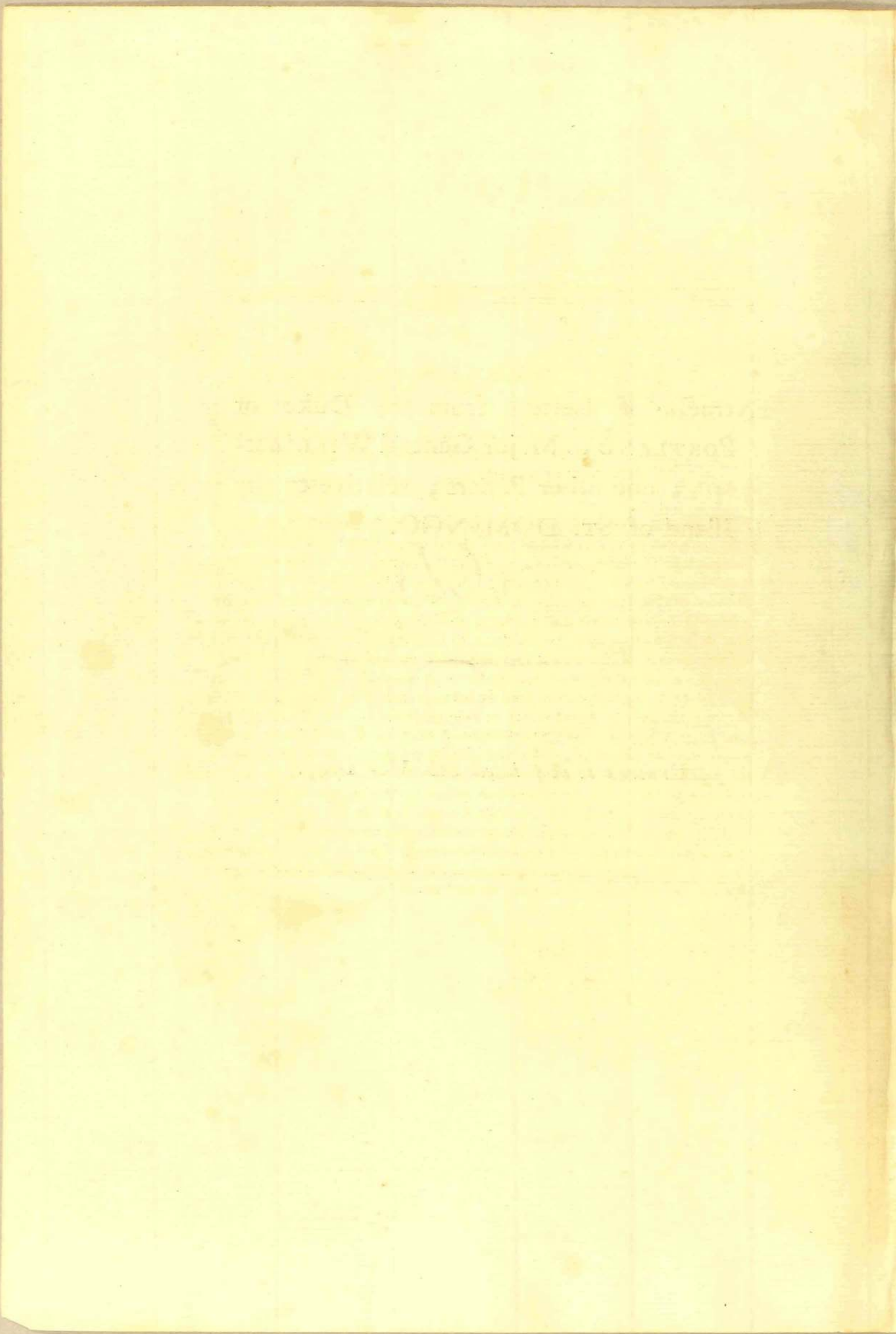




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London, 1. Dec. 1793. Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of the
21st inst. in relation to the
Bills of Exchange.



K86

Extracts of Letters from the Duke of
PORTLAND to Major General WILLIAM-
SON; and other Papers; relative to the
Island of ST. DOMINGO.

