

(No. 21.)



1861.

T A S M A N I A.

M R. W A T T.

INQUIRY INTO CERTAIN IMPUTATIONS UPON MR. CHAPMAN.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Innes, and ordered by the House to be printed,
22 August, 1861.

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ON DIT.—It is said that the Collector of Customs at Launceston has made a statement respecting the Premier, which he indignantly repudiates as unmitigatedly untrue. This topic was the theme of general conversation yesterday, but we withhold particulars for the present, as the matter cannot rest where it now stands.—(From *Launceston Examiner*, August, 1861.)

Hobart Town, 6th August, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM this morning in receipt of a communication from Mr. Rooke, the Member for Deloraine, in which he states, that in a conversation that took place between himself and Mr. Watt, the Collector of Customs in Launceston, during the week, Captain Gilmore and Mr. Edward Boyes being present, it was rumoured that I had joined the Cabinet as Premier. "Mr. Watt remarked, that no Merchant ought to be a Member of the Executive, inasmuch as it gave them a very unfair advantage over other men of business; and further went on to state,—See what Chapman did before, when he was Colonial Treasurer, at the time when it was contemplated to raise the duty on Brandy from 12s. to 15s. per gallon: he had 70 hogsheads of Brandy ready to take out of Bond, all ready gauged, and he had his Clerk stationed on a conspicuous place on the Wharf, and he (Mr. Chapman) was to make a signal from the window of the House of Assembly when the entries were to be passed and the duty paid, the cheque being already drawn and in possession of the Clerk."

Mr. Rooke states that he was very indignant at so gross a charge being thus publicly made against me, and asked Mr. Watt if he would allow him to use his name in the matter, so that it might be cleared up; and Mr. Watt replied that he might do so.

As the statement made by Mr. Watt is utterly untrue, and calculated to injure me in the estimation of the public, I have to request, that you will give instructions to Mr. Watt to proceed forthwith to Hobart Town, to afford an opportunity for investigating the statement he has made, as I cannot think of permitting the author of so wicked and malicious a slander to escape unpunished.

For your information, I beg to state that I accepted office as Colonial Treasurer on the 31st October, 1856, and the amended Tariff was submitted by me to the House of Assembly on the evening of the 9th January, 1857; and that I resigned office on the 19th February, 1857.

I am, my dear Sir,
Yours very truly,

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

The Hon. F. M. INNES, Esq., Colonial Treasurer.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH MESSAGE.

6th August, 1861.

Mr. Watt is requested to come to Hobart Town without delay,—if possible, by to-night's coach; and to report himself to me on his arrival.

F. M. INNES.

The Collector of Customs, Launceston.

Colonial Treasury, 7th August, 1861.

SIR,

I AM in receipt of a communication from Mr. Chapman, of which I enclose you a copy; and I have to request that you will offer me any statement or explanation thereon that you may have to make, without unnecessary delay.

I am, Sir, &c.,

F. M. INNES.

The Collector of Customs, Launceston.

Hobart Town, 7th August, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor in obedience to your communication of this date, carefully read over the copy of a communication from Mr. Rooke to Mr. Chapman.

The conversation, which was some day last week, arose, it is true, out of a rumour that Mr. Chapman was to be the Premier: upon which I remarked, that I was surprised to hear it, as, from what I had heard of Mr. Chapman's health, I thought he would decline. I also said he was not now a popular man in Hobart Town, and that he had lost cast on the occasion when it was proposed to raise the duty on Brandy from 12s. to 15s. I went on to say, that on the day previous to that Motion coming on, a very large quantity of Spirits were duty paid, and that a still larger quantity re-gauged, for the firm of Chapman & Co.; the entries were put into the Custom House to be calculated, but withdrawn the next morning, and not acted upon.

Whatever those gentlemen may have made out of what I above state, I do most positively declare that I never said that such was at the time Mr. Chapman was Treasurer, and I am positive I mentioned no number of casks, but I said that upwards of 70 casks were cleared during that day. I admit that I said that the Clerk was repeatedly told by the public to look out for Mr. Chapman's signal; such, is well known, was only said at the time as burlesque, and repeated by me to those gentlemen as such. It is well known the House did not sit until nearly dark. I do most positively declare such a statement was made with no ill-feeling or evil intention to Mr. Chapman or any other person. I was informed by the Custom House Agent that the cheque for the duty was ready to be put in.

Before concluding, I beg leave to express my great regret that I should have so far departed from my usual course of never talking on Politics; and I extremely regret this affair, and beg to apologize to Mr. Chapman for so gross an act of indiscretion.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

THOMAS T. WATT.

The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.

MEMO.

Hobart Town, 8th, August 1861.

IN Mr. Watt's letter of the 7th instant, he refers to the day previous to the Motion coming on for raising the duty on Brandy from 12s. to 15s. per gallon as the day on which a very large quantity of Spirits were duty paid, and a still larger quantity re-gauged, for the firm of Chapman & Co.: I request Mr. Watt be called upon to state the date.

I also request Mr. Watt be called upon to give the name of the Clerk to whom he refers in his letter.

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

Colonial Treasury, 8th August, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE to request, in reference to your letter of yesterday's date, in which you refer to the day previous to the motion coming on for raising the duty on Brandy from 12s. to 15s. per gallon as the day on which a very large quantity of Spirits were duty paid, and a still larger quantity re-gauged, for the firm of Chapman Co., that you will state the date, and also the name of the Clerk referred to in your letter.

I am, &c.,

F. M. INNES.

*The Collector of Customs, Launceston.**Hobart Town, 8th August, 1861.*

MEMO.

REQUIRED a Return of the total amount of Customs Duties collected at Hobart Town in each month during the year 1855; with a statement showing the names of parties who cleared goods for home consumption during the month of August, 1855; showing also the nature of the goods, and amount of duties paid thereon by the said persons.

Similar Return for Launceston.

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

MEMO.

Hobart Town, 10th August, 1861.

I AM in receipt of Mr. Watt's reply to the queries referred to him in my Memorandum of the 8th instant, and I now desire that Mr. Watt be called upon to specify the particular transaction or transactions by which Mr. Watt conceives that I lost cast, as stated in his letter of the 7th instant.

I desire that Mr. Watt may be afforded every facility for referring to such records in the Customs as he may wish to inspect.

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.**Colonial Treasury, 10th August, 1861.*

FORWARDED to Mr. Watt, who is requested to show this to the Collector of Customs as an authority for Mr. Watt's inspection of the Custom's books.—FRED. M. INNES.

Copy of Mr. Chapman's Memo. to Colonial Treasurer of 10th August, 1861, enclosed.

