A BRISTOL MISCELLANY
BRISTOL RECORD SOCIETY'S
PUBLICATIONS

*General Editor:* PROFESSOR PATRICK McGRATH
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**VOL. XXXVII**

**A BRISTOL MISCELLANY**
A BRISTOL MISCELLANY

EDITED BY
PATRICK McGRATH

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NOTE BY THE HONORARY GENERAL EDITOR

Volume XXXVII of the publications of the Bristol Record Society was intended to be a work dealing with the merchants of Bristol in the sixteenth century, but for various reasons the editor found it impossible to produce the manuscript in time. It has been replaced by this Miscellany.

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to the contributors who agreed to participate, often at very short notice and at considerable inconvenience to themselves.

The Index was compiled by Miss Tamsin Eedle and Mr Gregory McGrath with help from Mr David Large.

Bristol Record Society has not hitherto produced a Miscellany, but the interesting and varied nature of the material in this volume may well encourage the production of similar volumes in the future.

Patrick McGrath
Hon. General Editor
I  TWO TUDOR VISITS  
TO BRISTOL  

EDITED BY  
JOSEPH BETTEY
TWO TUDOR VISITS TO BRISTOL

1 Visit by Henry VII in 1486

Henry VII came to Bristol in the spring of 1486 as part of the first great progress through his kingdom which he made after gaining the throne at the Battle of Bosworth in August 1485. The whole progress is described by an anonymous chronicler under the title A Short and Brief Memory of the First Progresse of our Soveraigne King Henry VII.1 Following the meeting of Parliament and his marriage to Elizabeth of York in January 1486, Henry left London in March and rode through Waltham, Cambridge, Huntingdon and Stamford to Lincoln where he kept Holy Week and the feast of Easter. From there he went to Nottingham, avoiding Newark because of an outbreak of plague, and on to Doncaster and Pontefract where he was accompanied by an armed escort ‘In defencable array for that in that tyme ther were certeyne Rebells about Rypon’, and to York where he was received with great ceremony. At York the King turned southwards through the Midlands to Worcester,2 from thence to Hereford and on to Gloucester where he was welcomed by the mayor and burgesses and stayed at the Benedictine abbey of St Peter. He left Gloucester for Bristol, staying overnight at the Cistercian abbey of Kingswood, and dining the next day with Sir Robert Poyntz, sheriff of Gloucestershire, at Iron Acton, before riding on to Bristol. The chronicler’s description of the King’s reception and stay in Bristol is as follows:

And iii miles oute of Bristow the maire, the sheriffes, the Baliffes with ther brethren and great number of other Burgesses

1 The manuscript is in the British Library, Cottonian MSS, Julian B, XII, ff 18–21.
2 The chronicler did not accompany the King on this part of the journey through the Midlands, and has left no record of it. He states that he rejoined the royal party at Worcester.
al on horsebake, in whose names Tremayle, Recorder of the same Towne, right cunnyngly welcomed the King, but the maire of Bristow bare no mace nor the sheriff of that towne bare no Rodde unto the tyme they came to a gate of the suburbe wher beginneth ther franches. And on a causey way within that gate the procession of the freres receyved the King. And at the ende of the causey way the procession of the parishe churches receyved the King. And in th’end of the Towne gate ther was ordeigned a pageant with great melodie and singing, the which ceased, ther was a King had the speech as herafter ensued:

There followed a long speech of welcome in verse, with reference to the legendary building of Bristol and its walls by King Bremmius who welcomed King Henry VII as sent

Of almighty God moost merciful and gracious,
To Reform things that be contrarious
Unto the comen wele with a mighty hande,
I am Right gladde ye be welcome to this lande.

The speaker also lamented the decline of Bristol,

... but I have ben so longe away,
That Bristow is fallen into decaye.

He therefore looked to Henry VII to restore the prosperity of the navy and of cloth making.

And from thence the King proceeded in to the Towne, and at the High Crosse ther was a pageant ful of maydyn childern richely besene, and Prudence had the speech as ensued:

Then followed another speech of welcome in verse asking God's blessing on the King and the realm.

And from thence the King proceeded ad porta St John wher was a nother pageaunt of many mayden children richely besene with girdells, beds, and onches, wher Justicia had the words that herafter ensued:

There followed another verse speech welcoming the King to Bristol, including the lines.

Welcome King of England and of Frannce
To this your owne towne, god send you right good chance.

3 The words 'the King' are written twice in the manuscript.
4 The text of the verse speeches, none of which rises above doggerel, is given in John Leland, Collectanea, De Rebus Britannicus, London, 1774, 1, 185-203.
And then the King proceeded toward the abbey of St Ausayne, and by the way ther was a baker's wiffe caste oute of a wyndow a great quantitie of whete crying "Welcome and Good Look", and a litell furthermoe ther was a pageant made called the Shipwrights' pageaunt, with praty conceyts playing in the same without any speche. And a litell further ther was another pageante of an olifante with a castell on his bakk curiously wrought, the Resurrection of our lorde in the highest Tower of the same, with certeyne imagerye smyting of bellis, and al went by weights marvelously wele done. And within Saint Austeine churche, th'abbot and his convent receyved the King with procession as accustemmed. And on the morne, when the King had dynde, he rode on pilgrimage to Saint Anne's in the Wodde. And on the Thursday nexte folowing which was Corpus Christi day, the King went in procession aboute the great grene thar called The Sanctuary, whether came all the processions of the towne also. And the Bishop of Worcester prechide in the pulpit in the mids of the forseide grene, in a great audience of the Mayre and the substance of al the Burgesse of the towne and ther wiffs, with muche other people of the Countrey also. And after Evensonge the Kinge sent for the mayre and Sherife and parte of the best burgesses of the towne and demanded theym the cause of ther povertie. And they shewde ther griefe for the great losse of Shippes and goodes that they had loost within v yeres. The King comforted theym that they shulde sett on and make newe shippes and to exercise ther merchandise as they were wonte for to doon. And his grace shulde so helpe theym by dyvers means like as he shewde unto theym that the mayre of the Towne towlde me they heard not thre hundred yeres of noo King so good a comfort. Wherfor they thanked almighty god that hath sent theym soo good and graciouse a soveragne lorde. And on the morne the King departed to London ward.

From Bristol Henry VII went to Sheen where he met the Queen who was already expeacting her first child, the future Prince Arthur. The King and Queen together came down the Thames from Sheen to London.

And on the vth day of June which was upon a Monday, the King came by water from Shene and landed at Westminster brigge. The maire of London with al his brethren and all the crafts in

---

5 The chapel of St Anne in the wooded valley of the Avon near Brislington which for several centuries was a popular place of pilgrimage. The water from St Anne's well was also famed for its medicinal properties, and many miraculous cures were recorded, see British Library, Sloane MSS, 640, ff 340-51.
London in great multitude of barges garnished with bands, penounces, standers and pensetts met with his grace as far as Putnane and hertely welcomed hym home . . .

2. The Costs of Queen Elizabeth's Visit to Bristol in August 1574.

Queen Elizabeth made a progress through some of the western counties during the summer of 1574, and on 14 August she arrived in Bristol where the Queen and the royal party were lavishly entertained at enormous cost by the city. She was accommodated at the newly-built "Great House" of John Young, a wealthy west-country gentleman who possessed estates in Dorset and Wiltshire and the manor of Easton-in-Gordano in Somerset, and who was knighted by the Queen for his hospitality. The "Great House" stood on St. Augustine's Back, occupying the grounds of the former Carmelite friary and on the site of the present Colston Hall; its gardens stretched up the hill to the house now known as the Red Lodge which was also built by John Young. A description of the costly entertainment provided for the Queen and her courtiers is given in Ricart's Kalendar, as follows:

Thomas Kelke, Maior.
This yere on Satterday, beinge the xiiijth day of August, the Queene came to this citie, and Mr. Maior and the Common Counsell riddinge with foote clothes, receaved her highnes within Laffardes gate. And ther Mr. Maior delyvered the gilt Mace vnto her Maiestie, and she then presentelie delyvered it to him againe. And so Mr. Maior knelinge whiles Mr. John Popham esquier, Recorder of this citie, made an Oracon, did after it was ended stand vp, and delyvered a faire purse wrought with silke and golde having an hundred poundes in gold in it, vnto her highnes. And therevpon Mr. Maior and his bretheren toke

6 The transcript of the costs of the Queen's visit from the Bristol Great Audit Book was made by Miss Mary Williams, the Bristol City Archivist, who has generously provided a copy together with her notes; the figures of total expenditure were checked and corrected by Mr and Mrs E. George.

7 J. Latimer, Annals of Bristol in the Sixteenth Century, 1900, 119–20. The house is clearly shown on Millerd's Delineation of Bristoll 1673, which also includes a picture of the house as one of the marginal illustrations.

theire horses, and Mr. Maior rode nighe before the Queene betwene two Sergantes-at-armes. And the residewe of the Common Counsell rode next afore the Nobilitie and Trumpe ters, and so passed throughe the towne vnto Mr. John Yonges howse, where she lay vntill Satterday then next followinge, on which day a little before her Maiesties departure hence she made five knightes, – (that is) the said Sir John Yonge, Sir Richard Barkeley of Stoke, Mr. Tracie, Sir Thomas Porter, and Sir William Morgan of Penycoite.

And duringe her abode here (amonge other thinges devised for pleasure) there weare iiijc. soldiers in one sute of apparell, whereof iijc. weare harquebussiers and jc. pikemen in corselettes. Also there was made a greate large forte standinge in Trenemill meade over againste Gibtaylor, which was assaulted by land and water iij. daies. And there was also another little forte called the base fort, standinge upon the hill beyond, which was wonne the first night that the assault was given. And the Queene was there at euerie assault duringe the saide iij. daies, for whose standinge there was builded a large scaffolde of tymber in the Marshe. Whiche martial experiment beinge verie costlie and chargeable (especially in gonnepow der), the Queene and Nobilitie liked verie well of, and gaue Mr. Maior and his brethren greate thankes for theire doinges.

To devise and supervise the entertainments and to write the numerous orations for the Queen, Thomas Churchyard,, poet, author and former soldier, was employed by the city, and was later paid the sum of £6 13s 4d for his work.9 Queen Elizabeth came to Bristol from Bath where much of the cost of her entertainment had fallen upon the churchwardens of St Michael's church10. In Bristol, however, most of the cost was met by the city. Some of the money was raised by a general ‘collection’ or rate upon each ward of the city, and by this means £535 1s 7d was provided. A further £450 0s 0d was borrowed from charity funds and was ‘to be repaid as speedily as convenient’. The full account of the collection, together with some preliminary items of expenditure such as pointing and gilding the High Cross and levelling streets, is recorded in the Bristol Great Audit Book11 as follows:

9 Thomas Churchyard c 1520–1604, voluminous writer and former soldier who had served in Ireland, Scotland, the Low Countries and France. In the year following the Queen’s visit to Bristol he published the orations under the title The First Parte of Churchyards Chippes, London, 1575. DNB, 1887, X, 343–6.

10 Details are given in the churchwardens’ accounts which were printed in Somerset Archaeological Society Proceedings, xxvi 1880, 132–8.

11 Bristol Record Office, Great Audit Book 04026 (9) 1570–74, f.290.
A Receipt of suche moneys collectyd for the Quenes Majesties enterteynment.

Imprimus recd. of Trinity warde the sume of civ li. viis.
Item, recd of Allhalon warde the sume of clxxiii li. xs.
Item recd. of St Mary Porte warde the sume of xci li. ivs.
Item recd of Redclyf warde the sume of lxxi li. iis. ivd.
Item recd of St Ewens warde the sume of xciv li. xviis. viiid
Item recd of Mr Pary of the colledge towards the raling and sanding of the way at St Austens Back and evenyng the ground the sume of v li.
Item sold the canvas that was left which covered the highe crosse when it was in gilting and payntyng wherof half was rotten and part of it stollen for the sume xxivs. iii d.
Item recd for the canvas that was left, which covered the ii Forts clix ells ili xixs. ixid.
Item recd of Thomas Symons for bords and the rest of Wm Salterns accompt iv li ivs. vid.
Moneys borrowed of Sir Thomas Whites accompt for the use abovesaid to be repayd the same accompt.
Imprimis, borrowed owt of Sir Thomas Whites accompt the sume of ccli. which was appoynted for corne as appeareth by his accompt of ii last yeres past, which mony is to be repayd to the same accompt as spedelie as convenyentlie may be cc li.
Item recd out of Barstaples chest owt of a bag of ccl li. which money is to purchase land, which also is to be repayd and returned to the said chest the sume of ccl li.

The full account of the costs of the Queen’s entertainment, which included street-cleaning, decorating the city gates and the Guildhall, the present of a purse of gold to the Queen, providing grandstands and numerous incidental expenses, as well as the charges for devising and carrying out the very elaborate mock-battles, were recorded in the Great Audit Book as follows:°

The Charges of the Queenes Maiesties enterteignement to the citie of Bristoll as Folowith.

In primis pd. for charges of gilting & paynting the highe Crosse and making newe benchys as by thaccompt lxvli.xijs.vijd

° B.R.O. 04026(9), 313. The figure of money paid to Thomas Symons for ‘furnyshing the galleys’ etc., is incomplete, but if, as seems probable, it should be £32 5s 2d, then the correct total for the expenditure is £1003 15s 10d.
Two Tudor Visits to Bristol

Item pd. for rowgh casting & playstring of lafores gate on bothe sides, Newgate and bothe the frowme gates on both sides and for setting up of scaffoldes & taking down the same as by thaccompt.

Item pd. for paynting and gildying the said gates pd. to Jo. Phyppes and Jo. Kirry paynters

Item pd. for pitching the stretes as apt by thaccompt

Item pd. for setting up the Quenes Armes & the townes Armes in frestone in the yeld hall wall

Item pd. for setting up a Scaffold at the highe crosse for the Oracion

Item pd for rowghe casting the walles of the yeld hall withowt and washing within the hall

Item pd. for riding to the Court to wyndsor and sending for captaigne Shute

Item pd. for the purse of gold, sylver and silk wherein the 200 angelettes was presented

Item pd. for sandying the marshe, rerying of the groundes and levelying the way

Item pd. for setting up of postes and rales & sanding the way at St. Austens Back

Item pd. for setting up a gallery in the marsh for the Quenes maiestie to se the tryumphes

Item pd to the lighter men that browght 53 lighters of sand for the stretes

Item pd. to the fillers of the fates with sand

Item pd. for mending the way in magdalen lane where the Erle of Lyncoln lay

Item pd. for charges upon Arcabouzes & Drummes & for an Enseigne with a white crosse

Item pd. for charges of pitching & repayring of the ways at Lafores gate

Item pd. for Fees and charges to the Quenes clerk of the market & to the yoman of the bottells

Item pd. for making the quenes way thrugh Temple mede at her goyng away
Item pd. for newe making and dressing the Scabbard with pearles iiijli.ixs.xd.
Item pd. to Mr Dowting Mr. Swordberer and to Edward Chester for charges riding to the court at Gloucester ijli.js.vd.
Item pd. for 26 small barrills for 26C of corne and serpentyne powder xixs. vjd.
Item pd. for the nete charges of casting of 7 morters of Brasse & making of pestells iiijli.iis.iiijd.
Item pd. to Edmond Roberts John Hopkyns and to John Sachfield Captaignes as by their accompt j3lxxijli.xs.xjd.
Item pd. to Thomas Symons for furnysheing the galleys, Barges & other charges x( )li.vs. ijd.
Item pd. to Mighell Pepwell for corne powdre, for calyvers flaskes & towchis as by his accompt xvijli.js.iiijd.
Item pd. to Mr. John Brown for charges of drumme players and for capps for souldiors xxvli.js.
Item pd. to Henry Roberts for cappe, vitayles & drynck for souldiors vjli.viijd
Item pd. to Robert Robynson for xxvjC36lbs. of corne & serpentyne powder 1Cxljli.xvs.viid. at 13d. per lb.
Item pd. to Mr. Domynyck Chester for charges of the ij fortes with other busynes lxxxjli.viis.iiijd. as by his accompt jli.
Item pd. to John Field for his payns in dressing the marsh xiiijli.viis.vjd.
Item pd. to Mr. Richard Cole for lockeram and canvas 230 yardes & 13 ells for soul- diors dublettes iijli.xs.
Item pd. to Mr. William Gittons for a piece of brasse, for drummes & planckes as by his accompt jCli.
Item pd. to Mr. Thomas Kelke for 200 Angelettes that he presented to the Quenes maiestie xxxijli.
Item pd. to Mr. Kelke for certeign Fees that he pd. to the quenes officers as by his accompt jli.xd.
Item pd. to William Newton grocer for certeign corne powder delveryed to John Sachefield
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Item pd. to Mr. Phillip Langley for vytlyng of vj gonners and losse of armor as by his billes

Item pd. to Mr. Byny for vitling of soldiours goyng and retornyng from the Camp as by his bill

Item pd. to Captaigne Shute for his travaile who was generall of all the armye

Item pd. to Mr. Churchyard for his travayle bothe in the Fortes and concermyng oracles

Item pd. to William Saltern & Thomas Dewson for charges of the grete ordynance as by their accompt

Item pd. to Harry Roberts and John Saunders for Souldiers Capps as by thataccompt

Item pd. to lxxxv pyoners who wrought at the Fortes

Item pd. to Mr. Dunne Scholemaster of the Barthilmews toward his charges of his stage at the scole dore

Item pd. to Jo. Amorgan for vj barrils of bere and vj dosen of ale to vityale soldiours

Item pd. to dyverse Grocers for vijClijlbs. ¼ of corne powder as by their bill amounteth 752 lbs. ¼

Item pd. for ballesting the Foxe and for clensing of harnesse

Item pd. to Mr. Mayer Sargeants toward their paynes

Item pd. to Mr. Randall Hassall to Thomas Pyttes & John Hort for red cloth for the pike mens Gasskyns

Item pd. to Mr. Aldworth for losse upon light Angelettes who was the generall Receyvor

Item pd. to Mr. Snygge for losse of planckes and for occupieng of his grete ordnanche & reparacion therof

Item pd. to the lighter men for lighterage of 53 lighters at half lighterage which amounteth to 15li.6s.

Item pd. to the hallyers for halyng all the said 53 lighters of sand. y960 fates at jd. per fate

xiijl.iijs.viijd.
jli.

xvjl.xijs.iii jd.

vjli.xijs.iii jd.

ixli.xvs.vjd.

iijl.xixs.

iijl.vs.

jli.vijs.vjd.

jli.xs.

xlixli.ixs.xd.

xijs.iiijd.

jli.vjs.vijd.

xxvjl.xvjs.vjd.

xjs.

ijli.xs.

vjl.xvjs.xjd

iijli.vd.
Item pd. to the Raker for haling 35\textsuperscript{rd} fates of sand owt of the stretes after her maiestie was gonne
Item pd. to Mr. Stone for losse of angelet iijs. for a barrill of Bere iiijs.
Item pd. to Edward Chester for a bill of parcells silkes & Frenghe for the men of warre at Mr. Recorders apoyntment
Item pd. to Harry Roberts for the rest of Accompt of charges that he layed owt as by Mr. Kelks accompt

Summa totalis of all the charges of the Quenes Maiesties enterteignement

\textit{The Editor is grateful for the help of Miss Mary Williams over the details of Queen Elizabeth's visit.}
II A BRISTOL GLASSWORKS
c. 1730

EDITED BY
JOSEPH BETTEY
A BRISTOL GLASSWORKS c. 1730

INTRODUCTION

The following inventory and valuation of the property of a Bristol crown glass and bottle manufacturer, Humphrey Perrott, survives among the papers of the Calley family of Wroughton in north Wiltshire, which were deposited in the Wiltshire Record Office by Sir Henry Calley. The material relating to Perrott came into the hands of the Calley family by a very roundabout route. The Perrott family had been involved in glass manufacture in Bristol since the late seventeenth century when Benjamin Perrott, father of Humphrey, carried on business at Red Lane, east of St Mary Redcliffe church. Humphrey Perrott (born 1690) was declared bankrupt in c.1726, and it was because of his bankruptcy, that the following valuations were made. His estate was administered by assignees appointed by the Commissioners in Bankruptcy, and one of the assignees was Captain William Stretton, mariner, of Bristol. Stretton died intestate in October 1737, and his papers, including those relating to Perrott, passed into the hands of George Webb, attorney, of the parish of Long Ashton. Webb also became guardian of Stretton’s three children, and subsequently married Stretton’s daughter Mary (Molly). George Webb died in 1751, and in 1752 his widow, Mary, married Robert Codrington, attorney, of Rownham in Long Ashton, so that Codrington acquired Webb’s papers. Mary died in 1757, and when Codrington died in 1764 all his papers, including those relating to Humphrey

1 Wiltshire Record Office 1178/-. The papers have been listed by Andrew Crookston of the Wiltshire Record Office, who has elucidated the complex relationships of the Calley family, and has provided much helpful advice about the Perrott papers.

Perrott, passed into the hands of his brother-in-law and executor Oliver Calley, attorney, of Overton House in the parish of Wroughton, Wiltshire.

The papers reveal that Humphrey Perrot had a newly-built glass manufactory in Temple Street, and that he was producing crown and bottle glass on a large scale. Receipted bills show that he was supplying customers in Bristol, Stourbridge, Market Drayton, Warwick, and throughout South Wales and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall; sales are also recorded to Edward Tyer master of the ship Phoenix, and to a customer from Brunswick, New England. Some of the sales were of bottles filled with water from Hotwells.

The early eighteenth century was a period of great expansion in the Bristol glass industry, and the city became one of the largest centres of glassmaking outside London. But competition was fierce, and it is clear that already in 1723 Humphrey Perrott and some other manufacturers were finding trade difficult, for a draft agreement survives by which Perrott, together with John Baker and Richard Warren, agreed to regulate the working of their factories in Bristol, Barton Regis and Bedminster, and to limit production to their mutual advantage. They agreed that because 'the Trade, Art or Profession of making Crown Glass hath been and is subject and liable to many disadvantages and inconveniencys for the defect and want of regulations and agreements . . .', that they would restrict output, not make glass in more than one furnace at a time and not erect any new glasshouses without pulling down their existing glasshouses. It is not clear whether this agreement of 1723 was actually implemented, but Humphrey Perrott's financial position worsened and he was declared bankrupt in c.1726. He continued as a glassmaker, however, and in 1734 was granted a patent for a new and improved glass furnace which he had invented.

The following undated inventory and valuation of his property and possessions at the time of his bankruptcy gives a good indication of the scale and detail of his glassmaking operations. It also lists the raw materials used in glassmaking, including sand from Newnham in the Severn valley, high quality sand from the Isle of Wight, kelp or seaweed which was burned and the ashes used as a flux for glass melting, soap ashes which provided calcium carbonate, and clay which was brought down the Severn and used to make the pots in which the glass was melted.

4 1178/617 Draft agreement concerning glass factories in Bristol 1723.
5 C. Weeden, op. cit., 247.
6 W.R.O. 1178/619 Particular and Valuation of Glassworks, undated, c 1730.
The Estimate of Humphrey Perrotts Estate.

Several Tennements City Land called the 3 Kings of Cullum Rents per Annum
Weavers Land per annum
The Estate in Wales

$82 - 9 - 8$

The above Joynitures of £82–9–8 per annum valued at 7 years purchase for Humphrey Perrotts life

Sir John Hawkins Barn and Garden with the Glasshouse thereon erected and other buildings being a Lease from the Church of St Mary Redclif.

Value for the Ground
Glasshouse and building thereon

$577 - 0 - 0$

Deduct for Mr Harts Mortgatge on the Estate

$120 - 0 - 0$
$700 - 0 - 0$

$820 - 0 - 0$
$100 - 0 - 0$

$720 - 0 - 0$

A Lease of the Sand Ground at Lower Eason where there are 3 lives value £5–0–0 per annum
A fee Farms Lease from Joseph Haskins, some Ground behind Mr Perrotts dwelling house whereon are some Buildings erected and Mr Perrotts Garden for which is paid £8–0–0 per annum and is worth £6–0–0 per annum more
A House and Garden fronting Mr Perrotts kitchen towards Temple Street after one life rent £7–0–0 per annum
Mr Perrotts, kitchen, free Land the same Holding
Carey Gortons house and cutting house free Land value £10 per annum
The Land whereon the old Glasshouse stands a Lease of 60 years at £4 per annum
The old Glasshouse and Buildings thereon

$60 - 0 - 0$
$72 - 0 - 0$
$72 - 0 - 0$
$80 - 0 - 0$
$100 - 0 - 0$
$150 - 0 - 0$

$600 - 0 - 0$

Deduct for Thomas Maddox Mortgage
A Lease from St James Parish of the Ground whereon the Counter, Millhouse, Clayhouse, Pott chambers and Stable and Yard fronting Mr Perrotts dwelling house whereon is 3 lives value £10 per annum
Deduct £6–0–0 per annum Lords Rent

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Buildings thereon at £30–0–0 per annum
Camms Estate, valueing Mr Perrotts dwelling house at £30–0–0 per annum as let for £102–0–0 value
A Mortgage to Mr Arrowsmith

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Tho. Shorts House value
A Loft over Greens House 30s–0d per annum
A Lease from Redcliff Church of 2 Tennements and a garden late Kemps in Port Wall Lane, whereon there are 3 Lives let for £17–0–0 per annum, Lords Rent 40s–0d per annum
Mortgaged for

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A Large new house in St Thomas Street late Pococks, and 2 or 3 Tennements more late Whittmores, Leases of all of them from Redcliff church let at £24–0–0 per annum, value
Mortgage to Mrs Low

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20 Tunn Burnt Clay @ 12s–0d
Oake Poles
Broaken Bottle Mettle etc.
250 Tun Soap Ashes @ 3s–0d
Scruff
4 Mills and Beds etc
100 Tunn Kelp
90 Great Bricks @ 5s–0d
36 Bricks @ 3s–0d
Pileing Plates and all Iron Tools
100 Tunn Isle of Wight Sand @ 15s–0d
7 Horses
26 Tunn Clay @ 23s–4d
25 Tunn Wett Clay for Potts @ 27s–6d
20 Tunn Ground Raw Clay @ 23s–4d
40 Tunn Ground Raw Clay and Potsheards at
20s–0d
30 Tunn Sandiver @ 30s–0d
10 Tunn Hay
Straw
Bricks in new Glasshouse
Hottwell Water
Carts, Drays and Harness
53 Bottles pipes @ 3s–0d
36 Crown pipes @ 6s–0d
Brass and Cast Iron Moulds
2 Pumps
Book Debts
192 Case of Crown Glass at 40s–0d
9 Case and half Best Glass at £3–0–0
Household Goods
Rents to the 24th June

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Particulars of Mr Humphrey Perrotts Estate in Temple Street with its Valuation} \\
\text{Severall Tenements City land in Portwall lane call'd the 3 Kings of Cullum, per annum} \\
\text{Lords Rent} & 37 - 0 - 0 \\
\text{Lords Rent} & 2 - 4 - 0 \\
\text{Rents to the 24th June} & 34 - 16 - 0
\end{array}
\]
for three lives Humph Perrott
Benj. Perrott junr.
Jane Beaucroft

The Weavers land for 2 lives both at £19–10–0d
Lords rent £1–13–4 is clear £17–16–8 valued at
7 years purchase both parcells for Humphrey
Perrotts life £368 – 9 – 0
Sir John Hawkins Barn and new built glass
house other buildings and new walls being a
lease from St Mary Redclift for 3 lives Hum.
Perrott and 2 Sons. Lords rent 20s–0d
Barn and ground £120
Glass house and buildings £400
Cole yard 20s per annum £12
The Sand Ground in Barton Regis, a lease of 3
lives viz
Tho. Meriweather
Thos. Willis junr
and Eliza. Willis
Valued 70 – 0 – 0
A fee farm Lease of Mr Jo. Haskins of the
Garden and the Buildings thereon farm rent £8
per annum and is worth £6 more Valued at 16
years purchase 96 – 0 – 0
The Ground where Cary Gorton’s house stood
and the cutting room free land at £10 per
annum 15 years purchase 150 – 0 – 0
The Land whereon the old Glass House stands
a Remainder of 40 years to come of a 60 year
lease valued at £4 per annum the ground only
60 – 0 – 0
1276 – 9 – 0

The Old Glass with flashing furnaces and
Buildings thereon valued 500 – 0 – 0
The Feoffees of St James ground rent £6–0–0
per annum whereon is 3 lives valued clear of
chief rent 56 – 0 – 0
Buildings thereon 360 – 0 – 0
The Dwelling house and Tenements bought of
Ms Oba. Arrowsmith, lett at £90 per annum
valueing the great house at £30 per annum
being free land at 16 years purchase 1440 – 0 – 0

3632 – 0 – 0
III BISHOP SECKER'S
DIOCESE BOOK

EDITED BY
ELIZABETH RALPH
EDITORIAL METHOD

When Bishop Secker began his book, he made each entry on a right-hand page, and on the left-hand page he subsequently entered the number of houses in that particular parish in 1712 and 1735. He indicated in the text on the right, the place where he wished to include the information about the number of houses. In the text printed here, the information from the left-hand pages has been inserted on the right-hand pages in the place indicated by Bishop Secker.

Later bishops made entries in Secker’s book, and if there was not sufficient space for them on the right-hand pages, they continued their entries on the left-hand pages. In this text, the material on the left-hand page has been run on after the main entry on the right-hand pages.

The punctuation in the original is erratic and modern practice has been used here. The excessive use of capital letters has also been modified.

ABBREVIATIONS

B.R.L.  Bristol Reference Library
B.R.O.  Bristol Record Office
HMC Historical Manuscripts Commission

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank all those who in various ways have contributed to the production of this work: the staff of the Bristol Record Office and of the Bristol Reference Library who willingly met my needs. I am particularly grateful to Miss N. Hardwick for her help and I am much indebted to Professor Patrick McGrath for his never-failing advice.
BISHOP SECKER'S DIOCESE BOOK

INTRODUCTION

The Manuscript

Bishop Secker's Diocese Book was compiled by Bishop Thomas Secker during the period 1735-1737 while he was bishop of Bristol, and was continued by subsequent bishops until 1822. The book consists of 448 pages, bound in its original vellum binding: pp. 1-71 are concerned with the City and Deanery of Bristol, pp. 72-75 are blank, and pp. 76-427 cover the archdeaconry of Dorset. This study is concerned only with the City and Deanery of Bristol.

In the eighteenth century the diocese of Bristol comprised the City and Deanery of Bristol and the archdeaconry of Dorset. Also included were the parishes under the Dean of Salisbury’s Peculiar jurisdiction and other Peculiar jurisdictions in Dorset. The index to the book is of later date. The parishes are arranged by deaneries for the whole diocese, giving details of endowments, services, fabric, clergy (with personal comments) and dissenters.

The Diocese of Bristol

The Bristol diocese was created by Henry VIII and was carved out of the dioceses of Worcester, Gloucester, Bath & Wells and Salisbury, in 1542. The City and Deanery of Bristol included the eighteen parishes in Bristol and fourteen parishes in Gloucestershire contiguous to Bristol, and the parish of Abbots Leigh across the River Avon in Somerset.

The diocese of Bristol has always been oddly constituted and has always presented the difficult problem of the isolation of the episcopal city from its diocese. In the eighteenth century the

1 BRO EP/A/2/2.
archdeaconry of Dorset, fifty miles away, had its own archdeacon and was administered from Blandford where there was a 'Dorset division' of the consistory court. In Bristol there was no archdeacon until 1836 and it remained under the direct administration of the bishop and his officials.\(^2\) However, eleven of the parishes, that is Almondsbury, Alveston, St. Augustine's, Bristol, St. Philip & Jacob, Bristol, Clifton, St. George's, Kingswood, Elberton, Littleton, Olveston, Stoke Gifford and Winterbourne, are recorded as being subject to the visitation of the Archdeacon of Gloucester. During the period 1735 to 1784, the bishops of Bristol inhibited the Archdeacon of Gloucester when making their visitations.\(^3\) This was done to prevent confusion.

The bishopric of Bristol was among the most poorly endowed of the English bishoprics. When Thomas Secker became bishop in 1735, he computed the revenues to be no more than £360 a year, out of which he was to pay £27 a year tenths and maintain a steward, so that the true profits were but £300 per annum.\(^4\) It is not surprising, therefore, that few bishops were anxious to come to Bristol, or having come, remained there long. Bishop Secker was here for only two years. His successor stayed here so short a time that he never visited the city. When Walpole offered the bishopric to Joseph Butler, he accepted the offer, saying that it was 'not very suitable either to the condition of my fortune or the circumstances of my preferment, nor as I should have thought to the recommendation with which I was honoured.' In fact most of the sixteen bishops who held the See during the eighteenth century were 'birds of passage' and held some other emolument \textit{in commendam}.\(^5\)

Because of the poverty of the Bristol diocese the prelates of Bristol were compensated by the addition of other church preferments to eke out the scanty substance of the See. Bishop Secker held the rectory of St. James, Westminster and the prebend of Durham. However, this did not meet his expenses and he complained that the expenses of living in London for the greater part of the year in attendance on the Court and Parliament, together with the maintenance of a sufficient hospitality in both London and the diocese were the same whether rich or poor.

\textit{Thomas Secker}

Thomas Secker was born in 1693 at Sibthorp in the vale of Belvoir, the son of a Protestant dissenter. His father is described as a

\(^2\) Edward Boswell, \textit{The ecclesiastical division of the Diocese of Bristol}, 1827.
\(^3\) BRO EP/V/2/2.
\(^4\) \textit{Diary of Viscount Perceval} in the Egmont MSS (H.M.C.) Vol II, 137.
'pious, virtuous and sensible man, having a small paternal fortune and following no profession.' His mother was the daughter of George Brough of Shelton in the same county, who was a substantial farmer. Young Thomas was sent to the dissenting academy of Timothy Jollie at Attercliffe, there to study divinity with a view to entering the dissenting ministry. We gain some knowledge of Seeker's early life from a book published in 1771 written by his chaplain, Beilby Porteus. At the age of 19, he tells us '. . . Seeker had acquired a good knowledge of Greek, Latin, French, Hebrew, Chaldee and Syriac, . . . he had learned geography, logic, algebra and geometry; and had gone through a course of lectures on Jewish antiquities, all preparatory to a critical study of the Bible.'

Leaving the academy of Mr Jollie, he came to Gloucester to an academy kept by Samuel Jones. Here, he laid the foundations of a firm friendship with Joseph Butler, who later became Bishop of Bristol. Unable to make up his mind to which religious community to attach himself, he abandoned for a time the intention of entering the ministry, and in 1716, at the age of 23, turned his attention to the study of physics, and later medicine. After a period in London he went to Paris to study medicine and later took a degree at Leyden University. While in Paris, he met his life-long friend and future brother-in-law Martin Benson, later to become bishop of Gloucester. Benson, a cultivated man who had 'an excellent taste for painting, architecture and the other fine arts' greatly influenced Seeker.

Alexander Pope wrote of them:-

Even in a bishop I can spy desert;
Seeker is decent, Rundle has a heart
Manners with candour are to Benson given
To Berkeley every virtue under heaven

Through the influence of Bishop Talbot, Seeker decided not to practice as a physician but to offer himself for ordination in the Church of England. As a dissenter, the universities of Oxford and Cambridge had been closed to him but now he was able to enter one of the universities and was admitted a member of Exeter College, Oxford. The following year he graduated and was ordained by the Bishop of Durham in St. James Church, Westminster.
Seeker owed much to the discerning patronage of this man who was one of the influential family of Talbot. It was his son, Lord Chancellor Talbot, who made Seeker his chaplain, thereby bringing him in to closer contact with the Queen and court circles. Seeker was given the valuable living of Houghton le Spring where he exercised an active ministry, his knowledge of medicine being of great service to his poor parishioners.

In 1735 he was made Bishop of Bristol and two years later was translated to Oxford and ultimately to the primacy in 1758. Beilby Porteus, who was his chaplain when he was Archbishop of Canterbury, gives us a picture of him: 'His Grace was in person tall and comely in the early part of his life, slender but rather consumptive, but as he advanced in years, his constitution gained strength and his size increased. The dignity of his form corresponded well with the greatness of his mind and inspired at all times, respect and awe. His countenance was open, ingenious and expressive of everything right. It varied easily with his spirits and his feelings. He could speak of dejection, and on occasion, anger very strongly.' There is no doubt that he was not only a most learned Divine, he was an indefatigable and exact man in all kinds of business, and everyone who succeeded him in any of his preferments reaped the fruits of his labour in the books which he left behind. Within a short time of his arrival in Bristol, he carried out an episcopal visitation of the diocese recording the answers to his enquiries in the Diocese Book. He also drew up an account of all leases and estates belonging to the bishopric of Bristol. Although Seeker hoped that his book would be used by his successors, it is surprising how little was added by the successive bishops. It was Bishop Newton who was consecrated to the See of Bristol in 1761 who found the book of great benefit and when he carried out his visitations he entered the answers to his enquiries in the same book.

*Thomas Newton*

Because of his contribution to the Diocese Book, it seems appropriate to say something briefly about the man who held the See for twenty one years. When in 1761 he was consecrated bishop of Bristol he had to give up the prebend of Westminster, the preceptorship of York, the lectureship of St. George's Hanover Square and the office of sub-almoner. Like Bishop Butler he held the deanery of St. Paul's *in commendam*.

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8 *Works of Archbishop Secker, op. cit.*
9 BRO. EP/A/2/1
During the eighteenth century the bishops were required to spend the greater part of the year in London to fulfil their attendance upon the Court and Parliament. This meant that they spent little time in the diocese. However, during the earlier part of his long tenure of the See of Bristol, Dr. Newton resided several months of every year at the episcopal palace. He records that 'by living and residing there so much he hoped to set a good example to other members of the church to carry out at least their statutory duties.' 'The deanery of Bristol', he adds, 'is worth £500 a year, and each prebend about half that sum, and for these preferments the residence usually required is three months for the dean and half that time for each prebendary. But, alas, never was church more shamefully neglected.' He had been there three months together without seeing the face of anything better than a minor canon.

In the autobiography of Thomas Newton is an account of an incident concerning papists in Bristol. Henry Swymmer, mayor of Bristol, went to London and made complaint to Bishop Newton of some persons making preparations for opening a public mass house at the Hotwells under the protection of the Duke of Norfolk. The bishop consulted with Archbishop Seeker as to what would be the best method of suppressing it. He returned to Bristol and met with the Mayor at his house in company with the town clerk, Sir Abraham Elton and the priest. The Bishop tells us that 'he argued with as much candour as he could upon the subject, that though he was no friend to their religion as it stood distinguished from our common Christianity, yet he was no enemy to their persons; that their offence was the more provoking as the building stood on church land and was held by lease from the Dean & Chapter; that they had already a private mass house in Bristol where this same priest had officiated many years.' The Bishop stressed that he would employ the whole force of government and prosecute them to the utmost severity of the law. They said they were sorry, they begged pardon, they thanked the bishop for his civility and candour. The bishop concludes by saying 'Nothing of this kind has been attempted since; only a bastard kind of popery, Methodism, has troubled Bristol ever since.'

He carried out a visitation in 1766 and recorded the same kind of information as that given by Bishop Secker. While he was on his fifth visitation in Dorset, he was taken ill and returned to London. From this illness he never really recovered and there is no

11 ibid.
evidence that he ever came back to Bristol. He died in 1781 and was buried in St. Paul’s Cathedral. He was succeeded by Bishop Lewis Bagot who held the See for one year and probably held no visitation.

Christopher Wilson followed him and was consecrated bishop of Bristol 6 July 1783. The next year he held his first visitation and like Bishop Newton he recorded the answers to his Charges in the Diocese Book. Although he was bishop of Bristol for nine years little is known about him. When he died 18 April 1792 the Bristol newspaper reported that ‘the late Dr. Wilson, bishop of Bristol though possessing the poorest bishopric of any in England is said to have died the richest prelate on the list. The prebendal stall of Finsbury in St. Paul’s Cathedral alone provided him £1500 a year, £1100 of which his family are to inherit by agreement with the Corporation of London for a specified time.’ The following six bishops of Bristol who occupied the See until 1822 made no entry in Secker’s Diocese Book. In 1822 John Kaye who had been consecrated in 1820 recorded the names of the incumbents and curates, if any, together with an occasional comment.

Visitation records

An episcopal visitation was an indispensable part of the machinery of church government. Until the eighteenth century a bishop visiting his diocese relied mainly on the presentments made by churchwardens. But as time went on the answers became more formal than informative and so bishops turned to the clergy, issuing articles of enquiry to them. As there was no archdeacon of Bristol at this time, the Bishop made his visitation through his Chancellor, who issued a mandate to the apparitor to cite the old and new churchwardens of each parish to appear at the visitation, bringing the required documents. At the major episcopal visitation every three years, or in a new bishop’s first year, clergy as well as churchwardens were cited. No records survive to prove that Bishop Secker ever issued Articles of Enquiry. In fact no Visitation processes or papers have survived in Bristol earlier than 1746.

12 His daughter Margaret married Hugh Smyth, eldest son of Sir Hugh. BRO. Ashton MSS.32835.
13 Felix Farley’s Bristol Journal, April 25, 1792.
14 Bishop of Bristol, 1820–27.
16 BRO. EP/V/1.
Thomas Secker was consecrated bishop of Bristol on the 19 January 1735 and within a year he had carried out an episcopal visitation of his diocese. The actual charges made by Bishop Secker in his primary visitation do not appear to have survived but it might be assumed that they were similar to those which he issued in Oxford three years later, in 1738, when it is said that he developed the same methods which he had begun in Bristol. The Articles were addressed to the incumbent, saying 'Being desirous to obtain as particular knowledge as I can of the state of my diocese in order to qualify myself for being more useful in it I send you the following questions.' Then followed a number of questions. The answers which he received and the order in which he entered them in his Diocese Book suggests that the questions were the same as those asked when he made his first visitation in Oxford. Bishop Secker hoped that his book would be of service to his successors. However, few entries are made between the years 1737 and 1761 and they usually record the institution of a new incumbent. Bishop Newton made good use of it and Bishop Wilson who was consecrated in 1783, held a visitation the following year which is recorded. The entry made in 1822 is the final entry.

Bishop Secker begins his book with the number of houses in Bristol in 1712 and compares them with the numbers in 1735. In 1712 the Bristol Corporation of the Poor, which was responsible for the care of the sick and poor in St. Peter's Hospital, sought parliamentary permission to levy a larger rate, owing to the city 'being considerably enlarged and its inhabitants increased.' To prove its case a census was taken. Secker must have been impressed by this information and so recorded it. In 1712 there were 4311 houses and by 1735 the number had increased to 5701 which shows an increase of 1400 houses in twenty three years. As might be expected, the biggest increases in the number of houses were in the parishes of St. James, St. Mary Redcliffe and St. Philip & Jacob, all of which were suburban parishes.

Secker's visitation charges testify to his earnest concern with all branches of the episcopal office and constitute a rich mine of information relating to pastoral standards of his age in such points as the performance of divine service, the frequency of celebrating Holy Communion, the duty of catechising and the saying of prayers on weekdays. The ideal aimed at was that of divine service twice each Sunday with a sermon in the morning. Secker encour-

18 Browne Willis' notes in the British Library, Cole MSS.
aged his clergy to read prayers publicly on Wednesdays, Fridays and holydays. In nearly all the city churches public prayers were said. At All Saints prayers were said on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, at St. Nicholas, St. Stephen and Temple prayers were said every day. In the country parishes there is no reference to public prayers being said during the week.

Holy Communion was celebrated with varying frequency in different parishes. In the city parishes it was celebrated monthly, but in the country parishes usually three or four times a year. Catechising was done in Lent. Pluralism and non-residence gravely interfered with the efforts of bishops to ensure even this modest observance. It also depended on whether the vicar had a curate. Many of the livings were held by men who fulfilled other offices in the church. The chancellor of the diocese, Dr. Carew Reynell, was rector of St. John's from 1727-1745, vicar of St. Philip & Jacob and later of St. James. Dr. Creswicke, Dean of Bristol, had the living of St. James which he continued to hold after he had become Dean of Wells. When in Wells, he rarely visited Bristol and certainly never resided in the city. Several prebends and minor canons of Bristol Cathedral held livings both in the city and the country parishes and resided in houses belonging to the Cathedral. The rector of Christchurch was also vicar of Chew Magna and Dundry. As he was old and infirm, Samuel Seyer, master of the Grammar School, performed duties for him.

The value of the livings varied considerably. Whereas the national average stipend was about £50 per annum in Seeker's time, in Bristol the average was about £150. Curates were paid about £40 a year, their income often augmented by fees from endowments or lectureships, of which there were many in Bristol. On the whole the clergy in Bristol were well-educated men. This is not surprising for in the eighteenth century Bristol was a wealthy and important city. The Corporation of Bristol was patron of nine of the churches at that time. In 1627 the Corporation had purchased from Sir Charles Gerard the advowsons of Christchurch, St. Ewen, St. James, St. Peter, St. Michael, St. Philip & Jacob and Temple. Later it acquired St. George's Kingswood and St. Paul's. In 1836 these had to be sold and brought in £30,750. In the country parishes the situation was rather different. The poverty of some benefices resulted in pluralism. The vicar of Almondsbury held Horfield, Mangotsfield and Wotton-under-Edge where he lived.

