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Nov / 22^d 1750

m / Twenty-fourth Year o/ Reign o

King George / Second

p 676 19^o - 22^o Decembrius

A 1748

Jouis 22^o de Decembre

Anno 22^o Georgii II^{do} Regis 1748

African
Company

A Petition of Royal African Co of England was presented to / House & read: setting forth, T / Petitioners, under / Authority & Encouragement of a Royal & Exclusive Charter, granted in / Year 1672, laid out by 9th Sum of Money in purchas^g building & maintaining a 9th number of Forts & Settlements on / Coast of Africa in expectation to carry on & enjoy / Trade to those Parts; & t / Parliament was in / Year 1694, pleased to lay / sd Trade open to all his Majesty's Subjects; but at / same time, & many times since, to declare, t / sd Forts & Settlements were necessary to protect / British Trade to Africa; & t as / Nam in gen^r h ever since enjoyed / Benefit of this most valuable Trade, under / Protection of / sd Forts & Settlements, / Parliament has, towards making / Petitioners to support & maintain / same, bin pleased to grant them sundry Aids at diff^r times; but t / Charge & Expence thereof has so g^rly exceeded all / sd Parliamentary Allowances & / Petitioners utmost Endeavours, t / Petitioners h bin obliged to contract considerable Debts, amounting to abt One hundred thousand Pounds: & t / Petitioners h b many Years struggled wth the Diff^rties still increasing upon them, in hopes of / more effectual Aid & Support of / Legislature: And representing to / House, T the Debts remain unpaid; the Credit is g^rly impaired, both at home & abroad; & the Forts & Settlements, of g^r & in as tim^{ble} Value wth respect to / Trade, depending thereon, in Danger of going to Decay, & falling into / Hands of foreign hands, & t / British Trade & as / Imp^r of this Trade to h Majesty's Colonies in America is well known & as / Prerogative thereof, is allowed principally to depend upon / Maintenance & Support of / Petitioners Forts & Settlements, therefore pray / House, on behalf of them selves & the Creditors, to take / Premises into Consideration & grant such last^g Encouragement to / Petitioners as may enable them to pay their Debts & keep & maintain the sd Forts & Castles in a defensible Condition; t / Protection of a free & open Trade of all his Majesty's Subjects to / Coast of Africa; or to grant / Petitioners such of Relief in / Premises as to / House sh seem meet.

Mr Chancellor of Exchequer, by his Majesty's Command, acquainted / House, T his Majesty having bin informed of / Contents of / sd Petition, recommends it to / Consideration of / House.

Ordered, T / sd Petition do lie upon / Table

697]

Jois 19^o die Januarii;
Anno 22^o Georgii Regis 1748

Prayers

African
Company

A Petition of several Persons whose Names are thereunto
Subscribed, beg Creditors of Royal African Co^e England,
on behalf of themselves & rest of Creditors of sd Co was presented to /
House & read; allegg, T / Petitioners, & rest of Creditors of sd Co are
deeply interested in / Allegan contained in a Petition presented to this House,
by / sd Co, T they, / sd Co, are indebted to / Am^t of £ 100,000: And repre-
sentg to / House, T / sd Co's Forts & Settlements, wh, by Parliam^t &
Sundry Resolutions of this House, h^e bn declared necessary f^r / Protecm
of / British Trade to Africa, h, f many Years last past bn in gr
measure, supported & secured by / Stores, Goods, & Merchandizes,
supplied to / sd Co by several of / Petitioners, T / repeated Aids,
granted to / sd Co by / Publick. h proved an Inducem^t, w^{ch} most of /
Petitioners, to trust them, wh they wd not otherwise, h done; And t
/ Substitute of / sd Co beg now reduced to / single Property they h in
/ sd Forts & Settlements, / Petitioners, & rest of / sd Creditors, whose
private Fortunes h bn thus employed f^r / Publick Good, are in
Danger of losing their just Demands, wth / generous Imposition &
Assist^{ce} of / Legislature: And therefore, prayg / House, to take / de-
plorable Case of / Petitioners into Consideration; & grant them such
Relief therein as to / Wisdom & Equity of Parliam^t sh^{al} seem meet
Ordered, T / sd Petition do lie upon / Table.

726]

Jois, 9^o die Februarii;
Anno 22^o Georgii IIⁱ Regis 1748

732] Ordered, T Sir William Yonge h leave to make a Motion;
And he moved / House accordingly; And presented to / House,
A Petition of several Merchants of London, American Planters & others,
interested in, or tradg to, Africa, & / British Colonies & Plantations in
America: And / sd Petition was read settg forth, T, f^r / present
Situation & precarious State of / British Forts & Settlements in Africa,
they must infallibly be deserted, or fall into / Hands of / sd Nations,
wth some speedy Assist^{ce} f^r Parliam^t; in consequence of wh, / most
valuable Branches of / African Trade will be lost to this Natⁿ, as /
Gum Trade has bn, by / French havg made a Settlement at Senegal,
a thereby claimed an exclusive Right to t Trade: T almost all /
British Forts & Settlements in Africa are situate on / Gold Coast, Whyddah,
& Gambia, in / Neighbourhood of as many more Forts & Settlements
of / Rivals of G^t Britain, & where only are to be purchased / most
valuable Negroes, & such as are absolutely necessary f^r / hard
Labour & Subsistence of Sugar Plantations, besides Gold, Gum Dyegwood,

Wares, & many of valuable & useful Commodities, wh^{ch} are taken in Ex-
change of British Manufactures, & returned to Gr^t Britain: T^{he} m^{ost} have /
Petitioners conceive, t^{hat} this Trade cannot be supported w^{ith} maintaining / sd
Fort^s & Settlements in such manner as sh^{all} be found most effectual to secure
/ Rights & Trade of British Nav^y, ag^{ainst} / Compet^{ition} of Arts, & Encroachments
of all the Rivals in t^{he} Part of World, & to maintain / Honour & Dignity of
/ British Name am^{ongst} / Kings, Princes, Towns, & Traders, in those distant,
populous, & extensive Countries; And as this is a matter of a publick &
national Concern, / Petitioners therefore pray / House to take / Premises
into the most serious Consideration, & to take such Methods as they sh^{all} judge
most proper & effectual for / preserving, extend^{ing}, & protect^{ing} this most
valuable Branch of British Trade & Commerce.
Ordered, T^{hat} / sd Pet^{ition} do lie upon / Table.

710]

Martis, 7^o die Martii
Anno 22^o Georgii II^o di Regis, 1748

713] Resolved, T^{hat} this House will, upon Thursday Seven-night, African
resolve itself into a Committee of whole House, to consider of Company
/ State of Trade to Africa

717] — Venuris, 10^o die Martii — [vide p 7]

794]

Jovis, 16^o die Martii
Anno 22^o Georgii II^o di Regis, 1748

* 797] The Order of Day being read, / House to resolve African
itself into a Committee of whole House, to consider Trade
of State of Trade to Africa.
Resolved, T^{hat} this House will, upon Tuesday Morn^{ing} next, resolve
itself into / sd Committee

803]

Martis, 21^o die Martii
Anno 22^o Georgii II^o di Regis, 1748

805] The Order of Day being read, / House to resolve itself African
into a Committee of whole House to consider of State Co.
of Trade to Africa.
Resolved, T^{hat} this House will, upon Thursday / Sixth Day of April
next, resolve itself into / sd Committee

813] Jonis, 6^o die Aprilis;
Anno 22^o Georgii IIⁱ Regis 1749.

817] The 2^d Order of Day beg read;
Resolved t^his House will upon Monday morning
next, resolve itself into a Committee o/ whole House to consider o/
State of Trade to Africa African Co

820] Junas 10^o die Aprilis;
Anno 22^o Georgii IIⁱ Regis, 1749.

821] Ordered, T/ Order o/ Day f/ House to resolve itself into African Co.
a Committee o/ whole House to consider o/ State o/ Trade to
Africa, be now read:
And /sd Order beg read accordgly;
Resolved, t^his House will, To-morrow, at Twelve o/ Clock, resolve itself
into /sd Committee.

Martis, 11^o die Aprilis;
Anno 22^o Georgii IIⁱ Regis, 1749.

823] The 2^d Order of Day beg read, f/ House to resolve itself into African Co.
a Committee o/ whole House, to consider o/ State o/ Trade to Africa;
Ordered, T/ Petition o/ Royal African Co o/ England be referred
to /sd Committee.

824] Ordered, T/ Petition o/ sevl Persons, whose Names are thereunto subscribed,
beg Creditors o/ Royal African Co o/ England, on behalf o/ themselves, & /res^d o/
Creditors o/ sd Co, be referred to /sd Committee.

Ordered, T/ Petition o/ sevl Merchants & London American Planters, &
o^rs, interested in, or tradg to Africa, & / British Colonies & Plantations in America,
be referred to /sd Committee.

Ordered, T/ Petition o/ Master, Wardens, Assesants & Commonalty o/
Society o/ Merchants, Adventurers within / City o/ Bristol under the Common Seal, be
referred to /sd Committee.

Ordered, T/ Petition o/ Merchants & o^rs, interested in / Trade to Africa,
from / Port o/ Liverpool be referred to /sd Committee.
Then / House resolved itself into /sd Committee.

Mr Speaker left / Chair.
Mrs Alderman Bethel took / Chair o/ Committee.
Mr Speaker returned / Chair.
Mrs Alderman Bethel reported from / Committee t^h they had made some Progress in/
matter referred, to them referred; & t^h he was directed by / Committee to move, t^h
they may be advise, to sit agn.

Resolved, t^his House will, To-morrow Morning resolve itself into a Committee o/
whole House, to consider first o/ State o/ Trade to Africa

[Am p. 5 supra]

447]

Veneris, 10^o die Martii;
Anno 220 George II^{di} Regis, 1748.

Prayers

A Petin o Merchants & ^{tho} interabled in Trade to Africa, fm / African Trade
 Port o Liverpool was presented to / House & read; alleg^g T / E
 Petitioners are o Opinion, T / best Security & Protecⁿ o our trade
 to / Coast o Africa, fm Pirates, or o^r Enemies, must always principally depend
 upon his Majesty's Ships o War frequently visit^g, properly stationed, &
 timely relieved, on / Coast; And t^h whereas Forts & Settlements on t^e Coast
 are q^uintly esteemed necessary, as Martis o Sovereignty & Possesⁿ to
 present our Rivalts fm / Petis are Claim o any exclusive Right o
 Trade, by reason o / Forts & Settlements they now h, or hereafter may
 be possessed o, such Forts & Settlements, in / Opinion o Petitioners, wd
 prove a Burden & Nuise in / Hands o any Joint-Stock Co. whose
 private Interest has, & w^{ch} will be, found incompatible w / Interest
 o / separate & open Traders; And therefore pray^g, T our present Forts
 & Settlements on / African Coast may be taken into his Majesty's im-
 mediate Possesⁿ, & supported by / Publick, f / gen Good o / British
 Trade; or, if this cannot be obtained, t / Care o them may be com-
 mitted to / Merchants trad^g to t^e Coast, in such manner as to / House
 sh seems meet; not thinky to acquire any o^r Advantage or Right in / sd
 Trade, but what sh be in common w all his Majesty's Subjects.

Ordered T / sd Petin be referred to / Consideran o Committee o whole / House
to whom it is referred to consider o State o Trade to Africa.