Ordered to be printed 8th May 1797.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

- (1.) Extract of a Letter from the Duke of PORTLAND to Major General WILLIAMSON; dated Whitehall, 6th October 1794.

YOU will of course, as soon as you are enabled, transmit such Information as is required by your Instructions, especially such as relate to the Revenue, the Crown, and Church Lands of every Description, including those appropriated to Religious Establishments, and the Estates of the Persons taken or killed in Arms against His Majesty, where there appear no lawful Heirs, or such only as are living in the Enemy's Country, to hold the same. This latter Circumstance will, in the Course of Events, render it highly expedient that you should collect all such Particulars as may serve to trace out and ascertain the Course of Descent in regard to such Estates, according to the Law of the Colony; also such Information as may be requisite for receiving His Majesty's Pleasure, on the Establishment of such Civil Offices as the present Government of the Colony absolutely requires, with the Amount of the Salaries, and of the Fees and Perquisites, where received, and as far as the same can be ascertained, which, previous to the Year 1789, were received by such Officers respectively; and in the mean Time it will be necessary that you should immediately transmit a List of the temporary Civil Appointments already made by you to Persons now holding the same, with the Amount of the Salaries, and of the Fees and Perquisites respectively annexed to each of them.

(2.) Extract of a Letter from the Duke of PORTLAND to Major General WILLIAMSON; dated Whitehall, 7th October 1794.

I HAVE transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury so much of your Letter, No. 5, of the 1st of August, with its Inclosures, as relates to the Duties collected at St. Marc and L'Archaye, for their Lordships further Directions to you thereupon.

You will observe from His Majesty's Instructions to you as Governor of St. Domingo, that you are to transmit to their Lordships, from Time to Time, all Matters relative to the Revenue of the Colony, and to receive their Lordships Directions thereupon; and it is equally necessary, until a Receiver General is appointed by their Lordships, that Accounts of all Receipts and Expenditures within the Colony, with proper Vouchers, should through you be transmitted to their Lordships by the Persons who have respectively received or expended the same.

Mr. Rouffelet's Account Current to the 5th July last with His Majesty's Government, as far as it relates to Disbursements, contains only an Abstract, or Heads of an Account, without any of the necessary Vouchers, which you will of course direct him to lay before you, in order that you may transmit them to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

- (3.) Copies of the 14th, 17th, and 18th Articles of His Majesty's Instructions to Sir ADAM WILLIAMSON, K. B. dated at St. James's, the October, 1794.

14th. **A**ND whereas it is stipulated in the 10th Article of the annexed Capitulation, "That the local Taxes destined to acquit the Expences of Garrisons, and of the Administration of the Colony, shall be assessed in the same Manner as 1789, except the Alleviations and Remittances which shall be granted to the Inhabitants, whose Property has suffered by Fire, till their Possessions are repaired; and that an Account shall be kept by the Colony of all the Sums advanced on the Part of Great Britain, for supplying the Deficiency of the said Taxes; which Deficiency, as well as all the Public Expences of the Colony (except of those of His Majesty's Naval Forces destined for its Protection) shall always be defrayed by the said Colony." You are to take especial Care, that the said Article be duly executed, and that those Revenues, which were paid to his late Most Christian Majesty, in the Year 1789, excepting only the Alleviations and Remittances mentioned in the said Article, be levied and paid into the Hands of the Receiver General, who shall be appointed by Our High Treasurer, or the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, for that Purpose; and you are to obey such further Directions respecting the said Revenues, and the Application thereof, as you shall from Time to Time receive from the Lords Commissioners of Our Treasury.

17th. And it is Our Will and Pleasure, that you should make Enquiry into the Estates and Revenues belonging to such religious Houses or Convents as have been suppressed, or which shall be found to belong to any religious Order or Society, not residing in the said Colony; and you are to report the same to Us through One of Our Principal Secretaries of State; and you are in the mean Time to take Care that the said Estates shall be duly and properly managed, and that the Amount of the Revenues arising from them, after paying out of them a suitable and sufficient alimentary Pension to each of the Persons who belonged to these religious Establishments, and remain in the said Colony, sufficient for their comfortable Maintenance; and all Sums heretofore
(B) charged

charged on these Revenues, for public or charitable Purposes, before the present, paid to the Receiver to be appointed by the Lords Commissioners of Our Treasury, and to be ultimately applied for the Public Service of the said Colony, in such Manner as We shall be pleased to direct, through the Lords Commissioners of Our Treasury.