The bishop's comments on the clergy are interesting. Of the Rector of Christchurch, he says 'tory, sensible and regular'; Thomas Taylor of St. Ewen's is 'a whig, regular and good', Hugh Waterman, is 'a high tory, plain, honest and exemplary and is 75
years old.’ The vicar of Redcliffe, whose income must have been more than £250 a year, ‘has grown incapable of being heard’ and so had two curates. The vicar of St. Nicholas whose stipend was £200 a year was ‘in a poor way, a Fellow of Eton, a whig, popular, at times low spirited, then leprous, then well.’ The Bishop obviously disliked the rector of St. Stephen who was the son of Alderman Becher. He described him as ‘a warm whig,’ of which he approved, being one himself, but he found him ‘impudent and vain.’ Temple church had a vicar who was very gouty and inoffensive with a curate who was ‘ingenious, diligent, charged with rhetoric but without proof.’

The cases of moral and other offences which were presented by the church wardens need a comment. Abel Edwards was presented as being a profane swearer and blasphemer and scandalous drunkard. John Veal was reported because he lived with Deborah Orstand as his wife, pretending they were married in Clifton which they were not. Thomas Williams and George Barrat were said to keep bawdy houses and Barrat allowed tippling in his house during service time and he and Edwards absented themselves from public worship.

Very few comments are made on the state of the buildings of either church or vicarage. The top of the steeple of St. Nicholas was reported as being decayed but under inspection. The largest bell had been disposed of, one of the other five was cracked and the rest were untuneable. One wonders whether the curfew was rung. The roof of St. Philip & Jacob was much decayed, the prayer books were old and torn, the surplices unfit to be worn. At St. Stephen’s we are told that the altar piece, pulpit and pews were all of mahogany and cost £1800, all of which had been paid except for £200 to £300.

The parsonage was the entire financial concern of the incumbent himself. Ordinary wear and tear accounted for most dilapidations and the situation was often aggravated when there was no resident parson or when he was only in residence for a few months of every year. Many of the vicarage houses were in a ruinous condition or in an unhealthy locality. The rectory of St. John’s was ‘in a wretched state, uninhabitable on account of the effluent arising filth of the River Frome’. St. Peter’s rectory was is a very bad state, divided into two tenements, one let to a basket maker and the other to a butcher. At Littleton, the vicarage house was described as ‘only one room on a floor let out to a poor family.’

A particularly interesting feature of the Diocese Book is the information given about dissenters. By Secker’s time the dissenting movement was established in Bristol. Their strength lay in cities among the rich mercantile class. In 1660 when returns were made, estimating the numbers of Baptists, Presbyterians, Indep-
endents and Quakers in the country, the officer in charge of the matter in Bristol wrote ‘they are more numerous in Bristol than in all the west of England, and hold meetings of 1000 to 2000 to the great alarm of the City.’ From Secker’s figures it is impossible to say how many dissenters were in Bristol in 1735. The bishop noted that of the 53 families in All Saints, there were seventeen Presbyterians or Anabaptists and three Quakers. At Christchurch there were eleven families of Presbyterians, five Independents, eight Anabaptists and ten Quakers. The Anabaptists had a licensed meeting house in the Pithay. St. James was a large parish and to meet the needs of all dissenters there were three meeting houses and three teachers of Presbyterians and two of Anabaptists. But for most parishes, he records ‘many’ or ‘some’. There is no reference to Methodism in Seeker’s time. It was not until 1737 that George Whitfield preached for the first time in Bristol.

Thirty years later in 1766 when Bishop Newton made his visitation there were a few Methodists in most parishes, the greatest number being in Temple. The Methodists in the parish of St. Philip & Jacob had preaching houses in Lamb Street and St. George’s Street but often it is said that they frequented their parish church. By 1784 there were said to be 1000 Methodists in St. James’ parish with 450 Presbyterians and 250 Anabaptists.

There were very few Papists in any of the Bristol parishes in 1735; most of them were in St. Philip & Jacob. By 1767 the number had increased, there being 53 in St. James, 47 in St. Philip & Jacob and in the parish of St. Stephen ‘perhaps some hundreds’. This sudden influx is due to the men working at the brass works at Baptist Mills and to the Irish sailors coming into the port. In 1784 the number had decreased to about 71. In the country parishes there were no papists recorded in 1735, about 9 in 1767 and only about 4 in 1784.

There were, however, a number of dissenters in the larger country parishes, particularly those near to Bristol. For a detailed analysis of the dissenters in all the parishes, see the Appendix.

In conclusion, no attempt has been made to discuss the Church of England in the eighteenth century. Although the notes on each parish are generally quite brief, they provide an illuminating glimpse of the church in Bristol and in the seventeen country parishes near the city. It would seem that the church strove, not unworthily on the whole, to minister to the needs of the times according to the standards of the age.

THE TEXT

[p.1]
Bishop Secker’s Diocese Book. Bishop Secker was consecrated in 1735

[p.2]
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[p.3]
Bristol in 1712 had 4311 houses and in 1735, 5701 besides what are in the suburbs and out of the Corporation liberties

[p.4]
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[p.5]
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[p.7]
ALL SAINTS V. Kings books 4.3.4.\textsuperscript{20} Certified 21.11.8.\textsuperscript{21}
Present value about 90 li of which 30 li is paid by an agreement made in 1731 to the Vicar, Dr. James Harcourt for the use of the pulpit for his lecturer. Mr. Thomas Harris, Master of the Free School of St. Mary Redcliff,\textsuperscript{22} tory, studious, quiet and good, Mr. Harris who is to do half the duty in the church and to have 20 li a year, 7 li a year is paid for Mr. Colston’s prayers,\textsuperscript{23} the rest voluntary. Patrons Dean and Chapter of Bristol. It belonged to the Abbey of Bristol. Under no archdeacon. 53 families, of which about 17 Presbyterians or Anabaptists, 3 Quakers. No settled curate when the vicar is absent. 57 houses in 1712 and 1735. No prayers on feasts and fasts, but on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Monthly communions. Catechizing in Lent. Last churchwardens have not accounted. No school. An almshouse.

\textsuperscript{20} The Valor Ecclesiasticus gives the yearly value of the benefice in 1534.
\textsuperscript{21} Liber Valor et Decimorum 1709.
\textsuperscript{22} Free Grammar School at Redcliffe established 1571.
\textsuperscript{23} Richard Colston left £6.00 for morning prayers to be read Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the year.
Bells new cast 7 years ago. No table of prohibited degrees. No returns made of the Register. The side isles of the church at the west end made part of two dwelling houses, one for the Vicar and the other a coffee house.\textsuperscript{24}

T. Gardiner. Josiah Tucker instituted Aug 25th 1739. Upon his resignation William Prichard was instituted Feb 3 1749. 1758 Mr. John Berjew instituted. Resides in St. James's parish. 1763 All things presented as in good order. Upon the resignation of Mr. Harris, James Stonhouse M.D. was licensed to be lecturer with a salary of 20 li a year 25th July 1764. In 1766 between 40 and 50 families of which 7 Presbyterian or Anabaptist sect, two Quakers, no Methodists. One family of papists but no proselytes. Mr. Berjew performs the duty himself which is as heretofore. In 1767 two papists. In 1783 William Embury Edwards lecturer. In 1784 40 families, about 4 Presbyterians, 1 Quaker, very few Methodists. Berjew resides \(\frac{1}{2}\) the year at Bristol, the other half served by the lecturer. Prayers Mondays and Tuesdays 1822 Henry Green, vicar. The Vicarage house let to a watchmaker.

[p.9]

ST. AUGUSTIN V. Chapter of Bristol. Belonged to the Abbey of Bristol. Kings books 6 li Certified value 5.10.0. Present income 160 li. almost all voluntary. Mr. John Sutton\textsuperscript{25} resides in his prebendal house just by the church. There is a vicarage house. Small parish. This with St. Marks had 327 houses in 1712 and 454 in 1735. No prayers but on Sunday afternoon because the College is so near. Then a sermon. Mrs. De Groot and her daughters papists. A priest lives in the Rope Walk. His name not known. Many protestant dissenters. It is subject to the visitation of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Upon the death of Mr. Sutton, John Casberd A.M. was instituted March 16 1745. Now 1763 Dr. Casberd.\textsuperscript{26} The living said to be worth near 300 li. a year through the increase of buildings and inhabitants, and likely to improve. In 1766 between 400 and 500 families, very few dissenters, those chiefly Presbyterians. Not many Methodists and their number not increasing. Now two reputed papists and their number not increasing. Two charity schools in the parish\textsuperscript{27}. Mr. Colston's Hospital for

\textsuperscript{24} Originally the house of the Guild of Kalendars dissolved 1549.
\textsuperscript{25} John Sutton held the first prebendal stall in Bristol Cathedral.
\textsuperscript{26} John Casberd held the fourth prebendal stall in Bristol Cathedral.
\textsuperscript{27} The Red Maids' School founded by John Whitson in 1634, and Colston's Hospital for boys.
boys. Nothing left for repairs of the church, but many benefactions for the use of the poor under the direction of the Minister and Churchwardens. Dr. Casberd having lately married lives in Queen's Square. He resided before in the parish and intends to do so again as soon as he can procure a house to his mind; has no other benefice and serves no other church but his own; keeps a curate, his name Camplin\(^{28}\) and allows him 35 li. per annum. The children catechised in Lent and learn Lewis's Exposition.\(^{29}\) Communion four times a year, communicants between 2 and 300. In 1757 four papists.

In 1784 about 1000 families. Few Presbyterians, Methodists not many, not increasing, assemble twice a week in a licensed place. About 20 reputed papists, not increasing. Mass twice a week in St. James' parish. Resides 7 months, the other 5 at Tickenham. No curate. 1822 Vicar Archdeacon Heslop.\(^{30}\) Curate James Carter.

The vicarage house that mentioned by Bishop Secker was pulled down under the provisions of an Act of Parliament.

[p.11]

CHRISTCHURCH alias HOLY TRINITY R. City of Bristol, patrons.

Kings Books 11.0.0. Certified at 3.8.0. Present income about 80 li. chiefly paid by the Vestry. Rector Mr. William Smith, tory, sensible, regular. Parish small 100 houses in 1712, 164 in 1735. Prayers Wednesdays, and Fridays, none Sunday morning; sermon afternoon. In no archdeaconry. 11 families of Presbyterians, 10 Quakers, 8 Anabaptists, 5 of Independents. An Anabaptist meeting house licenced. Teachers: William Barley, John Baddome, qualified. It belonged to the Abbey of Tewkesbury. Mr. Smith who is also Vicar of Chew Magna and Dundry is now, 1763, old and infirm and the duty is performed by Mr. Samuel Seyer, master of the Grammar School,\(^{31}\) a very decent and deserving man. In 1715 it was augmented by lot, and purchase made upon the death of Mr. Smith. Daniel Debat M.A., was presented and instituted June 4 1764. He proposes to reside and do the duty himself. He reckons the living now worth a good 150 li. per annum. Says there are some dissenters in the parish but only two families of Quakers.

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\(^{28}\) John Camplin, minor canon and precentor of Bristol Cathedral, first librarian of the Cathedral library.

\(^{29}\) Probably John Lewis, 1675–1745, who wrote a number of books on English catechism.

\(^{30}\) Dr. Luke Heslop, archdeacon of Buckingham.

\(^{31}\) Bristol Grammar School founded by Robert and Nicholas Thorne in 1532.
In 1766 210 families of which 28 Presbyterians and Anabaptists, 3 Quakers, 2 Methodists who assemble at Mr. Wesley’s room, their number not increasing. No papists. No parsonage house and Mr. Debat resides in Queen’s Square and performs the duty himself. Two sermons every Sunday, seven occasional, prayers every Thursday and Saturday in the year; catechises twice a week in Lent and two weeks after. Communion monthly, number of communicants about 70. In 1767 thirteen papists, children and all
In 1784 Families 126 of which 16 Anabaptists, 16 Presbyterians, 3 Methodists, 6 papists. Church shut up under repair
1822 Robert Watson Rector

CASTLE PRECINCTS 260 houses in 1712, 270 in 1735
Place where the Castle formerly stood: in no parish: inhabitants therefore are asked to church where they please and persons of other parishes call themselves inhabitants of the Castle Precincts. Bishops have often given orders to parish ministers to be careful against such impostors but their orders have not been observed.

ST.EWEN alias OWEN R. City of Bristol, Patrons. No value in the Kings books. Certified at 6.8. Present income 35 li. Mr. Thomas Taylor whig, regular, sensible, good. Hath another living in Somersetshire. But 25 houses [above the line 27 another account in 1712 and 1735] Service only Sunday afternoon. One Quaker. In no archdeaconry. It belonged to the Abbey of Tewkesbury. Upon the death of Thomas Taylor, Rumney Penrose B.LL. was presented by the Mayor and Corporation and instituted 17th July 1762. In 1738 it was augmented by benefactions. In 1766 22 families of which two Presbyterians, Methodists decrease, and now one family of them. No papists. No parsonage house at least none can be found. Mr. Penrose serves the cure himself but lives in St. Michael’s parish. Every Lord’s day prayers read and a sermon preached in the morning and likewise in the afternoon. Prayers and sermon on the 6th July annually, the same Good Friday. Prayers on the principal fasts and feasts. Catechisms in Lent and before Confirmation with Stebbing’s Exposition.32 Four Communions in the year generally about 30 communicants.
In 1784 19 families, 1 Anabaptist, 1 Quaker, no Methodists, no papists and James Coulson licenced curate. United to Christchurch.33

32 Henry Stebbing. Works 1737.
33 In 1786 St. Ewen united with Christchurch. BRO. EP/A/45/1 p.158.
ST JAMES Curacy, called in the Institution, Church or Chapel. City of Bristol, patrons, Yearly value in Bishop Smallridge's book 3.12.0. Augmented in 1725 by Mrs. Ann Merricke. Present income 200 li after curates paid. Dr. Samuel Creswicke also Dean of Bristol hath two. One is Mr. Robert Purcell who was a Minor Canon, hath a living from the church. become a whig, does very well, licenced, salary at least 40 li occasional advantages at least 30 li more.

Large parish 682 houses in 1712, 1407 in 1735. Prayers Wednesday and Friday morning, other days in afternoon. One suspected papist of mean rank. There was a mass house and priest but none now. Many other dissenters. 3 meeting houses, licenced. Teachers: Diaper, Richards and Rayner, of the Presbyterians, Foscott and Bedham of the Anabaptists qualified. In no archdeaconry. It belonged to the Abbey of Tewkesbury.

Dr. Creswicke, Dean of Wells, seldom comes to Bristol, never to reside. His present curates are William Davies who is also chaplain to the Infirmary and Alexander Catcott who is also lecturer at St John's and author of a treatise on the deluge, a curious man in fossils. Upon the death of Dr. Creswicke, Mr John Price of Temple was appointed to succeed and was licensed June 14 1766. He proposes to keep only one curate, designing to perform his share of the duty himself.

Mr Davies therefore who is infirm retires.

In 1767 53 papists. Upon the death of Mr Price, Carew Reynell M.A., Vicar of St. Philip and St Jacob was appointed to succeed and licensed April 21 1772. He designs to perform the whole duty himself. Joseph Atwell Small D.D. licensed.

In 1784 families about 2500 of which 450 Presbyterians, 250 Anabaptists, 60 Quakers, 40 Moravians, Methodists 1000, one half to church, other half dissenters – rather increasing. Licensed houses: 1 Wesley's or Whitfield's. papists about 20. Mass every Sunday and Saints days. Chapel on St. James' Back. A presbyterian charity school and almshouse, and infirmary. Bequests under the direction of the Vestry, and almshouse for batchelors and maidens in Milk Street. Resident but no parsonage house. One curate at £70. Sermons 2 every Sunday. Catechised in Lent.

34 George Smalridge, bishop of Bristol, 1714–1719.
35 Chapel for papists on St. James Back, Tabernacle in Penn St. licensed. Jan. 20, 1755.
36 Headmaster of Bristol Grammar School, 1722–43.
37 Chancellor of the diocese; lecturer, Reader and Mayor’s Chaplain.
38 Abraham Hook founded school and almshouse in Stokes Croft in 1722.
39 Founded by Elizabeth Blanchard in 1722.
Communion 1st Sunday in every month and the great Festivals. Communicants about 400.
1822 T.T. Biddulph, curate does the duty himself with the assistance of a curate. No Glebe House.

[p.17]
ST JOHN BAPTIST R. with ST LAURENCE. City of Bristol, patrons.
Kings books 7.4.7. Certified 5.18.1. Present income from contributions and surplice fees about 60 li a house worth 6 li. Rector Dr. Carew Reynell, Chancellor of Bristol. Occasional assistant, Mr John Hall salary 20 li. Small parish 155 houses in 1712, 160 in 1735. Sermon Sunday morning. Prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays. Dr. Reynell hath 26 li a year for preaching a Thursday lecture at this or any other church in the City.
He says the scite of St Laurence which church is not standing belongs to the Rector on which are now considerable buildings. Several dissenters. Mr Stanton, a silversmith, not rich and his family papists and two single women, one a lodger, the other Sarah Horsington and infamous creature her husband a protestant in jayle for debt. It belonged to the Abbey of Tewkesbury. In no archdeaconry. The present rector hath in his hand the deed by which St. Johns was united in the twenty [blank] of Elizabeth to St. Laurence which was worth but 4.10.0. a year and had been long vacant. In it the rectory of St Laurence with all glebe, churchyards etc. are given to the Rector of St Johns. Now the scite of the church and churchyard are built upon and let out by the City who pay an arbitrary pension of 15 or 20 li to the Rector. In 1746 it was augmented by lott.
John Bound instituted Feb 15 1739 see p.51. Alexander Catcott is lecturer, Hanbury Davis curate.
Upon the death of Mr Bound, John Davie M.A. succeeded him here as also at Filton and was instituted April 12 1766. In 1766 families 136 of which 10 Anabaptists and Presbyterians and 3 Moravians, 2 or 3 inclined to methodism. No papists. Mr Davie besides this and Filton also serves the lectureship St Mary Redcliff, allows Mr. Hayward his curate 40£ yearly. Prayers all Saint days and Wednesdays and Fridays, twice on Sundays. Children catechised twice a week in Lent. Communion every first Sunday in the month besides the great festivals. Communicants generally 80 at

40 H.C.H. Hirst, History of the church of St. John the Baptist, Bristol, Bristol, 1921.
41 Church demolished in 1580 when the parish was united with St. John.
42 BRO. P/St.JB/D/244-46.
the great festivals more. In 1767 16 papists. Upon Dr. Davie’s resignation the Corporation presented Thomas Johnes, librarian, who was instituted July 1 1774. He is also Rector of Littleton. In 1784 Families of the Establish church 119, Presbyterians 8, Baptists 4, Moravians 2, Quakers 2, papists 3. Almshouses 2, one for 13 poor women of this parish, the other for All Saints. Sermons every Sunday, one every Thursday afternoon. Watson curate licenced. Catechism Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent. Communion once a month and the great Festivals. Communicants 30, on Festivals 50
1822 Mr Johns still tutor. William Mirehouse curate. The Rectory house in a wretched state and said to be uninhabitable on account of the effluence arising from the filth of River Frome.\(^43\)

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ST. LEONARD V. Church of Bristol patrons. It belonged to the Abbey of Bristol. Kings books 12 li. Certified 4.1.5. Present income 60 li. Mr. Samuel Jocham, vicar, hath also St. Michael, whig. cheerful, regular, small parish, sermon Sunday afternoon. Several Presbyterians and Quakers. In no archdeaconry. 68 houses both in 1712 and 1735. Will. Prichard A.M. instituted July 1 1743. Upon his cession John Berjew was instituted July 30 1750. In 1746 augmented by lott. In 1758 Mr. John Davies instituted. He is also a Minor Canon. This vicarage was united to that of St. Nicholas April 8 1766, by which Mr. John Camplin V, of St. Nicholas became V. of this also, and the church by Act of Parliament is to be taken down.

In 1766 there are 57 families of them 3 Presbyterians, 2 Anabaptists, 1 Quaker family. No one family has joined the Methodists, some few go to them occasionally. No papists.
1784 Families 70, Anabaptists 2, Quakers 2, Independents 1, Methodist 1, not increasing. No papists. Lands for the support of the church. A master and mistress school endowed for boys and girls and Sunday’s lecture of £16.\(^44\) Vicarage house demolished under the Act of Parliament for taking down the church, without compensation to the Vicar.

[p.21]

ST. MARKS or the GAUNTS CHAPEL charged 14d in the procuration book\(^45\) of 1668 but not marked as paid which is the

\(^{43}\) New rectory built in Christmas St in 1760; house demolished in 1914.
\(^{44}\) The school and the lecture established by William Pennoyre of London, merchant in 1670.
\(^{45}\) Procuration money paid by parish priests yearly to the bishop when he makes a visitation.
case of other parishes in that book which certainly ought to pay and do pay. Preacher here Mr. Catcott. Belonged to the College of the Gaunts. It is now the Mayor's Chapel. Mr. Carew Reynell of St. Philip's the Reader and Mayor's Chaplain. One guinea allowed for a sermon every Sunday. Preachers appointed by the Mayor for the time being.

[p.23]

ST. MARY PORT R. Mr. Bridges of Keynsham, patron. Kings books 7 li.
Certified 6.6.10. Present income 30 or 40 li. Rector Mr. Hugh Waterman high tory, plain, honest, exemplary, 75 years old. Small parish 104 houses both in 1712 and 1735. Sermon once every Sunday. Many dissenters. In no archdeaconry. Mr. Waterman is also rector of St. Peter, which see. In Latin Sancta Maria in Foro. William Saunders instituted Sept 16 1746. Upon his death William Collinson was presented by Mr. Bridges and instituted May 26 1750. The patronage is now in the D[uke] of Chandos. Mr. Collinson also teaches school near St. Mary Redcliff. Upon the death of Mr. Collinson. Richard Tuthill was presented by D. Chandos and instituted by commission to Mr. Camplin, Nov.10 1764.

In 1766 between 60 and 70 families, near one half dissenters, chiefly Presbyterians. Not many Methodists, neither does their number increase. No papists. Mr. Collinson who lives on Redcliff Hill serves the cure, takes the whole profits and pays Mr. Tuthill £30 a year. Communion four times in a year, communicants between forty and fifty. In 1767 no papists. In 1782 John Neale instituted. In 1784 families 56 of which Presbyterians 19, Quakers 4, no Methodists, papists 1. Church lands applied to the support of the church and use of the Rectory. According to quest for Prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays. Rector non resident. Curate John Camplin, junior, resident. Sermons twice on Sundays. No catechumens. Communion 4 times. Communicants 12 or 14.

1822 John Neale still rector. T. Grinfield curate

Rectory house miserable, forming the back part of a salterer's shop.

[p.25]

ST. MARY REDCLIFF V. Prebendary of Bedminster in the church of Sarum patron. Kings books 12.6.3. Certified 40.13.8½. Mr. John Gibb who hath the Prebend of Bedminster and hath been many years the incumbent here represents this as well as St. Thomas and Abbots Leigh, which see, to be chapels of the vicarage of Bedminster. And the income of the whole for 1734 he makes to be 251. 3.0. That is for Redcliff Easter and Michaelmas
collection 35.5.10. For reading prayers on weekdays (which begun in 1719) only Thursday mornings before and for gift sermons both paid by churchwardens 16.8.10. For 5 gift sermons paid by the Chamberlain of the City 2.10.0. An house let for 5.10.0. In all 59.14.8. besides the house which he himself rebuilt and hath lived in since Michaelmas 1717 which is a very fine one. The particulars of St. Thomas and Abbots Leigh see in their places. The income of Bedminster is 3 houses 8.0.0. Herbage of the churchyard 1.10.0. Vicarial tithes agistments and Easter offerings nothing. And yet he pays taxes for vicarial tithes there 9.2.0. see his papers. The surplice fees of the whole are 91.4.10. Sermon once a Sunday at Redcliff, once at St. Thomas: same congregation at both. For the 4 churches, tends himself, now grown incapable of being heard he hath Mr. Lionel Oliver licenced, 40 li, salary and his perquisites amount to 20 more, tory and Mr. blank Williams who officiates alternately here and at St. Stephens and hath 20 li. Many protestant dissenters. A meeting house in Tucker Street, Mr. Kirby Rayner. The minister's garden was undermined some years ago by a neighbour and sand stolen for making glass. 90 li. paid to Mr. Gibb for a compensation. In no archdeaconry. Very large and beautiful church.

In a subscription book Aug 6 1662 Humph. Brent stiles himself vicar of St. Thomas and Redcliffe. In this exclusive of St. Thomas 280 houses in 1712, 402 in 1735. This is in Somersetshire and was in the Archdeaconry of Bath.

Mr. Broughton first presented by Bishop Sherlock to the living, afterwards collated to the prebend. His curates are Samuel Giles and Humphry Brent Coopey. A very considerable living. Thomas Robins curate instituted curate June 3 1765 with a salary of 40 li. a year.

In 1766 some dissenters, chiefly Presbyterians. Several Methodists, their preachers the lowest mechanics. No papists. Here as in other parishes the estates for the repair of the churches are in the management of the Vestries. Divine service twice on Sundays, prayers every afternoon, children catechised in Lent. Communion only four times in the year, then a very decent appearance. In 1767 eight papists. In 1784 families near 600 of these 150 Protestant dissenters, Methodists included, 1 Jew, 3 papists. Methodists increasing on account of Mr. Wesley's chapel, lately built. Calvinists few. Two public schools by contribution. One almshouse. Considerable estates left by Mr. Canning for the

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47 First chapel built in the Horsefair in 1737.
48 William Fry erected an almshouse 'Fry's House of Mercy' in 1778.
repair of Redcliff church.⁴⁹ Spry the vicar resides 9 months. One curate Israel Lewis. Full duty on Sundays, one paid by the lecturer. Prayers 3 days in the week. Catechism in Lent after prayers. Communion four times.

1822 I conceive this not to be a Vicarage, but a parochial chapelry dependent upon Bedminster, tho’ situate in the diocese of Bristol. Mr. R. Whish curate, John Mais assistant curate.

ST. MICHAEL. R. City of Bristol patrons. Kings books 6 li. Certified 5.18.11. Present income 160 li. Rector Mr. Samuel Jocham, vicar of St. Leonards. Large parish 278 houses in 1712, 350 in 1735. Sermons twice every Sunday except afternoon of first Sunday in the month. Morning prayers W[ednesday] and F[riday] and holy days. One gentleman’s family papist. One seafaring man suspected to be perverted, 5 or 6 families of Presbyterians, one of Quakers. Curate Mr. [blank] Vaughan, [above the line dead] not of age yet for priest orders, studious, modest, preaches well. In no archdeaconry.

Rumney Penrose instituted June 25 1743, upon his death John Culliford A.M. (see 41) was instituted Oct.1749. He is also one of the Residentiaries of Wells. It was augmented by lot in 1740. The churchwardens 1763 present the south wall of the church as a little bulged outwards, which they apprehend is occasioned by the weight and spreading of the roof, but do not perceive any immediate danger therefrom either to the fabric or the parishioners. Upon the death of Mr. Culliford Samuel Seyer M.A. master of the Grammar School and assistant at Christ Church (see p.11) was presented and instituted Feb.6 1764.

Thereupon he quitted both the school and his curacy.

In 1766 about 400 families of these 12 Presbyterians, 3 Quakers. Those who attend the Methodists attend also their church and their number does not increase. Two families reported papists, but their number does not increase. Two chapels, one belonging to Mr. Colston’s Almshouse,⁵⁰ served by Mr. [James] Roquet, appointed by the Trustees, prayers twice every day, except on such days as the service is performed at the parish church; the other belonging to Foster’s Almshouse,⁵¹ served by Mr Seyer, prayers every Friday, sermon the first Sunday of every month in the evening. The public Grammar School is in the parish and a Charity

⁴⁹ William Canynges, ship-owner, shipbuilder and five times mayor of Bristol died 1474.
⁵⁰ Established by Edward Colston on St. Michael’s Hill in 1696.
⁵¹ John Foster founded the almshouse called Three Kings of Cologne in 1492.
school for 20 girls founded by the late Mr. Elbridge. Colston’s hospital for 12 men and 12 women. Foster’s for 7 men and 7 women. Mr. Seyer resides, performs this duty by himself.

Sermon and prayers twice on Sunday, prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays and holidays. Children catechised in Lent with Lewis’s Exposition. Communion at the great festivals and the first Sunday of every month. Communicants between 200 and 300.

In 1767 12 papists. Upon the death of Mr. Seyer the Corporation presented George Wilkins who was instituted by Mr. Camplin, Commissary May 22 1776. In 1784 families 393 of which Quakers and dissenters 13, papists 2, Methodists none. Rector resides in his Parsonage house. No curate at present. 2 Sermons. Prayers every holiday, Wednesday and Friday. Catechism on Saturdays in Lent. Communion once a month and the great festivals. Communicants 50.

1822 W. Knight Rector. Rectory house in good condition but too much for his family. He resides in the parish.

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ST. NICHOLAS V. [written above the line and in another hand with St. Leonard which see] Kings books 21.1.3. Certified 7.16.6. Present income about 200 li. besides the curate’s salary. Vicar Mr. William Goldwyn, fellow of Eton, whig, popular, at times low-spirited, then leprous, then well, Curate Mr. Thomas Probert, tory as the vicar knew when he took him, does very well, licenced, 40 li. salary. Lives in Redcliffe parish very near his own. Large parish 380 houses in 1712, 418 in 1735. Two sermons every Sunday. Prayers every day. Some journeymen in low trades papists. 12 families of protestant dissenters, some of them papists, some Presbyterians. In no archdeaconry. Lecturer, John Hart [written above the line J. Jones, good character] Salary 26 li. paid by the City. One churchwarden presents the top of the steeple decayed but under inspection. The other, William Whitton presents as follows: Abel Edwards a profane swearer and blasphemer and scandalous drunkard, John Veal lives with Deborah Orstand as his wife, pretending they were married at Clifton Church which they were not. Thomas Williams and George Barrat are said to keep Bawdy houses and Barrat allows tipling in his house in service time. And he and Edwards absent themselves from all public worship. There is a free school for Latin under the care of the Chamber. Colston’s Hospital and another under the care of Feoffees. The largest bell has been disposed of as appears by the frame. One of the other five

52 John Elbridge erected a school house on part of the garden of the Royal Fort.
craced, the rest untuneable and out of order and too small to give notice for the church. A large gallery taken down from the west end of the church within the memory of some which is wanted as the parish increases. Chapel belonging to an almshouse in good repair. 53 John Castelman instituted Nov 17 1747. 54 It was augmented by lot in 1719. John Camplin M.A. was instituted in 1761. In 1763 the church was pulled down and is rebuilding. James Brown, one of the Minor Canons is the Tuesday lecturer. In 1766 St. Leonard’s was united. In 1766 321 houses, 8 Presbyterians, 5 Anabaptist, 7 Quaker, 2 Jewish families. No one family hath joined the Methodists, some few people go occasionally. One obscure woman papist. When the church shall be opened, Mr. Camplin proposes to preach twice every Sunday and to read prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays and all holidays and to administer the sacrament monthly.

In 1767 in this parish and St. Leonards united 16 papists.
In 1784 350 families, 3 Presbyterians, 6 Independents, 3 Quakers, 1 Jew, 3 Anabaptists, 6 Methodists, not increasing, 8 papists. Vicarage house sunk in the parish estate above a century ago, for it no allowance made. Dr. Camplin resides in Bristol half the year and preaches constantly, the other half at Olveston. Thomas Camplin curate the whole year. Sermons and service twice every Sunday, once the 1st Saturday in the month, and a lecture every Tuesday. Service on Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent. Communion monthly. Communicants about 60 but on the festivals 120.

1822 John Eden Vicar does the duty himself. No Vicarage house. Two lectures in this church for which the Corporation pay one preached by Dr. Bridges, the other by Mr. Emra of St. Georges.

[p.30]

ST. PAUL P.C. In the gift of the Corporation. Excellent Parsonage house. 55

[p.31]

ST. PETER R. City of Bristol, patrons, Kings books 6.7.6. Certified 12.5.0. Present income about 120 li. Rector Mr. Hugh Waterman, who is rector also of St. Mary Port, which see, and hath a Donative about 7 miles off where he resides about half the year. Curate of St. Peters and St Mary Port Mr. John Weston, high tory, good, licenced 35 li. salary. Many dissenters. In no archdeaconry. 221 houses in 1712, 230 in 1735.

53 St. Nicholas almshouse with Chapel founded 1656.
54 John Castleman prebend of Bristol Cathedral 1739–61.
55 St. Paul, Portland Square created out of parish of St. James 1787.
John Noyes Jones instituted Aug 22 1746
Mr. William Barry M.A., in 1757. His curate is Mr. Bowen said to be a most excellent scholar and a good young man.
In 1766 about 200 families of these near one third dissenters, Presbyterians, Anabaptists, Quakers. Only one Methodist family and this family comes also constantly to their parish church. No papists. In this parish is St. Peter’s Hospital in which there are at least 300 poor maintained by the city at large. The Parsonage house has been constantly let, being fit for a tradesman, but Mr. Barry resides in St. James’s parish and serves no church but his own. He allows Mr. Bowen 35£ a year besides other advantages. Prayers every Wednesday and Friday in the morning and every Saturday in the afternoon, on all Saints days and every day during Lent, and sermons twice every Sunday. Children catechised every Tuesday and Thursday in Lent. Sacrament administered four times in the year. Communicants about 140. In 1767 no papists. In 1781 Thomas Broughton instituted.
In 1784 about 170 families of which 18 Anabaptists, 9 Presbyterians, 9 Quakers, 9 Methodists frequents the parish church. No papists. Resides in Bristol ½ the year, at Twerton the other half. 1822 N. Struth Rector gone to the Bahamas on account of his wife’s health. Curate J. Cross. The Rectory house very bad and divided into two tenements, one let to a basket-maker and the other to a butcher.

[p.33]
ST. PHILIP & JACOB\textsuperscript{56} V. It belonged to the Abbey of Tewkesbury. City of Bristol patrons. Kings books 15 li. Certified 43.16.0. Present income above 200 li. of which tithe and house at 40 li. Vicar Mr. William Cary,\textsuperscript{57} whig, very good, preaches twice every Sunday here or at Winterbourne of which he is Rector, which see. A man of learning. Curate Mr. Thos Jones, licenced 40 li, salary, makes 10 or 15 more. Large parish 263 houses in 1712, 330 in 1735. I suppose in that part within the liberties, divided into the In and Out part which last extends a good way into the country. Prayers every day except when at the neighbouring hospital. About 5 families and 6 single persons papists besides a number of foreigners and their families who were sent for by the Quakers to their brass works at Baptist Mills. One Busby says mass every second Sunday at least, at a large house there called Whitehouse. There lives also in Broadmead in St. James’s parish, one Castle another priest who resorts thither. They baptise the children of their leaven

\textsuperscript{56} M.E. Thorold, \textit{The church of St. Philip & Jacob}, Bristol, Bristol, 1933.
\textsuperscript{57} Chancellor of the diocese, 1745–59.
and have married several couples. Some of the persons so married were libelled against some years ago and a wedding of this kind is now before the Chancellor. Sir Abraham Elton committed a priest here about 20 years ago to Gloucester jail but he was soon released. Mr. Andrews, the Quaker tells me there are 20 or 30 men of these foreigners. Many Presbyterians and Quakers. Subject to the Visitation of the Archdeacon of Gloucester. Roof of the church presented as much decayed. Prayer books old and torn. Surplices unfit to be worn.

Mr. Carew Reynell in 1759. His curate Thomas Chapman one of the Minor Canons. In 1763 all things presented in good order. In 1766. In the out parish 850 families, in the In 400. Dissenters of all denominations. Methodists have one preaching house in Lamb Street, another or two in George Street, but do not increase. The papists at Baptist Mills decrease daily and now have no priest or Masshouse. A chapel at Lawford’s Gate endowed by one Barnstaple where service is performed every Thursday and Saturday. Three almshouses under the visitation of the Mayor and Corporation. The Vicarial house not good enough for residence, but Mr. Reynell lives in the parish. He allows Mr. Chapman £36 a year. Prayers and sermon twice every Sunday; prayers every Wednesday and Friday and on all holidays. Sacrament the first Sunday of the month and the number of communicants about 120. Children catechised in Lent.

In 1767 47 papists. Upon the resignation of Mr. Reynell who succeeded to the curacy of St. James, James New M.A. was presented by the Corporation and licenced April 11 1772.

1784 Families about 2600 of which 400 Church, 50 Presbyterians, 65 Anabaptists, 10 papists increasing, 14 Quakers, 60 Independents. The rest of no religion. Of the above greatest part Methodists, numbers increasing. All male and female, pretend to be preachers. Prayers and Sermons were Sundays. Prayers Wednesdays and Fridays and holidays. Communicants about 78, on Festivals 100.

1822 William Day Vicar, does the duty himself with the assistance of his son. The vicarage house in the Old Market unfit for the residence of a clergyman. Mr Day does duty once a week in the chapel at Lawford's Gate.

1822 ST. GEORGE'S KINGSWOOD Mr. Harte. John Emra

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58 Licensed July 9 1765, BRO/A/45/1; George St. licensed February 8 1775, BRO. EP/A/43/4.
59 Trinity Hospital founded by John Barstaple c.1395; Alderman Stevens founded an almshouse in 1686.
60 Created in 1756 out of the parish of St. Philip & Jacob.
Perpetual curate, does duty with the assistance of [name indecipherable] Good parsonage. Very poor parish.

[p.35]

ST. STEPHEN R. The Crown is patron. Kings books 16 li. Certified 20.13.11. Present income about 180 [li.] Dr. Henry Becher son to Alderman Becher is Rector, warm whig, impudent, vain. He hath a Donative\(^{61}\) in Duke's Place, London. Mr. Williams officiates as curate here and at Redcliff. Two sermons on Sunday, one on Friday morning, prayers every day. The altar-piece, pulpit and pews all of Mahogony, cost 1800 li. All paid except 2 or 300 li. 450 houses in 1712, 503 in 1735.

Abraham Stopford Catcott instituted January 3 1743. Upon his death Josiah Tucker A.M. was instituted December 8 1749. Now Mr. Tucker Dean of Gloucester. His curate Mr. Samuel New. In 1766 dwelling houses about 400, families about 450 and perhaps 50 of these dissenters, mostly Independents, some Anabaptists and few Quakers, but not of the rigid sort, many occasionally come to church. Some Jews lately settled in the parish. Methodists not increasing not much decreasing as to numbers but greatly in zeal. Some hundreds perhaps of papists consisting mostly if not altogether of Irish sailors and their wives or females of a worst denomination; their number more or less according to the shipping in the Port; a poor wretched set with no persons of rank or note among them. One great almshouse for decayed seamen and their wives\(^{62}\) and a parish poor house. The parsonage house near the church and fish market, too mean for the minister to inhabit. Dr. Tucker has Dr. Tarrant's\(^{63}\) prebendal house in the Lower Green. He allows Mr. New 40 guineas a year. Prayers twice on Sundays, once on Wednesdays and Fridays and all holidays. Sermons twice on Sundays and one every Friday. Sacrament besides at the great festivals, monthly on the first Sunday. Communicants about 100 or near it. In 1767 293 papists chiefly sailors and low people. In 1784 Houses rated 250. Families of the church 262, Quakers 2, Wesleyans 2, dissenters 20, papists 18, Jews 6, Methodists 4 branches. Wesleyans using the Church service, Whitfieldians extemporirers Moravians a service of their own, Lady Huntingdon's using the Church service with alterations. Rector resides \(\frac{1}{2}\) the year in the house given by Mrs. Peloquin. Mr. Greville constant curate at £50 and perquisites. Communicants about 60.

\(^{61}\) Donative is a church which is the free gift of a patron without making presentation to the bishop and without Institution and Induction.

\(^{62}\) Belongs to the Society of Merchant Venturers.

\(^{63}\) Charles Tarrant held fourth prebendal stall in Bristol Cathedral.
1822 E.C. Grivile [Greville] Rector has the living of Clevedon in the Diocese of Bath & Wells, does the duty himself with the assistance of a curate. The house given by Mrs. Peloquin, is leasehold under the Corporation. Mr. Grivell informs me that the old Rectory house was sold for £200 which sum was received by Dr. Tucker and by him on his resignation of the living transferred to Mr. Grivile who makes himself accountable for it.

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ST. THOMAS Chapel to Bedminster. see St. Mary Redcliff. In 1734 the Easter and Michaelmas collection was £57.17.0. Gift sermon and weekday prayers 18.10.0. In all 76.7.0. For surplice fees see St. Mary Redcliff. Many dissenters. Very large and good church. In no archdeaconry. 302 houses in 1712, 320 in 1735. This is in Somersetshire and was in the archdeaconry of Bath. Mr. [Thomas] Broughton.

In 1766 some dissenters, chiefly Presbyterians. Some Methodists, their teachers the lowest mechanics. No papists. Mr. Coopey curate with a salary of 40 £ per annum. Divine service with sermon twice on Sundays, prayers every morning.

In 1767 5 papists.

In 1784 families 250. Dissenters and protestants ¼, major part Quakers, Methodists few. No papists. One almshouse. Mr. Benjamin Spry, vicar resides in Redcliffe. Mr. Thomas apJones curate. Full duty on Sundays. Weekly prayers 3 times a week. Catechism in Lent. Communion 4 festivals. Communicants 40 to 50.

Curate Thomas Jennings. No house.

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TEMPLE alias ST. CROSS V. City of Bristol patrons. Kings books 3.4.2

Certified 33.2.8. Present income about 150. Mr Samuel Curtis, vicar, very gouty, inoffensive. Mr. Richard Easton curate, ingenious, diligent, whig, charged with heterodox discourse but without proof. About 300 houses in the parish, 240 in 1712, 380 in 1735. Two sermons on Sunday. Prayers every day. 25 families of Presbyterians, Anabaptists, Quakers. A quakers meeting house licenced. In no archdeaconry. Chancell very handsome at the expence of Mr. Colston. On the north side of it the Weavers' Chapel a part of the church which that company claim to themselves. It is in bad repair. This parish in Somersetshire and was

64 Mary Ann Peloquin left to the rector of St. Stephen's her residence in Queen Square to be used as a parsonage.
part of the archdeaconry of Bath. Henry Becher instituted March 6 1738–9, holds it by dispensation together with St. Stephen see p.35, made chaplain to the Prince when he was at Bristol.65 Succeeded by Thomas Jones M.A. who was tutor to the Free school, instituted March 9 1743.

Mr. John Price in 1755, a worthy man and said to be an extraordinary good reader of prayers.

In 1766 about 250 families, of these about 10 Presbyterians, 5 Anabaptists, 5 Quakers, also a Jewish synagogue66 where about 40 Jews assemble. About 50 Methodists who assemble in the Weavers’ Hall and Tucking Halls,67 both which places are licensed. In the Weavers’ Hall, John Wesley or his brother Charles or some of their deputies officiate twice in the week. In the Tucking Hall, one, Holloway, an old illiterate fellow preaches Sunday evening and some other evening in the week. One family of papists consisting of only two persons. A charity school founded by Mr. Colston for 40 boys.68 Two hospitals.69 A considerable estate left for the church and other charitable uses disposed of by the churchwardens and vestry. Quarterly and monthly communions about 150 communicants.

August 9 1766 Alexander Catcott B.A. was instituted upon the resignation of Mr. Price. In 1766 18 papists. Upon the death of Mr. Catcott who was an excellent parish priest, the Corporation presented Joseph Easterman, son of the late cryer, who was instituted September 24 1779. In 1784 Families 628 of them 15 Independents, 3 Quakers. All Armenian Methodists attend the church. No papists. Colston’s school for 40 boys Another by contributions for 40 girls. Hospitals 4. Alderman Stevens, Dr. White’s, Society of Weavers and clothworkers. Rector resident in Parsonage. Sundays two sermons. Prayers every morning. Catechism in Lent. Communion monthly and Festivals. Communicants about 300. 1822 Thomas Elwin Vicar. the Vicarage unfit for the residence of a clergyman; indeed scarcely inhabitable on account of the manufactories carried on in the vicinity. The Weavers’ chapel in bad repairs internally, the outward walls good.

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65 The Prince of Orange visited Bristol in 1734.
66 Originally the hall of the Weavers’ Company.
67 Tuckers’ Hall licensed in 1764. BRO EP/A/45/1.
68 Temple Colston school founded by Edward Colston.
69 Dr. White’s Hospital founded in 1613; Alderman Stevens’ almshouse founded in 1679.

In 1766 only 34 families, two of these Quakers and two Presbyterians. Few or no Methodists. No papists. Mr. Symes lives in Bristol and serves no church; has lately taken on an assistant whose name is Daniel Haynes and allows him 40£ a year. Two sermons on Sundays prayers every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Children catechised in Lent. Sacrament four times in a year, most of the parishioners communicate.

In 1767 no papists.

In 1784 about 30 families. 1 Quaker, 2 Presbyterians.