Hobart Town, 9th August, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, in obedience to yours of 8th instant, requiring me to furnish you with the date on which so large a quantity of Spirits were duty paid and removed from the Bonding Stores, and a still larger quantity re-gauged, for the firm of Chapman & Co. preparatory to being taken out. The Spirits which were taken out were cleared by Mr. Lindsay, Mr. James, and Alfred Nicholas, and it was in the year 1855, and (I think) in the month of August—but the exact date can be obtained from the official records of the Custom House, or from the Custom House Agent, Mr. G. F. Evans.

I am at a loss to see what Clerk you allude to. If you mean the Clerk of the firm of Chapman & Co., Mr. Corrie is the person; but if to the Custom House Clerk, my memory does not serve me, but you may be able to arrive at who was the Clerk in the Custom House who had the entries.

I have honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

THOMAS T. WATT, *Collector.**The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

COPY forwarded to Mr. Chapman, with Treasurer's compliments.—10 August.

Monday, 12th August, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE hitherto considered the communications passing between myself and you, in reference to the street conversation in Launceston with regard to Mr. Chapman, in the light of a privileged communication with the head of a department and a subordinate of a department; but as I perceive, by Mr. Chapman's Memo. of 10th instant addressed to yourself, that Mr. Chapman is informed by you of the subject of those privileged communications, and that the necessary consequence is to extract from me matter of evidence which might be used by him in an action at law against me, I think you, Sir, will agree with me, that it would be unjust to compel me to put myself in a position (through your authority over me) which might in any way be prejudicial to myself in such action. Permit me here to say, that it is currently reported that such an action is to be brought against me. If the rumour be unfounded,—if Mr. Chapman be a Minister of the Crown, and it be thought necessary by the Crown that I should furnish further information on this subject,—I shall most readily do so. Waiting your reply,

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

THOMAS T. WATT.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

REFERRED to Mr. Chapman.

F. M. INNES, *12th August, 1861.*

I HAVE no intention of taking any legal proceedings against Mr. Watt in reference to the slanders put in circulation by him respecting myself; but I contemplate bringing Mr. Watt's conduct under the notice of His Excellency the Governor in Council. I desire, therefore, that Mr. Watt forthwith furnish the information required in my Minute of the 10th instant.

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.
12th August, 1861.

Colonial Treasury, 12th August, 1861.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of this date, I have to acquaint you that Mr. Chapman has no intention to take legal proceedings against you, but to bring the facts of his case before the Governor in Council.

In reference to what you state of your having considered your letters to me as privileged communications, I am bound, in justice to myself, to say that I have in no way disguised the fact of that correspondence passing before the Government of which Mr. Chapman is a Member, and I cannot understand how it was possible for you to entertain any idea whatever to the contrary.

I have to renew my application to you for the information set forth in my communication of the 10th instant.

I have, &c.,

F. M. INNES.

The Collector of Customs, Launceston.

Monday, 12th August, 1861.

SIR,

IN now answering your letter of to-day's date, renewing your application to me for the information set forth in your communication of the 10th instant, I apprehend that I am correct in stating that I received no application from you for any information, but that Mr. Chapman's Memo. of 10th instant directed to you, of which you have furnished me with a copy, is the request for information you require.

I therefore proceed to answer that request of Mr. Chapman by stating, in the first place, that I did not intend to say of myself, but only of the rumour current in Hobart Town, that Mr. Chapman had lost cast on the occasion to which I have before referred of the removing of Brandy and other Spirits.

Upon reference to the Customs books, I find that on the 8th of August, 1855, Mr. Chapman cleared 461 cases of Gin and Geneva. On the 17th August, Mr. Chapman had 100 hogsheads of Rum, Brandy, &c., re-gauged, the entries made out, and put into the Long Room of the Custom House so as to enable the Chief Clerk to calculate the correct amount of duty. Mr. Smith was then Chief Clerk, and was told by Mr. G. F. Evans, the Custom House Agent, that the duty was to be paid on that day. On same day, these hogsheads were re-gauged for Mr. Chapman, but being afterwards withdrawn, were rolled back into the Bond at 4 o'clock of same day. It was in reference to these circumstances, which occurred at the time the alteration of the Tariff was under consideration, Mr. Chapman being, as was believed, a Member of a Committee to whom the question of the Tariff was referred by the Council, that the rumour to which I referred in my conversation of Mr. Chapman losing cast took its origin.

I beg distinctly to be understood, that I did not predicate of Mr. Chapman that he had lost cast, but that such was the general rumour and talk in Hobart Town at the time.

The removal of such a large quantity of Spirits within so short a time, and the inchoate removal of the 100 hogsheads by Mr. Chapman at that particular period, naturally, as it appears to me, roused suspicions, and gave countenance to the rumour to which I have alluded as being prevalent.

I wish also that it should be borne in mind that, at the time this conversation took place, it was but a rumour in Launceston that Mr. Chapman was about to be Premier.

There is a misapprehension as to the words "*privileged communication*;" in my letter I merely used that word with reference to such communications as had passed with you as my official superior—not to be used in any legal proceedings which might be used against, and which it was rumoured Mr. Chapman was about to take.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

THOMAS T. WATT.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

Colonial Treasury, 17th August, 1861.

MEMO.

THE Colonial Treasurer, in forwarding the enclosed copies of documents in the case of Mr. Watt, requests that any statement that Mr. Watt has to make in justification or extenuation of his conduct may be furnished to him, with a view to the Governor in Council deciding upon his case.

T. T. WATT, *Esquire.*

- 9th August, 1861.—Declaration by A. F. Rooke.
 31st July, 1861.—Minute of conversation held with Mr. Watt by A. F. Rooke, bearing his initials.
 13th August, 1861.—Declaration by James Affleck Corrie.
 16th August, 1861.—Declaration by the Hon. W. S. Button of this date.
 16th August, 1861.—Declaration by Isaac Sherwin, Esq., of this date.
 14th August, 1861.—Letter of Henry Dowling, Esq., of this date.
 Extract of Minutes of Select Committee of the Legislative Council, appointed 1st August, 1855, to consider His Excellency's Message, No. 4.
 Return of weekly collection of Customs for the months of July and August, 1855.

Re WATT.

LIST of Documents laid before Executive Council, 16th August, 1861, by the Premier.

- 31st July, 1861.—Minute of conversation held with Mr. Watt by A. F. Rooke, bearing his initials.
 9th August, 1861.—Declaration by A. F. Rooke.
 7th and 12th August.—Letters of Mr. T. T. Watt of this date, addressed to the Colonial Treasury.
 13th August, 1861.—Declaration by James Affleck Corrie.
 15th August, 1861.—Letter from the Honorable Thos. D. Chapman.
 14th August.—Letter of Henry Dowling, Esq., of this date.
 16th August.—Declaration of the Honourable W. S. Button, of this date.
 16th August, 1861.—Declaration by Isaac Sherwin, Esq., of this date.
 Extract of Minutes of Select Committee of the Legislative Council, appointed 1st August, 1855, to consider His Excellency's Message, No. 4.
 Return of Weekly Collection of Customs for the months of July and August, 1855.

