

— No. 2. —

COPY of a TREASURY MINUTE, dated 2nd December 1867.

LET a copy of the above Contract, and of the correspondence relating to the continuance of a packet service between Halifax, Bermuda, and St. Thomas, which sufficiently sets forth the grounds upon which their Lordships have authorised the Contract, be laid upon the Table of the House of Commons.

— II. —

CORRESPONDENCE between the Treasury, the Admiralty, and the Post Office, relative to the continuance of a PACKET SERVICE between *Halifax*, *Bermuda*, and *St. Thomas*, at the expiration of the present Contract.

— No. 1. —

Mr. *W. G. Romaine* to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir,

Admiralty, 26 April 1867.

WITH reference to my letter of the 31st July 1866, respecting the discontinuance of the contract with Messrs. Cunard for conveying the North American mails, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that they have received an inquiry from the Postmaster General as to the necessity of continuing the mail service between Halifax and St. Thomas, *via* Bermuda, which, under existing arrangements with Messrs. Cunard, will terminate on the 2nd of January next. I am commanded by their Lordships to request you will state to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that their Lordships have informed the Postmaster General that the withdrawal of this mail packet would be attended with the greatest inconvenience to the public service. It is by this route the Naval Commander in Chief on the North American station keeps up his communications with Jamaica, Barbadoes, and all the various Islands and Colonies in the West Indies and Gulf of Mexico; and to cut off this means of communication appears to their Lordships to be most inadvisable.

The Secretary,
Her Majesty's Treasury.

I am, &c.
(signed) *W. G. Romaine*.

— No. 2. —

The Postmaster General to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

My Lords,

General Post Office, 14 May 1867.

In the latter part of the letter of my predecessor to the Treasury, dated 26th April 1866, the service between Halifax, Bermuda, and St. Thomas is spoken of, and an opinion is expressed by Lord Stanley of Alderley (in which I concur) that the object of this service being naval and not postal, this department should be relieved of it, and the service should be transferred to the Admiralty; the Post Office paying to that department the sea postage of any correspondence which it might forward by the Admiralty packets.

No communication having been received from your Lordships on this point, and nothing having been heard from the Admiralty, I thought it well, as the time is drawing nigh when, if the service is to be continued, arrangements to that effect must be concluded, to write to the Lords of the Admiralty to inquire what