18th. And whereas by an Act, passed during the last Session of Parliament, intituled " An Act for preventing Money or Effects, in the Hands of His Majesty's Subjects, belonging to or disposeable by Persons resident in France, being applied to the Use of the Persons exercising the Powers of Government in France, and for preserving the Property thereof for the Benefit of the Individual Owners thereof," no Money arising from the Estates of Absentees in the said Colony can be transmitted to such of them as are now residing under the Government of those who exercise the Powers of Government in France, you are to make the said Act public within the said Colony, and to take especial Care to enforce the same; and you are to consult with the said Commissioners to be appointed by virtue of the Third Article of these Instructions, in what Manner this Species of Property can be secured, and in whose Hands it can be safely deposited, for the Benefit of those to whom it may eventually belong, till We shall think fit to give further Orders on this Subject, according to Principles of Justice and Equity, and you are to report to Us, by One of Our Principal Secretaries of State, your's and their Opinion thereon.

- (4.) Extract of a Letter from the Duke of PORTLAND to Sir ADAM WILLIAMSON, K. B. dated Whitehall the 10th of December 1794.

IT is highly expedient that competent and even liberal Salaries should be appointed for the Judges of the superior and other Courts; but previous to your determining the Amount of their Appointments, and the Mode of raising them, it will be adviseable that you should inform yourself of the Rules which were observed in both Cases, previous to the French Revolution, in October 1789, and transmit to me the Result of your Enquiries by the First Opportunity. In the mean Time, however, until you can hear from me upon the Subject, you will not suffer the Persons who may provisionally occupy the judicial Stations within the Island to be distressed for Want of Salaries, but you will advance them by Quarterly, or even less distant Payments, as the Exigency may appear to you to require; observing, until His Majesty's farther Pleasure shall be signified to you upon this Head, not to exceed, in proportion, the Salaries which were used to be received by the former Magistrates of the same Rank; and you will for the present use your own Discretion in the Choice of such Part of the Public Revenue of the Colony as you will provisionally apply to this Service, giving immediate Notice thereof as well to this Office as to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

(5.) Copy of a Letter from WILLIAM HUSKISSON, Esq. to CHARLES LONG, Esq.; dated Horse Guards, 10th of April, 1795.

HORSE GUARDS, 10th APRIL, 1795.

SIR,

I HAVE received your Letter of the 18th Ult. transmitting, by Command of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, for Mr. Secretary Dundas's Opinion, a Letter from Governor Williamson, dated Jamaica, the 17th of January last, advising of his having drawn upon their Lordships, Bills for the several Sums of £. 20,000, £. 25,000, £. 30,000, £. 35,000, and £. 42,324. 19. 8. to defray the Expences of the Public Service in the Islands of Jamaica and St. Domingo, from the 1st of October to the 31st of December 1794, and inclosing his Account Current with George Atkinson, Esq. the Agent General, with various Receipts and Vouchers in support thereof; and also inclosing an Extract from the Minutes of the Council of Jamaica, stating, that they had examined and compared the Account and Vouchers before-mentioned, and that the Charges and Vouchers did properly correspond.

Having laid these Papers before Mr. Secretary Dundas, he has directed me to refer you to the Letters which have at different Periods been written, by his Direction, on the Subject of Bills drawn by Governor Williamson, suggesting the Expediency of submitting the Charges for which they were drawn to the Inspection of such Departments respectively, as might be most competent to form an Opinion upon them; and I am now to state to you, for their Lordships Information with regard to the Accounts at present under Consideration, that Mr. Dundas feels himself incompetent to decide upon Charges incurred in the Execution of Services so various in their Nature, and which, from their Magnitude, he conceives to require the most regular and minute Investigation of the different Departments to which they relate. The following Observations, however, occurred to him on examining Mr. Atkinson's Account, and the Papers accompanying it.

