

(No. 52.)



1861.

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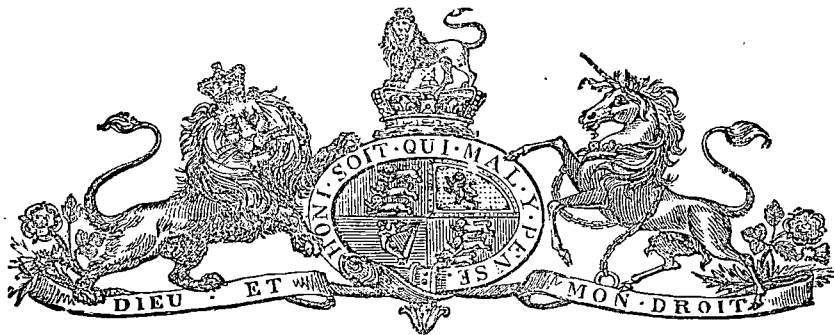
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GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

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



*Government Printing Office, 20th December, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to request that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to grant me eighteen months' leave of absence from my duties, for the purpose of proceeding to England on urgent private family affairs; the same to take effect from the first week in February, 1861.

On the 6th of that month I shall have completed 23 years of Public Service.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,  
J. BARNARD.

*The Hon. F. M. INNES, Esquire, Colonial Treasurer.*

THE Governor in Council approves.

H. E. Y.

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

CHESTER EARDLEY-WILMOT.  
*December 20th, 1860.*

*Colonial Treasury, 20th December, 1860.*

SIR,

HAVING submitted in Executive your application of this day's date for eighteen months' leave of absence from your duties, I have to acquaint you that the Governor in Council has been pleased to approve of its being granted.

I have, &c.,

F. M. INNES.

JAMES BARNARD, *Esquire, Government Printer.*

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*MEMORANDUM furnished to the Colonial Treasurer by Mr. Barnard, setting forth the Duties of the GOVERNMENT PRINTER and of the OVERSEER in the Government Printing Office, on occasion of his applying for leave of absence.*

GOVERNMENT PRINTER—In addition to general management, receives all Letters and Requisitions for Printing, and gives necessary instructions for same to Overseer; keeps Accounts; fills up the various Abstracts and Returns; receives and pays money into Colonial Treasury; reads and revises the Proofs.

Since the end of last Session, the reading of the *first* Proofs (*by Copy*) has been given to the Overseer, the Government Printer reading them afterwards for Press.

OVERSEER—Attends to all details in the Office; has charge of, and issues all Type, Stores, and Stationery; sends out Forms, upon Requisition, to the several Departments, making entry of the same.

On Saturday, the Overseer makes out Wages Account, checking the time by a Time Book, and hands it in to the Government Printer to be verified,—from whom he receives a Cheque for the amount, and pays the Establishment.

Since the end of last Session, the Overseer (with a few exceptions) has read the *first* Proofs.

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*Colonial Treasury, 4th February, 1861.*

SIR,

REFERRING to your offer of service in connection with the Department of the Government Printer during the absence on leave of Mr. Barnard, I have to acquaint you that the following arrangements have been approved by the Executive.

The *Gazette* and other official publications bearing the imprint of the Government Printer will, until further instructions are given, continue to have Mr. Barnard's name attached to them.

The general duties heretofore performed by Mr. Barnard are confided to you, namely:—Receiving all Letters and Requisitions for Printing, and giving necessary instructions in regard to the same to Overseer; keeping Accounts; filling up the various Abstracts and Returns; receiving money at the Colonial Treasury, and paying the same into it; making the final revision of Proofs, &c. The reading &c. of the first Proofs (*by Copy*) will remain the duty of the Overseer.

The Overseer has charge of all details in the Office; issues all Type, Stores, and Stationery; sends out Forms, upon Requisition, to the several Departments, making entry of the same. On Saturday, he makes out Wages Account, checking the time by a Time Book, and hands it in to be verified,—receiving from you a Cheque for the amount, from which he pays the Establishment.

It is too obvious for me to require to point it out to you, that it will be expedient to adhere as closely as possible to the arrangements which have been heretofore observed, that thus both the harmony and the efficiency of the Department will be most effectually promoted.

The Salary which is at the disposal of the Government as the remuneration of your services is £250 per annum, being one-half that derived by Mr. Barnard when on duty.

I am, &c.,

F. M. INNES.

HENRY BEST, *Esquire.*

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MEMO.

THE Governor in Council approves of Mr. Henry Best being appointed to perform the duties in the Office of the Government Printer which have been hitherto discharged by Mr. Barnard, receiving the half salary not drawn by Mr. Barnard during his leave of absence.

