

NOTE-BOOKS OF WILLIAM LOWNDES

The eminence attained by "Ways and Means" Lowndes must have been based upon his extremely methodical habits. In the last volume of the RECORDS¹ we saw with what care he preserved details of the building costs of Winslow Hall; in the same paper there was a reference in a footnote to the fact that several of his notebooks and books of account were preserved at Whaddon Hall and at The Bury, Chesham. Now, by a strange coincidence, three further books have come to light, of which two will pass into the possession of the Society at once, and the third at a later date.

No. 1 relates to the year 1679; it has been generously presented to the Society by Mr. H. A. Baily, now of Brighton, but a native of Bucks and connected with some of our old Bucks families.

No. 2 deals with the year 1693; it was brought to the notice of the Editor by Mr. A. J. Clear, of Winslow, through whose kind offices it has been possible to purchase it; this copy will also become the Society's property.

No. 3 is concerned with the year 1709; it has been in the collection of the late E. Gordon Duff, the famous bibliographer; it is now owned by one of our members, who has kindly undertaken that it shall become the property of the Society when the possessions of this world no longer interest him.

All three consist of Almanacks of the time² specially bound in full morocco, numbers 1 and 3 have elaborate gilt tooling on back and sides, silver bosses, and a silver stylus; number 2 is red morocco with gilt tooling on back and panels on the sides, but has no silver clasps. They are all in excellent condition and perfectly legible. They will be considered separately.

¹ Vol. XI., pp. 406-429.

² Riders's *British Merlin*, 1679; Parker's *Mercurius Anglicanus*, 1693; and Parker's *Ephemeris*, 1709, respectively.

No. 1.

Particular interest is lent to this volume because it was in this year, 1679, that Lowndes " seems to have begun his lifelong connection with the Treasury. During his first sixteen years there he was mainly employed in reporting upon the various petitions brought before the Board; on 24 April, 1695 when already chief clerk, he succeeded Henry Guy as secretary." ³ There are long transcripts of deeds, mostly written in shorthand, the system used being apparently founded upon that of Elisha Coles (1674) " inasmuch as the signs for A. D. and S are identical; by a com-parison of alphabets I do not find a nearer connection." In some deeds the names are represented by initials only; one refers to the Bertie family and the names of Peregrine Bertie and of Henry Bertie, and James, Lord Norris, his half-brothers occur.

Various memoranda were jotted down at different times, one apparently in the following year, for it deals with tallies on the Customs, and an entry gives the total outstanding " ye 23 8th 80" as £304,091-4-4.

Another page, in Lowndes's own long-hand, contains a record which is of interest in several ways, particularly to all who know their Pepys. It is as follows:—

| | | | |
|---|---|----|----|
| Charge of passing a patent for Wm. Hewer to be Tr ^t of Tanger besides £3 10s, pd. by himself for ye 1st Warr ^t Viz ^t | £ | s. | d. |
| To Mr. Johnson for Mr. Attor & his own fee & 5s to his clerk | 7 | 10 | 0 |
| Sec ^{ry} of State | 6 | 5 | 0 |
| Docq ^t | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Bill & signet each 50s. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Recepi | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Clerk ingrosser in part | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr Littlefield | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Coach hyre | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Clerk ingrosser in full | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| Fees at the hanaper | 8 | 13 | 4 |

³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁴ Letter from A. R. Dryhurst, late of the British Museum, to the Editor.

William Hewer was the clerk, and later the faithful friend of Mr. Pepys, and it was in his house, previously Sir Dennis Gauden's, at Clapham, that Pepys died, and Hewer was the executor of his will. Hewer was appointed Deputy Judge Advocate of the Fleet in 1677, and Commissioner of the Navy in 1685, and elected M.P. for Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, in 1685.⁵ Pepys himself, it will be remembered, had held the office of Treasurer to Tangier Committee, to which he was appointed in 1665.

The thick tablet-page contains a record which is extremely interesting.

New year's Gifts to 167⁸/₉

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| Aud ^{rs} of Imprests | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| S ^r John Robinson ⁶ | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dutch ^s of Portsmouth ⁷ | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. Stephens | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Excise farmers | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Victuallers | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Cofferer | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| S ^r John Kirke | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Auditors of Revenue | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Law duty Farm ^{rs} | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Gwynn ⁸ | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Kingdon ⁹ | 5 | 7 | 6 |

⁵ H. B. Wheatley's edition of the *Diary*, Vol. I., p.xlvi and 188, where it is also stated that Hewer was Treasurer for Tangier.