1822 Mr. [William] Tandy Rector. John Hall Curate. The Rectory in good condition but let out for counting house.

[p.43]

ABBOTS LEIGH70 Holy Trinity. Chapel to Bedminster see St. Mary Redcliff. In 1734 the income of this chapel was 14.6.6. (besides surplice fees for which see St. Mary Redcliff) that is Mrs Trenchards composition, for Vicar’s tithes 6.6.6. Tithes from the tenants for lives at 6d. in the pound about 4 li but decreasing as the estates fall into the mannor. The churchyard and a house which now wants repairing 3 li. A gift sermon of Mr. Henry Roach 1 li. concerning which see Mr. Gibbs paper. There is also a donation of 2000 li given by Lady Norton71 by two deeds one dated July 6 1717, the other April 23 1718 and now in the ABM hands which 2000 li hath been paid to Thomas Freke72 Esq., 250 li for the benefit of the minister of Abbots Leigh, 800 li to put out apprentices in that and 3 more parishes, 300 li for 24 widows one year and clothing 24 housekeepers another year in that and another parish. This was to commence after her death and she hath been dead some years. Since 1660 and probably before there hath been service only one Sunday in three. No dissenters of any kind. In no archdeaconry. It was in the archdeaconry of Bath.

Mr. Broughton. His curate Walter Trevenna.

In 1767 no papists.

70 Abbots Leigh was one of the first estates with which Robert Fitzharding endowed the Abbey of St. Augustine.
71 The Norton family lived at Leigh Court.
72 Merchant and sugar refiner of Bristol.
In 1784 about 30 or 40 families. Of these one Anabaptist, one Presbyterian. No Methodists, no papists. Mr. Benjamin Spry Vicar, resides in the summer. Sermon and service once on Sundays. Communiions 4. Communicants very few. 1822 Curate Edward Court Brice.

ALMONDSBURY V. St. Mary. Bishop of Bristol patron. It belonged to the Abbey of Bristol. Kings books 20 li. Certified 40.13.10. Scarce worth 50 li. 60 li on enquiry. Consists of privy tithes only for which the Vicar compounds at 5d in the pound according to the poors rate. No glebe. Mr William Mosely, vicar, careful, good old man, attentive to his own interest; resides pretty much on a living he hath near Gloucester. His son Mr. John Moseley a pretty young man. Curate here. Service and sermon once every Sunday. A few Presbyterians. Many Quakers especially in the estates of the Chamber of Bristol which pay by order of the Chamber 13.4 for the tithes of 500 li a year. Mr. Moseley hath also Horfield and Mangotsfield, which see. Subject to the Archdeacon of Gloucester. Ecton Slilis ut Almondsbury cum Capella.

William Taswell M.A. of Westminster School and Christchurch Oxford in 1755. He resides at his living of Wootton under Edge in Gloucestershire. His present curate Thomas Webb.

In 1766 about 130 families, three of which Quakers. No Methodists. Not one reputed papist. A school endowed with 40s a year. An estate for the repairs of the church under the direction of the feoffees. Mr. Taswell resides about 2 months in the year in the parsonage house. He has also the curacy of Horfield, and his present curate is Jeremiah Davies with a salary of £40 a year. Prayers and sermon morning and afternoon alternately, on the other part of the day at Horfield. Children catechised when Mr Taswell is in residence. Communion four times in the year, communicants about 50. In 1767 no papists. Upon the death of Mr Taswell I collated and instituted Mr William James Nov 17 1775. Having been a student of Christchurch he also succeeded Mr. Taswell in his living of Wootton under Edge, which is in the gift of that College. Upon the cession of Mr. James. I collated and instituted John Davie M.A. February 19 1778.

1813 annexed to the See of Bristol by Act of Parliament.\textsuperscript{73} George Hunt curate.

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CLIFTON Curate. St. Kenelm according to Mr. Williams but according to a will in the Registry dated 1546 St. Mathos.\textsuperscript{74} Mr John Hodges patron. Certified at 6 li. Bishop Smallridge 10 li. Mr. Willis present income at 40 li. but uncertain. Incumbent Mr John Hodges licensed, tory, \textit{words struck out} I have admonished and threatened severely. Some few dissenters. Subject to the visitation of the Archdeacon of Gloucester. John Miller subscribes as curate of Clifton 17 July 1665. Thomas Davis in 1671. John Moore 1691/2. Many persons of the parish married here by Bans under pretence of belonging to the Castle Precincts, which see. Clifton belonged to the College of Westbury and was anciently a Chapel to it.

Mr. Thomas Taylor patron, John Taylor his son succeeded and was licensed May 20 1762. He was admitted on his own petition. In 1742 it was augmented by lot. The Chapel at the Hotwells belongs to this.\textsuperscript{75} Mr. Pidding officiates as curate.

In 1766 there are 600 families, 14 of which Presbyterians and Quakers, 3 families of Methodists, 7 reputed papists. At the Chapel prayers every day during the season at Hotwells, and Sermon on Sundays. Two schools supported by alms received at the monthly sacraments. Mr. Taylor resides personally, but has no parsonage house, has another benefice in the diocese of Gloucester. His curate Mr. Phillips, but not licenced as the income is uncertain, has £50 a year.


In 1784 families about 400 – 500. Quakers. Anabaptists, Presbyterians 3. Methodists many. Papists 2 or 3. A Chapel at Lower Hotwell for the accommodation of strangers, repairs by money received at the Sacrament. Ground behind the Chapel consecrated this year for interment of strangers, a new churchyard likewise ordered to be prepared for consecration.

1822 Mr. Taylor Perpetual curate. The benefice being under sequestration. John Hensman curate under sequestration. I consecrated a new church at Clifton on August 12.\textsuperscript{76}

\textsuperscript{73} Vicarage annexed to the bishopric in 1813 to augment the income of the See.
\textsuperscript{74} I have failed to find any reference to either dedication. St. Mathos presumably means St. Mathew.
\textsuperscript{75} Dowry Chapel built in 1744.
\textsuperscript{76} The parish church rebuilt 1819.
COMPTON GREENFIELD R. Patron Sir Robert Canne son of Sir Thomas Canne Kt but had his title from Sir William Canne a baronet. He is brother to the Town Clerk who is to have his estate. Kings books 7 li. Certified 48.1.3. Present income 120 li. Rector Mr. Walter Rainstorp tory, good, resident. Only three farm houses and two poor families. No dissenters or papists. In no archdeaconry. One of the bells cracked, and not fit for use. In 1763 all presented as in good order. In 1766 only five families. No dissenters of any kind. Mr. Rainstorp old and infirm and lives in Bath. His curate here and at Mangotsfield, Christopher Haynes. Divine service and sermon every Sunday, Catechism in Lent. Communion thrice in a year. In 1767 no papists. Upon the death of Mr. Rainstrop [sic] Joseph Durston B.A. was presented by Thomas Durston of the parish of St. Mark in Somerset. Gent. patron for this turn, and was instituted 1769 November 20. Upon the death of Mr. Durston, Robert Cann Jeffries of Clifton Esqr. heir of the Cann family presented James New B.A. Dean Tucker’s curate at St. Stephens, who was instituted September 20 1770.


In 1822 John Ward Rector resides in the Rectory house.

ELBERTON see 55

FILTON R. St. Peter. Kings books 7 li. Certified 36.11.8. Present income between 40 and 50 li. Mr Bound tells me 30 li. Rector. Mr. John Bound, tory, ordained priest by me [words struck through] One Quaker. In no archdeaconry. Mr James and Charles Hawkins presented Mr. Bound. Mr Willis sets down Mr Pope for patron. There are 12 houses besides the Vicarage which is but a poor one. The glebe is near 30 li. The great tithes this year were not worth 4 li. The small tithes are compounded for at 4d in the pound according to the poors rate. Six farms pay only 5.8. in all for all tithes being part of the Manour of Horfield, held by lease of the Bishop in which the Rectory of Filton is amongst other things said to be demised. Mr. Bound going to live there as soon as the house is repaired. 3 miles from Bristol.

Mr. Bound who is also Rector of St. John Baptist in Bristol, resides here part of the year. This Rectory is plainly in the original endowments granted to the Bishop by Henry VIII and the present lessee seems willing to assert the right of patronage. Upon the death of Mr. Bound the right of patronage was fully considered and the Bishop never had it or hath lost it as appear from the
papers which I have left; and Matthew Brickdale Esq.\textsuperscript{77} presented John Davie M.A. instituted March 29 1750. In 1766 about 12 families of which one a Quaker, no Methodists. No papists. Forty shillings bequeathed by Mr. Silcocks for preaching a sermon upon charity every Sunday after quarter day. Mr [John] Davie is also Rector of St. Johns; and the same curate assists in the duty of both places. Divine service and a sermon every Sunday. Communion at the grand festivals, communicants not more than 7 or 8. In 1767 no papists. Upon the resignation of Mr. Davie, Edward Blakeway M.A. was presented by Mr Brickdale his brother in law and was instituted February 16 1779. In 1784 families 16 of which 2 Quakers, 1 papist. A charity school £2.10 endowment. Rector resides Shrewsbury. Curate £25 Service every Sunday. 1822 D. Manley Rector. [\textit{blank}] Fowler. 

[p.51]  
ST. GEORGES V. in Kingswood. Corporation of Bristol patron. Richard Hart M.A. of Christchurch Oxford the first incumbent, instituted April 9 1759. In 1766 between 4 and 500 families. Of these 2 or 3 Quakers. Many Methodists, tho' they have here no stated preaching place, but Methodism has been on the decline for some time past. No papists. Mr. Hart resides and performs his own duty, prayers and sermon twice every Sunday; communion thrice in a year, communicants generally about 40. In 1767 no papists. 1784 families 700, Quakers 1. Paul Fisher\textsuperscript{78} about 20 years ago left the interest of £300 (3 per cent) to the Vicar for prayers on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saints days a sermon on Good Friday and Xmas and monthly Sacrament. 

[p.53]  
HENBURY V. St. Mary with the Chapels of Aust and Northwicke. Appropriated to the See of Worcester. Heirs of Sir Samuel Astry patrons. Kings books 30 li. Certified 28.4.6. Present income 180 or 200 li. Law suit depending about the tithe. V. Mr. John Gardener, tory, worthy man, good preacher, resident. According to Bishop Smalridge about 270 families in Henbury, 20 in Aust, 6 in Northwicke. Aust is served once every Sunday, formerly but once a month, now the trustees of Sir Samuel Astry give about 20 li a year for which is called a lecture, that is, a sermon the three vacant Sundays. This may be given to whom they please but the

\textsuperscript{77} M.P. for Bristol; member of the Common Council.  
\textsuperscript{78} Merchant of Bristol.
minister now hath it by Mr. Priest schoolmaster of Henbury. See Elberton. Northwicke which is 5 miles from Henbury once a month by Mr. Gardener. A few Presbyterians and Quakers. Presbyterian meeting house seldom used. No settled teacher. Quakers meeting house. In no archdeaconry. It appears by a deed made in Queen Elizabeth’s time and now in the hands of the Vicar that in the endowment of the Vicarage by the Dean and Chapter of Westbury about 1470 the Vicar was to pay towards the repairs of the chancel of Henbury, he hath about of the great tithes, and was to bear all the burdens by law or custom, incumbent upon him except the building and repairs of Aust Chapel which was to lie on the Dean and Chapter. But whether the repair of the other Chapels, for then there were three, more by custom belong to the Vicar does not appear. Soon after 1680 the Impropriator repaired the chancel of Northwick and then brought an action against the Vicar as having by letter promised if the Impropriator would repair it to repay him which promise the Vicar denied and the matter was tried or to be tried at Gloucester Assizes 1692. The Impropriator hath of late years refused to pay to the body of the Chapel for his tithes alledging that he repaired the Chancel meaning as he saith the chancel of Henbury, but was understood otherwise. Less than 10 li would repair Northwick Chancel. It is presented as being in a scandalous condition. In 1763 all things are presented as in good order. Mr. Gardener’s curates are now Mr. Priest and Mr. Dolman. Sir Jarrit Smith Bart and Lord Middleton are now the patrons and present alternately. In 1766 about 150 families, four dissenters, one Presbyterian, 3 Quakers. Some Methodists, not many, who assemble at the Widow Crosier’s house in Charlton, their preacher Charles Wesley and others sent by him, several not in orders. No papists. An estate left for the repair of the church and other charitable uses. A school and almshouse well endowed by Antony Edmonds 80 feoffees several gentlemen in the neighbourhood. Mr. Gardener constantly resident, two curates John Priest with £22 per annum and Thomas Phelps not licensed. Divine service twice every Sunday, sermon always in the morning, prayers every feast and fast, every Wednesday and Friday in Lent. The children catechised in Lent in church and school the rest of the year. Communion four times in the year, communicants 50.

In 1767 No papists. Upon the death of Mr. Gardiner, John

79 H.J. Wilkins, _Some chapters in the ecclesiastical history of Westbury on Trym_, Bristol, 1909.
Davie D.D. was presented and instituted May 21 1779. He is also Vicar of Almondsbury. 150 families, 3 Quakers in 1784. No Methodists or papists. An estate of £60 per annum for the repair of the church Dr. Davie resides in his Parsonage. Divine service every Sunday morning. Communicants 60.


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ELBERTON\textsuperscript{81} V. sive Capella alias Aylbarton. Patron Bishop of Bristol. Kings books 6.12.6. Certified 46.0.8. not worth 50, 10 li of it glebe. Vicar Mr John Castleman, put in by the Crown in the vacancy between Bradshaw and Cecil,\textsuperscript{82} ingenious, gay hath also the sequestration of Littleton within a mile of Elberton. Vicarage house burnt down in the time of the late Vicar Pierce who left no assets. About 20 houses. Subject to the visitation of the Archdeacon of Gloucester. Churchyard wall on the N side presented as wanting to be new built and Mr. Thomas Goldney to new build it. Mr. Willis saith Elberton was formerly chapel to Olveston. Succeeded by Mr Hugh Waterman, upon whose death I collated Mr Shute to it. Of a very good character. Rector of Olveston see p.63.

In 1763 All things presented as in good order.
In 1766 no Quakers, Methodists or papists, but one Presbyterian who sometimes comes to church. Service duly performed every Sunday, two Sundays in the morning, every third Sunday in the afternoon. Not above half a mile from Olveston, which makes it very convenient for the inhabitants of both parishes. April 11 1767 it was united with Olveston. No papists.

1784 families 25. Presbyterians 2, Quaker 1, Methodist 1. Sermon and morning service once a fortnight. Communion 3 a year to 5 or 6 families. 1822 Dr. [Robert John] Charlton V. No house. The chancel floor in bad repair.

[p.57]

[written above the line Horfield see p.59]

LITTLETON\textsuperscript{83} R. Patron Richard Hawkesworth a quaker in Bristol. Kings books 11.4.9\textsuperscript{\frac{1}{2}}. Certified in 35.17.6. The tithes are said to have been lost in a lawsuit 14 years ago so that now it is worth 23 li. Hath been sequestred since the last vacancy two years ago. Mr Castleman, Vicar of Elberton hath the sequestration.


\textsuperscript{82} William Bradshaw 1724–32 and Charles Cecill 1733–35, bishops of Bristol.

\textsuperscript{83} See note 81.
Subject to the visitation of the Archdeacon of Gloucester. Sermon once every other Sunday. The house only one room on a floor let out to a poor family. About twenty houses, fifteen of the 40 families in this place and Elberton or thereabouts are dissenters. No communion in either parish in many years. Now not above two or three persons at it. Served since Mr. Castlemans promotion by Mr. Wall. Mr John Priest the same who is curate to Mr. Gardiner. In 1763 all things presented as in good order.

In 1766 seventeen families one of Presbyterians, no Methodists or papists. Mr Priest lives at Henbury where he teaches school, and serves Aust for Mr Gardener every Sunday, and Littleton every other Sunday. He says it is not worth above £18 a year taxes and everything paid. Communion three times in a year, and about ten communicants. In 1767 no papists. This living being lapsed to the Crown, Richard Williams M.A was presented and instituted by commission to Mr Camplin, February 19 1773. He poor man is since dead. Thomas Johnes senior was presented by Christopher Willoughby Esq. and instituted July 3 1773. Upon the cession of Mr Johnes, Henry Lippincott Bart. presented John Bryan M.A. who was instituted November 27 1779 by commission to Mr Camplin.

1784 20 families, no dissenters. Mr Bryan resides at Redland. Communion thrice to 7 or 8 communicants.

1822 John Ward Rector has also the living of Compton Greenfield. No house.

[p.59]

HORFIELD Cur[ate] both Rectory and Vicarage held by lease under the Bishop of Bristol. Belonged to the Abbey of Bristol. Said by Bishop Smallridge to be certified at 3 li, by Mr Willis at 6 li. Mr William Moseley the curate who hath also Almondsbury and Mangotsfield, which see, saith the whole income was from surplice fees which scarce amount to 20s and a gift sermon 10s and 30 or 40s voluntary offerings which are now discontinued, till Bishop Hall gave him the lease of the Rectory of Elberton for 3 lives now expired, which after 6 li rent to the Bishop and taxes and repairs doth not commonly bring in 5 li clear. This is Mr Moseleys account. And I hear by other persons that the worth of Elberton Rectory is scarce worth more than 15 li a year. For this it was served once a fortnight. But 100 li being given by Mr Colston 50 by Bishop Hall 20 by Dr. Sloper 24 by Mr Edwards, lessee of the farm at Horfield, and 6 li by Mr Moseley the Queens bounty was

84 John Hall, bishop of Bristol 1691–1709.
85 Charles Sloper, chancellor of the diocese, 1695–1727.
obtained in 1718 and with that and 10 li legacy by Mrs Webb and 20 li raised by the proprietors of the parish lands 18 li in land was purchased. And now it is served once a Sunday by Mr. Rainstorp Rector of Compton Greenfield. Procurations were ancently paid for Horfield, but there being then nothing for the curate to pay them out of, he pays them now unwilling and thinks the Bishop's lessee should do it. Bishops Hall and Smallridge remitted them. If it be doubtful now this is become presentable whether it is in the Bishop or his Tenant, reserve it in the next renewal. Proper to be joined with Almondsbury. Mr Moseley desires also that the church yard may be reserved to the curate and the profits, if any, from the church and chancel burials. One bell presented as out of order. In 1763 all things presented as in good order, except the frame of the bells. Mr. Taswell who is vicar of Almondsbury, the present curate. The Bishop hath of late years allowed to Mr Taswell a benefaction of £5 a year for serving this curacy, and I have paid it myself because some of my predecessors have done it, but I am yet to learn for what reason. Inquire concerning it. [note stuck in Mr Blackburn says that the ground of this payment was a subscription entered into by the Bishop & Parishioners for the purpose of having service every Sunday as it appears from Bishop Seeker's account to have taken place before the Augmentation.]

In 1766 the number of families in this curacy under 20; of these the greater part dissenters and Quakers and Presbyterians. No Methodists or papists. Mr Taswells curate performs duty here, reads prayers and preaches once every Sunday. Communion 3 times in a year. Communicants commonly under ten. In 1767 no papists. In 1778 John Davie Curate. see Almondsbury 1822 Mr. Seyer. Perpetual curate.

[p.61]

MANGOTSFIELD St. James belonged to the Priory of St. James Bristol. Mr Willis. a donative in the gift of Mr Dowell. Certified as Bishop Smalridge says at 13 li.. Mr Willis at 20. Mr. Dowel pays 13 li, surplice fees are 3 or 4 li. And in 1718 it was augmented by Edward Colston and John Dowel Esqs. and land purchased which was let at 16 li but is now in the hands of the curate Mr William Moseley. Prayers and sermon once every Sunday. It is 5 miles from Almondsbury, which see. Many Presbyterians, some Quakers. The last churchwardens have been three or 4 years in office but promised to make up their accounts soon. The roofs of the church and chancel and the steeple are presented as not in good repair but to be mended soon. Chancel belongs to the Impropritor. Upon Mr Moseley's resignation, his son William Moseley A.B. was licenced upon the nomination of Staunton Degge, Clerk.
In 1763 all things presented as in good order. Upon the decease of Mr Moseley, Walter Rainstorp was licensed 15 February 1765 upon the nomination of the Reverend Dr Richard Wilmot and his wife Dorothy Wilmot, sister to Mr. Degg deceased.

In 1766 300 families. Many dissenters, Quakers, Presbyterians, Anabaptists, Methodists. No papists. Mr Rainstorp is also Rector of Compton Greenfield, and not able to do duty, has Mr Christopher Haynes for his curate at both places. Prayers and sermon every Sunday. Communion was thrice in the year, communicants about 20. In 1767 no papists. Upon the death of Mr R. the said Mr. Haynes was nominated by Dr. and Mrs Wilmot and licensed December 21 1769. In 1784 families 200. Methodists great many assemble in private houses or on the Common, numbers increasing. Minister resides at Siston. Sermon and prayers once. Sacrament 4 times. Curate Basil Wood.

1822 Dr Thomas Brooke Minister. No house.

[p.63]

Northwick see Henbury

OLVESTON V. St Helen with the Chapel of Alveston. Belonged to the Abbey of Bath. Church of Bristol Patrons. Kings books 24 li. Present income 200li or more. Valued by Sir Robert Atkins at 120. Much improved by the present Vicar Mr Hugh Waterman Jnr., tory, sober, good, resident. Serves both Church and Chapel which are a mile distant. Many Presbyterians and Quakers. A meeting house for each. Presbyterian Teacher's name Thomas Gibbs. 2 isles of the church want a cieling [sic] as. the churchwardens present. Christopher Shute A.M. p.55 In 1763 all things presented as in good order. Charles Coombs Mr Shute’s curate.

In 1766 121 families in Olveston, 610 inhabitants more or less. In Alveston 47 families. In each two or 3 Quakers and only one Presbyterian who often comes to church. No Methodists, nor papists. Tithes and glebe belonging to the Chapel amount to about £40 a year. Lands about £17 per annum left for the repairs of the church, and other benefactions set down in a table hung up in the church. Mr. Shute constantly resident, and the service of the church regularly performed by him and his curate who has thirty guineas a year and other advantages. Three sacraments in the year and many communicants. April 11 this was united with Elberton, the Bishop the patron of Elberton, to collate once, the Dean and Chapter to present twice, the first turn is the Dean and Chapter, the 2nd is the Bishop. Upon the death of Mr. Shute, Mr. John Camplin was presented by the Dean and Chapter and instituted May 27 1767.
In 1767 no papists.
1822 Dr. Charlton Vicar. The chancel of Alveston Chapel requires repair.

[p.65]
STAPLETON Curate. Holy Trinity. Belonged to the Priory of St. Johns Bristol. Mr Walter impro prior. Certified at 14 li. Present income 40 or 50. Curate Mr. John Field, tory, resident, very fat, hath a benefice in Wilts. Parish moderately large. Service and sermon I think every Sunday, not far from Stoke Gifford, which see. 131 families constantly residing of which 5 Presbyterians, one Quaker and 10 occasionally come from Bristol from which 2 Presbyterians, 2 Quakers, 1 Anabaptist. In no archdeaconry. In 1719 was augmented by benefaction, and purchase made. The present curate is Samuel Whitchurch, Rector of Nunney, Som. In 1766 about 100 families. A few Presbyterians, Anabaptists and Quakers. A few Methodists assemble at a house near the Fishponds; various teachers. No papists. One Charity School near the Fishponds under the direction of Ld. Botetourt [Beaufort] and other trustees. Mr. Whitchurch lives in that part of Bristol which is nearest to the parish church, the parsonage house having been taken down, and the present chancel erected on the ground for which the parish pays the curate £2 annually. Communion 4 times in the year, communicants about 60 or 70.
In 1767 No papists. Upon the resignation of Mr Whitchurch May 22 1769 his brother Joseph Whitchurch Esqr. Impro prior presented Henry Shute of Stoke Gifford (as in the next pages) who had officiated sometime for the late curate and he was licensed September 14 1769. He lives in Stapleton, and performs the duty here and at Stoke alternately every Sunday.
In 1784 families 200, of which Quakers 2, Anabaptists 2, Methodists many, papists 1. Resident.
1822 Henry Shute Minister. Lort Mansel nephew and son-in-law of the late Bishop, curate. In 1821 I consecrated a new Chapel at the Fishponds at which Mr Mirehouse the curate at St. John the Baptist officiates.

87 This should be Priory of St. James, Bristol.
88 Probably that founded by Mrs. Webb.
89 St. Mary’s, Fishponds consecrated 31 August 1821.
STOKE GIFFORD

V. Church dedicated to St. Michael. Mr Berkley patron. Kings books 6 li. Certified 20.12.5. Doth not exceed 17 li. There is a house and some glebe and the parishioners pay 4d in the pound according to an old poors rate. Not known when tithe was paid in kind. Held by sequestration for above 50 years, till lately. Mr Rumney Penrose the present vicar took out the seats for the benefit of Mr Field who serves this and Stapleton, which see, being two miles distant each of them once every Sunday. qu[?] what dissenters. Subject to the visitation of the Archdeacon of Gloucester. Vicarage house presented as being very much out of repair. Served by Mr Henry Shute instituted to it afterward August 1739. This Mr Shute is also the rector of Brancaster in Norfolk, a pretty good living, but resides here for the sake of Mr. Berkley's company.

In 1766 40 families, 3 of which are Quakers and no other dissenters of any denomination. Not 1 Methodist. Not 1 papist. The interest of £300 given to the poor, of £50 for teaching children to read. £50 for four sermons, the money paid by Mr Griffith of Winterbourne, and duly applied. There being no parsonage house Mr. Shute lives at Stapleton. Prayers read and a sermon preached once every Sunday. Children catechised every summer after the second lesson in the afternoon. Communion 4 times in the year. Communicants about 20. In 1767 no papists.

1822 L[ord] G.W. Somerset Vicar; Thomas Jones curate. Half an acre of glebe on which I cannot help suspecting that a house formerly stood.

WESTBURY

Cur[acy] Francis Fane Esqr. patron. Belonged to the College of Westbury. Certified 13.16.0. Bishop Smalridge. 10 li Mr Willis. Now worth 50 li in all [above the line others say 70] in all. There is 10 li a year paid by Mr. Fane charged upon his lands. It was augmented in 1719 by Edward Colston and Thomas Edwards Esqrs. There is 4 li a year given by the Merchants Hall of Bristol on condition that there be service once a fortnight in the Chapel of Shirehampton belonging to Westbury and a mile and a half distant, where before service was only once a month. At Westbury there is service once every Sunday. [above the line should be twice] Curate Mr. Thomas Gardener one of the Minor Canons of Bristol. Two families Quakers. Henry Harcord licenced May ye 9th 1739 William Parker A.B. Minor Canon licenced July 5 1739. Rumney Penrose. Upon Mr Penrose's death William Ray was licenced Nov 28 1749. Mr. Ray hath likewise the Chapel of
Redland in this parish founded by Mr Cosins,\(^90\) near which he
dwells. He is also Canon of Wells. The Chapel yard wall and the
wall of the Chapel of Shirehampton presented in 1763 as out of
repair. The Chapel of Redland worth about £150 a year. A
considerable addition to the value of this Curacy [above the line
living] Mr. Durston the present curate to Mr Ray. John Bryan
licenced to be his curate 18th June 1764 with a salary of £40 a year.
In 1766 families 226, dissenters 16, Methodists 6. their number
decreasing. Two papists, they have not all increased. Chapel at
Shirehampton endowed with £10 a year. Prayers and sermon every
Sunday at the Mother Church and the two Chapels. Prayers
Wednesdays and Fridays and every Saints day at Redland Chapel.
Communion four times at the Mother Church, at Redland Chapel
3 times, at Shirehampton 4 times, number of communicants in the
whole about 120. Children catechised every Lent with Lewis's
Exposition.

In 1767 two papists.
In 1784 families 218. Dissenters 8 or 9. Quakers none. Papists
none. Redland shut up. Feofment of the other lost, no Trustees
remain. 15 li paid to the Minister. Merchants Hall allow 4 li.
Service every Sunday. Resides in the adjoining parish.
1822 R. Carrow curate, resides in the house at Redland and serves
the Chapel which appears to have become a Chapel of Ease to
Westbury. He has a curate at Westbury, Samuel Field and another
for Shirehampton Chapel, T. Allias.

[p.71]
WINTERBORN \(^91\) R. St. Michael. Patron was Mr. Jones now St.
Johns College Oxon. They gave 1000 guineas for it. Kings books
27.7.6. Mr William Cary, see St. Philip & Jacob, the present
Rector hath let it for about 150 li a year for 50 years if he so long
live: but it is worth 250. A very large parish. Mr George Harris
usher of the Grammar School is either curate or officiates occa­
sionally there, a good humoured man. Subject to the visitation of
the Archdeacon of Gloucester. Many Presbyterians and Quakers,
A meeting house for each. Presbyterian teacher, Griffith. They
decline. Quakers increase.
John Saunders D.D. Fellow of St. John's College was instituted in
1759, and serves the cure himself.
In 1766 about 240 families, many Quakers and Presbyterians, and
a few Anabaptists, some Methodists, but rather decreasing. Not

\(^90\) John Cossins founded the chapel in 1740, not consecrated till 1790. H.J.
Wilkins, *Redland Chapel and Redland*, Bristol, 1924.

one papist. Two benefactions, one in bread to the poor, and another to teach poor children to read, under the direction of the minister, churchwardens and overseers. Divine service performed twice on a Sunday, and a sermon in the morning. Twice on Christmas day and Good Friday. Children catechised every Sunday in Lent. Sacrament administered four times in a year. Communicants between thirty and forty, and increasing.

In 1767 one papist a pauper. Upon the death of Dr. Saunders the College presented Edward Warneford B.D. who was instituted by the Bishop September 16 1777.


[pp 72-75 blank]

[pp. 76-427 Dorset Archdeaconry]
APPENDIX

Analysis of Dissenters in the City and Deanery of the diocese of Bristol during the episcopacies of Thomas Secker, Thomas Newton and Christopher Wilson

The following abbreviations have been used in the tables

P = Papist  D = Dissenter  I = Independent  A = Anabaptist  
M = Methodist  PR = Presbyterian  Q = Quaker  J = Jew  
Mor = Moravian  C = Calvinist
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IV A NOTE ON THE DORSET PARISHES IN BISHOP SECKER’S DIOCESE BOOK

EDITED BY
JOSEPH BETTEY
THE DORSET PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE OF BRISTOL IN BISHOP SECKER’S DIOCESE BOOK.

The Archdeaconry of Dorset had been transferred from the ancient diocese of Salisbury to the newly-formed diocese of Bristol in 1542. It was divided into five deaneries, Bridport, Dorchester, Pimperne, Shaftesbury and Whitchurch, and the archdeacons’ registry was kept at Blandford Forum where most of the records were destroyed in the disastrous fire of 1731. There were also in Dorset more than fifty parishes which as peculiars were exempt from the administrative and judicial supervision of the archdeacon; most of these were under the control of the Dean of Salisbury. The nearest Dorset parishes were fifty miles distant from Bristol and episcopal visitations of the archdeaconry were rare. Since the records of the archdeacons’ visitations have perished, only the visitation returns and churchwardens’ present­ments for the peculiars remain to provide evidence of the state of the Church in Dorset, and the notes made by Bishop Secker during his visitation in 1735 and added to by later bishops are therefore particularly valuable. Although the notes on each parish are generally brief, they provide invaluable detail about the clergy, curates, the church buildings, services and dissenters; and since the notes were intended only for episcopal use they are quite uninhibited in their descriptions of the clergy and of parochial conditions.

In a county so remote from episcopal supervision, and with many thinly-populated rural parishes, non-residence by the clergy was extremely common, and many more of the Dorset clergy attracted the bishop’s notice for neglect, drunkenness or other irregularities than did their brethren in Bristol. Non-resident incumbents in Dorset generally appointed curates, but frequently the curates themselves were non-resident or pluralists, and in some cases the incumbent of one parish acted as the curate to another. As in Bristol, the salary paid to curates was generally £40
per annum. Bishop Secker noted that the incumbent of Tarrant Hinton, John Crabb, lived at Breamore in Hampshire, and that the rector of Hammoon acted as his curate and was also curate of Tarrant Monkton. The vicar of Lulworth lived at Ringwood in Hampshire where he was the curate; his curate at Lulworth also served as curate of Steeple and Tyneham. The situation had not changed in 1766, and Bishop Newton recorded that the pluralist rector of the two small parishes of Chilfrome and Wraxall near Cattistock 'has not resided since his institution and lives at Westbourn near Midhurst, Sussex. Mr Osbourn, vicar of Bradpole, is his curate'. At Iwerne Minster Bishop Newton noted that the vicar 'Mr Burgis, lives at Offenham near Evesham. Mr Rumsey of Blandford takes care of the church for half a guinea each Sunday'. The rector of Chelborough lived on another benefice in Hampshire; his curate was the pluralist incumbent of Askerswell and Symondsbury, so that services were held at Chelborough only once a fortnight. The vicar of Wyke Regis had been given permission to reside at Windsor 'on account of his wife's ill-health and for the education of his boys at Eton'.

In Dorset as in Bristol, Bishop Secker was careful to record the political attachment of the clergy. Thus Daniel King of Tarrant Gunville was described as 'good, rich, resident, votes with the Whigs'; Thomas Pope of Burstock was said to be 'good, sensible, tory, resident'; and Thomas Ridley of Blandford Forum was 'weak, tory, resident, old'. The bishop was defeated in his enquiry about the political views of James Webb at More Crichell, who 'never declares himself in party matters'.

A curious situation existed at the large parish of Maiden Newton in 1735, for the parish had been without any incumbent at all for several years. The patrons were Sir William Wyndham and Mr Homer, and they presented the incumbent alternately; the living was vacant because they could not agree as to whose turn it was, and occasional services were conducted there by the incumbent of nearby Toller Fratrum.

In the isolation and loneliness of rural Dorset parishes there were many more clerical eccentrics than in Bristol. In reading of these men it must be remembered that there was no provision for clerical ill-health or old age, and that irregularities attracted far more attention than did the activities of those clergy who quietly resided in their parishes and ministered to their congregations. Nonetheless several of the Dorset clergy attracted the notice either of Bishop Secker or later of Bishop Newton for their unusual life and conduct. The vicar of Gussage All Saints, Rees Prosser, was described by Bishop Secker as 'very wicked and drunken. Severely reproved and threatened. To be proceeded against for the next
great fault'. At Hampteston near Wimborne Minster the rector, William Forster, was described as 'a bad man'. He had lived in Wimborne since the parsonage house had burnt down some thirty years ago, although collections had been made and materials given for rebuilding, he had spent the money and sold the material. Charles Dobson, the incumbent of Chettle near Blandford Forum was described by Seeker as '... very drunken and wicked, hath been in jail. I reproved and threatened him severely, he promised to amend and I hear hath behaved well since. To be proceeded against for the first great fault. Parsonage house in bad repair, he was ordered to repair it immediately'. The pluralist incumbent of Fontmell Magna and Fifehead Neville, Dr Thomas Dibben, was described simply by Seeker as 'disordered in the head'. John Sanger, vicar of Milborne St Andrew, was said to have 'drunk too much formerly, is now mad'; Timothy Terrell of Chickerell near Weymouth was summed up as 'good, learned, a little disordered'; while Mr Shuttleworth of Preston was 'scandalously drunken and profane'. Samuel Marsh, the incumbent of Worth Matravers in the Isle of Purbeck, was '... wicked, mad, now on board a man of war. His wife and 4 children receive the income. Mr Pope of Corfe Castle serves the parish for 5s 0d a week to their satisfaction'. Perhaps the most eccentric of all the eighteenth-century Dorset clergy was William Morgan, vicar of Piddletrenthide who was described by Bishop Newton in 1766. During his varied career Morgan had been curate of the fashionable London church of St George's, Hanover Square, then tutor to the Earl of Ferrars who was hanged for murder; later he had become a Quaker and had preached in Bristol, Worcester and elsewhere, he was then employed as a government spy abroad. Finally he had returned to the Church of England as vicar of the remote parish of Piddletrenthide. Newton noted that Morgan was 'a most strange, wild man, with some parts, and, I am afraid, of very indifferent life and conversation'.

Unlike many of the Bristol churches, few Dorset parishes realised Seeker's ideal of divine service twice each Sunday together with regular weekday prayers. Largely as a result of the widespread non-residence and pluralism of both incumbents and curates, there was only one service each Sunday in most Dorset churches, and very few weekday services. Holy Communion was generally celebrated no more than four times a year; the number of communicants in each parish was generally very low indeed, and it is evident that in most parishes only a small minority of parishioners ever received the sacrament. There were a few exceptions to this general picture. At the ancient collegiate foundation of Wimborne Minster in 1735 there were daily services
with four singing men and four choristers; in 1766 Bishop Newton commented upon the regular services and large numbers of communicants at Wareham where the historian of Dorset, John Hutchins, was the rector; at Dorchester there were two services each Sunday, prayers on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and Holy Communion was celebrated on the first Sunday in each month to as many as 200 communicants. But such a number of services or of communicants was very exceptional. There are no other references to the parochial activities of the clergy, apart from the occasional catechising of children, generally during Lent. There is only one reference to music. This was added to Secker’s Diocese Book in c1750, possibly by Bishop John Conybeare (Bishop of Bristol 1750–56). It concerns a dispute between the village musicians and the rector at Melbury Osmund over the ‘singing of psalms with various instruments’. The quarrel was settled by the Bishop forbidding the use of such instruments in church, ‘and both parties promised to live in concord for the future’. This dispute is of interest because Thomas Hardy’s mother came from Melbury Osmund, and it was her stories which formed such an important basis for what Hardy was to write about ‘Mellstock’ and especially for his novel *Under the Greenwood Tree*. In view of the important part which village bands, musician and choirs played in the church life of Dorset, it is strange that no other references to them occur in Secker’s book.

In a few places in Dorset older traditions in the conduct of services evidently continued. For example at Broadwindsor in 1735 Bishop Secker found that the ancient custom was for the parish clerk to read one of the lessons, a practice which the Bishop ordered to cease. At Lyme Regis, with its strongly Puritan tradition and memories of strenuous resistance to the royal forces during the Civil War and of fervent support for the Duke of Monmouth in 1685, Bishop Secker wrote that

Incumbent Mr Syms, good, his predecessor, Mr Hall et had been minister there 60 years, seldom used the surplice or conformed in any respect strictly to the rules of the church. This did not lessen the number of Dissenters, and now ten out of 16 and the generality of the Town are such.

Lyme Regis still retained the practice of the Commonwealth period, and the communion table was placed in the middle of the chancel, ‘... the Communion Table not set altarwise, but with a rail quite round it in the middle of the Chancell’.

As in Bristol, an interesting feature of the Diocesan Book is the information which it provides about Dissent. The older forms of Dissent were strong in Dorset, especially in some of the towns
such as Dorchester, Weymouth, Shaftesbury and Bridport which had been staunchly Puritan during the seventeenth century. At Wyke Regis just outside Weymouth in 1735 there were 200 families of Presbyterians, 8 of Quakers, and 4 of Anabaptists; at Bridport there were 92 families of Presbyterians, 11 of Quakers, and 7 of Anabaptists. There were 33 families of dissenters at Blandford Forum in 1735 with their own meeting house, and the 300 or so dissenters at Wareham with their own meeting house were explained by Secker by the fact that the 'former Rector was a Lunatick and this occasioned the increase in Presbyterians'. There are few references to Methodists by Bishop Newton in 1766, perhaps because of the strength of the other dissenting churches, or because of the difficulty of distinguishing the early Methodists who continued to attend the services of the Church of England. Only at Shaftesbury where John Wesley preached on several occasions were more than a few Methodists reported. There were in Dorset several Catholic landowning families such as the Arundells, Welds, Husseys and Webbs, and numerous Catholic families were to be found in the areas around their mansions. At Marnhull the Hussey's house was described by Secker as 'a great resort of papists on Sundays', and there were 22 Catholics and 2 priests in the parish. Mass was celebrated at the Arundells' house at Chideock where there were 15 Catholic families, as well as many others in the adjacent villages. Likewise more than 20 Catholics from Shaftesbury were said to attend Mass at the Arundells' other mansion at Wardour Castle. Sir John Webb, the landowner at Canford near Poole, was a Catholic, and there were said to be about 30 Catholic families there in 1735. At Lulworth in 1766 more than a third of the inhabitants were said to be Catholics under the protection of the Weld family.

As in Bristol, most of the church buildings of Dorset seem to have been in a reasonable state of repair, and it is generally only minor defects which are noted by the bishops in the Diocesan Book. In 1735 the chancel at South Perrott was noted as being 'much decayed by the Rector's negligence', but it was in good repair in 1766. On the Island of Portland the old church, St Andrew's, was badly in decay in 1735, but in 1766 the fine new church of St George's was consecrated by Bishop Newton. At Cerne Abbas Bishop Secker complained that the 'Outside of the church is grown over with weeds, which I have ordered to be taken away'; later he added a note that the work had been carried out and the church pointed. At Blandford Forum in 1735, Secker saw the ruins of the church which had been destroyed in the great fire four years earlier,
The church burnt with the town, 4 June 1731, consisted of 3 large Isles and 2 chancells, all covered with Lead, and had a tower with a leaded shaft or small spire with 5 bells, a clock and chimes.

The re-built church on the same site was completed by 1760. Only two churches are described as being in a really bad state of repair, both were adjacent to Weymouth where the large number of Dissenters were unwilling to spend money on the upkeep of parish churches. At Wyke Regis in 1735 the church was said to be ‘in very bad repair, dangerous going to it, timber both in tower and church rotten. They are now mending the South Isle, but being chiefly Dissenters do the work unwillingly . . . seats infested and rotted with droppings, no proper carpet for the Communion table . . .’ Likewise at Radipole in 1766, Bishop Newton complained that ‘The church is decayed and weak, and kept together by iron cramps. . . . The whole Corporation and majority of the town dissenters’.

In conclusion, the general impression of the eighteenth-century church in Dorset left by a careful perusal of the Diocesan Book is that in spite of some examples of scandalous neglect among the clergy, much non-residence and a great deal of pluralism, nonetheless in most parishes the services were conducted even if only once a Sunday, the children were catechised, sermons were preached, the church buildings were kept in repair, and that in spite of the large number of dissenters, most parishioners continued to attend their parish church, although they did not receive the Holy Communion. What the Church lacked, in Dorset as elsewhere, was any fire or zest for missionary activity, but for most of the clergy as for the bishops this was greatly to be desired, for the principal enemy to be feared was not dullness, or the predictability of the Prayer Book service, nor the length and somnolence of the sermon, but ‘enthusiasm’ or fanaticism on the one hand, or anything which smacked of ‘popery’ on the other.
V CALENDAR OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM WILLIAM MILES, A WEST INDIAN MERCHANT IN BRISTOL, TO JOHN THARP, A PLANTER IN JAMAICA, 1770–1789

EDITED BY KENNETH MORGAN
INTRODUCTION

There were extensive commercial connections between Bristol and the West Indies in the eighteenth century. Some Bristol merchants spent the early part of their careers in the Caribbean and a good many later owned plantations there. Bristolians were engaged in the direct and triangular trades, sending supplies, provisions and slaves to the West Indies and bringing back sugar and other tropical produce. By the mid-eighteenth century Bristol, with twenty sugar refineries at work, was the leading English sugar market after London. Trade with Jamaica dominated Bristol’s Caribbean commerce. By the 1770s, half of the 20,000 hogsheads of sugar arriving at Bristol each year came from Jamaica and between forty and sixty ships entered Bristol annually from the same source – a larger number of entries to the port than from any other colony or island in the New World.¹

One of the best primary sources on the Bristol-Jamaica trade consists of letters written between 1770 and 1789 by William Miles, a leading West Indian merchant in Bristol, to John Tharp, an important plantation owner in Jamaica. These letters form part of the Tharp Family Papers in the Chippenham Estate Records at the County Record Office, Cambridge. There are fifty-five letters altogether. The return letters from Tharp to Miles apparently no longer survive.² The correspondence written by Miles to Tharp is

¹ This paragraph is based on Kenneth Morgan, ‘Bristol Merchants and the Colonial Trades, 1748–1783’ (Oxford University D.Phil. thesis, 1984), ch.5, which provides a detailed analysis of the Bristol sugar trade in the mid-eighteenth century.

² The references to these letters in the County Record Office, Cambridge are R55/7/122(o) for letters between 1770 and 1777 and R55/7/128(b) for those between 1781 and 1789. There are apparently no further letters from William Miles.
calendared here and substantial extracts are quoted in full in order to provide detailed information on commercial practice in the Bristol-Jamaica trade in the latter half of the eighteenth century. A note on the methods used in preparing the calendar and in transcribing extracts from the letters is given at the end of this introduction. It may be useful, as a prelude, to sketch the biographies of Miles and Tharp and to offer some comments on business matters which are of particular interest in the letters.