H. E. Y.

CHESTER EARDLEY-WILMOT.  
11th February, 1861.

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

74 *Davey-street*, 11th *February*, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor most respectfully and humbly to Appeal to Your Excellency, as the Representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty, against the appointment of Mr. Henry Best, as Acting Government Printer, during the absence on leave of Mr. Barnard.

2. Your Excellency may not be aware that I came out to this Colony with Mr. Barnard to conduct the Government Printing Establishment.

3. From the knowledge of Your Excellency's high sense of justice, I most confidently rely upon Your Excellency awarding to me that consideration which my faithful and long services to the Government of upwards of *twenty two years* entitle me to, and which, I feel assured, Your Excellency will consider the case calls for.

4. I do myself the honor to submit to Your Excellency, Copy of a Certificate from His Honor Mr. Justice Smith, in order to show to Your Excellency that, had not Mr. Barnard's arrangement *even existed*, I could not but have felt *perfect confidence* that the Government would have conferred the temporary appointment upon no other than myself.

*COPY of His Honor MR. JUSTICE SMITH'S Certificate:—*

At the request of Mr. Robarts, and as an act of bare justice to him, I certify that, having had ample opportunities of forming an opinion, from being brought, during ten years, into frequent communication with him in connection with the printing of Legislative measures, I consider him to be perfect master of the duties of the Government Printing Office. I have found him always correct, laborious, and energetic. It is my conviction that the Public Service of this Colony does not possess a more zealous Officer. So high an opinion had I of Mr. Robarts's qualifications, that if a vacancy in the Office of Government Printer had occurred while I was His Excellency's Chief Adviser, I should have considered it my duty, no less for the promotion of the Public Service than in justice to Mr. Robarts, to recommend him to His Excellency as the fittest person to fill the vacancy.

FRANCIS SMITH.

6th *February*, 1861.

5. How deeply aggrieved, therefore, I felt at Mr. Best coming to the Office and reading to me a letter from the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer, nominating him as Mr. Barnard's successor, (without the slightest intimation having been given to me) I cannot describe; but from the following facts Your Excellency may imagine:—

(1st.) That Mr. Barnard, upwards of two months before his departure, intimated to me that he intended to apply for eighteen months' leave of absence, and consulted with me as to the best means of carrying on the duties of the Department during his absence. The result of that consultation was an agreement to the arrangement set forth and recommended in Mr. Barnard's letter to the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer, dated 10th January, 1861.

*COPY of the Letter addressed by Mr. Barnard to the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer, and entered in the Letter Book of the Office in Mr. Barnard's own handwriting.*

*Government Printing Office, 10th January, 1861.*

SIR,

THE arrangements which I have the honor to recommend as the best for conducting the duties of this Department during my absence on leave are the following; viz. :—

1. That Mr. J. W. Robarts, the Overseer, should be appointed Acting Government Printer at £450 per annum, being the half salary of each situation.

2. That Mr. W. T. Strutt, employed for twelve years as a Compositor in the Office, and of *thoroughly respectable* character, should be appointed Acting Overseer at a Salary of £200 per annum.

Both appointments to date from the 1st February next.

I have, &c.,

J. BARNARD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.*

(2nd.) Mr. Barnard intimated to me that this letter was withdrawn at the request of the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer, upon the understanding that the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer would carry it out in *its entirety*; but that he (the Colonial Treasurer) wished it to be his own act.

This assurance was given to me by Mr. Barnard in the presence of his son, in confirmation of which, I submit the following Copy of a Letter received from Mr. Barnard, junior :—

*Macquarie-street, 7th February, 1861.*

MY DEAR SIR,

IN compliance with the request contained in your note of this morning's date, I hasten to afford you the information required.

The conversation in question was as follows :—

My father told you in my presence that it was all right, and that you were not to make yourself uneasy, as Mr. Innes had promised him, when he withdrew the letter he had written respecting your appointment to succeed him during his absence, that he would act upon it in its entirety.

I may add, that that was his conviction when he left, and in support thereof may mention that his arrangements fully prove it to be the case, and also that in private conversation with my father previously, he had told me that you were to act for him.

Trusting that this letter may be of some use in elucidating the matter, and setting it upon a proper footing,

I remain, dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

D. M. BARNARD.

J. W. ROBERTS, *Esq. Government Printing Office.*

(3rd.) Mr. Barnard afterwards further assured me that, immediately after his departure, the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer would send for me, and confer the appointment upon me.

