



BATH UNION WORKHOUSE.

RETURN to an ORDER of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 16 July 1839;—for,

A COPY of the PROCEEDINGS in the Investigation into the Conduct of the  
MASTER of the BATH UNION WORKHOUSE, held before the Assistant Commis-  
sioner, Mr. Adey, in the course of the Spring 1839, together with the  
DECISION of the BOARD of GUARDIANS and POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS  
thereon.

Poor Law Commission Office,  
Somerset House,  
30 July 1839.

EDWIN CHADWICK,  
Secretary.

(Lord Granville Somerset.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
5 August 1839.

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## COPY of the PROCEEDINGS in the Investigation into the Conduct of the MASTER of the BATH UNION WORKHOUSE, in 1839.

### — No. 1. —

COPY of a LETTER from Mr. *Thomas Hewett* to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Gentlemen, 4, Holloway, Bath, 6 December 1838.

THE following charges are made against the Governor of the Bath Union Workhouse, and sufficient evidence can be produced to substantiate them:—

1. That whereas he is required by the duties of his situation to call over the muster-rolls of the inmates of the workhouse every morning; such a thing is not done once in six months, in consequence of which the parishes of the Union have been charged with the maintenance of paupers for many weeks after they had ceased to be inmates. One pauper, who was in the house but two days, was charged to the parish of Walcot for nearly seven months. Every weekly report made to the Board during that period must consequently have been incorrect, as well as all the books kept in the house, the quarterly abstracts, and the weekly returns made to the Commissioners.

2. That nearly all the accounts he has returned concerning the expenditure of the clothing stores entrusted to him are false. Of the entries made in the Clothing Expenditure Book, not one article out of five was given out either to the party or at the time represented. The difference between the actual stock in hand and the stock as represented in the Clothing Receipt Book, was sometimes immense; and the actual amount of stock being unknown to him, any one who was dishonestly disposed might have robbed the Union to a large amount, with very little chance of detection. Instances are known, and evidence can be produced, of articles of dress having been brought out by paupers, and worn by them afterwards.

3. That he is in the habit of taking improper liberties with the females on the establishment, and furnishing them with spirits, contrary to the order of the Commissioners.

4. That so little care is taken by him of the property of the Union, that various articles have been at various times thrown by the paupers into the water-closets, to such an extent as absolutely to stop the sewers, which articles have been found accumulated in the pipes, to the injury of the house, as well as the destruction of the Union property.

5. That he is seldom or never known to attend Divine service, but spends the Sabbath in a manner not calculated to set a good example to those under his charge. The chaplain had better be examined on this subject, as he is possessed of more information on it than myself.

6. That some time back a pauper in the house died possessed of half-a-crown, of which sum the Governor gave no account to the Board, but converted it to his own use, though the man was taken out and buried by his friends.

Having acted as clerk to the Governor for upwards of 14 months, I have had abundant opportunities of observing the management of the accounts, and of the establishment generally, and will at any time come forward and prove the above charges. I have written to you at the request of several rate-payers of the Union, who are desirous that the matter should be looked into, and are confident that you will take the necessary steps for a strict investigation of it.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Thomas Hewett.*

— No. 2. —

Copy of a LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Clerk to the Guardians of the Bath Union.

Sir,

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset-House,  
11 Dec. 1838.

Copy of No. 1.

THE Poor Law Commissioners forward, for the information of the Board of Guardians of the Bath Union, the accompanying copy of a letter which they have received from Mr. Thomas Hewett, and the Commissioners will thank the Board of Guardians to make an inquiry as to the truth of the several charges against the Master of the Workhouse which that communication contains, and report to the Commissioners the result of such inquiry.

(Signed by order of the Board,)  
E. Chadwick, Secretary.

— No. 3. —

Copy of a LETTER from the Clerk of the Bath Union to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

Bath Union, 11 January 1839.

IN reply to your communication of the 11th December 1838, (10989 C.) I beg to forward to you a copy of a resolution of the Board of Guardians of this Union, passed at an adjourned meeting held January 8th, with reference to the charges preferred against the Governor of the Workhouse by Mr. Thomas Hewett.