Letter subsequently adduced.

- 17th August, 1861.—Letter to Colonial Treasurer, from Mr. T. T. Watt.

TASMANIA {
 (TO WIT.) }

I, ADOLPHUS FREDERICK ROOKE, of Deloraine, in Tasmania, Esquire, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows :—

1. That, on the Thirty-first day of July last, I was present with George Gilmore, of Launceston, in Tasmania aforesaid, Esquire; Edward Taylor Boyes, of Launceston aforesaid, Senior Landing Waiter; and Thomas Trail Watt, of Launceston aforesaid, Collector of Her Majesty's Customs there, when a conversation took place, which had reference to Thomas Daniel Chapman, of Hobart Town, Esquire.

2. That, on the First day of August instant, I wrote out a Statement of the said conversation, and submitted the same to the said George Gilmore and Edward Taylor Boyes for their perusal, of which Statement the following is a copy :—

MINUTE of Conversation that took place between myself and T. T. Watt, Esq., Collector of Customs, Launceston; Captain Gilmore, and Edward Boyes, Esq., being present.

It was rumoured that T. D. Chapman, Esq., had joined the Cabinet as Premier. Mr. Watt remarked, that no Merchant ought to be a Member of the Executive, inasmuch as it gave him a very unfair advantage over other men of business. I replied, that perhaps it would be better that a Merchant actually engaged in business should not be a Member of the Government. Mr. Watt then went on to say,—See what Chapman did before, when he was Colonial Treasurer, at the time when it was contemplated to raise the duty on Brandy from 12s. to 15s. per gallon: he had 70 hogsheads of Brandy ready to take out of Bond, all ready gauged, and he had his Clerk stationed on a conspicuous place on the wharf, and he (Chapman) was to make a signal from the window of the House of Assembly when the entries were to be passed and the duty paid, the cheque being already drawn and in possession of the Clerk. I was very indignant at so gross a charge being thus publicly made against Mr. Chapman, and told Mr. Watt, that I neither knew nor cared where he got his information from, but had no hesitation in saying it was an infernal lie. Mr. Watt said he knew it was true. I then asked him, if he would allow me to use his name in the matter so that it might be cleared up: he said I might do so.

3. That the above document contains a correct statement of the purport of what was said by the said Thomas Trail Watt, in the presence of the said George Gilmore, Edward Taylor Boyes, and myself, on the Thirty-first day of July last.

4. That the act imputed to the said Thomas Daniel Chapman by the said Thomas Trail Watt was by him distinctly stated to have been an act done by the said Thomas Daniel Chapman when he was Colonial Treasurer.

All which matters I conscientiously believe to be true ; and I make this Declaration under the provisions of the Act of this Island intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of extra-judicial and unnecessary Oaths."

Taken at Launceston aforesaid, the Ninth day
of August, One thousand eight hundred
and sixty-one, before me.

A. F. ROOKE.

JOHN CROOKES, J.P.

Hobart Town, 7th August, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor in obedience to your communication of this date, carefully read over the copy of a communication from Mr. Rooke to Mr. Chapman.

The conversation, which was some day last week, arose, it is true, out of a rumour that Mr. Chapman was to be the Premier: upon which I remarked, that I was surprised to hear it, as from what I had heard of Mr. Chapman's health, I thought he would decline. I also said he was not a popular man in Hobart Town, and that he had lost cast on the occasion when it was proposed to raise the duty on Brandy from 12s. to 15s. I went on to say, that on the day previous to that Motion coming on, a very large quantity of Spirits were duty paid, and that a still larger quantity re-gauged, for the firm of Chapman & Co.; the entries were put into the Custom House to be calculated, but withdrawn next morning, and not acted upon.

Whatever those gentlemen may have made out of what I above state, I do most positively declare that I never said that such was at the time Mr. Chapman was Treasurer, and I am positive I mentioned no number of casks, but I said that upwards of 70 casks were cleared during that day. I admit that I said that the Clerk was repeatedly told by the public to look out for Mr. Chapman's signal; such, is well known, was only said at the time as burlesque, and repeated by me to those gentlemen as such. It is well known the House did not sit until nearly dark. I do most positively declare such a statement was made with no ill-feeling or evil intention to Mr. Chapman or any other person. I was informed by the Custom House Agent that the cheque for the duty was ready to be put in.

Before concluding, I beg leave to express my great regret that I should have so far departed from my usual course of never talking on Politics; and I extremely regret this affair, and beg to apologize to Mr. Chapman for so gross an act of indiscretion.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

THOMAS T. WATT.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

Launceston, 31st July, 1861.

MINUTE of conversation which took place between myself and T. T. Watt, Esq., Collector of Customs, Launceston; Captain Gilmore and Edward Boyes, Esq., being present:—"It was rumoured that T. D. Chapman, Esq., had joined the Cabinet as Premier. Mr. Watt remarked, that no Merchant ought to be a Member of the Executive, inasmuch as it gave them a very unfair advantage over other men of business. I replied, that perhaps it would be better that a Merchant actually engaged in business should not be a Member of the Government. Mr. Watt then went on to say,—See what Chapman did before, when he was Colonial Treasurer, at the time when it was contemplated to raise the duty on Brandy from 12s. to 15s. per gallon: he had 70 hogsheads of Brandy ready to take out of Bond, all ready gauged, and he had his Clerk stationed on a conspicuous place on the Wharf, and he (Chapman) was to make a signal from the windows of the House of Assembly when the entries were to be passed and the duty paid, the cheque being all ready drawn, and in possession of the Clerk. I was very indignant at so gross a charge being thus publicly made against Mr. Chapman, and told Mr. Watt, that I neither knew nor cared where he got his information from, but had no hesitation in saying it was an infernal lie. Mr. Watt said he knew it was true. I then asked him if he would allow me to use his name in the matter, so that it might be cleared up: he said I might do so."

A. F. ROOKE.

READ over to Captain Gilmore and Mr. Boyes, who both assent as to its correctness.

A. F. R.

1st August, 1861.

[Mr. Chapman accepted office as Colonial Treasurer on 31st October, 1856, and resigned on the 19th February, 1857.]

Monday, 12th August, 1861.

SIR,

IN now answering your letter of to-day's date, renewing your application to me for the information set forth in your communication of 10th instant, I apprehend that I am correct in stating that I received no application from you for any information, but that Mr. Chapman's Memo. of 10th instant directed to you, of which you have furnished me with a copy, is the request for information you require.

