loading Home previous to the 25<sup>th</sup> July

vide page 298  
reference

And that the Lords Commissioners of the  
Admiralty be likewise requested to appoint a Convey  
to sail from Cork for the West Indies the latter end  
of this Month.

A Meeting of the West India Merchants  
held at the Marine Society's Office, London 15 March  
1800.

Present

Deeston Long Esq. in the Chair.

Mr Wedderburn

Mr Jackson

Mr D Wedderburn

Mr Turner

Mr Lyon

Mr Inglis

Mr Aislabie

Mr Sharp

Mr Anderson

Mr Plummer

Mr Neave

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

Mr. Peeston Long Reported that he had  
waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer in consequence of the  
Resolution of the 12<sup>th</sup> last Month, who had acquainted him, that  
he had consulted the Officers of Revenue on the expediency of  
allowing a Bounty on Sugar used in the Distillery, and they  
had given it as their opinion that it could not be done without  
the Risk of great Fraud, particularly during the time that  
the Distillation from Corn was continued; and the Officers  
of Revenue were likewise of opinion that in case Sugar was  
permitted to be used in the Brewery, it would not be to any  
great Extent, unless a Drawback was allowed, the Revenue  
would in such Case be much injured, and great Frauds most  
probably would be committed; Under these Circumstances the  
Chancellor of the Exchequer did not think any Encouragement  
could be given to the Use of Sugar in the Brewery, or the  
further Use of it in the Distillery.

That the Bill for bonding the Duty  
on Sugar, would be continued and for allowing the Bounty  
and Drawback on Exportation provided the Average Price  
did not exceed 70/- for a limited time

Mr. Peeston Long likewise acquainted  
the Meeting that Mr. Dundas had desired to see him on  
the Marine Police Bill; and had informed him that he was  
ready to bring in the Bill for establishing the Marine Police  
Office, provided it met with the approbation of His Majesty's  
Crown.

10th Aug. 1793. This is the  
1793. On 19th Aug. 1793.

born Lawyers.

The Minutes of the Meetings relative to the Marine Police Office, being read.

Resolved, That this Meeting continue to be convened of the Usefulness, and benefit of the Marine Police Establishment, and declare their Approbation of submitting a Bill to Parliament for giving the necessary legal Powers for carrying the same as a temporary measure into more compleat Effect, and are ready to contribute their proportion of the Fund to be raised for the Establishment not exceeding Two Thousand Pounds a Year.

A Letter from Mr Nepean being read, stating that the Ships appointed as a Convoy were ready at Spithead

Resolved, That the Chairman be desired to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that owing to the late prevalence of Easterly Winds the Ships have been prevented from proceeding down the River, and the West India Merchants therefore request that the Convoy may be detained only until a Change of Wind takes place, by which the Ships may be enabled to proceed to the Downs to take the Benefit of the Convoy as soon after as possible.

Mon 28<sup>th</sup>

Mr  
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Resolved

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A Meeting of the West India Planters & Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office London  
28<sup>th</sup> March 1800.

Present

Dreuxton Long Esq<sup>r</sup> in the Chair  
Mr Wedderburn  
Mr Swon  
Mr Milligan  
Mr Harrison  
Mr Potanquet  
Mr Adam  
Mr Auslabius  
Mr Wedderburn  
Mr Jackson  
Mr Sharp  
Mr Inglis  
Mr Turner  
Mr Duffell

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read, and Confirmed

Resolved, That the Chairman be desired to state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that most of the West India Ships are now either at Ports mouth or in the Downs, and to request that the Comway for the West Indies may have orders to sail the first fair Wind waiting 24 Hours for the Ships in the Downs, and that particular directions may be given that the Ships destined for Jamaica may proceed to that Island without delay immediately after their Arrival at Barbados in order to enable them to load and to return by the 20<sup>th</sup> July.

A State of the Packets having been laid before this Meeting by which it appears that a great number

number has been taken during this War, particularly lately, and that the correspondence between this Country and the West Indies has by that means been rendered very uncertain and precarious.

Resolved, That application be made to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty requesting that a Cutter may be sent out the beginning of next Month with the Mails for Barbados and Surinam and to return with Dispatches from thence, as the Advice expected to be received by that opportunity will most probably contain very material Information respecting Insurances on the Fleets Homeward.