(4th.) Mr. Barnard also communicated to Mr. W. T. Strutt, a Compositor in the Office, the arrangements which he had made for conducting the Department during his absence. The following Certificate from Mr. Strutt proves them to be precisely the same as those recommended by Mr. Barnard in his letter of 10th January, 1861 :—

*COPY of MR. W. T. STRUTT'S Certificate.*

*Winchester Cottage, 102, Macquarie-street, 9th February, 1861.*

THIS is to certify that the Government Printer on the 9th January last, requested my attendance in his office, and upon my appearing before him spoke as follows :—“ I suppose you are aware that I am about to proceed to England ? ” I replied—“ I am Sir. ” “ How many years have you been in my employ ? ” I replied—“ I completed my 11th year in December last. ” Mr. Barnard then said—“ During my absence, Mr. Roberts will be appointed Acting Government Printer, and yourself Acting Overseer. Your salary will be £200 a year, payable monthly, to take effect from the 1st February. ” He then spoke substantially as follows :—“ You will receive instructions from Mr. Roberts as to your duties to whom you will at all times be obedient. I have always been pleased with the diligent and efficient manner in which you have discharged your duties, and it gives me much pleasure to be able now to do something for your benefit. ”

WM. THOS. STRUTT.

(5th.) That Mr. Barnard, before his departure, (evidently under the full conviction that his arrangements would be carried out in their entirety,) handed over to me all the Official Papers and Records of the Department, giving me at the same time information having reference to the Abstracts and other details connected with the Accounts; and also transferred the Official Account in the Bank of Australasia, in order to enable me to draw from time to time, during his absence, such sums as might be necessary to pay the wages of the men employed in the Department.

*COPY of an Extract from a Letter dated 13th September, 1852, addressed by Mr. BARNARD to the Honorable H. S. CHAPMAN, Esquire, Colonial Secretary, for 18 months' leave of absence.*

6. "With regard to the arrangements which I contemplated for the working of my Department, I propose that Mr. James William Robarts, who has filled the Office of Overseer in it from its first establishment (having selected him in London for that purpose), should be authorised to act for me during my temporary absence. In making this recommendation, *I feel the utmost confidence* that Mr. Robarts will *win* the approbation of the Government by his unremitting zeal and assiduity, nor should there be any reason to doubt, after his lengthened experience and thorough acquaintance with the working of the Office, *but that all the duties of the situation will be well and efficiently performed.*"

*COPY of another Extract from a Letter addressed to the Honorable H. S. CHAPMAN, Esq., Colonial Secretary, dated 29th October, 1852, on the same subject.*

7. "As regards the second point, I have already submitted that I propose that Mr. J. W. Robarts, the present Overseer, should be authorised to act for me during my absence; and I have borne testimony to his general qualifications for the performance of this duty. Adopting the precaution which I should prescribe of invariably sending out Proofs with the M.S. to the writers of every public document of importance (upon whom would then devolve the responsibility of their ultimate accuracy), I can foresee no disadvantage to the Public Service. Mr. Robarts would receive a salary equal to half the salary of each situation, *and reside in the office premises.* As to the duties of the Overseer, the most of them (especially the charge of the paper and the stores) would still continue to be performed by Mr. Robarts—as the remaining half of the Overseer's salary would be insufficient to secure the service of a suitable person:—I should therefore propose to select (from this office, or elsewhere, as might be best available) the most intelligent and trustworthy Compositor that I could, as *Sub-Overseer*, who should be rated and paid as a Compositor, and do Compositor's work, in addition to receiving a part of the Overseer's salary for doing such minor duties of the office as should be occasionally committed to him."

8. Under these circumstances, I most respectfully submit and most confidently commit this, my Appeal, to Your Excellency's decision.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient and very humble Servant,

J. W. ROBARTS.

*His Excellency* SIR HENRY EDWARD FOX YOUNG, *Knight, C.B., Governor-in-Chief, &c., &c.*

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*Colonial Treasury, 12th February, 1861.*

SIR,

I AM requested by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge your Memorial of the 11th instant, which has been considered in Executive Council; and I have to acquaint you that His Excellency approves of the arrangements which have been adopted for carrying on the duties of the Government Printing Office.

I am, &c.,

F. M. INNES.

Mr. J. W. ROBARTS.

*Colonial Treasury 12th February, 1861.*

SIR,

A MEMORIAL having been addressed to His Excellency the Governor by Mr. Robarts, Overseer in the Government Printing Office, complaining that he has not been appointed Acting Government Printer during your leave of absence, and introducing, in support of his claim to be so appointed, the alleged substance of conversations between you and myself, I have to bring to your recollection the following facts and circumstances, on which I beg to hear from you with as little delay as possible.

