

and in reply, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith enclosed, a return, containing all the information which I have been able to obtain in regard to the Lighthouse of this island, which is less complete than it might have been, but for the destruction of the greater part of the records of the *Comune Tesoro* of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, by the French Republicans.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Balnearis.*

Enclosure in No. 20.

Encl. in No 20.

RETURN of LIGHTHOUSES in the Island of *Malta* and its Dependencies.

Number - - - - - One.

Date of Erection.—In the year 1488, while the islands of Malta and Gozo were still a fief of the crown of Sicily, Fort St. Elmo was erected on the north-east extremity of the peninsula on which the city of Valletta is built, and which separates the two principal harbours of the island—the great harbour of Valletta, and the harbour of Marsa-muscetto, in which the Lazaretto is situated. In 1551, some twenty years after the islands were ceded to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the Grand Master de Omedes caused Fort St. Elmo to be reconstructed, on an improved plan, and it is believed that the Lighthouse was then for the first time erected on the bastion of the Fort where it now stands.

Original Cost.—In 1671 the Lighthouse was improved, and the cost of lighting it doubled; but no trace can be found either of the cost of the original construction nor of the subsequent improvements made up to that time, nor from what funds defrayed.

In 1832, a new lantern was commissioned from England, which cost, with its supplies, 1,439 *l.* 2 *s.* and an expense of 101 *l.* 4 *s.* 6 *d.* was incurred for placing and fixing it. These sums were defrayed from the local revenues of Malta and its dependencies.

Annual Expense.—The only account of the annual expense of the Lighthouse in the time of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which has been found, is that given in the Decennial Statement of the Chevalier de Ransijat, Secretary to the Treasury of the Order, embracing the period from 1778 to 1788, from which it appears that the average annual expense for those years amounted to 269 scudi, 3 tari, 9 grs. then about 26 *l.* sterling, paid from the *Comune Tesoro* (General Treasury). In those days, however, the Lighthouse was only lighted up in the winter months; viz. from 1st of October to the 1st of May.

Since the removal of the lantern in 1832, the average annual expense for lighting up the same is 130 *l.* and is paid from the local revenues of the island.

Annual Receipts and application of Monies received as Tolls for such Lighthouse.—Up to the end of the year 1832 a duty was levied on shipping, under the title of lighthouse dues; this duty was, on the remodelling of the tariffs of customs, &c. amalgamated with the other port dues, and collected under the general head of tonnage dues: the average annual amount of lighthouse dues, for the last ten years that they formed a separate item in the local revenues of Malta; viz. from the year 1823 to the year 1832, was 512 *l.* 12 *s.* 11 *d.*

(signed) *W^m Sim,*
Acting Chief Secy to Govt.

SIERRA LEONE.

— No. 21. —

(No. 185.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Macdonald* to Earl *Grey*.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 21.

Governor Macdonald
to Earl Grey,
11 December 1846.

My Lord,

Government House, Fort Thornton, Sierra Leone,
11 December 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Circular of 22d August, transmitting copy of an Address presented to Her Majesty by the House of Commons, praying for information in regard to Lighthouses in the Colonies and British Possessions abroad, and requesting that the necessary information as regards this colony might be transmitted to you for that purpose.

I have the honour to forward herewith, in conformity with your Lordship's commands, a return blank for this colony, there being no Lighthouses erected here.

I take this opportunity of stating to your Lordship, that this subject has already occupied the attention of the local Legislature, as your Lordship will perceive by the