Cutter appointed by the Lords of the Admiralty was the Ocean sailed the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1799. Mr. Pitt's Commission

Account of Produce Imported into London from 25<sup>th</sup> March 1799 to 25<sup>th</sup> March 1800.  
Crop 1799-

	Ships	Sticks Sugar	Casks Rum	Casks Coffee	Boxes Coffee	Boxes Cotton
Jamaica	151	64686	12491	9729	6268	6531
Antigua	28	14830	60	298	75	50
S <sup>t</sup> Kitts	19	10736	258	1397	884	93
Barbadoes	20	9561	175	197	"	686
Granadaes	31	11946	858	168	24	1379
Honourat	7	3356	43	36	111	177
Nevis	9	5023	87	13	"	65
Dominica	8	3165	10	1428	103	63
S <sup>t</sup> Vincents	21	9829	266	43	102	281
Tortola	5	949	"	73	"	88
Bermuda	4	341	"	332	740	475
Martinique	43	21192	105	2233	1259	996
Johago	24	9319	1214	21	"	27
Demerara	24	2521	67	1430	12995	4957
S <sup>t</sup> Thomas	5	1556	5	1315	53	761
Trinidad	2	762	1	138	"	132
United States	80	23746	"	2112	14853	6976
New Providence	8	2219	"	121	592	1360
Surinam	2	324	"	"	1217	323
Guayana	1	820	"	"	"	190
Total	490	196881	15646	21084	39276	25610

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At a Meeting of the West India Merchants  
held at the Marine Society's Office, London 18 April 1800

Present

Preston Long Esq. in the Chair

Mr. Anderson

Mr. Davidson

Mr. Hummers

Mr. Inglis

Mr. Turner

Mr. Wedderburn

Mr. Wedderburn

Mr. Goulard

Mr. Milligan

Mr. Jackson

Mr. Aislaby

Mr. Poddington

Mr. Sharp

Mr. Mitchell

The Minutes of the last Meeting were  
read, and confirmed

Resolved, That Mr. Allen the Secretary be  
desired to call upon the different West India Houses for  
the Trade of the last, and the present Year the Treasurers,  
being in considerable advance for the Expence of the Marine  
Police Office &c.

The Chairman having laid before the  
Meeting an Account which by their desire he had obtained  
from the Post Master General of the Packets taken since  
Year 1793 to March 1800 and the Force by which they  
have been captured; by which it appears that 33 Packets  
have been taken during that period, and many of them  
by Privateers

That a Committee be appointed to  
consider of the above Circumstances, and to take such  
Measures, as they may think necessary Resolved

Resolved, That the said Committee consist of

Mr Milligan

Mr Anderson

Mr Turner

Mr Jackson

Mr G. Hibbert

Mr Beeton Long

Resolved, As the West India Ships that intended to take the Benefit of the Convoy are now at Portsmouth, the Chairman be desired to request that the Convoy may be ordered to sail with the first fair Wind without waiting.

Resolved, That as the Convoy has been so long delayed by contrary Winds, it is not now probable that the Jamaica Ships can arrive there in time to load and sail with the July Fleet, but may be got ready to sail by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September; it is therefore requested that Instructions may be sent to the Commander on the Jamaica Station that a Convoy may be appointed to sail from thence on that day, in lieu of the Convoy that usually sails in October - it would be exceedingly desirable if the Outward bound Jamaica Ships should separate from the Convoy under protection of one of the Ships of War in Long 40. to 45. Latitude 16 to 18 and proceed directly down to Jamaica

Mr Beeton Long being Chairman being a good  
 the original Resolution was transmitted by Mr Beeton Long  
 to Mr Turner Friday a copy being sent to the Committee  
 on the subject of West India Subjects 29 April 1800.



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At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants appointed on the 18<sup>th</sup> Instant (respecting the frequent Capture of West India Packets) held at the Marine Society's Office London 22 April 1800.

Present

- Mr Jackson
- Mr Milligan
- Mr J P Anderson
- Mr DeHelle

The Memorial of the West India Planters and Merchants, of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1798 respecting the Establishment of the Packets employed in the West India Service, presented to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, & the Post Master General, being Read.

**Resolved,** That the Chairman be desired to make Application of the Post Master General, requesting a Conference with them, on the subject of the West India Packet Service.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office, London, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1800.

Present

- Preston Long Esq in the Chair
- Mr S Turner
- Mr Blackman
- Mr Plummer
- Mr Aislaby
- Mr Thomas Neave

Mr Preston Long Esq Chairman being absent  
 the memorial presented & transmitted to Mr Anderson. His next  
 to Mr Turner Esq being acquainted that their respective the Postmaster  
 General made a short & a successful Disputation on the subject of West India Packets 29 April 1800.