When first you intimated your intention to apply for leave, I expressed to you a wish that, in your application, you would not attempt to influence the discretion of the Executive as to the temporary arrangements which it might be necessary to make; stating, that while on the one hand, it was not obligatory on Government to comply with the recommendation of the Head of any Public Department, still on the other, his recommendations becoming known to those to whom they referred, and not being complied with, the Public Service was exposed to embarrassment afterwards, from their indisposition to the arrangements adopted.

In different conversations which I had with you, I expressed my distrust of Mr. Robarts, if he were assigned the same discretion and control in the Government Printing Department as that which you hold.

In these conversations you stated, that at one time you might have admitted the force of my objections, but that you considered Mr. Robarts now much changed, and at any rate, in your relative situations, you could not do otherwise than recommend him; it was, of course, for the Government to act as appeared best to it.

In one conversation which I had with you, I expressed my opinion that the appointment of *any* person as Government Printer was not necessary; that the *Gazette*, &c., could continue to be printed as usual in your name. To this you rejoined, that that was an arrangement which it would have been perhaps unfitting for you to have suggested, but as it was proposed by *me* you could see no objection to it, and it was one which was quite agreeable to your own feelings; and you proceeded to remind me that during your absence a year or two since at Victoria, the *Gazette* had been published as usual with your imprint, and in point of law or principle you thought there could be no objection to that course being adopted again.

Subsequently, you sent your application for leave with a recommendation therein of certain arrangements for the conduct of the Department in your absence, to which, on the first occasion of my meeting you afterwards, I adverted as being at variance with the understanding that you would leave the subject of temporary arrangements untouched. You replied, that you had not understood me distinctly to that effect, but eventually you withdrew your letter, taking it away with you. I then informed you, without entering into particulars, that, in so far as Mr. Robarts was concerned, the arrangements which I would recommend would not compromise his claim; and further, that I desired those arrangements to emanate from the Government.

In respect to the party recommended, in the letter withdrawn by you, to take Mr. Robarts's place in the Department, I neither named him nor referred to him, nor even considered him in my communications with you at this nor in any subsequent stage in our communications.

And here it is that misconception arose, I can now perceive, on your part. When you received from me the assurance that the temporary arrangements which would be made would not compromise Mr. Robarts's claim, you have interpreted that to signify that your recommendation would be literally carried out; whereas then, as in previous communications with you, I had distinctly contemplated that no Acting Government Printer should be recommended for appointment, but that the *Gazette*, &c., should be issued in your name, subordinate arrangements being made to depend on circumstances, providing only that they should not prejudice Mr. Robarts either in respect to position or

emolument. I need scarcely point out to one of your long official experience, that it is not uncommon for letters between Officers of Government to be recalled or modified,—sometimes at the instance of the party addressing, sometimes of that addressed. But having always looked on alterations of this kind, if they related to any third party, as being made more or less in confidence, it seemed to me quite out of the question,—so unlikely a thing to happen,—that it was unnecessary to guard against it, that my communications with you on this particular occasion would be narrated to any one, least of all to the party in question in them, that I no doubt expressed myself less guardedly than I otherwise would have done. But of this, I am as clear as it is possible for me to be on any point, that I did never give a pledge that I would advise the Government “to carry out in its entirety” (as I am represented in Mr. Robarts’s Memorial, on your authority, to have done,) the arrangements proposed by you, namely, that Mr. Robarts should be appointed to the office of Acting Government Printer.

From the moment that I elicited your concurrence in my own opinion that it was not necessary that any one should be so appointed, the thought even of such a nomination was never entertained.

For the arrangements which have been approved by the Executive, this is not the place in which I should offer the reasons; it is sufficient that these arrangements have been made so as not to place any one above Mr. Robarts, and so as to leave him in receipt of a salary not one farthing less than would be assigned to the office of Government Printer were it now vacant and he nominated to fill it, while they provide also for the temporary discharge of the duties which have heretofore, according to the Memorandum with which you furnished me prior to your departure, devolved upon you, and for which provision of some kind was necessary.

In conclusion, I have to regret the misconception under which Mr. Robarts has laboured, both as to the tenor of my communications with you and as to the true character of the arrangements which have been adopted in the Government Printing Office, as he has been betrayed, by the misconception, into an intemperance of conduct and language, to myself in particular, which could not fail to disincline the Executive to any revision of its arrangements.

I remain,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

F. M. INNES.

JAMES BARNARD, *Esquire*.

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14, *New Broad-street*, 20th May, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication, dated 12th February last, referring, in the first place, to a Memorial from Mr. Robarts, in which he complains of not being appointed Acting Government Printer during my temporary absence on leave; and secondly, attributing to me a misconception as to the exact terms of the arrangements for conducting my Department which would be sanctioned by the Government.