⁶ Can this be the Sir John Robinson, who was one of the Commissioners sent to treat with Charles II. at Breda? If so, he was Lord Mayor in 1662, and Lieutenant of the Tower, a position he held until 1678. Mr. Pepys called him a "bufflehead" and a "loggerhead."

⁷ This is the famous Louise Renée de Keroualle, created Duchess of Portsmouth 19th Aug., 1673. "On 25 Apr., 1679, she was reflected on by name in both houses of parliament, but no steps were taken against her."—*Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁸ This is the equally famous favourite, Nell Gwyn (1650-1687).

⁹ Possibly the Captain Richard Kingdon, Commissioner of Prizes and Governor of Excise, referred to several times by Pepys.

Some memoranda upon the farmers of the taxes occur at the end :—•

Visct Yarm¹⁰ farmer of unwrought wood glasses &c. for 21 yeares frō Michs 1677 at p. an 6.500£.

Lord Townsend¹¹ farmer of 4s. p. chaldⁿ on coales exported for 21 yeares frō Michs 1667 at p. an 1.000£

Antho. Ettwick in.
revercon for y^e like
terms & rent

Earl of Kinoul,¹² Farmer of Smalts & pottashes for 31 yeares from Lady day 1664 at 240£ p. añ
John Pincomb geñ farmer of Logwood for 21 yeares from Michās 1662 at 500£ p. ann.

Sir Tho. Strickland farmer of salt imported for 18 yeares & 6 months from Lady 1670 at 1000£ p. ann.

Sir Nichs Crisp¹³ & al. of y^e Allom works for 20 y^{rs} 5 mo. 27 daies from Xmās 1665 at 4260£ p. and for 1st foure yeares & afterwards 5260£ p. añ.

¹⁰ Sir Robert Paston, 2nd Bt. (1631-1683), M.P. for Castle Rising 1661-1673, friend of Charles II., whom he entertained in 1676. Created Viscount Yarmouth 1673, and Earl in 1679.

¹¹ Sir Horatio Townshend (? 1630-1687), M.P. for Norfolk 1659. Active in procuring Restoration of Charles II Created Viscount 1682.

¹² William, 4th Earl of Kinnoul; fought with Montrose; sold island of Barbadoes to Crown in 1661. Died 1677. *Smalts* was a cobalt blue powder used for dyeing clothes, etc.

¹³ Sir Nichl. Crisp (? 1599-1666), grantee of exclusive right of trading to Guinea, with five others, by Charles I. in 1632 ; raised a regiment for the King.

John Visct. Mordant¹⁴ Sir Robt. Peyton¹⁵
 Sir Jer. Whitchot¹⁶ farmers of 12^d p.
 chald^f on Seacoales for 31 years from
 Xmas 1660 at 1838: 12 : 6 p ann

No. 2

This volume contains much less than the others, the majority of the pages remaining blank; at the same time we come across the names of several well-known people.

These are "charges of the Marq^s of Carmathens Tally for 750£ on Post Office for ½ year as presid^t at Lady-day 1693." The Marquess of Carmarthen is Thomas Osborne, Earl of Danby, created Marquess 9 April, 1689, and Duke of Leeds on 4 May, 1694,¹⁷ Some particulars of this doubtfully honest politician occurred in a former number of the RECORDS.¹⁸

There are receipts for quarterly payments of £750 for "my pençon " signed in. a large clear hand " B. Plymouth." One would expect this to be the Countess of Plymouth. Thomas, the seventh Baron Windsor,

¹⁴ This is the father of Charles. Earl of Peterborough, whose amazing character is drawn by Macaulay in his essay on Lord Mahon's *War of the Succession in Spain*.

¹⁵ This is an error for Sir Thomas Peyton, of Knowlton, Kent, whose name is preserved by the fact that his first wife was sister of Dorothy Osborne, so that he is often referred to in that lady's incomparable letters to her lover, Temple. Lowndes's error of "Robert " for " Thomas " is strange ; the patent for sea-coals is in the Patent Rolls of 12, Charles II., part 16 and item 16 ; in the contemporary MS. Index of the Patent Rolls at P.R.O., the name is entered at *Sir Edward*. There was a Sir Edward of the other branch of the family (Isleham. Cambs.), who had died in 1657, and the indexer presumably thought of him whilst he entered Sir Thomas's name. The name Edward is very badly written, and a careless glance might take it to be Robert. As the date and the names of the other patentees agree with Lowndes's entry, there is no doubt that in this, or some similar way, he made the slip.