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The Minutes of the last Meeting were read, and Confirmed

The Chairman laid before the Meeting the following Letter, he had received from Mr. Nepean in Reply to the Resolution of this Meeting, on the 18<sup>th</sup> Ult.

Admiralty Office

22<sup>nd</sup> April 1800.

Sir Richard Keave, & Deeston Long, Esq.

Gentlemen

I have received and laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter to me of the 18<sup>th</sup> Instant, enclosing an Application from the West India Merchants, that the Convoy now at Spithead, may be directed to sail with the first fair Wind without waiting, and that Instructions may also be sent to the Commander in Chief, at Jamaica, to appoint a Convoy to sail from thence, on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, in lieu of the Convoy usually appointed in October; stating at the same time, that it would be desirable that the Outward bound Jamaica Ships should separate from the Convoy, with one of the Ships of War, in Long 40<sup>to</sup> 45, Lat. 16<sup>to</sup> 18 and proceed directly down to Jamaica; And I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, in return, that Orders will be given to Sir Hyde

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"Parker accordingly, but that their Lordships do not judge  
it advisable to allow of the separation of the Outward bound  
Trade, till after their Arrival at Barbados, as by such  
previous separation the Trade to Jamaica would lose a  
considerable part of its protection; and that the Convoy  
will sail from Spithead the moment of the junction  
of the Ships from the Downs."

"I am Gent<sup>l</sup>  
Your very humble servant"  
"(signed) Evan Nepean."

Resolved, That Application be made to the  
Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, requesting that  
a Convoy may be appointed for the West Indies, to  
sail from Portsmouth, the first fair Wind after the  
20<sup>th</sup> June; waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from  
the Downs, and that the said Convoy may be ordered  
to touch at Madras.

Mr Lane laid before this Meeting the  
following Resolutions of a General Meeting of West India  
Planters & Merchants, and stated that the Committee then  
appointed were instructed to request a Conference with the  
Post Master General on the subject of Packets.

Resolved, That the repeated Instances of the  
Capture of the West India Packets within the last Five  
Months, has been been productive of much Inconvenience  
to

to the Planters and Merchants, and of that in particular  
 the Capture of the last Packet the *Princess Amelia*  
 from the Windward and Leeward Islands at this  
 particular time by depriving us of the necessary Information  
 for Insurances is peculiarly embarrassing and that it  
 likewise appears that the first Fleet from Jamaica  
 will be in the same awkward State in respect to Insurances  
 as it is understood that there is no Packet at that Island

*Resolved,* That the Packets now employed are  
 unfit for the Service as well from not being Built and  
 fitted on a Plan for expeditious sailing as from the  
 Circumstance that they are not sufficiently armed for  
 Defence.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants  
 held at Beeston Long Coy London 25 June 1800.

Present

Beeston Long Coy in the Chair

Mr Aislaby

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Simpson

Mr Blackman

Mr Long

Mr Higgin

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

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Twenty Guineas for the Use of the Committee Rooms  
Three Guineas to Mr Henry their Secretary  
Two Guineas to Mr Walker Messenger

Resolved That in consequence of a Resolution of  
the West India Planters, it is expedient to raise upon  
the present Years Importation computing from 25<sup>th</sup>  
March 1800 to 25 March 1801 One Shilling  
for each Hoghead of Sugar, Puncheon of Rum,  
Bag of Cotton, and 1000 lbs Weight of Coffee or  
Cocoa, and in proportion on all other Articles of West  
India Produce, and that the same be charged in the  
Account Sales for the general Purposes of Trade.

That in addition Twopence Ton be  
raised on Shipping employed in the West India Trade,  
and that the above Resolutions be transmitted to the  
different West India Houses.

Mr Beeston Long having communicated  
to the Meeting a Letter from the Attorney General by  
which it appeared that the Bill for the Establishment  
of a Marine Police for the General Benefit of the Trade  
of London cannot be passed this Session.

That this Meeting in consideration  
of the Benefits resulting to the West India Trade from  
the Establishment of the Marine Police Office are of  
opinion

Opinion that £2000 should be defrayed by the West India Trade as the proportion for the ensuing Year agreeably to the Resolution of the West India Planters 30<sup>th</sup> May last.

Resolved, As it is expected there will be next Week at Spithhead, about Ten Sails of West India Ships, that it be submitted to the Consideration of the Lordes Commissioners of the Admiralty that a Convoy may be appointed to sail for the West Indies, on the 5<sup>th</sup> July and to acquaint them that a few more Ships may be ready in about Ten Days after.

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At a Meeting of the West India Merchants held at the Marine Society's Office London 15 August 1800.