A Petin o Master, Wardens, Assist^{ts}, & Commonally o Society African Trade
 o Merchants Adventurers within / City o Bristol, under the Common
 Seal, was presented to / House & read; alleg^g T / Petitioners apprehend t /
 Forts & Settlements on / Coast o Africa are necessary to be kept up f assent^g
 his Majesty's Right o Sovereignty & Possesⁿ; & may, under proper Regulatⁿ, be
 made serviceable to Trade; but t^h such Forts & Settlements wd prove a^r Burden
 were they in / Hands o any Joint-Stock Co. whose Interest^h hath on a w^{ch}
 will be found incompatible w t^e o a free & open Trade; & t / Security & Protecⁿ
 o Trade on t^e Coast w^{ch} q^uintly depend on his Majesty's Ships o War, pro-
 perly stationed, & timely relieved; And therefore pray^g, T / sd Forts & Settlements
 may be taken into his Majesty's Possesⁿ, & / Care thereof committed to
 Merchants, who sh h no o^r Benefit or Right in / sd Trade than in
 common w all his Majesty's Subjects; or t^h such Possesⁿ may be made
 f / support & maintenance o / sd Forts & Settlements, as to / House sh seems meet.

Ordered T / sd Petin be referred to / Consideran o Committee o whole
House, to whom it is referred to consider o State o Trade to Africa.

Mercurii. 12^o die Aprilis;
Anno 22^o Georgii II^{di} Regis, 1749.

927] The 2^d Order o' Day beg read;

African
Co.

The House resolved itself into a Committee o' whole House, to
consider fur^t o' State o' Trade to Africa.

Mr Speaker left / Chair

Mr Alderman Bethel took / Chair o' Committee

Mr Speaker resumed / Chair

Mr Alderman Bethel reported fm / Committee, T they hd come to seal

Resolv^{ts}; wh they hd directed him to report, when / House will please to
receive / same

Ordered T / Report be received Tomorrow Morn^g

929]

Jovis, 13^o die Aprilis;

Anno 22^o Georgii II^{di} Regis 1749.

Mr Alderman Bethel, accord^g to Order, reported, fm / Committee
o' whole House, to whom it was referred to consider fur^t o' State
o' Trade to Africa, / Resolv^{ts} wh / Committee hd directed him to
report to / House; wh he read in his Place; & afterwards delivered
in at / Clerk's Table; where / same were read; & are as followeth; viz.

African
Co

Resolved, T it is / Opinion o' this Committee, T / Trade to Africa sh^o always
to remain free & open to all his Majesty's Subjects

Resolved, T it is / Opinion o' this Committee, T / Trade to Africa sh^o never to be
taxed wth any Duties whatso^{ev}r. & / Support & Maintenance o' any Forts or Settlements thro^u

Resolved, T it is / Opinion o' this Committee, T / British Forts & Settlements on /
Coast o' Africa are necessary to be maintained as Marks o' Possess^o n^o
Britain in those Parts; & may, under proper Manage^{mt}, be rendered useful
to / Traders in gen^l.

Resolved, T it is / Opinion o' this Committee, T in order to carry on / African
Trade in / most beneficial Manner to these Kingdoms, all his Majesty's
Subjects whatsoever, bind^g to Africa, be united in an open Co^o wth any Joint-
Stock or Power to trade as a Corporaⁿ, under proper Regulat^{ns}; & T /
Forts & Settlements upon / Coast o' Africa be put under proper Manage^{mt}
& Direcⁿ

The first Resolvⁿ o' Committee, beg read a second time, upon /
Questⁿ put thereupon, agreed to by / House. Nonne Contradictente

The 2^d Resolvⁿ o' Committee beg severly read a second time, were,
upon / Questⁿ severly put thereupon, agreed to by / House.

Ordered T a Bill be brot in, pursuant to / sd Resolv^{ts}: And t^o Mr
M^r Alderman Bethel, / Lord Dupplin, / Lord Strange, Mr Wyke, Mr Southwell,
Mr Hoblyn, Mr Brezelin, Mr Gildart, Mr Fazakerly, Mr James Shuttle-
worth, Mr Raynolds, Mr John Gore, & Mr Nugent, do prepare, & bring in,
/ same.

855]

Veneris 4^o die Maii
 Anno 22^o Georgii II^{di} Regis, 1749

856] Mr Alderman Bethel presented to / House accordg to Order, a Bill of extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa: & / same was received; & read / First time.

African Trade

Resolved, T / Bill be read a Second time.

Ordered, T / sd Bill be printed.

857]

Veneris 5^o die Maii
 Anno 22^o Georgii II^{di} Regis, 1749.

African Co.

A Petition of / Royal African Co of England, was presented to / House & read; settg forth, T, in / Year 1692, King Charles / Second, by his Royal Charter, granted to / Petitioners all & singular / Regions, Countries, Dominions, Territories, Continents, Coasts & Places, by & by within / Limits & Bounds therein after-mentioned, to wit, beginning at / Port o Sally, in South Barbary, inclusive, & extendg fm thence to Cape de Bona Esperanza, inclusive, w all / Islands near adjoining to those Coasts & comprehended within / Limits aforesaid, f / Term o one thousand Years; And t, by a Bill now dependg in / House, of extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa, / Petitioners are advised, T they may be deprived of Property, or in / many imp't Forts & Castles, at thir own Expence purchased & built, as well as in thir Stores, Effects, Ammunition, & Casemates in those Forts & Castles; And therefore, / Petitioners, fully relyg on / Justice o this House t they sh not be deprived o thir Property w an adequate Satisfacⁿ, pray, T they may be heard, by themselves or Counsel, before / sd Bill passes this House.

Ordered, T / sd Petition do lie upon / Table.

African

860]

Meritis 9^o die Maii
 Anno 22^o Georgii II^{di} Regis, 1749

861] A Petition of / several Persons, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, Creditors of / Royal African Co, on behalf o themselves & / rest o / Creditors of sd Co, was presented to / House & read; & representg to / House, t, altho by a Bill dependg in / House, of extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa, all & w / British Forts, Settlements, & Factories on / Coast o Africa, fm Cape Blanco to / Cape o Good Hope, inclusive, & all / Territories within those Limits, & / Islands thereunto adjoining, call

African Co.

wh are now in / Possessⁿ o / Royal African Co o England, are intended to be absolutely vested in a new Co, w^t any express Provisⁿ f / Just Demands, or any Savg^s o / Just Rights, o / Creditors o / sd present Co, whose Sole Security they are, yet such is / Reliance o / Petitioners upon / Justice, Honour & Compassⁿ, o / Parliam^t, t they will not attempt, by any Application f / the private Interests, any-wise to retard / Progress o a Bill wh / House has judged & declared necessary f / Publick Good; but t, on / contrary, / Petitioners are content^t to refer the Demands to / Consideration o / House, whenever they sh think fit to enter thereupon; & t / Petitioners are, in / mean time, ready & desirous to do evy Act in the Power f immediately vestg the sd Security in what Hands / Wisdom o Parliam^t sh judge fit: And settg forth, T / Petitioners, so long since as May 1748, represented to / sd Co, in Writg, T / various Londin^m o the Forts & Settlements, the notorious Inability to support & defend them, w^t / Aid o Parliam^t, & / Indisposiⁿ o / Legislature to entrust them w those Aids, did most evidently point out / Necessity o surrenderg the sd Possessⁿ to / Crown, wh cd alone preserve them fm fallg into / Hands o / Rivals o Gr Britain; & therefore / Petitioners required the sd Co immediately to make a dutiful Tender thereof to His Majesty, to whom / Petitioners, who claimed a prior Interest therein, were ready to submit & refer the Demands: And t / Petitioners, finding t / sd Co, far fm payg a proper Regard to such the Application, were abt to send new Officers to the Settlements in Africa, wh, in / Approhemⁿ o / Petitioners, not be attended w dangerous Consequences, not only to the Interests, but also t o / Publick, / Petitioners, in or abt / month o June following, remonstrated to / sd Co, in Writg, / Improperly o the taking such a Step at t Time, & under the then Circumstances, w^t / Consent o the Creditors, or Approbaⁿ o his Majesty, notwth wh, / sd new Officers h^{ve} been sent away, & as / Petitioners are informed, in a manner not warranted by / Charter o / sd Co: And therefore prayg / House, as well on / Publick as the private acct T / most & speedy & effective Measures may be taken f preservg / sd Forts, Settlements, & Territories to Gr Britain & / Slaves & o^r movable Effects o / sd Co fm be^g imbezzled or misapplied; & t / Nature & Amt o the Debts may be inquired into, examined, & settled in such manner as / House sh judge expedient; & t / Equivalents or Compensaⁿ, wh / House sh be pleased to grant f / sd Estates & Possessⁿ, may be secured & applied in First place f / Benefit o such as, upon due Enquiry & Examinaⁿ, sh appear to be just & bona fide Creditors: or t / House will be pleased to grant / sd Creditors such o^r Relief, in / Premises as to / House sh seem meet.

Ordered, T / sd Petⁿ do lie upon / Table.

Ordered, T / Royal African Co o England do lay before African this House, a list o / Debts claimed, & allowed as due, fm Co / sd Co; distinguishing / Times when / sd Debts were contracted

Ordered, T / sd Co do lay before this House, a Copy o / Charter granted to / sd Co, by King Charles / Second.

Ordered, T / sd Co do lay before this House, a Copy o / Remonstrance fm / Creditors o / sd Co, touchg / Surrender o the Forts & Settlements to his Majesty, delivered to / Court o Assistants o / sd Co, in or abt / Month o May 1748

Ordered, T / sd Co do lay before this House a Copy o a letter or Remonstrance, fm / sd Creditors, or the Agents, relatg to / sd Co sendg out new Officers or Servants to Africa, delivered to / sd Court o Assistants, in or abt / Month o June 1748.

867]

Veneris, 12^o die Maii;
Anno 22^o Georgii II^o Regis, 1749

868]

African Co

Ordered, T / Petition o / Royal African Co o England, wh was presented to this House on Friday / 5th Day o this instant May; & then ordered to lie upon / Table, be referred to / Consideration o / Committee o / whole House.

Ordered, T / Petition o / sd Persons whose Names are therein subscribed, Creditors o / Royal African Co, on behalf o themselves & wtho / Creditors o / sd Co, wh was presented to / House upon Tuesday / 1st Day o this instant May; & then ordered to lie upon / Table, be referred to / Consideration o / sd Committee.

Resolved, T this House will upon Tuesday Seven night resolve itself into a Committee o / whole House, to consider o / sd Petitions.

Ordered, T it be an Instance to / sd Committee, T they do admit / Petitioners, / Royal African Co o England, to be heard by the Counsel, before / sd Committee, upon the Petition, if they think fit

Jovis, 22^o die Maii;
Anno 22^o Georgii II^o Regis, 1749.

Prayers.

The House beg informed, T Mr Spence, Secretary to / Royal African Co o England, attended at / Door;

He was called in; & at / Bar, presented to the House, pursuant to the Order

A list o / Debts claimed & allowed as due fm / Royal African Co o England distinguishing / Times when / sd Debts were contracted; And also,

A Copy o / Charter granted to / Royal African Co o England by King Charles / Second; And also

A Copy o / Remonstrance fm / Creditors o / Royal African England, or the Agents, relatg to touchg / Surrender o the Forts

22.
a Settlements to his Majesty, delivered to / Court^r o Assistants o / sd Co in
or abt / Month o May 1748; And also

A Copy o a letter or Remonstrance fm / Creditors o / Royal African
Co o England, or the Agents, relatg to / sd Co's sendg out new
Officers or Servants to Africa, delivered to / Court^r o Assistants o /
sd Co in or abt / Month o June 1748.

And then he withdrew.

And / Titles o / sd Papers ^{were} read
The sd Papers are bound up w /^r Papers o this Sesⁿ

Ordered T / sd Papers do lie upon / Table, to be perused by /
members o / House.

87.] Martis 23^o die Maii
Anno 22^o Georgii II di Regis, 1749.