"That after the most patient, deliberate, and lengthened investigation into the several charges preferred by Mr. Hewett against the Governor, the Board have come to the following opinion upon these charges respectively; viz. on the first charge, 'That the fact of having neglected to call over the muster-roll every morning, is by the Governor's own statements admitted; but in two or three cases only does it appear that this neglect can have been attended with an increase of expenditure to any of the parishes; and the evidence adduced to establish even these cases, is far from being conclusive, while by the admission of Mr. Hewett himself the Governor is fully exonerated from even the possibility of deriving any personal benefit by the neglect or omission.'

"On the second charge, 'That an irregularity on the part of the Governor in making, or causing to be made, entries of the receipts and delivery of the clothing is also admitted by him; and, from certain entries in the books, this irregularity appears to have existed; but, as in the former, so in the latter charge, the Governor is wholly exonerated from the slightest fraudulent intention, or from having derived any personal benefit or advantage therefrom, and without any loss to the Union.'

"On the third charge, 'That this charge has not been established; and further, as regards that part of it alleging him to have taken liberties with the paupers in the house, and furnishing them with spirits, it has been most fully and satisfactorily refuted by the witnesses themselves who were brought forward to prove it.'

"On the fourth charge, 'That it is wholly unproved; and further, that it has been shown to be groundless.'

"On the fifth charge, 'That it has been so far established, by the Governor's own admission, as to show that he has been irregular in his attendance at Divine service; but as to the extent of that irregularity or omission, the evidence is not satisfactory to the Board; and the immoral tendency of conduct implied in the charge, and attributed to him in some of the statements made in support of it, are disproved.'

"On the sixth charge, 'That it has not been proved; but, on the contrary, the evidence adduced in support of it (even supposing it to be correct) would have the effect of disproving it.'

" That

"That the statements of the Governor, and the evidence he has adduced in extenuation of these parts of the several charges which affect his conduct, though they may have some weight, yet in the opinion of the Board they are insufficient to free him from censure, and cannot be admitted as an excuse for the neglect and omission of any part of his duty, or for irregularity in so important a branch of the public service as the clothing department of the house, inasmuch as he is bound to report instantaneously to the Board the existence of any circumstance conflicting with, or preventing the uniform, constant, and strict performance of every part of his official duties.

"That in forwarding to the Poor Law Commissioners the result of this investigation, the Board feel called upon to record the expression of their distrust as to the purity, ingenuousness, and disinterestedness of the source from whence they originate, emanating as they do from a discharged clerk of the Governor's, who from the very nature of his confidential situation had the means within his power of gratifying that malignant and rancorous spirit which has shown itself pending the whole of this investigation; and, coupled with this, such has been the questionable and unsatisfactory nature of much of the evidence adduced in support of these charges, that on that evidence alone, without the Governor's own admissions, the Board would have scarcely ventured to come to the opinion they have formed."

I am, &c.  
(signed) C. Brown, Clerk.

— No. 4. —

Copy of a LETTER from the Clerk of the Bath Union to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

Abbey-street, 12 January 1839.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians of this Union, to forward to you copies of charges preferred against Mr. Lawrence, the Governor of the Workhouse, by the Rev. C. F. Watts, the Chaplain, and Mr. Thomas Hewett, and I am further directed to request you will send down an Assistant Commissioner to inquire into the same.

I am, &c.  
(signed) C. Brown, Clerk.

3 Enclosures.

Note.—This letter and the enclosures were referred to the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Adey, on the 15th January, with instructions to inquire into the charges, and report upon them.

— No. 5. —

First Enclosure to No. 4.

To the Board of Guardians for the Bath Union.

THE Chaplain to the Bath Union begs leave, in compliance with the request of the Board of Guardians, to send in a list of the charges he has to prefer against Mr. Lawrence, the Governor of the Workhouse. He is prepared to adduce the necessary evidence when required.

1. That Mrs. Marrs, a pauper in the house, was heard by several to say, that Mr. Lawrence had given her, when she was poorly, a glass of gin and water, adding, that a good rubbing up would do her most good. One out of two of the school children who heard this, observed to the other, she could not think what Mr. Lawrence could mean by a 'good rubbing up.'

2. That Mr. Lawrence was not at the house at Widcombe for 10 days and a fortnight at a time, and did not call over the muster-roll more than once in the course of many months.