I therefore proceed to answer that request of Mr. Chapman by stating, in the first place, that I did not intend to say of myself, but only of the rumour current in Hobart Town, that Mr. Chapman had lost cast on the occasion to which I have before referred of the removing of Brandy and other Spirits.

Upon reference to the Customs books, I find that on the 8th of August, 1855, Mr. Chapman cleared 461 cases of Gin and Geneva. On the 17th of August, Mr. Chapman had 100 hhds. of Rum, Brandy, &c. re-gauged, the entries made out, and put into the Long Boom of the Custom House so as to enable the Chief Clerk to calculate the correct amount of duty. Mr. Smith was then Chief Clerk, and was told by Mr. G. F. Evans, the Custom House Agent, that the duty was to be paid on that day. On same day, these hhds. were re-gauged for Mr. Chapman, but being afterwards withdrawn, were rolled back into the Bond at 4 o'clock of same day. It was in reference to these circumstances, which occurred at the time the alteration of the Tariff was under consideration, Mr. Chapman being, as was believed, a Member of a Committee to whom the question of the Tariff was referred by the Council, that the rumour to which I referred in my conversation of Mr. Chapman losing cast took its origin.

I beg distinctly to be understood, that I did not predicate of Mr. Chapman that he had lost cast, but that such was the general rumour and talk in Hobart Town at the time.

The removal of such a large quantity of Spirits within so short a time, and the inchoate removal of the 100 hhds. by Mr. Chapman at that particular period, naturally, as it appears to me, raised suspicion, and gave countenance to the rumour to which I have alluded as being prevalent.

I wish also that it should be borne in mind that, at the time this conversation took place, it was but a rumour in Launceston that Mr. Chapman was about to be Premier.

There is a misapprehension as to the words "*privileged communication.*" In my letter I merely used that word with reference to such communications as had passed with you as my official superior,—not to be used in any legal proceedings which might be used against, and which it was rumoured Mr. Chapman was about to take.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

THOMAS T. WATT.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

TASMANIA }
(TO WIT.) }

I, JAMES AFFLECK CORRIE, of Hobart Town, in Tasmania, Merchant's Clerk, do solemnly and sincerely declare—

1. That I have been in the employ of Thomas Daniel Chapman, of Hobart Town, Esquire, during a period exceeding seventeen years.

2. That during the last twelve years I have had the management of all sales of goods effected on account of the said Thomas Daniel Chapman; and during the last eleven years all goods liable to duty which belonged to the said Thomas Daniel Chapman, or which were consigned to him, have been bonded exclusively in my name.

3. That, on the eighth day of August, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, the said Thomas Daniel Chapman paid the sum of Three hundred and ninety-seven pounds ten shillings and fivepence for duty upon One hundred and ninety-three cases of Geneva and Two hundred and sixty-eight cases of English Gin, being about half the stock of those articles then in the Bonding Store in my name.

4. That I made the necessary arrangements for this payment of duty, with the sanction of the said Thomas Daniel Chapman, but am not sure whether I received his previous direction to that effect, inasmuch as other Merchants were at that time paying duty on goods in bond, under the impression that considerable alterations would be made in the Tariff, which impression, as I verily believe, had its origin in the Speech of the Governor at the opening of Parliament.

5. That, under the same impression, I did, on my own responsibility, and without reference to the said Thomas Daniel Chapman, give instructions to have a quantity of Rum in bond re-gauged, with a view to paying the duty thereon.

6. That I shortly afterwards applied to the said Thomas Daniel Chapman for a cheque for the amount of duty then payable on this Rum, but the said Thomas Daniel Chapman declined to pay such duty.

7. That the Rum referred to comprised One hundred and twenty-five hogsheads, Eighty-five of which were consigned to the said Thomas Daniel Chapman for sale by Messieurs F. & E. Godsell, of London, the said Thomas Daniel Chapman having no interest therein beyond his claim for commission and expenses.

8. That the remaining Forty hogsheads were the joint property of the said Thomas Daniel Chapman and Messieurs S. Kennard & Company, of London. That no person except myself had any authority during any part of the year One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five to take out of bond, or otherwise interfere with, any bonded goods belonging to the said Thomas Daniel Chapman; and that such authority could not have been given without my knowledge, by reason of such goods being bonded in my name.

9. That no person did at any time in the month of August, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, or at any other time, tell me on the Wharf at Hobart Town, or at any other place, to look out for any signal from the said Thomas Daniel Chapman, in reference to the taking out of bond any goods belonging to him, or paying duty thereon, or in reference to any other matter connected with goods in bond; and I never heard any rumour of, or in reference to, any such supposed signal, until within the last ten days.

All which matters I conscientiously believe to be true; and I make this Declaration under the provisions of the Act of this Island, intituled, "An Act to provide for the Abolition of extra-judicial and unnecessary Oaths."

JAMES A. CORRIE.

Taken at Hobart Town aforesaid, by the said James Affleck }
Corrie, this Thirteenth day of August, One thousand }
eight hundred and sixty-one, before me,

CRAWFD. M. MAXWELL, J.P.

Macquarie-street, 15th August, 1861.

SIR,

HAVING obtained the best evidence within my power, in reference to the charge preferred against me by Mr. Watt, with a view to submit the same to Your Excellency in Council, I think it due, both to Your Excellency and to myself, to add to that evidence my own distinct personal declaration.

The charge made by Mr. Watt, as I collect from the Declaration of Mr. Rooke and others, is, that when I filled the Office of Colonial Treasurer, I first made, or sanctioned, an arrangement for paying duty on a quantity of Rum in bond; and that having done so, and having given a cheque for the amount of such duty, I was deterred from paying the same by information which I derived from my position as Colonial Treasurer, or as being a Member of the Government.

Mr. Watt has since stated that his charge did not refer to the period when I was in Office. But on this point the evidence obtained distinctly contradicts him; and his own argument, that my alleged conduct proved the impropriety of a Merchant being a Member of the Executive, seems to confirm the evidence of the Witnesses.

As regards the substance of the charge made by Mr. Watt, I now declare, that the arrangements made by my Clerk for taking Rum out of bond in the month of August, 1855, were made, as it was customary for him to do, without my direction or knowledge; that I believe them to have been made in consequence of the general impression that the duty on Rum was about to be augmented, as intimated in the Opening Speech of the Governor, at the commencement of the Session, which impression induced many Merchants to take Spirits out of bond; that when my Clerk (Mr. Corrie) first informed me that he had arranged for paying the duty on a quantity of Rum, he asked for my consent, and for a cheque for the amount of such duty; that I at once declined to pay the duty, and that I did not give to Mr. Corrie or to any other person a cheque for its amount.