87.] The Order o / Day beg read, f / House to resolve itself into a African
Committee o / whole House, to consider / Petⁿ o / Royal African Co
o England, wh was presented to / House on Friday / 5th Day o this instant
May, & also o / Petⁿ o / sevl Persons, whose Names are therunto subscribed,
Creditors o / Royal African Co, on beh^l o themselves & / rest o / Creditors o
/ sd Co, wh was presented to / House upon Tuesday / 9th Day o this instant
May

Ordered, T / list o / debts claimed, & allowed as due, fm / Royal African
Co o England, distinguishg / Times when / sd Debts were contracted, ^{as}
referred to / sd Committee.

Ordered T / Copy o / Charter, granted to / Royal African Co o Eng-
land, by King Charles / Second, be referred to / sd Committee.

Ordered, T / Copy o / Remonstrance fm / Creditors o / Royal African
Co o England touchg / Surrender o the Forts, & Settlements to his Majesty,
delivered to / Court^r o Assistants o / sd Co in or abt / Month o ~~June~~
May 1748, be referred to / sd Committee.

Ordered, T / Copy o a letter, or Remonstrance fm / Creditors o / Royal
African Co o England, or the Agents, relatg to / sd Co's sendg out
new Officers, or Servants to Africa, delivered to / Court^r o Assistants
o / sd Co in or abt / Month o June 1748, be referred to / sd Committee.

Then / House resolved itself into / sd Committee.

Mr Speaker left / Chair

Mr Alderman Bethel took / Chair o / Committee

Mr Speaker resumed / Chair

Mr Alderman Bethel reported fm / Committee, T they had heard
Council on behalf o / Petitioners, / Royal African Co o England; & had
made some Progress in / Matter to them referred; & T he was directed by
/ Committee to move, T they may be desired to sit again

Resolved, That this House will, upon Thursday morning next, resolve itself into a Committee o/ whole House, to consider fur^t o/ sd Petition

873]

Mercurii, 24^o die Maii

Anno 22^o Georgii IIⁱ Regis 1749

Ordered, That Order o/ Day, by / House, to resolve itself into a Committee o/ whole House, to consider fur^t o/ Supply granted to His Majesty, be now read: Supply

And / sd Order beg read accordingly;

The House was moved, That Resolutions wh upon Thursday / Thirteenth Day o April last, were reported fm / Committee o/ whole House, to whom it was referred to consider o/ State o/ Trade to Africa, & were then agreed to by / House, mt be read:

And / same were, as agreed to by / House, read accordingly; & are as followeth: viz.

... [as on p 8 supra - omittg / words "it is / Opinion o/ Committee"]

Ordered That / sd Resolutions be referred to / Consideration o/ Committee o/ whole House, to whom it is referred to consider fur^t o/ Supply granted to His Majesty

Then / House resolved itself into / sd Committee.

Mr Speaker left / Chair

Mr Fane took / Chair o/ Committee

Mr Speaker returned / Chair

Mr Fane reported fm / Committee, That they had come to seal Resolutions; wh they had directed him to report; when / House were please to receive / same

Ordered That / Report be received To-morrow ~~at~~ 10. M. J.

875]

Jovis, 25^o die Maii

Anno 22^o Georgii IIⁱ Regis 1749

876] Supply. Mr Fane, accordg to Order, reported, fm / Committee o/ whole House to whom it was referred to consider fur^t o/ Supply granted to his Majesty, / Resolutions wh / Committee had directed him to report to / House; wh he read in his Place; & afterwards delivered in at / Clerk's Table: where / same were read; & are as followeth; viz.

This Resolved, That it is / Opinion o/ Committee, That sh^e & may be lawful f his Majesty to issue & apply any Sum or Sums o Money, not exceeding Ten thousand Pounds, out o Aids & Supplies granted in this Sesⁿ o Parliamt, towards / Support o/ Trade to Africa; in such manner as his Majesty sh^e Judge proper.

Resolved ... [grant to Georgia].

The sd Resolutions beg severly read a Second time, were, upon / Question severly put thereupon, agreed Unto by / House

Ordered, That be an Instrucⁿ to / Committee o / whole House, to whom / Bill of granting to his Majesty a certain Sum o money out o / Sinking Fund, of / Service o / Year 1749, & also of enabling his Majesty to raise a fur^r Sum of money for / Uses & Purposes therein mentioned; is committed, & they h Power to receive a Clause or Clauses, pursuant to / First o / sd last-mentioned Resolutions.

Ordered, That Mr * Craighton do, To-morrow M^o, attend African / Committee o / whole House, to whom / Bill of extending & Trade improv^g / Trade to Africa is committed.

Ordered That Mr * Shel do attend / sd Committee at / same Time

Ordered, That Mr * Roberts " " " " " "

Ordered, That Mr * King " " " " " "

The House beg informed, That Mr Spence, Secretary to / Royal African Co o England, attended at / Door;

He was called in; & at / Bar, acquainted / House. That he was ordered, by / sd Co, to lay before / House, a Proposal o / Royal African Co o England.

And he delivered in / sd Proposal.

And then he withdrew

And / sd Proposal was read; & is as followeth; Viz.

To / Honourable / Commons o Gr Britain in Parliam^t assembled;

The humble Proposal o / Royal African Co o England.

The Co beg indebted to sundry Persons in / Sum o One hundred & Seven thousand, Two hundred & Sixty-two Pounds Eight Shillings & Five Pence, as appears by an Acct delivered in to this Honourable House, / Twenty-second o this Instant, pursuant to the Order; & has^g on heard, by the Council, agst / Bill of extending & improv^g / Trade to Africa, w respect to the Property, humbly hope & rely, That they h made it appear t they h an undoubted Right to / Lands granted by the Charter, & to / Forts & Castles by them purchased & built thereon.

But / sd Co beg willing & desirous to do & contribute all in the Power to facilitate such Measures as this Honourable House, in the gr Wisdom, sh judge most proper to be taken, of extend^g & improv^g / sd Trade, & of preserv^g / same to Posterity, do, in / most humble & dutiful Manner, beg leave to offer / immediate Surrender o the Charter, Forts, Castles,

277] q^d Property in Africa, o what Nature or Kind soever, upon / Foot o
following Proposal

The Proposal,
T this Honourable House, will be pleased to make Provisⁿ f / Pay-
mt o all such o / Co's Debts, as sh^d appear to be justly due; & t^{al} all
Such Debts be either paid in Money, or by Annuities, at / Rate o
Three per Cent, to commence fm / Thirty-first o March last,
redeemable by Parliam^t;

And also to grant unto / Co / Sum o Twenty-five thousand
Pounds, to be paid & divided amongst / Proprietors o / Stock, in
proportⁿ to th^r respective Interest therein, or an Annuity o / s^{ch}
Twenty-five thousand Pounds per Cent per Annum, redeemable
by Parliam^t.

All wh^{ch} is most humbly submitted to / Consideraⁿ o this Hon-
ourable House

African House
May 25th 1749

By Order o / African Co o England
R^d Spence (L^S)

Secretary

Ordered, T / s^d Proposal be referred to / Committee o / whole
House, to whom it is referred to consider fur^e o / Petition o / Royal
African Co o England, wh^{ch} was presented to / House upon Friday / 5th
Day o this instant May; & also / Petⁿ o / sevl Persons, whose Names
are therunto subscribed, Creditors o / Royal African Co o England, in behalf
o themselves, & / rest o / Creditors o / s^d Co, wh^{ch} was presented to / House
upon Tuesday / 9th Day o this instant May.

The 2^d Order o / Day begⁿ read;

Resolved. T this House will, To-morrow at Twelve o / African
Clock, resolve itself into a Committee o / whole House, to
consider fur^e o / Petition o / Royal African Co o England wh^{ch} was pre-
sented to / House upon Friday / 5th Day o this instant May; & also
o / Petⁿ o / sevl Persons, Creditors o / Royal African Co. . . .
wh^{ch} was presented to / House upon Tuesday / 9th Day o this
instant May.

And then / House adjourned till To-morrow M^o 9, June
o / Clock.

Veneris, 26^o die Maii;

Anno 22^o Georgii II^{di} Regis, 1749.

880] The House, accordg to Order, resolv'd itself into African
 a Committee o/ whole House to consider fur^r o/
 Petⁿ o/ Royal African Co o England, wh was presented
 to / House upon Friday / Fifth Day o this Instant May; & also /
 Petⁿ o/ sevl Persons, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, Credi-
 tors o/ Royal African Co, in behalf o themselves & resp o / Credi-
 tors o / sd Co, wh was presented to / House upon Tuesday / 9th
 Day o this Instant May.

Mr Speaker left / Chair.
 Mr Alderman Bethell took / Chair o / Committee
 Mr Speaker returned / Chair.

Mr Alderman Bethell reported for / Committee, T they had
 come to a Resolⁿ: wh they had directed him to report, when / House
 will please to receive / same.

Ordered. T / Report be received upon Tuesday M^o next

The Order of Day beg read, & / House to resolve itself African
 into a Committee o/ whole House, upon / Bill & extendg Trade.
 & improvg / Trade to Africa;

Resolved, T this House will, upon Wednesday M^o next,
 resolve itself into a Committee o/ whole House, upon / sd Bill,

And then / House adjourned till Monday next, Twelve
 o' Clock.

Martis, 30^o die Maii;

Mmo 22^o Georgii II^{di} Regis 1749.

882] African Mr Alderman Bethell, accordg to Order, reported,
 Co for / Committee o/ whole House, to whom it was
 referred to consider o / Petition o / Royal African
 Co o England... presented to / House upon Friday / 5th Day o ... May;
 & also o / Petⁿ o / sevl Persons... Creditors o / Royal African Co...
 presented to / House upon Tuesday / 9th Day o ... May; / Resolⁿ
 wh / Committee had directed him to report to / House; which he read
 in his Place; & afterwards delivered in at / Clerk's Table; where /
 same was read; & is as followeth, viz

Resolved T it is / Opinion o this Committee T a reasonable Compensaⁿ
 be given to / Royal African Co, whenever they sh be diverted o the Charter,
 Lands, Forts, Castles, Slaves, & all o^r Effects thereunto belongg; & t such
 Compensaⁿ sh be, in / first place, applied f^r & towards / Paym^t of bona fide
 Creditors o / sd Co.

The sd Resolⁿ beg read a Second time, was, upon / Quesⁿ put ther upon
 agreed to by / House.

865]

Mercurii, 31^o die Maii:
 Anno 22^o Georgii II^{di} Regis 1749

864] African Trade. The Order o/ Day, f/ House, to resolve itself into a Committee o/ whole House, upon / Bill f/ extend^g & improv^g / Trade to Africa, was read; -
 A Message fm / Lords

African Trade Resolved, T this House will To-morrow M^g resolve itself into a Committee o/ whole House, upon / Bill f/ extend^g & improv^g / Trade to Africa.

Jovis, 1^o die Junii;

Anno 22^o Georgii II^{di} Regis, 1749.

865]

African Trade. The ^d Order o/ Day beg read, f/ House, to resolve itself into a Committee o/ whole House, upon / Bill f/ extend^g & improv^g / Trade to Africa.

Ordered, T it be an Instruction to /sd Committee, T they be Power to make Provisⁿ in /sd Bill, f/ examining into / State & Conditⁿ o/ Forts & Settlements in Possessⁿ o/ / Royal African Co. on / Coast o/ Africa, & f/ examining into / Claims o/ Creditors o/ /sd Co.

Then / House resolved itself into a Committee o/ whole House, upon /sd Bill

Mr Speaker left / Chair

Mr Hoblyn took / Chair o/ Committee

Mr Speaker returned / Chair

Mr Hoblyn reported fm / Committee, T they had made some Progress in / Bill; & t he was directed by / Committee to move, T they may be leave, to sit agn.