¹⁶ He was a barrister of the Inner Temple, and solicitor-general to the Prince Elector Palatine. At the request of Charles II. he purchased the wardenship of the Fleet whilst the King was in exile ; he was thus able to shelter the King's agents and prevented a treacherous plot against his person. For these services he was made a baronet by letters patent dated at Brussels. He died in 1677 aged 63, and is buried at Hendon.

¹⁷ G.E.C., Vol. III., p. 43.

¹⁸ Vol. XI., p. 234.

was created Earl of Plymouth, and was succeeded by his grandson in these honours. The first Earl died in 1687, and his widow's name was Ursula; an examination of the family history does not show who could have signed with a "B."¹⁹

Some entries which appeal to us as of Bucks interest are receipts signed by Stephen Bigg " for a brick wall I am to build at Winslow." In all he received £61:15:0, the first payment being made on 7th July and the last on the 24th October, 1693. In the accounts of the building of Winslow Hall²⁰ it was seen that the garden walls were built by Joseph Bigg, presumably a relative of Stephen Bigg.

There is a note which touches upon the emoluments accruing to Lord Ranelagh as Paymaster of the Forces. The particulars are as follows:—

" By the King's Warr^t dat. 22 Mar 1692 Earle of Ranelagh²¹ Paym^r of fforces to have for his owne Sallary 3.000£ p. ann. and for his under officers and clerks in Engl^d 1.500.£ p. ann. for Sundry charges of his Office 600£ p. ann. For new yeares gifts usually given by him to officers and clerks of the Excheq^r and Trē^{ty} Chamb^r 556—1—8 p. ann. in all 5.656£—1—8 p. ann. Out of the 12^d p. libr drawn from ye fforces to commence from 1st Apr. 1692 over & above the Excheq^r fees payable for y^e money he receives for the fforces— By the King's Warrt. dated 21 Mar 92 the said Earle and the Paym^r for the time being are to pay the one daie's pay of ye Army and 12,000£ a year (out, of y^e deductions) by such monthly & quarterly paymts. As he shall judg most convenient to ye Dep^{ty} Tres^r of y^e Royall Hospital at Chelsea."

¹⁹ *Historical Collections of the Noble Family of Windsor*, by A. Collins, 1754, pp. 80 and 86. The second Countess was Elizabeth (? B for Bess), but she could hardly have been married in 1693 when the second Earl was only 14

²⁰ Printed in *Records*, Vol. XI., p. 426.

²¹ Richard Jones, third Viscount and first Earl of Ranelagh (? 1626-1712). He held the office of Paymaster-general of the Army for nearly twelve years, but his accounts were in disorder, and he preferred to resign in 1702 rather than face an enquiry: in the following year he was expelled from Parliament. The only thing which can be said in his favour is that he had a nice taste in building and gardening.

An isolated note upon half a page is headed:—

A POINT OF LAW

" That ships that are forreigne built but English property may goe to the English plantaçons in their ballast, and from thence import tobacco or other plantaçon goods into England. But if such a ship carry any European goods to ye English plantaçons she is forfeited. This ye Com^{rs} of the Customes and Mr. Waterson their officer said was alwaies ye practice and the law has been alwaies so understood. In the case of Giles Merrick Anno 1692 this opinion is grounded upon the Act saying in one case English built ships in the other ships belonging to England."

No. 3

This volume is chiefly devoted to personal matters; his entire income and disbursements for the year are entered in detail and afterwards summarized, and there are many notes which throw light upon his precise methods and businesslike habits.