And I further declare, that I had never contemplated taking these goods out of bond at that period; and that my sole reason for declining to give my consent was, that no circumstances existed in my mind to induce me to expend monies for other parties in clearing these goods from bond, in which goods my own share consisted of less than one-sixth of the value; and that I was not influenced in such proceeding by the possession of any official or other information in respect to any proposed increase of duty, or by the abandonment of any such proposal.

The charge of Mr. Watt, however, is, by his own letters, confined to what took place in August, 1855, and it will be in Your Excellency's recollection that I did not fill the Office of Colonial Treasurer until 31st October, 1856.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

His Excellency Sir HENRY E. F. YOUNG.

Hobart Town, 14th August, 1861.

SIR,

IN answer to your note of this morning, I can have no hesitation in stating a conversation I had with Mr. Watt, Collector of Customs at the Port of Launceston, with reference to Mr. Chapman.

The conversation commenced immediately on leaving the Marine Board weekly Meeting on Tuesday fortnight, and in the presence of Mr. R. Green, a Warden; and was introduced by the Collector asking me had I heard that Mr. Chapman was Premier. I replied, I understood the report was unconfirmed. An opinion followed on the part of Mr. Watt, that no man in trade should be a Minister of the Crown; to which I objected, that in such small countries we must have gentlemen in office who were at the same time engaged in commerce. Mr. Watt replied—Well, I think that the position gives to the man in trade unfair advantages over other trades: look what Chapman did when he was in office before. The explanation of this was to the effect that Mr. Chapman had entered Spirits out of bond for duty (namely 70 casks); that he (Mr. Watt) had gauged these Spirits. That Mr. Chapman's Clerk, with a cheque for duty in his pocket, was placed in a favourable position on the Wharf, for the purpose of seeing a preconcerted signal, to be made by Mr. Chapman himself from the window of the House of Assembly, in event of the Resolution to increase the duties being affirmed; and that the Resolution not being carried, the casks were rolled back into Store.

As soon as I heard that Mr. Chapman had really accepted office as Premier, I addressed Mr. Watt; and a correspondence ensued, which I do not at present feel at liberty voluntarily to surrender to any one.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY DOWLING.

WILLIAM HENTY, *Esq., Colonial Secretary.*

I, THE HONORABLE WILLIAM STAMMERS BUTTON, Member of the Legislative Council, do declare, that on the thirtieth day of July last I was in the company of Thomas Trail Watt, Collector of Customs, Launceston, and of Isaac Sherwin of the same place, Member of the House of Assembly; that a conversation ensued respecting the appointment of Thomas Daniel Chapman, Esquire, as Premier, of which intelligence had that day been received from Hobart Town; that the said Thomas Trail Watt said, that no Merchant ought to be a Member of the Government, as it gave him an advantage over other men of business. See what Chapman did before, at the time when it was contemplated to raise the duty on Brandy from 12s. to 15s. per gallon: he had seventy hogsheads of Brandy ready to take out of bond, already gauged, and had his Clerk stationed on the wharf with a cheque ready drawn, and he (Chapman) was to make a signal from the window, by dropping a letter or a piece of paper, when the entries were to be passed and the duty paid; but that Mr. Chapman, from the knowledge that he derived from being a Member of the Government that the duties were not going to be raised, refused to take out his goods, whilst Lindsay, not having the same information, paid his duties, and so lost the interest of his money.

Dated the sixteenth day of August, one thousand }
eight hundred and sixty-one.

W. S. BUTTON.

I, ISAAC SHERWIN, of Launceston, Esquire, Member of the House of Assembly, do declare, that on the thirtieth day of July last I was present with Thomas Trail Watt, Collector of Customs at Launceston, and the Honorable William Stammers Button, of the same place; that a conversation ensued respecting the appointment of the Honorable Thomas Daniel Chapman as Premier, of which intelligence had that day been received from Hobart Town; that the said Thomas Trail Watt said, that no Merchant ought to be a Member of the Government, as it gave him an unfair advantage over other men of business. See what Chapman did before, at the time when it was contemplated to raise the duty on Brandy from 12s. to 15s. per gallon: he had seventy hogsheads of Brandy ready to take out of bond, already gauged, and he had his Clerk stationed on the wharf with a cheque ready drawn, and he (Chapman) was to make a signal from the window, by dropping a letter or a piece of paper, when the entries were to be passed and the duty paid; but that the Clerk did not get the signal, and so the goods were not taken out, but rolled back again into the Store. I, the said Isaac Sherwin, do further declare, that on Thursday, the first day of August instant, I called on the said Thomas Trail Watt at his office, and told him that the report he had communicated to me respecting Mr. Chapman, hereinbefore narrated, had got abroad; to which the said Watt replied: Yes, Rooke has been flaring up; but (he went on to say) it is true nevertheless. And also, with respect to the signal before spoken of as planned by Mr. Chapman, Mr. Watt said, You will remember the windows were open then: they have been blocked up since.

ISAAC SHERWIN.

Dated the sixteenth day of August, One thousand }
eight hundred and sixty-one.

SESSION OF 1855.

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a Select Committee appointed 1st August, 1855, to consider His Excellency's Message, No. 4, with the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1856. To report on or before the 21st August.

MEMBERS:

The Colonial Secretary.	Mr. Douglas.
Mr. Clerke.	Mr. Goodwin.
Mr. Perry.	Mr. Morrison.
Dr. Crooke.	Mr. Allison.
Dr. Butler.	Mr. Chapman.
Mr. Anstey.	Mr. Gunn. (Name added 15th August.)

TUESDAY, 7TH AUGUST.

Committee met, pursuant to summons, at 12 o'clock.

PRESENT:

The Colonial Secretary.	Dr. Butler.
Mr. Perry.	Mr. Clerke.
Mr. Douglas.	Mr. Chapman.
Mr. Goodwin.	Dr. Crooke.
Mr. Allison.	

1. On Motion of Mr. Chapman, the Colonial Secretary was appointed Chairman, and took the Chair accordingly.

2. Motion made, that this Committee do now adjourn to this day week. (*Dr. Crooke.*)

Amendment moved, That the Committee do at once proceed to the consideration of the Estimates. (*Mr. Douglas.*)

Question put upon the Amendment, and negatived.

Original question put and passed.

The Committee adjourned at thirty minutes after one o'clock, until Tuesday, the 14th, at 12 o'clock.

TUESDAY, 14TH AUGUST.

The Committee did not meet, being further adjourned by the Chairman, to Friday, 17th instant, at 11 o'clock.

FRIDAY, 17TH AUGUST.

Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

PRESENT:

The Colonial Secretary, <i>Chairman.</i>	Mr. Anstey.
Dr. Butler.	Mr. Clerke.
Mr. Gunn.	Mr. Allison.
Mr. Goodwin.	Mr. Perry.
Mr. Douglas.	Mr. Morrison.
Mr. Chapman.	Dr. Crooke.