Present

Mr. Preston Long Esq<sup>r</sup> in the Chair

Mr. Lyon

Mr. Higgin

Mr. Plummer

Mr. Harrison

Mr. Vaughan.

Mr. Preston Long reported that an Act had passed last Session allowing the Bounty and Drawback on the Export of Sugar provided the Average Price did not exceed Seventy five Shillings the Hundred Weight. The Average to be taken Six Weeks

proceeding the 10 November, and permitting the Duty on  
Sugar to be bonded for Six Months on or before 10<sup>th</sup> September<sup>311</sup>  
and for three Months between 10<sup>th</sup> September, and 10<sup>th</sup> March  
this Act to expire the 10<sup>th</sup> May next.

The Chairman laid before the Meeting  
the following Report.

"At a Meeting of the Sub-Committee  
of West India Merchants &c."

"The Committee appointed the 3<sup>rd</sup> October  
last by leave to represent.

"That in consequence of the Resolutions of  
this Meeting, they immediately made application to the  
Directors of the Bank of England, for a Loan of £1,500,000  
in case it should be required, as an accommodation to the West  
India Merchants, during the time of the stagnation in the  
Sale of West India Produce; and the Directors of the Bank  
very readily acquiesced in this Proposal, for the Term of Six  
Months, and afterwards prolonged it to the 1<sup>st</sup> of July last.

"That those Persons who had occasion to apply,  
thro' the medium of this Committee, for advances of Money,  
have been recommended at various times during that period.

"That all the Money so borrowed, has been  
repaid, to the Bank, and the whole of the Expenses attending  
this transaction, have been defrayed by the Parties who required

"Assistance"

The

The Committee have the Satisfaction to state, that the aggregate amount of the several Loans required from the Bank, has fallen very far short of the Sum that was at first imagined would be found unnecessary, and it appears that this measure, has not only been beneficial to the Parties who had immediate occasion for assistance but that it had likewise an essential Effect on the general State of West India Credit, by enabling the West India Merchants to retain their Goods until a renewal of the demand afforded an opportunity of Sale.

Resolved, that the Thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Governor, Deputy Governor and Directors of the Bank of England, for their ready acquiescence to the Application of this Meeting for a temporary Loan as an accommodation to the West India Merchants who might have occasion to apply to them for assistance during the Stagnation in the Sale of West India Produce, which has been of essential Service to the West India Trade at that particular Juncture.

And that such Directors of the Bank as are Members of this Committee be requested to present the same.

That the thanks of this Meeting be



begiven to the Sub-Committee of the West India Merchants appointed on the 3<sup>d</sup> October last, for their unremitting attention at all times to such applications as were made to them for a temporary pecuniary accommodation from the Bank of Englande.

A Letter from Evan Nepean Esq<sup>r</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant having been laid before this Committee by the Chairman, intimating that the Lords of the Admiralty intended ordering His Majestys Ship *Heird* to sail from Spithead on the 25<sup>th</sup> Inst. with the Trade bound to the Bahama Islands, and Jamaica - And also an application signed by

Dolt & Higgin Agents for the Boddingtons  
Thomas Hayman Agent for the William and Henry, and Merlin.

John Hodgson Son Owners of the *Lord Middleton* requesting that application be made to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to give Instructions that the said Convoy be instructed to touch at the Island of Madeira to give Ships an opportunity of taking in Wines as only Two Vessels for Jamaica joined the last Convoy, and they were chiefly loaded before they left the River.

Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to transmit the above Minute to the Lords of the Admiralty and to intimate to their Lordships that this Committee see

no objection to a compliance with the above requisition provided it meets with the concurrence of their Lordships.

The Secretary informed the Meeting of the Resignation of William Wells assistant Constable to this Body; and of having with the sanction of the Chairman employed William Hunter, in his room for some Months past.

Resolved, That William Hunter be employed as assistant Constable; and that he be paid for his Services at the Rate of Ten Shillings & Six pence each Week

That a Gratuity of Two Guineas be given to John Free for the apprehension of John Bourger upon whom was found a quantity of Cotton supposed to be stolen; and upon hearing before the Lord Mayor, was discharged

Read a Letter from Patrick Colquhoun Esq<sup>r</sup> Superintending Magistrate of the late Marine Police Institution - Inclosing the Thames Police Act, which passed during the last Session of Parliament (No 1) and also the Heads of the Clauses in the original Bill (No 2) with explanatory Notes & observations thereon which were postponed by desire of the Attorney General on a count of the late period of the Session, before the measure could be brought forward

M<sup>r</sup> Long laid before the Committee a Statement  
(No 3) transmitted to him by M<sup>r</sup> Colquhoun showing the  
receipts and disbursements of the Marine Police Institution  
from the period of its first Establishment on the 2<sup>d</sup> July 1798  
to the 5<sup>th</sup> July 1800, including a period of two complete years.