3. That after Mr. Lawrence had been informed of a woman named Austin having stolen articles of clothing belonging to the Union, he took her into the kitchen and allowed her all the privileges of an honest woman.

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1. That

4. That Mr. Lawrence went into the school-room one day when the children were out, and taking hold of one of the schoolmistress's hands, forced it into a pocket (situated low, and nearly in the front) of his smock-frock, in which was a long warm kidney potato. The person who witnessed this act was so struck with the particular manner of doing it, as to say, 'The nasty, insolent, indecent fellow, if he had done it to me, I would have given him a box on the ear;' and also declared to the Chaplain, that she considered it at the time as only next to pushing the hand into his breeches.

5. That Mrs. Marrs had been heard by several to say, she knew enough of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence to get them turned out of their places, and to ruin them; that the hottest place in hell was not too hot for them; and that she was determined she would write to Mr. Anderson, the chairman of the Board, and tell him all she knew.

6. That Mr. Lawrence has been most shamefully tampering with the inmates of the house.

7. That Mary Hewitt, a young woman now in the house, declares herself prepared to swear that Mr. Lawrence forced her, more than once, into illicit connexion with him; that she had been with child by him; that she told him so in the presence of others; that Miss Lawrence went on her knees to her, to beg she would say she was with child by some other man, promising her baby clothes, &c., if she would do so; that threats and bribes were had recourse to, to induce her to deny the above; that she ultimately miscarried, &c., &c. This matter the Chaplain finds has long been the common talk of the house, and strong evidence, in addition to Mary Hewitt's statement, can be produced.

8. That Mr. Lawrence's daughter has been in the frequent habit of sending provisions, bread, bacon, cheese, butter, as well as articles of clothing belonging to the Union, out of the house. There are those who are ready to come forward and swear they have seen the things given out at the porter's gate, have eaten and purchased portions of the eatables; that provisions also have frequently been thrown over the wall, and many equally wrong things done by the same person.

9. That Mr. Lawrence is in the habit of withholding from the paupers the clothing they are entitled to.

The Chaplain would add, that he has discovered a strong spirit of disaffection among the working paupers, who were loud and bitter in their complaints against the Governor and his wife.

— No. 6. —

Second Enclosure to No. 4.

To the Guardians of the Bath Union.

THE Chaplain of the Union begs leave to hand in to the Board further charges against the Governor of the Workhouse:—

1. That Mr. Lawrence has had paupers of the house committed to prison upon a false oath, of which there is the most satisfactory evidence.

"2. That Mr. Lawrence is in the habit of locking up paupers of both sexes for the most trifling offence, in a cold, damp place, for 24 hours together, without a bit of straw. The Chaplain is aware that solitary confinement is allowed, but surely not of this kind, especially at this season of the year. Many have been thus confined quite lately. One case alone will be sufficient to give: A woman, seven months gone in the family way, was, a very short time since, committed for a very trifling offence, to the cell (called by the paupers, the black hole,) for 24 hours. She was put in about 12 o'clock, A.M.; when night advanced, and it became extremely cold (she had no bonnet on, and was very thinly clad), a person went to Mr. L. to remind him of her situation, (i.e., her being far gone with child,) and to intreat him to let her out for the night, to go in again in the morning, to which he replied, "Oh, I will stand the consequences; let her out I will not." In the course of the night, the woman declares, she fainted, and, at another time, her lamentations and groans were so loud and heart-rending, that two men quitted their beds, got through the window of their sleeping-room, and, going to her, asked her what was the manner, "Oh," she replied,