1 Minutes of the last Meeting read.

2. Estimates of Expenditure, 1856.

The Committee proceeded to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for 1856. (Estimates, page 11.)

Motion made, that the sum to be paid out of the General Revenue for the Salary and Allowances of the Governor shall not exceed £4000 per annum. This rate of Pay and Allowances to commence from the 1st January, 1856. (*Dr. Crooke.*)

Amendment moved, That the Governor's Salary and Allowances having been fixed by Act of Council, this Committee declines entering into the consideration of the Motion made by the Member for Buckingham. (*Mr. Chapman.*)

Question put upon the Amendment and passed, Dr. Crooke being the only dissentient.

Motion made, that the Estimates ought to be left for the New Parliament to deal with; the Committee only considering how the necessary expenditure of the Government can best be provided for until the New Parliament can meet. (*Mr. Allison.*)

Question put. Committee divided.

AYES 4.	NOES 7.
Mr. Allison.	Mr. Clerke.
Dr. Crooke.	Mr. Perry.
Mr. Goodwin.	Mr. Anstey.
Dr. Butler.	Mr. Douglas.
	Mr. Morrison.
	Mr. Chapman.
	Mr. Gunn.

Question put and passed, that a sum not exceeding £2500 (as provided by Act of Council) be appropriated to defray the salaries and allowances of His Excellency the Governor's Establishment for 1856.

The Committee continued the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure, and advanced as far as the Public Works Department.

The Committee adjourned at a quarter past 2 o'clock until Tuesday next, at 11 o'clock.

TUESDAY, 21ST AUGUST.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

PRESENT.

The Colonial Secretary, *Chairman*.
Mr. Perry.
Dr. Crooke.
Mr. Douglas.
Mr. Clerke.

Mr. Goodwin.
Mr. Chapman.
Mr. Allison.
Mr. Morrison.
Dr. Butler.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE.

The Committee resumed the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure, commencing at the Government Printer's Establishment.

Question put and passed, that the Chairman be requested to procure and lay upon the Table a return of every Fee received by the Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages at Hobart Town for the year ending 30 June, 1855. (*Mr. Chapman.*)

Question put and passed, that the allowance in lieu of Forage for the year 1856 shall be fixed at £50.

The Committee considered the various items of the Estimates up to the Water Police, page 20, and adjourned at 2 o'clock, until to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 22ND AUGUST.

Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

PRESENT :

The Colonial Secretary, *Chairman*.
Mr. Perry.
Mr. Chapman.
Mr. Clerke.
Mr. Gunn.
Mr. Morrison.

Mr. Goodwin.
Mr. Douglas.
Dr. Crooke.
Mr. Allison.
Dr. Butler.

The Committee resumed the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure, commencing at the Estimate for Gaols, and proceeded as far as the Estimate for Works and Buildings (page 26.)

Resolved, that the Director of Public Works be requested to attend to-morrow at 11 o'clock, and produce his Estimates for Works and Buildings, and Roads, Streets, &c.

The Committee adjourned at 2 o'clock, until to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

TUESDAY, 28TH AUGUST.

Committee met, pursuant to summons, at 11 o'clock.

PRESENT :

The Colonial Secretary, *Chairman*.
Mr. Anstey.
Mr. Clerke.
Mr. Morrison.
Mr. Perry.

Dr. Crooke.
Mr. Goodwin.
Dr. Butler.
Mr. Chapman.
Mr. Gunn.

The Director of Public Works was in attendance, and produced documents explanatory of the items under the heads Works and Buildings, Roads, Streets, &c.

Dr. Crooke moved that a Sub-Committee, consisting of—

Mr. Perry.
Mr. Anstey.
Mr. Goodwin.

Mr. Morrison.
Mr. Chapman.
Mr. Crooke,

do enquire into the Public Works Department, in accordance with the instruction from the House, and prepare a Report for the consideration of the Finance Committee, previous to submitting the same to the Council.

Question put, and passed.

The Committee resumed the consideration of the Estimates, commencing at Works and Buildings.

The items under the head Miscellaneous being under consideration,—Question put and passed, That the Grant in aid of the Municipality of Hobart Town be increased to £4000; and the Grant in aid of the Municipality of Launceston be increased to £2000. (*Mr. Chapman.*)

Question, That the item of £100 for a Queen's Plate, New Town, be expunged from the Estimates. Put and negatived. (*Mr. Gunn.*)

The Committee proceeded as far as Accountant of Stores, (exclusive of Establishment), and adjourned at two o'clock, until Tuesday, at 11 o'clock.

TUESDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER.

1. Committee met, pursuant to adjournment, at twenty minutes to one o'clock.

PRESENT.

The Colonial Secretary, *Chairman*.
Dr. Butler.
Mr. Perry.
Mr. Gunn.
Mr. Clerke.

Mr. Goodwin.
Mr. Douglas.
Dr. Crooke.
Mr. Allison.
Mr. Chapman.

The Committee proceeded with the consideration of the Estimates, commencing at the Accountant of Stores (exclusive of Establishment.)

2. Question put and passed, That, in the opinion of this Committee, one Messenger is sufficient for the two Judges of the Supreme Court. (*Mr. Perry.*)

3. Question put and passed, That, in the opinion of this Committee, the offices of Solicitor-General, Crown Solicitor, and Clerk of the Peace, for the District of Hobart Town, should be vested in the same person. (*Mr. Douglas.*)

4. Question put and passed, That, in the opinion of this Committee, the duties of the Master of the Supreme Court might be performed by the Registrar of the Supreme Court, in connection with the Judges, at a great saving of expense. (*Dr. Crooke.*)

5. Question put and passed, That, in the opinion of this Committee, the salary of the Commissioner of the Court of Requests, Hobart Town, should not exceed £100 per annum. (*Mr. Douglas.*)

6. Question put and passed, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that, in the event of a vacancy occurring in either of these offices, the offices of Crier Court of Requests and Quarter Sessions, Launceston, and Court House-keeper, should be amalgamated. (*Mr. Douglas.*)

7. Question put and passed, That, in the opinion of this Committee, the offices of Summoning Officer and Clerk to the Clerk of the Peace, Launceston, should be amalgamated. (*Mr. Douglas.*)

8. Question put and passed, That, in the opinion of this Committee, the salaries of the Summoning Officer at Campbell Town and Longford should be reduced to £50 each. (*Mr. Douglas.*)

The Committee proceeded to the end of the Schedule C, Part 1, and adjourned at ten minutes after two o'clock until to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER.

The Committee did not meet.

FRIDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER.

Committee met, pursuant to summons, at eleven o'clock.