Resolved, That it appears to this Committee that the  
whole Monies advanced by Samuel Long Esq<sup>r</sup>, Treasurer for  
the support of the Marine Police Institution from the 19<sup>th</sup> June  
1798, to the 2<sup>d</sup> July 1800 comprehending 2<sup>d</sup> years  
amounts to £ 5920. 12. 6

And that the surplus arising from Lumping dues  
during the same period amounts to 902. 12. —  
£ 6824. 4. 6

From which Sum however falls to be  
deducted the Expense of the Lease, and fixtures of  
the House No 259 Wapping also the Repairs, together  
with the Furniture Arms, Boats &c<sup>o</sup> which is to be  
repaid by Government and amounts in all to 1402. 2. —  
Remains 5.422. 2. 6

Which Monies have been applied as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Expenses in printing, Stationary  
and other Charges, on first establishing the Office 224. 6. —
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Allowance made to the General Fund for the Salaries  
Wages and allowances of Surveyors, and Boat Officers, when  
10 Boats were employed and 30 Men in 1798, 1799, & 1800 2000. —
- 3<sup>d</sup> By Expense of the Quay Guards as stated in 2<sup>d</sup> years 1658. 14. 6
- 4<sup>th</sup> The Expense of Salaries for two Years to the Solicitor  
£200 The Cashier £221 — The Superintendent of Lumpers 1066. 15. 6  
£280 and Clerks £265. 15. 6

Amount carried over

Amount brought over	£ 4949.102
5 <sup>th</sup> To proportion of Expense for two Years of Candles, printing Stationary House Charges, Postages and other Contingent and incidental Expenses	472 6.4
	<u>£ 542. 2.6</u>

Resolved, That it appears to this Committee when the surplus Money arising from the Lunsjeng Establishment is deducted, that the actual Expense of the Marine Police Establishment for the last two Years is as follows.

For the first Year instead of the sum estimated amounting exclusive of ~~Warrant~~ to £3,200 the actual Expense to this Committee has only amounted to

	2,518.10.6
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And for the second Year it appears to have been limited to the sum voted by the Committee <sup>namely</sup> 2000

Total Net Expense for 2 Years.	<u>£ 4,518.10.6</u>
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Then the Chairman laid before the Committee a paper (No 4) purporting to be an Estimate of the receipts and Expenditure of the Commercial Branch of the New Thames Police Institution as the same applies particularly to the protection of West India Property:

1 <sup>st</sup> Estimates of the Receipts of Commercial Funds	
Annual Vote of the West India Committee	£ 2000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Commission on the Sums received on account of Ships wrecked out by the Office estimated at	450
Total Receipts	<u>£ 2450</u>

2 Estimate of the Annual Expenditure

317

Salaries Individuals	1 <sup>st</sup> Salary to the Solicitor Henry Lang	100	
	2 <sup>d</sup> To the Cashier William Brooke	150	
	3 To the Superintendent of Lumpers Richard Batcher	140	
	4 To one Clerk in constant attendance J Pett	60	
	5 To one Collecting Clerk occasionally employed Robert Pashley	50	
		<u>500</u>	

Quay Guards	3 Surveyors of the Quays, one at £40 and 2 at £20	80	
	30 Quay Guards estimated at	770	850

River Guards	4 Surveyors £75 each	to be furnished by the General Establishment & employed in visiting West India Ships alone for which the Establishment is to receive	
	8 Watermen 52 dt		
	Repairs &c 34		
			750

Charges to be allowed the Establishment for Coals Candles, Stationary and all other Expenses	150
	<u>2250</u>

Remains at the disposal of the Committee	200
	<u>£ 2.450</u>

Resolved That this Committee do approve of the mode of apportioning the Expense applicable to the West India Branch of the Institution according to the foregoing Estimate and do authorize Mr Colquhoun to see the same carried into effect.

- 1<sup>st</sup> That there shall be allotted for Salaries £500
- 2<sup>d</sup> That there shall be allotted for Quay Guards 850
- 3<sup>d</sup> That there shall be an allowance made to the Thames Dock Institution

Institution for a competent River Guard of 4 Boats completely manned for the sole purpose of attending to West India property, and also for all Expenses whatever attending the Commercial, or West India Branch of the Institution.