Resolved, T this House will, To-morrow M^g, resolve itself into a Committee o/ whole House, to consider fm o/ /sd Bill
 And then / House adjourned till To-morrow M^g, Nine o/ Clock.

Veneris, 2^o die Junii;
Anno 22^o Georgii II^o de Regis, 1749

The Order of Day beg^d read;
The House resolved itself into a Committee of whole House
to consider fur^t o' Bill of extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa African Trade
Mr Speaker left / Chair
Mr Hoblyn took / Chair of Committee
Mr Speaker resumed / Chair
Mr Hoblyn reported fm / Committee, T they hd gone thro' / Bill, & made sev^l Amendm^{ts} thereunto; wh^{ch} they hd directed him to report, when / House will please to receive / same.
Ordered, T / Report be received upon Monday next.

Lunae, 5^o die Junii;
Anno 22^o Georgii II^o de Regis, 1749.

Prayers
Mr Hoblyn, accordy to Order, reported, fm / Committee of whole House to whom / Bill of extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa was committed; / Amendm^{ts} wh^{ch} / Committee had made to / Bill; & wh^{ch} they hd directed him to report to / House; & he read / Report in his Place; & afterwards delivered / Bill, wth Amendm^{ts}, in at / Clerk's Table: where / Amendm^{ts} were once read throughout; & then a second time, one by one; & upon / Quesⁿ Scully put thereupon, except One, v^{ch} them, wh^{ch} was disagreed to, were, wth Amendm^{ts} to sev^l o' them, agreed to by / House.
8661 Ordered, T / Bill, wth / Amendm^{ts}, be ingrossed.

Martis, 6^o die Junii
Anno 22^o Georgii II^o de Regis 1749.

African Trade. An ingrossed Bill of extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa, was read / Third time
The Amendm^{ts} following was proposed to be made to / Bill: viz.
Press II. line 35. To leave out "as aforesaid"
And / same was, upon / Quesⁿ put thereupon, agreed to by / House
And / Bill was amended at / Table accordingly

Resolved, T / Bill do pass; And t / Title be, That Act for extending & improving Trade to Africa.

Ordered, T Sir William Yonge do carry / Bill to / Lords, & desire the Concurrence.

928]

Janis 18^o die Januarii;

Anno 23^o Georgii II^o Regis, 1749.

942] African
Co.

A Petition o / Royal African Co o England, beg offered to be presented to / House.

Mr Chancellor o / Exchequer, by his Majesty's Command, acquainted / House, T his Majesty, having bin informed of Contents o / sd Petition, recommends it to / Consideration o / House, to do therein as they sh^d think fit.

Then / sd Petition was bro't up & read; settg forth, T / gr^o & heavy Charges o maintaining / Forts belongg to / Petitioners, since / Trade to Africa has bin free & open to all his Majesty's Subjects, & not only bin / principal Means o exhaustg / Capitals t^h bin, bin time to time, paid in & subscribed by / Petitioners, but / Petitioners & also bin obliged to contract many & gr^o Debts to / Am^t o abt Oze hundred & thirty thousand Pounds, wh they are unable to pay & satisfy; or make any Agreement f / same, w^t / M^d o this House; And t / many Damages to wh / African Trade, especially t o / Gold Coast, is now exposed, is too well known: And t / Preservation thereof entirely depends upon / speedy M^d o Parliament, in making an effectual Provision f / maintenance & Support o / British Forts & Castles belongg to / Petitioners; And t / Trade f / request o / Gold Coast, wh are / best & most valuable the goods f / British Colonies, & wh are now g^oly wanted; & also / Inland Trade f / Gold, Ivory, Precious-stone, Dyg-woods, Gums & gr^o Commodities, is capable o be g^oly extended & improved, by a Joint-stock Co; And if / House sh^d think fit, to make a sufficient & effectual Provision f / maintenance o / Petitioners Forts & Castles, & so t / Provision thereof may not lie on / Trade, / Petitioners are ready & able, & offer, to procure a Subscription o a sufficient Joint-stock to be employed in / sd Trade, under, & subject to, all reasonable Regulations; & also to take upon themselves / Satisfyg o / Debts owg by / Petitioners, & submittg it to / Consideration o / House, wh^o such a Joint-stock to be actually employed in / sd Trade is not, in / Nature o Thg^s, / best & most effectual Security t can be given to / Th^o. f / due Application o / Money to be granted f / maintenance o / sd Forts; And f^o settg forth, T / Petitioners

are also ready to Submit to all such Regul^{ns} on behalf of /
separate Traders, as / House sh think fit: And therefore
pray / House to take / Premises into the Consideration, & make
such effectual Provision for Maintenance of / sd Forts & Castles as /
House sh think most conducive to / Retrieving, Extending, & Pre-
serv^g of / sd Trade; & to grant / Petitioners such or Relief
in / Premises as to / House sh seem meet.

Ordered. T / sd Petⁿ do lie upon / Table.

Martis, 6^o die Februarii;

Anno 23^o Georgii II^o Regis, 1749.

A Petⁿ of Merchants of City of London trading to Africa & / African
British Plantans in America, was presented to / House, & read; Trade
sett^g forth, T / Trade to / Coast of Africa is of utmost Consequence
to this Ream, & to / British Plantans; & t^e past Experience has incon-
testably proved, t^e this Trade has declined or flourish'd in proportion as it has
bn restrained or left free & open; t^e / British Forts & Settlements on t^e
Coast mt be rendered q^{ly} serviceable to / Trade in gen, if put under
such Regulans, as t^e all his Majesty's Subjects mt equally enjoy / Benefit
of / Trade wth / Negro Merchants; wh^{ch} / Petitioners apprehend they wd
be debarr'd of, if placed under / Direction of a Joint-Stock Co; & t^e some
of his Majesty's Ships of War, properly station'd on t^e Coast, are / great
Security agst / Merchants of Foreign Nations, / Insults of an Enemy, &
/ Passage of Pirates; And therefore pray, t^e this Trade may continue
free & open to all his Majesty's Subjects; & t^e / sd Forts & Settlements
may be put under such Management, as will be most conducive
to this End; & t^e such Provision may be made for their Support & Maintenance
as to / House sh seem meet.

A Petⁿ of Mayor, Burgesses, & Commonalty, of City of Bristol,
under the Common Seal, was also presented to / House, & read;
sett^g forth, T / Trade to / Coast of Africa is of very considerable
Consequence to / gen Interest of / Kingdom & particularly affects / Merchants,
& or trad^g inhabitants of / sd Ken City, who h^{ve} long adventur'd the Properties
therein & carry on / same in a vt extensive manner; & / Petitioners are well
satisfy'd they will continue to do so whilst t^e Trade remains free & open;
& t^e / Petitioners conceive, t^e by supporting / British Forts & Settlements on / Coast
of Africa, under such Regulans as sh be for / common Benefit of his
Majestys Subjects, his Majesty's Rights of Sovereignty & Possession will
be preserved & / Forts & Settlements made serviceable to Trade; but t^e they
will become highly prejudicial to it, if placed in / Hands of any Joint-
Stock Co; And therefore pray / House, T / Trade to Africa may remain free &
open to all his Majesty's Subjects; & t^e / Forts & Settlements may not be placed
in / hands of any Joint-Stock Co.

African
Trade.

A Petition of Masters, Wardens, Assistants, & Commonalty, of
Society of Merchant Adventurers, within / City of Bristol under the
Common Seal, was also presented to / House & read; settg forth
T / Trade to / Coast of / Africa a more especially to / Gold
Coast, is of a g^d & considerable Consequence to / Interest of / Kingdom in gen,
& to t^e City of / sd Coast, for whome / same is / carried on in a
of extensive Manner; & t^e / ascending of / sd Trade truly beneficial to
all his Majesty's Subjects, will entirely depend on keepg it still free &
open; T / Petitioners apprehend, t^e / British Forts & Settlements on / sd
Coast are proper to be supported upon a respectable Foot, for preservg
his Majesty's Right of Sovereignty, & under due Regulations may be made
serviceable to Trade; but will become a g^d Burthen & highly prejudicial
to it, if placed in / Hands of any Joint-Stock Co.; & t^e a sufficient Num-
ber of his Majesty's Ships of War, properly station'd on / sd Coast, will
tend g^{dly} to / Security & Protectⁿ of / sd Trade: And therefore pray, T
/ sd Trade may still be preserved free & open; & t^e / sd Forts &
Settle^{mts} may be taken under his Majesty's immediate Protectⁿ & / Care
thereof committed to Merchants, who sh^d h^{ve} no o^r Advantage in / sd
Trade than in Common wth all his Majesty's Subjects; w^{ch} t^e such Priv^{ileg}
may be made f^r / Support & Maintenance of / sd Forts & Settlements as to /
House sh^d seem meet.

A Petition of Merchants, & o^{rs}, concern'd in / African Trade, from /
Town of Liverpool, was also presented to / House, & read; settg forth
T / Petitioners of a g^d many Years past, h^{ve} had, & now hold, a prin-
cipal Share in / Trade to / diff^r Parts of / African Coast; & can say,
t^e they h^{ve} done as much, at least, as any of / Part of / British Subjects,
in bringg it to t^e flourishg State wh^{ch} / Naⁿ at present enjoys / Benefit
of; T it appears plain to / Petitioners, from Reason, long Experience, &
various Trials, t^e this Branch of foreign Commerce can never be
preserved & supported in G^d Britain by any Joint-Stock Co. tradg
Co. whatso^{ev}, but only by a free & open Exercise of it on One & one
Foot allow'd to w^{ch} Adventurers; T / Forts & Settlements on / African
Coast h^{ve} hitherto bin, & will always remain while in a Co's Hands,
a Prejudice & Discouragem^{nt} to / Trade; but m^{ay} probably be rendered
of serviceable Use if either taken immediately into / Hands of / Gov^t,
& supported at a national Expence, f^r / impartial Benefit of w^{ch}
one concern'd in it, w^{ch} put into / Hands of a regulated Co. all /
African Merchants in G^d Britain, on some such Plan as was proposed
in / Bill wh^{ch} pass'd in / House last Ses^{sn} of Parliam^t; & in such
manner, as no Part of / British Subjects sh^d obtain superior Benefits
from them above the Felicitas, nor any distinguishg Advantages in
/ Prosecutⁿ of any Part of his Trade; T / Petitioners think this, is
/ Countenance of a Man of War or Two station'd on / Coast, is / only
effectual Way to enable / Subjects of this Kingdom to contend wth

all the foreign Bivials, & to perpetuate to / Naⁿ a principal Share in / valuable Advantages o an African Trade; And therefore pray^d to be continued in / Same free & open Exercise o this Branch o Commerce, wh^{ch} for many Years / Petitioners h^{ave} enjoy^d. & / Naⁿ in gen has found so g^{reat} beneficial; & t^{he} bold Attempts, groundless Insinuations, & false Suggest^{ions}, o a few, who seem to h^{ave} little Acquaintance w^{ith} / African Trade or Coast, & w^{ith} / least Merit on wh^{ich} to ground the Expectants o those peculiar Advantages above the Fellow-Subjects, wh^{ich} they are so strenuously contend^{ing} f^{or}, may not prevail to deprive / Petitioners o any of the valuable trad^{ing} Rights, or to cramp them in any degree in / Exercising o them; And further pray^d, T^{hat} / Forts & Settlements on / Coast may be f^{ully} / future put under such a Management & Regulat^{ion} as to / House sh^{all} seem meet, in order to give / Petitioners, & w^{ith} British Adventurers w^{ith} Detachments, an equal Share in / Benefit o them.

The sd Pet^{itions} were severally ordered to lie upon / Table.