The perusal of your letter has occasioned me, on many accounts, deep concern; and I therefore hasten to reply, although I feel, I confess, somewhat at a loss how to set forth with the necessary distinctness the precise bearings of each circumstance on the several points of the case. However, this I will now endeavor to do.

1st. I think it can hardly excite surprise that Mr. Robarts should have keenly felt the disappointment of being superseded in the management of the Department, which he had all along been led to expect would devolve upon him; for he well knew my intentions



on his behalf, and that I had, some seven or eight years ago, when leave of absence had been accorded me by the Executive, (but which circumstances led me to relinquish,) recommended him as my *locum tenens*.

Naturally enough, I had prepared him to expect a similar recommendation in the present instance, and had entered minutely with him into the necessary means of carrying on the work of the Office; and accordingly, on 3rd November, 1860, I submitted the accompanying letter (marked A.), detailing my proposed arrangements. Mr. Robarts had also in his favor a lengthened experience of 22 years' service; and was, in my opinion, justly entitled to the temporary promotion.

It is quite true that, in the several conversations which had passed between us on the point, you expressed distrust of Mr. Robarts's qualifications for the Office; but, as you are aware, it is equally true that I never failed to uphold his claims to consideration.

The letter of 3rd November was, if I mistake not, sent in while you were in Victoria; and at our first interview after your return you expressed the wish that I should withdraw that letter, and replace it with one simply requesting the leave of absence.

Hitherto, I had conceived that the responsibility rested upon me to provide for the efficient working of the Department during my absence, but, at this interview, you gave me to understand that the Government would itself assume that responsibility. However, I viewed the matter in this light, that Mr. Robarts was not to succeed me as a matter of course, irrespective as it were of the Government, but was to derive his appointment more immediately and directly from yourself, as the Responsible Minister under whom the Department is placed. Neither Mr. Best, nor any other person, was ever named or alluded to, at any of our interviews, as my probable successor; and I quitted the Colony under the full conviction that Mr. Robarts would have received from you the authority to take charge, with Mr. W. T. Strutt acting under him as Overseer and Sub-Overseer.

In reference to the statement made, on my authority, that you had given me a "*pledge* that you would advise the Government to carry out my recommendations in their *entirety*" there is some mistake, which requires pains to unravel; for I never stated this so *broadly*.

Without pretending to recollect the precise words, I believe their purport to have been this—"Its all right, Mr. Robarts, you need not make yourself at all uneasy, as I am satisfied, from what the Colonial Treasurer has said, that my recommendations will be acted upon in their *entirety*." It will be observed that, while the words are nearly the same, the sense is widely different. It is quite true that I firmly believed it to be your intention to do so, yet the statement could only rest on my conviction, and not upon your positive statement, seeing that you reserved the exercise of the right to appoint to the Government, which would, in itself, be incompatible with a "*pledge*" (a word that I never used) that would fetter the exercise of that right.

Vindication of myself from an implied violation of confidence, in disclosing the substance of conversations which passed between us relative to this subject, is the next point for remark. I am wholly unconscious of having passed the boundary line between official and private communications; indeed, I am satisfied that I did not communicate to Mr. Robarts your proposition (which met my own personal wishes,) that the imprint should not be changed,—regarding that as an arrangement which you would yourself think proper to make; nor did I do more than express my *full belief* that the appointment would be conferred upon him—and this, I repeat, with the foregoing modification, I most clearly understood to be your ultimate intention. From November to January, not a word passed between Mr. Robarts and myself on the subject; and this long silence was interpreted by him to imply my cognizance of, and compliance with, the scheme for placing Mr. Best in charge,—of which he had gathered some hint, or formed some suspicion. I deemed it right to disabuse his mind of such an erroneous idea, by stating that I knew nothing of such intention, and further, that Mr. Best's name had never been mentioned in the matter.

Much as I regret that the arrangements which I proposed were not carried into effect, I still more regret to learn that Mr. Robarts should have been betrayed into the exhibition of intemperance in language and demeanor while seeking redress for supposed injustice.

2nd. Having related, in as perspicuous a manner as I could in the hurry in which this is written, the particulars of the case so far as Mr. Robarts is concerned, I proceed, secondly to advert to the supposed misconception on my part of your intentions; and on this head there is but little now left for conjecture, as I cannot gainsay the exposition of the grounds of that misapprehension which you assign.

Most unquestionably, "the assurance that the temporary arrangements which would be made would not compromise Mr. Robarts's claims," was susceptible, in my judgment, under the circumstances, of but one interpretation.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. BARNARD.