The Vouchers produced for the Charges of hiring Vessels for the Conveyance of Troops and Stores, and other similar Services, for which an Expence to a considerable Amount appears to have been incurred, though they contain the Receipts of the Deputy Quarter Master General, do not appear sufficiently explanatory, nor do they contain the Information necessary for forming a Judgment, how far the Agreements entered
into

into for the Execution of the different Services, may or may not have been concluded with a due Attention to the Interest of the Public.

In particular Account, No. 4. a Bill is charged, drawn by Colonel Grant, in Favour of Mr. Bogle, dated the 20th of October 1794, and amounting to £. 7,665. 17. 11. of which no^d Mention is made by Mr. Bogle in his Account Current for that Period. But Mr. Dundas particularly noticed the Charges stated under the Head of Commission upon Money advanced, wherein it appears that a Rate of Commission of 5 per Cent. is charged by Mr. Bogle, in St. Domingo, upon the Amount of the Bills drawn in his Favour by Brigadier General Hornick, which Bills, upon passing through the Hands of the Agent General at Jamaica, are subject to a Second Rate of Commission also of 5 per Cent. And as the Commanding Officers of the different Districts in the Island of St. Domingo appear separately to draw, for carrying on the Service in such Districts, Bills upon Jamaica in Favour of their respective Agents, by whom possibly a Commission may also be charged, I am to desire that you will bring this Circumstance under their Lordships View, as appearing to merit their particular Consideration.

The very great Amount of the Public Expenditure on Account of Military Services in the Island of St. Domingo, under the present Circumstances, and the Impossibility of forming a correct Judgment here, with respect to the Accounts, as at present transmitted from thence, have suggested to Mr. Dundas the Propriety of recommending to their Lordships to take into their earliest Consideration the absolute Necessity which appears to him to exist, of their adopting such Measures, and making such Appointments, as may be necessary for establishing a System of Regulation and Control with respect to the Expenditure in Question, similar to that which exists in the other Branches of Public Expenditure now incurring on Account of Military Services in different Quarters of the World; at least in all Cases where they are of such an Extent and of so much Importance as that in Question, in order that the Sums for which Bills may be drawn upon their Lordships, for carrying on the Public Service in the Islands of Jamaica and St. Domingo, may be accounted for in such Manner as they may think proper to require.

I am, &c.

W. Huskisson.

Charles Long, Esq. &c. &c.

(6.) Extract of a Letter from WILLIAM HUSKISSON, Esquire, to GEORGE ROSE, Esquire, dated Horse Guards, 17th July 1795.

I HAVE received and laid before Mr. Secretary Dundas your Letter to me of the 6th Instant, transmitting, by Command of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, for Mr. Dundas's Opinion, Two Letters from Major General Sir Adam Williamson, dated Jamaica, 28th of March and 27th of April last, advising of his having drawn upon their Lordships Bills for the Sums of £. 87,500. 9. and £. 131,446. 3. for carrying on His Majesty's Service there and in the Island of St. Domingo, and I am directed by Mr. Dundas to refer you to the Letters which have at different Times been written by his Direction on the Subject of Bills drawn by Sir Adam Williamson for the same Service, but more particularly to my Letter to Mr. Long, of the 10th of April last, stating, that Mr. Dundas felt himself incompetent to decide upon Charges incurred in the Execution of Services so various in their Nature, and which he conceived to require the most regular and minute Investigation of the different Departments to which they relate.

(7.) Extract of a Letter from Mr. Secretary DUNDAS to Major General GORDON FORBES; dated Horse Guards, 29th of September, 1795.

THE Conditions offered in Sir Adam Williamson's Proclamations, for the Formation of Black Corps, are very different from those on which it was here expected the Levy might be made, and though at this Distance I am not competent to determine whether any Terms more favourable could have been obtained for the Public, I cannot but confess that it was not expected that no Attempt would be made for procuring the Men without incurring the very great Expence at which they will be raised under this Plan.