Mr John Pitt, fm / Commissioners of Trade & Plantat^{ions}, pre- African Trade
 sented to / House, by his Majesty's Command

- CO. 386/44 No 1. Copy o a Representat^{ion} & Proposals o Royal African Co, to / the Commissioners of Trade & Plantat^{ions}, f^{or} secur^{ing}, improv^{ing}, & extend^{ing}, / Trade to Africa:
- CC 51. No 2. Copy o a Memorial o / Royal African Co, to / Commissioners of Trade & Plantat^{ions}; w^{ith} an Estimate o / Charges o a military Force f^{or} support^{ing} the Forts & Settlements in Africa:
- CC 53. No 3. Copy o a Plan fm sev^{eral} Merchants o London, to / Commissioners of Trade & Plantat^{ions}, f^{or} better regulat^{ing} & carry^{ing} on / Trade to Africa:
- CC 60. No 4. Copy o a Scheme fm sev^{eral} African Merchants, & Traders o / City o London, to / Commissioners of Trade & Plantat^{ions}, f^{or} secur^{ing}, improv^{ing}, & extend^{ing}, / Trade to Africa:
- CC 58. No 5. Copy o a Scheme fm / Merchants o Bristol, to / Commissioners of Trade & Plantat^{ions}, f^{or} secur^{ing}, improv^{ing}, & extend^{ing}, / Trade to Africa:
- CC 54. No 6. Copy o a Representat^{ion} fm / Merchants trad^{ing} to Africa fm / Port o Liverpool to / Commissioners of Trade & Plantat^{ions}, f^{or} carry^{ing} on, extend^{ing} & secur^{ing}, / Trade to Africa:
- CC 59. No 7. Copy o a Representat^{ion} fm / Sugar Planters, & d^{irectors} to / Commissioners of Trade & Plantat^{ions}, f^{or} retriev^{ing}, extend^{ing}, & preserv^{ing}, / Trade to Africa. To g^o w^{ith} a list o / sd Papers.

Mr John Pitt also presented to / House,
 CO 389/30 A Representat^{ion} to / House fm / Commissioners of Trade & Plantat^{ions}.
 p. 199. relat^{ing} to / sd Papers.
 And / sd Representat^{ion} was read:

And /sd ~~into~~ List of Papers were also read.

The sd Papers & Representation was bound up w/ sd Papers of this Sesⁿ.

Resolved, That this House will, upon Thursday Seven-night, resolve itself into a Committee of whole House, to consider of /sd Papers.

Ordered, That /sd Papers be printed.

963]

Veneris, 9^o die Februarii;

Anno 23^o Georgii II^{di} Regis, 1749.

A Petⁿ of Merchants, Traders, & Jus. o / Town o Lancaster, African Trade. was presented to / House & read; sett^g forth, That Petitioners are informed, that a Scheme is now carry^g on of monopoliz^g / Trade to Africa, wch, / Petitioners apprehend, if carried into Executi^o & extensive Trade put under / Direction of a Joint-Stock Co, will be highly prejudicial not only to / gr^t Number of Merchants now concerned in t^e Trade, but also to / Man in Gen; And therefore pray, That all / British Subjects, w^{ch} hitherto may be continued on t^e free or open Exercise of Trade to all / dift^t Parts o / African Coast, wch they now enjoy, & wch of many Years past has bin, & now

964] is, in / highest Degree, found Beneficial to / Man, & t^e no Part o them may be put under any Distinguis^hg Distinctions in / Protec^{ti}oⁿ o it. African Trade. A Petⁿ of seve^ral Traders & Inhabitants o / Town o Manchester, in / County o Lancaster, was also presented to / House, & read; sett^g forth, That / Petitioners are informed, that is a Scheme formed, & now offered to this House, by a few ~~West~~ West India Planters in London to deprive / Out-ports o this Kingdom, & all / rest o his Majesty's British Subjects, o / Liberty o Trad^g to / African Coast, wch they now enjoy; therefore pray - ... [in identical terms as Lancaster, supra] ... And /sd Petⁿs were severly ordered to lie upon / Table.

981]

Jovis, 12^o die Februarii

Anno 23^o Georgii II^{di} Regis, 1749.

985] African Trade. A Petⁿ o / Mayor, Aldermen, Bailives & Burgesses o / Borough o Wigan in / County o Lancaster, & o^r Trad^g Inhabitants th^r, was presented to / House & read; alleg^g That / Petitioners have bin informed, That an Application hath bin lately made to this House by seve^ral Merchants, & o^r West India Traders, resident in & near London, that they may be enabled to form themselves into a Joint Co trad^g to / African Coast, & to h^{av}e t^e Branch o foreign Commerce entirely confined to themselves, & thereby to deprive all / rest o / British Subjects o t^e Freedom & Liberty o Trade they h^{av}e long enjoyed on t^e Coast; / Petitioners apprehend, that any such Attempt must be v^{er}y destructive to / Trad^g

Interest o Gr Brittain, by putt^g / grst Part o it under an apparent^r
Disencourage^{mt} & confing & Limit^g this Branch o / African Trade,
wh many Years Experience has shewn can be / most successfully
carried on when free & open to every Trade^r Subject: And pray^g
/ House to take / Premises into Consideraⁿ, & to protect & continue
all / Subjects o Gr Brittain, w^{ch} Distincⁿ, in / full enjoy^{mt} o / free &
open Exercise o the Trade & Commerce Call / diff^r Parts o / African
Coast, wh they h long enjoyed, & wh has bin found in / highest Degree
beneficial to this Kingdom.

Ordered, T / sd Petⁿ do lie upon / Table.

992] Martis, 13^o die Februarii
Anno 23^o Georgii II^{di} Regis, 1749.

995] Creditors A Petⁿ o / sevr Creditors o / Royal African Co o
o / African England, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, on
Co. behalf o themselves, & / rest o / just & bona fide Creditors
o / sd Co, was presented to / House & read / sett^g forth,
T / Petitioners are surpris^d & alarm^d to find / Royal African Co
(after such Solemn & repeated Declarat^{ns} o this latter Inability) now
receiv^g bin / Proposal by them made to this House last Year, & offer^g, by
the present Petⁿ, to take upon themselves / satisfy o the Debts, th^{at} alleg^d to
amount to abt One hundred & Thirty thousand Pounds; & t^h bin / Cos present
distressful S^{itua}n, / Petitioners con^{se}nt, but little like lihood o the be^g able
in a^g number o Years, if sever, to satisfy & discharge so lge a Sum; & /
fatal Experience they h had o / Cos treat^{mt} o the Creditors, / Desire insinuated
in the sd Petⁿ a be^g enabled to make some Agree^{mt} w^{ch} the Debt^s, & /
/ Suspicious o late endeavour^d to be rais^d agst / trad^g Part o / Creditors,
as if they hd taken unjst Advantages o Cos Necessities, afford but
too much Reason to suspect, t^h / Cos Inten^{ts} are (how^{ev}r flourish^g
soever the Circumst^{es} may hereafter prove) to force the Creditors
into a Composⁿ, by litigat^g the most just Demands: And t^h, to obviate
so false & injurious an Aspersion, & to give / House / strongest Assurance
& Satisfacⁿ o / Foreigners o these Demands, / Petitioners, & oths o the Fellow-
Sufferers (whose Claims am^t to abt Fifty thousand Pounds) h volun-
tarily verified / same by Affidavits, whereby it well appear, t^h most o /
Debts wh h accrued f^r Goods, Work, & Materials, were contracted
upon express Promises on / part o / Co; & in full expectaⁿ, on / Part
o / Creditors, o immediate Pay^{mt} on^t o / Debt bin time to time granted by
Parliam^{nt} f^r / Support o / sd Cos Forts & Castles on / Coast o Africa; & t^h this House,
havig, last Sessⁿ, on tender Composⁿ o / ill Treat^{mt} & Distresses o / sd

Creditors, bⁿ generally pleased to take them under the Proteⁿ / Petition
Petitioners trust they sh^d not be agn left at / Mercy o / Co, or to / Hazard
o a precarious Undertak^g; And therefore pray^g / House, T they may
continue under / Proteⁿ o Parliam^t, wh, as they esteem to be the highest
Honour + Security, they sh^d enter wth utmost + most respectful Gratitude
remember + acknowledge.

Ordered t / sd Petⁿ do lie upon / Table.

African Trade. A Petⁿ o / Mayor, Aldermen, / principal Tradesmen, + In-
habitants o / ancient Corporaⁿ o Rippon &c was read pre-
sented to / House, + read; alleg^g. The pernicious Scheme has
bⁿ formed + offered to Parliam^t by some West India Planters in
London to deprive / Out-ports o this Kingdom ... [Petition continues in
similar terms to those fm Lancaster + Manchester supra p 23] ...

African Trade. A Petⁿ o / Inhabitants o Borough o Preston in County o
Lancaster was also presented to / House + read; alleg^g ... [in
similar terms to / above fm Rippon] ...
And / sd Petⁿs were severally ordered to lie upon / Table.

995]

Jo^{is}. 15^o die Februarii;

Mmo 23^o Georgii II^{ae} Regis, 1749.

African Trade. Ordered t Mr Thomas Melch do this Day attend / Com-
mittee o / whole House, to whom it is referred to consider
o / Papers presented to / House upon / 6th Day o this
instam^t February, fm / Commissioners o Trade + Plantⁿ,
relat^g to / Trade to Africa.

998]. African Trade. A Petⁿ o / Mayor, Aldermen, + principal Tradesmen
o / City o Coventry was presented to / House, + read;
... [in similar terms to previous ones, agst / RAC. + in
favour o a free trade] ...
A Petⁿ ~~fm~~ o / Mayor, Aldermen, Common-Council, free Burg-
hers, + Freeomen, o / Borough o Appleby, in / County o Westmoreland,
was also presented to / House, + read; sett^g forth ... [in similar terms
to previous ones, agst / RAC's scheme o monopoly + in favour o a free + open trade] ...

African Trade A Petition of Merchants of Town of Plymouth, trading to Africa, & British Plantations, was also presented to / House & read; alleg^d... [to the same effect as the said Petition of London - p 20, supra.]

The Petitioners state in parenthesis - "(The Merchants of sd Town have sent Three Sail of Ships to / Gold Coast this last Year)."
And / sd Petition was severally ordered to be referred to / Consideration of Committee of whole House, to whom it is referred to consider o / Papers presented to / House upon / Sixth Day of this instant February, fm / Commissioners of Trade & Plantations, relating to / Trade to Africa.

000]. African Trade. The Order of Day being read, / House to resolve itself into a Committee of whole House to consider o / Papers presented to / House upon / Sixth Day of this instant February, fm / Commissioners of Trade & Plantations, relating to / Trade to Africa.

Ordered / sd Papers be referred to / sd Committee.
Ordered / sd Petition presented to / House on this Sessⁿ of Parliament relating to / Trade to Africa (wh^{ch} h^{as} not already b^{een} referred to / Consideration of / sd Committee) be referred to / Consideration of / sd Committee.

A Motion was made & / Question being put, / Mr Speaker do now leave / Chair.
The House divided.

The Votes went forth.
Tellers for / Year { Mr Nugent } 76
 { Colonel Leighton }
Tellers for / Month { Mr Ellis } 88
 { Mr S. Sturham }

So it passed in / negative

Resolved, / This House will, upon Monday next, at Twelve o / Clock, resolve itself into a Committee of whole House, to consider / sd Papers.

Ordered, / Mr J Spooner do, upon Monday next, at Twelve o / Clock, attend / sd Committee of whole House, to whom it is referred to consider / sd Papers.