William Miles was born in Ledbury, Herefordshire, in 1728. He was apprenticed in Bristol in 1742 and became a burgess of the city in 1749. According to a story, possibly apocryphal, he was the archetype of the self-made merchant. Arriving at Bristol with just three halfpence in his pocket, he travelled in a Jamaican merchantman and, little by little, managed to profit by buying and selling casks of sugar and articles that were in demand in Jamaica. With these savings, so the story goes, he was able to amass sufficient capital to become a merchant in Bristol. We do not know how much of this tale is true; but a contemporary comment reveals that in 1752 Miles 'went as a kind of supercargo to & from Jamaica & that for a course of years, at length became a merchant & settled in Bristol, & became immensely rich.' Miles was certainly acting as a sugar merchant in Bristol by 1764 and by the 1770s he was one of the two leading sugar importers in the city. His status as a merchant led to his becoming President of the Bristol West India Club in 1782. He was also a member of the Bristol Common Council from 1766 to 1803, mayor of the city in 1780, and Warden of the Society of Merchant Venturers in 1789–1790. He had married into a Clifton family in 1766 and was the father of seven children. He became so wealthy that he was able to hand his son, Philip John, a cheque for £100,000 when the latter married in 1795. William Miles died in 1803 but the Miles family maintained prominent trading and banking interests in Bristol for many years into the nineteenth century.

in the collection R55/7 or in the additional deposits of material in the Chippenham Estate Records. There are, however, some papers relating to Miles' interests in the letters of his son Philip John Miles in R55/7/128(c), 6–7.


6 Morgan, 'Bristol Merchants and the Colonial Trades, 1748–1783', pp.352, 363.

7 Fox Bourne, English Merchants, II, p.17; A.B. Beavan, Bristol Lists: Municipal and Miscellaneous (Bristol, 1899), p.302; C.H. Cave, A History of Banking in Bristol from 1750 to 1899 (Bristol, 1899), pp.244–245. This last source provides a pedigree of the Miles family.
John Tharp, by contrast, was born in 1744 into a family owning a plantation in Hanover parish, Jamaica. He was sent to England to be educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, but returned to Jamaica in the 1760s. After his marriage in 1766 he soon began to manage sugar estates on the north side of the island. His central estate was called Good Hope, but he acquired others at regular intervals over the next thirty-five years. Tharp gave vigorous attention to plantation affairs; he became the father of five legitimate and two illegitimate children; he was a member of the House of Assembly in Jamaica from 1772 to 1774; and he later held other public positions in both Jamaica and England. Tharp's first wife died in 1780 and, after ten years as a widower suffering from gout, he planned to retire to England and leave his sons to run the Jamaican properties. In 1792 his Good Hope, Covey, Wales, Lansquinet, Pantre Pant, Potosi, Windsor Pen, Top Hill Pen and Spring Castle estates were together valued at £821,530 in Jamaican currency. In the same year Tharp bought a 6,000 acre estate, Chippenham Park, in Cambridgeshire, England, for £40,691. He remarried in 1794 but, after this marriage ended in separation, he returned to Good Hope in 1802 and remained there until his death in 1804. By that time Tharp was the largest single proprietor of estates in Jamaica. He owned 3,000 slaves on seven large sugar plantations, which covered virtually all the riverside land in Trelawny parish plus land on the south side of the island. In England he owned his Cambridgeshire estate and an elegant house in Portland Place, London. After his death his estates owed over £100,000 to Bristol merchants.

So much for biographical details; what of the business matters discussed in the letters written by Miles to Tharp? The correspondence clearly illustrates the working of the commission trade with the West Indies. In accordance with this system, Tharp shipped his sugar to Miles who was paid a 2½ per cent commission on sales in return for selling the sugar and for carrying out additional services. A variety of tasks were undertaken by the Bristol merchant. Miles purchased miscellaneous supplies in Bristol for Tharp including stills for making rum and copper worms for boiling sugar. He corresponded with Cork merchants who added provisions to the outward cargoes for Jamaica. He dispatched his own ships to

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8 County Record Office, Cambridge, Tharp Family Papers, R84/29, Chippenham Estate Records.


10 See nos. 4, 41.

11 See nos. 2, 3, 4, 19, 40.
carry Tharp's goods between Bristol and Jamaican harbours such as Martha Brae, Lucea and Morant. He insured cargoes for Tharp (for an extra ½ per cent commission) and was keen to receive firm written instructions on this matter. He acted as quasi-banker by accepting bills of exchange drawn on him by Tharp, including some substantial bills for cargoes of slaves. He forwarded sale prices at Bristol for sugar, logwood, pimento and other commodities from the Caribbean. He suggested that adding stone lime to temper sugar and keeping curing houses as hot as possible would improve the quality of sugar produced by Tharp. His business services were further enhanced by friendship with Tharp and by visits to Bristol from members of the Tharp family and mutual friends living in Jamaica.

The correspondence calendared below also throws light on the financial affairs of Miles and Tharp. Miles tried to secure sugar consignments and to increase his profits by making loans at interest to Tharp and other planters. But Miles continually had to endure 'that malignant organism, a West-India debt', whereby planters fell into arrears through a combination of personal extravagance, poor plantation management, exorbitant annuities on existing estates, the purchase of slaves and new estates, the need to cope with debts inherited from previous generations, and falling incomes coupled with rising costs. Miles advanced a great deal of money to planters in Jamaica but persistently found that they became indebted to him, often for thousands of pounds. Tharp's current account alone was debited by Miles for over £4,000 in 1774 and for £8,500 in 1782. In addition, Miles incurred large financial obligations as guarantor for four vessels that delivered slaves to planters in Jamaica and he was obliged to protest many bills of exchange, including one set amounting to £20,000. There was one large debt in particular that caused Miles much anxiety. In 1780 Jamaica was hit by two hurricanes and the estates of Edward Chambers, an uncle of John Tharp, were devastated. Chambers died in the same year and Miles, who held a mortgage on these properties, was left with debts of more than £28,000 on the estates. These liabilities were apparently increased by a further

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12 See nos. 14, 18, 24, 25, 32, 40, 51, 52. 14 See nos. 29, 32, 35, 39. 16 See nos. 3, 36, 45. 18 These aspects of West-India finance are analysed in Richard Pares, *A West-India Fortune* (London, 1950), pp.239–292. The phrase I have quoted can be found on p.239. 19 See nos. 17, 19, 20, 42, 45, 47, 49, 53, 55. 21 See nos. 8, 10, 15, 30, 32, 39, 41. 13 See nos. 3, 20, 50. 15 See nos. 22, 24. 17ibid. 19 See nos. 17, 19, 20, 42, 45, 47, 49, 53, 55. 20 See nos. 8, 34. 22 See nos. 19, 21, 22.
£22,000 during the next six years.\textsuperscript{23} Miles saw these debts as a millstone around his neck; he even felt that they were the cause of a long illness he had experienced.\textsuperscript{24} He had difficulty in satisfying the annuitants on Chambers' properties, but in 1789 he was at least able to foreclose his mortgage on the estates.\textsuperscript{25}

The problems of transatlantic shipping in the final years of the American War of Independence and the nature of the Bristol sugar market are also illuminated by Miles' letters to Tharp. The French and Spanish fleets were prowling in the mouth of the English Channel for much of 1781 and 1782 and the Royal Navy had to defend Jamaica at the Battle of the Saints in the Spring of 1782.\textsuperscript{26} In such circumstances, Miles considered that it was foolhardy for planters such as Tharp to send sugar home with unknown masters and vessels.\textsuperscript{27} The crucial decision for Miles as a shipowner in these years was whether or not to send his vessels with convoy protection. He clearly felt in a dilemma:

If I send out a ship to run it . . . that don't answer, because it does not meet with the approbation of the planters to risque their propertys in running ships. If it goes with convoy, then it is not in my power to hasten the arrivals of the ships, under such convoy, and in that case [they] are always to late.\textsuperscript{28}

After Bristol shipowners became frustrated by convoy delays and found that large fleets were being attacked by enemy privateers, Miles gambled by instructing Tharp to insure the \textit{Lord North} and the \textit{Eagle} to 'run it' home without a convoy.\textsuperscript{29} But in 1781 and 1782 Miles lost five ships either through shipwreck or capture, which led him to adopt a more cautious strategy.\textsuperscript{30} Thus he instructed Tharp to send home a well-armed ship like the \textit{Lord North} as a runner but to dispatch his other ships with a convoy,\textsuperscript{31} and, because of recent ship losses, he fully insured all these vessels.\textsuperscript{32}

As for the Bristol sugar market, the correspondence in the calendar suggests reasons for seasonal and yearly price fluctuations. Thus falling sugar prices in London at times of high imports were likely to induce lower prices at Bristol.\textsuperscript{33} Poor sugar prices at Bristol could occur when the West India fleet arrived en masse,\textsuperscript{34}

\textsuperscript{23} See no. 45.  \\
\textsuperscript{24} See no. 51.  \\
\textsuperscript{25} See nos. 39, 54. Further material on Edward Chambers can be found in the County Record Office, Cambridge, Tharp Family Papers, R84/44, Chippenham Estate Records.  \\
\textsuperscript{26} See nos. 21, 29, 30.  \\
\textsuperscript{27} See nos. 20, 21.  \\
\textsuperscript{28} See no. 29.  \\
\textsuperscript{29} See no. 23.  \\
\textsuperscript{30} See nos. 23, 28, 32, 34.  \\
\textsuperscript{31} See no. 34.  \\
\textsuperscript{32} See no. 35.  \\
\textsuperscript{33} See nos. 13, 16.  \\
\textsuperscript{34} See no. 12.
while good prices could result from the arrival of small sugar cargoes at an understocked market. 35 The greatest fluctuation in such prices occurred in wartime. For most of the American War of Independence sugar prices increased rapidly but also widened in range from top to bottom. 36 High sugar prices led to a fall in consumption by 1781. 37 This in turn reduced the number of sugar refineries in operation in the city; it led to slow sales; and it caused speculators to invest in government securities rather than in the purchase of sugar. 38 These factors plus the importation into Bristol of large amounts of foreign sugar from Tortola and St. Thomas led to fall in prices in 1782. 39 In this situation Miles found that the high costs of freight and sugar duties prohibited any attempts to undercut the prices offered by rival commission agents in Bristol. 40 The low prices persisted into 1783, when peace was declared, but Miles felt that more certain trading conditions after the cessation of hostilities would remedy the situation. 41

The letters written by Miles to Tharp are most useful for providing details on the West India commission trade and the business problems encountered by a major shipowner and sugar factor in Bristol, but it is hoped that historians will find that they include other items of interest. In compiling the calendar I have identified the major people mentioned in the letters. All footnote comments where authorities are not cited are based on internal evidence in the letters. In extracts quoted in full, the original spelling and abbreviations are maintained; punctuation is also left as in the manuscripts except for the occasional modernisation where the meaning would otherwise have been unclear. Capitalisation is in accordance with modern practice. All prices mentioned, unless otherwise stated, are in sterling, using old shillings and pence. Any inserted words in the calendar and in the quoted extracts are given in square brackets.

In preparing the calendar for this volume, I received helpful advice from Mr. J.M. Farrar and Dr. P.C. Saunders of the County Record Office, Cambridge. I am grateful for their assistance. I would also like to thank Mrs. D.M. Bacon of Chippenham Park, Ely, Cambridgeshire, for permission to publish material from the Chippenham Estate papers, of which she is the trustee.

35 See no. 5.
36 Prices which substantiate this point are presented and analysed in Morgan, 'Bristol Merchants and the Colonial Trades, 1748–1783', pp.280–282.
37 See no. 19.
38 ibid.
39 See nos. 32, 34.
40 See no. 34.
41 See no. 35.
CALENDAR OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. 7 OCTOBER 1770

Miles informs Tharp about goods to be shipped to him on the Swan. He comments on sugar received from Tharp:

I ask 38/6 pc for your $H$, but for the $V$ they are very bad indeed, of the colour & consistence of thick tar. I have sold some of them for 22/6 [but] the best cannot bring 34/ unless a favorable turn happens.

Miles is worried that war with Spain is likely to occur and that the Spanish intend to attack the north side of Jamaica.42

2. 25 JANUARY 1771

Hopes that Tharp received all his goods safely on the Swan. Encloses sales of 35 hogsheads of Tharp’s sugar; the net proceeds amount to £729 6s. 0d. The remaining 25 hogsheads were ‘so ordinary that I have not had it in my power to sell them.’ Miles refers to provisions sent to Tharp on the King George; the invoice and bill of lading for this shipment will be provided by Mr. Gray of Cork. Miles comments that

our sugar market is quite flat and nothing doing, owing to the unexpected turn to our publick affairs, the Spanish Court having signed a disavowall by their ambassador of the proceeding of their Governor in taking Falkland island, which they are ready to restore in the same condition as when it was taken.43

Miles hopes that Tharp will have a good sugar crop.

3. 23 AUGUST 1771

Notes that the Swan arrived ‘before your advice for to make £500

42 There was an Anglo-Spanish dispute in 1770 over claims to the Falkland Islands. War seemed likely by the summer of that year, but was averted when the Spanish failed to gain French support. See Paul Langford, Modern British Foreign Policy: The Eighteenth Century, 1688–1815 (London, 1976), pp.159–160.

43 See note to letter 1.
insurance on your sugar by her came to my hands, by which event your insurance was saved.’ Complains that last year’s sugars from Tharp were very green and that those from the Wales estate were particularly bad — so bad that Miles has had difficulty in selling them. Mentions that ‘your brother Brissett’ is here with ‘your sister, their daughter and Miss Campbell, sister to J. Campbell of Salt Spring’ for nearly two months to take the Hotwell water. Three visitors, together with ‘Mr. Lamb’44 and his lady’, have dined with Miles. Miles comments on sugar sales:

I have this year sold 180 hhds of Batchelors Hall & Richmond sugar for upwards of 40/ pc round, nearly 40/6. The tierce of sugar you mention & desire me to take notice of is not so good as about 7 hhds in the parcell of Wales sugar this year, which if I sold separate might yield 42/, but the parcell together cannot yield more than 37/6 together, many being very moist & ordinary. Take a lesson from Lamb’s method of curing and you will do well.

Miles mentions that 49 hogsheads and 2 tierces of sugar have been received in good order from the Swan. He notes that Captain Chubb has bought a little horse for Tharp’s son. Miles will get supplies ready and send the Swan to Cork for provisions. He adds that ‘Mr. Gray of Cork has declined all business, but I will direct Mr. [Richard] Hare of Cork, the person I have long dealt with, to supply you with the best provisions that can be procured.’ Miles comments that he will not insure any goods ordered by Tharp from Bristol and Cork unless he receives specific orders. The letter ends with a plea for firmer written instructions about making insurance.

4. 28 SEPTEMBER 1771

Tharp’s order for plantation supplies has arrived too late for goods to be dispatched on the Swan. Miles will try to procure a still and worm ordered by Tharp even though it ‘will take up a great deal of time to get it well manufactured.’ Miles refers to sales of 25 hogsheads of sugar from the Swan; the net proceeds are £348 5s. 11d. He mentions that sundries shipped on the Swan, John Chubb master, for Martha Brae amount to £221 0s. 10d. He again notes that provisions will be shipped by Richard Hare of Cork who ‘has served me well for twenty years.’ Miles concludes by remarking that

If you can dispatch Chubb very early in next year, there is a

44 Lamb managed one of Tharp’s sugar estates.
Correspondence from Miles to Tharp

likelyhood of sugar yielding a good price. I am now building a very fine snow of about 450 hhds for Capt. Chubb that will be ready for him on his return home, and if you think proper you may hold ½ part of her. She will cost to sea about £3,200. I have wrote Harbart Newton Jarrett Esqr. and made him a like offer. I shall hold the other half. I shall not engage with any other persons till I hear from you both on this head.

5. 3 DECEMBER 1771

Refers to sales of 49 hogsheads and 2 tierces of Tharp’s sugar from the Swan; the net proceeds are £797 4s. 6d. Miles considers this a good sale, but the short crops made in the Windward Islands ‘has made a short import, and by this means an advance in price, so that there is now a good appearance of sugars yielding a good price in next year as all must be consumed, or nearly, before new can arrive.’ Notes that Mr. Lamb’s sugars turned out well and might fetch ‘43/ pc round.’

6. 24 DECEMBER 1771

Refers to sundries to be shipped to Tharp on the Eagle, John Smyth master, for Jamaica; the goods cost £57 16s. 3d. These commodities complement those sent on the Swan, so Miles has asked Captain Chubb to assist Captain Smyth with their delivery. Mentions goods supplied to a William McDonald. Considers that ‘early sugars will certainly sell well as everything will sell before new can arrive.’

7. 26 OCTOBER 1772

Refers to sales of 40 hogsheads and 10 tierces of Tharp’s sugar from the Swan; the net proceeds are £1,823 1s. 5d. Notes that goods shipped on the new ship Sally, John Chubb master, for Martha Brae amount to £298 12s. 7d. Tharp has a one-eighth share in this vessel. Miles needs to know whether Tharp wants to insure his share of the ship in the future. He hopes that the Sally will make two voyages next year, for ‘we must keep her employd now she is good [so] that we may make her earn a little money,’ He adds that ‘there is no knowing as yet what the new ship will cost,’ but he will keep Tharp informed about the matter. Turning to a different subject, Miles states that Mr. [William] Blake45 ‘has

45 The brother-in-law of John Tharp. Blake, who was often short of money, mortgaged Deans Valley estate to Tharp in 1770. See Furness, The Tharp Estates in Jamaica ch. I, pp.8–9.
drawn upon me in your favour for £1,000 stg.; the sugars he has shipped may net about £620. People in general draw for so much more than their goods can net that there is no such thing as being able to accommodate their wants. As it is in your favor I believe I must depend upon you for payment of the balance that will be due to me.

A postscript notes that ‘there has been distressfull times in London; indeed, many worthy familes [have been] ruined.’

8. 18 MAY 1774

Refers to Tharp’s account current made up to 31 March 1774, when the balance owed to Miles was £4,346 5s. 7d. Miles has returned one of Mr. Blake’s bills protested in Tharp’s favour for £265 13s. 4d. Miles says this occurred because he was unable to pay the bill while his sugars remained unsold. Miles awaits the quick arrival of the Sally for he hopes ‘to do handsomely by her this year.’ He adds that ‘great crops of sugar are expected from all our islands. The buyers know it & expect it to be very cheap, to tempt them to buy, which I am fearfull will greatly lessen the net proceeds.’

9. 9 JUNE 1774

Mentions that Tharp’s son and Mr. [Edward] Chambers’ children are staying at London with a Mrs. Roberts. Miles has entrusted Tharp’s order for a still and head to a coppersmith. Following Tharp’s orders, Miles has insured 300 hogsheads of sugar sent on the Sally for the sum of £3,000. The cost of insurance is £135 13s. 0d. Miles considers that reports of very wet weather ‘will lessen your crops on the North side, as well as hurt the quality of the sugar.’

10. 4 JULY 1774

Has received 210 hogsheads and 40 tierces of Tharp’s sugar, in good order. Comments on the quality of sugar received from different plantations:

   Many of Wales & Good Hope [are] very brown but strong. Many of Lambskinnot wants more strength. Try Bristol stone

48 A misspelling of Lansquinet estate.
Correspondence from Miles to Tharp

lime and [add] more fire to boil it off quicker. These remarks I submit to your judgment as many of Lambskinnot sugars are tough and not cured. This got over would make them fine sugars indeed.

Miles states that he does not want to be in ‘advance’ to Jamaicans for large sums of money; last year he had to ‘protest many thousand pounds and that [I] must do to make and keep myself independent.’

11. 11 JULY 1774

Has insured 200 hogsheads of Tharp’s sugar sent on the Swan, John Chambers master, for Bristol for the sum of £2,000. The cost of insurance is £90 13s. Od. Miles will deal with Tharp’s memorandum for supplies. He congratulates Tharp for giving quick dispatch to the Sally and the Swan.

12. 15 JULY 1774

The Alsop, Captain Harvey master, has arrived at Bristol and brought a bill of lading for 13 hogsheads of Tharp’s sugar. Miles mentions his luck in selling sugars brought by the Sally for ‘the London market has been falling, which has affected this . . . [a] full 2/ pc and I greatly fear will fall 2 to 3/ pc more; for the import into England must be great and that all the buyers know.’ Miles wishes that the annuities Messrs. Mure, Son & Atkinson⁴⁹ owe Tharp could be paid off. He suggests that Long, Drake & Long⁵⁰ would prove suitable London correspondents for Tharp. He hopes that Tharp will ship some sugar to him this year on the new ship Anna Maria, James Turner master. Miles will accept bills from Mr. Blake for £1,000, but for no more. He notes that Blake’s sugars last year were poor in quality and that Tharp should ‘put him in the way of giving his sugars a good body.’ Nevertheless, he has sold Blake’s sugars at a higher price than they would fetch in London.

13. 20 SEPTEMBER 1774

Miles has received 166 hogsheads of Tharp’s sugar from the Swan. He reports that the Anna Maria has been wrecked near Cornwall on her homeward voyage. He has sent Captain Chubb and another man to see what can be salvaged. Miles also reports the loss of the

⁵⁰ Merchants, 17 Bishopsgate Street, London. ibid., p.112.
Elizabeth on the Welsh coast en route from Bristol to Cork to collect provisions. The master, mate, pilot and 23 others have drowned. There were possibly 500 hogsheads of sugar on board, but only about 120 hogsheads were insured. Miles comments that to have two such fine ships destroy'd, by which I suffer severely, and to have all my money in Jamaica, is such an affliction upon me I can scarce support. Add to that the great glut of sugars and very slow sale: that drives me almost mad. I have been greedy by keeping my sugars at to high a price; now can't sell at any price. The London market is powering in sugar upon us bought there at 24 to 30/ pc. Your bills I must and will pay, and Mr. Blake I have mostly honor'd seeing many are in your favor . . . I must drop two thirds of my correspondents or be ruined. There is no going on to advance. People will soon have enough to do to sell, as the immense quantity made overstock every market. I have been very fortunate indeed in the sale of yours.

14. 7 OCTOBER 1774

Miles has chartered the Swan to Grenada and from thence to Martha Brae. The master, John Chambers, has instructions to secure a return cargo from Tharp and other friends of Miles in Jamaica. Miles considers that 'prime sugar to arrive early may do, but what will be done with the increased quantities of sugar more than can be consumed I am at a loss to know. The sugar market here [is] exceeding [ly] bad, the London market much worse.' Miles mentions that the Anna Maria was lost through lack of care by those on board. The charges incurred in dealing with the wreck will cost more than the value of the sugar saved. Miles requests early advice about making insurance on sugar cargoes and advises Tharp to insure all the sugar he ships. He comments, in relation to this, that 'there was an account of the Anna Maria loss 16 days before your letter came to hand.' He states that he can no longer assist Mr. Blake and that he has 'no wish to extend but lessen my commission business. To have a large capital and to have it all out in Jamaica is to much.' Tharp has sent 20 hogsheads of sugar to Craig & Morrell of Philadelphia; the net proceeds are to be remitted to Miles. Miles refers to sales of 210 hogsheads and 40 tierces of sugar from the Sally; the net proceeds are £4,329 2s. 0d. Some hogsheads sold were very heavy so they were weighed and the brokers recommended that the buyers, Edward Garlick & Co., should be allowed more tare than in the sale. Refers to

51 Sugar refiners, 7 Counterslip, Bristol. Sketchley's Bristol Directory (1775), p.35.

52 This is the difference between the gross weight and the net weight of a cask.
Correspondence from Miles to Tharp

sundries shipped on the Sally, John Chubb master, for Martha Brae, amounting to £1,175 16s. 2d., on which £1,070 is insured. Also refers to 34 hogsheads of sugar sold from the Swan; the net proceeds are £648 5s. 8d.

15. 20 NOVEMBER 1774

The Andalusia, carrying 12 hogsheads of Tharp's sugar, has put in at Marblehead, near Boston, to be condemned. The sugar was transferred to the General Wolfe, Hugh Hill master, and has now reached Bristol. Miles notes that Mr. Blake will soon owe him between £1,200 and £1,500 'yet many more of his bills has appeared which I cannot pay.' Miles again mentions the loss of the Anna Maria. He considers that if the ship had sailed a fortnight or month sooner it might have avoided bad weather. He comments that

the sugar market in London is terrible. From the prices ordinary and bad sugars are selling at there, I suppose many hundred hhds will not net more than from £8 to £10 p hhd. I have some will not yield 27/ pc, so that you see how essential it will be to make fine sugars. All your sugars of this year have a noble grain which I assure you has been much in your favor.'

Miles advises Tharp to keep his curing houses as hot as possible when the sugars are curing, so that the treacle will run off freely and give colour to the sugar. He mentions that reputable Bristol sugar bakers consider that damp air at night impairs the quality of the sugar produced. He gives advice about fitting hoops and staves into sugar hogsheads. Miles finally states that he has been 'drawn upon so unmercifully' by people in Jamaica that he will be 'obliged to protest very near £20,000.'

16. 5 DECEMBER 1774

Refers to sales of 13 hogsheads of Tharp's sugar from the Alsop; the net proceeds are £205 0s. 6d. Comments that 'sugars are selling in London at 24 to 30/ pc. The market there [is] quite glutted with low & brown sugar, which has lowered this market prodigiously.'

17. 26 JUNE 1777

Miles is recovering from a severe illnesss. He includes some routine information about settling a debt for the Old Hope estate. He notes that the Commerce is entirely owned by him and that it is insured for a reasonable sum even though it is an unarmed vessel. This is because insurers know 'all masters in defenceless vessels
will keep with and not quit their convoy on any acct. To sail singly or without convoy it is otherwise: then an armed vessel has the preference greatly.' Turning to the matter of sterling debts in Jamaica, Miles states that 'payment should be made so that the person the money is owing to in England should always receive his principal and interest up to the day of payment.' Miles has settled debts owed him by McDonalds & Montague James junior in this manner. Captain Thomas Salmon of Miles' ship Eagle has called on Mrs. Reid and son and Mrs. Tharp and her children in London. Miles has arranged two sets of insurance for Tharp. He has paid £244 9s. 0d. to insure £1,500 on 110 hogsheads of sugar and 40 puncheons of rum on the Commerce, John Ardis master, for London. He has also paid £358 4s. 0d. to insure £2,200 on 220 hogsheads of sugar on the Good Hope, John Munt master, for Bristol. A return of 7 per cent will be paid on these premiums if the vessels arrive safely. Miles provides routine material about a bond of Sir Charles Price and bills of exchange involving Mr. Chambers and a Mr. Vernon. 210 hogsheads of Chambers' sugar has recently arrived at Bristol. Miles concludes by noting that his wife has given birth to a baby boy.

18. 8 DECEMBER 1777

Goods to the value of £250 4s. 6d. plus provisions from Cork will be shipped to Tharp on the Good Hope, John Munt master, for Martha Brae. Notes that the 'sugar market [is] quite at a stand. [There is] little sold of the quantity imported in the last fleet. Sugar has fallen in price in London 7/ pc.'

19. 10 MARCH 1781

The Good Hope and the Sally and 35 other Bristol ships were at Cork on 20 February 'where several of them had been waiting for the convoy almost four months.' The Lord North will sail for Cork in about ten days to take in provision orders. Refers to the deaths of Mrs. Tharp and Mr. Chambers. Miles comments on Chambers' affairs:

I believe you will find it absolutely necessary for you to take possession of the estates for me as mortgagee to prevent the creditors tearing it to pieces. How Mr. Chambers could run himself so much in debt when I turn over to my books to see the enormous sums I have from time to time paid on his account surprizes me.

Tharp, George Brissett and Miles are executors for Chambers' property in Jamaica. The Lord North has damaged some of her
cargo in bad weather. Refers to sales of 60 hogsheads of sugar from the Deans Valley estate, the property of William Blake. These sugars arrived on the Bristol; the net proceeds are £1,390 19s. 1d. Miles has sent supplies to Jamaica and has referred complaints about provisions to Cuthbert & Hare of Cork. He has dismissed John Webb as master of the Lord North for being too generous with wages to crew members picked up in the Caribbean: ‘to give 35 guineas to his runners home at a time when the whole of the ships to this port only give from 10 to 15 guineas p man by the run has been ruin to his owners.’ Miles is thinking of sending the Lord North, the Eagle and the Mary without convoy so that Tharp can receive supplies in good time. He comments on the Bristol sugar market:

I have not sold one hhd of your sugar yet. Your 🍽 are very brown; your casks not so heavy as usual. All I shall be able to make of your sugar more than 55/ will go in aid of keeping. The consumption has lessened so much that the advance is little indeed compared with my ideas taking in the effects of the hurricane. The fact is, we used to have 18 to 22 sugar houses fully at work; now there is not as much refin’d as eight of those houses could do if fully worked. This occasions a slow and heavy sale and the advance nothing comparatively speaking. Another thing operates against it. The speculators that had money all employ it in government security’s. Another thing [is that] all our sugar bakers agreed and would not buy a cask of sugar unless the seller consented for the casks to be tared. I stood out against that till I was deserted and left alone, and by the sugar bakers perseverance I was obliged to comply or keep all my sugar. That custom now being introduced it will ever be so. The buyers have been aiming to effect this for these twelve years past.

Miles notes that [Edward] Knowles will owe him £10,000 when he makes up his account. He has sent 200 guineas to Tharp, as requested. Captain Thomas Trenham of London has drawn on Miles for £500 for Tharp’s one-eighth part of the Neptune. Tharp wants his account kept separate from that of Mr. Blake. Miles thinks Captain Chubb is foolhardy in not leaving the command of the Sally for that of the Lord North ‘as the chance of prizes is something. Salmon in my ship Eagle shared upwards of £500 Stg. prize money for the prize he took going out last voyage.’ Miles refers to the will of Edward Chambers and suggests that Mrs. Chambers should live frugally in England until the financial position of her deceased husband’s estate improves. Miles would like to help the widow and her children, but he wants to avoid
further expense on Chambers’ property in Jamaica. Miles tells Tharp that he cannot get him a plumber, blacksmith or coppersmith because ‘the Navy & Army take all the young and unsettled people.’ He refers to money owed him by the widow of Montague James. Miles had originally lent this money ‘after the misfortunes that befel Serocold & Jackson.’\(^5^3\) He expects a short sugar crop this year because of the hurricane, but he hopes that sugar prices will not fall too much. He comments that ‘your account of Montague James and William Henry Ricketts is dreadfull. I thought J.R. James’s debt to me had been secured and was to be paid here on the sale of an estate to Fowler, Vaughan & Co.’\(^5^4\) Miles notes the expense of damage done by the hurricane to Chambers’ property. The only solution seems to be for Tharp to take possession of the property for Miles as mortgagee. Miles has not yet sold any of Tharp’s recent consignments of sugar but, by keeping it back, he thinks he might gain from 2/ to 4/ per hundredweight on this occasion.

20. 4 JULY 1781

Refers to sale of 36 hogsheads of Tharp’s sugars from the Good Hope and 152 hogsheads from the Baltic Merchant; the respective net proceeds are £1,020 10s. 7d. and £4,285 11s. 11d. Mentions that John Coghlan\(^5^5\) wants to send a slave vessel to the Gold Coast and from thence to Martha Brae. Miles notes that he is mayor of Bristol until 29 September 1781 and that his correspondence is therefore not so punctual as usual. Miles briefly refers to his ships the Sally, the Good Hope, the Mary and the Eagle, all of which are engaged in the Bristol-Jamaica trade. He also mentions several ships which have arrived at Bristol from Jamaica and sympathises with friends in Jamaica who shipped sugar on the missing Adventure. He again emphasises the need for clear orders about insurance in wartime. He refers to money owed him from Jamaica by Mr. Knowles, Mr. [Thomas] Adlam and the deceased Edward Chambers. He mentions that sugar duties are nearly 11s. 9d. per hundredweight.\(^5^6\) On shipping sugar he considers that

\(^5^4\) Probably John Fowler, merchant. Wine Street, Bristol, and Richard Vaughan & Co., linen merchants, Small Street, Bristol. Bailey’s Western and Midland Directory . . . (Birmingham, 1783).
\(^5^6\) The duty on muscovado sugar for home consumption was raised from 6s. 7\(\frac{3}{4}\)d. per cwt., set in 1779, to 11s. 8\(\frac{3}{4}\)d. in 1781. Lowell Joseph Ragatz, The Fall of the Planter Class in the British Caribbean, 1763–1833: A Study in Social and Economic History (London, 1928), p.164.
Correspondence from Miles to Tharp

upon recollection you and everybody else will find that shipping your goods upon precarious bottoms seldom answer. In the present circumstances of tryall you will experience a loss on your goods p Adventure and Lion. I promise you I would prefer keeping my crop a year round rather than ship my goods on ships and with masters I know nothing off.

Miles hopes to settle Chambers' Jamaican affairs. He hoped Sir John Taylor would persuade his brother Simon to buy Prosper estate, but the brothers declined because of the uncertain wartime conditions. Miles is trying to settle a transaction between Chambers and Mr. [John ]Wedderburn about a bill sent to the latter by John Parkinson.

21. 18 August 1781

Expresses pleasure that the Sally and the Good Hope have arrived safely in Jamaica, but explains that, on this occasion, he did not send these ships to Cork for provisions because

those ships might not have had time to do it before the convoy sailed, by that means might have gone light, and at [the] same time not have carried your provision; for the convoy was given out to sail the first wind after the 1st January when in truth it did not sail until 22d Febry.

Notes that the unfortunate Lion on which you shipt twenty hh’ds of your sugar will not be the only loss you have met with by shipping on strange ships and masters that are little known; for the Adventure on whom you had twenty hh’ds more of your sugar is taken, the Saint George did arrive, which was next to a miracle, for there was such a set of poor starved wretches on board when she arrived that the risque was well worth 70 pr cent. You might at that time have had the Eagle or Mary to have dispatched with that convoy; ships and masters that you might have depended upon. The loss must be felt severely by those vessels, not having an order to do one single shilling insurance on either of them.

Commiserates with the problem of poor crops caused by dry weather on the north side of Jamaica. Hopes that the Lord North arrived on time with Tharp’s provisions. Thanks Tharp for making up the breach between Miles and a Mr. Atherton. Miles is uncertain what to do about Chambers’ affairs; but he is unwilling

to pay any more debts on Chambers' behalf. Notes that Chambers' account with him on 31 March 1780 was £28,224 6s. 2d. By 30 June 1781 Miles was owed an extra £2,101 5s. 2d. Mentions other people who have claims on Chambers' estates and hopes money can be raised by selling some of the estates. States that Tharp has shipped 40 hogsheads of sugar on the Mary, Abraham Frizwell master, for Bristol without insurance. Miles has insured £2,800 on 140 hogsheads of Tharp's sugar on the Good Hope, John Munt master, for Bristol; the cost is £455 14s 0d. He has also insured £2,520 on 120 hogsheads of sugar on the Sally, John Chubb master, for Bristol; the cost is £410 4s. 0d. Hopes he did not injure Mr. Stogdon when he sent protested bills to Adlam to recover. Fears that Chambers' property will not pay the debts owed on it. Thomas James has been appointed to deal with the property. Refers further to Chambers' will, his property in Jamaica, and a bill sent to John Wedderburn by John Parkinson.

I note your opinion of the next years crop, wishing me to send my ships out early, or they may go again light the next year. Heaven send them to arrive safe, being at this moment in the greatest anxiety for the whole of the fleet, having had expresses that the combined fleets of France and Spain, consisting of 49 sail of the line, being off the chops of the channel, for the purpose of intercepting the Jamaica fleet.58

Considers that 'the present are fearful times to enter into business where nothing but ruin surrounds us. The planters should encourage ships of force to run it, for coming in fleets, such as is daily expected & miscarry, merchant and planter may be ruined at once.'

22. 18 OCTOBER 1781

At 30 July 1781 the balance owed by Tharp to Miles was £12,474 3s. 10d. At 30 May 1781 William Blake of Deans Valley estate owed Miles £371 7s. 4d. Notes that all ships from the Windward Islands have arrived safely at Bristol. The French fleet has returned to Brest and the Spanish to Cadiz.59 States that 'it is dreadfully severe upon me to have all my ships at Jamaica subject to the hurricane season, and little more than half full.' Refers to a new partnership between Alexander Campbell60 and John Whit-

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59 *ibid*.
60 Tharp's brother-in-law.
Correspondence from Miles to Tharp

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Correspondence from Miles to Tharp

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taker. Miles has had four bills drawn on him by the latter. These have been noted, but Miles will pay them when they are due. Miles has paid Andrew Martin's bill for £70, for which Tharp acted as endorser. At 4 August 1780 Martin's account showed him debited to Miles for £10 18s 7d. Edward Chambers owed Miles £28,224 6s. 2d. on the principal of a mortgage and £2,773 18s. 8d. on current account at 30 June 1781. There are additional sums owed by Chambers to Miles. Edward Knowles owed a balance of £10,067 7s. 1d. to Miles at 30 May 1781. Miles wants this account sent to Mr. Adlam 'that he may proceed to foreclose the mortgages on both his Mr. Knowles's estates for I can not go on any longer in this way.' Sugar is currently in great demand at Bristol. The prices range from 58/ to 66/ per hundredweight, with very fine sugar selling at 68/. Miles gives current prices in Bristol for rum, cotton, fustic, mahogany, white ginger, pimento and logwood. He notes that £50,000 would nearly buy '£100,000 stock in the 3 p cents bank consol, that the war before the last cost more than the stock; so much for the decline of national credit.' Joseph Brissett has received £200 from Miles. Captain Watson has been given command 'of a fine new three decker belonging to Messrs. Meyler & Maxse, called the Orange Valley, the first three deck ship ever built here, at least in my time.' Hopes that Tharp can provide a return cargo for the Lord North either to Bristol or London, 'for to lay unemployed is sure destruction.'

23. 5 DECEMBER 1781

Provides details about the will of Edward Chambers. Mentions that his ships the Good Hope, Sally and Eagle have arrived at Bristol, but the Mary has been wrecked on the Welsh coast with 'everything lost and four of her crew perished, owing entirely to too great a security and anxious to get to an anchor a tide before the rest of the fleet.' Tharp has lost 40 hogsheads of sugar on the Mary. The Lion has arrived at Bristol with 90 hogsheads of sugar from Jamaica. This sugar 'is in a most miserable wet condition owing to the ships making so much water.' The Adventure has been taken. Miles fears that many ships bound from Jamaica to London have miscarried. He mentions that large fleets should not attempt to leave Jamica in the winter through the Windward passage. Miles suggests that Tharp should put his sugar on board the Lord North

and give her 2/ pc more freight to run it than to others unarmed

61 Richard Meyler and John Maxse, West Indian merchants, The Exchange, Bristol. Bailey's Western and Midland Directory... (1783).
p fleet, and get my ship *Eagle* to run it with her. Their insurance would be done for at most 3 guineas more than p convoy. It will answer your end and all the gentlemen concerned. Encourage that ship and keep her going, for I would not furnish such another. . . . had you taken up the *Eagle* and *Mary* immediately on their arrival at North Side in January, they might have sailed full ships with the first convoy or have run it. A glorious hand you would have made of it.

Miles complains about sugar ships arriving at Bristol late in the year. He notes that another Jamaica vessel, the *Cyrus*, has been wrecked near Bristol. He considers that

the war now operates so severe upon the trade of this kingdom that it’s going to ruin. The best of the gentlemen in trade connected with the islands hardly know what to do: our ships in general little more than half full, wages never so high at any period before.

Miles has accepted more bills from Tharp than the sugar sent via the *Eagle* can net. He has paid Tharp’s bill in favour of William Blake. He mentions that he cannot afford to pay any more money on Chambers’ estates. He refers to an unnamed ship to be loaded with sugar from various Jamaican estates. ‘The enormous advance I am in with the late Mr. Chambers’ estates is a mill stone about my neck that will demolish me at last.’ Miles mentions various debts on these estates and states that if bills are drawn on him for these properties they will be protested ‘until my debt is reduced to the mortgage, then I shall have no objection to let every creditor be paid as far as it will go.’ Notes that the *Comet Packet* has been taken and carried into Boston. Miles will send a small amount of supplies to Campbell & Wedderburn, but he reminds Tharp of the high cost of freight and insurance in wartime. He feels he has suffered because his ships returning home from the Caribbean are only half full. ‘This year of all others has been the most destructive to planter, merchant and underwriter, and our publick concerns never so bad as at present. it is impossible the ships can be out early and this cursed war will ruin us all.’ Comments on the debts of John Robert James. Writes that John Coghlan has dispatched the *Gascoyne* not to Martha Brae but to Kingston, where negroes were in high demand for high prices. Payment for this cargo is to be made in bills at 9, 12 and 15 months. Coghlan will provide security for this and Phipps & Lane of Kingston will sell the cargo. Includes miscellaneous comments on Tharp’s son, sending out provisions, and prices for various commodities in Bristol. Advises Tharp to send sugar hogsheads full because they are liable to break when partially empty.
24. 10 JANUARY 1782

Notes the current selling prices of cotton, fustic and pimento at Bristol. He will send Tharp's supplies on the Good Hope, John Munt master, and the provisions from Cork on the Sally. These ships will sail with convoy. Mentions that Charles Gordon, the owner of Georgia estate, has paid off Miles' mortgage. Reports the death of Hugh Barnett; George and Richard Brissett and Miles are executors of his will and trustees of his property. The heir, the younger Hugh Barnett, and Robert McGhie, elder brother of James and Jonathan McGhie, the owners of Retreat and Hampstead estates, are bound to Jamaica with the fleet. Robert McGhie hopes to buy the above-mentioned estates from his brother and to ship their produce to Bristol. Miles is concerned in the Jamaica which is going to Rio Bueno estate to load sugar and rum from the property of Bryan Edwards. If the Good Hope and the Sally cannot be filled at Martha Brae and Montego Bay, the master is instructed to proceed to Lucea 'where there will be only the Eagle to load, which cannot be sufficient unless the crops should turn out as wretched as the last year.' Reports that some sugar received from Tharp has a bad smell and taste, as if tinctured with tar, and hopes that Tharp will look into this. Complains about Tharp drawing a bill on him for £446 4s. 2d. on account of Chambers' estates. Miles is also unhappy at receiving ordinary sugar and light weighing casks from Tharp. The Eagle is newly sheathed and has a new master, John Mathews. Tharp owes Miles £481 3s. 0d. on his account with the Deans Valley estate.

25. 30 JANUARY 1782

Miles has shipped sundries to Tharp on the Good Hope, John Munt master, amounting to £1,239 0s. 11d. The Sally is proceeding to Cork to take in provision orders. Miles provides further discussion about settling Chambers' affairs. He hopes that Tharp can sell the Dolphin Lead Pen land for a good price, in order to reduce Miles' obligations in Jamaica. Miles says that he has not yet recovered from Chambers' mismanagement of his Jamaican affairs. He notes the loss of the Mary. Abraham Frizwell has been appointed master of the Sally. The Eagle and the Sally will proceed to Martha Brae, but Miles hopes that some produce will be loaded on them at Lucea and Green Island.

26. 18 FEBRUARY 1782

Mentions supplies that will soon be sent to Tharp. Notes that the Lord North has lost one of its prize vessels. Refers to the Lord
Germaine with 450 Gold Coast slaves on board. Expects it will prove difficult for sugar ships to make return voyages to England this year because of marauding French and Spanish vessels in the Caribbean. Considers that if ships cannot get a convoy through the Windward passage they should push through the Gulph, by stretching over from Cape Antonio directly to the Florida shore, and keep that on board with a good look out to clear themselves of the martiers, or p convoy strong enough to carry them clear of our ennemies men of war at the Havannah.

27. 16 APRIL 1782

The Lord Germaine has arrived in Jamaica and Tharp intends to sell the 450 negroes on board. Tharp will draw on Miles for the proceeds ‘in bills of £500 each in three equal payments at 18, 24 & 30 months.’ Refers briefly to business dealings with Mr. Knowles and David Finlayson. Comments on bill transactions involving John Wedderburn and Andrew Martin. Mentions the loss of the Mary and notes that Owen Watkins who ‘held a quarter of her lost every shilling.’ Writes about visiting Tharp’s children in London. Miles has arranged insurance at £20 per hogshead on 150 hogsheads of Tharp’s sugar shipped on the Lord North. ‘I offered to be Mr. Adlam’s security for a ship going for 500 slaves at 12, 18 & 24 months and was refused, unless I would allow interest after twelve months which I refused. Another house, I believe Hibberts, give it.’ Miles hopes that the Lord North will be ready to sail with the convoy appointed for 15 April. He has written to friends in Liverpool to inquire about a bill Tharp drew on Watt & Rawson in favour of John Fowler for £173 4s. 10d. Considers that the current selling prices of sugar and rum will fall. Cotton ‘will fall to a very low price it being imported from all parts of Europe as well as the West Indies.’

28. 2 MAY 1782

Miles has insured £3,000 on 150 hogsheads of Tharp’s sugar shipped on the Lord North, John Smith master, from Jamaica to Bristol. The cost of insurance was £488 2s. 0d. Miles reports the

62 The manager of one of Knowles’ estates in Jamaica: see letter 41.
63 One of Tharp’s overseers.
65 Merchants, 25 Mincing Lane, London. ibid., p. 175.
Correspondence from Miles to Tharp

loss of his ship the *Eagle* to a privateer; on board were stores for Jamaica worth more than £600. He will find it difficult to send another ship to load sugar at Jamaica. He has paid the bill drawn in favour of John Fowler, a bill mentioned in his last letter to Tharp.

29. 15 JUNE 1782

Tharp and Mr. Campbell have drawn bills on Miles in favour of John Coghlan as payment for the *Lord Germaine*’s cargo of slaves. Miles wants sugar and rum from Chambers’ estates to be sold rather than an additional burden to be placed on him. He hopes that, with the help of Thomas James, Miles’ debt will be reduced just to the mortgage. He mentions the loss of his ships the *Eagle* and the *Mary*.