900.-

£2250.-

and thus to continue for such a length of time as this Committee and the General Meeting of Merchants and Planters shall think proper to appropriate £2000 a Year to this Establishment

Resolved That Mr Henry Lang shall be continued in his Office of Solicitor to this Committee, at a Salary of £100 a Year under a Confident Expectation that he will attend the Mansion House in behalf of the West India Merchants in all instances where persons committing offences on the Quays, or within the Jurisdiction of the City of London, and that he take care that the said Offenders are prosecuted with effect in a summary way under the new Act of Parliament 40 Geo 3, Cap. 57 where powers are given to Magistrates both to fine and imprison persons pilfering on the Lighters, or Quays or in the Warehouses and that the Secretary be authorized to transmit a Copy of this Resolution to Mr Lang.

Resolved, That Mr William Brooke be continued Cashier to the West India Branch of the Thames Police, Institution

with a Salary of £150 a Year, payable quarterly. 319  
Resolved, That Richard Batcher be continued Super-  
intendent of Lumbers to the West India and Commercial  
Branch of the Thames Police Institution with a Salary of £120  
a Year payable quarterly

Resolved, That Robert Pashley be continued collecting  
Clerk to the Commercial Branch of the Institution at a Salary  
of £50 a Year in consequence of his Services being required  
only for half the Year.

Resolved That J. Pett be continued in his Situation  
as general Clerk to the Commercial Branch of the Establishment  
at a Salary of £60 a Year.

Resolved, That all these respective Officers are to  
consider themselves as under the direction of Mr Colquhoun  
who has heretofore acted as superintending Magistrate of the whole  
Institution

Resolved, That Thomas Hunter be continued in  
his Office of Chief Surveyor of the Quays upon the Quays at  
£40 a Year, and that he as well as the deputy Surveyors  
receive their directions from Mr Colquhoun or the Magistrates  
in his absence.

Resolved, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given  
to His Grace the Duke of Portland, the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> William  
Pitt, and the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Henry Dundas for the Share they  
respectively had in promoting the Thames Police Institution  
and in bringing forward and supporting a Bill in Parliament

for extending the powers of the Magistrates and enlarging  
and defining the powers of Police Surveors, and Constables  
with a view to the more prompt and certain detection of  
Offenders and to the greater Security of commercial property.

Resolved, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to  
the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sylvester Douglas and Charles Abbott Esq<sup>r</sup>  
for their great attention to the Thames Police Bill in its  
progress through the House of Commons.

Resolved, That the Thanks of this Meeting be  
presented to Patrio Colquhoun Esq<sup>r</sup> for his constant  
and unremitting attention to the Duties of the Marine  
Police Institution, which has been of material Benefit in  
preventing the numerous depredations on the River Thames  
for his great assiduity in preparing a Bill for the  
Establishment of a Thames Police Office which has received  
the Sanction of Parliament, and that he be requested  
to accept of a piece of Plate value Five Hundred Pounds  
from the West India Fund as a Testimony of the Sense  
of the West India Body for his Services on this occasion.

Mr J. Harrison proposed John Mellis Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to become Member of this Meeting, Seconded by Mr  
Higgins



At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants, relative to the Marine Police Establishment held at the Marine Society's Office London 12<sup>th</sup> September 1800.

Present

Deacon Long Esq<sup>r</sup> in the Chair.

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Milligan

Mr Turner

A Letter from Mr. Colquhoun being read, by which it appears that a less proportion of Ships have been discharged this Season by the Marine Police than heretofore.

Resolved, That this Committee are convinced from Experience that the Charge made by the Marine Police Office for Lumping out the Ships is as reasonable as that kind of Labour can be performed with any degree of Justice to the parties concerned, and this Committee therefore recommend to the Owners of Vessels in the West India Trade to employ the persons from the Office for that purpose, as any lower rate for Lumping must be made up by plundering the Cargos.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants  
held at the Marine Society's Office London 12 September  
1800

Present

Freeston Long Esq. in the Chair

Mr Goulard  
Mr Blackman  
Mr Wildman  
Mr Bosanquet  
Mr Aislabie  
Mr Hughan

Mr Davidson  
Mr Hedderburn  
Mr Sharp  
Mr W Vaughan

The Minutes of the last Meeting  
were read and confirmed

The Resolution of the Committee  
held this day, relative to the Marine Police Establishment  
being read (page 323) was approved

Resolved, That copies of the said Resolution be  
transmitted to the several West India Houses, Ship  
owners, and Ship Brokers

Resolved, That application be made to the  
Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty requesting that  
a convoy may be appointed for the West Indies to  
sail from Portsmouth the First November  
waiting

See list on Sunday 13 November 1800  
Under Convoy of the Admiralty  
Mr a Lord's Resol. of 12th Nov 1800

24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs.