Ordered, / Mr Zach Bourrignon do attend / sd Committee at / same time

- " " Mr Mathews Mills " " "
- " " Mr Tobias Faere " " "
- " " Mr Jonas Langford " " "
- " " Mr William Whitaker " " "
- " " Mr James J. Maxwell " " "
- " " Mr Joseph Osborne Bruce " " "
- " " Mr Thomas Strade " " "
- " " Mr Thomas Walker " " "
- " " Mr Jonas Maynard " " "

Ordered, T^{ms} Alexander Johnston do attend / s^d Committee at / same time.

"	"	<u>Mr George Barclay</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr Beeton Long</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr James Gordon</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr James Gray</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr Valentine Morris</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr John Ashley</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr Julines Beckford</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr J. Drax</u> <u>Edward Drax</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr Francis Mahon</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr Je. French</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr Edward Garthwaite</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr John Colleton</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr James Herbert</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr Thomas Hart</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr John Ashley</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr James Egan</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr J. Spearer</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr Samuel Martin senior</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr Thomas Walker</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr Thomas Melvil</u>	"	"	"
"	"	<u>Mr John Sharpe, Agent of</u> <u>Jamaica & Barbadoes</u>	"	"	"

dumae, 19^o die Februarii;

Anno 23^o Georgii II^o de Regis 1749.

Prayer

Prayers

African Trade City of Carlisle, whose hands are therunto subscribed, was presented to / House & read: alleg^o... [pray^o for a free & open trade.]

Ordered T / s^d Pet^o be referred to / Consider^o of Committee of / whole House, to whom it is referred to consider of / Papers presented to / House upon / Sixth Day of this instant February, for / Com-
missioners of Trade & Plantations, relat^g to / Trade to Africa.

African Trade. A Pet^o of / subscrib^g Planters & Merchants interested in, & relat^g to, / British Sugar Settlements in America, was

presented to / House & read; alleg^d, T / UY Exist^{ce} & Preservation of
 Sugar Colonies depend upon / British Trade to Africa; & as / sett^g
 a / fac^g / manner o carry^g on this Trade / future is more under
 / Considerⁿ o this House, & as / Fortune^s o most o / Petitioners
 are in / Sugar Colonies, begg^d Leave to submit & lay before this
 House those Methods by wh^{ch}, as / Petitioners conceive, t^e valuable
 Branch o Commerce, in wh^{ch} / gen Trade & Navigⁿ o this Naⁿ
 is so essentially interested can only be ret^{ain}ed, preserv^d, & extend^d:
 And sett^g forth, T / dangerous Rival^s to this Naⁿ. / French, carry
 on success^{fully} this Branch o Trade to / Coast o Guin^{ea} by wh^{ch} they
 are enabled to improve & extend to an incredible Height the Com^{me}
 merce to s^{up}rn the Sugar Colonies; & t^e notwth / Crown o G^{reat} Britain
 has bin in Poss^{ess}on o t^e Trade, part^{ly} on / Gold Coast & West^{ern} Coast
 above Four Score Years. Y^t / French are daily encroach^{ing} on / Rights
 o / British Subjects ther^e; & are continu^{ing} such des^{er}ve^d endeavours to t^e
 Degree, t^e unless immedi^{ate} Care is taken to preserv^e / Forts & Forti-
 fications on t^e Coast, / French will soon become Masters thereof, &
 consequently o / most valuable Branches o Trade, on / Coast o Africa,
 & thereby soon exclude / Subjects o G^{reat} Britain fr^{om} s^{ay} Part^s o t^e Coast,
 as they h^{ave} already done fr^{om} / Gum Coast: And, as / proper Methods
 to preserv^e & secure this Trade to / British Subjects & to render it bene-
 ficial to / British Sugar Colonies, fr^{om} alleg^d, T / British Forts & Forti-
 fications sh^{ould} be put into a constantly kept, not only in a de-
 fensible, but in a respectable Conditi^{on}; & t^e as / Act o Parliam^{ent}
 is absolutely necessary f^{or} t^e Purpose, I find^e o grant^{ing} such Act
 will be much better answer^d by Commit^{ting} t^e Trust & Applicati^{on}
 o / Money / House sh^{ould} think proper to grant, to an^{ny} Incorporat^{ed}
 Body o Men, or a Joint-Stock made answerable, under Penalties,
 f^{or} / due Executi^{on} thereof, than to any temporary, mutable, & transi-
 ent Set o Men what so^{ever}, who m^{ay} renounce it at pleasure, & who wd
 be answerable each f^{or} his own Acts only, & not One f^{or} / Helgoland; And
 a t^e / Trade to t^e Part^s o / Coast o Africa called Guin^{ea} will, as /
 Petitioners conceive, be carried on more beneficially to / British Naⁿ
 & its Colonies, if, besides leav^{ing} it free & open to all his Majesty's
 Subjects, a Co w^{ith} a joint trad^{ing} Stock be likewise permitted to trade
 thither, than it possibly can possibly be by private traders only, w^{ith}
 such a Co; so as such a Co are invest^{ed} w^{ith} no Rights or Privileges
 to exclude, obstruct, or hinder, any o^r o his Majesty's Subjects fr^{om}
 trad^{ing} ther^e; but sh^{ould}, on / contrary, be restrain^d therefr^{om}, & put under
 1000] Such Regulati^{ons} & Restricti^{ons} as sh^{ould} leave / Trade, & / Use & Employ^{ment}
 o / Forts & Settlements ther^e, equally as free & open to all his Majesty's^e Subjects
 as to such Co; w^{ith} this part^{ial} Conditi^{on}, t^e such Co sh^{ould} be restrain^d fr^{om} carry^{ing}
 more than a certain Number o Negroes annually (to be limit^{ed} by Parliam^{ent})
 to / British Colonies; & t^e if such a Co are not allowed to carry some
 Negroes to / British Colonies, it may be extremely doubtful w^{hether} they

will be able to employ the Capital to Advantage; & if this is not a reasonable Prospect of it, it cannot be expected that a sufficient Capital will ever be raised; & not only so, but, if such a Co shd not be allow'd to carry a competent Number of Negroes annually, & especially a Gold Coast Negroes, to the British Colonies, the Petitioners & but too much Reason to apprehend that they shd needs be sufficiently supplied wth the goods of the Coast; / consequently which will be, / inevitable Ruin of the British Sugar Colonies; & the Reasons of Petitioners, in Support of these Points, be contained in the Representation to the Lords Commissioners of Trade & Plantations, [cc 59], which has been paid by the Lords before this House; / Petitioners will not trouble the House wth a Repetition of them; & if the Methods thus proposed by the Petitioners be approved, & some Ships or Vessels constantly stationed in the Coast of Africa, wth proper Powers & full Instructions to preserve & in violable Rights of the Crown of Great Britain, & of trading British Subjects, & to prevent Foreigners from carrying on any Trade to the Gold Coast & adjacent, / Petitioners apprehend this most valuable Branch of Commerce will be thereby preserved & extended to the Honour & Interest of this Nation; & the British Colonies be better & cheaper supplied; & the Interest of Petitioners in preserving & extending this Trade, is closely connected wth that of the Nation; & is of such a Nature, as makes it impossible for the Petitioners to be any other Views but such only as are for the Honour & Interest of the Nation; & as shd be most conducive to the Improvement of this Branch of Commerce, as the Preservation or Ruin must go hand in hand wth the African Trade: And therefore pray the House to take the Premises into the most serious Consideration; & that they will make such Provision as shd be sufficient for putting, maintaining, & supporting, the said Trade & Settlements in a defensible & respectable Condition; & that the said Trade may be put into such a Method of Management, as the House shd think most conducive for retrieving, extending, & preserving it.

Ordered that the said Petition be referred to the Committee Consideration of the Committee of the whole House, to whom it is referred to consider of the Papers presented to the House upon the 6th Day of this instant February, from the Commissioners of Trade & Plantations, relating to the Trade to Africa.

Creditors of the African Co Ordered that the Petition of the said Creditors of the Royal African Co of England, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, on behalf of themselves, & the rest of the said bona fide Creditors of the said Co (which was presented to the House upon the 13th Day of this instant February, & then ordered to lie upon the Table) be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of the whole House, to whom it is referred to consider of the Papers presented to the House upon the Sixth Day of this instant February, from the Commissioners of Trade & Plantations, relating to the Trade to Africa.

African Co. The House, beg informed, T Mr Spence, Secretary to / Royal African Co of England attended at / Door;

He was called in; & at / Bar presented to / House, pursuant to order the Order

- Four Cash Books o / sd Co, fm / Year 1725;
- Two Invoice Books, fm 1743 outwards;
- One Invoice Book, fm Ditto inwards;
- Three Contingent Charge Books, fm 1720;
- Receipt Book f Bonds, fm 1743;
- Six Minute Books o / Court o Assistants, fm 1728;
- Two Gen Court Books, fm 1720;
- to gr w a list o / sd Books.

And then he withdrew.

And / sd List was read

Ordered, T / sd Books do lie upon / Table, to be perused by / Members o / House.

African Trade The 2^d Order o / Day beg read; The House resolved itself into a Committee o / whole House, to consider fur^t o / Supplies Papers presented to / House upon / 6th Day o this instant February, fm / Commissioners f Trade & Plantations, relatg to / Trade to Africa.

Mr Speaker left / Chair

Mr Hoblyn took / Chair o / Committee.

Mr Speaker returned Bedward / Chair.

Mr Hoblyn reported fm / Committee, T they ha made some Progress in / matter to them referred; & t he was directed by / Committee to move, T they may h leave to sit agn.

Resolved T this House will, To-morrow M^o, resolve itself into a Committee o / whole House, to consider fur^t o / Matter

1005]

Martis, 20^o die Februarii;

Anno. 23^o Georgii II^o di Regis 1749.

African Trade A Petn & Representation o / Magistrates & Town Council o / City, & o / Merchant Traders at / Port o / City, setg forth, north Britain was presented to / House, & read; settg forth,

T by / Smith Article o / Union o England & Scotland, all parts o / United Kingdom are to h / same Privileges & Trade: ... [agst a Joint-Stock Co. & f free & open trade] ...

A Petn o / Merchants, Traders, Owners o Ships, & o / City o Chester was also presented to / House, & read; settg forth ... [agst Joint-Stock Co. & f free & open trade] ...

A Petition of Gentlemen & Principal Traders of
Borough of Newcastle under Lyme, in County of
Stafford ... was also presented to / House & read;
allegg. ... [opposed to Monopolies & exclusive Cos in Trade, &
prayg for free & open trade to all His Subjects] ...

African
Trade

A Petition of Mayor & Burgesses of Borough of Derby, in
County of Derby, & also of sev'l Gentlemen, & o'r Traders within
/ same Borough ... was also presented to / House, & read;
sett'g forth ... [similar import to above] ...

1007]

The 1st Order of Day beg read -
... [Similar entry to E on p 30] ...
[Papers in Committee]

African
Trade

Resolved T this House will to-morrow m^o resolve itself into a Com-
mittee of whole House to consider fur o/sd Papers.

1008]

Mercurii 21^o die Februarii;
Anno 23^o Georgii Regis, 1749

African Trade. Ordered, T Mr Thomas Hill do this Day attend / Committee
of whole House, to whom it is referred to consider fur o/sd Papers
presented to / House upon / 6th ... February fm / Committee
of Traders & Planters, relatg to / Trade to Africa.

Ordered, T Mr John Dunning do this Day attend / sd Committee

The 1st Order of Day beg read
... Papers in Committee, as on p 30] ...

African
Trade

Resolved to consider fur to-morrow m^o -

Jovis . 22^o die Februarii;
Anno 23^o Georgii II^{di} Regis, 1749

1010]

The 1st Order of Day beg read;
... [Papers in Committee - as on p 30] ...