If I send out a ship to run it – as for instance the *Lord North* – that don’t answer, because it does not meet with the approbation of the planters to risque their propertys in running ships. If it goes with convoy, then it is not in my power to hasten the arrivals of the ships, under such convoy, and in that case [they] are always to late.

Refers favourably to Lord Rodney and his forces beating the French fleet away from Jamaica.66 Praises Captain Chubb who has now decided ‘to follow the sail making business.’ Reports poor markets for sugar and rum at Bristol; most of the rum imported last year is still on hand.

30. 16 JULY 1782

Miles has insured £1,500 on Tharp’s sugar and rum shipped on the *Jean*, John Heyward master, from Jamaica to Bristol. The cost of insurance is £323 4s. 0d. Miles hopes that this ship will arrive safely with the fleet, but he notes that ‘the combined fleets of France and Spain are now cruizing off the chops of the channel.’ Lord Howe is in the English channel with 22 sail of the line to protect the fleets soon expected from the Caribbean.67 Miles writes that the loss of the *Eagle* was ‘entirely owing to the Capt. of the *Rodney* deserting her in the moment of danger.’ He includes some brief details about


67 A heavy gale helped to disperse the French and Spanish fleets as the Jamaica convoy approached the mouth of the English Channel. Mackesy, *The War for America*, pp.478-479.
Chambers' estates. He considers that 'sugar, rum, cotton and indeed all West India produce has a bad appearance, and has fallen greatly in price, must fall more, or it will not be consumed. The high prices has greatly lessen'd the consumpt.' He states that bills of exchange will be protested 'in greater numbers than perhaps was ever experienced.'

31. 13 AUGUST 1782

Notes that the Jane, Captain Heyward master, has arrived at Kinsale in Ireland. The master stated that he lost a convoy in fog, but Miles thinks the real reason was to enter Ireland for smuggling purposes. Miles writes that there are currently many privateers in the English channel. He mentions that the Charles and Major from Martha Brae and Montego Bay are stranded near Liverpool. He refers to the large sums owed him by Chambers' estates. He has received from Tharp 150 hogheads and 24 casks and barrels of sugar and 10 puncheons of rum. from the Lord North plus 40 hogsheads of sugar from the Trelawny. Good sugar crops are expected from Jamaica, but Miles reports a fall in the prices for sugar and rum at Bristol. Miles will forward memorandums, a still and lead pipe for Potosi estate. He has credited Tharp for several bills of exchange. He hopes that Thomas James will continue to act for Chambers' estates and that Mr. Adlam will not take over this position for he is 'no judge of the planting business.' Miles has received 5 hogsheads of sugar from the Jane. He has insured £100 on this consignment at 5 guineas per cent. The cost of insurance is £6 4s. 0d.

32. 22 OCTOBER 1782

Miles has written to Tharp & Campbell about bills of exchange that concern them. The Good Hope and the Sally have arrived at Bristol. Miles has received 230 hogsheads of Tharp's sugar from the Good Hope and 30 puncheons of rum and 79 hogsheads and casks of sugar from the Sally. He has not yet sold any of this produce. He notes that sugar prices are from 48 to 60/. Most of what sells is at about 53/ pc. Rum [is] worse; [it] will not net £10 per pun., in my opinion not £9. There are many ships has arrived, and four more expected soon to arrive from Tortola & Saint Thomas, where they load with sugar, cotton, coffee &ca. brought there by French, Dutch and Danish subjects that find their way here as English. And [it is] so lucrative that fortunes has been made tho' they give 10/6 pc freight. This with a decline of consumpt from its being at so high
a price the last year is the reason the price is so reduced without even a hope of mending.

Miles will honour Tharp’s bills but will protest many bills sent by other people. The McGhies have drawn on Miles for £2,000; they have consigned 65 hogsheads of sugar to Miles but this will not cover the cost of the bills. Miles refers to three hurricanes in recent years causing severe damage to trade and property in the Caribbean. Miles again mentions his misfortune over Chambers’ estates. He thinks that he might soon have to pay an extra £4,000 for the upkeep of the estates. He has sent the Lord North with part of her load in order to keep some goods to fill the Good Hope and the Sally which are bound to Martha Brae.

Mr. Tharp, never was a man more dispirited than I am from the repeated misfortunes of losing my ships—the Mary, the Miles, the Eagle, the Hope with all my Golden Valley sugar & the Jamaica. Such a year surely was never experienced by any man.

Miles hopes that Tharp can sell the Dolphin Lead Pen land for about £10,000. He hopes that the Lord North can be dispatched from Jamaica through the Windward passage. ‘I have suffered so severely that I am determined to cover my interest by insurance, so as never to lose more than four to five hundred upon any ship again.’ Miles states that Tharp will have to receive wine from London ships for no Bristol ships ‘ever touch at Madeira.’ He points out the high losses of London and Bristol sugar ships in 1782. Miles’ son has received a letter from Tharp’s son. Mr. James has arrived at Bristol. The bills for the cargo of slaves on the Lord Germaine are protested and will be returned to Tharp. Miles explains that he owns three ships in the Jamaica trade but needs four in all: two for Lucea, one for Morant and one for Old Harbour. He refers to sundries shipped on the Lord North, John Smith master, for Jamaica, amounting to £1812 14s. 10d.

33. 30 NOVEMBER 1782

Advises Tharp to sell produce from Chambers’ estates on the spot. The proceeds should be paid to those owed money on these properties and the rest should be remitted to Miles. Miles is unwilling to buy any ships for ‘they now yeild here twice their worth owing to so many having been captured & lost.’ Miles does not want to give a power of attorney to Mr. James for Chambers’ estates; he wants Tharp to remain in charge. Miles refers to business transacted between Tharp and John Parkinson over the Old Hope plantation. He mentions that repairs have been made to the Good Hope and the Sally. These ships will provide the rest of
Tharp’s supplies. Miles has been unable to engage another slaving vessel addressed to Tharp on similar terms to those of the Lord Germaine. He refers to a quarrel with Mr. Adlam over a house Miles owns in Kingston. They have also quarrelled because Adlam ordered goods from Miles to arrive at Kingston in September and October, but Miles declined ‘because people will not send their ships at that season on acct. of hurricanes.’ Miles has sold only 31 hogsheads of Tharp’s sugar so far: ‘the fears entertained by the buyers, that a Peace will take place soon, has stopd. all sale.’

34. 10 JANUARY 1783

Hopes that the Lord North will be able to take a prize vessel as he is short of ships. He has sent an extra master and chief mate on the Lord North to command any suitable ship that might be taken or purchased. The Jane has reached Bristol, but the rum and sugar on board have arrived at a poor market. 21 barrels and tierces of Tharp’s sugar from the Lord North sold at 55/- per hundredweight and 31 hogsheads of sugar from the Jane sold at 54/-. Miles writes that the quantities continually coming from Tortola & Saint Thomas’s keeps the market full and the prices falling, so much so, that better sugar has of late been selling at 46 to 48/-. You will naturally ask me why I keep to do worse; I answer because I cannot sell, unless to be under others which would fall the market very low indeed, and then not succeed. Duty and freight being so high, operates dreadfully on the holder of it.

Miles comments on plantation affairs, including Hinton East and Chambers’ estates. He has made extra insurance on recent voyages of the Good Hope and the Sally because of ‘the disaster to the fleet.’ He states that he is obliged to protest many bills; otherwise he would be ruined. Robert McGhie junior is in Bristol; he intends to sell some land in Jamaica. Miles mentions that John Coghlans of London is planning to send two slaving vessels to Tharp. He thinks Tharp is unwise to deal with such vessels while the seas are still unsafe in wartime. He writes that ‘the price of West India produce now operates fatally, which together with the destruction to the Jamaica fleet will be most severely felt in your island.’ At 30 May 1782 Tharp owed Miles £8,496 3s. 1d. on his account current. Miles expects the planters to have insurance made on their cargoes ‘with returns for convoy, in that case they are insured in all events.’ He cites examples of recent losses to proprietors who did not insure their sugar in this way. He has been visited by various people with Jamaican connections. He has
shipped sundries to Tharp on the *Good Hope*, John Munt master, for Martha Brae, amounting to £1,421 11s. 1d. Some of these goods are insured. He mentions that the *Lord North* and the *Good Hope* will be loaded by Tharp, while the *Sally* will be loaded at Lucea. The *Hope*, Captain Sims, and the *Jamaica*, Captain Shute, have both been taken, the former with all the Golden Valley sugar crop on board. Miles will find it difficult to engage another ship to take in the produce from that estate. He hopes that the *Lord North* 'will be dispatched to run it, if there is the least prospect of her getting clear going to Windward or to Leeward. The *Sally* and *Good Hope* must come with convoy, and I hope before the fatal time the first of August.'

35. 6 MAY 1783

Miles has protested bills of exchange sent by various people. He explains that

had sugars kept up in price I might have been enabled to pay them; as it is, I am obliged to protest. The fall on sugar by the peace taking place, together with a very great fall off in the consumption of it, makes a difference to me only, of full £20,000 0 0. Last year sugar neted from £22 to £32 stg. p hhd, now £5 to £10 p hhd, the average about £7. I have sales from London of sugar that nets £7 12 0 stg. p hhd, and from Liverpool that nets under £6.

Miles has been paid £35 4s. 1ld. by Watts, Walker & Rawson of Liverpool for the account of Rowland Savage of Trelawny, Jamaica. He notes that there are

‘many thousand hhds sold here from 36 to 39/ pc that can do very little more, some not so much. I just mention this to shew you how miserable off you and others will be, having all yours on hand, but what you have been advised is sold. I have 1400 hhds on hand at a time I ought not to have one. Had I pushed off mine with the rest of the sellers, I am certain it would have lowered this market full 2/- pc more.’

Miles does not know why the *Lord North* has been detained so long in Kingston. He writes that 'now peace has taken place things will go on better and with more certainty' and that 'the loss of my ships forced me to do things against my judgment.' Miles hopes that the *Good Hope* will arrive in good time with the remainder of

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68 This was the start of the hurricane season in the Caribbean. Freight and insurance rates increased at this time of the year.
Tharp’s stores. The stores for Chambers’ estates were shipped on the Sally. Miles explains that he insured goods on the Lord North against Tharp’s orders because both men had experienced a run of bad luck and because ‘my advances are so great added to a heavy load of produce on hand, that if the Lord North or Good Hope miscarried and no insurance made on the supplies I could not have replaced them.’ Miles explains that he made extra insurance on the Sally and the Good Hope because of the loss of a recent fleet. He provides brief comments on the friendship between his own son and Tharp’s son. Mr. Coghlan has sent another slaving vessel to the Gold coast to pick up slaves to be sold by Tharp. Miles will leave the times of payment for this cargo to Tharp but will accept and pay the bills of exchange. Miles mentions another London vessel that will deliver slaves to Tharp. The owners of these ships are pleased with the sales of their previous cargoes directed to Tharp. Miles advises Tharp not to over-extend his business transactions; he approves of Tharp’s actions over the Hinton East property. Miles considers that

the dreadful loss on sugar rum &ca: compared with former years will make a vast alteration, even you will feel it essentially. I shall sink more in the advance I shall be in of freight & duty on sugar and rum on hand than the whole of my commission will come to, so fatal has this peace proved, tho’ if it had not taken place, Jamaica would have fallen into the hands of an host of enemies.

Miles has quarrelled with Mr. Adlam of Jamaica. Miles thinks that his wharf and stores in Kingston are now ruined. He notes that his son, William, ‘wishes to go to Jamaica, but he’s too young and wants experience.’

36. 17 JUNE 1783

Now there is a peace all obstacles will be removed, and you will find, if I have your orders early, you will have your supplies out early, and with certainty; that it was not in my power to do during so ruinous a war, and being so unfortunate to lose the ships I had concerns in.

The Sally has been sent out with supplies for Chambers’ estates. Provisions are not included: the prices were high and Miles felt that they would be bought more cheaply in Jamaica. Miles mentions the difficulties experienced by insurance underwriters during wartime.

I would not have guaranteed the underwriters in London last
year for £5 p ct. and if the war had continued on this year I would not have guaranteed them for £10 p ct. Here there has been 5 or 6 bankrupt underwriters during the war. In London I should think if a nought were added to the number here, would be nearest their number.

Miles hopes in future to secure insurance at 40/ out and £4 per hundredweight home. He has sent out Campbell & Whittaker’s order. He has insured £2,100 on 150 hogsheads of Tharp’s sugar on the Lord North, John Smith master, for Bristol. The cost of insurance is £95 4s. 0d. He makes a brief reference to Chambers’ estates. Miles mentions that his son, William, might be sent out to Jamaica. At present Tharp’s son is staying with him in Bristol. Tharp has two other sons being educated in England. Notes the appearance of bills drawn jointly with Mr. Adlam for £5,000 to buy the Chambers. Miles expected Adlam to buy four prize vessels for him ‘for under the sum this unwieldy vessell will cost.’ He is upset at ‘so contrary an execution’ of his orders and expects to lose much money as a consequence. Tharp thinks a good sugar crop will be made this year.

37. 1 MAY 1785

Provides routine business details about money claimed by Mr. Reynolds from Chambers’ estates.

38. 8 OCTOBER 1785

Miles wishes Tharp had dispatched the Jarrett from Jamaica to any part of America for a return cargo rather than send the ship to England in ballast. Miles must return the ship to Jamaica in ballast ‘for all my orders will not load out more than two (or three at the most) out of five that I have.’ He notes that it is better for a ship to stay in the Caribbean throughout the winter rather than to send it without freight. He thinks he will lose

more by it than I suffered by the Simon Taylor that was driven on shore in the hurricane; that was £1,600 and odd currency but came home as full as an egg.

Miles refers to supplies he is getting ready for the Potosi estate, Jamaica, the property of Samuel Horlock. He has been visited by George Brissett junior. Tharp concurs with Simon Taylor’s opinion that Miles should take possession of Knowles’ properties in Jamaica. Miles only wants to do this if the properties appear to be doing badly; otherwise he will leave them to the direction of Mr. Grizell and Mr. Joseph Brissett. Miles will write to George
Charles about the affairs of Tharp, Campbell & Charles and Tharp & Campbell. Miles does not intend to insure the supplies for the Potosi estate.

39. NOVEMBER 1785

Miles has heard from Tharp about another hurricane striking Jamaica. He adds:

That of 80 with respect to Chambers’ property’s I have not recovered to this hour. To take up & pay annuitants off in London & Reynold’s claim too is what I am not abled to do . . . These hurricanes will ruin planter and merchant together. In 80 sugar sold at a great price in England, now at a poor one, and altho’ the hurricane is fully known there is but little advance. Indeed the import has been a great one; that prevents it.

Miles gives brief details about Tharp’s problems in trying to manage Chambers’ estates. He will honour a bill of Thomas Buchanan & Co. of New York on Tharp’s account. He has received a letter from Mr. Taylor that includes comments about personnel and management on Chambers’ estates. Miles thinks that bad consequences will stem from Taylor’s description of ‘overseers being suffered to raise stock, corn &c. and what they don’t use sell.’ He hopes the sale of Tharp’s produce will enable Mr. Wilkinson to pay £1,500 to £2,000 for the account of Tharp & Campbell. He states that he will not act as security in another slaving voyage.

I have been security for two Guinea men to Adlam, to put him in tolerable good humour, and I have been security for two to MacLean Bagnold & Taylor to oblige and shew my gratitude to my friend Mr. Simon Taylor, which with all other acceptances is within now at this moment writing £50,000 stg. and this with the number of bills that has been remitted to me that are noted & will be protested, makes it notwithstanding a very serious business.

Miles refers to sales of 35 hogsheads of Tharp’s sugar from the Commerce (net proceeds £635 19s. 1d.) and 20 hogsheads from the Rodney (net proceeds £375 18s. 2d.). A large amount of logwood has been imported at Bristol; its price is falling daily.

40. 15 NOVEMBER 1785

Refers to sundries shipped on the Good Hope, John Smith master, for Martha Brae, amounting to £1,524 2s. 1d. Miles has a three-sixteenths share in a ship being built; he has paid £2,200 in
advance for his share. He hopes that Tharp will also take shares in
the vessel. Miles will send the Sally, the Good Hope and the new
ship Martha Brae to Martha Brae. He notes that ‘dispatch, with
taking in a cargo at the smallest possible expence is what is
absolutely necessary for to constitute profit.’ Miles has taken a
mortgage from George Robinson Hamilton, who has assigned all
his property to him ‘in trust to pay him £600 p annum.’ Miles has
contacted John Mowat and Mr. Paul; they are attorneys for
Hamilton. All the produce from Hamilton’s properties should be
consigned to Miles in future. Miles has taken pains to settle with
the annuitants over Chambers’ property, but they require the
consent of Mr. Reynolds. Miles is worried by Mrs. Chambers’
request that he should pay £300 per annum for the maintenance of
herself and her family. He mentions the death of his eldest
doughter. He has received news of another hurricane in the
Caribbean ‘yet the imports of sugar has been so great that the price
has now mended, at most about 1 to 2/ in some sorts of sugar.’ The
sales of 200 hogsheads of sugar from the Good Hope produced net
proceeds of £3,480 5s. 8d. Miles will send the Jarrett to Cork for
provisions which will be delivered at Martha Brae, Montego Bay
and Lucea. The Jarrett and the Simon Taylor will load their return
cargoes at Lucea. Miles is surprised at George Brissett ‘not
liquidating and sending me a mortgage of the estate.’ He has only
lent money to Brissett because Tharp persuaded him to do so; he
would have preferred to invest money in the funds. ‘I wish the
planters would clammer to have the duties lowered on sugar; and
they must lower the duty on rum or it will not sell.’ Miles refers to
a poor cask of sugar sent to him as a sample by Tharp. He would
like to send some beans, peas, oats and groats to Tharp, but the
high prices of these commodities preclude buying at present. At 30
May 1785 Richard Brodhurst owed Miles £5,067 4s. 0d. Brodhurst
had agreed to buy Miles’ wharf and store in Port Royall Street,
Kingston for £1,200.

41. 17 NOVEMBER 1785

Tharp has drawn on Miles for the Gascoyne’s cargo of slaves in 37
bills amounting to £16,064 17s. 1d. The bills have been honoured.
Miles has received two bills of lading for 30 hogsheads of sugar
from the Ocean of Glasgow. He has forwarded these bills to
Walter Monteath, the purser of the ship. Miles wants Tharp to

69 Of St. James’s parish, Jamaica.
70 Overseer on Success estate, Jamaica.
assist him with the affairs of George Robinson Hamilton. He
mentions that Mr. Atherton of Green Park owes him around
£1,400. He adds: 'I shall not lay myself out to lend money. My
whole aim is & must be to lessen & get some of it in England, for
what with ships, & being obliged to advance, instead of collecting,
will make it absolutely necessary.' Miles states that unless Mr.
Knowles gives up the management of his Jamaican estates he will
'file a bill and bring it to a sale before he's quite ruind.' He
complains that Mr. Finlayson promised in 1782 to remit 70
hogsheads of sugar per year from Knowles' estates to lessen Miles'
burden, but has failed to do this. Tharp has sent two pipes of
Madeira wine to Miles. Despite short crops in Jamaica there have
been large imports of sugar at English ports. A report of a
hurricane in Jamaica and the Windward Islands has not affected
the sugar market more than 2d per hundredweight. Miles has
received several sugar shipments from Mr. Jarrett. There are
various references to plantation affairs. Miles is unable to act
further over Chambers' estates because the annuitants in London
will only listen and agree to Mr. Reynolds on this matter. Miles is
unhappy at the management of Chambers' properties by Thomas
James senior. He adds that

The eyes of people in England are now pretty well opend, to see
they have no chance in Jamaica living here with the property
and people there. Longs 71 house refused lending an old corres­
donent a single £1,000.0.0 but for a short time, tho' the person
lives in England, and to be called upon when they thought
proper.

Miles wishes that Tharp would involve George Brissett junior with
Chambers' estates. He mentions that there are 'no iron hoops to
be had in quantity till November . . . Beans, Pease, Oats & Groats
so scarce and dear that it could not be procured but with difficulty.
Another year, I mean a good harvest, then its all in plenty.' Miles
is ready to send the Jarrett to Cork but herrings will not be
available there until the end of January. He has put Tharp's
coppers on board the Good Hope. He has offered the living
annuitants their money on Chambers' estates but they would not
accept this 'unless Reynolds was first paid his demand.' Miles
refers to net proceeds for 50 hogsheads of sugar from the
Chambers (amounting to £777 0s. 8d). and for 45 hogsheads from
the Lord North (amounting to £655 19s. 3d.). These proceeds are
'to be applied to the payments of the annuitants expressly.' Miles

71 Probably the merchants identified in letter 12, note 50.
notes that 'the business of raising premiums on bills from the long established custom of the fixed exchange of 40 p cent, has ruined the credit of the island so effectually, that you will not find much more will be lent.'

42. 14 JANUARY 1786

Gives details of a formal demand for money on his brother, John Miles. The claim has been made by John Howell72 for a mortgage on Old Hope estate. Miles has purchased his brother's concerns in Jamaica but Hibberts, Purrier & Co.73 of London, acting for Howell, have threatened to file a bill in Chancery against him. Tharp is involved because he is acting as Miles' attorney in Jamaica. Tharp wants Miles to pay the annuitants for Chambers' Prosper estate. But Miles is unable to do this while 'the annuitants will not do anything until they are assured that Mr. Reynolds has been paid his whole demand.' Miles will honour the bills sent by Tharp for land he has bought in Jamaica. He makes further remarks about Chambers' properties. He notes that prices for newly imported slaves in Jamaica are high and that therefore 'the owners of Guinea ships submit to have their cargoes sold in the Windward Islands of St. Kitts, Grenada, Dominica and Saint Vincent at £30 to £31 & £32 stg. p head.' Miles states that he only has to pay the balance due on Hinton East to settle his mortgage on Chambers' estates. He forwards various letters to Tharp. He writes that the properties of John Dawes owe him £5,400 and those of James Dawes owe him nearly £3,500.

43. 18 FEBRUARY 1786

Miles has sent Tharp one cask of copper, amounting to £22 1s. 9d., on the Hanover Planter, John Neilson master. Miles cannot ship stills for Tharp until the autumn, 'the Hanover Planter being the last vessel at this port for the North side of Jamaica.'

44. 28 FEBRUARY 1786

Tharp wants to purchase from Mr. Wedderburn a gang of negroes plus the time to come on the lease of Potosi estate. To carry this out he has drawn bills that have been accepted by Miles. Miles refers to his mortgage on Mr. Hamilton's estate and to supplies to be sent to Tharp. He also mentions his mortgage on Success estate and its negroes, and hopes that John Mowat is performing his

72 'Formerly a Provost Marshall at Jamaica'.
73 The merchants identified in letter 27, note 64.
work there properly. He begs Tharp not to increase the debt on Chambers’ property.

45. 6 SEPTEMBER 1786

Miles has insured £1,000 on Tharp’s sugar on the *Martha Brae*, John Munt master, for Bristol. The cost of insurance is £45 14s. 0d. Miles refers to business affairs in Jamaica involving the McGhies and Thomas Adlam. He notes that Tharp’s nephew George Brissett is now at Bristol. Mr. Knowles has died. Miles has received a copy of his will from John Grizell and a statement of his accounts from Mr. Finlayson. He has dispatched a gardener to Chambers’ estates; he is now hoping to send a sawyer. He refers to the carrying capacity of some of his ships. He also notes that coal and lime are expensive to ship from Bristol. Miles has paid a bill drawn by Tharp for £1,243 16s. 6d. He mentions the problems he has had with Hibbert, Purrier & Co. He refers to money advanced for the account of the Campbell family. He comments on his ships in the Jamaica trade and the estates from which he expects sugar to be shipped. He writes about Mr. Atherton of Green Park. Miles wishes ‘for your sake the whole of your crop was coming in the Jarrett. The first best sale made in Bristol was ... 30 hhds p Orange Valley at 50/ pc. Now the worst almost sells for that money, and yet sugar 8/ pc better will not yield more than 54/ pc.’ Miles gives a long list of some of the debts he is owed in Jamaica. James Wedderburn owes £1, 453 16s. 11d. with interest from 30 May 1785 till paid. Rowland Savage owes £673 9s. 0d. with interest for Dromelly estate from 30 June 1784 till paid. Hugh Barnett’s estate owes £753 3s. 8d. with interest from 30 August 1782 till paid. William & Samuel Stevenson owe £123 17s. 4d. with interest from 30 March 1784 till paid. Robert Minto owes £420 3s. 9d. with interest from 30 April 1786 till paid. Mary Cunningham of St. James’ parish owes £161 9s. 0d. with interest from 30 May 1785. Mr. Guthrie of Hawkerton, Trelawny owes £418 8s. 11d. with interest from 10 May 1785 till paid. Miles also refers to an older unpaid debt of £884 15s. 5d. with interest from 31 July 1780. He provides details of exports to be shipped to Tharp. He refers to Brissett’s and Chambers’ properties in Jamaica. Miles criticises Thomas James for poor management of Chambers’ estates. He has agreed to pay £500 to support Mrs. Chambers and her family from 20 July 1786 to 20 July 1787. He states that he has sold sugar from the *Simon Taylor* and the *Sally* too soon. ‘I sold 105 hhds of your sugar p Good Hope at 54/, 4 hhds at 52/ and 41 at 56/. Those p Orange Valley and Sally at 46 to 47/6 pc.’ Miles says that he will insure property for Tharp on these ships at £4 per cent. He has
Correspondence from Miles to Tharp

received from Tharp a bill of lading for 20 hogsheads of sugar shipped on the Kent to London and consigned to Davidson & Graham. He would like Tharp’s assistance in securing a debt of £143 18s. 10d. from Samuel Horlock junior. He briefly refers to G.R. Hamilton and the Rio Bueno estate. He criticises George Brissett junior for selling some of his Jamaican property for an annuity. Brissett was about to take over the management of Chambers’ estates but has decided instead to settle in England. Miles has debited Tharp for one-eighth of the Martha Brae for her first cost and first outset; this amounts to £730 12s. 11d. He has not insured Tharp’s share in the ship from Jamaica to Bristol because Tharp wishes ‘to risque it.’ Miles is irritated that the Jarrett was sent to Bristol with a light load. He considers this to be ‘xing the sea to no purpose’ and he will have to send the ship back in ballast for no freights are available for Jamaica. He adds that ‘it is monstrouse hard upon me. From the money I have out in Jamaica I ought to have 5,000 hhds consigned instead of 2,000.’ Miles is worried about the accounts from Chambers’ estates. He thinks that this is the result of bad management by Thomas James. He comments that the rum alone from Chambers’ properties ought not only to pay for English & Irish supplies but for every other contingency whatever. Instead of that, for these six years last past, what has it done: got further in my debt 22,000£ stg. and done little more than pay Mrs. Chambers & family’s support. To compare management at Hanover to the same at St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua &ca., where the rum that sells but for 18d & 20d curr:y p gallon, not only pays all contingencies, which is all sent from England (having no negro ground to spare at those places) but oftentimes something left to buy one two three or more negroes as it may happen to add to the propertys. See the contrast, to the utter destruction of Jamaica properties.

Miles requests that Mr. Minto should debit him for the loss of goods from the Good Hope. He refers to Knowles’ estates and their creditors. Miles again returns to the vexed matter of Chambers’ properties. He is worried that reports of a short sugar crop in Jamaica will lead to ships returning to Bristol with light loads.

46. 8 DECEMBER 1786

Miles has heard unfavourable news about the prospects for next
year's crops. He has only received £950 of the £2,000 owed him by Mr. Wilkinson. He has paid Tharp's bills to James Wedderburn and he has also remitted a bill to John Ashurst for 375 negroes bought by Tharp. Altogether, with interest, Tharp owed Miles £14,999 19s. 10d. on 1 January 1787. Miles refers to money he is still owed on Potosi estate. He has forwarded Tharp's letter to John Coghlan in London. He looks forward to the foreclosure and sale of the late Chambers' properties. A postscript dated 18 December 1786 refers to sales of 108 hogsheads of sugar from the Good Hope; the net proceeds amount to £2,496 13s. 6d.

47. 2 FEBRUARY 1787

Refers to a drought and a hurricane in Jamaica and to poor accounts from Hanover estate. Mentions that he is unable to fill the Jarrett with herrings because they are currently scarce and expensive at Cork. Makes detailed reference to a disagreement between the McGhies and Mr. Innes of London. This involves making Miles party to a bill in Chancery. Miles states that he has been paid money owed him by James McGhie for the Hampstead and Retreat estates. He agrees that Tharp is right to maintain a ship trading to North America to pick up provisions and lumber. So far Miles has been unable to procure a sawyer or blacksmith to send to Tharp. Miles criticises John Brissett for selling his commission. He mentions that Tharp's eldest son and George Brissett visited him a few days ago. He refers to Hibbert's involvement with Howell's business and to the Campbell family. He thinks that Mr. Atherton and his wife, who are childless, could live well in England for £1,000 per year. He notes that Mr. Minto owed him £420 3s. 9d. on 30 April 1786. There are miscellaneous business references to John Mowat, Mr. Samuels, James Hay, Mr. Grizell, Mr. Quarrell, John Dawes and various properties in Jamaica. John Dawes' Rockspring estate owed him £550 7s. 3d. plus interest from 30 April 1786 while James Dawes' estate The Grange owed him £3,667 9s. 4d. with interest from the same date. Miles briefly refers to repairs made to the Good Hope; to Mr. Horlock's affairs on Potosi estate; to the bad management of Thomas James senior on Chamber's estates; and to provisions sent on the Jarrett. Miles has received 120 hogsheads of sugar from Tharp sent on the Martha Brae. He hopes that 'it will sell soon. Our market [is] flat but I think all will go off before new arrives. The high price has lessened consumpt.'

48. 8 JUNE 1787

Refers to a commercial treaty with France confirmed by act of
Correspondence from Miles to Tharp

parliament in May 1787, to the consolidation of duties on sugar, rum and ginger, and to an act to create free ports in Jamaica. Mentions people who owe him money. The McGhies have virtually paid all the money they owe. 'Sugar has fallen very much in price indeed and will be lower. The prices quoted this day from London are sugars 37 to 50/ pc, good middling 43/ pc.' Miles has received a bill of lading for 40 tons of logwood from the account of Benjamin Blake. Tharp wants to add Pantre Pant estate to his properties. Miles states that he has experienced a bad year: only a short sugar crop will be shipped from Jamaica and Hanover estate has been hit by a hurricane. Miles gives instructions about produce to be shipped to Bristol on the Jarrett (molasses, rum, pimento) and comments on sugar prices in London and Bristol.

49. 30 JUNE 1787

The Good Hope has arrived at Bristol and is discharging her cargo. Sugar is now selling at Bristol from 40 to 52 shillings per hundredweight. Miles has insured £360 on 30 hogsheads of sugar from the Potosi estate on the Simon Taylor, Valentine Baker master, for Bristol. The cost of insurance was £16 13s. 0d. Miles notes that, by April 1787, he was owed £3,099 9s. 6d. from Canaan estate. He also refers to money owed him from the estate of the deceased Francis Blower Gibbes. He considers that after sending out supplies for Chambers' properties 'to have arrearages to pay of near £4,000 for contingencies and near £1,000 stg to annuitants . . . is hardly to be borne.' Mr. Atherton's sugar received from the Good Hope is poor in quality.

50. 2 OCTOBER 1787

Mentions that the Martha Brae struck rocks on her way out of Martha Brae harbour; but no serious damage has been done. Reminds Tharp of the need to provide timely information about insurance. Miles has consulted with Messrs. Gordons about providing anchors and chains to assist ships sailing out of Martha Brae harbour. He states that Bristol sugar bakers are currently

76 The duty on muscovado sugar for home consumption was raised to 12s. 4d. per cwt. in 1787. Ragatz, The Fall of the Planter Class in the British Caribbean, 1763–1833, p.190.
77 A bill to reopner free ports in the British Caribbean was passed in 1787 as 27 Geo.III c.27.
78 The brother of William Blake (see note 45).
79 Part of the letter is damaged.
‘dreadfully off.’ He writes that he has suffered by his ships coming home short-freighted ‘and not one of them has half the money owing to them, that I have in Jamaica.’ He mentions the problems experienced with Chambers’ properties, but thinks that Tharp is the right person to take over and run them successfully. There are miscellaneous references to bills drawn on Miles and to supplies to be sent out to Tharp. Miles credits Tharp with £979 13s. 2d. for money the latter has spent acting as attorney to Chambers’ estates. Miles is owed money from the properties of the deceased James Dawes. He is also owed money by George Charles, to whom he has consigned goods.

51. 10 DECEMBER 1787

Tharp’s son has travelled to Jamaica to assist his father with plantation affairs. Miles writes that the problems he has encountered with Chambers’ estates were ‘the foundation of my long illness some years ago.’ He mentions costly repairs to his ships the Sally and the Good Hope within one year. He refers to the Campbell family and to the death of John Coghlan in London. Miles wants the Simon Taylor and the Jarrett to load at Montego Bay and the Sally, the Martha Brae and the Good Hope to load at Martha Brae and its neighbourhood. Miles refers to manufacturers experiencing problems in the sugar baking trade.

52. 7 FEBRUARY 178880

Refers to sundries shipped to Jamaica. Miles and Tharp have both been suffering from gout and gravel. Tharp owes Miles for some negroes he has bought and for contingencies. Miles hopes that the current crop of produce will help to reduce Mr. Atherton’s debt. He writes about Chambers’ properties in Jamaica. He has asked Robert Cooper Lee of London to find out how many of the annuitants on Prosper estate are still alive, in order to pay them off. Miles notes that

I have had no complaint about your sugar this year. Messrs. Hibberts house were right: its grain is rather too fine. A white cast and strong body are the signs of perfection; what is deemed straw colour or yellow is not so good. I cannot but think your sugar has neated you more here than anywhere, notwithstanding the prices you quote at Liverpool and London.

Tharp expects a good sugar crop this year. Miles will send out ships to collect cargoes at Martha Brae and Morant.

80 Parts of the letter are damaged.
Correspondence from Miles to Tharp

53. 15 DECEMBER 1788

Miles has sent to Tharp ‘the deeds of assignment on Prosper estate from annuitants to me’, the only exception being one deed he has sent to Simon Taylor. A deed of assignment from Jacob Wilkinson to Miles has been forwarded by Mr. Lee to Singer, Ellis & Singer of Spanish Town. Miles notes that the bonds of Thomas Reid junior* should lessen the debt owed on Grange estate. He hopes that remaining demands on this estate can be paid from the proceeds of the forthcoming crop. There are further remarks on Grange estate. Miles is owed £6,372 18s. 6d. on Rockspring estate at 30 May 1788. Turning to Chambers’ properties, Miles has settled with the annuitants of Prosper estate by paying the original purchase money with arrears of rent due to 20 September 1788. Miles has taken out deeds of assignment from the annuitants for this estate and has sent a fresh power of attorney to Tharp, Simon Taylor and John Taylor. He hopes that Tharp can help him to sell all of Chambers’ properties as soon as possible. He makes further remarks on the involvement of the annuitants with Prosper estate.

Miles has forwarded his accounts with Knowles’ properties to Simon Taylor. He wonders how Edward Knowles ‘applied the many thousands I have paid him,’ but hopes that Poor Hope estate near Lucea can be sold to pay all the creditors. Miles refers to sales of 15 casks of sugar from the Neptune; these being sold in London by Thomas Trenham for £280 11s. 3d. Miles gives details of supplies to be sent to Tharp. He replies to various letters from Tharp which mainly give information about bills of exchange. He will send out supplies to Potosi and St. James’s estates. He thanks Tharp for helping him to recover a debt owed by Stephen Lawrence. Tharp has sold Blower estate to Dr. Gibbes, who owes money to Miles. Tharp’s son, John, is staying with Miles. Miles states that

our import of sugar has been a large one which occasions a flat market, and many on hand, rum also at miserable prices. Great quantities of French sugars are smuggled to our islands and imported from thence to Great Britain. It increases the revenue, which is all government looks out to get, besides adding to the carrying trade.

Miles has received some bills of exchange and a bill of lading for five hogsheads of sugar; the proceeds are to be placed to the accounts of Tharp & Campbell and Tharp, Campbell & Charles. Miles notes that an anchor and hawser carried on the Good Hope

* Reid was the manager of Grange estate.
were useful in helping the *Neptune* which had got on shore on her passage from Jamaica to Bristol. There are some more references to bills of exchange. Miles wants the mortgage on Rockspring estate to help pay off his debts in Jamaica. He is alarmed at Tharp’s account of Knowles’ properties. He does not want Mr. Adlam to act for him in Jamaica any longer; he has appointed John Taylor in his place. Miles refers to sales of 40 hogsheads of sugar from the *Martha Brae* (net proceeds £818 0s. 10d.) and to 7 casks of copper from the *Good Hope* (net proceeds £100 8s. 6d). He includes an invoice and bill of lading for sundries on the *Good Hope* amounting to £546 19s. 6d.

54. 26 FEBRUARY 1789

Miles has paid off the annuitants on Prosper estate and has taken individual assignments from them. He considers that Tharp should be refunded any outstanding money on the account of this estate. He writes about Tharp’s sons, John and Tom. Miles hoped to send the *Good Hope* to Jamaica, but the vessel got on shore at Kingroad which detained her for nearly a month. Miles thanks Tharp for help in securing payment from Dr. Gibbes on Blower estate. He comments on the quality of Tharp’s sugar:

> I dont think refining your sugars will answer. Give the sugar you make a stronger body than it has had for some time, and you will soon reap benefit from it. I sent you out a cask of lime the chippings of the marble blocks which Sir James Laroache has used for some years past on an estate in Antigua. That has been the finest sugar that has been imported to this market for several years. Its as white as white salt and the grain almost as large & firm, which he attributes to the lime.

Miles comments further on the need to temper sugar with lime. He is pleased that Tharp has recovered from gout and recommends various liquors to aid Tharp’s constitution. Miles writes about Coccoon estate. He has received a bill of exchange which he will credit to Tharp, Campbell & Charles. He notes that the *Martha Braef* arrived safely at Jamaica. He comments on the idleness of Tharp’s son, John, while the latter is in England. The sale of Chambers’ properties has been carried out by a lawyer in Spanish Town for £78,200. Miles states that his purse has been drained by the long-drawn-out business dealings with Chambers’ estates. Miles will leave many of the practical arrangements for his newly

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82 Member of the Bristol Common Council, 1764–1804; M.P. for Bodmin, 1768–1780; created baronet, 1776; Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers, 1782; died 1804. Beavan, *Bristol Lists: Municipal & Miscellaneous*, p.300.
acquired Jamaican estates to Tharp and Mr. Taylor. Miles refers to bonds intended to lessen his debt on Grange estate. He agrees with Tharp that 'negroes of the Country are much more advanta­
gious than new negroes, but the purse strings has been open so long there is nothing left to pay for an addition of 200 negroes wanted for those estates late Chambers’s.’ He also states that he is ‘firmly persuaded the annuitants on Chambers’ property has not cost less than 20 p cent from the day it was granted.’ Miles hopes that affairs on Deans Valley estate will turn out well and that Tharp is not seriously thinking of leaving Jamaica for England.

55. N.D.

There are brief references to financial matters in Jamaica. Miles states that he will credit some sales of logwood to Benjamin Blake. He includes various accounts with this letter. On 30 April 1787 the Potosi estate owed him £497 0s. 7d. and John Tharp & Alexander Campbell owed him £25,755 19s 3d. On 30 May 1787 Tharp, Campbell & Charles owed him £25,930 8s. 5d. Miles notes that the net proceeds of 120 hogsheads of sugar plus 3 hogsheads and 3 tierces of old copper from the Martha Brae were £2,579 6s. 3d. Tharp also owes Miles £4,165 19s. 10d. in a new account made up to 30 May 1787. Miles mentions several of Tharp’s bonds.
VI RECORDS OF THE BRISTOL LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH 1851–1872

EDITED BY
DAVID LARGE
EDITORIAL NOTE

The records of the Bristol Local Board of Health consist of three large folio volumes each running to nearly 500 pages and the first eighteen pages of a fourth volume after which the records of the city council as an urban sanitary authority under the 1872 Public Health Act commence. These volumes contain the proceedings of the town council when it functioned as a Local Board of Health under the 1848 Public Health Act. They will be referred to as *Proceedings* throughout. They also contain the reports of the committee which the Local Board established to carry out its day to day business. The committee met weekly and its minutes have survived from its inception in 1851 in the form of many folio volumes. They will be referred to as *Minutes* throughout. The committee also instituted a practice of despatching three of its members 'to view places reported on by the Surveyor as requiring repairs previous to such repairs being ordered'. The records of these viewing committees have survived from 1855. Finally the Local Board had printed annually an abstract of its audited accounts and a set of these survives in Bristol Central Library.

Fortunately a great deal of the above material is of minor interest. In the *Proceedings*, for instance, there is much repetitive and legalistic material recording the making of rates and providing for their collection. Likewise the *Minutes* are largely taken up with routine matters of very local significance such as complaints over nuisances or individuals notifying the committee that they were about to build a house and seeking its approval of the arrangement of the drains. The *Proceedings* contain the meat of the Local Board's activities during its twenty one years existence and hence it is from this source that the following selection of documents has been made. By ignoring the legalistic material it has proved possible to present a reasonably comprehensive picture of the Local Board's attempts to improve the truly appalling environmental conditions of mid-Victorian Bristol. All the major sewage disposal schemes of the time are detailed. Occasionally calendaring has been resorted to (indicated by 'calendared') and verbiage has been omitted (indicated by . . . ). Occasionally the editor has added a few words (enclosed in square brackets) to assist the reader.
On Tuesday 12 August 1851 the quarterly meeting of Bristol's city council considered the Public Health Act, 1848 and, acting as the Local Board of Health, appointed 21 of its members as a committee to apply the Act to the city with the proviso that the committee was 'to submit its acts to the said Local Board of Health' for ratification. (Proc. 12 August 1851)

The establishment of this committee and the adoption by the town council of the 1848 Act had been preceded by considerable inquiry, agitation and controversy over the sanitary condition of the city. Sir Henry de la Beche had reported in 1845 to the Health of Towns Commission on the gross inadequacy of Bristol's water supply and sewage disposal arrangements. Two local authors, Dr William Kay, senior physician at the Clifton Dispensary, and Mr J. Green had called attention to the high mortality rates in Bristol, particularly among the poor, and to the health hazards of discharging large quantities of raw sewage into the Floating Harbour and river Frome. In 1848, when a second epidemic of cholera

11 & 12 Vict. cap. lxiii. The Act designated town councils in corporate towns as Local Boards of Health; in non corporate districts the Board of Health was to be elected by a voting system similar to that used for electing Poor Law Guardians.

2 The Mayor, three aldermen and seventeen councillors formed the committee.

3 Sir Henry de la Beche, Report on the state of Bristol and other large towns (1845).

4 Dr William Kay, The sanitary condition of Bristol and Clifton (Bristol, 1844); J. Green, Account of the recent improvements in the drainage and sewerage of Bristol (Bristol, 1848). The general mortality rate averaged 29 per thousand in the decade 1841–1851, substantially above the national average rate for this decade. Mr Green, an engineer, estimated that 20,000 tons of solid matter was discharged annually into the Floating Harbour by 34 sewers.
threatened, an Association for the Improvement of the Public Health, supported by the bishop, was formed. It informed the town council that it was contemplating applying to the central government’s General Board of Health (established by the 1848 Act) for an inspector to make a thorough inquiry into the sanitary condition of the city, the implication being that this should be preliminary to the city adopting the 1848 Act. Eventually after much opposition from the Paving Commissioners who would be superseded if the Act was adopted, the council in 1849, with cholera now epidemic in the city, agreed to seek such an inquiry.\(^3\)

This was duly conducted in the spring of 1850 by George Clark. It resulted in a detailed and devastating portrayal of the exceedingly insanitary state of Bristol with the clear message that the basic defect was local government’s lack of power to act when action was so plainly needed.\(^4\) Indeed Bristol had the unenviable distinction of being the third most unhealthy provincial city in England after Manchester and Liverpool judging by the general mortality rates of 1845. But even though Clark’s report spelled out the case for applying the 1848 Act so compellingly, the Paving Commissioners and a section of the press and public fought a rearguard action against the centralization, compulsion and threats to liberty which they saw in the 1848 Act. Consequently it was not until 1851 that the council formally constituted itself a Local Board of Health and established a committee to carry out its duties.

The Local Board and its committee, which met quite separately from the city council in its own premises, was concerned with five main tasks until it was superseded by the Public Health Act of 1872 which made the town council an urban sanitary authority. These tasks were the maintenance, cleansing and lighting of the public streets, courts and alleys; improving the city’s sewage disposal system; dealing with a variety of ‘nuisances’ which threatened the health and comfort of Bristolians; the enforcement of parliamentary legislation of a regulatory kind, and, last but not least, safeguarding the public against visitations of epidemic diseases such as cholera, typhoid, typhus or smallpox.

The first two of these tasks the committee took over from the Paving Commissioners.\(^7\) As far as the streets were concerned it substantially extended the Commissioner’s activities, and not


\(^4\) G. T. Clark, *Report to the General Board of Health on a preliminary inquiry into the . . . sanitary condition . . . of Bristol* (1850).