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Mr Vaughan proposed <sup>Mitchell</sup> Joseph <sup>Woodward</sup> Esq. to become Member of this Meeting, and seconded by Mr Turner.

At a Meeting of the West India Merchants,  
held at the Marine Society's Office, London 27 September,  
1800.

Present  
Charles Desanquet Esq. in the Chair  
Mr Harrison  
Mr Turner

Mr Harrison laid before this Meeting  
a Resolution from the Committee on the Marine Police  
Establishment, which being read as follows.

"That this Committee seriously  
impressed with a firm conviction of the great benefit  
resulting from the plan established by the West  
India Merchants, for discharging Vessels under  
the Cognizance of the Thames Police, by sworn  
Master Lumpers, and Ship Constables properly  
instructed; do most earnestly recommend and entreat  
all Ship Owners, Ship Husbans, and others, having  
the Management of West India Ships to apply to  
the Thames Police Office No 259 Wharfing, for  
Lumpers and Ship Constables, (or in cases where it  
may

"it may be thought more expedient by such Ships  
 "Husbands, and others to bargain with Master Lumpers  
 "themselves, that they will previously require from such  
 "Master Lumpers a Certificate of their having been registered  
 "at the said Office, and sworn to fidelity according to  
 "the Form prescribed, and that Constables shall, in such  
 "Cases, be applied for at the Office) so as that, in no  
 "Instance, any Ship shall be discharged without that  
 "species of protection, which has been provided, in  
 "consequence of the previous Arrangements of the West  
 "India Body; as this Committee are perfectly convinced,  
 "that, without a Compliance on the part of the Merchants  
 "Ship Owners, and others, with the Regulations thus  
 "laid down, it will be impossible to obtain that complete  
 "Chain of Protection, which it is the Interest of all  
 "the Parties concerned in the West India Trade  
 "(whether Planters, Merchants, Ship Owners, or  
 "consignees) to establish.

Resolved, That, in all Cases where Merchants,  
 Owners, Ships Husbands, or others, make Contracts them-  
 selves with Master Lumpers, it is earnestly recommended  
 to them to send the contracts so made to the Office for  
 Lumpers, under the Police Establishment, to be  
 registered, and with Authority to settle the Lumping  
 Bill, in conformity to the said Agreement.

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It is understood to be a Regulation of  
this Committee, that, in all Cases where Ships  
are worked out under the Cognizance of the  
Thames Police Office, the Master Lumpers  
shall employ any part of the crew on board of  
any Ship so discharged on the requisition of  
the Captain, and shall allow for them, out  
of his Lumpsum Bill, the same Wages  
which Working Lumpers, performing a  
similar kind of Labour, receive, so as to  
reduce the Expence to the lowest possible  
standard, in all Cases where the Ships  
crew can perform a part of the Labour.

Resolved, That this Resolution be printed and  
sent round to all West India Merchants, Ship  
owners, and others, having the Management of  
Vessels, and that the same be stuck up at Lloyds,  
and the Jamaica Coffee House

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At a Meeting of the West India Merchants, held at the Marine Society's Office London 19 December 1800

Present

Robert Long Esq<sup>r</sup> in the Chair

David Lyon Esq<sup>r</sup>

Hughan Esq<sup>r</sup>

Wetherburn Esq<sup>r</sup>

Renny Esq<sup>r</sup>

Samuel Roddington Esq<sup>r</sup>

Wetherburn Esq<sup>r</sup>

Charles Bosanquet Esq<sup>r</sup>

Samuel Turner Esq<sup>r</sup>

Joseph Woodyear Esq<sup>r</sup>

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed

Resolved, That Application be made to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, requesting that a Corvoy may be appointed to sail from Portsmouth for the West Indies on the 24<sup>th</sup> January next, waiting 24 Hours for the Ships from the Downs after the Wind becomes fair, and that a Corvoy may be appointed to sail from Cork for the West Indies on the 31<sup>st</sup> January next

Sailed by the 10<sup>th</sup> of Jan 1800 by the Corvoy of the Topaz for the West Indies of 1200 tons

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to enquire into the State of the Trade, the Treasurer being considerably in advance and that the Committee consist of the following Gentlemen

Mr Alderman Hubbert

Mr Robert Long Mr Turner

Mr Milligan

Mr Lyon

Mr Wetherburn

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Roddington

Resolved,

That it be recommended in future that the Freight for Provisions shipped for the West Indies from Cork be drawn for at the time of shipping the Provisions on the Merchant in London at Two Months sight deducting Ten pounds & Cent, and that Copies of the said Resolution be transmitted to the Merchants and Ship owners

A Letter from Mr Chalmers being laid before the Meeting enclosing an Account of the Quantity of Corn proposed by the Lords of Council for Trade to be allowed to be exported to the West Indies this Quarter.