African
Trade

Resolved & - to consider fur on Monday m^o next -

1016]

Junae . 26^o die Februarii;
Anno 23^o Georgii II^{di} Regis, 1749

1017]

African Trade. Ordered T Mr Thomas Hill do attend this Day
attend / Committee of whole House ... [sub supra] ...

African
Trade

1018] African Trade. A Petⁿ of Justices of Peace, Gentlemen & Freeholders of Town of Kendal, in County of Westmorland was presented to / House & read; alleg^s ... [ag^s monopolies & in favour of free Trade].
Ordered - as w^t / previous refer^s to Committee of whole House -

African Trade ... [Papers in Committee, as on p 30] ...
Resolved - to consider fut^r on Wednesday M^o next.

1023] African Trade. Mercurii, 28^o die Februarii;
Anno 23^o Georgii IIⁱ die Regis, 1749.
... [Papers in Committee - as on p 30] ...
Resolved - to consider fut^r tomorrow M^o.

Jouis, 1^o die Martii
Anno 23^o Georgii IIⁱ die Regis, 1749.

African Trade

A Petⁿ of Inhabitants of Town of Birmingham was presented to / House, & read; lett^g forth ... [ag^s Joint Stock Co; & in favour of free & open trade as hitherto / g^t Advantages of wh^{ch} / former party / sev^l yrs past has sensibly experienced fm / g^t Quantities of Iron & Brass Manufactures they h^{ave} furnished to all Parts of British Trade on / Coast of Africa].
Ordered - Ref^r to Committee of whole House.

1024] African Trade. The House, accord^g to Order, resolv^d itself into a Committee of whole House, to consider fut^r of Papers presented to / House upon / 6th Day of February last fm / Comm^{rs} of Trade & Plantations, relat^g to / Trade to Africa.
Mrs Speaker left / Chair
Mr Hoblyn took / Chair of Committee
Mrs Speaker resumed / Chair
Mr Hoblyn reported fm / Committee, T they had come to sev^l Resolv^s; wh^{ch} they had directed him to report, wh^{ch} / House w^{as} please to receive them / same
Ordered, T / Report be received To-morrow Morn^g.

^{die}
Veneris 2^o Martii
Anno 23^o Georgii T^{ci} Regis, 1749.

1028] Papers res-
pectg
African
Trade.

Mr Hoblyn, accordg to Order, reported fm / Committee o / whole House, to whom it was referred to Consider o / Papers presented to / House upon / Sixth Day o February last, fm / Committee touchg / Trade & Plant-
tains, relaty to / Trade to Africa, / Resolutions wh / Committee had directed him to report to / House; wh he read in his Place; & afterwards delivered in at / Clerk's Table; where / same were read; & are as follow eth; viz. ^{this}
Resolved, T it is / Opinion o / Committee, T / Trade to Africa
o always to remain free & open.

Resolved, T it is / Opinion ^{this} Committee T / Trade to Africa o never to be Taxed w any Duties what so^r; b / Support & Maintenance o any Forts & Settlements th.

Resolved, T it is / Opinion o ^{this} Committee, T / British Forts & Settlements on / Coast o Africa are necessary; & may, under proper Management, be rendered useful b / extendg & protectg / Trade in gen.

Resolved, T it is / Opinion o ^{this} Committee, T, in order to carry on / Trade in / most beneficial manner to these Kingdoms all his Majesty's Subjects tradg to Africa be united in an open Co, w any Joint-Stock, or Power to trade as a Corporation under proper Regulations; & t / Forts & Settlements upon / Coast o Africa be put under proper Management & Regulation.

The Forth Resolun o Committee beg read a Second time;

Resolved, Nemine contradicente, T / House doth agree w / Committee in / sd Resolun, T / Trade to Africa o always to remain free & open.

The Second Resolun o Committee beg read a Second time;

Resolved, Nem. Con. T / House doth agree w / Committee in / sd Resolun, T / Trade to Africa o never to be Taxed w any Duties what so^r; b / Support & Maintenance o any Forts or Settlements th.

The Third Resolun o Committee beg read a Second time;

Resolved, Nem. Con. T / House doth agree w / Committee in / sd Resolun, T / British Forts & Settlements on / Coast o Africa are necessary; & may, under proper Management, be rendered useful b / extendg & protectg / Trade in gen.

The last Resolun o Committee beg read a Second time. was, upon / Queen's Bench, agreed to by / House.

Ordered, T a Bill be brd in, pursuant to / sd Resolun; And t Mr Hoblyn, Mr Smithwell, / Lord Strange, / Lord Dupplin, Mr Salisbury, Mr Giddard, Mr Hyllton, Mr Horatio Walpole Senior, Mr John Pitt, Mr Fane, Mr Charles Townshend, Mr Raynolds, Mr Nugent do prepare, & brg in, / same

1030]

Martis, 6^o die Martii;
Anno 23^o Georgii II di Regis 1749.

- 1031] African Trade. Mr Hoblyn presented to / House, accordg to Order, a Bill f extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa: & same was received; & read / First time.
Resolved T / Bill be read a Second time.
Ordered T / sd Bill be read a Second time upon Monday m^o next.
Ordered T / sd Bill be printed

1042] Lunae, 12^o die Martii;
Anno 23^o Georgii II di Regis 1749.

- 1041] A Bill f extendg & improvg, / Trade to Africa, African Trade was, accordg to Order, read a Second time.
Resolved T / Bill be committed.
Resolved T / Bill be committed to a Committee of whole House.
Resolved, T this House will, upon Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock, resolve itself into a Committee of whole House, to consider & act upon / sd Bill.

1048] Martis, 13^o die Martii
Anno 23^o Georgii II di Regis, 1749.

- 1050] African Co. A Petⁿ of Royal African Co of England was presented to / House, & read; settg forth, T / Petitioners, under & in Confidence of enjoyg / full Benefit of an exclusive Charter granted them in / Year 1672, of One thousand Years, purchased / Property of them subsistg African Co of Sum of Thirty-four thousand Pounds, & soon after a Fort of / Darres of Sum of Four thousand Five hundred & Ninety-seven Pounds Four Shillg & Eleven Pence, & built many o^rs, & in / First Twenty five Years after such Charter, laid out in the Forts & Castles, & in repairs & rebuilding / umpt Fort in / River Gambia (when taken & plundered by / French, & some frequently hath bn) of q^t Sum of money / amt of many hundred thousand Pounds; & t^o fm / Year

1712 to 1730, whilst / Trade continued free & open, / sd Co maintained
 the Forts & Castles on / the own Capital, w^o any manner o Allowance
 fr^m / Public, wh^o, at / last Compensⁿ o Ten thousand Pounds a
 year, amts to / Sum o One hundred & eighty thousand Pounds; but t^t it
 can be made appear, t^t they expended a much gr^{er} Sum therein; & t^t
 by a Resolⁿ o this House, / last Sessⁿ o Parliam^t, / Petitioners are
 to h^{ve} a reasonable Compensⁿ f^r the Property, before they sh^d be
 divested o^f same; & t^t / Petitioners rely^g t^t they be fully proved
 the Right to / sevl Forts & Settlements on / Coast o Africa, do not
 offer to give / House any fur^r Trouble in t^{is} respect; but be^g will^g
 to facilitate what Measures / House sh^d think best f^r / extend^g &
 Improv^g o / Trade to Africa, do offer / Surrender o the Charter,
 Forts & Castles, & military Stores, Came-men, Castle Slaves, &
 all o the Property on / Coast o Africa (the Goods & Merchandise
 only excepted) upon / Foot o following Proposal; viz. T. in
 Consideraⁿ o such Surrender, / House will be pleased to grant
 unto / Co / Sum o One hundred & eighty thousand Pounds,
 or an Annuity f^r / same at / Rate o three per Cent, per Annum,
 redeemable by Parliam^t, & to commence fr^m / 1st March 1730; &
 subject, in / First place, to / Paym^t o / Co's Just Debts, within a Time
 to be limited, & in such manner as / House sh^d direct; & t^t / Pro-
 prietors o / Stock be entitled to / Surplus o / sd One hundred
 & eighty - thous and Pounds, or Annuity attend^g / same, in proporⁿ
 to the sevl & respective Shares & Interests in / sd Stock; & t^t, in
 case o any Disputes, betwⁿ / Co & the Creditors, / find^g
 Determinaⁿ thereof, in a summary way, be referred to /
 Barons o Exchequer, or such Persons as / House sh^d think
 fit to appoint. And therefore pray^g, T^a P^{ur}vis may be
 made f^r / satisf^y o / Petitioners f^r the sd Property; w^o t^t they
 may be heard, by the Counsel, ag^t / sd Bill.

Ordered T / sd Petⁿ be referred to / Consideraⁿ o a Committee
 o / whole House

Resolved T this House will, upon Thursday M^o next, at
 Eleven o / Clock, resolve itself into a Committee o / whole House, to
 consider o / sd Petⁿ.

A Petⁿ o / Persons whose Names are therunto
 subscribed, Creditors o / Royal African Co o England, on be
 behalf o themselves, & / rest o / bona fide Creditors o / sd Co,
 was presented to / House, & read; w^o cert^g fur^r, T by / Bill,
 depend^g in / House, f^r extend^g & improv^g / Trade to Africa, it is appre-
 hended / Forts & Possessions o / sd Royal African Co are intended to be
 vested in a new Co; & t^t / Petitioners (concern^g themselves to be prin-
 cipally interested in these Possessions, as equitable Mortgagees thereof)
 are ready & desirous to surrender up the Right & Interest to /

Creditors o
 African
 Co

Publick, & to do w^{ch} Act in the Power wh may be thot necessary f
 effecting / national Views o / sd Bill; beg weel satisfied (in
 respect to the own Demands) to rely upon / Goodness o / House hath
 expressed in the Resolun o / 30th o / May last; & as / sd Resolun
 was grounded upon an Offer made by / sd Co to / House, to
 Surrender up the Posses^{ns} of an Equivalen^t, express^g / Hope o /
 Petitioners, & the bona fide Creditors sh not suffer thro any Change
 in / sd Co's Opinion, but sh be deemed intitled to a Satisfacⁿ in
 / first place, on o whatso^r Compensⁿ / House sh think proper
 to give f the Security. And therefore pray^s, T / sd Bill may
 pass into a Law, w such Direcsⁿ of inquiry into & Sett^g / Nature
 as well as / Am^t o / sd Co's Debts, as sh be most satisfactory
 to / House, & w such Provis^{ns} of satisf^y / real & bona fide Creditors
 as in Justice & Equity they sh be thot to deserve.

Ordered, T / sd Petⁿ be referred to / Consideracⁿ o / Committee o
 / whole House, to whom it is referred to consider o / Petⁿ sd Petⁿ
 o / Royal African Co o England.

1053]

Junis, 15^o die Martii;

Anno 23^o Georgi II^o Regis 1749

1054] The House, accord^g to Order, resolv'd itself into a African
 Committee o / whole House, to consider o / Petⁿ o / Royal
 African Co o England, wh was presented to / House upon Co
 Tuesday last; & also o / Petⁿ, presented also to / House upon
 Tuesday last o / Persons whose Names are thereunto subscribed, Creditors
 o / Royal African Co o England, on behalf o themselves, & / rest o bona
 fide Creditors o / sd Co.

Mr Speaker left / Chair

Mr Hoblyn took / Chair o / Committee

Mr Speaker resumed / Chair

Mr Hoblyn reported fm / Committee, T they had come to a Resolun;
 wh they had directed him to report, when / House will please to receive / same.
 Ordered, T / Report be received To-morrow M^o.

The o^r Order o / Day beg read;

The House resolv'd itself into a Committee o / whole House,
 upon / Bill f extend^g & improv^g / Trade to Africa.

Mr Speaker left / Chair

Mr Hoblyn took / Chair o / Committee.