PRESENT.

The Colonial Secretary, <i>Chairman.</i>	Mr. Allison.
Mr. Gunn.	Dr. Butler.
Mr. Goodwin.	Mr. Clerke.
Mr. Perry.	Dr. Crooke.
Mr. Douglas.	Mr. Morrison.

The Committee resumed the consideration of the Estimates, commencing with certain items which stood over under Schedule C, Part 1.

2. Question put and passed, That, in the opinion of this Committee, the item of £12 set down for newspapers for the Sheriff, should be expunged from the Estimates.

3. The Colonial Secretary laid upon the Table a return of the expense for transport for the year 1854, under Schedule C, Part 1.

4. Question put and passed, that the consideration of Schedule C, Part 3, be deferred. (*Mr. Chapman.*)

The Committee adjourned at 1 o'clock.

WEEKLY Customs at HOBART TOWN and LAUNCESTON during the Months of July and August, 1855.

1855.	Hobart Town.	£	s.	d.	1855.	Launceston.	£	s.	d.
Saturday, July 7	1,729	4	7	Saturday, 7 July	.....	810	3	7
14	2,032	1	11	14	.....	2,625	18	7
21	1,801	5	8	21	.....	1,511	11	3
28	4,290	0	9	28	.....	991	18	1
Aug. 4	5,955	19	10	Aug. 4	.....	1,222	16	1
11	14,230	13	7	11	.....	2,434	12	6
18	9,845	14	7	18	.....	2,876	5	9
25	2,048	17	1	25	.....	957	13	1
31	1,330	12	3	31	.....	794	15	10
		<u>£43,264</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>			<u>£14,225</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>9</u>

* * The above comprehends Shipping Dues.

T. V. JEAN.

12th August, 1861.

Hobart Town, 17th August, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE received your Memorandum of this day's date, requesting that any statement I have to make in justification or extenuation of my conduct may be furnished to you, with the view of the Governor in Council deciding on my case; and I have now the honor respectfully to submit the following observations:—

With regard to my having stated that Mr. Chapman had, when Colonial Treasurer, availed himself of the knowledge which he possessed by virtue of his office to benefit himself when it was in contemplation to increase the duty on Spirits, I can only repeat what I have before stated, that whatever impression my conversation may have conveyed to Messrs. Rooke, Gilmore, and others, I never intended to imply that the transaction referred to took place while Mr. Chapman held the office of Colonial Treasurer. I am, and was then, quite aware that he did not assume that office until about the year 1857, and my conversation turned on what occurred in 1855. At that time Mr. Chapman's firm took out of bond a large quantity of Spirits, and paid

duty thereon; a large number of casks of Rum were also re-gauged, and the entries prepared for them; these, however, were taken back into the Store. I do not think, and never did think, that there was anything exceptional in this transaction, or anything the least derogatory to Mr. Chapman's character as a Merchant or a Member of the Legislature.

Quantities of Spirits to an unusual extent were taken out of bond, both in Hobart Town and Launceston, in anticipation of the probable rise of the duties. At the time the Rum was taken back into the Stores, there was a rumour that a Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, which was then sitting, had decided not to recommend any augmentation of the duties; and that that decision influenced Mr. Chapman to not withdraw the Rum from the Stores.

There is nothing in Mr. Corrie's declaration that I can substantially impugn. I never for a moment believed, nor did I ever hear it seriously stated, that any signal was made, or to have been made, from the window of the Council Chamber; but I distinctly recollect hearing some one call to Mr. Corrie, by way of *mere banter*, to look out for the signal from the window,—although this trivial occurrence, after so long an interval, may have passed from his memory.

Much occurs in conversation, at a time when a number of persons are engaged in transactions such as those taking place in the Customs at the period to which I have referred, which serves to create impressions that outlive the period of their occurrence, and for which there would be found no real foundation had they been subjected to any examination.

I have to express my deep regret, that I should have been the cause of so much trouble to the Executive, by incautiously making remarks having the effect, however unintended, of conveying injurious reflections on Mr. Chapman. I admit that I did not sufficiently consider at the time that my position as Collector of Customs would give a weight to any remark I might make, which they might not carry if coming from another.

To Mr. Chapman I can only apologize for what I have said; fully admitting, after carefully revising all the circumstances of the case, that Mr. Chapman's transactions with the Customs, so far as they are in any way known to me, afford no ground whatever for any imputation on his character. I, at the same time, beg to assure the Government, that on no future occasion shall any inadvertent statements on my part, in matters connected with my office, give rise to any enquiries such as that of which I have unfortunately been the cause in this instance.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

THOMAS T. WATT.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

At a Meeting of the Executive Council held at the Executive Council Chamber, Hobart Town, on Thursday, 22nd August, 1861,—

PRESENT.

His Excellency the Governor.
The Honourable W. Henty.

The Honourable F. M. Innes.
The Honourable W. Dobson.

MINUTE No. 238.

WITH reference to the case of Mr. Watt, and previous Minutes on the subject, the following Memorandum is submitted to the Governor in Council:—

Having had under our consideration various letters and documents relating to certain statements alleged to have been made by Mr. Watt whilst holding the Office of Collector of Customs at Launceston concerning Mr. Chapman as Premier, and also Mr. Watt's reply in writing, we can, notwithstanding Mr. Watt's denial, arrive at no other conclusion than that he deliberately made the statements referred to; and that although every opportunity has been afforded Mr. Watt of justifying them, he has failed in doing so.

We are of opinion, moreover, that the documents not only fail to justify the statements referred to, but completely and absolutely refute them. We find that those statements were in substance repeated by Mr. Watt to no less than Five Members of the Legislature, to the Members of the Marine Board, and to various other persons.

Under these circumstances, there would ordinarily appear to be but one course open to adoption, namely, the instant dismissal of a public servant who had been guilty of acts so inconsistent with the confidential position held by every head of a department and with that official subordination which is necessary for the due maintenance of discipline in the public service.

Taking into consideration, however, the lengthened period during which Mr. Watt has been in the service of the Government, we are reluctant to advise his dismissal; but we should shrink from the performance of our duty were we not to advise that some decided step should be taken to mark the extreme disapprobation with which we view the conduct of Mr. Watt as head of the Customs Department at Launceston.

We accordingly recommend that Mr. Watt should be reduced to the position he held in that Department prior to his appointment to the Collectorship at Launceston.

W. HENTY.
F. M. INNES.
W. L. DOBSON.

The Governor in Council concurs.

Certified to be a true Extract. — CHESTER EARDLEY WILMOT.

MEMORANDUM of CUSTOMS COLLECTIONS deposited in the Commercial Bank, Hobart Town, from 21 July to 18 August, 1855.