\(^7\) For a brief sketch of their work see E. Ralph, *The streets of Bristol* (Bristol, 1981) pp 18–19.
before time. The Commissioner's jurisdiction had been limited to the ancient city, but during their reign from 1806 to 1851 the city had spread outside its ancient limits, particularly eastwards into the now heavily populated parish of St Philip and Jacob without. Lighting its streets – and those of the parts of the parishes of Bedminster and Westbury on Trym which lay outside the ancient city but within the city and county's boundary – was one of the first projects undertaken by the new Local Board (Proc. 30 January, 21 April 1852). This it was able to do since its jurisdiction embraced the whole city and county. Lighting was not without its problems. Once the two private gas companies in Bristol had united, the Local Board found itself faced by a monopoly supplier over which it had little or no control regarding prices charged for lighting the public lamps. Not surprisingly it employed an inspector to monitor the company's performance, but it does not appear to have been particularly successful in striking a good bargain with the Company (Proc. 18 August, 8 September 1860).

As for the streets themselves, the Local Board's problems were two fold: first it did not control the whole network, and secondly there was the horse. The Docks committee, Turnpike trustees and private developers all controlled roads. The Board's policy was clearly to gain control of all streets; hence its eventually successful negotiations with the Docks committee and the Turnpike trustees (Proc. 2 February 1861 24 February 1865). As for the developers, it is plain from the saga of the new roads in upper Clifton that the Board insisted on a high standard of construction before it would assume responsibility for the maintenance of a new road: pavements must be paved, not just gravelled (Proc. 28 April 1865). By the mid-sixties a new dimension began to enter this aspect of the Board's work. There was evidently a growing consciousness that movement about the city by the ever-increasing horse drawn traffic was becoming more difficult (see, for example, Proc. 18 September 1865) and that new and wider streets were becoming necessary. The financial implications of providing these were on a radically different scale from anything attempted earlier and entailed much additional engineering and administrative work. No doubt it was this that led to the Local Board appointing a second and separate committee in 1865 known as the Improvement committee.

The major problem about horses from the Board's point of view was that their droppings caused such a stink in the warmer months of the year that a demand arose for regular daily watering of the streets. The knotty problem for the Board was how to get this done at a cost which ratepayers would tolerate. Initial calculations indicated that it would cost a 5½d rate at a time when the Board
was usually levying a general rate for all its purposes of around 1/- in the pound. After protracted negotiation with the Water Works Co. and a decision to be content with watering only the principal streets, some alleviation of the problem created by the horse was obtained at a cost of rather over 1d rate which some thought was the maximum which should be paid for this purpose. (Proc. 26 May 1860, 26 April 1861, 23 February, 26 October 1866, 15 February 1867). No progress, however, was made in reducing the noise of horse-drawn traffic in busy streets: wooden paving was not introduced in Bristol until 1873. But the Board did provide public urinals (Proc. 30 September 1852), encouraged private individuals to erect fountains (Proc. 12 March 1859) and renovated many pumps providing a free water supply to supplement that of the Water Works Company (Proc. 30 October 1863, 29 July 1864). It did not look with favour on the use of steamrollers: they might frighten the horses (Proc. 20 April 1869).

The most spectacular work of the Board was creating a far more efficient system of sewage and rainwater disposal than Bristol had yet enjoyed. In common with other cities, notably London, Bristol was facing a growing crisis by the mid-nineteenth century. For centuries two means of disposing of the millions of gallons of rainwater falling on urban streets and the large quantities of waste from its houses had been relied on. Tributary streams of the Avon or Frome such as the Malago or Cutler's brook were used to carry away the rainwater, supplemented by such sewers as had been constructed, for instance, by the Paving Commissioners or private individuals, while cesspools coped with household waste. By the mid-century the system had become grossly unsatisfactory as shown by the chorus of complaints about the state of the Frome (Proc. 16 March, 28 September 1855).

There were three main reasons for this. First, the volume of liquid to be disposed of kept on growing inexorably as the size of Bristol increased. The making of more streets and the paving thereof increased the run-off of rainwater, and it should be noted that, judging by Bazalgette's calculations for his great London scheme, the volume of rainwater to be disposed of was roughly twice as great as that of household and industrial waste. Then the more Bristolians, using the improved water supplies provided by the Water Works Company, took to washing and bathing themselves, the more household waste there was to be got rid of.

8 Arrowsmith's Dictionary of Bristol (1906) p.384.
9 ibid; a steam roller was first used in 1878.
10 See Bazalgette's paper 'The main drainage of London ' in Minutes and proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, xxiv(1865).
Secondly, as in London, there was in Bristol an upper limit to the volume of liquid the system could handle because the Avon was tidal and discharge into it could only be effective at low ebb. Admittedly the Avon is at low ebb for a large part of every twenty four hours; on the other hand the Floating Harbour by its nature was in effect artificially kept at high tide permanently with consequential effects on the Frome. Thirdly, and most important of all, the two basically separate systems of disposing of rainfall by streams and sewers and household waste by cesspools were not kept separate. Household waste was fed into the streams and sewers instead of into cesspools with the result that the streams and sewers often became blocked, or when they did discharge into the Avon, Frome or Floating Harbour, the stink, particularly in hot weather, was horrific.

Why did the two systems not stay separate as was the case in contemporary Paris? The advance of the horse and the w.c. provided the answer. As Bristol grew, the volume of horse-drawn traffic increased substantially, and so did horse droppings. These ended up either as dung heaps awaiting removal or non-removal by carters or were swept into the streams and sewers. The invention of an efficient w.c. by Joseph Bramah in 1778 led to its adoption in better-class houses. The w.c.s were connected by house drains to the sewers and so were washing facilities. This system replaced the cesspools which however well managed they were, were apt to give off at least a faint smell. The cap was put on this development by the new Chadwickian breed of sanitary reformers of the early Victorian age whose sovereign remedy was the abolition of cesspools, the installation of w.c.s and house drains connected to the sewers, the whole system being kept on the move by a constant supply of water under pressure. In this way the miasma or stench which they believed was the direct cause of fevers such as typhoid, typhus or cholera would be eliminated. In short, the remedy of the reformers was bound to further undermine the separateness of the two systems and to contribute to the pollution of the rivers and the Floating Harbour. Fortunately for Bristol its water supply after 1846 was increasingly being drawn from the Mendips rather than the Avon and Frome.

How, did the Local Board tackle the problem? In essence, it adopted the mid-Victorian remedy of the intercepting trunk sewer. The basic notion was to construct large sewers usually running at right angles to the smaller existing sewers and streams running into rivers, thereby intercepting the sewage before it reached the river and conveying it away from the urban district to discharge down river. In Bristol's case the outfall was to be 1,100 yards down river from Hotwell house. This was the principle of the
grandest of these schemes, that constructed under Joseph Bazalgette’s supervision for the Metropolitan Board of Works.\textsuperscript{11} The Local Board’s work in Bristol was on a much smaller scale than that in London but the basic design was the same, and, fortunately from a cost point of view, did not involve the elaborate pumping arrangements necessary to make the low level sewers function in the metropolis. In Bristol it proved possible to produce trunk sewers at inclines sufficiently great to achieve a flow in the sewer of not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.p.h. necessary to prevent deposits forming.

The Board planned its work methodically, dividing the city into districts to be tackled one at a time. Altogether six schemes were carried out before the Board’s demise in 1872: for the drainage of upper Clifton; Bedminster; lower Clifton; St. Philips; the Frome valley and the parishes known in Board language as the Avon Intercepting District. The Board’s proceedings provide details of the routes taken by all the trunk sewers and their branches and give a fascinating insight into Bristol’s subterranean history. (\textit{Proc.} 2 December 1853, 25 May, 3 August 1854, 16 October 1857, 21 December 1859, 24 February 1871). Certainly the Board had its difficulties: Bazalgette himself was called in to sort out a problem in St Pauls whose inhabitants complained bitterly that their wells were being adversely affected by the Board’s new sewers. As might be expected, the actual cost on occasion outran estimated costs by a significant amount, although by no means on a scale of the cost overrun on Bazalgette’s own scheme. Ensuring that all sewage discharged into the tidal Avon and none into the Floating Harbour or Frome exercised the Board considerably. But the impression is that the Board was well served by its Surveyor (he would be called a civil engineer today) Frederick Ashmead who was responsible for the design and oversight of the execution of all six schemes.\textsuperscript{12}

Drainage schemes were the highlights of the Board’s activities, the small change was dealing with innumerable ‘nuisances’. Throughout the Board’s existence, and indeed for many years afterwards, this was the province of Joseph Yeates,\textsuperscript{13} the Board’s only Inspector of Nuisances, and the weekly concern of the Board’s committee. What were these nuisances? Keeping pigs in unsuitable premises was one. For example, a Mr Frankcom complained to the committee ‘of a nuisance existing next to his

\textsuperscript{11} ibid; D. Owen, \textit{The government of Victorian London} (1983) for an excellent account of the scheme.

\textsuperscript{12} Ashmead resigned as Surveyor in 1894.

\textsuperscript{13} Yeates died in office in 1887.
The Bristol Local Board of Health

house, no. 3 Albion Terrace, Montpelier, in a garden occupied by a policeman named Dorey who keeps pigs and frequently boils up foul meat and thereby causes a most horrible stench' (Minutes 11 September 1851). Unsavoury dung heaps also constituted 'nuisances': for instance, Mrs Sarah Matthews of 5 Sion Mews, Clifton complained to the committee that 'she is quite hedged in back and front by dung heaps' (Minutes 4 September 1851). But the most numerous of the nuisances were filthy privies, blocked drains, overflowing cesspools, and filthy courts and lanes. Inspector Yeates, helped by a growing band of hired men, waged a steady war against all these nuisances, serving notices requiring amendment on offenders and if this was not forthcoming resorting to prosecution. Already by 1858 upwards of 300 nuisances were dealt with in that year without the need for legal proceedings while 36 individuals were prosecuted. This aspect of the Board's work was seemingly never-ending, and furthermore there were nuisances about which it could do little such as the pollution caused by a chemical works and by smoke (Proc. 14 May 1852, 21 April 1860, 26 October 1866).

Between 1848 and the great codifying Public Health Act of 1875 scarcely a year passed without parliament passing legislation to encourage environmental improvement and better public health. Too little of this was put into practice as the Royal Sanitary Commission of 1869–71 showed. Nevertheless Bristol's Local Board was not inactive in seeking to enforce some of this legislation. For example when in 1863 parliament legislated to improve the shocking conditions in many bake houses, the Local Board certainly sought to enforce the new law (Proc. 19 February 1864, 10 March 1865). Likewise it enforced the legislation on the registration of the many overcrowded and disease-ridden common lodging houses in the city and secured the closing of dozens which failed to register (Proc. 2 December 1853, Minutes 30 March 1854). The Board also waged war against the many unregulated and insanitary slaughterhouses (Minutes 21 September 1854, 22 April 1858, Proc. 9 May 1871). It also introduced a primitive form of what would now be called 'planning'. From its inception the Board's committee required builders of houses to seek its permission for the drainage arrangements (e.g. Minutes 21 August 1851). By 1871 a fairly elaborate code of bye laws had been adopted by the Board covering construction of new streets, their sewerage, space between and ventilation of buildings, their sanitary provi-

sions and so forth with provision for the deposit of plans and inspection by the Local Board.

The general effect of the extension of regulatory legislation was for the Local Board to extend its activities at the expense of the assumed right of property owners to do what they liked with their own. Indeed the line between public and private action appears to have been drawn by the Board pragmatically rather than by reference to theoretical principle, even though throughout its existence the council, and hence the Local Board, contained a majority of Conservative councillors. For example, when it was discovered that money could be saved by employing direct labour to cart materials for road maintenance rather than by contracting this to private individuals the Board resorted to direct labour (e.g. Proc. 19 February 1864). On the other hand when tramways were proposed the Board was all for private enterprise undertaking them (Proc. 6 October 1871).

As well as parlimentary legislation, concern about epidemic disease certainly impelled the Board into further regulatory action and eventually into appointing its first Medical inspector or MOH as he was later to be called. (Proc. 24 February, 28 April, 18 August 1865, 24 August 1866). When an outbreak of cholera was feared, the Board intensified its attacks on 'nuisances' as with the third epidemic of 1854 when gangs of men were specially employed cleansing and disinfecting privies and drains in the many small and overcrowded courts in thickly populated parishes such as St Michael and St James where previous experience had shown the disease was most likely to claim victims (Proc. 30 September 1852, 2 December 1853, 8 December 1854). However it was not cholera but a severe epidemic of typhus in 1864 which first exposed the inadequacy of the Board and then spurred it into renewed activity.

The Board was slow to recognise just how widespread and serious the epidemic was, especially in the poverty-ridden parish of St Jude. Once it did so early in 1865 the Inspector of Nuisance's assistant inspectors were increased in number and more men were recruited for chloride of lime duties. (Proc. 24 February 1865) It was also concerned with the problem of caring for the typhus victims. The Poor Law authorities were overwhelmed by the numbers seeking hospital care, so that the Board was faced either with trying to provide this itself or of coercing the Poor Law authorities to increase their facilities by applying to the medical department of the Privy Council for an inquiry into hospital

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13 See D. Large and F. Round, Public Health in mid-Victorian Bristol (Bristol 1974) for further details on epidemics and the MOH appointment.
provision in the city. In fact Sir John Simon, the Privy Council's distinguished medical officer, dispatched the experienced Dr Buchanan to Bristol to investigate. The Board, facing the typhus crisis, was in a weak position. It virtually had to accept the recommendations in Buchanan's admirably concise and forceful report (Proc. 24 February 1865).

In effect this ushered in a new organization for dealing with epidemics and introduced more rigorous methods, following the advice of the eminent local expert on typhoid and cholera, Dr William Budd. The crucial change brought about by Buchanan was the appointment in 1865 of Dr David Davies as Medical Inspector to whom a set of inspectors reported daily on their house-to-house visitations of a definite and limited number of houses in areas affected by the more serious fevers, a system later extended to the whole city. The medicine to be administered was still basically cleansing, disinfecting and proper maintenance of facilities, but a new vigour was injected into this, particularly as the inspectors were often ex-detective constables. Owners of dirty houses were informed against, and if no action was taken the houses were cleansed at the expense of the landlord. There was also a much greater emphasis on the isolation of those suffering from fevers: a primitive ambulance was provided for them by the Board which also invested in disinfecting apparatus for the use of the public at a charge or free for those unable to pay (Proc 20 April 1869, 9 May 1871). When confronted with a smallpox epidemic in 1871, the Board went as far as creating a small isolation hospital at its yard at St Philip's Marsh (Proc. 1 March 1872).

During its twenty one years existence, both the Local Board's expenditure and its employees increased considerably. Between 1851 and 1861 expenditure doubled from £32,229 to £66,582 and in the next decade 1861–1871 almost trebled again to £162,378. Much of this increase reflected the cost of servicing loans contracted to carry out sewering operations, and, in the sixties, for the increasing programme of street widening and improvement which involved expensive acquisition of property for demolition. The salaries and wages bill also increased, partly because the Board's officers acquired assistants to help with the increased work. For example in 1851 the Surveyor had two assistants and by 1871 this had grown to four. No doubt one reason for this was that by 1871 more of the work the Surveyor was responsible for was done by direct labour requiring supervision rather than by private contractors. For instance by 1871 weekly wage men employed by the Surveyor for cleansing were costing the Board £1,886 p.a. (with four inspectors paid £91 p.a. each to oversee this) and the wage bills for men employed by the Surveyor for sewer work, pitching,
paving and steining amounted to £1,098, £630, £1,533 and £2,323 p.a. respectively. In short the Local Board era certainly witnessed a significant increase in local government activity in Bristol.¹⁶

Finally, what did it actually achieve? The Times in 1869 observed that in just over twenty years Bristol had been transformed 'from nearly the most unhealthy to be nearly the most healthy town in Great Britain'. It cited as evidence the reduction of the general mortality rate from 28 per thousand in 1850 to 22 per thousand in 1869.¹⁷ Furthermore, Bristol had scored a spectacular success in 1866 in fighting off a fourth cholera attack and an outbreak of typhus. There were only 45 cases of cholera reported to the Board of whom 27 died (Proc. 26 October 1866) and the typhus outbreak was far less severe than that of 1864–5. How much of this most welcome improvement should be ascribed to the labours of the Board and its servants it is difficult if not impossible to say since the causes of falls in mortality rates are so complex. Nevertheless, it seems right to suggest that the Board’s contribution was no mean one, even if we must also remind ourselves how much still needed to be done to improve the health and well-being of Bristolians. There were still multifarious problems to be overcome such as the massacre of the innocents witnessed to by the very high infant mortality rate, the immense scourge of T.B., the considerable death toll from measles, scarlatina and whooping cough, and so on. Furthermore, as the newspaper-sponsored inquiry of 1884 was to show, there was much overcrowding and appalling conditions in The homes of the Bristol Poor (Bristol, 1884). The tasks the Local Board undertook were enduring, that is why one is so often reminded of parallels with the present when reading its proceedings.

¹⁶ For this paragraph see Abstract of the audited accounts of the Local Board of Health of the city and county of Bristol (2 vols, in Bristol central library).
¹⁷ The Times 18 October 1869.
21 January 1852

Your committee have had under their anxious and serious consideration the necessity of obtaining a survey and plan of the city for the purposes of the Act and have had several conferences and much correspondence with Mr. G.C. Ashmead, engineer and publisher of a large map of the city of Bristol, upon the subject and as they believe from the specimens of the plan produced by him to your committee that such plan would be sufficient for their purposes when completed as to the necessary details required. They agreed to recommend you to accept his tender to furnish a complete map of the borough of Bristol on a scale of 8 feet 10 inches and \(\frac{3}{4}\) of an inch to the mile in sheets of 2 feet by 3 feet taking such fresh admeasurements in the streets and other parts of the borough as will shew all the alterations and corrections up to the present time and laying down upon such map the public sewers and sewer grates and shewing the divisions of houses and gardens and also including the taking a complete course of levels in all the public streets etc. and shewing their height above a given datum line upon the map at the sum of £1,200. So soon as Mr Ashmead has obtained the approval of the General Board to the adoption of

1 G.C. Ashmead of 19 Small street had ‘recently prepared maps of the city for the Bristol and Bristol and Clifton Gas Cos. for the purpose of laying down the position of their various gas mains’, so he was just the man to assist the Local Board which had been informed by central government that ‘a complete survey of the district is the foundation of all proper works’ (Minutes 21 August, 11 September 1851).

2 The General Board of Health consisted of its President who was the minister for the time being holding the post of First Commissioner of Woods and Forests, Chadwick, Southwood Smith and Lord Ashley. Its powers were strictly defined by the 1848 Act. Its unhappy history has been well treated in S.E. Finer’s, Life and times of Sir Edwin Chadwick and R.A. Lewis, Edwin Chadwick and the public health movement 1832–1854.
such plan. And, as the testing such map by an engineer to be sent down by the General Board might be attended with considerable expence, your committee consented to recommend that a further sum not exceeding £100 should be paid to Mr Ashmead upon the map being so tested and approved or that a sum not exceeding £50 should be paid him towards the expence of such testing whether such map should be approved by the General Board or not.

30 January 1852

An estimate of the money required for the purposes of paying and discharging the expences of providing lamp pillars, bracket irons, lamps and apparatus of a permanent nature for lighting the out parish of Saint Philip and Jacob within and forming part of the city and county of Bristol that is to say

For cast iron lamp pillars including the ladder irons, the iron frame, heads for holding the lamps and painting, hauling and fixing. . . . . £ 374 8s 9d
For wrought iron bracket irons including painting and fixing. . . . . £ 134 16s 5d
For lamps and tin numbers. . . . . £ 161 10s 3d
For gas fittings to the lamps. . . . . £ 459 18s Od

£1,130 13s 5d

The rateable value of the property assessable amounts to £43,674 and it will be necessary to make a rate of elevenpence halfpenny upon each pound of such value to raise a sufficient sum for the purpose aforesaid. [Estimate approved]

16 April 1852

An estimate of the money required for the purposes of the paving, pitching, cleansing and lighting and of defraying such other expences as are chargeable upon a general district rate for the city and council of Bristol comprising the following parishes [lists the parishes of the city and county of Bristol]

£  s  d
For paving. . . . . 1,900
For pitching. . . . . 1,590
For steining. . . . . 1,095 5

3 The Local Board also set about lighting those parts of the parishes of Bedminster and Westbury on Trym within the city boundaries, providing for 350 and 150 gas lights respectively (Proc. 21 April 1852). When capital expenditure of this kind-or for sewers etc. – was necessary the Local Board’s practice was to levy a special rate on the particular district which would benefit.
The Bristol Local Board of Health

Sewers . . . . 2,385
Gravelling footways . . . 350 5
Cleansing . . . 2,244 8
Lighting . . . 5,245 15
Extraordinaries . . . 200
Salaries and compensations . . . 900
Fees to Counsel, agents charges etc . . . 50
Advertising, printing and stationery . . . 200
Collectors poundage and for making rates etc . . . 450
Compensations to removed officers . . . 50
Offices . . . 100
Incidents . . . 50
Maps and survey . . . 100
Preliminary inquiry . . . 150
To pay outstanding debts due 25th March . . . 2,036
Rents . . . 85

£19,181 18

The rateable value of the property assessable amounts to £442,889 16s and it will be necessary to make a rate of one shilling upon each pound of such value to raise a sufficient sum for the purposes aforesaid. [Approved]

14 May 1852

The attention of your committee has been called by a memorial to the alleged nuisance caused by the alkali works. It has taken legal advice on the subject and has given the following answer to the memorialists: the Local Board of Health have no power to prevent the continuance of the present alkali works. It has the power to prevent the establishment of such new works. It has no available power to prevent the deposit from the present works.

30 September 1852

Mr William King moved . . . That Bristol having twice suffered from malignant cholera it now becomes the duty of this Board to

*It became the practice for the Local Board to draw up estimates of this kind annually. The general rate, as distinct from a special rate, was levied on property throughout the city.

5 A memorial signed by 292 'proprietors and inhabitants of Totterdown, Bath road, the New Cut and neighbourhood' complained of 'the monster nuisance of the volumes of nauseous vapour emitted night and day from the high chimney of the alkali works near Marsh bridge' and also of 'the immense quantities of waste produced at such works . . . several thousand tons annually . . . emitting sulphuretted hydrogen'. (Minutes 8 April 1852) Mathew's Directory, 1853 lists only one alkali manufacturer in Bristol- Jordan and Leonard of Avon street St. Philips.

6 This refers to the epidemics of 1831–2 and 1849.
give to their fellow citizens the benefit of all those measures for the prevention of disease which it was clearly the intention of the legislature should be given them under the provisions of the Public Health Act hence it is desirable to appoint a health officer to the Board forthwith that those measures may be efficiently carried out under competent authority. [Lost by a majority.]

The attention of your committee having been called to the possible visitation of this city by cholera have directed their various officers to visit and report upon the state of the alleys, courts and other places as regards the paving, cleansing, drainage, privies and water supply and whereever any defect is reported they have authorized the Clerk to give notice under the Public Health Act to the proper parties requiring them to remove it.

30 September 1852
Your committee for the better accommodation of the public erected urinals at Bristol Bridge, at the Draw Bridge and at the Stone Bridge.

5 April 1853
Your committee further report that the Surveyor, Mr John Armstrong and his assistant, Mr Frederick Ashmead have been for some time engaged in considering and laying down a plan for constructing a large trunk sewer for the more efficient drainage of a considerable part of Clifton and some parts of Cotham and Redland and the neighbourhood which will be a work of very considerable magnitude and will require and shall receive the best attention of your committee.

2 December 1853
The cholera having appeared with considerable violence in some of the northern counties your committee have been actively engaged in co-operation with the Corporation of the Poor in adopting measures for the better security of the sanitary condition of this city. The reports made by the medical staff employed by the

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7 The Public Health Act of 1848 permitted, but did not compel, towns or districts which adopted the Act to appoint an M.O.H. In fact of the 196 places between 1848 and 1855 which adopted the Act only 35 can be claimed with certainty to have appointed an M.O.H. (C. Fraser Brockington, Public Health in the nineteenth century (1965), chap iv). Bristol did not do so in 1852 and in 1860 reaffirmed its refusal adding that it thought that to make such appointments compulsory would be detrimental to the interests of the Local Board (Minutes 3 May 1860).
Corporation of the Poor\(^8\) in their house to house visitation in all courts and places which most required inspection were daily transmitted to your committee who employed an extra staff of men to carry out the requirements contained in such reports and although much has been done to abate for the time existing nuisances much still remains to be done to effect permanent good and your committee are now adopting and will continue to adopt measures for that purpose and they hope the dreadful scourge if not altogether prevented may be checked thereby.

2 December 1853 (Return on lodging houses)\(^9\)

- 140 served with notice to register
- 50 houses given up or no longer taking lodgers
- 18 houses registered
- 72 houses under notice to register

2 December 1853

Your committee feeling the great importance of carrying out sanitary measures for the benefit of the poorer classes of their citizens have erected about 100 wrought iron ash boxes in various courts and lanes in the city and outlying districts to afford them an opportunity of removing from their confined habitations their ashes, dirt, filth and refuse and this accommodation your committee believe will have a very beneficial effect on their health and cleanliness.

2 December 1853

[From Messrs Armstrong and Ashmead's report on the present drainage of the higher parts of Clifton and of Westbury and proposed new system]

The main sewer to be a high level sewer to commence at the lowest point in Cotham, Westbury parish, about 8 feet under surface of the road, to pass in front of Hampton Terrace underneath the road and houses to the White Ladies Road, Clifton parish at a depth of about 20 feet at this point, from thence

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\(^8\) The Corporation of the Poor was established in 1696 to take charge of poor relief throughout the ancient city. The medical staff referred to consisted of three physicians, three surgeons and an apothecary (Mathews Bristol Directory, 1853)

\(^9\) Many lodging houses were overcrowded and insanitary. The Common Lodging Houses Act, 1851 (14 & 15 Vict. cap. xxvii) and a further regulatory Act in 1853 (16 & 17 Vict. cap. xli) gave Local Boards powers to regulate them. The city police were eventually recruited to act as assistant inspectors of lodging houses, thirty nine being so designated in 1859 (Proc. 27 May 1859).
underneath a new road about to be made in front of West Clifton Terrace to the Durdham Down Road at which point it will be at a depth of about 42 feet from which it continues underneath the fields at the back of the Zoological Gardens to the Clifton Down Road at a depth of about 73 feet at this point, when it passes under the road leading from the Hotwell House to Clifton Down at a depth of about 42 feet where it arrives at a ravine by the side of the last mentioned road down which it runs and discharges into the river Avon at low water mark about 1,100 yards below the Hotwell House.

Branch sewers to be constructed on the north and south sides of the main sewer in Cotham Lane, White Ladies Road, Durdham Down Road and also smaller sewers to be connected with these branch sewers by which the whole of the higher part of Clifton and the whole of the parish of Westbury may be drained as shown in the accompanying plans and sections.

The whole of the sewers to be constructed of brick, sufficiently large for men to enter and man holes will be left at convenient distances for the purpose of cleansing and repairs etc. The inclination or fall will in no case be less than 1 in 300.10

3 August 1854

Report presented to the committee of the Bristol Local Board of Health on the proposed system of sewers for the more effectual drainage of that portion of the parish of Bedminster south of the river Avon within the boundary of the borough of Bristol.

25 May 1854

Gentlemen,

It is proposed to drain the whole of the district west of the Malaga brook by means of a low level sewer commencing with a sewer 3 feet by 2 feet 6 inches at the south east end of Paul street (below the level of the Malaga brook) at which point it is proposed to fix a sluice for the purpose of flushing the sewers from the brook, passing along Paul street and Mill lane into East street at which point it is increased in size to 4 feet 6 inches by 4 feet and,

10 In the earlier part of the report it was claimed that the proposed scheme would eliminate 769 cesspools in upper Clifton and 327 in those parts of the parish of Westbury on Trym within the city's boundary. The Surveyor was very condemnatory of the state of these cesspools. The plan was approved by the Engineering Secretary of the General Board of Health and power was granted to the Local Board to borrow £20,000 from the Public Works Loan Commissioners which they eventually provided (Proc. 27 March, 3 August and 8 December 1854).
The Bristol Local Board of Health

continuing the same line across the fields to Dean lane where it is increased to 6 feet by 5 feet 6 inches. It will then pass under Belize Cottage, continued the same size along Dean lane towards Coronation road and discharge into the river Avon about 390 feet below the Ferry slip and 2,100 feet below Harford’s bridge having an uniform inclination of 1 in 300 the whole length.

Main branch sewers 3 feet by 2 feet 6 inches and 3 feet 6 inches by 3 feet are proposed to be made in North street and East street and in West street as far as the brow of the hill going towards the turnpike. Also a short branch from Harford’s bridge along the Causeway to the end of Mill lane where it will be connected with the main sewer, at which point also it is proposed to connect the branch sewers from East and West streets, North street sewer being continued along Dean lane and connected at the point where the main sewer crosses Dean lane. Also minor branches will be connected with each of these main branches so as effectually to drain the whole of the locality.

The present sewer in Spring Street discharging into the river Avon about 1,130 feet above Harford’s bridge will require repair as it is proposed to make it available for that district by means of short branches in the different streets to be connected with it.

It is also proposed to make available the present sewer running under Clarence place at the end of Orchard square, Hope square and Heare’s Buildings and discharging into the river Avon about 500 feet above Harford’s bridge, by lowering the present mouth and hatch and putting in an invert and other necessary repairs. Also by continuing the present mouth in front of Philip street until it joins the present sewer leading from the Malago brook at Bright Bow, by which brook also at this spot it is proposed to flush this sewer by which means, and with short branches, this sewer will be made efficient for the district through which it passes.

The whole of these sewers being low level sewers will only discharge effectually when the tide is below about \( \frac{3}{4} \) rise and consequently it is proposed to increase the size of the lower end of the main sewer in order to make it capable of containing at a proper level all the sewage of its district during the period the outlet is closed by the tide.

By this system the present course and outfall of the Malago brook will be not interfered with and consequently the drainage of Charlotte street, Queen street and that neighbourhood will remain as at present, that portion of the brook being now covered over and discharges into the river Avon about 950 feet below Harford’s bridge.

The only portion of Bedminster now under consideration remaining unprovided for is the west end of West street from the
brow towards the Turnpike gate, Parson's street and that neigh­bourhood, the Marshes now covered with water and Baynton's Buildings.

This district it is proposed to drain into the pill near Cliff House by means of a main sewer commencing at the south end of Parson's street, passing under the Exeter railway and Turnpike gate to the footpath across marsh land, along Duckmoor lane under the Ashton Turnpike road and through the fields to the pill.

The estimated cost of the whole of this work is about £9,500. . . .

Frederick Ashmead, Surveyor.

8 December 1854

Mr Colthurst moved: That a special committee be appointed to communicate with the Directors of the Water Company as to their present position and the best remedy for removing the late serious deficiency . . . and they report thereon to an early meeting of this Council acting as the Local Board of Health. [Carried] 8 December 1854

As cholera has again appeared and was making fearful ravages in the metropolis and one or two cases had been imported from thence to this city your committee deemed it prudent immediately to employ gangs of men under the superintendence of the inspectors in the several districts of the city to visit all courts and places which most required inspection and to cleanse all foul drains and privies using disinfecting agents in the work. This was continued for several weeks and many thousands of foul drains and privies were cleansed and purified and your committee believe that these measures and those adopted by them from time to time for the abatement of nuisances have greatly tended to prevent any serious outbreak of the dreadful malady in this city.

16 March 1855

Sirs,

I take the liberty of addressing you on the subject of a great

11 The Bristol Water Works Company was established by a private Act in 1846 (9 & 10 Vict. cap. ccxxii). It embarked on an ambitious scheme to remedy the truly parlous state of Bristol's water supply by tapping the underground reservoirs formed in the carboniferous limestone of the Mendips and conveying the water to the city. The engineering work required was considerable and no doubt there were teething troubles. For the company see F.C. Jones, The Bristol Water Works Company, 1846–1946 (1946)
nuisance to which the whole of this city and especially my own parish has been subjected now for several years- I allude to a river called the river Frome which flows through the heart of the city and into which the sewage from several thousand houses discharges itself. This so called river is during the summer months nearly stagnant and, as during a considerable portion of its course through the city it is uncovered, the stench that arises from it is positively intolerable. Whenever cholera has appeared in Bristol its virulence has been most evident along the course of this pestilential stream. Last year I drew up a memorial and obtained the signatures of 600 respectable householders to it and presented it to the town council who own a great portion of the river as an earnest appeal to remedy the fatal nuisance complained of. The matter was referred to a committee of the council acting as a Board of Health. Some remedial plan was proposed by their Surveyor but the consideration of it was postponed to a future meeting. This was in November last yet no further notice has been taken of the memorial or complaint.

My parishioners are particularly affected by it for not only does the open river or sewer run behind their houses obliging them to keep their windows closed during the summer but it runs in front of their church (the church of Saint Matthias Elias) so that the congregation have often during the summer months been detained in large numbers from church in consequence of the offensive stench from the river.

I asked once the Bishop’s advice on the subject – he advised me to state the case to you and said that the whole of the respectable part of the city would back my complaint.

The Corporation have I believe for many years been thinking of some remedy but the evil has now risen to a fearful pitch and no remedy has been applied. The river should evidently be treated as sewer and covered over (as the Fleet is in the metropolis) where it traverses the city

A.C. Rowley
Incumbent St.Matthias

6 July 1855

Your committee recommend that a professional gentleman should be appointed to the office of Clerk to the Local Board of Health

12 The condition of the river Frome had long been complained of e.g. see the graphic letter from Rev. A.O. Wellstead of St Judges and his parishioners on this topic, describing the parish as having no gas lights, few pavements, many pig styes, ruinous houses, inadequate surface drainage and much misery, poverty and
[vacant by the death of James Harris]; that he should be required to reside on the premises of the Board of Health at 44 Queen Square; that he should be required to devote the whole of his time to the duties of the office and that he should not undertake any other business without the special permission of the committee and that he should be paid an annual salary of £350 with the use of the dwelling house. 13

28 September 1855
Your committee cannot close their report without expressing their satisfaction at being enabled to state that the sanitary condition of the district is greatly improved as testified by the absence of disease and a great diminution in the number of complaints made of the existence of nuisances which they believe are prevented by the vigilant inspection made by their officers in their daily rounds and when nuisances are found to exist by the immediate measures taken for their removal. But in making this statement your committee feel bound to refer to the bad condition of the river Frome flowing as it does through a large portion of the city and to recall the attention of the Council to Mr Ashmead's report on the improvement of the drainage in the neighbourhood of the river Frome which was at a meeting of the Council acting as the Local Board of Health held on the 8th day of December 1854 ordered to be printed and taken into consideration at some future meeting of the Local Board of Health.

7 March 1856
Your committee beg to report that between the commencement of sickness. 'Diarrhoea continually prevails', the letter maintained, 'fevers and contagious diseases are frequent and the whole parish is in such a state as to cause its being reported by the government Inspector of Schools as one of the worst in England (Minutes 18 September 1851). Sir Benjamin Hall, later 1st Lord Llanover (1802–1867) M.P. for Marylebone became President of the General Board of Health in 1854. Rowley's letter was passed to the Local Board with the hope expressed by the General Board that a bill before parliament to amend the Public Health Act 1848 would make it easier to deal with problems such as that presented by the river Frome. The Local Board replied that the great difficulty was cost and knowing upon whom to levy a rate to meet it (Proc. 16 March 1855).

13 There was opposition in full council to this proposal. Some councillors thought that money should be saved by getting the Town Clerk to do the job with help from a secretary to be paid £200 p.a. Eventually John Glyde Heaven was appointed Clerk at £350 p.a. (Proc. 14 July 1855)

14 By this time Frederick Ashmead had succeeded John Armstrong (deceased) as Surveyor and William Coxon had become assistant Surveyor (Proc. 27 March 1854).
the month of October last the time when they became in a position to put in force the provisions of The Nuisances Removal Act for England, 1855 and the 31st December last, 24 notices of nuisances arising from the improper keeping of pigs, accumulation of offensive matter and premises and privies in a filthy and dilapidated state have been given to the Board pursuant to the said Act. '8 of the parties causing such nuisances were summoned before the Justices who in 7 of the cases ordered the abatement of the nuisances complained of with payment of the costs of the proceedings by the parties complained of and in one case dismissed the complaint, it appearing that the party summoned was not liable, and in the whole of the 24 cases the nuisances have been removed.

14 April 1857

That the following streets and places (not being Highways) vizt. the back of Gloster Row, Clifton; the back of the Mall, Clifton; the back of Richmond Park, Clifton; Prince Street, Bedminster; Bishop Street, Bedminster; Devonport Street, Bedminster; Stones Buildings, Bedminster; Twinnell Street and Road, St Philips; Hillgrove Street, Bedminster; Barton Street, St. Philips; Barton Vale, St. Philips; Tyler Street, St. Philips; Buckingham Vale and Villas, Clifton; Sydenham Hill and Road; Henry Street, Saint Philips; the Quarry, Durdham Down; Regent Street Bedminster; York Street Bedminster; the back of Belle Vue, Kingsdown; Sussex Street, William Street, Edward Street, Alfred Street, Prince Street, York Street, Chapel Street and Thomas Street, St. Philips; the back of Frome Street and Skinner Street, Upper Park Street and Oakfield Place, Clifton; Waterloo Street and Waterloo Place, St. Philips; Baptist Street, Henry Row and Campbell Terrace, Baptist Mills; Ashley Row, Ashley Road, Laura Villas, Southville, Bedminster; Cross's Gardens, Saint Pauls; Kenilworth Terrace, St. Philips; Jubilee Street, St. Philips; Brighton Park, Clifton; York Place, Clifton; Cumberland Street, St. Philips; Oxford Street, St. Philips; Albert Road, St. Philips Marsh; Stokes Barton, Bedminster; Edward Place, Stapleton Road; Berkeley Court, Berkeley Place, Clifton; York Place, Clifton; and Bedminster Place.

and not being sewered, levelled, paved, flagged and channelled to their satisfaction your committee caused notices under your common seal to be served on the respective owners or occupiers of the premises fronting, adjoining or abutting upon such parts of the

said streets respectively as required them to sewer, level, pave, flag or channel the same within a time specified in the said notices respectively and such notices not being complied with they caused the works mentioned or referred to therein to be executed and directed that the owners in default should be charged with the expenses incurred in the manner directed by The Public Health Act 1848.

28 August 1857

Your committee beg also to report that having had their attention again called to the nuisance arising from the river Frome they have seriously considered the matter with the view of adopting such measures as may be practicable for remedying the nuisance and they believe the only feasible means of doing so will be by carrying into effect schemes for draining the whole city in Special Districts after the mode already adopted with respect to the Clifton High level and Bedminster Sewer Districts by which means the practical difficulties of providing the cost of constructing works for the relief of the river Frome as a river will be obviated and the sewage matter which now flows into and pollutes it will gradually be diverted into other channels. They have accordingly directed your Surveyor to prepare a plan of drainage for that portion of the city and county which lies to the south of the river Frome and is bounded on the north by the said river, on the south by the river Avon, on the west by the Floating Harbour and Dolphin Street and on the east by the boundary of the borough and to report thereon, which plan and report they now present for your consideration and recommend that you should adopt and that they be authorized to submit the same to the General Board of Health for their sanction and to borrow on the credit of the special district rates to be levied on that portion of the District which will be benefitted by the works a sufficient sum of money to pay for the same.

Your committee have not caused plans for draining those parts of the city on the other side of the Frome to be prepared because although the execution of the works the scheme for which is now presented will not effect a total relief from the nuisance arising from the river Frome yet it will relieve it to a great extent and they consider it would be better to proceed with the drainage works for the whole city and county gradually District by District rather than that the Board should undertake the whole at once as it appears to them that the latter course would entail much greater cost in executing the works. 16

16 An attempt was made but defeated in the meeting of the Local Board to amend
The Bristol Local Board of Health

16 October 1857

Your committee further report that it appearing to them to be expedient that sewers should be provided for the drainage of that portion of the parish of Clifton which is not comprised in the High Level Sewer District of Bristol, they directed your Surveyor to prepare a scheme of drainage for such other portions of the District as might conveniently be brought into the same system of sewers and to report thereon . . .

Report on the proposed means of drainage for that portion of the parishes of Clifton, Westbury on Trym, Saint Michael and Saint Augustine north of the Floating Harbour and Cumberland Basin and south of the boundary already defined and set out as the High Level District and bounded on the west by the river Avon and on the east by Brandon Hill and Tyndall's Park.

It is proposed to drain the whole of this district by means of a low level sewer commencing at the bottom of Woodwell lane or Jacobs Wells road nearly opposite Woodwell crescent passing along the whole length of the Hotwell road and Love street to Dowry square continuing along in front of Dowry Parade and the Gloster Hotel passing the bottom of Granby Hill in front of Ashton place to Saint Vincent's Parade at which point it will receive the sewage from the Royal York Crescent, the West Mall and Caledonia Place, from which point it will continue along in front of Hotwell House underneath the rocks to the towing path in front of Point House at the Round Point to the present outlet of the High Level Sewer District being about 1,100 yards below the Hotwell House.

The present old sewer in Woodwell lane or Jacobs Wells road being in a very bad stage of repair and wholly insufficient for the effectual drainage of the district it is proposed to construct a new sewer up this road to commence at the head of the last mentioned main sewer and continue up the road until it joins a new sewer near the entrance gate to Queen Elizabeth's Hospital constructed by your late Surveyor along Berkeley Place which sewer receives the whole of the sewage from Tyndall's Park and neighbourhood and now discharges into the Floating Harbour.

The next branch proposed to be constructed commences near Mardyke Ferry slip at the Church path up which it passes to the National schools, passing the side of same, it continues along the ridge of rock at the back of the gardens, turning up the gardens to Southernhay and from thence to Clifton Wood and on to Clifton so as to proceed immediately with sewer ing both sides of the Frome (Proc. 28 August 1857).
Hill. This sewer being at a considerable inclination, it is proposed to use 12 inch pipes in construction of same.

The next branch commences near Trinity Church passing up Clifton Vale Hill part of the new road, at which point it will be connected with the drains constructed by Mr Carter and Mr Reid which receive the drainage of houses in Regent and Savile places etc.

The next short branch will commence at Dowry square and continue up Power street to Granby Hill and will receive the drainage of houses in the Lower Crescent, Polygon etc.

The next branch required will be for houses in Caroline and Grenville places, these houses are now drained by a sewer discharging into the river near the Packet Station but your Surveyor is of opinion that the drainage of these houses should be brought into the new sewer and thus discharged at a considerable distance lower down the river.

The next branch will be a short length up Granby Hill to receive the sewage from houses in the Paragon and Windsor Terrace etc.

The next branch required for the drainage of this district will be connected with the main sewer passing up Jacobs Wells road, passing up Lower Clifton Hill along in front of Belle Vue, up Clifton Hill to Rivers Cottages.

These sewers with one or two short branches and the several sewers now constructed in the West Mall, Caledonia place, the Royal York Crescent etc will complete the whole of the drainage of the district now under consideration.

I estimate the probable expense of executing the whole of these works in a substantial manner at £15,000 and that the annual expenses of repairing them will be little or nothing for the next 20 years. Your Surveyor is of opinion that the most advantageous mode of contracting would be to contract only for the execution of the works in a substantial manner and not for maintaining the same for any term of years certain. The above estimate does not include any money which may be required to pay for any existing sewers which it may be found necessary that the Board should purchase.

23 July 1858

That the contracts for cleansing the city and county being about to expire on the 29th September next your committee considering that it would now be advantageous to follow out in the whole city and county the plan which has already been tried and approved in Divisions N. 2 and 4 in taking in their own hands the cleansing of
the steined roads, remodelled the division of the District in such a manner as they considered best for the objects they had in view still however dividing it into 4 divisions. They then duly advertised for tenders for cleansing the whole of the streets, lanes, courts and places (except steined roads) within the several divisions and for the removal of ashes and house refuse from all the houses therein for the term of 3 years from the 29th September next. And having received several tenders they accepted the tender of your present contractor for the whole of the works and they recommend that their said acceptance be confirmed and that they be authorized to enter into the necessary contracts.

The following statement will show the yearly cost of cleansing before and after the adoption of the system of taking the cleansing of steined roads into the hands of the Board:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Per Annum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The contract price including the cleansing of all steined roads was. . .</td>
<td>£8530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The contract price exclusive of steined roads in two divisions was. . .</td>
<td>£6119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The present contract price which is exclusive of steined roads but includes the extra work of cleansing daily instead of 3 times a week certain of the principal streets is. . .</td>
<td>£4920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The yearly cost of cleansing the steined roads in the two divisions has been. . .</td>
<td>£677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And the estimated cost of cleansing such roads in the whole District is estimated at. . .</td>
<td>£1240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So that it will be seen the present contract will effect a saving of £2370 per annum.