We see how he paid Skelton, the periwig-maker, £3: 4: 6 for two wigs, and if 3d. is expended in "Repairs in the Brewhouse at Chesham," it is duly recorded. On 14th Aug. "a hatt for myself" cost £1:12:6, but "2 hats for ye Twins" cost only £1 together. An entry as to which one would like to know more reads thus:

£ s. d.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Ordered that Mr. Tilson pay to Mr. | |
| Jebb to deliver to Mr. Green for his | |
| services in curing several of my chil- | |
| dren of y ^e Evel | 53 15 0 |

The blank pages at the end of the book abstract the year's receipts and expenses. A good deal of the year seems to have been passed at Tunbridge, the house near Westminster Abbey was still retained, and Chesham was only visited occasionally. The weekly housekeeping allowance was "£4 10s. p. week to buy victuals," but there was a charge for "extra housekeeping (besides Tunbridge) £50:18:3½;" and "charges of wine (besides carriage)" amounted to

£57 :16: 8 for two hogsheads of claret; to say nothing of £28: 4: 10½ for "Malt drink." "Fuel, viz., coles & wood," accounted for £28:2:1½. "Physique and Remedys for myself, Childⁿ & Servts" came to £82:16:9, and this included £5:19:0 for asses'milk.

The children and grandchildren involved a total cost of £354: 0: 2; his own tailor's bill was £39, and the dress allowance for his wife and children was £107: 10: 0.

The wages of indoors servants for the year were £39: 4: 1; nine are named, but some were clearly not a full year in service.

The cost of keeping a coach and horses for a year was £105: 5: 9½.

Some charges at Chesham and at Winslow are to be found in these entries:—

P. 28,

| | | | |
|---|-------|----|---------|
| By keeping Garden & by pond and Scower at Chesh For Bone Gard ⁿ wages and board | 20 | 9 | 3½ |
| Cleaning ye pond & Scower | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| helpers in ye Gardens | 0 | 12 | 10½ |
| Newmaking ditch ag ^t Ludw Lane | 1 | 18 | 0 |
| A grate wire in great garden | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 2 scythes & brooms & 2 baskets | 0 | 15 | 3 |
| Garden charges all ^d N. Stat- Ham | 2 | 0 | 10½ |
| | <hr/> | | 27 7 0½ |

By new Work p'form'd A° 1709, viz.

1 Further charges for making a Farmyard at
Winslow begun A° 1706

| | | | |
|--|---|----|---|
| For 42 loads Stone at Thornb ^o | 1 | 9 | 3 |
| 9 — — — Oving | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Carr. 34 loads stone | 6 | 14 | 0 |
| For the grate there | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mrs Hughs ironm ^r bill | 0 | 7 | 2 |

| | | | |
|--|-------|----|-----|
| Carr. 1½d tiles frō Stukeley for ye barn | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Th. Deely work and material for pond | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| 2 Further charges on vault at Chesfh for car. of bricks tiles & lime | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| for a wyre lock &c | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 3 Further charges on New staircase & gallery there, viz. for Wainscotting | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 5 [sic, should be 4] Charge of making a brick wall agst ye Little Garden there, viz. pulling down ye old stone wall | 1 | 12 | 2½ |
| 11700 bricks | 11 | 2 | 4 |
| 250 water table bricks | 0 | 4 | 9 |
| 11½ qrs. 7 bush. Lime | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| 300 coping bricks | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Bricklainers' work | 4 | 17 | 11¾ |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 21 | 10 | 2¼ |

The aggregate for all these domestic items was £1,641 4s. 2. The remaining entries (to a total of £3,748: 0:1) include capital sums lent, or for purchases of land.

The most interesting of the later entries refers to a sum of £500 "lent y^e Emperor (in my name for ye Queen's use) in March 1705/6 on a security in Silesia;" the rate of interest in this case was 8 per cent.²²

The following note displays the characters of the careful father and the less careful son:—

"M^d I allow my son Robt. during pleasure 200£ p. añ out of y^e profits of the Aud^{rs} Office, and that

²² Presumably this was Joseph I., Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, and King of Bohemia, who died in 1711; he was uncle of Maria Theresa.

allowance at present is applyed towards the 500£ & £210 17s. 8d., in all 710—17— 8 wch I lent him tow^{ds} paymt. of his debts, whereby that 710—17—8 is reduced to 397—4—1½ resting due to mee from him this 29 Apr. 1709."

These entries are precise enough for an astrologer :—

P. 40.

"M^d my daughter Eliz. wife of Mr. John Dyncomb was dd of her 3rd son on Friday 10th of June 1709 at ½ an hour after 3 in the morning at her husband's house in Lincolnes Inne field, and he was x'tned Charles on Tuesday 14 June 1709.

M^d also that Margaret wife of my eldest son was dd of her 5th child on Tuesday 14 June 1709 about 2 in the morning at Winslow being her 2^d daughter, which was x'tned Elizabeth on 23 ditto."