replied, "do go and intreat Mr. Lawrence to let me out, for I am nearly perished with cold, and I am sure I shall die before the morning." The men could not rest on account of her cries and moanings, yet dared not go to Mr. Lawrence. The woman says, that the walls of the cell ran with water, added to which, there was a severe frost. In the morning, a slice of dry bread and a cup of cold water was taken to her for the third time, and, at 12 o'clock, she was let out, when she was so ill as to be obliged to go into the sick ward, and to be put to bed; she continued ill, she says, for a week. Is not this cruelty, barbarity, almost surpassing belief? If the woman had died, which nothing but her having the constitution of a dog could have prevented, surely Mr. Lawrence would have been her murderer. Mr. Lawrence has had the audacity to say, that the treatment is sanctioned by the law; which does not allow in these cells more comforts than in a soldier's guard-room, where there is no straw. Who can believe this; viz., that the law is so cruel and barbarous? And admitting that the soldier's guard-room has no straw in it, how very different, it must be observed, is the case and situation of a drunken, well-clad soldier, whose liquor within, and clothes without, keep him warm, to that of a poor, wretched woman, and that too in the family way. The condemned felon has plenty of straw, if not a mattress to lie upon. It is very evident that Mr. Lawrence is a merciless tyrant. The Chaplain has to apologize for the observations he has made, for which the horrible circumstances of the case he has stated, will, he feels, plead a sufficient excuse.

3. Mr. Lawrence threatened to cut off a young man's hair because he asked for his dinner. The working men's dinner had been taken back, being short of weight, with a request that the deficiency might be made up; it was accordingly withheld altogether.

4. There is a man named Rose in the house, a bad, drunken fellow, whom I was obliged to get discharged from his situation of porter at Widcombe, but who imagines Miss Gane was the cause of his discharge; the man has lately been taken into the kitchen (a privileged place), and is sent out of the house on errands, &c. A few nights since he came into the working men's ward quite drunk; shortly after, going out into the yard, he was locked out, the doors having been fastened for the night during his absence, but Mr. Lawrence had him let in. The next morning Mr. Lawrence said to him, laughingly, "Why, you were drunk last night, Rose," and no more. For the same offence, another would have been put into solitary confinement. This was on a Saturday, and, on the Monday following, this drunken fellow had given to him, by Mr. Lawrence, a good pair of shoes, worth 5s. or 6s., and a hat that had belonged to a pauper who had died.

7 January 1839.

— No. 7. —

Third Enclosure to No. 4.

Sir,

4, Holloway, 31 December 1838.

THE following charge is made against the Governor of the Bath Union Workhouse, and evidence will be advanced in support of it:—

"That he has been in the habit of appropriating to his own private use sums of money which paupers in the workhouse have died possessed of, and has wilfully omitted in his reports to the Board of Guardians to make return of the sums of money which such paupers have so died possessed of."

This charge I shall principally endeavour to prove in the instance of a pauper of the name of Bates, who died some time back possessed of a sovereign; but it is my opinion that I shall be able to prove against him other cases of the same nature.

The evidence I shall require from the workhouse will be a woman of the name of Ann Akerman, and the following documents: The register of deaths, and the whole of the Governor's reports to the Board from the first to the last. These reports have been kept filed, in order, from the first formation of the

Union, and had better be secured as soon as possible, in order that no alteration may be made in them.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *Thomas Hewett.*

I beg to trouble you with the inclosed, which I drew up with the intention of swearing to it before the magistrates; but upon application so to do Mr. Inman informed me that they had no power to administer an oath merely for the satisfaction of an individual or a party; nevertheless the statements it contains are true, and I am ready and willing to make oath to them at any time.

*T. H.*

*Thomas Hewett* maketh oath, and saith, that during the former part of the year 1837, he was in the employment of John Lawrence, Governor of the Bath Union Workhouse, as clerk; that deponent was in the habit of drawing up the reports presented to the Board of Guardians at their weekly meetings, in which reports were entered the names of any paupers who might have died during the week, together with the account of any clothes or other effects which the said paupers were possessed of; that some time during the month of March 1837, a pauper of the name of Thomas Newman died at Walcot Workhouse, and return thereof was made to the Board of Guardians on the Wednesday following, and an account was given at the same time of certain clothes, and of nothing but clothes which the said Thomas Newman had died possessed of, which account was drawn up by deponent in pursuance of the Governor's direction; that on the return of the report from the Board it was placed on the file with the rest; that on the following day, Thursday, as deponent was writing at the desk in the office, the Governor took the above-named report from the file, and pointing with his finger to the account entered therein of the clothes which the above-named Thomas Newman died possessed of, ordered deponent to add thereto the words, "and two shillings and sixpence in money," which words deponent added accordingly, and the Governor replaced the report on the file with his own hands; and deponent further saith, that he hath not at any subsequent period made any alteration whatever in the said document.