*The Honorable F. M. INNES, Esquire,  
Colonial Treasurer.*

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A.

*Government Printing Office, 3rd November, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to request that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to grant me Eighteen months' leave of absence from my duties, for the purpose of proceeding to England on urgent private family affairs; to take effect from the date of sailing of one of the approaching season's ships.

The arrangements which I propose for conducting the business of this Department until my return, are, that Mr. James William Robarts, who has filled the office of Overseer to the Establishment since its formation, should be appointed Acting Government Printer at a salary of £450, (half salary of each situation); and that Mr. William Thomas Strutt, an intelligent Compositor, of excellent character, attached to the Establishment upwards of Eleven years, should be rated as Sub-Overseer, to invest him with authority over the other persons employed in the Office, at such addition of weekly wages as shall not exceed, in the whole, £200 for the year.

In submitting these arrangements for the confirmation of His Excellency, I have every confidence that, in conjunction with other precautions, the business of my Department will be carried on in an efficient and satisfactory manner during my temporary absence.

I have, &c.,

J. BARNARD.

*The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.*

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14, *New Broad-street, London, 19th June, 1861.*

SIR,

WITH reference to my letter by last English Mail, dated May 20, replying to your communication of 12th February, I have the honor to supply some further information that may help to an elucidation of the facts of the case.

From private memoranda, I find that at an interview on 3rd November, 1860, I left with you the application for leave of absence (marked A. in my letter above referred to), in which I recommended Mr. Robarts as Acting Government Printer, and Mr. Strutt as Sub-Overseer; and I have briefly recorded that you "acquiesced" on the 5th. I note that that application was (by your desire) "withdrawn at present," and that you then intimated your wish that the letter applying for leave should not refer to the contemplated arrangements.

Accordingly, on the 20th December, I wrote simply to request leave of absence, which was officially conveyed to me on the same day; and, on the 10th January, 1861, I addressed you three official letters, the 1st requesting that the leave of absence might date from 1st February; the 2nd submitting the arrangements which I recommended for adoption during my absence. This proposition differed from my original one, in that I considered it more advisable to name Mr. Strutt as Overseer instead of Sub-Overseer (as had been suggested to me by Mr. Roberts in the first instance, but which, upon further consideration, I saw fit to overrule). It is unnecessary here to refer to the 3rd of these letters.

On 14th January, at a subsequent interview, the 2nd of these letters, proposing the arrangements, I also, at your instance, withdrew; feeling much surprise at the same time, I remember, at your attributing to me a misapprehension of your instructions in that respect. It was on *this* occasion also, and not before, that you proposed, and I acquiesced in the retention of the same imprint during my absence.

The *original* letter of 10th January, above referred to as withdrawn, I now enclose, (marking it B.)

I abstain from all comment, further than to reiterate my full and distinct conviction that, notwithstanding the certainly strong objections that you seemed to entertain against Mr. Roberts's appointment, you had ultimately yielded to the forcible representations which I had urged in his behalf; and I cannot refrain, even now, from expressing my extreme astonishment that the claims of Mr. Roberts to have charge should have been passed by, and my earnest recommendations set at nought.

I have, &c.,

J. BARNARD.

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

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B.

*Government Printing Office, 10th January, 1861.*

SIR,

THE arrangements which I have the honor to recommend as the best for conducting the duties of this Department, during my leave of absence, are the following, viz. :—

1. That Mr. James William Roberts, the Overseer, should be appointed Acting Government Printer, at £450 per annum, being the half salary of each situation.

2. That Mr. William Thomas Strutt, employed for 11 years as a Compositor in the Office, and of *thorough respectable character*, should be appointed Acting Overseer, at a salary of £200 per annum.

Both appointments to date from 1st February next.

I have, &c.,

JAMES BARNARD.

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

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*Colonial Treasury, 22nd August, 1861.*

SIR,

I AM in receipt of your letter by last English Mail, in which certain inaccuracies appear, and omissions are made.

You state that your application for leave of absence, dated 3rd November, containing recommendations as to temporary arrangements in the Government Printing Office, was withdrawn at my instance. This is not the case: it was withdrawn at your own,

as I understood, for the wholly unimportant reason that you could not fix the date from which your leave should take effect, which depended on the arrangements you could make for your passage, &c. I may, and probably did, on the occasion of your recalling that letter, express the wish that, in your application when you again made it, you would leave the question of temporary arrangements to the Government, which I uniformly told you would be answerable for their efficiency, and therefore should be unfettered in determining their details.