23 July 1858

During the recent hot weather your committee have pursued the course adopted by them in former years of sending out men under the supervision of the Inspectors of the several cleansing Divisions to go through the several courts and alleys of the District to see to the state of the privies and drains and where necessary to cleanse the same using disinfecting and deodorizing substances and to report all cases where repairs are required and they have great satisfaction in stating that it appears from the Inspectors reports that the condition of the courts as to cleanliness and the healthiness of the inhabitants is very far superior to what it was even on the occasion of a like inspection in 1857. In fact your committee

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17 This term is not in OED. The etymology of the word stein suggest that these were roads paved with stones.
are justified in saying there appeared to be at the time of the inspection an almost total absence of disease from the public courts of the city. This result, there can be little doubt, is due to the constant daily inspection of your officers and to the measures adopted for the removal of such nuisances as they may meet with. Your committee believe that when in conjunction with these measures the projected drainage works shall have been completed the effect of which will be to relieve the river Frome and the Floating Harbour from the sewage which now flows into them and which so far as regards The Low Level and Saint Philips Sewer District are in hand and progressing favourably, the health and comfort of the citizens will be most materially benefitted.

12 March 1859

Your committee having considered the very liberal offers made by Robert Lang Esq. and by other gentlemen of contributing sums of money for the erection of public drinking fountains in certain parts of the district, they recommend that the same should be accepted for the benefit of the citizens provided they can be advantageously rendered available. Before incurring the expense of erecting such fountains generally throughout the district a few should be provided for the purposes of testing their utility and the extent to which they will be appreciated by the public, the number to be hereafter increased should it be deemed desirable to do so.

That with this view one such fountain be erected at the cost of Mr Jose near the public lamp at the end of Saint Augustine’s church yard wall at the north east corner of the church yard, one at the cost of Mr John Wesley Hall in the Horse Fair near the public urinal and one at the cost of Messrs. Ford and Canning at the south end of Prince Street and one at the cost of Mr W.D. Wills at some spot in the parish of Saint Paul to be hereafter determined on.

Also that for carrying Mr. Robert Lang’s object into effect a fountain of an ornamental character be erected at the cost of Mr Lang, and of such other persons as may be desirous of contributing to the same, in front of the Victoria Rooms and the Fine Arts Academy.

That the designs of all such fountains be such as may be hereafter determined on and that the said fountains be supplied with water by the Local Board of Health such water to be procured either from the Water Works Company or from such other sources as may be found to be advantageously available for the purpose.18

18 This initiative led to further individuals defraying the cost of fountains e.g. Miss Florence Hill at Terminus Temple Gate; E. Dalton at Welsh Back and Old
6 August 1859

Your committee have much satisfaction in stating that notwithstanding the extraordinarily hot and dry weather which has prevailed and which would naturally increase and make more noticeable nuisances arising from bad drains, defective privies, offensive deposits and causes of that nature, the number of complaints and the cases of this kind discovered by your officers have been less than was ever the case during the summer months since the establishment of your Board. Men have been sent round under the orders of the Inspector with directions to cleanse foul privies and drains and to apply chloride of lime where required in the courts and back streets and lanes. They have been through the parishes of Saint James, Saint Paul, Saint Philip and Jacob and Temple and although it appears that many cases were found requiring attention yet your committee confidently express their belief that year by year the district, including the parts inhabited by the poorer classes, is becoming more cleanly and wholesome, and that the measures adopted by them result materially in the improved health and comfort of the citizens.

29 November 1859

It was moved and accepted that the committee should obtain the data for ascertaining the rates of mortality for the year preceding the adoption of the 1848 Act and for each succeeding year.

21 December 1859

Your committee having commenced compulsorily to carry out your directions that the owners of all houses draining into cesspools shall be required to connect their drains with the new sewers, they confidently expect that ere long the whole sewage of these Districts [i.e. upper and lower Clifton] will be discharged into the new sewers. . . With a view to afford the committee information respecting the state of the drainage of houses in these districts your Surveyor has ascertained the number of houses in each of the said Districts is as follows

Markets; J.R. Budgett at St Nicholas Market; Rev. J. Hensman at Victoria Square, Clifton; the Bristol iron masters at High Street and 'four other fountains are in the course of erection by other donors, (Proc. 21 December 1859).
The number of these houses not yet connected with the new sewers and in course of being connected are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Houses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Level District</td>
<td>692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Level District</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

showing that of the 3984 houses in both Districts only 844 remain to be connected with the new sewers and your Surveyor is taking the necessary steps to compel the several owners of these houses to make the required connections.

21 December 1859

Report on the proposed means of drainage for the District of the united parishes of Saint James and Saint Paul including Montpelier, Ashley Hill and part of Kingsdown and the portion of the old city on the north side of the river Frome and the Floating Harbour.

This district is bounded on the west by Clifton Low and High Level Sewer Districts, on the north by the Clifton High Level Sewer District and the boundary of the city and county of Bristol, on the south by the river Frome and Floating Harbour and on the east by the boundary of the city and county and it is proposed that the said district shall be known as The Frome Intercepting Sewer District.

The district is now for the most part drained into the river Frome and the Floating Harbour and it is proposed to intercept such sewage and divert it into the tidal river by constructing two main sewers one of which will be a High Level Sewer and will be connected with and discharge into the sewer lately constructed along the Hotwell road and which discharges into the tidal river about 1,100 yards below the Hotwell House. The other will be a Low Level Sewer and will be connected with and discharge into Mylne's Culvert\(^\text{19}\) which discharges into the tidal river near the Gaol and Bathurst Basin. The first named sewer will commence and be connected with the sewer in the Hotwell road near the Limekiln Dock passing along Ship lane at the back of the Clifton

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\(^{19}\) Mylne's culvert (named after W.C. Mylne C.E. who designed it) consisted of a diversion of the waters of the Frome from the Floating harbour into a tunnel under the old bed of the Avon, discharging into the New Cut (C. Wells, *A short history of the port of Bristol* (1909)) p.62.
The Bristol Local Board of Health

Gas Works as far as the end of College street along which it passes, through Frog lane, passing the bottom of Park street, along Frogmore street, Trenchard street, passing the Griffin Inn, up the lower part of St. Michael's Hill, along Maudlin street past the Infirmary, along Marlborough street, Dighton street, King square and Jamaica street into Stokes Croft below the Baptist Academy, thence up Stokes Croft road in front of Catherine place past Arley Chapel and along the turnpike road leading to Horfield past the turnpike gate to the boundary of the city and county.

The Low Level Sewer will commence and be connected with Mylne's Culvert at the Stone Bridge passing along Quay street and Nelson street underneath the river Frome along Broad Mead, Rosemary street and Water street, up Clark street and Newfoundland street continuing along Newfoundland street and Newfoundland lane to Pearce's buildings, from thence across the fields to the turnpike road at the end of Ashley Row, continuing alongside of the river Frome to the end of the road to Jubilee place. It then passes underneath the Cutlers Mills brook towards Mina road. From this point it is proposed to construct the sewer up the whole length of the brook, passing through the fields and under the several roads and the bottom of Picton street to Rennison's Baths.

The principal branch sewer will commence and be connected with the last mentioned sewer near the end of Sussex place where the Cutlers Mills brook passes under the road and will be continued up Ashley Hill passing Ashley Court and the orphan asylum to the boundary of the city and county.

Branch sewers will also be required up York road and place, Richmond road, Cobourg road, Ashley Green, Ashley Vale, Mina road, Batchelor's walk, Cotham Hill, Arley Hill and Redland road.

It is also proposed to construct a short branch from the end of College street up Anchor lane to the Butts, also a branch along under the bank commencing at Mylne's Culvert passing underneath the Floating Harbour and Stone Bridge in front of the Roman Catholic chapel and St Augustine's place along St. Augustine's Parade passing the end of Denmark street and continuing up as far as Trinity street. At these last named places it will receive the sewage from the sewers now discharging into the Floating Harbour and will divert the same into the tidal river through Mylne's Culvert.

The present sewers in Quay street, Nelson street and Broad Mead will be continued, but it is necessary to construct the new sewer described along the streets in consequence of the old sewers not being at a sufficient depth to receive the drainage of the upper part of the Low Level District, the new sewers being intended to
pass under the bed of the Frome, the old sewers only discharging into the river.

The existing sewers in Lewin’s Mead, Silver street and Saint James’ Back being comparatively new, it is proposed to make them available for the district in which they are situate by relieving them of the storm waters with which they are now overcharged by means of the High Level Sewer which will intercept the sewage and water from the hilly part of the District and thus prevent the lower portion from being flooded as is now the case.

The present sewer in King street and Milk street will require to be reconstructed at a lower level the same now being above the level of the several cellars the drainage from which has consequently to be pumped into the sewer at a considerable expense and annoyance. The sewer up Saint Michael’s Hill is in a bad state of repair and will in all probability require to be reconstructed.

The sewers in Denmark street and Trinity street now discharging into the Floating Harbour will be intercepted by the branch sewer before described along St Augustine’s Back and the present sewer in Park street it is proposed to connect at the bottom with the new High Level Sewer before described and thus these sewers will be more available for the district in which they are situate.

The present sewers in the Horsefair, Barr’s street and North street having been lately put in a good state of repair, will no doubt be sufficient for the locality when the water from the higher parts of the District are diverted from them by the proposed new High Level Sewer and it is probable that the present sewers in the lower part of Hillgrove street and Stokes Croft will also be sufficient for the district in which they are situate.

The existing sewers in York street it is also proposed to continue by means of a short length of new sewer to be constructed from the top end of the street through one side of Brunswick square to Upper York street to relieve the sewer in Wilder street and that district and so make all the old sewers in this district available for the same.

The present sewers in Gloucester street, Pritchard street, Portland square and neighbourhood, it is proposed shall remain as at present only making the required connections with the new sewers as the work proceeds.

The present sewer in Grosvenor road or Wilder street road now discharging into an open ditch and the river Frome will be made available for the district by covering over the ditch and connecting the same with the new Low Level Sewer at the point at which it is proposed the same shall cross the ditch.

It is also probable that some few short branches in addition to those now described may be required to complete the drainage of
The present drainage for the new houses on Sydenham Hill, Gibson road, Victoria road and neighbourhood it is proposed to continue by connecting the sewers where they will be intercepted by the new High Level Sewer on their way to Cutler's Mills brook into which they now discharge. Thus all the existing old sewers found to be in a good state of repair will be connected with the new sewers where they intercept them on their way to the river Frome and the Floating Harbour and the sewage of the whole of the District now under consideration will be diverted into the tidal river.

The estimated expenses of executing the whole of the foregoing works in a substantial manner is thirty thousand pounds £30,000. The annual expense of repairing these works will be little or nothing during the next twenty years and your Surveyor is of opinion that the most advantageous mode of contracting for the same would be to contract only for the execution of the works in a substantial manner and not for maintaining the same in repair for any term of years certain.

21 April 1860

Your committee considering that the provisions of The Towns Improvement Clauses Act 184720 with respect to the prevention of smoke being incorporated by The Local Government Act 185821 with The Public Health Act 1848 will come fully into operation within the District on the first day of September next and that it is very desirable that those provisions should be put into force, some time since, caused an advertisement to be inserted in the several Bristol newspapers stating their intention to carry such provisions into effect and recommending all persons having fireplaces or furnaces not constructed so as to consume the smoke arising therefrom to cause the same to be so constructed before such first day of September and informing them of the penalties to which they will be liable in case of their using defective furnaces or fireplaces after that date.


21 The Local Government Act 1858 (21 & 22 Vict. cap. xcvi) was consequential on the death of the General Board of Health. The Board’s medical duties were assigned to the Privy Council by the Public Health Act 1858 while its other duties were transferred to a sub department of the Home Office, known as the Local Government Act office, by this Act.
In pursuance of the instructions given to us at your meeting held on 21 April last to report at the next meeting an estimate of the expense of watering the roads and side footways within the city and county during the summer months your committee now report that having received a report from the Surveyor and duly considered the same and other information obtained by your committee, it appears to us that the length of steined roads in the District including Turnpike and Dock Committee’s roads is about 53 miles giving an estimated surface of 746,240 square yards. The length of pitched streets is about 47 miles giving an estimated surface of 579,040 square yards, of this area a considerable portion on each side of the river Frome and the Floating Harbour could be watered from the same but this would be objectionable for several reasons and the expense of providing access to the water at convenient places and the necessary pumps and keeping the same in repair with the time and labor of men and horses expended and lost in pumping and filling the carts would render the cost of the water from this source greater than that of water supplied by the Water Works Company at the rate hereafter mentioned. It appears that the rate at which the Water Works Company would be willing to supply water for the season is not less than six shillings per 100 yards if watered thrice a day which would give two shillings per 100 yards for each watering. It would be necessary to water steined streets three times and pitched streets twice daily for which the charge for water at the above rate would amount to the sum of £3396. According to the Surveyor’s calculations the cost of hauling and distributing this water over the streets would be £6794 which would make the total estimated cost of watering the streets throughout the District £10,190 or nearly five pence halfpenny in the pound on the rateable value of the property in the city and county. Your committee have not calculated the cost of watering the side footways it appearing to them almost impracticable to do so as carts could not be employed to haul water over the footways and there would not be any means of applying water to them at the disposal of the Board except hand labor and they have not any data by which to calculate the cost of such application.

Your committee further report that it appears to them that should it be determined by the Local Board to cause the streets to be watered it would be scarcely possible to do anything effectually this season as it would take considerable time for the Water Works Company to provide stand pipes and the means of supplying the water and also for the Board or contractors to procure carts and horses there not being any carts in the city applicable to the purpose.
Your committee further report that the contract with the Bristol United Gas Light Company\(^{22}\) for lighting the public lamps in the city and county of Bristol being about to expire on the 29th September next your committee caused notice to be given as directed by The Public Health Act 1848 inviting tenders for lighting such public lamps for 1, 2 and 3 years from and after the said 29th September and received from the before named company a tender for the same for 3 years (the company declining to tender for a shorter term) but did not receive tenders from any other persons. Such tender not appearing to your committee to be sufficiently low in prices they named certain of their members to obtain information and to confer with the gas company on the subject of their tender, who immediately requested the directors of the gas company to meet them which was declined. A conference with a view to an amicable arrangement for a new contract being thus refused, your committee have since endeavoured to ascertain whether it be desirable to accept or reject the tender which offers to reduce the price paid for number 4 lamps contracted to consume 5 cube feet of gas per hour from £4 to £3 15s (per lamp), that is about 5\(\frac{1}{4}\) per cent on £11,706, the amount paid for Gas, lighting, painting and repairs, or 6\(\frac{3}{4}\) per cent on £9,028, the net cost of gas. In order to assist them in their deliberations on the matter, and for the purpose of learning whether or not the public gas lamps actually consume the quantity of gas stipulated by the existing contract, your committee requested your Inspector of meters and appointed him to make such experiments as he might deem requisite to ascertain the consumption of gas in the public lamps. The Inspector made certain experiments accordingly, the results of which appear in his three reports, copies of which are hereto annexed. After giving the whole subject their best and careful consideration your committee recommend that a contract should not be entered into with the Bristol United Gas Light Company for the term of 3 years at the prices named in their tender but because of the shortness of time to elapse before the expiration of the present contract it is desirable to enter into a contract according to the terms of such tender but for one year only from the 29th September next. Your committee recommend this course because they find on reliable authority that at the prices

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\(^{22}\) The two Bristol gas companies had amalgamated in 1853. Competition between them had effectively ceased for some time before this. The city council had rejected municipalization in 1846. (Helen Seal, The gas industry in Bristol 1815–1853 B.A. dissertation, University of Bristol 1975).
named in the tender Bristol will pay for the gas burnt in the public lamps about 36 per cent more per 1000 feet than the average of the prices paid by the 11 following towns, vizt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>The company paying 8 per cent dividend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlisle</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coventry</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dover</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huddersfield</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ipswich</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and when it is remembered that one company has been for several years permitted to enjoy the whole gas lighting trade of the city and county of Bristol whereby all competition is excluded, your committee are strongly impressed with the conviction that better terms must be obtained before a new contract for 3 years be made. The Bristol Gas Company with all its advantages must surely be in a position to supply the public lamps on as low terms as an average of any eleven towns in England. It may be said that though your committee have named 11 towns where gas is cheaper than in Bristol others may be named where it is dearer and even admitting this they submit that fact would form no argument against their position in as much as Bristol having resigned to one company the whole trade has an equitable and very strong claim on her gas company to have her public lamps supplied on terms low as compared with other towns. Your committee have examined the various Acts of Parliament affecting the subject and the accounts of the gas company deposited by them with the Clerk of the Peace and recommend that application be made to the court of Quarter Sessions under section 35 of The Gas Works Clauses Act 1847 to appoint an accountant or other competent person to examine the Gas Company’s accounts to ascertain whether or not the profits of the undertakers have exceeded the prescribed rate with a view to procuring a reduction in the price of gas to be furnished by them, and further that the law officers be directed to take the earliest opportunity to make the 120th section of The Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847 applicable to Bristol by which means the Local Board of Health would be enabled, in case they could not agree

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23 The Gas Works Clauses Act (10 & 11 Vict. cap. xv) set out model clauses for those seeking private Acts to supply gas.
with the Gas Company as to the price to be paid for a supply of gas, to have such price settled by arbitration.

Your committee submit that the district is placed in a very undesirable position in having over the one gas company inefficient powers and though your committee think the Company's own interests will induce that body ere long to propose satisfactory terms, should it be otherwise the Town Council must decide what further steps can be taken to protect the public interest.

Your committee beg to call your attention to the fact mentioned in the Inspector's report of his having been given into custody of the police and taken to the police station by order of persons in the employ of the Gas Company whilst he was engaged in testing the quantity of gas consumed in one of the public lamps and to inform you that they have received from the secretary of the company a letter stating . . . that this arrest took place in pursuance of general standing orders issued to the lamplighters and officers of the company to give into custody any person found interfering with the public lights which orders they had not had time to countermand in the Inspector's favor, and expressing the extreme regret of the directors that he should have been accidentally subjected to the unpleasant ordeal he had passed through. Your committee think that under the circumstances . . . and after receipt of the above mentioned letter, and, although they cannot disbelieve the statement of the Inspector and his man that he really offered his authority for inspection at the time of his arrest, it is desirable that this matter should be allowed to rest and should be looked upon as having occurred as the directors state it to have occurred and without premeditation. Your committee recommend that a clause be inserted in the next contract to enable the Board or their committee to appoint some person of persons to ascertain by inspection and by extinguishing if necessary any of the public lamps the quantity of gas consumed by them.

8 September 1860

That immediately after your meeting on 18 August last the Clerk of the Board by letter to the directors of the Bristol United Gas Light Company informed them that at the said meeting you considered it not to be expedient to enter into a contract for lighting the public lamps in the city and county of Bristol for the term of 3 years on the terms of their tender of 14 June last but you were willing to contract for one year on the terms of such tender. In reply to this communication your committee received a letter from the secretary of the Gas Company in which he states that he was instructed to inform your committee that the directors do not
feel themselves justified in entering into a contract... for one year only... though being anxious to meet the convenience of the Local Board as far as practicable the directors would continue the supply of gas to the public lamps upon the terms of the existing contract for one year from 29 September next. This reply having been... considered by your committee they deem it advisable to ascertain what price the Company would charge per 1000 feet if the gas were burnt in the public lamps by meter, also whether the Company would agree to take the per centage of a certain number of lamps to be fitted with meters, and if so what per centage as an average for deciding the consumption of the whole, or whether they would agree to have the amount of gas burned determined by regulators applied to each burner, the Local Board of Health in both cases undertaking the lighting, extinguishing, cleaning, painting and repairing of the lamps. Your committee accordingly instructed your Clerk to write to the directors to that effect which being done a further letter was received from the secretary of the Gas Company dated 30 August in which he informs your committee that the directors were willing to supply the public lamps... in accordance with their Act of Parliament at the lowest price charged to any private consumer through meters to be attached to every lamp service, the meters to be provided by the Board of Health and approved of and fixed by the Company at the expense of the Board of Health by whom should this system be adopted the lighting, extinguishing, cleaning, painting and repairs of the lamp fittings might be undertaken, and of course the Local Board would see the propriety under this arrangement of paying to the Company the value of the 1300 service pipes, fittings and contingent apparatus in the ancient city and the District now the property of the Company. With respect to regulators for public lamps the invention was of too recent a date and the experience of their action too limited to warrant the directors in entertaining for the present any proposal for their general use when, as in Bristol, the gas has a tendency to deposit naphthaline, the lights are frequently and unavoidably extinguished and the directors were advised that the additional obstruction to the stream of gas to the burner by the intervention of a regulator would materially increase the probability of that inconvenience. This last letter of the secretary of the Gas Company not stating specifically the price to be charged per 1000 feet for gas to the public lamps your Clerk wrote to the secretary requesting to be informed what is the lowest price charged by the Company at this present time to any private consumer calculating the quantity consumed according to the size of burners, no meters being used, and substituting no.4 for no.5 burners, the Gas Company to light, extinguish, paint and repair as...
at present charges unless they will agree to contract for one year on the terms of their tender of 14 June last.  

2 February 1861

**Turnpike Roads**

Your Surveyor estimates that the total length of turnpike roads within the District of your Board at 18 miles 110 yards and in the published report of the committee of investigation appointed by the Turnpike Trustees in October 1853 the length given is 18 miles 105 yards. The annual cost of repairs (exclusive of management) is there stated to be £1988 12s 3d, the amount of mortgage debt on the whole of the Trust was £28,450, interest thereon £1170 11s 8d, and the amount laid out in permanent works on the roads within the said District from the year 1821 to 1852 inclusive was £17,586 14s 7d.

From the above it would appear that the annual cost of repairs of the turnpike roads within the District in 1853 was on the average upwards of £110 per mile but in a subsequent table of the same report (appendix A) it is shown that the cost per mile varies very considerably in each Trust within the District, the highest cost being in the Brislington Trust which is stated to be £320 per mile and the lowest being in Horfield Trust which costs £52 per mile.

From the before mentioned report it appears that the total cost of repairs of the whole of the roads under the Trust was in 1853 £8,326 and from the published accounts for the last 7 years it appears the average cost of repairs was £8,430 being a difference of only £104 on the whole length of roads. Your Surveyor has therefore taken the amount given for the roads within the District in 1853 as sufficiently correct for the latter years also, vizt. £1988 or about £110 per mile for the average annual cost of these roads as executed by the Commissioners, but your Surveyor is of opinion that this amount would not be sufficient for the first few years (nor until these roads have been put in good order) to keep and maintain them in as efficient state as the other roads of the District as regards cleansing etc., a portion of the turnpike road having been allowed to wear down to near the foundation, other portions of them not being in shape and the principal portion of them are without water channels and surface gratings at sufficiently frequent intervals, the want of all which increases the annual cost of keeping these roads in repair and should be taken into account.

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24 The argument between the Local Board and the Gas Company was eventually resolved by an agreement for a two year contract.
when considering the future maintenance of the said roads as by a judicious outlay under these heads the annual cost of cleansing and repairs would ultimately be reduced and the roads improved.

The whole of these improvements need not, of course, be carried out at once but should be spread over a number of years, say 5 years, and the additional cost per mile your Surveyor estimates at about £52 making a total cost of £162 per mile for the first 5 years after which the cleansing and repairs would not cost on the average more than £100 per mile. This will give as the annual cost for the first five years £2916 after which the cost would be about £1800 per annum, exclusive of management.

The amount of mortgage debt in 1853 . . . was £28,450, the total amount expended in improvement of the whole of the roads under the Trust from the year 1821 to 1852 inclusive was £105,685 and of this amount £17,586 was expended upon the roads within the District, and according to the published accounts for 1859 the mortgage debt is now reduced to £17,400. Your Surveyor has been informed that a further reduction has been made during the past year of about £1600 so that the amount of debt will now probably be about £15,800. Supposing the amount paid off during the last 7 years to have been equally divided between the portion expended for improvement within and without the District the amount to be now provided for (for the improvement works within the District will be very small or if taken by the length of road and the amount of debt on such road) the proportion for the roads within the District will amount to about £1415 only. The amount of mortgage debt now unpaid is on 4 of the Trusts only of the 7 originally mortgaged.

The number of gates and bars within the District are 15 and are situate as follows: 4 in the Aust District viz. White Ladies Gate, St. Michaels Hill Gate, Clifton Down Gate and Gallows Acre Gate; 2 in the Horfield Trust viz. Cutlers Mills and Redland Road Gates; 1 in the Whitchurch Trust viz. St John’s Lane, Knowle; 2 in the Stapleton and Mangotsfield Trust viz. Lawfords Gate and Baptist Mills Gate; 3 in the Toghill and Bitton Trust viz. West Street Gate and Bars at Pack Horse and Barrow Lanes; 2 in the Dundry and upper Winford Trust viz. Parson Street Gate and Luckwell Lane Gate; and 1 in the Ashton Trust viz. Coronation Road.

Of these gates and bars the most important to be removed are the White Ladies Gate, St Michaels Hill Gate, Redland Road Gate, Lawfords Gate, Baptist Mills Gates, West Street Gate and Bar at Barrow Lane. The removal of these gates will necessitate the fixing of several additional ones the position and number of which will have to be decided by the Turnpike Trustees.
The cost of management of the whole of the roads under the Trust in 1859 according to the published account amounted to £1252 on an expenditure of £8610 giving a percentage of £14, or about 7½s per mile and the portion of road within the District being the most expensive to maintain, the cost of management should also be in like proportion.

Your committee having carefully considered the said report and looking at the great expense to the Local Board of Health which must attend any arrangement with the Turnpike Trustees for taking the repair and management of the turnpike roads within the District upon the Board and for removing the gates and bars deem it proper to lay the said report of the Surveyor before you for your consideration.

26 April 1861

The directors (of the Water Company) had ascertained the particulars relating to the supply of water for watering the public streets in 20 towns where water works exist and with reference as well to the mode adopted in these places as to their own consideration of the matter with the assistance of their engineer, they have come to the conclusion that the only practical plan of distributing the water would be by water carts to be supplied from stand pipes to be erected at convenient localities. The directors also considered that the only mode of payment satisfactory to the public and the Company would be at a rate for the quantity actually consumed, to be ascertained by meter to be attached to the stand pipes. The question as to what should be the rate of payment for the water to be supplied has been carefully considered by the directors who were most desirous to render the advantages of their supply accessible in the fullest manner to the general public. It must however be remembered that the water required for this purpose would be consumed at the precise time and at that time only when the sources of supply are at their lowest and the general consumption at its highest limit namely in the summer and the greater the drought the stronger would be the necessity for this special consumption of water. The directors were therefore unable to name a lower rate for water supplied for watering the streets than 6d per 1000 gallons delivered through stand pipes into carts to be provided by the Board with an addition of a rent for the meters to be fixed for ascertaining the quantity, and a rent of 10 per cent on the outlay in finding and fixing the stand pipes. The directors had been unable to ascertain the price paid by quantity in many of the towns using water for this purpose because in some the corporations are themselves the owners of the water works, in
others there are statutory provisions as to the supply of water for sanitary purposes and in others the charge is a fixed sum for a specified district. In the following towns the water was however paid for by quantity at the following rates:

- Liverpool 1 township \(\frac{1}{2}\) mile long: 4d per 1000 gallons
- Portsmouth: 6d
- Reading: 6d
- Sheffield: 10d

As regards the quantity used the directors had ascertained that in none of the places to which their inquiries had extended were the roads watered more than twice a day. They had also ascertained from experiment that about 7000 gallons will serve to water daily one mile of street of 18 feet in width and that 1 horse and cart could distribute water over a mile and a half of street 18 feet wide in each day and the cost of watering this extent of street per day would be

- Horse and cart with driver: 7s
- Water 10,500 gallons: 5s 3d
- Rent of meter, pipes etc: 3d

or about 8s 4d per mile.

The Company would supply the water upon the terms above mentioned reserving the right to discontinue the same in case of any danger of a deficiency in the supply at the discretion of the directors.

Upon receiving the above reply your committee immediately took the subject into consideration and directed your Surveyor to make a further report on the same which he has done and it appears that taking the figures of the secretary of the Water Works Company as correct will give as the cost of watering 1 mile of road 18 feet in width for one season of 5 months or 130 days £54 3s 4d twice each day over a surface of 10,560 or about 10s 3d per 100, yards superficial and as he calculates there are 1,325,280 superficial yards of roadway in the whole city and county, at the above rate the cost will be £6,792 3s 3d. But he was of the opinion the steined roads would require watering at least three times per day and as the area of these roads will be about 746,240 yards the sum of £1,912 2s 9d should be added to the above amount making a total of £8,704 6s 0d. Supposing the above calculation to be correct and in order to execute the work going over the same twice only each day 83 carts will be required and if the steined roads are watered thrice each day 107 carts will be required and as the present price per day for horse, man and cart is 7/6 the sum of £347
15s must be added to the foregoing amount which will give as the total cost of watering the whole of the city and county £9,052 1s 0d (or nearly 5d in the pound on the rateable value); of this amount £3,871 8s 0d will be for water only.

But your Surveyor is of opinion that it is not necessary that every portion of the city and county should be watered and he recommends the watering of the main thoroughfares only which are used by all the ratepayers, say nearly the whole of the turnpike and dock roads and the principal streets of the city and county, a length of nearly 24 miles leaving other parties to water private and smaller streets and places by private subscription as heretofore. The cost of watering the main thoroughfares at the foregoing estimate will amount to £2,484 14s 0d and the Surveyor submits that the question should at once be determined as it will require some time to obtain the necessary carts, stand pipes etc.

The following is a list of the main thoroughfares which will require to be watered; Union street; Park street; Pembroke road; Berkeley place; Royal York Crescent; The Mall; Redcliff street; Old Market street; Clifton road; Cotham Hill; West street Stapleton road; Redcliff crescent; East street, Bedminster; Bath Parade; Limekiln lane; Hotwell road; College Green; Clare street; Corn street; Wine street; Castle street; Peter street; White Ladies road; Cotham road; Easton road; Ashley road; Coronation road; Bedminster Parade; Broad Mead; Stokes Croft; Broad street; High street; Temple street; Thomas street; Dolphin street; Queens road; West Park road; Stokes Croft road; Lawrence Hill; New Cut; Cumberland road and Totterdown road.

Since making the calculations above set forth your Surveyor with the view of ascertaining how far the same are correct has obtained from a person practically conversant with the subject of street watering an estimate for watering the main thoroughfares specifically above mentioned from which it appears that he could not undertake to perform the distributing the water for one season and to commence at once for less than £2,500 or for a period of three years for less than £2,400 per annum, these amounts are exclusive of the cost of the water which will be about £1,070 per annum in addition, making the annual expenses £3,570 or £3,470 according to the arrangement. And on such report being presented to your committee it appeared to them that the question of watering the street either totally or partially is one of such vast importance to the ratepayers and the citizens generally that the most desirable course for them to pursue would be to report to you the information obtained by them on the subject.
17 May 1861

A memorial from the central ward signed by a large number of ratepayers against the proposed rate for watering the streets was presented by Mr Canning (similar memorials were presented from St Augustines, St James and St Paul, St Michael, St Philip and Jacob, Redcliff, St Thomas, Temple and Bedminster wards)

And thereupon it is resolved on the motion of Mr Herapath that no rate be made on the estimate adopted at the last meeting.

29 May 1863

To the Worshipful The Mayor, Aldermen and Town Council of the city of Bristol.

The memorial from the inhabitants and ratepayers of the parish of St Paul respectfully directs the attention of the Town Council to the very improper and inefficient manner in which the new sewers in that parish are now being constructed. The water supply of the neighbourhood, to a great injury of property, is being destroyed and further the lives and health of the inhabitants put in serious peril should the sewage percolate into the wells. The memorialists on examination find that the sewer cuts through the water bearing strata and a sandy porous soil so that the springs have been seen by many parties to force their way through the joints of the bricks into the sewer instead of finding their way into the wells. To get over the difficulty arising from such a flow of water the Surveyor has allowed the bricks to be put in without mortar or cement instead of being previously puddled whereby the work may have been done in a proper and workmanlike manner and the pressure of water successfully resisted. The Surveyor has stated that he ordered the bricks to be so put in to save the contractor; the springs are not only thus wasted but the sewage matter being forced back twice in twenty four hours by tidal causes, the same percolates into the wells and adjoining ground thus forming a source of disease of the deadliest description in the midst of a thickly populated district. It has also been proved that the low level sewer is but one elongated cesspool which is never free from a large amount of sewage matter and the memorialists having had the opinion of persons well able to judge of such matters both as to the loss of water and to the way in which the health of the inhabitants will be affected, would respectfully solicit your prompt attention to the subject and would request that you would order an immediate inspection by an independent engineer, accompanied by a similar gentleman to be proposed on behalf of the aggrieved parties so that the fears of the inhabitants may be allayed, serious consequences avoided and the health of the neighbourhood preserved.
Gentlemen,

Pursuant to the instructions conveyed in your Clerk's letters I visited the works now in course of construction for the drainage of the Frome district on the 6th inst. . . . I have also received and considered the memorial signed by some of the ratepayers and inhabitants of the parish of Saint Paul and have had interviews with and learned the views of Messrs. Grantham and Bett the engineers who have been consulted on behalf of the parties more particularly interested in this question.

The drainage of a low level district capable of discharging its sewage by gravitation at or near low water only, like that now under consideration, must always be attended with more than ordinary difficulty, and these difficulties are greatly enhanced when, as here is the case, the works have to be constructed in alluvial deposits and water bearing strata.

The works appear to have been judiciously designed and the velocity of the current through that portion of the sewer which has an inclination of 1 in 900 will when running half full, exceed 2 miles per hour which velocity will scour away all ordinary deposit.

It will be necessary to add a second pipe under the Floating Dock which forms part of the outlet sewer known as Mylnes Sewer in order to provide for the free discharge of so great an increase of sewage.

25 A further protest from a deputation appointed by the ratepayers was made on similar lines. It referred to a resolution of the city council of 29 May 1863 to obtain the opinion of Mr Bazalgette, 'a London civil engineer'. The ratepayer's spokesman, Mr Melsom, complained that Bazalgette had not been allowed to see the full effects of the new sewer, had not met the ratepayer's engineer on site and the Surveyor had largely ignored Bazalgette's report and the Local Board's instructions and gone his own way thus wasting ratepayer's money. Bazalgette refuted these allegations nevertheless he and the Surveyor were not in total agreement, particularly about the need to raise the level of the sewer, which no doubt helped to sharpen the controversy (Proc. 15 July 1863).
My attention has been more especially directed to the construction of that portion of the sewer passing along Clark street and up Newfoundland street where the water from the sand and the sandstone formation freely enters the excavations and has consequently been abstracted from the adjoining wells.

The abstraction of water from the wells necessarily subjects the owners thereof to much temporary inconvenience, but from a time when a district becomes closely inhabited and intersected with sewers or filled with cesspools, the upper soil of that district ceases to be a pure and safe source of water supply, for however carefully the main sewers and the numerous branch sewers and house drains falling into them are constructed it is scarcely possible to make such a system watertight. Indeed it becomes necessary so to drain the subsoil as to make all the existing basements of houses dry, and to admit of the formation of new underground basement and cellars, and in London special care is taken to effect this object.

In Newfoundland street and Clark street the water appears to enter at the cutting, and it is probable that when undisturbed it does not stand much above that level. The difficulties of constructing the sewer and the probable abstraction of the water from the wells may therefore be much reduced by raising the level of the sewer 2 feet from the point up to which it has been constructed and by continuing it at its present inclination up to the Mill tail where by an alteration of the form of the sewer and by covering it with iron plates it may be passed under the Mill tail. I also recommend that the lower half of the sewer through the water bearing strata where it is near to houses be laid in Portland cement and bedded in concrete.

With respect to that part of the sewer which is already constructed in Newfoundland street and Clark street through the water bearing strata for a length of about 50 yards, Mr Ashmead has caulked the joints of a portion thereof with oakum and rendered it inside with Portland cement, and appears thus to have made it watertight. If as I believe the water does not rise much above the level of the invert of the sewer, and it is not therefore subjected to pressure, I have no doubt he will be enabled thus to make this length watertight. I think he should at any rate be allowed a fair trial, and recommend that it be rendered inside with a coating of cement not less than \( \frac{1}{2} \) an inch thick.

If, as I am informed, the well at Messrs Panter, Woodman and Co’s vinegar works is supplied with water from a deep boring, and not from surface water, the well in that case acts only as a basin to hold the water and that firm have only to make the well watertight,
when they will no longer be affected by the adjacent drainage works

J.H. Bazalgette

15 July 1863

With respect to statements which have been made that the wells in the neighbourhood (of Saint Pauls) have been contaminated with sewage matter from the new sewer, and that the health of the inhabitants is endangered, your committee submit the following report received from the Inspector of Nuisances . . .

On Saturday 11th inst., accompanied by a brother officer, Mr Bell, I made enquiries in the streets in St. Pauls where the new sewers have been made, relative to the water of the wells being damaged viz. Rosemary street, Clark street, Water street, Newfoundland street and at a few houses in Milk street next adjoining to Clark street.

Rosemary Street. There are but few wells here, most people having the Company's water. We found one at Mr Cozens, one at Mr Lewis, one at the Anchor public house and one at Gullidge's court and in each case the water good.

Water street. We found one at Mr Fish's public house, one at the Dove beer house which also supplies 2 or 3 houses in Callowhill street; 2 belonging to Mr Shorlam which supplies several houses each side of the street and in each case the water good. We found one belonging to Mr Lawrence and others, which supplies houses in Philadelphia street, as also in Water street which we were informed had been damaged by the stoppage of an old drain, but was not remedied and the water as good as before.

Clark street. We found at Mr Patrick's corner house of Callowhill street, the water has a peculiar taste evidently not good, but from enquiries we found it was so previous to the sewers being made. At the top house, corner of Milk street, occupied by Mr Bathe we were informed the water had been damaged by the sewer and that times it came up, when pumped, full of sewage matter and tidewater and stunk dreadful, and in 2 or 3 hours it would come up clear again, and as late as Monday and Tuesday last it was thick and stinking. I procured some of the water from the well and

26 Sir Joseph Bazalgette (1819–1891), engineer to the Metropolitan Board of Works, was responsible, among many other projects, for the huge scheme of eighty three miles of intercepting main sewers on either side of the Thames designed to carry away the capital's sewage to outlets fourteen miles below London Bridge.
handed it over to Mr Herapath, your chairman.\textsuperscript{27} [the report gives further examples of wells being deepened and the water returning and a few complaints of sewage infecting the water samples of which were referred to Mr Herapath]

These cases laid before you are the only ones complained of in the whole district and our enquiries were as general and as public as could be made, not only enquiring of nearly all the inhabitants as to their own wells but if they could give us information as to others.

We have also made enquiries into the health of the inhabitants in these streets and courts and with the exception of a few cases of Hooping (\textit{sic}) cough\textsuperscript{28} amongst the children and one or two cases of rheumatic fever we could hear of no illness. We ascertained that in Water street and that neighbourhood there had been several cases of fever in February and March last, but no new cases since then.

Joseph Yeates, Sanitary Inspector

Your committee have also procured the following statements from the Registrars of Births and Deaths in the districts of St. Paul and St. James

Number of deaths from fever in the district of St. James from Jan. 1st to July 13th 1863 both inclusive:

\begin{tabular}{|c|}
\hline
January & 0 \\
February & 0 \\
March & 2 \\
April & 0 \\
May & 2 \\
June & 2 \\
July & 2 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Geo. Parsons, Registrar

Population of district in round numbers, 10,000: note, I have taken no notice of cases of scarlatina among children or adults,\textsuperscript{29} or Infirmary cases of fever in this return.

| 1863 | St. Paul |
| 29 April | child 3 years old |
| 3 Kingston Place, Leek lane | typhus – 12 days |

\textsuperscript{27} William Herapath (1797–1868), councillor 1835–1842 and 1842–1863 was a distinguished analytical chemist.

\textsuperscript{28} Whooping cough was no mean cause of death. In the decade 1861–1870 there were 1,038 deaths from it in the registration districts of Bristol and Clifton (\textit{Supplement to the 35th Annual report of the Registrar-General} 1875 pp 242–3).

\textsuperscript{29} Scarlatina caused 2,180 deaths 1861–1870 in the Bristol and Clifton registration districts (\textit{ibid}).
The Bristol Local Board of Health

10 June
5 Colston Place, Milk Street
No case in May
child 5 years old
Gastric fever – 8 days

12 June
28 Wilson street
child 6 years old
Gastric fever – 2 days

29 June
12 Dale street
Infant 6 months
fever – no duration of the disease
stated on certificate

In conclusion your committee beg to inform the Council that they have perfect confidence in your Surveyor and believe him to be both capable and desirous of carrying out the recommendations contained in Mr. Bazalgette’s reports.

30 October 1863

Your committee have to report that they have instituted inquiries as to the several pipes, conduits, pumps and wells used for the gratuitous supply of water to the inhabitants within the district of the Local Board from which it appears that there are the following pipes and pumps belonging to the Corporation all of which are now in good repair, namely, the Quay pipe; Jacobs Wells pipe; Saint Peter’s pump; Wine street pump and All Saints Row otherwise Saint Nicholas Market pipe. A pump at the top of Old Market street and one near the bottom of the same street were formerly repaired by the Paving Commissioners but have for some time been out of use. The following pipes, namely Redcliff pipe maintained by the churchwardens of that parish and the Temple, otherwise Neptune, pipe, maintained by the parish of Temple are all at present supplied with water but in the case of the latter pipe when it was inspected by the person employed by the Surveyor there was plenty of water at the spring head none at the Neptune tap- since that time the water has come there. The Saint Johns pipe, maintainable by that parish, is and has been for some time out of use. There appears to be an abundant supply of water but the works are out of repair and your committee have placed themselves in communication with the churchwardens on the subject. The Pithay pump repairable by the churchwardens of Christ Church is at present not in good order but there is a good supply of water in the well, There is an open dipping place at Jacobs Wells, Woodwell lane which has plenty of water. A spring at Kingsdown known as Pugsley’s well was formerly accessible to the public but has been for several years enclosed in a garden and there is at present no access to it. In addition to the above your Surveyor by direction of your committee has caused to be opened and inspected several wells which were formerly used by the
inhabitants of the neighbourhoods in which they are situated and in some of them an abundance of good water was found and your Surveyor has been instructed to report as to the best description of pump for use in public places with the view of erecting pumps for convenience of the inhabitants at such of these wells as may hereafter appear to be available for the purpose. There also appears to be other sources of public water supply which your committee has not yet had time to investigate.

19 February 1864

That representations having been made to your committee of the great prevalence of illness, particularly of scarlet and other fevers, in portions of the District and as to the desirability of ventilating the public sewers for the purpose of preventing the escape of noxious gases which are stated to escape therefrom to the injury of the public health, your committee directed your Surveyor to inquire into the subject and to report to them thereon. On the 13 November last they received from him a very full and elaborate report on the ventilation of sewers and on considering the same it appeared to them that the subject was one of great magnitude and importance . . . and embracing questions of great cost.

Your committee deem it proper to call your attention to the fact that the great prevalence of disease which undoubtedly prevailed through the summer and autumn was not confined to Bristol, the same diseases at the same time extending their influence over almost the whole country, rural and town districts alike, in many places much more virulently than in the city. Your committee are therefore unwilling to believe that the cause of illness could have proceeded from the sewer works.

19 February 1864

Your committee beg to call your attention to the Act 26 & 27 cap. 40 (The Bake Houses Regulation Act 1863) by which certain powers and duties for enforcing a limitation of hours of labour of persons under 18 years of age employed in Bake Houses, and compliance with regulations as to cleanliness of Bake Houses, and as to sleeping places near Bake Houses, have been given to and imposed upon your Board. At the same time your committee must represent that if it should please you appoint them to carry out the provisions of the said Act it will be necessary to appoint

30 For the state of the baking trade and the beginnings of legislative regulation see J. Burnett, Plenty and Want, (1968 ed.) pp140–1.
another inspector or officer as it is impossible that with the present staff the additional duties imposed by the Act can be undertaken.

29 July 1864

As regards 'Mother Pugsley's well' it appears that the quantity of water is not large and that in order to render this available for the public use it would be necessary to purchase the property on which the well stands, the cost of the premises and of laying pipes for leading the water would be more than the benefit to accrue therefrom would warrant.

Your committee have caused to be opened some 200 wells situate under or near the public streets in the District and which have ceased to be used, and samples of the water to be taken. In some a good supply of water was found and in some not. Your committee having examined samples of the water, visited such of the wells as they considered might in the first instance be opened for public use, and after due consideration recommend the erection of a pump capable of supplying water for ordinary use and for street watering in each of the following places: West street, Bedminster; Spring street, Bedminster; Stokes Croft near the Swan Inn; at the top of Old Market street; at Barton street, St. James and (if a satisfactory arrangement can be made with the vestry of St. Stephen) in St. Stephen's avenue. The cost of erecting these pumps will average about £17 each.31

Complaint having been made to your committee of the inconvenience caused to some of the inhabitants of Clifton by reason of the Water Works Company being compelled by the great drought to restrict the hours of their supply, and it being alleged that if the old wells at the Richmond and Sion springs which the company have closed were opened again, the supply from thence would be such as to afford great relief, your committee requested for some of their members an interview with the directors of the company. This was most courteously granted and explanations were given from which it appeared that the wells are very deep, the machinery for working them costly and the water to be obtained even if the drought should not affect them not in sufficient quantity to be appreciable in the supply of the district. It also appeared that the directors . . . have entered into arrangements for constructing another very large reservoir at Barrow which will be completed in about 2 years and which, when completed, will so greatly increase

31 For a list of places at which new pumps had been provided or existing pumps repaired or where the Board contemplated putting in or repairing pumps see Proc. 28 October 1864.
the store of water for the city that there is little fear of the supply running short in any future season.

