

Clarendon, Lord North and Grey, Lieutenant General Wubers, Colonel Hales the Governor, and Mr. Crawford Deputy-Governor of the Hospital: These Warrants are not only Authorities, but positive Directions to the Pay-Master to Pay the Men their usual Pension for the time therein specified, being Six Months in each Book; and all the Men are there Certified by the Subscribing Commissioners to be then Alive, and duly Entitled to the Pension.

As these Warrants were a Direction for Distributing above 60,000*l.* of Publick Money, it is Astonishing to find what little Care was taken by the Acting Commissioners to prevent any Fraud or Abuse, which the Method of these Books was not only liable to, but seems Calculated for no other purpose.

As the Names of all the Men are Entred Alphabetically, so at the end of almost every Letter in the Alphabet, there is in these large Folio Books, a Page, or a Page and half, left Blanks, which it was most Evidently in the Power of those who had the sole Management of this Affair, and in whose Custody the Books were kept, till Delivered to the Paymaster, to fill up with what Names they thought fit.

And to make any such Practice the more Easie and Undiscoverable, the Names of the Men are no where numbered, nor any One Page in the Books, nor are the Totals cast up at the end of the whole, nor the amount of the Pay specified; that it no ways appeared to the Commissioners, for what Numbers they Signed, nor how much Money they Disposed of, and whether the Numbers were 8980, or 9109, or but half the Number, at the time the Commissioners Signed; the Publick can have no Satisfaction but from Mr. Crisp's Integrity: And so little Care had the Signing Commissioners to make any thing certain, that their Warrant is without Date: The first Instance, that so much Money was Directed with so many Blanks, and no Date for the Warrant.

This Unaccountable and Unwarrantable Method of Making up and Signing the Pay-Books, Three of the Commissioners, viz. The Earl of Clarendon, Lieutenant-General Wubers, and the Governor, have thought fit to Justifie, and in Answer to this part of the Charge to Alledge, "There could be no Delign to add any Number of Men at the end of the several Blank Pages, no Men being to be Paid, but upon a Re-examination; and for this purpose, they say, the Direction to Mr. How is to Pay such Persons as were therein mentioned, except where it was otherwise Excepted; and that this Exception was Inserted, to prevent the Payment of any Men upon the Pension who should not be Re-examined. But that there is no such Exception in the Warrants, nor any Words that can be construed to have any such Meaning, the Perusal of the Warrants will Satisfie Your Majesty beyond all Dispute.

But the said Commissioners insisting so much upon this intended Re-examination for their Justification, it is necessary to State the Fact very particularly; they confess they were sensible of the extraordinary Encrease of the Out-Pensioners. "And that they had Reason to believe, that by the Number of the Dead which would appear upon a Re-examination, and those whose Wounds, &c. were Cured, they should be able to reduce them to a reasonable Number; and for this their great Care and Caution, they Appeal to an Advertisement in the Gazette in July last, for the Pensioners to appear in August, to be Re-examined: But the same Commissioners, who declare under their Hands, they were sensible of all this in July last, very soon forgot their good Intentions; and in November following, without any previous Examination or Reduction, Certifie the whole Number to be Living, and give a positive Order for Paying them, or such Persons for them, as should have Letters of Attorney for that purpose: And as to that Allega-

tion, that the Draughts from the Pensioners to do Duty in Garison upon the Demise of the Queen, prevented the Re-examination; it seems unintelligible how the appearing of 1200 Men upon a proper and useful Occasion, which was indeed a Review of so many, should obstruct or retard the Examination of the rest; besides, as Mr. How observes, these Books, with such ample Certificates, were sent to him not 'till November following, after all the Draughts were Dismissed; and instead of any Notice to stop Payment in Expectation of this Re-examination, Mr. Crisp in his Letter to Mr. How, presses, that the Payment might not meet with any Delay.

Many more Observations might be drawn from the Memorial, the Commissioners Answer, and the Reply; but they being all Annexed, we beg leave to refer to them, and to proceed in giving Your Majesty an Account of what further Occurr'd to us, during this Examination.

These Pay-Books being made up in so Loose and Unwarrantable a manner, and it appearing by the Queen's Instructions to the Commissioners, that no Pensioners were to be Admitted, but by Warrant Signed by the Commissioners upon proper Certificates, and a due Examination by the Commissioners in Person, and that by the Sixth Article of the said Instructions (Copies of the said Warrants, expressing the Particulars of the Examination, and Reason of such Invalids Admission, are to be Entred in a Book to be kept for that purpose) Mr. Crisp was Ordered to lay before the Lords the Original Books from whence the Pay-Books were supposed to be Transcribed: In Compliance with this Order, Mr. Crisp presented to the Lords of the Committee Six Books, Three Signed jointly by Mr. Englis the Surgeon-General, and Mr. Nodes his Mate; and Three Signed by Mr. Nodes only; and a Seventh Paper Signed by No Body.

These Books, Signed only in this manner, which were Delivered as the Foundation and Vouchers for the Pay-Books, and the Original Books of the College, appear at first view to be Defective in the most material Part, and cannot be Allowed to be of any Authority, not being Signed by any One Commissioner, whereas by the Commission under the Great Seal, and the Instructions thereto annexed, they ought to have been Signed by Five Commissioners; It is necessary to Observe here, That upon Constituting the present Commissioners, and Forming these Instructions, a great Reformation of supposed Abuses in the College was set on Foot, and the Number of Out-Pensioners, which was then betwixt 3 and 4000 was thought so Excessive, that a General Examination of all the Out-Pensioners was Ordered to be taken by these Commissioners, who dismissed 1882, as being Admitted without due Qualifications; and there remained then upon the Pension only 1719. And this Reduction was made about June, 1713. since which time they are now encreased to above 9000.

The Commissioners in their Answer to Mr. How's Memorial, undertake to Account for this great Encrease by a General Estimate in this manner;

	Men,
Left upon the Pension upon the General Examination in 1713	1719
Re-admitted upon a Second Examination by a Verbal Order of the Duke of Ormond.	1882
By a Reduction from the 12 Invalid Companies Allowed to remain on the Pension that did not appear at the first General Examination, about	300
Men Discharged from the Service of Portugal and Spain, who, upon account of the Hardships they suffered, were to remain upon the Pension; all their Wounds, &c. were Cured, between 3 and	1000
	4000
Total	8801