In a subsequent part of your letter, you state that in your interview with me of the 14th January, when you withdrew, at my instance, your letter of the 10th of that month because it entered into the detail of arrangements, you felt much surprised at my attributing to you a misapprehension of my instructions. But I cannot confirm, from my recollection, that you expressed great surprise; nor can I reconcile with any such feeling on your part your admission that, prior to sending in that letter, namely, when you withdrew your application of the 3rd November, you had been asked to leave the subject of the arrangements to take effect in your absence with the Executive.

That you pressed on all occasions, with the earnestness of personal friendship I might say, the interests of Mr. Robarts, I shall be prepared at any time to state. But I complain that your zeal in his behalf led you to give him assurances in my name which I never authorised, and on which he has grounded imputations against me that are both offensive and untrue; namely, that I pledged myself to have him appointed Acting Government Printer, at a salary of £450 per annum. Now, as respects any pledge on my part, you have with less distinctness freed me in your official reply to me of the 23rd May than in a private communication of that date, which I shall esteem myself at liberty to hand over to my Colleagues, and in which you are thus precise:—

“As to the pledge, it is a figment; and I regret that Downes, who is the very soul of truth, should have failed to notice the distinction pointed out,—attributable, I have no doubt, to the way in which the question was put to him.”

The fact is, that I was in no position to make a pledge; but your proposed arrangements appeared to me to be imperfect, judging from the requirements set forth in your Memorandum to me on the respective duties of the Government Printer and Overseer; and I was not aware, at the date of our interview, that the imperfection could be remedied. I was therefore constrained to be reserved as to what arrangements would actually be given effect to.

On one occasion, I recollect distinctly adverting to the imperfection of your proposed arrangements, and the injurious interpretation to your own interests which they suggested, when you admitted that they would not suffice for a busy period, but you anticipated only a short Session of Parliament before a Dissolution, and that you would be back before the claims of a busier Session of a new Parliament would require a thoroughly effective staff: a calculation, on your part, which has proved to be erroneous.

In reference to the salary, &c. to be received by Mr. Robarts, I cannot charge myself with ever having said one word to you. But, if even I *had* done so, I was at the time in ignorance of the established regulations of the Government in respect to the salaries and allowances of Government Officers absent on leave. In Mr. Robarts's Memorial to the Governor, he represents himself to have agreed with you that he should receive £450 per annum; and he appears to have acquiesced in your continuing to draw the house allowance. Now, it was not until after your departure that the Colonial Auditor drew my attention to the inadmissibility of this arrangement under the regulations in force,—which, I believe, are to the effect that if an allowance is personal as respects the individual, that during his absence on leave it is not paid, that if it attaches to his Office, the allowance is payable to his *locum tenens*.

As regards salary, so much of it may be appropriated (after allowing an Officer absent on leave the maximum of one-half,) as is necessary for the efficient discharge of his duties, let his salary be personal or permanently attached to his Office. But if his duties devolve upon his immediate subordinate, and the salary already enjoyed by that subordinate be

equal to the salary which would attach to the Office temporarily assigned to him, no increase of pay is assigned with it; were any other rule adopted this inconvenience would result, that either additions which have been made in special circumstances to individuals would become permanent in their Offices, or—as in the instance of your own Office, had it been given temporarily to Mr. Robarts on the terms proposed by you and concurred in by him, namely, half his salary and half of yours—his total salary as *locum tenens* would exceed the amount which Parliament would be asked to vote for the Office of Government Printer were it vacant to-morrow, namely £400 a-year, with residence in a projected Government Printing Office. I have deferred submitting to the Executive your claim to house allowance during your absence, that you may have the opportunity, on your return, of setting forth more fully than you can do at a distance, its special circumstances; but, meantime, I had no alternative but to give instructions that it should not be recognized.

In expressing yourself with some warmth on the claims of Mr. Robarts, you appear to assume that he has been placed in a position subordinate to Mr. Best; whereas nothing of the kind was ever intended, nor any prejudice to his claims to promotion. But, had your Memorandum to me setting forth the duties of your Office not indicated the probable necessity of some one competent to discharge the duties of Reader as well as Book-keeper being appointed to act with Mr. Robarts, experience has established the fact that such an appointment was necessary, if the correctness in orthography as well as in minor matters which always characterised the Papers issued from the Government Press when they passed under your revision, was not, during your absence on leave, to be dispensed with.

I remain, &c.,

F. M. INNES.

JAMES BARNARD, *Esquire*.

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*Treasury, 30th July, 1861.*

MEMO.

MY attention having been directed to one or two Papers issued from the Government Press, I have to request you to state whether any Papers are issued without your revision; and if so, why?

F. M. INNES.

MR. BEST, *Government Printing Office*.

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*Government Printing Office, 30th July, 1861.*

MEMO.