24 February 1865

That in pursuance of the resolution passed by the Town Council at their meeting held 2 August last your committee and certain of the trustees of the The Bristol Turnpike deputed by the trustees and representing the Aust and Horfield and Stapleton, Mangotsfield and Bitton Trusts and the Clerk of the trustees, met and conferred together as to the terms on which the trustees would be willing to remove their toll gates at present within the District of the Local Board of Health so that the tolls within the District may be abolished. It appeared that the several Turnpike trusts and roads were free from debt with the exception of about £6,550 on the Stapleton and Mangotsfield and Toghill and Bitton districts for £1,400 of which the other trusts were responsible and that the trustees of the Stapleton and Mangotsfield roads did not see their way clear to remove their gates unless the city or the Local Board of Health would take upon themselves and pay off the whole of this debt. It appeared also that the trustees are liquidating their debts from their own resources in such a manner that in all probability in the course of 3 or 4 years the debts will become extinct. It appeared further that so far as regards the turnpike roads on the Somersetshire side of the river they are practically almost free from tolls, the gates being situate either outside or very near to the boundaries of the city and county. Your committee have also inquired as to the costs of the trustees of repairing the turnpike roads within the District and find them to be about £2000 per annum. Also what would be the advantage and disadvantage to the citizens if an arrangement, which was suggested, could be made with the trustees by which your Board should at once take upon themselves the repair and maintenance of the roads relieving the trustees therefrom and leaving to the trustees the power to keep up the gates and the receipt of the tolls as at present for such time as may be agreed upon as necessary to liquidate the present debt on the roads? They have reason for believing that if such an arrangement were to be entered into the debt might be extinguished by means of the tolls under the management of the trustees in about 2 years instead of in the course of 3 to 4 years as will probably be the case if matters are allowed to remain as they are, so that the gates might be removed and the citizens be freed from tolls at the somewhat earlier period. On the other hand it must be borne in mind that this would be done at a cost to the ratepayers of some £4,000 in the shape of repairs in addition to the tolls, even
supposing the debts to be paid off in 2 years and more if a longer period should be necessary. Also that the roads on the Somersetshire side of the river being now nearly free from tolls are repaired at present by the trustees almost without cost to the city in tolls or any other shape. The advantage would therefore affect only the portion of the District on the Gloucestershire side whilst the cost would have to be borne by all alike. Under these circumstances your committee consider that it would be better to wait until the debt on the trusts has become extinct before negotiating with the trustees for the removal of the gates and beg to recommend accordingly.

24 February 1865

Your committee, having learned that fever was very prevalent in the district of Saint Jude in the parish of Saint Philip and Jacob appointed a sub committee to inquire into the sanitary condition of the courts and alleys throughout the District of the Board and the means to be adopted for remedying the evils existing. Having received reports from such sub committee and being of opinion that the staff of inspectors consisting of the Inspector of Nuisances and the 2 inspectors of cleansing was insufficient for a proper inspection of the District, they determined to divide the District into 4 divisions instead of 3 as heretofore and to employ one inspector for each division and that the duties of such inspectors should be to look to the proper performance of his work by the cleansing contractor and to report any neglect of the same, to inspect the courts, alleys and premises in their several divisions, to attend daily at your office to meet the Inspector of Nuisances and to receive his instructions and to enter in proper books the reports of the condition of the courts, alleys and premises and any nuisance or other matter requiring attention, to serve notices and to obey the orders of the committee, Clerk and the Inspector of Nuisances. This arrangement has been carried out.

Your committee also employed men under the direction of your Inspector of Nuisances to go daily round the infected localities with instructions to cleanse and purify drains, privies, courts and houses where necessary using whitelime, chloride of lime\(^{32}\) and other disinfectants. They also directed proceedings to be taken for obtaining the abatement of nuisances where such abatement could not be procured by other means. As the Saint Jude’s district is within the Clifton Union your committee considered it advisable to call the attention of the Board of Guardians, who, if the

\(^{32}\) \(\text{CaCl}_2\cdot\text{O}\), bleaching powder.
provisions of the Diseases Prevention Act were brought into force in the district, would be the local authority for carrying the same into effect, to the state of health of the district, requesting them to take every measure in their power to arrest the progress of the disease and to consider the necessity, either of applying to the Secretary of State for authority to act under the said Diseases Prevention Act, or of providing a place of reception for diseased cases, the latter mode being in the opinion of many of the leading medical practitioners most important as a preventive to the spread of fever. The Guardians not having acted upon the above suggestions your committee made an application to the Secretary of State for the Home Department to the effect that Her Majesty's Privy Council might be pleased to cause inquiries to be made in relation to the public health in certain parts of the city and county with the view to putting in force the Disease Prevention Acts or the adoption of such other measures as might be deemed advisable. In reply to this application Dr. Buchanan, one of the government medical inspectors, was sent to Bristol and having had the staff of inspectors placed at his disposal by your committee and inspected such parts of the city as he deemed fit, he had an interview with the Chairman and certain members of your committee when he pressed upon them his suggestions as to the steps which your Board ought to take. He was requested to favour the committee with a written statement of his views which he afterwards did in a letter of which the following is a copy

Privy Council Office
2 February 1865

Sir,

According to my promise I forward to you the following memoranda of what appear to be the chief ways in which the Local Board of Health can meet the present epidemic of typhus in the city of Bristol.

1. By employing a competent medical practitioner to inquire into the cause and localization of the epidemic, to inspect the infected districts, advising the Board upon the sanitary requirements thereof and as to the means to be employed to check the spread of fever and to exercise such functions in relation to public health as are vested by law in a Medical Officer of Health.

33 Dr G. Buchanan (1831–1895) served as resident medical officer at the London Fever Hospital and as Medical Officer of Health to the vestry of St Giles which contained the most notorious of London's rookeries. He eventually became a permanent inspector for the Privy Council and in 1879 Principal Medical Officer to the Local Government Board.
2. By employing inspectors to examine every street, house and room through the localities where fever is epidemic to report to the medical officer daily as to the existence of nuisances and of sickness, and under his direction to take means for the removal of unwholesome conditions. Each inspector should have under his charge a definite set of houses not above 300 in number. He should go through them again and again and should at present have no other duty than the inspection of houses; besides procuring the abatement of more obvious nuisances, he should at the present moment give especial attention to the ventilation, cleansing and disinfecting of houses and to preventing their being overcrowded.

3. By authorising the officers of the Board to take proceedings immediately in every case of ascertained nuisance, especially where overcrowding is found or premises ill ventilated or dirty. The Local Board should themselves be prepared to cleanse and purify premises whose owner or occupier delays to comply with the statutory notice.

4. By giving warning and advice to persons resident in the infected localities, pointing out that they should avoid needless communication with the sick, what sanitary precautions are wanted and how desirable it is that cases of fever should be removed to hospital in their earliest stages. Such advice as this would not only be given by the medical officer in his visits but might very properly be distributed by a hand bill that the medical officer should draw up and circulate among the poor.

I think it right to point out that the measures now advised to meet the epidemic would have been taken with much greater advantage at its earlier periods and further that, if the Board of Health had been acting under medical advice of the character proposed, it would not have been possible for typhus that began in Bristol in June to have attracted no attention.

I have the honor to be, Sir
Your obedt. Servt.
George Buchanan M.D.

This letter was laid before your committee at a special meeting on 3 February when they at once determined to employ a medical gentleman to act as Medical Inspector of your District for a period of 6 months, and, having ascertained from Mr David Davies that he was willing to undertake the office, they immediately engaged

34 Dr Davies appointment did not become permanent until the passing of the Public Health Act 1875. He retired in 1886 after serving the city for twenty one years and was succeeded by his son Dr D.S. Davies who retired in 1927.
with him to commence his duties without delay, placing at his command the Inspector of Nuisances and the other inspectors in their several districts and also the services of such men as he might consider necessary for the proper cleansing, disinfecting and purifying of premises which might be found to require to be so treated. Your committee have much satisfaction in stating that it appears from Mr Davies' reports that the fever, although it is typhus and of a serious character, is mainly confined to the Saint Jude's district. There are cases in other parts of the city but they can be traced back as originating in Saint Judes and are not spreading, and there is every probability that by removing and isolating the fever cases and by cleansing and purifying the District the disease may be confined to its present limits and ultimately extinguished. As regards the removal of patients your committee have to state that a temporary hospital has been provided by means of subscriptions and patients are being removed there. As regards the cleansing and purifying in all cases where fever patients have been removed and in other cases where necessary the premises have been fumigated and cleansed under the direction of Mr Davies and the landlords called on to white lime the houses. Your officers are engaged daily with several men in remedying foul privies and drains and other nuisances.

Your committee are providing better drainage and privy accommodation throughout the District. They have ordered new sewers to be constructed in George, Little George, Ann and Little Ann streets and neighbourhood and it is their intention to put in force the powers of the Board to require the owners of houses to provide proper and sufficient privy accommodation for each house and to lay down proper drains and connect them with the sewers.

In connection with the sanitary condition of your District your committee have remarked that in the ancient city all open courts were taken to and paved by the Paving Commissioners and have been maintained and attended to by your Board whilst in the added parts of the District there are many ancient courts some of which have never been paved at all and the whole of which although open to the public, have never been taken to or repaired by the authorities and have become in such a bad state as to be most injurious to the public health. It appears only just to these added districts that they should be placed on the same footing with the old city. Your committee have therefore determined to cause all ancient open courts to be paved or pitched and maintained out of the rates.
10 March 1865

As regards the Bake Houses Regulation Act 1863 your committee have to report that the Bake Houses in the District 237 in number have been registered and duly inspected and compliance with the requirements of the Act has been insisted upon. Your committee have found the bakers as a body ready and willing to follow the inspector’s direction and there have not been any cases of the employment of young persons during the hours prohibited by the Act brought to the notice of your committee.

28 April 1865

Your committee have received from the Mayor a communication made to him by the Lords of the Privy Council on the subject of the Russian epidemic\(^3\) to the effect that although the diseases prevailing in the north of Europe do not appear to have assumed a character which calls for the adoption of restrictive measures of quarantine, and there is reason to believe the fever in Saint Petersburgh is on the decline, yet it is possible that some vessels arriving in this country may have on board persons afflicted with contagious or infectious disease and that certain measures were desirable for preventing the spread of any such disease which may be brought to this country from abroad and for providing for the reception and medical treatment of any poor seamen or other persons suffering from such disorder who might arrive in this neighbourhood, your committee beg to assure your Board that, so far as the suggestions relate to matters within the jurisdiction of your Board, the best efforts of your committee shall be used to comply with them. But they have no powers for providing for the reception and treatment of sick persons, such powers, if they exist, being vested in other authorities.

Your committee have very great satisfaction in stating that it appears from the report of the Medical Inspector made to them this day that the inspector had on the 26th inst. been over the whole of the lately infected district but could not find a case of typhus fever, the health of the city was remarkably good and Bristol is at the present time the healthiest city in England.

28 April 1865

Sir,

We are instructed by the memorialists who lately applied to the Board and also by Francis Adams Esq and his trustees to address

\(^3\) i.e. cholera.
you on the subject of the new roads lying near to Clifton College which came under the consideration of the Board at their last meeting and we are requested on the part of the memorialists to withdraw their application to have these roads declared public highways and on the part of Mr Adams and his trustees who are the owners of College road formally to state their refusal to allow the same to become public highways.

We are desired to state that our clients were quite unprepared for the public clamour which the decision come to on the part of the Board has occasioned and will prefer to be at the cost of maintaining these roads as private ways to provoking a resignation of your committee on the one hand as has been publicly stated to be the result of a confirmation of the late vote of the Board or to incur the oppressive cost and be compelled to use the undesirable materials required by your committee should the order already made be rescinded.36

We desire however to take this opportunity of justifying the memorialists from the charges of injustice so loudly raised against them.

The inhabitants of this district have for years contributed at least £1,000 a year to the Board of Health rates and this income is increasing whilst the Board has not expended for them a farthing save the cost of lighting some 10 or 20 lamps.

The Board has received from this source upwards of £10,000 and the inhabitants and owners have been also compelled to pay for the making and repairing of their own roads.

The Board was asked not to make new roads not to put the new roads in repair, these duties the memorialists took upon themselves (although in fact they have been worn down by the public) but to take over these roads in the state they keep their own with the footpaths like the public roads gravelled, and to spend henceforth some portion of the £1,000 a year they get from the district in repairing these roads instead of leaving that task to the inhabitants.

Under these circumstances we respectfully submit that the request of the memorialists was not unreasonable and we leave to the Board and the public the question whether the charges so loudly made against our clients of desiring to tax the poor citizens of Bristol for their accommodation redounds to the credit of those who have made them.

36 The essence of this squabble was the terms on which the Local Board took over the new roads. The Board insisted on pavements being flagged, residents were not prepared to pay for this but only for gravelling.
We beg further to state that the new private roads will be at once put into proper repair and henceforth strictly kept as private roads as it will be impossible for the inhabitants to maintain them at their cost and have them continually put out of repair by the public traffic.

18 August 1865

That the period of six months for which an arrangement was made with Mr David Davies to act as your Medical Inspector having expired your committee recommend that a fresh arrangement be made with that gentleman to act as such inspector for a further term of six months at a salary of £100 for that time, your committee being of opinion that great good has resulted from his services.37

18 August 1865

Your committee, although the subject does not strictly fall within the province of that of the Local Board trust they will be pardoned if they call the attention of the Town Council to the prevalence of the disease known as cattle plague and to the Orders of the Lords of the Privy Council made on the 11th inst. with reference thereto with the object that a matter of such great public importance may have speedy consideration and all necessary steps may be taken to give effect to the provisions of such Orders. Your committee have with the view of preventing as much as possible diseased cattle being brought into Bristol markets and unsound meat being sold to the public, instructed your Inspector of Nuisances to use increased vigilance and to exercise strictly his powers of visiting the markets and other places where animals and meat are exposed or deposited or prepared for sale, and of seizing and procuring the destruction of any such as may appear to him to be diseased, unsound or unfit for human food and of punishing the persons having such unwholesome matters in their possession.

18 September 1865

Saint Paul’s to Stokes Croft

The great want of a carriage communication between Old Market street and Stokes-Croft through Saint Paul’s is an acknowledged fact and has been the subject of numerous memorials from the inhabitants of that district. The present inconvenient access

37 The Board was still paying Davies only £200 p.a. in 1872 whereas the Clerk had £550 p.a. and the Surveyor £700 and £110 for the keep of a horse and man.
through the 'two trees' passage being especially felt on Sundays by
the congregations of the numerous places of worship situate in
Milk street, Brunswick square, Portland square and Stokes-croft,
and about fifteen years since a sub-committee viewed the locality
and recommended that the earliest opportunity should be taken
for the formation of a new street from York street to Stokes-croft
and the City road chapel railings have been set back so as to leave
thirty feet. The Malthouse extending from Wilder street to the
Back fields being 29 feet wide in the clear only, it will be advisable
to schedule the whole of the property coloured pink in order to
have a street 35 feet wide, upper York street being in its narrowest
point 34 feet wide. I estimate the value of the whole of the
property colored at £5,900, the salvage £2,200 leaving the net cost
£3,700.

27 October 1865

Your committee have been from time to time, and particularly
since the closing of the temporary fever hospital in May last, in
correspondence with the Board of Guardians of the Clifton Union
on the subject of their providing a proper place for the reception
and treatment of paupers of their Union affected with typhus fever
and other infectious diseases, and also with the Poor Law Board
on the same subject. Your committee have much satisfaction in
reporting that they have during the present month received from
the Secretary to the Poor Law Board a letter expressing the
regret of the Board at hearing typhus fever was prevalent in the
Clifton Union and stating that they had addressed a communica­
tion to the Guardians requesting them to proceed at once to make
provision for the cases of paupers suffering from fever or other
infectious diseases. And your committee have reason to believe
that the Guardians will provide a permanent hospital in com­
munication with their work house for such cases.

It appearing also to your committee that it is most desirable in
the interests of public health and safety that there should be places
to which persons above the class of paupers suffering from
infectious diseases might be removed and where proper treatment
would be afforded to them, they directed letters to be addressed to
the committees of the Royal Infirmary and Bristol General
Hospital suggesting to such committees the consideration of the
propriety of their establishing, in connection with their institu­
tions, separate wards for the reception of fever cases and they have

38 This was, of course, the central government department responsible for the
oversight of local poor law administration.
received from the chairman of the committee of the General Hospital a reply from which it appears that the letter from your committee had been under the careful consideration of the medical staff and the house committee of the hospital and the staff were quite ready to attend any increased number of fever patients the hospital made provision for, but want of funds would prevent the house committee from entering further into the matter. Your committee have also received from the secretary of the Royal Infirmary a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the committee of that institution held on the 24th inst. to the effect that the committee fully recognize the desirability of establishing a provision for fever cases and, failing the establishment of any general hospital for such cases for the city, they would be prepared to appeal to the public to enable them to erect detached wards for infectious diseases in connection with the Infirmary. 39

The Corporation of the Poor in the city of Bristol having provided for the treatment of their paupers, there is now every prospect that as regards paupers in the Bristol and Clifton districts, the isolation of fever and other infectious cases will be properly provided for, and it would appear that want of funds alone forms the obstacle to the provision of accommodation for the isolation and treatment of infectious disorders in persons not paupers.

39 Both were voluntary hospitals. The fever hospital movement had not resulted in any specific institution or special wards for such cases in Bristol (see J. Woodward, To do the sick no harm (1974) pp 64–5 for the movement).
of chest diseases⁴⁰ and other diseases dependent on the season and the weather, and not from any epidemic diseases or diseases connected with sanitary arrangements, and he considers this increase to be temporary and is sanguine that the average mortality for the year in Bristol will again be as low as in any large town in the kingdom.

23 February 1866

Your committee have applied to the directors of the Water Works Company to ascertain if they are still prepared to supply water on the terms stated in February 1861 and have also had an interview with the directors on the subject, who decline to undertake to supply the Board with water for street watering at the present time on the ground that the additional works which are being constructed by the company for providing an increased supply of water for the District are not in a sufficiently advanced state to justify them in doing so. They however expressed their belief that next year they might be in a position to enter into arrangements with the Board for that purpose.

Your committee cannot recommend the use of the Float or river water for the watering of the public streets, both on account of its impurity and the expense of pumping and haulage.

Under the foregoing circumstances your committee recommend that as soon as the necessary supply of water can be obtained from the Water Works Company upon satisfactory terms, the roads and streets marked out on the plan to the extent of about 25 miles be watered at the cost charged on the general district rates on the whole District.

24 August 1866

The engagement of Mr David Davies, your Medical Inspector, having expired the 3rd instant, your committee thought it would be for the interests of the District that a fresh arrangement should be made for the continuation of his services. They have therefore agreed with him to act as your Medical Inspector for a 12 months from the 3rd inst. at a salary of £200 which agreement they request you to confirm.

⁴⁰ The mortality from such causes was not considered at this time amenable to sanitary measures although it was indeed heavy e.g. in the decade 1861–1870 in the registration districts of Bristol and Clifton phthisis (T.B.) caused 3,390 deaths and 'diseases of the lungs' 7,184 deaths (Supplement to the 35th Annual report of the Registrar-General 1875).
24 August 1866

With respect to the sanitary state of the District your committee report that so early as April last, considering the probability of a visitation of cholera, they began to make special preparations for putting the District as far as in them lay into a state to meet the disease should it appear. For this purpose they anticipated their usual practice of sending men round during the heats of summer to cleanse and whitelime privies, courts etc. and in that month put on workmen under each district inspector with strict instructions to have every privy accessible to them washed, cleansed and disinfected and every court, alley and passage cleansed, whitelimed and purified and to serve notices on the owners or occupiers of all premises where nuisances were found to exist, requiring the abandonment thereof. Your committee afterwards when the disease became prevalent in London and other places in England increased this staff. The inspectors were instructed in all cases of infectious or contagious disorder to see that the houses where they should occur should be most thoroughly fumigated or otherwise disinfected. They also supplied such poor persons as were desirous of making use of them with whitelime, brushes, chloride of lime and other disinfecting substances. The result of the exertions of your officers, and those of other local authorities acting under the Diseases Prevention Act, has been that although there have been some few cases of cholera and a larger number of diarrhoea, yet in each instance the disease has been extinguished or prevented from spreading and becoming epidemic. In the course of these preparations your committee have had many courts paved or pitched, about 300 courts, alleys and places whitewashed and cleansed, flushed and disinfected. This latter will be understood when it is stated that in consequence of the careless and filthy habits of the people living in some places, it has been found necessary time after time and sometimes almost daily, to visit and cleanse the privies. 620 notices have been served on owners and occupiers of premises in and since April last requiring them to abate nuisances arising from defective privies and drains, pigs and other animals, offensive deposits and accumulations and dirty premises. The principal number of these nuisances have been remedied, legal proceedings having been taken where necessary and the remainder of them are under the care of your officers. In addition to the work actually enforced by your committee the example shown by cleansing premises has had a most satisfactory result in inducing owners and occupiers of houses in poor and crowded parts of the District to exert themselves in the cleansing, repairing and purifying their premises. Judging from recent experience of success and the
opinion of your Medical Inspector, your committee believe the disease has been well met in your district and that when the first cases of its appearance are early and vigorously dealt with it is not difficult to prevent it from spreading. They believe also that although possibly cases of cholera may appear during the next few weeks they have every reason to hope that by perseverance in the same measures by your officers and by the efforts of the other local authorities the disease will not become epidemic.

26 October 1866

Your committee beg to refer you to that part of their report presented at your meeting on the 23rd February last which relates to the watering of the public streets and roads of the borough and to report that they have again considered the subject and now recommend that, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made for providing the necessary supply of water, your committee be authorized to expend a sum of money not exceeding a rate of one penny in the pound... in watering such of the public streets and roads as they may consider necessary and may be able to accomplish for that amount, such sum of money to be levied by a general district rate upon the whole of your District.

26 October 1866

Your committee have now to call your attention to a subject of considerable importance and which has for some time occupied their attention, namely the nuisance caused by the smoke from the numerous manufactories in the District. In the month of March 1860 soon after the passing of the Local Government Act by which powers were given to your Board for requiring all furnaces and fireplaces used in the working of engines by steam, or in any mill, factory, dyehouse, brewery, bakehouse, gas works or in any manufactory whatsoever, to be so constructed as to consume the smoke arising from the combustibles used in such fireplaces or furnaces. Your committee gave notice by advertisement in the public newspapers that it was the intention of your Board strictly to enforce compliance with the requirements of the Act. But on endeavouring to carry that intention into effect your committee were met by the objection of manufacturers that it was not practicable for them to consume the smoke arising from the Welsh and local coals which they were obliged to use and considered that in the absence of proof that the smoke from such coals could be practically consumed, it was not desirable to take legal proceedings which were subject to be looked upon as vexatious. It has recently however been demonstrated by the application of appa-
status to certain furnaces that it is quite practicable if not absolutely to consume the whole of the smoke arising from the coals ordinarily used in Bristol, to at least consume it to such an extent as to get rid of it as a nuisance. Your Board, being now invested with fresh powers by . . . the Sanitary Act 1866 to treat all fireplaces and furnaces which do not as far as practicable consume the smoke from the combustible used therein and which are used for working engines by steam or in any mill factory, dyehouse, brewery, bakehouse or gas work or in any manufactory or trade process whatsoever and also any chimney (not being the chimney of a private dwelling house) sending forth black smoke in such quantity as to be a nuisance as nuisances under the Nuisances Removal Act 1855, and to take proceedings under that Act for their abatement. Your committee recommend that notice should again be given by advertisement in the public newspapers setting forth the provisions of the Acts relating to the consumption of smoke and that it is the intention of the Board to put in force the powers of the said Acts for compelling the consumption of smoke. And they further recommend that legal proceedings be taken in all cases in which it shall appear to your committee desirable to do so for the purpose.

26 October 1866

With reference to the sanitary condition of . . . Bristol your committee have to report that at the present time it is most satisfactory there not being any cases of cholera or so far as your committee are informed, of any epidemic disease of any kind and it appears by the last weeks returns of the Registrar General that the rate of mortality for that week was at the very low annual rate of 14 per thousand. As regards the late visitation of cholera to the District, it appears from the report of the Medical Inspector that the first case of Asiatic cholera in this city during the present year (which was also the first reported in England) occurred at Prince street turnpike on the 23rd April and that the last case was in a cottage near Bedminster Turnpike on the 24th September. Between these dates, and with a clear interval of 3 months between the first and second cases, it appears that 45 cases of cholera and choleraic diarrhoea of a specific character have been reported, 27

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42 Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Act 1855 (18 & 19 Vict. cap. cxxi).
died and 10 recovered. The disease appeared in isolated cases at intervals in 25 different places and affected 28 different houses. The points wherein the epidemic appeared are scattered pretty equally over the District within a circle of the most distant ones which were as follows: Richmond Hill, Montpelier, Windmill Hill, and Parson street, Bedminster, Cumberland Basin, Park Hill and Kingsdown Parade. In only 3 cases did the disease extend to the adjoining house and it is the opinion of the Medical Inspector that this arose from the first case in each of these places not having been reported at an earlier period for the application of preventive measures. 14 cases have been traced to infection from other places where the disease prevailed and in epidemic form, and it is more than probable that the other cases were communicated in a similar manner, although as yet the Medical Inspector has not been able to trace the communication.

Anticipating that the District would be visited by the epidemic in the summer and autumn, the committee gave instructions early in the spring that every part of the District should be minutely inspected with special regard to the expected epidemic and in April they appointed a number of workmen under the supervision of the nuisance inspectors to cleanse and disinfect all privies accessible to them and to whitelime all courts, alleys and passages. All nuisances which were discovered by the inspectors were reported and either the landlord or the occupier was required to abate the same. When the disease reappeared on the 21st July the measures considered necessary to prevent the spread of the epidemic were taken in all the early cases by your officers under the instructions of the Medical Inspector. After the appointment of officers by the local authorities under the Diseases Prevention Act, the disinfection of houses, clothing and other matters was carried out very effectively by them, your officers continuing to disinfect all drains and open privies and to remove nuisances. Wherever a case of cholera appeared all the drains and sewers communicating with it were charged with sulphate of iron or other chemicals by the officers of your Board and all the sewers in the low levels were kept so charged until the end of September. In consequence of this, as your committee believe, none of the sewers or drains became contaminated with infection, no case of the disease having been traced to this source. The measures adopted appear to have been uniformly successful in arresting the disease at each point irrespective of the state of the weather which during the occurrence of the earlier cases was dry and afterwards wet, and your committee consider themselves justified in believing that the preventive measures adopted by them and by the local authorities under the Diseases Prevention Act were, under the blessing of
God, the means of saving the city from a widely spread epidemic and they hope that similar measures will be adopted in other places as the prevalence of the disease in one town endangers every other in the country.

Your committee are sorry to find that the epidemic lingers in other places in England. They cannot but regard the fact with some anxiety but trust the coming winter will eradicate it. At all events it will be their endeavour should fresh cases unfortunately occur in your District to meet them by applying remedies with the promptitude and energy which are necessary for the success of such measures.

The committee consider that the expenses incurred by your Board and the local authorities in carrying out preventive measures have been the soundest principles of economy as had the disease assumed an epidemic form the public would have become responsible for many years for the support of a large number of widows and orphans.

15 February 1867 (Calendared)

Your committee invited tenders for watering the whole of the public streets using Water Company's water from 1 April to 30 September for a 3 year term. Because the Company's directors objected to supplying water for this purpose except to the Board of Health no tenders were received. Your committee were able to satisfy themselves that no responsible person could do the job for a sum at all approaching that which they were authorized to spend. Hence the Water Co. was asked its terms for the job. The Co. replied that it would fix stand posts and meters and supply water at 6d per 1000 gallons (minimal rental to be £400 p.a.), meter rent at 30/- each p.a. and 10% p.a. to be paid by the Board on the outlay on stand pipes, apparatus and fixing costs. The contract to be for 3 years and the Co. reserves the right to discontinue the supply temporarily.

The committee selected 32 miles of streets which it thought desirable to water. They prepared a second specification for watering these, reserving the right to add or subtract streets as they saw fit- with consequential changes in the contract price. They then advertised for tenders for distributing the water, accepting the lowest of £2,038. Adding the Co's charges for water etc. would mean that about £2,500 would be necessary which is somewhat in excess of 1d in the pound on the rates. The sum could be reduced

43 The cholera vibrio which is normally water borne cannot survive when the water temperature drops below a certain level.
by omitting some streets but your committee has chosen them carefully and recommends acceptance on the terms above.

15 February 1867

Your committee report that in compliance with the resolution of the Town Council at their meeting held on the first day of January last that it be referred to your committee to consider a memorial from certain inhabitants in relation to the establishment of a hospital for infectious diseases in this city and to report on the best means of carrying out the objects therein referred to, they have considered the subject and it appearing to them that the term 'Sewer Authority' as used in the Sanitary Act 1866 does not include Local Boards under the Public Health and Local Government Acts and consequently your Board have no power to provide such a hospital, they applied to the Local Government Act Office for information and were advised that Local Boards are not included in the term 'Sewer Authority' as used in section 37 of that Act. It was at the same time intimated that this may have been by inadvertency in the wording of the Act. Your committee therefore, considering that there is no local authority in Bristol empowered to provide a hospital for infectious diseases for the general use of the citizens and that it is very desirable that there should be, recommend that a memorial under the seal of the Local Board of Health be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Home Department pointing out the defect in the Act and praying that it may be remedied by power being given to Local Boards of Health to provide hospitals for contagious and infectious diseases in their districts.

15 February 1867

Your committee have considered the suggestion which was made at your last meeting as to the provision of a dead house for the reception of the bodies of persons found drowned in the District and have ascertained that an arrangement exists between the Corporation of the Poor and the Guardians of the Clifton Union by which all bodies found in the river Avon and Bristol Channel may be taken to St. Peter's hospital and be interred by the Corporation of the Poor, the Clifton Guardians paying one half the cost. . . . The Watch committee have been informed of this

44 This curiously named department was a sub-department of the Home Office. Its functions are described in R. Lambert, Central and local government relations in mid-Victorian England: the Local Government Act Office, 1858–1871 in Victorian Studies vol. vi (1962) pp 121–150.
arrangement and have instructed the police accordingly. Under these circumstances it appears to your committee undesirable for your Board to take any action.

29 October 1867

Alderman Ford moved . . . That the question of the erection of a hospital for infectious diseases be referred to the committee of the Board of Health with instructions to report to the Council upon the whole subject at the earliest time possible (Carried)

14 February 1868

In pursuance of the resolution passed at your meeting on 29 October last that the question of the erection of a hospital for infectious diseases be reported on by the committee it appeared to them most desirable that each of the [Poor Law] Unions having districts within the borough should provide accommodation for the reception of paupers suffering from infectious diseases and that before erecting a public hospital for such diseases, the Board should wait the result of the proceedings of the several Unions with reference to their making provision . . . they accordingly caused letters to be addressed to the Clerks of the Boards of Guardians of the Clifton and Bedminster Unions requesting to be informed whether or not it was their intention to provide . . . for paupers suffering from contagious or infectious diseases and if they were about to do so, what number they proposed to accommodate. This information your committee have not up to the present time received officially, but they have reason to believe that the Clifton Guardians are about to make the necessary provisions and the Bedminster Guardians have the subject under consideration. Your committee did not cause any letter to be addressed to the Corporation of the Poor, they having provided the necessary accommodation.

Upon closely considering the power given to Local Boards by the Sanitary Act 1866 and the Sewage Utilization Act 1867, a question of serious difficulty presented itself, whether, by the wording of the former Act your Board are unauthorized to provide a hospital for the reception of contagious and infectious diseases only, or whether, if you provide a hospital at all it must not be for the reception of, and open to, all the sick inhabitants of your

45 The Sewage Utilization Act 1867 (30 & 31 Vict. cap. cxiii) is a memorial to the Victorian belief in the virtue of distributing sewage matter over land.
District who choose to avail themselves of it without regard to the nature of their disease.

11 September 1868

That cases have frequently been brought to the notice of your committee in which the bodies of persons who have died of infectious diseases have been kept in poor and crowded neighbourhoods for several days previous to their being buried whereby great danger to the health of the public has been occasioned. It appearing to your committee desirable that you should be in a position to put in force the powers of the Sanitary Act 1866 for dealing with such cases, they have determined to provide upon your premises in Meadow street a proper place for the reception of dead bodies as you are empowered to do by the 27th section of that Act by which any dead body of one who has died of any infectious disease and which shall be retained in a room in which persons live or sleep, or of any dead body which is in such a state as to endanger the health of the inmates of the same house or room, may be compulsorily removed under the provisions of the said Act. They recommend that you will be pleased to confirm their determination in the matter.

20 April 1869

That it appearing to your committee, upon the recommendations of your Medical Inspector, most desirable for the purpose of checking the spreading of infectious and contagious diseases, that the provisions of the Sanitary Act 1866 for preventing the use of public cabs and conveyances for the conveyance of persons suffering from such diseases should be strictly observed, . . . and it appearing also that great public advantage and convenience would arise if a proper vehicle were provided, the use of which might be obtained by any person requiring the removal of a person ill of such disease, and that if there were such a vehicle all excuse for making use of the ordinary public conveyances would be taken away, your committee have purchased a carriage most convenient and comfortable for the purpose and have stationed the same at your yard in Meadow street, to be ready at all times, free of charge, for the use of persons requiring it. They have also made certain rules and regulations on which the loan of it may be obtained and have sent copies of such rules . . . to the several medical men and to the cab proprietors in the District.

20 April 1869

That the question of providing a steam roller for rolling the surface
of the macadamized roads, in making or repairing the same, having on several occasions been brought before your Board, your committee have enquired into the subject and from the information obtained they at present consider that it would not be desirable to procure such a roller. The cost would be heavy and the gradients of many of the roads, and the narrowness of all, or nearly all, would be against the use of the roller, and unless the work were to be done at night, great danger would be caused by frightening horses passing along the road.

20 August 1869

In the month of May last Mr James Parker Stephens, a builder acting for and employed by Mr Thomas Rowley, without having previously obtained or applied for the consent of yourselves or of your Committee, commenced erecting a building which it is believed is intended to be used as a shop, in front of Virginia House, Vittoria place, White Ladies road, and which is now nearly completed so far as regards the elevation thereof. Such building, being erected upon a portion of the garden appertaining to Virginia House and projecting houses, and standing some 11 or 12 feet high, is, as your committee is advised, erected in contravention of the 28th section of the Local Government Act Amendment Act 1863 which enacts that it shall not be lawful . . . to bring forward any house or building forming part of any street or any part thereof beyond the front wall of the house or building on either side thereof, nor to build any addition thereto, beyond the front of such house or building on either side of the same as aforesaid without the previous consent of such Local Board, whereby the person offending has rendered himself liable to be proceeded against by indictment. 46

25 February 1870

That in the month of August 1867 the sewerage works for the five districts of the city and county which had been set out by the Board for sewerage purposes having been so far proceeded with that in the opinion of your Surveyor the drainage of the remaining portion of the city and county not included in these districts, and which comprises parts of the parishes of Clifton, Bedminster and St. Peter and the parishes of St Stephen, St. Nicholas, Christ Church, St. Werburgh, All Saints, St. Mary-le-Port, St Mary

46 Eventually after the parties had been warned but took no notice the Local Board took proceedings against them.
Redcliff, Temple and St. Thomas, might then be undertaken and were necessary for the completion of the scheme of drainage for the whole of the District of the Board, he prepared a plan of sewers for such portion of the city and county, together with a report thereon which he submitted to your committee at their meeting on the 15th of that month. This plan and report were fully considered by your committee who being of opinion that it might possibly be desirable that the sewage should be carried further down the river than the spot contemplated in the report so as to bring the same to one point where it might eventually be dealt with by deoderisation or otherwise . . . directed your Surveyor to report further on the subject and to estimate the additional cost of conveying the sewage from the Bedminster Sewer district at Clift House to opposite the outlet of the High and Low Level Sewer districts, and the cost of conveying the sewage from the districts then discharging on the north side of the New Cut to the opposite side so as to concentrate the discharge of sewage from the whole district of the Board at one point in the river. This your Surveyor did and reported to your committee at their meeting on 2nd October 1867. The subject has from time to time been before your committee who were of opinion that from various causes it was not desirable to proceed with the works. It now appears to them that the time has arrived when the part of the works included in the report of 15 August should be undertaken . . .

25 February 1870

That it having been represented to your committee by the Medical Inspector that it would be of great service to him if he could procure from the several registrars of births and deaths within your District weekly returns of the deaths with the ages of the deceased and the causes of death as furnished to the Registrar-General, to be made at your offices, so as to enable him to prepare and keep a register of all deaths with their causes happening in the District by means of which he will be enabled better to trace and follow up all diseases of a contagious or infectious character. [permission obtained]

24 February 1871

BYE LAWS

made by the Local Board of Health of the city and county of Bristol with respect to the level, width and construction of new streets and the provisions for the sewerage thereof. With respect to the sufficiency of space about buildings to secure a free circulation of air and with respect to the ventilation of buildings.
With respect to the drainage of buildings, to water-closets, privies, ash-pits and cesspools in connexion with buildings unfit for human habitation. And as to the giving of notices as to the deposit of plans and sections by persons intending to lay out streets or construct buildings, as to inspection by the Local Board and as to the power of the Local Board to remove, alter or pull down any work begun or done in contravention of such bye laws, and for the prevention of nuisances arising from snow, pursuant to the powers and provisions contained in the Local Government Act 1858.47

24 February 1871

The Council acting as the Local Board of Health . . . took into consideration the sewerage and drainage of the parishes of St. Stephen, St. Nicholas, Christ Church, St. Ewen, St. Werburgh, All Saints, St. Mary-le-Port, St. Mary Redcliff, Temple otherwise Holy Cross, and St. Thomas and the parts of the parish of St. Peter, Clifton and Bedminster which said parishes and parts of parishes lie within and are enclosed and bounded by a line or boundary commencing at the outer lock of Cumberland Basin in the parish of Clifton, proceeding along the Floating Harbour to the Stone Bridge, thence along the southern boundary of a certain other district of the said city and county known by the name and description of the Frome Intercepting Sewer District to the south end of Merchant street and to the boundary . . . of the Saint Philips Sewer District, thence along such last named boundary on the westerly side of the last named district to the north bank of the new course of the river Avon at or near Totterdown Lock, thence across the new course of the river Avon to the south bank thereof. Thence along the said south bank to the boundary of the city and county of the city and county of Bristol, thence along the said boundary . . . to the southward point of the boundary of . . . Bedminster Sewer District near Parson street in the parish of Bedminster, thence along the southward boundary of the said Bedminster Sewer District to the new course of the river Avon near Whitehouse street. Thence along the south bank of the new course of the river Avon to the boundary of the said parish on the south side of the new course of the said river Avon until it again meets the said new course to the said river along which it continues until it reaches the boundary of the borough near Clift House nearly opposite the point at the outer lock of Cumberland Basin at

47 The bye laws which follow are, of course, much too extensive to be printed here. They certainly tried to cover all contingencies e.g. a bye law made people responsible for clearing snow from footpaths adjacent to their premises.
which said line or boundary of the District now being described, commences.

It was resolved that for the drainage of the said parishes and places respectively certain new sewers should be constructed and made and certain of the sewers and drains now existing therein should be enlarged or altered, and with certain other works, matters and things were requisite and necessary for effectually draining the said district . . . The said sewers, drains, alterations, enlargements, works, matters and things being of a permanent nature and being provided, made, enlarged and altered for the benefit of the said parishes . . . it was further resolved and ordered that the said parishes . . . be and form a separate District . . . for the purpose of paying and discharging the expenses of constructing . . . the sewers . . . together with the interest on such expenses and that the same to be and continue to be a separate district . . . until such time as the said expenses and interest shall have been fully paid and satisfied.

And it was further resolved and ordered that the said district . . . shall be known by the name and description of The Avon Intercepting Sewer District.

It was resolved

That £27,000 for the borrowing of which for defraying the cost of sewerage works within the district, the sanction of the Right Honorable Henry Austin Bruce, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State has been given on 22 October 1870, be borrowed of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England on mortgage of the general district rates, the said sum of £27,000 to be repaid by 30 equal yearly instalments from the date of the borrowing thereof with interest at 5 per cent per annum to be paid half yearly and to be reducible to £4 10s per cent per annum on payment on or within 15 days after each day of half yearly payments. And that a mortgage of the general district rates for securing the repayment of the said sum of £27,000 with interest as aforesaid be executed under the common seal of the Board.

24 February 1871

Your committee recommend that an application be made by your Board as the Nuisance Authority . . . to one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State requesting him to publish in the London Gazette as directed in the 35th section of the Sanitary Act 1866 in order to empower you as such Nuisance Authority to make regulations

1 For fixing the number of persons who may occupy a house or part of a house which is let in lodgings, or occupied by members of more than one family.
2 For the registration of houses thus let or occupied in lodgings.
3 For the inspection of such houses and the keeping the same in a clean and wholesome state.
4 For enforcing therein the provision of privy accommodation and other appliances and means of cleanliness in proportion to the number of lodgers and occupiers and the cleansing and ventilation of the common passages and staircases.
5 For the cleansing and lime whiting at stated times of such premises.

Your committee have prepared draft regulations and submit the same for your consideration.

9 May 1871

On the motion of Mr Warren it was unanimously resolved: that the attention of the committee of the Board of Health be directed to the question of providing public slaughter houses for the city of Bristol.

9 May 1871

Your committee report that the several slaughter houses set forth in the schedule of slaughter houses hereunder written, having been for some time registered and used for slaughtering cattle and other animals under the inspection of your Inspector and being fit and proper for the purpose, and your committee having been advised that in order to comply with the Act of Parliament in that behalf, it is requisite that licences should be granted by the Local Board to use such houses. Your committee recommend that licenses be granted by the Board . . . to the several slaughter houses mentioned in the said schedule.

9 May 1871

Your committee have under the advice of your Medical Inspector provided at your yard near the Marsh bridge a disinfecting apparatus capable of disinfecting clothes and bedding and articles of that nature, the apparatus is reported to them to be working exceedingly well and it is hoped that persons having infected articles will avail themselves of it. Your committee recommend that poor persons by the direction of your Medical Inspector should have their infected articles disinfected free of cost and that a charge of 10/- should be made to those who are in a position to pay for the accommodation.

48 88 were listed.
18 August 1871

That your committee have taken into their most serious consideration the providing a hospital for . . . cases of smallpox. They had an interview with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Clifton Board of Guardians, and the Vice-Chairman of the Bedminster Board of Guardians by whom they were informed that the Bristol and Clifton Boards were amply provided with accommodation for smallpox patients amongst the paupers in their Unions and that the Bedminster Guardians would soon be provided with accommodation for all infectious diseases amongst their paupers. Your committee applied themselves to find a proper and convenient place for such a hospital for the reception and treatment of smallpox cases amongst those persons who are not paupers but who might desire to be removed to a hospital or the inconveniences of whose homes might render their removal necessary to prevent the spread of the disease, and having experienced great difficulty and many disappointments in consequence of the objections of persons to sell or let their land for the purpose, they have, as the best means at their command, put up a temporary wooden building in one of the yards occupied by your Board and have arranged with a medical man to attend such patients . . . and engaged a nurse and servant- and the hospital provided has the entire approbation of your Medical Inspector. The number of patients who have been accommodated has been in the whole four. All these have been dismissed cured, and at the present time there is only one case in the house. Every precaution which your officers could take by the use of disinfectants and other means to prevent the spread of smallpox has been adopted, and your committee are happy to say that the disease has not assumed in your district the serious form it has in London and some other of the larger towns.

6 October 1871

Your committee are of opinion that it is desirable that tramways should be laid down in such streets and roads of the city and county of Bristol as are suitable for the purpose, and that such tramways should be laid down by private companies rather than by the local authority.

1 March 1872

That your committee having found that the temporary hospital put up in your yard at St. Philip's Marsh answered its purpose exceedingly well, but that it wanted proper accommodation for convalescent patients, they have added two convalescent wards,
one for male and one for female patients, and finding also that it
did not afford the accommodation which it appeared would be
necessary in the event of the small pox epidemic increasing to the
extent which it threatened to do, and further that it seemed
necessary to provide accommodation for fever and other infectious
cases also, they procured tenders for the erection of another
hospital of a similar character to the first to contain twenty
patients. They have contracted with Messrs. Brock and Bruce for
the erection of such second hospital, with nurses and convalescent
rooms, at your yard adjoining the first hospital. This building is
now far advanced in construction and your committee believe you
will now be provided amply with all necessary accommodation for
the reception of cases of small pox and fever amongst those
persons who are not paupers and who may require to be received
into a public hospital. The cases amongst paupers your committee
believe not to be under your management. Your committee have
great satisfaction in reporting that hitherto the hospitals and their
arrangement for managing them have worked well, and, as they
believe, have been the means of preventing to a very considerable
extent the spread of small pox. The number of patients received
has been 70, of these 53 have been discharged cured, 8 have died
and 9 are at the present time in the establishment. Your committee
causedit to be buried those patients who have died, obtaining
reimbursement of the expenses incurred from the friends of the
deceased where they have been able to do so and charging those
expenses on the rates in other cases
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