— No. 8. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Clerk of the Bath Union.

Sir,

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,  
15 January 1839.

I AM directed by the Poor Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, and to inform you they have instructed their Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Adey, to take an early opportunity of investigating the charges preferred against Mr. Lawrence, the Master of the Bath Union Workhouse, by the Rev. C. F. Watts and Mr. Thomas Hewett.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *E. Chadwick, Secretary.*

— No. 9. —

COPY of a REPORT from Mr. Adey to the Poor Law Commissioners.

The Chaplain's Charges against the Master of the Workhouse.

Gentlemen,

Bath Union, 27 January 1839.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, that in pursuance of the directions on the back of (271 C.)\* to inquire and report to you on the several charges brought against John Lawrence, the Master of the Bath Workhouse, I proceeded on Thursday

\* See Note to No. 4.  
3 Enclosures.

Thursday last to make such inquiry; having previously caused the clerk of the Union to apprise the several members of the Board of Guardians the day and hour such investigation would take place, and to solicit their attendance. The chairman and a great many other guardians attended accordingly; and I proceeded first to inquire into that charge of the Chaplain which appeared to me to bear the most serious character, viz. of the Master having had a criminal connexion with a pauper in the house.

I annex to this report the evidence taken on this charge marked (No. 1, D. G. A.); that evidence will speak for itself; but I cannot help observing, as the defence consisted only in an attempt to prove the principal witness, Mary Hewett, of imbecile mind, that in the whole course of my experience as a magistrate I have never met with a witness whose testimony was given in a more convincing manner. Her first appearance induced me to suppose that there was some foundation for the defence I understood was intended to be set up, and I therefore examined her particularly as to her knowledge of the nature of an oath, and her replies fully satisfied me that she was perfectly conscious of the serious responsibility she took upon herself in swearing falsely, and entirely freed my mind from the impression of her imbecility.

Her tale was told in the most artless but connected style, without hesitation, and without the slightest appearance of a concocted story, and a long cross-examination by Mr. Lawrence, numerous questions being suggested to him by several of the guardians present, neither produced the slightest hesitation in her replies, nor shook in the least degree her original testimony.

I shall not venture to anticipate your decision on this charge by any further observations than this, viz. that could the slightest confirmatory evidence of Mary Hewett's accusation have been brought forward, I should not hesitate to give an unfavourable opinion against the Master. As no such evidence can, I believe, be adduced, I hardly suppose you will consider her unsupported testimony sufficient proof of its truth.

The inquiry into this charge occupied the whole of Thursday, and as I was engaged at the Clifton Union on Friday, I was necessitated to adjourn the investigation to this day, when I proceeded to the evidence.

1st. On the charge of a Mr. Thomas Hewett against the Master for embezzling a sovereign, of which a pauper named Webb Bates died possessed of. By the evidence annexed, marked (No. 2, D. G. A.) you will perceive how this charge terminated in proving Mr. Hewett had no other ground for his accusation than that the accounting for the money to the parish officers had been in some measure delayed.

I then proceed to examine the Chaplain's next most serious charges, viz. of undue severity on the part of the Master towards Rebecca Collets. I annex the evidence taken on this charge, marked (No. 3, D. G. A.) I believe you will consider it a perfect exculpation of the Master, and I therefore think it sufficient to add, that the pauper in question is one of the low prostitutes of this city.

With respect to the remainder of Mr. Watts's charges, having on comparing them reason to think that, with the exception of one of taking a false oath, an offence which I have told him and the Board of Guardians should be investigated and dealt with at an ordinary tribunal of the country, that they are virtually the same as those brought forward a month ago by Mr. Hewett, and which have been disposed of by the Board of Guardians in their communication (270 C.) to you, I have addressed a letter to the Board, requesting to know whether such is or is not the fact, and whether it is their wish that a re-investigation should take place by me. This letter will be taken into consideration by the guardians on Wednesday next, who will then acquaint me with their further wishes upon the subject. In the interim I shall proceed to visit other Unions in my district.

From the very strong feeling exhibited, I may say by the whole Board, I have every reason to believe, however, that they will consider further investigation by me unnecessary.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *D. G. Adey.*

See No. 3.



