

RELATING to EXPENDITURE for PUBLIC WORKS ABROAD. 3

regard to the 4th Resolution, they consider it right to state, that, unless Executive Officers at *Foreign Stations* are authorized to enter into a Contract for the *whole* of any Work proposed to be executed in a given number of years, Contractors will naturally seek to indemnify themselves, by higher prices, from the risk they would run of having their work stopped, or discontinued, at the end of any year. At the same time, the Treasury, in the event of the Resolutions being adopted, having, as it seems, the power of sanctioning, by their Minute, a deviation from the 4th Resolution, it is submitted, as a question for their Lordships' consideration, whether this power will be effectual to obviate the inconvenience above anticipated.

I have the honour, &c. &c.

(signed) R. Byham.

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 8th July 1831.

READ Letter from the Secretary to the Board of Ordnance of the 5th instant, referring to the Letter of this Board of the 14th ult., enclosing an Extract from a Report of the Select Committee of The House of Commons, appointed to consider the Water Communication with Canada, for the Opinion of the Master General and Board of Ordnance, upon the Resolutions therein proposed, with the view of giving to Parliament a more early and effectual control over Expenditure of Public Works in the Colonies; wherein he states, that the Master General and Board of Ordnance are not aware of any objection to the Resolutions referred to; but with regard to the 4th Resolution, they state, "that, unless Executive Officers at *Foreign Stations* are authorized to enter into a Contract for the *whole* of any Work proposed to be executed in a given number of years, Contractors will naturally seek to indemnify themselves, by higher prices, from the risk they would run of having their works stopped, or discontinued, at the end of any year."

Read Letter from Mr. Hay of the 29th ult. on the same subject.

My Lords resume the consideration of all the former Papers on this subject, and also read their Minutes of the 10th and 28th ult.

My Lords are gratified to perceive, that it appears from these Communications that no real difficulty arises in carrying into effect generally the proposed Resolutions, and thus ensuring to Parliament a more full and adequate Check upon the Public Expenditure.

With respect to the difficulty suggested by the Ordnance Department, My Lords are of opinion, that it will not arise where the entire Expense of any Work has been submitted to Parliament, and approved of, although a *Voté* may not have been taken for the full amount in any one year. Unforeseen and unavoidable Expenditure will, it is conceived, be sufficiently provided for by the exception contained in these Resolutions.

The Lords of the Admiralty having already given orders that these Resolutions shall be acted upon implicitly in that Department in future, it is unnecessary to make any further communication to that Board: but My Lords desire that the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Master General and Board of Ordnance may be requested to give corresponding directions in their respective Departments.