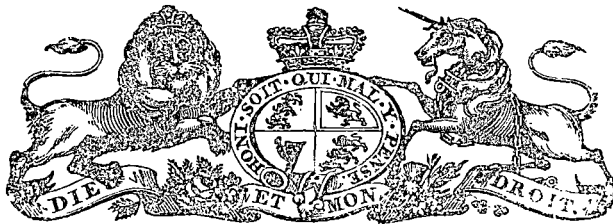


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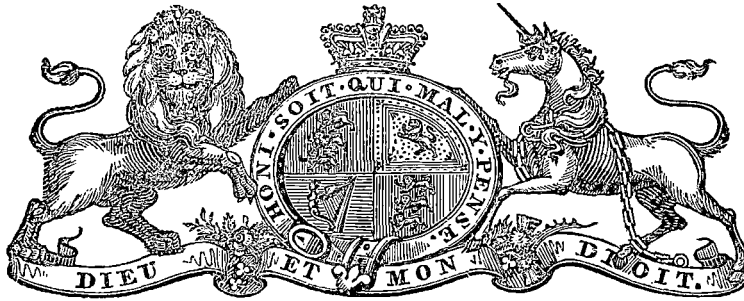
1860.

T A S M A N I A.

**COMMITTEE OF OFFICERS ON CONVICT  
EXPENDITURE.**

(ADDENDUM TO PAPER No. 31.)

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
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*EXTRACT from a Letter from J. STEPHEN, Esq., to S. M. PHILLIPS, Esq.*

*Downing-street, 5th January, 1843.*

WITH a view to the preparation of similar Estimates for future years, the following is the course of proceeding which Lord Stanley contemplates:—His Lordship proposes that the intervention of the Ordnance Officers in these affairs should cease; and that the purchase, the custody, and the issuing of all goods—whether rations, clothing, building materials, implements of labour, or otherwise—required for the Convicts should be the duty of the Commissariat Officer. Lord Stanley would recommend, that a Committee, consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Comptroller-General of Convicts, and the Officer in charge of the Commissariat, should be required to meet for the preparation and revision of the Estimates from year to year; and that, in case of any disagreement between them on any item in any such Estimate, each of the different parties should subjoin to the Estimate a statement of the grounds of his opinion. Of the Estimates, when so prepared, copies should be sent both to this Office and to the Lords of the Treasury; and from thence to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies, who would frame the demand which he would propose to the Treasury as proper to submit to Parliament during the ensuing Session. Lord Stanley is of opinion, that the Annual Reports of the Committee already mentioned should be transmitted to the Secretary of State by the Governor, and to the Lords of the Treasury by the Commissary, accompanied by all such remarks as the Governor and the Commissary respectively might think it right to make in elucidation of them; it being a distinct and peremptory instruction to each of those Officers to communicate such remarks mutually to each other, in sufficient time for their actual transmission, to enable either party to apprise his official superior in this country of the views which he might take of the remarks of the other.

By such a method as this, Lord Stanley anticipates that each successive Estimate would undergo a searching enquiry by the appropriate authority:—by the Colonial Secretary in the interest of the Colony, by the Comptroller in the interest of the Convicts, and by the Commissary on behalf of the British Treasury. His Lordship trusts that, when so aided, the Governor of the Colony would approach the subject, not as an Officer wedded to any particular interest in preference to the rest, but as a functionary whose position would at once require and enable him to take a comprehensive view of the whole proposal in all its bearings, Imperial and Colonial. Lord Stanley would exclude the Executive Council from any voice in such matters, and would instruct the Governor that, if any exigency should appear to him to arise imperiously requiring an expenditure unauthorised by Her Majesty's Government, he should not be at liberty to incur that expenditure without first consulting the Committee already mentioned, nor without the concurrence of that body, or a majority of them.

I have, &c.

J. STEPHEN.

S. M. PHILLIPS, *Esquire.*