Resolved,

That in order to prevent fictitious Entries at the Custom House it be suggested to the Lords of Council to transmit the Order of Council for Corn to Preston Long Esq<sup>r</sup> Chairman of this Committee, and to insert in the Order that Entries only shall be permitted for the Exportation of the said Corn under the Sanction of the Committee of West India Merchants, and that it likewise be suggested that as the Quantity of Wheat Flour appears to be more than sufficient by 100 Tons, that a proportional increase of the Quantity of Oats and Peas be allowed in lieu thereof

A Meeting of the West India Merchants held  
at the Marine Society's Office London 6 January 1801

Present

Preston Long Esq. in the Chair

Mr Harrison

Mr Maitland

Mr Willis

Mr Vaughan

Mr Wedderburn

Mr Lyon

Mr Wedderburn

Mr Bosanquet

Mr Alderman Gilbert

Mr Sharp

Mr Woodyear

Mr Cowland

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read

The following Letter from George Chalmers  
Esq. Office for Trade in Reply to the Resolution of the  
19<sup>th</sup> Instant, being read &c

Office for Trade  
Whitehall 19 December 1800

Mr Chalmers presents his Compliments to Mr.  
Preston Long, and in answer to his Note of Yesterday  
begs to inform him, that the Quantities of Oats, Beans,  
and Flour have been adjusted, according to the desire  
of the West India Merchants; namely, 100 Tons have  
been taken off the quantity of Flour, and  $\frac{1}{8}$  has been  
added to the quantities of Oats, and Beans

The Lords regret, that as the Law now stands,  
they could not comply with the desire of the Meeting as to the  
sending



1801  
sending of the Order to Mr Long, and the directing that the <sup>331</sup>  
Entries at the Custom House shall only be permitted under the  
Sanction of the Committee.

The Order will be sent to the Treasury, in the  
usual manner, tomorrow, and this early, and special Notice is  
sent to Mr Long, in order that the Committee may have proper  
Notice of these Circumstances.

The following Letter from Evan Nepean Esq  
to Preston Long Esq Chairman in Reply to the Resolutions  
of 19<sup>th</sup> Instant.

Admiralty Office  
December 22 1800.

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1800  
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Sir, Having laid before my Lords Commissioners of  
the Admiralty your Note of 19<sup>th</sup> Instant expressing the desire  
of the West India Merchants, that a Corvey may be appointed  
to sail from Spithead on the 24<sup>th</sup> and another from Cork  
on the 31 January next; I am commanded by their Lordships  
to acquaint you that Corveys will be appointed accordingly  
if the public Service will admit of it.

Resolved, That it be represented to the Lords Commissioners  
of the Admiralty that the West India Ships that lately  
touch'd at Madeira took in a very small quantity of  
Madeira Wine, and to request that an Extra Sloop may be  
appointed to accompany the next Corvey outwards, and to separate  
in a certain Latitude with those Ships destined for Madeira,  
and to see them afterwards safe to the West Indies.

Resolved,

That Mr Beeston Long the Chairman, and Mr George Hibbert be requested to ask an Interview of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the purpose of representing to him the great mischief which may arise from withholding or even suspending at this Season the customary supply of Herringe for which the West India Colonies entirely depend upon this Kingdom, that Article being essential to the comfortable subsistence of the Negroes, and admitting of no substitute whatever.

At a Meeting of the Committee of West India Merchants, appointed on the 19<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> to inquire into the State of the Trade, held at the Marine Society's Office London 13 January 1801

Present

Beeston Long Esq<sup>r</sup>

Samuel Doddington Esq<sup>r</sup>

Samuel Turner Esq<sup>r</sup>

Mr Allen laid before the Meeting a List of Persons who had not yet paid the Trade for the Years 1798 & 1799. and Mr Beeston Long stated that the Treasurer was in advance £2000, and that £500 was due to Mr Colquhoun for a piece of Plate.

Resolved, That a copy of the Minute of the Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> Inst. be delivered to the Secretary to those Person