No Attempt, however, must be made to alter these Terms, with respect to the Corps authorized by General Williamson; but it will be for your Consideration, in case of any further Levies, whether they cannot be made on Conditions less expensive, and more conformable to my original Instructions; and I must request of you to take the earliest Opportunity of acquainting me with your Sentiments on these Points.

(8.) Copy of a Letter from the Duke of PORTLAND to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury; dated Whitehall, 7th October 1795.

WHITEHALL, 7th OCTOBER 1795.

My Lords,

MR. WIGGLESWORTH being on his Departure for St. Domingo, in His Majesty's Service, I am to recommend it to your Lordships, that he may be furnished with Copies of my Letter to your Lordships, and of Mr. King's Letters to Mr. Rose and to Mr. Long, and of the several Papers transmitted therewith, relative to the Revenues of such Parts of the Island of St. Domingo, as are in His Majesty's Possession; and that he be instructed, after attentively considering the Contents thereof, and upon a Communication with the Person holding the Government of the Colony for the Time being, to make the strictest possible Enquiries, both into the Receipts and Disbursements which have taken Place with respect to those Revenues, and into the Mode in which the same have been managed; and to make such Report thereupon to your Lordships, and to me, as the Nature of the Case shall be found to require.

I am further to recommend it to your Lordships, to direct Mr. Wigglesworth's Attention in particular to the 14th Article of His Majesty's Instructions, which relates to the Receipt of such Revenues as were collected under the French Government, previous to the Year 1789—as well as to the Application of those Revenues.

To the 17th Article, which provides for the Receipt and Disposal of the Revenues arising from the religious Estates therein mentioned.

To the 18th Article, which provides for the present Security of the Monies arising from the Estates of such Absentees, as being resident in Parts under the Dominion of Persons now exercising the French Government, cannot, by Law, be paid to them.

And to the Inclosures contained in Mr. King's Letter to Mr. Rose, of the 8th of October 1794, by which Mr. Wigglesworth will observe, that until a Receiver General shall be appointed by your Lordships in St. Domingo, conformably to His Majesty's Instructions, the Governor is instructed, that Accounts of all Receipts and Expenditures within the Colony, with proper Vouchers, should, through him, be transmitted to your Lordships by the Persons who have respectively received, or expended the same.

I am, &c.

Portland.

Lords Commissioners
of the Treasury.

- (9.) Copy of a Letter from WILLIAM HUSKISSON, Esq. to CHARLES LONG, Esq; dated Horse Guards, 12th May 1796.

HAVING laid before Mr. Secretary Dundas your Letter to me of the 4th Instant, transmitting for his Opinion Letters from Sir Adam Williamson, advising of his having drawn upon the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the following Sums, viz. £. 31,179. 14. 3. £. 100,000. £. 149,543. 3. 8. £. 150,708. 14. 6. £. 172,284. 8. and £. 260,000. for carrying on His Majesty's Service in the Island of St. Domingo, from the 1st of January 1795 to the 29th of February 1796, I am directed by Mr. Dundas to acquaint you, for the Information of their Lordships, that, with Reference to his former Letters on the Subject of Sir Adam Williamson's Bills, he is of Opinion that they should be paid upon Account. At the same time Mr. Dundas has observed, with much Regret and Surprize, that so immense a Sum should be called for on Account of Services performed in St. Domingo during a Period in which a very large Amount has already been discharged; but as Sir Adam Williamson is now in England, Mr. Dundas is of Opinion it would be right that a complete Explanation should be immediately had with him upon the Subject, and that a minute Investigation should instantly be entered upon by the respective Departments connected with the Services for which Sir Adam's Bills have been drawn.

(10.) Extract of a Letter from the Duke of PORTLAND
to Major General FORBES, dated Whitehall 3d
August 1796.

ALTHOUGH, therefore, I am not apprized of the Plan proposed by Monsi-
de Cotte and Monsi. le Point for this Purpose, yet the professional Know-
ledge and Ability of the former, and the very zealous and able Exertions of
Monsieur le Point, in support of His Majesty's Interests, would incline
me to doubt their proposing, in this Behalf, any Thing liable to solid
Objections, and nothing less should have defeated a Project for lessening
the enormous Charges to which this Country has hitherto been subject
on account of St. Domingo. The absolute Necessity of reducing these
Charges within due Bounds, will of course instigate you to use your utmost
Exertions, that the Department in which they are incurred shall be subject
to the most rigorous and æconomical Control and Inspection; you will of
course receive from Mr Secretary Dundas such Instructions as may be
necessary for the carrying on the Military Services with which you are
entrusted.