Mr Speaker resumed / Chair.

African
Trade.

Mr Hoblyn reported fm / Committee, T they had gone thro / Bill & had made sev^t Amendments therunto; wh they had directed him to report, when / House will please to receive / same.
Ordered, T / Report be received To-morrow m^g.

1055]

Tonoris, 16^o die Martii;

Anno. 23^o Georgii II^o Regis, 1749

African Co Mr Hoblyn, according to Order, reported, fm / Committee of whole House to whom was referred to consider, of Petition of Royal African Co of England... [as on 15th]... & also of Petition... of Creditors of Royal African Co of England... [as on 15th]... / Resolution wh / Committee had directed him to report to / House; wh he read in his place; & afterwards delivered in at / Clerk's Table; where / same was read; & is as followeth, Viz.

Resolved, T it is / Opinion of this Committee, T a reasonable Compensamⁿ be given to / Royal African Co, when they sh be divested of the Charter, Lands, Forts, Castles, Staves, & all or affects therunto belongg; & such Compensamⁿ sh be, in / First place, applied f & towards / Payment of bona fide Creditors of same Co.

The sd Resolution, beg read a Second time, was, upon / Quesⁿ put thereupon, agreed to by / House.

Ordered, T leave be given to offer a Clause or Clauses (when / Report fm / Committee of whole House, to whom / Bill f extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa, was committed, sh be received) f examin^g into / State & Conditⁿ of Forts & Settlements in Possessⁿ of / Royal African Co of England, on / Coast of Africa, & f examin^g into / Claims of / sd Co.

1056]

African Trade.

Mr Hoblyn according to Order, reported, fm / Committee of whole House, to whom / Bill f extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa, was committed, / Amendments wh / Committee had made to / Bill, & wh they had directed him to report to / House; & he read / Report in his place; & afterwards delivered / Bill, w / Amendments, in at / Clerk's Table: where / Amendments were once read throughout; & then a Second time, one by one; & upon / Quesⁿ severly put thereupon, One of them was disagreed to, & rest were, w sev^t Amendments to One of them, agreed to by / House.

A Clause was offered to be added to / Bill, appoint^g Commissioners to examine into / Claims of / Creditors of Royal African Co:

And / same was twice read, w Blank; / First owh beg filled up;

Ordered, T / fut^r Considerⁿ of / sd Report be adjourned till To-morrow m^g.

1054] Supply The Order of Day beg read, by / House to resolve itself
granted to his Majesty; into a Committee o / whole House, to consider full o / Supply
The House was moved T / Resolutions, wh upon Friday / Second
Day o this instant March, were reported fm / Committee o / whole House,
to whom it was referred to consider o / Papers presented to / House, upon /
Swich Day o February last; fm / Commissioners o Trade & Plantations, relat^d
to / Trade to Africa, & were then agreed to by / House, mt be read:
And / Same were, as agreed to by / House, read accordgly; & are as
followeth; viz.

... [Vide / Resolutions on p 33, supra]. ...

Ordered, T / sd Resolutions^{mt} be referred to / Consideration o / sd Committee
o / whole House, to whom it is referred to consider full o / Supply granted to
his Majesty.

Then / House resolved itself into / sd Committee.

Mr Speaker left / Chair.

Mr Fame took / Chair o / Committee.

Mr Speaker resumed / Chair

Mr Fame reported fm / Committee, T they had come to send Resolutions;
wh they had directed him to report, when / House will please to receive / same.

Ordered, T / Report be received upon Monday next.

1058] Junae 19^o die Martii;
Anno 23^o Georgii II^{di} Regis, 1749.

1059] Supply. Mr Fame, accordg to Order, reported fm / Committee o / whole
House, inwhom it was referred to consider full o / Supply granted
to his Majesty, / Resolutions wh / Committee had directed him to report to /
House; wh he read in his Place; & afterwards delivered in at / Clerk's
Table: to here / same were read; & are as followeth, viz

Resolved, T it is / Opinion o this Committee, T a Sum, not exceed^d
Ten thousand Pounds, be granted to his Majesty, towards / Support^o /
British Forts & Settlements upon / Coast o Africa, to be applied in
such manner as his Majesty sh^{ll} think proper.

The sd Resolutions, beg severly read a Second time, were, upon /
Queen severly put thereupon, agreed to by / House.

African Trade

1054

Sabbati, 14^o die Martii;
Anno 23^o Georgii IIⁱ Regis, 1749.

1056] Ordered, T / Order / Day, f resuming / adjourned Consideram o / Report fm / Committee o / whole House, to whom / Bill f extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa was referred / committed, be now read;

And / sd Order beg read accordg ly;
The House resumed / adjourned Consideram o / sd Report.

And / rest o / Blanks, w / Clause offered yes & to be added to / Bill, beg filled up, / sd Clause was, upon / Queens put thereupon, agreed to by / House to be made Part o / Bill

Another Clause was offered to be added to / Bill, directg in what manner Persons sh be punished who sh refuse to make Answers to / Commissioners appointed to examine into / Claims o / Creditors o / Royal African Co;

And / same was twice read, w / Blanks, wh beg filled up, / sd Clause was, upon / Queens put thereupon, agreed to by / House to be made Part o / Bill.

High Admiral, or Commissioners o / Admiralty to appoint Persons to examine into / State & Conditio / Forts & Settlements on / Coast o Africa.

And / same was twice read; & ... made part o / Bill.

Another Clause was offered to be added to / Bill, to restrain / Royal African Co fm assigng, transfg, or disposg o, the military Stores, & s^e Thgs necessary f / Use & Defense o the Forts & Settlements.

And / same was twice read; & ... made Part o / Bill.

Another Clause was offered to be added to / Bill directg how / Expenses o obtaining this Act sh be defrayed:

And / same was twice read; & ... made Part o / Bill

Another Clause was offered to be added to / Bill, empowerg Persons, agst whom any Accus sh be brot f what they sh do in pursuance o this Act, to plead / Gen Issue.

And / same was twice read; & ... made Part o / Bill.

Another Clause was offered to be added to / Bill, declarg this to be a publick Act;

And / same was twice read; & ... made Part o / Bill

And sev Amendm^{ts} were made by / House to / Bill;

Ordered, T / Bill, w / Amendm^{ts}, be ingrossed.

dunae, 19^o die Martii;
Anno 23^o Georgii IIⁱ Regis, 1749

An ingrossed Bill f extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa was read / Third time.

Resolved, T / Bill do pass: And t / Title be, An Act f extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa.

Ordered, T Mrs Hoblyn do carry / Bill to / Lords, & desire the Concurrence.

African Trade

1101]

Sabbati, 31^o die Martii;Anno 23^o Georgii II^{di} Regis 1750.1102]. A Message fr^m / Lords, by Mr Montagu + Mr Lane:

Mr Speaker

African Trade The Lords ha agreed to / Bill, intituled An Act, of extending & improving / Trade to Africa, w some Amendments: To wch Amendments / Lords desire / Concurr^e o this House
And then / Messengers with drew

1104]

dumax 20 die Aprilis;

Anno 23^o Georgii II^{di} Regis 1750

1105]

The House proceeded to take into Consideration / Amendments made by / Lords, to / Bill intituled, An Act of extending & improving / Trade to Africa:

African Trade

And / sd Amendments were read; & are as followeth; viz.

Pr 9. L. 18. 19. 20. Leave out "Thirteenth Day o June 1750" & insert "pass^g such Act of o Parliam^t of dissent^g / African Co o the Charter, Forts, Castles, & military Stores, Cannon-mun, Casite-slaves & all o^r the Property on / Coast o Africa as afo^{re}, or before / pass^g such Act, so far as / sd African Co sh consent doth"

Pr 7 L 29. After "August" insert "1750"

Pr 13. L 9. After "the" insert "major^e o /"

L. 17. After "removed" add Clause A:

Clause A: "Provided neverth^l & wh^{er} any Committee-man sh be charged w Misbehaviour in his Employ^{mt}, / Commissioners of Trade & Plantans sh summon such Committee-man before them; & sh, in case he attend^s, hear such Committee-man; & upon his Appearance, or Default, examine into / Truth o / sd Charge, before they sh remove him from his Employ^{mt}, as afo^{re}; anyth^g herin contained to / contrary notwithstanding."

Pr 16. L 10. Leave out fr^m "1" to "forts" in / 16th Line o / same Press, & insert "sd".

Pr 22. L 21. After "Forty-nine", add Clause B:

Clause B. "~~whereas~~ And whereas David Crichton, late One o / chief Agents
o / sd Co at Cape Coast Castle, now a Prisoner o / Debt in / Custody o / Sheriffs
o / City o London, did, w / Two o / sd Co's Agents or Servts ther, to wit Thomas
Chalmers & James Craik, in / Year 1745, contract a Debt at Cape Coast Castle
aftr o £1,400, f / 9 on behalf o / sd Co, f / Support & Maintenance o the Forts &
Servants; And whereas / sd David Crichton now stands charged, in / Custody o
/ sd Sheriffs, in return, on a Judgment given in / Court o King's Bench, as
/ Sent o One William Stead, f / Debt aforesd, wh, togtr w / Costs o Suit
& Interest thereon, amts in / whole to / Sum o £1,604. 16. 6. upon a Judgment
obtained agst him, in his Majesty's Court o King's Bench, by / sd William
Stead; Be it therefore enacted, by / Authority aforesd, T / sd David
Crichton be forthwith discharged out o / Custody o / sd Sheriffs upon / sd
said Crichton giving a new Judgment to / sd William Stead f / sd
Sum o ~~£1,400~~ £1,604. 16. 6. w / Stay o Executn o One Year, to be com-
puted fr / sd 17th Day o March 1749; & fur, T / sd David Crichton
do enter into a Bond to / sd William Stead, w / Two Sureties to be
approved o by One o / Judges o / Court o King's Bench, in double /
Penalty o / Sum o £1,604. 16. 6, w / wh he / sd David ~~Crichton~~ Crichton
stands charged in Custody, as Concl^d E he / sd David Crichton will
not withdraw himself out o England; but will always be ready,
sithr in London, or Middlesex at / Expense o / sd Year, to be subject
to any Process / sd William Stead sh think proper to take out agst him".

1106] The sd Amendments, as far as Clause A. beg Seally read a second
time, were, upon / Questⁿ seally put thereupon, agreed to by / House.
Clause A. / next Amendment, was read a second time; & beg an
unrolled Clause, was read / Third time; & upon / Questⁿ put thereupon,
was agreed to by / House

The next Amendment, made by / Lords, to / sd Bill, beg read a second
time, was, upon / Questⁿ put thereupon, agreed to by / ~~the~~ House.

Clause B. / last Amendment, made by / Lords to / sd Bill, beg
read a second time.

And / House beg^d informed, T Mr William Newland attended at /
Door, who ed give / House some Informaⁿ relative to / sd Amendment;
it was called in; & examined

When he withdrew
immed / sd Amendment, beg an unrolled Clause, was read / Third time;
& upon / Questⁿ put thereupon was agreed to by / House

Ordered, T Mr Hoplym do carry / Bill to / Lords, & acquaint
them. T this House hath agreed to / Amendments made by the Lords before

1114].

Jois, 12^o die Aprilis;Anno 23^o Georgii II^{di} Regis 1750

A message from his Majesty, by / Honourable Sir Henry Bellenden,
Gentleman - usher o' Black Rod;

Our Speaker

The King commands this Honourable House to attend his
Majesty, immediately in / House o' Peers.

Accordingly our Speaker, w' / House, went up to attend his
Majesty in / House o' Peers: where his Majesty was pleased to
give / Royal Assent to / severall publick & private Bills following;

An Act f' extendg & improvg / Trade to Africa.