— No. 10. —

First Enclosure to No. 9.

Bath Union, 24 January 1839.

The Evidence, taken on Oath, before me, *D. G. Adey*, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, on the Complaint of the Rev. C. Watts, against John Lawrence, the Master of the Bath Workhouse, for having had a Criminal Connexion with Mary Hewett, a Pauper therein.

July 1837.

*Mary Hewett*, a pauper belonging to St. Michael, 27 years of age, on oath, says:—I came first into the poor house two years ago. About 18 months ago, when I was doing some work in the kitchen, Mr. Lawrence told me to go up into his bed-room to get his boots down; Mr. Lawrence was in the kitchen when he told me this. When I came up to his room I was frightened to see him there, as I had never known him up before when I had been there, as I was accustomed to clean it. Mr. Lawrence pushed me on the bed immediately, and forced me to have criminal connexion with him. This was in the summer time, in July or August, on a Wednesday. That passed by, and I never said anything till the second time. Between three and four months after I was cleaning the office where Mr. Lawrence writes; I went to the fire-place and told him I wanted a pair of shoes; he felt my foot, and said he would let me have a pair, and told me to follow him into the store-room; he put three counterpanes down on the floor and told me to lay down. I asked whether he would let me have a pair of shoes, and he said he would give me a pair for nothing, and told me to make haste before Mr. Welch, the schoolmaster, came down. I did lay down, and had criminal connexion with him.

March 1838.

About four months afterwards, I was walking in the yard one Sunday afternoon, I told Harriet Southey I had something heavy on my mind (she is a pauper in the workhouse, aged about 28, who has a child; she is now married); that I thought I was in the family way, and told her I thought it was by Mr. Lawrence; I asked her what I had better do; and she desired me to stop him in the yard and tell him of it myself. Mrs. Marrs came up to know what was the matter, that is, what I was saying to Harriet Southey; Mrs. Marrs asked me about it, and I told her what I had told Harriet, that I thought I was in the family way by Mr. Lawrence. Mrs. Marrs said she would go down and tell Mrs. Lawrence.

The cook in the kitchen called me down next morning into Mr. Lawrence's office. Mr. Lawrence was present. Mrs. Lawrence asked me if Mr. Lawrence had not used me in a rough manner, and I said, Yes. I took her meaning to be, that Mr. Lawrence had criminal connexion with me. Mr. Lawrence told them to open the door and let me out, and said he would send for Mr. Hemmet and have me before the justice. I then went out of the office. Harriet Southey, Ann Yescombe, and a woman who is dead, called Ann Salter, and Mr. Welch, the schoolmaster, were present. In the afternoon Mr. Gore came, and I was sent for to come over from the ward I was in to the lying-in ward. Mr. Gore examined me, but said nothing, but went down stairs. That same afternoon I heard Mr. Gore say in the kitchen that I was in the family way. Mrs. Lawrence and Harriet Southey were present, and might have heard Mr. Gore say so. Miss Lawrence, who is about 16, was sitting in the cooking kitchen; she called me a great many names, but immediately after said she would give me some baby clothes, if I would say it was somebody else's child. Immediately after this I went into the office before the lawyer, I don't know his name, but Mr. Lawrence was not present, but Mr. Welch was. Miss Lawrence told me when I went into the office to the lawyer, to say it was Thomas Longmead's child.

When I told Harriet Southey I thought I was with child by Mr. Lawrence, I knew it could be by no one else. Mr. Lawrence did not hold out any inducement to me to swear the child to any one else.

April 1838.

I was with child; I know it, because I felt it. I thought I was three or four-months gone with child. I did not have a child, but miscarried about three weeks after being called before the lawyer. No one was present. I did not mention I had miscarried to any one. I was ill after it, but did not consult the doctor. I miscarried in the house at Walcot, in the water-closet. I was at that