PAPERS *have* left the Office without my revision, Mr. Robarts failing to place them before me, although requested.

H. BEST.

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

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*Treasury, 31st July, 1861.*

MR. ROBARTS is requested to have all Papers submitted for revision by Mr. Best, before they are sent out of the Office.

F. M. INNES.

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AM I to understand distinctly from the Colonial Treasurer, that no Papers sent to this Department to be printed are to be printed off until after submission to Mr. Best for revision? And if so, I trust that the Executive Government will see the justice of not holding me responsible for the future efficiency of the Department.

J. W. ROBARTS.

*The Hon. the Treasurer.*

*1st August, 1861.*

*Treasury, 2nd August, 1861.*

MEMO.

THE instruction given to Mr. Robarts in my Memorandum of the 31st ultimo appears to me plain enough. All papers of a kind which it was customary from their importance to subject to the revision of Mr. Barnard are henceforth (as I had supposed they had done heretofore) to undergo Mr. Best's revision before they are put in circulation.

F. M. INNES.

I REGRET that I am still unable to distinctly understand the scope of the Colonial Treasurer's instructions with reference to the revision of all Papers sent for Printing to this Department: and I trust that the Colonial Treasurer will favor me with a reply to the second part of my Memorandum of yesterday's date, as to my Official responsibility.

J. W. ROBARTS.

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

*2nd August, 1861.*

*Colonial Treasury, August, 1861.*

DISTINCT instructions have been already given, that all Papers requiring a second revision should undergo that revision by Mr. Best. I understand from the Attorney-General, that the issue of the Customs Bill is delayed, I request to know whether the delay is imputable to Mr. Best, or if not so, why Mr. Robarts has withheld the Bill till this time; and instructions are now given, that the above-named Bill and any others which may be ready for Mr. Best's revision, be at once handed over to him for that purpose. Mr. Best is requested to show this Memorandum to Mr. Robarts and report to me this afternoon whether the instruction it conveys has been complied with.

F. M. INNES.

*Government Printing Office, 5th August, 1861.*

MEMO.

MR. Best in reply to the Colonial Treasurer's Memo. under date, begs to inform him, that he has this day received the Customs Bill from Mr. Robarts for revision, and that he will lose no time in the furtherance of its completion.

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

MEMO.

IN the Report of the Government Geologist on the Coal Fields of the Colony, (Parliamentary Paper, No. 7,) I detect upwards of a dozen errors in orthography. I request Mr. Best to state whether the Report was subjected to his revision before it was issued from the Government Printing Office in accordance with instructions, or why it was not revised or corrected?

F. M. INNES.

*9th September, 1861.*

MEMO.

THE Report alluded to did not come before me for revision. Many other Papers have left the Office without my knowledge, (although Mr. Robarts has been requested to place all before me,) for the correctness of which I cannot be held responsible.

I am unable to give a reason for Mr. Robarts withholding them.

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

H. BEST.

*DISBURSEMENTS made in the Government Printing Office for the Year 1860.*

SALARIES.		£	s.	d.
James Barnard, Government Printer.....		500	0	0
James W. Roberts, Overseer.....		400	0	0
James Quested, Messenger .....		80	0	0
ALLOWANCES.				
James Barnard, in lieu of House and Office .....		250	0	0
Wages to Compositors, Pressmen, Bookbinders, &c. ....		2,539	3	10
CONTINGENCIES.				
Repairs to Presses and petty Expenses .....		75	16	1
Stationery and Stores .....		837	11	5
Fuel and Light .....		36	12	0
		£4,719 3 4		

*Colonial Treasury, 7th September, 1861.*

*DISBURSEMENTS made in the Government Printing Office for the half-year ended 30th June, 1861, the names of the Recipients and amount paid for House and Offices for the same period.*

SALARIES.		£	s.	d.
James Barnard, Government Printer .....		41	13	4
H. Best .....		83	6	8
J. W. Roberts, Overseer.....		166	13	4
James Quested, Messenger.....		33	6	8
		325 0 0		
ALLOWANCES.				
Wages to Compositors, Pressmen and Bookbinders, &c.....	1,264	11	8	
In lieu of House and Office to J. Barnard for January .....	20	16	8	
In lieu of Office Rent to J. Barnard to June.....	50	0	0	
		1,335 8 4		
CONTINGENCIES.				
Stationery.....	2	4	0	
Stores .....	21	1	10	
Fuel and Light.....	2	9	0	
		25 14 10		
		£1,686 3 2		

N.B.—Mr. Barnard's half salary while on leave of absence is paid by the Agent-General in London.

THOS. V. JEAN.

*Colonial Treasury, September, 1861.*