(11.) Copy of a Letter from Mr. Secretary DUNDAS to Major General GORDON FORBES; dated Parliament Street, the 18th of August 1796.

It being of the utmost Importance that the very heavy Expences incurred in the Transport Service should be as much reduced as the Nature of the Service will admit of, it has been determined to allot to each of the Stations, where the occasional Removal of the Troops requires the Assistance of Shipping, such a Proportion only as may be absolutely necessary for that Purpose.—With this View, 7,500 Tons of Transports will be appropriated to the Service of the Army under your Command, a Quantity which, from every Information I have been able to procure, will be amply sufficient for its Use; and I am to desire that you will take particular Care that no Directions are given by Persons acting under your Authority or Order, which may in any Way interfere with the Orders given by the Commissioners of Transports for carrying this Arrangement into Effect, a Copy of which I herewith inclose. It is also necessary that you should be particularly careful that all Transport Vessels arriving at Saint Domingo with Freight, or with Troops, should be unloaded without a Moment's Delay, by which Means a very heavy Expence of Demurrage, as well as, in many Instances, Payment of the Penalty incurred by a Breach of the Charter Party, will be saved to the Public.

It is scarcely necessary for me to add, that in every other Particular connected with this Service, you will take Care to enforce an Observance of the strictest Economy and Regularity, and be careful that the Object of this Dispatch is on all Occasions duly attended to.

(12) Extract of a Joint Letter from His Grace the Duke of PORTLAND and Mr. Secretary DUNDAS; to Major General SIMCOE; dated Parliament Street, the 25th of November 1796.

WE shall now proceed to call your Attention more particularly to that Point which we have already referred to, as forming a leading Object of your Instructions, and to which your Exertions are to be most immediately directed, namely, the restraining within fixed Limits the pecuniary Succours to be afforded by this Country, and the ensuring the faithful Collection of the Revenues, and the due Application of all the Resources of the Island, in Aid of the public Service. —On this Head, however, as on all the others which we have touched upon, the Details must be left to be regulated by your Discretion on the Spot; and we can only point out to you, the general Objects and Principles which you are to keep in View.

You will observe, that the first Point we have mentioned, and the one most essential, is, to restrain at all Events the pecuniary Charge to be brought on this Country.—You must also understand, that not only the Limit to be now fixed is in no Case whatever to be exceeded, but that, even within that Limit, pecuniary Succour is from Time to Time to be afforded only in Proportion as it shall be shewn that the Service rendered is adequate to the Expence, and cannot be performed without it, and that the Resources of the Island cannot of themselves be rendered sufficient to defray it.—This Point therefore, and, at the same Time, the Safety of the Island, is necessarily connected with effectual Provisions for employing to the best Advantage the Resources which the Island itself furnishes, and placing all the Establishments, Civil and Military, on the most regular and œconomical Footing which the Nature of the Case will admit.—It will therefore be incumbent on you to obtain the most exact Information in your Power of the Public Revenue, which can be realized in the present State of the Island; of the Extent, Produce, and Value of the Estates which belong to the Crown, and of the Regulations under which they are administered; of any ordinary Contributions or Taxes which have, according to Usage, been heretofore levied in the Colony, and also of such extraordinary Resources as, with a View to the present Exigency, may, without too severe a Pressure, be brought in Aid of the Public Service in different Districts, from further Contributions, either in Money or in Provision and other Produce, or in the personal Service of the Negroes. You will also endeavour to ascertain, on consulting
with