		£	s.	d.
July	21	120	8	9
	23	377	7	0
	24	660	13	9
	25	253	6	3
	26	1522	11	1
	27	374	5	0
	28	1101	17	8
	30	669	3	2
	31	2606	14	6
August	1	381	6	8
	2	822	19	5
	3	920	12	9
	6	495	9	3
	7	2114	15	9
	8	2576	2	8
	9	2086	19	8
	—	2112	2	0
	10	1053	14	10
	—	2878	16	6
	11	475	5	0
	13	655	0	8
	14	1304	12	3
	15	762	12	7
	16	369	9	3
	17	6644	16	1
	18	91	5	6
		£33,432	8	0

Launceston, 31st July, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE now heard that Mr. Chapman has really taken office as Premier.

On leaving the Marine Board last evening, I understood you to say that you were personally cognizant of facts which occurred during Mr. Chapman's former tenure of office, of a nature very disgraceful to the character of any public man,—namely, that on an occasion when the Ministry of which Mr. Chapman was a Member were to bring before the Assembly a proposal to increase the duty on Spirits,—on the very day when the decision of the House was to be taken, Mr. Chapman had caused a number of casks of Brandy to be gauged for taking out of bond; that a Clerk of Chapman & Co.'s was placed in a favourable position on the Wharf, with a cheque for the said Duties in his pocket, and that he was to receive, from Mr. Chapman himself, by a preconcerted signal made from one of the windows of the Assembly Chamber, due notice of the passing of the resolution; that this resolution did not pass, the signal was of course not made, and that the Clerk in consequence had the casks of Brandy again rolled into the Store.

To any one acquainted with forms of Parliament, all this planning to plunder the Revenue will be known to be an act, not of downright folly merely, but of utter ignorance; and this I remarked to Mr. Green after we parted from you.

Mr. Chapman having now become Premier, it is necessary that I seek to be made acquainted with any circumstances which may have existed calculated to give rise to this exaggerated charge against his honour, and I have respectfully to beg that you will furnish me with any information you can supply.

As an independent Member of the Legislature I shall feel it to be my duty to search the facts of the case alleged to the utmost.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
H. DOWLING.

T. T. WATT, Esq.

Custom House, 1st August, 1861.

DEAR SIR,

I CALLED on you this morning for the purpose of expressing my surprise at your intention of taking steps to find the truth of the remarks I made the other day in your hearing. Any remark I made was merely an expression of feeling, and I must therefore desire that my name shall not be mentioned on the subject, and treated as a mere conversation between gentlemen.

Yours very truly,

THOMAS T. WATT.

H. DOWLING, *Esq.**Launceston, 3rd August, 1861.*

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE been ill, or I would have answered your note of the 1st instant before.

You have misunderstood my note. I make a distinction between expressions of your mere opinion, [feeling?] and the facts alleged against Mr. Chapman, by not alluding to those opinions at all.

Your "opinion" was simply that "no man in trade should be a member of Government." To this opinion you were fully entitled. But your illustration in support of this opinion, and against an opposite one expressed by me, was a narration of *what Mr. Chapman had done when he was an Officer of this Government before.*

Your authority for a statement so degrading to the public character of any man, and which, if true, must have led me, as a Member of the Assembly, to have refused my support to Mr. Chapman's Ministry,—I presumed you would have no objection to give; instead of which you now desire that your name may not be mentioned on the subject, but that it shall be treated "as a mere conversation between gentlemen." I am not desirous to reject this position; but you must allow me to say that, under these circumstances, I must hold you personally responsible for having conveyed to me, in such conversation, a most untruthful and injurious statement against the reputation of Mr. Chapman; but which, as it stands, carries with it its own refutation.

I regret you have not felt at liberty to place yourself in a different position, by giving me the name of the author of such a calumny.

Yours faithfully,

H. DOWLING.

*The Collector of Customs, Launceston.**Hobart Town, 24th August, 1861.*

DEAR SIR,

THE Government have sent in the papers in Mr. Watt's case to Parliament. I did not give up the letters between Mr. Watt and myself, and enclose them for your perusal.

My object is to request that you will say, by return post, if you regard my letters as giving a fair view of the impression produced by Mr. Watt's communication to me when we were coming up George-street from the Marine Board on Tuesday, the 30th of July.

Yours truly,

H. DOWLING.

R. GREEN, *Esq.*, *Warden Marine Board, Launceston.**Launceston, 26th August, 1861.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM in receipt of yours of Saturday in reference to Mr. Watt. I should wish to keep out of the affair myself altogether; but as I understand Mr. Watt denies having made the statement respecting Mr. Chapman, which we heard him most distinctly make at and after the meeting of the Marine Board, I feel bound to give you, in answer to your letter, my recollections of what took place.

Mr. Watt, Captain Gilmore, Mr. Weedon, and myself, met in Mr. Watt's office as Members of the Marine Board; and before the business of the Board commenced, some remark was made as to a report that Mr. Chapman was to be Premier in succession to Mr. Weston. Mr. Watt said he considered Mr. Chapman an unfit person for that position; that when he was Treasurer, or a Member of the Ministry (I forget which) at a time when the Government were about to submit a proposition to Parliament to raise the duties on Spirits, he (Mr. Chapman) had 70 hhds. Brandy re-gauged and rolled out ready to pay duty; that the entries were made out ready, Mr. Chapman's Chief Clerk was on the wharf in a prominent position, with a cheque for the duties in his pocket, waiting for a signal from the window of the House of Assembly as to

whether the measure passed or not. The measure did not pass; a signal to that effect was made; the entries were torn up, and the Brandy rolled back into Store. A remark was made doubting the correctness of the statement, when Mr. Watt said there could be no doubt of the fact, as he was the Officer who gauged the casks.

You joined the Board; and shortly after, and at the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Watt repeated the statement in nearly the same words. I cannot say whether or not it was addressed to you alone, but it was evidently repeated with the view of informing you what he had already told the other Members of the Marine Board. My impression is, that the second statement was commenced in the room as we were leaving, continued as we passed down stairs, and finished in the street. We all walked up George-street as far as Cimitiere-street, along which street you and I turned, the others proceeding up George-street. We then discussed the statement made by Mr. Watt, and agreed, I think, that he must have been labouring under some strange delusion, as it was impossible the fact, as stated by him, could have taken place,—the Customs closing at 4 o'clock, and the House of Assembly not meeting until that hour.

I am very sorry for Mr. Watt; I believe he has been an efficient Officer of Customs, and, at the same time has shown every disposition and desire to afford all the facilities in his power to the Mercantile community, and, as you know, has worked very harmoniously with us as Members of the Marine Board.

I return the letters you enclosed; and am,

Yours truly,

RICH. GREEN.

HENRY DOWLING, *Esq.*, *Hobart Town.*