They are printed here because the pedigree printed by Lipscomb gives no indication that the Secretary had a daughter.²³

These stray notes are perfectly illustrative of the precise habits of the Secretary:—

P. 38 8 Aug 1709.

" Left in my closset in the parlor at Chesham 2 leaden boxes with Tobacco in one of them and in the other a green bag wth writings conč the estate of Jos. Geary.

A heap of loose papers amongst wch are some old wills revokes drafts of settlem^t & a A book of preced for Justices of ye peace—pens wafers pensil wax &c.

A Bunch of old Keys not used.

First draft of the title to Pond Close. Draft of ye title to ye M[anor] & Rect. of Winslow. Draft of an abstract of divers copys of Co^{rt} roll there.

Draft of conveyance of Pond close. Draft of a Schedule conč ye Grove & a

My sector & 3 bags.

²³ Lipscomb, Vol. III., p. 544. The text which precedes the pedigree is most misleading ; after mentioning the Secretary we are told that " Mr. Lowndes was one of the Knights of the Shire," the reference being to the Secretary's grandson, Richard.

9th Aug. 1709

Keys left with Mr Statham

Of ye vault bins & brass cock Little cupboard
in ye parlor

Of my closet at ye end of ye gallery

Of ye little buttery at ye top of ye cellar.

Keys left with Joseph to deliver Stathom
when he goes Of ye Boathouse, Wood-house
& of ye Great Garden, hall garden &
Orchard.

P. 39. 8 August 1709.

Left in my closet at ye end of ye gallery in
Chesham a long box of [?] measuring Instrm^{ts}
One Box of writings concerning the Berry.
Another concerning ye M[anor] & Farm of ye
Grove, Rymers Fœdera Tom 1. 2 Books. Tom
2, 3 books. Tom 3, none. Tom 4, 2 books. Tom
5, none. Tom 6, none. Tom 7—2 books. Tom
8—2 books.

Sessions book of ye Statutes.

Statutes at large frō Mag. Char, to 32 Car 2.

39. Eod. die.

A Box of writings concerning only my estate at
Winslow not settled on my eldest son — My
dictionary. Ashby & White's case.²⁴

Mem^d on 8th April 1710 I carryed from Westm^r
to Chesham 10 books of Rymer, viz^r Tom 3 2.
Tom 5 2 Tom 6 2 Tom 9 2 & Tom iv. 2 to be
putt wth the rest in my closet at Chesham.

On 24 June 1710 I carryed from Westm^r to Ches-
ham 3 boxes of writings, one concerning Gorrets
wood, one concerning Milfield & Gearys Mort-
gage, the other concerning Broughton Farm &
pond close.

On 12 Aug. 1711 I putt into the said Closet my
Dictionary wth m^d concerning my Family. Rymer
Tom 12. Two boxes of writings not entred in
my Rolls wch stood in ye little parlor, Dalton's
Just, a comonplace book of my owne in fol.

²⁴ This is the famous "Aylesbury Case"; there are six or seven folio pamphlets concerning it, all issued 1704-5.

8 Aug. 1709

dd to the Carrier one empty cradle, one cradle
fild with things 4 boxes for y^e maid.

38 27 7^{br} 1709

I markd at Millfield 30 beeches 6 Asps & 1 Ash
to be feld in the ensuing winter and they are
numbered.

28 J^o

I marked at Charteridg 100 beeches & 3 Asps
w^{ch} are numbered to be als feld this winter
ensuing.

4 8 br 1709

I marked in the 5 acres wood at y^e Grove 11 ashes
& 43 beeches by no. in all 54 & 1 ash in ye hedg
of Sprfng Close — 55."

It will be allowed that the above extracts reflect
faithfully the orderly mind, whether directed to affairs
of State or to the petty details of domestic economy,
they show us clearly that infinite capacity for taking
pains which has been held to be the *first* (not the
only) requisite of genius. After two and a-half cen-
turies we catch a glimpse of the mind of one who was
a good and faithful public servant.²⁵

²⁵ None of us is exempt from error ; in 1695 he advanced a
proposal for raising the nominal value of coins by 25 per cent.,
so that a 5/- piece should be worth 6/3. This " nefarious project"
was attacked by Locke and Somers, and was duly defeated
(*Dict. Nat. Biog.*). At that time Political Economy was unborn.