with Persons of the greatest Weight and local Knowledge, what Civil Establishments are necessary in the present State of the Island, for the Purpose of Police, the Collection of the Revenue, and the Administration of Justice, endeavouring of Course to reduce the Expence of each within the narrowest Limits. You must also examine what is the greatest Extent of Colonial Corps, composed either of White Inhabitants or of People of Colour, or of Negroes, which can be formed and maintained in the different Districts, and what is the least expensive Footing, in Point of Pay and Subsistence, and of the Proportion of Officers and Men, on which they can be placed, consistently with the Public Service.—And you will suffer no Deviation, without your previous Authority, from the Rates and Proportions which you have once fixed to be admitted as a Justification of any Expenditure, or as a sufficient Ground for the Application of any Part of the Funds under your Controul.—You will endeavour, as far as the Nature of the Case will possibly admit, to extend this Principle to the Articles of extraordinary and contingent Expences attendant on Operations, and particularly to those of the Hospitals, which have been stated to be a Source of much Abuse, and which, although they cannot be brought within positive Limits, are capable of Checks and Regulations, which may establish some Proportion between the Charge incurred and the Relief afforded, and instead of narrowing the latter, may render it more effectual.—It will also be material to learn how far the Amount of Succours meant to be furnished at the Expence of this Country can be supplied in Articles either of Manufacture or Produce, for the Purposes of Clothing, Provisions, or any other: Whatever Part of the limited Amount can be so furnished will be more secure from possible Abuse, and will be furnished in a Mode on every Account preferable; and it must be deducted from the Sums of Money to be periodically furnished, except as far as it may consist of Arms and Ammunition to the Extent which we shall state hereafter. It may also possibly be an advantageous Way of employing the Resources of the Country, and relieve the Difficulty of finding Specie, to endeavour to exchange in Kind Articles of Produce, either arising from Land held by the Government, or from private Contributions, in Exchange for such Articles of Provisions as it may be necessary to obtain from the United States of America.

These Considerations, and the Result of your further Enquiries on all the Points which may occur to you, must guide you in regulating the Proportion, and conducting the Mode of the Expenditures.—You will be equally careful to establish the most effectual Regulations for auditing and examining, at stated Periods, the Accounts both of the Expenditure and Receipt; for establishing as much Regularity and Accuracy as possible in the Vouchers to be admitted; for ascertaining both

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the Reality and Necessity of every Charge, and the Performance of the Service for which it is incurred, and, in particular for mustering at proper Intervals all the Corps for whom Pay or Allowance are issued; and to ascertain their Fitness for Service, and their due Compliance with the Conditions which you may have established. You will take the earliest Opportunity of transmitting to us the Result of your Enquiries on all these Points, and the general Regulations which you may establish in consequence; and you will also furnish us regularly, from Time to Time, with an Abstract of your Proceedings, and Accounts of the whole Receipt and Expenditure under distinct Heads, with such Observations as you may think necessary for His Majesty's Information.

It only now remains to state to you, as nearly as Circumstances will admit, the Amount of the Succours to which we have referred, and of other Aids which may be afforded from this Country for the Protection of the Island.

Under the First Head, we have to inform you, that a Credit of £. 300,000 will be opened in Favour of the Colony, on which you will be at Liberty to draw for the Sum of £. 25,000 per Month, and to receive the first Three Months, if absolutely necessary, in Advance, under the Conditions and Regulations, and subject eventually to the Deductions which we have already explained. You will understand that the Pay, Subsistence, and every other Expence which may be incurred for the Maintenance and Support of the Foreign European Troops now in Saint Domingo, or of those which may hereafter be sent thither, is to be charged upon the above-mentioned Sum of £. 300,000; and in order to prevent any Uneasiness which might otherwise arise in the Minds of the Officers and Men of the said Foreign Corps, from an Apprehension that the Advantages to which they are entitled, under their respective Capitulations, might be lost sight of, or withheld, in consequence of this new Arrangement, you will inform them that you are specifically instructed to make Provision for fulfilling their Capitulations, and you will accordingly take Care to accomplish your Engagements to them, either in a direct Manner, or by giving Means and Authority, to this Effect, to such of the French Agents and Officers appointed by you, as you may think proper to select for this Service. Perhaps the last Method would be most advisable, as it would tend to strengthen the necessary Connection, and to improve the good Understanding which ought to subsist between the said Corps and the Persons under whose Management and Command they are to be placed.



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