that time in the upper ward. I was unwell for several days. About two days afterwards Ann Salter, who is dead, asked me if I was poorly, and I told her I was; but I did not tell her I had miscarried. I went to the water-closet, feeling an inclination for a motion. I had the usual symptoms to induce me to go there, and something came away besides while I was doing my other occasions. It dropped very heavy, but I never saw it. I had the usual discharge afterwards, such as I usually have when I am unwell, but more of it; it lasted a week. I had not had the usual discharge for near five months. I had no other symptoms; no unpleasantness about the bosom. I was at the water-closet half an hour. I usually remain there as long. I came away and went up stairs, and did not tell any one, but went about my usual employment. When I was unwell, previous to being in the family way, I was not regular as to time. I understand what is meant; I never found anything come away from me before when I was usually unwell. When I felt the child I felt a fluttering in my inside; I had never felt the same symptoms before. I was in the laundry when I first felt the fluttering; it was about a month before I went to the water-closet. It all came away at once. I know it was not a motion, because it came both ways. I did not feel the child when I went to the water-closet; I did not feel the same fluttering sensation I did three weeks before in the laundry. I was regular once after I was with child; at the time Mr. Gore came; I mean a fortnight before he examined me.

I was regular after I miscarried; it was a month after; and I have been regular ever since. I was not unwell at the time Mr. Gore saw me. When I first felt the fluttering of the child in the laundry I mentioned it to Harriet Southey.

Examined by Mr. Lawrence.

I know a man of the name of Thomas Longmead. He was in the workhouse on the 15th February 1838. I absconded from the workhouse on the 15th February. I did not agree to meet Longmead. I was admitted again the 15th March. I have met Longmead at a public-house called the 'Malt and Hops.' I met him two days before the 15th March. I went with a woman, named Gray, to the 'Lamb and Cottage,' and there I saw Longmead; this was on the 14th March, the day before I came back to the workhouse. I went to the 'Malt and Hops' for three pints of beer for Mrs. Carrington; I took the beer to Mrs. Carrington, but did not return to the public-house, but went to my work. I did not go that night to the 'Talbot.' Longmead did not go to Mrs. Carrington with me. I know a person of the name of Elizabeth Badger. I stopt with her all night. I walked about the streets of Bath with her. We went into the 'Silver Lion' about three o'clock in the morning; this was on the 13th March. Longmead was not with me. I was not taken up by the police. Elizabeth Badger is dead. I never was at the Guildhall with Elizabeth Badger. I applied to Mr. Douglas, the relieving officer, for re-admission into the workhouse on Monday, the 12th March.

Mr. Douglas asked me several questions; he asked me whether I was in the family way. I said I did not know. Mr. Douglas asked me these questions at the time I applied for re-admission, and told me to come before the Board of Guardians, and I was then re-admitted.

I went out again a week after the Queen was crowned.

3 July.

I applied to the relieving officer for re-admission about three months afterwards, and I was re-admitted the 3d of October. Mr. Douglas asked me several questions then; he asked me whether it was true that I was in the family way by you. I said, No. I first told Mr. Watts that I had been with child by Mr. Lawrence about a fortnight ago; Mr. Watts asked me. I have had no conversation with Mr. Watts since that time, nor with anybody else. I did not like to communicate my being with child to Mr. Hemmet. I told the lawyer that I had had connexion with Longmead. Miss Lawrence told me to say so; this was the day the lawyer came. I acknowledged to the lawyer Longmead was the father, because Miss Lawrence told me. I acknowledged that Mr. Lawrence knew nothing of it.

I have never had connexion with Longmead.

I recollect the day I had first connexion with Mr. Lawrence, because it was the time when the election for Members of Parliament was.

After I saw the lawyer I received different food from what I was accustomed to; the food was suet pudding, some greens and bacon; this was only once. Ann Yescombe

Yescombe brought the suet pudding, greens and bacon, and told me if I was called down, to keep in the same story I had told the lawyer; by being called down, I mean before Mr. Hemmet and other gentlemen of the Board of Guardians. I was cleaning the stairs when I received the food from Ann Yescombe. She did not tell me when I was to eat it. Ann Yescombe did not bring this food to me with any message. Two or three hours after I received the food Ann Yescombe told me I should never want for anything. Ann Yescombe is a pauper, and acted then as cook.

No threat of being sent to prison was ever made to me, if I did not lay the child to Thomas Longmead; suet pudding is the ordinary food every Saturday; I received it on a Saturday.

I know a passage near the Silver Lion; I have never met Longmead in the passage.

No one has ever told me to say what I have said to-day.

The first connexion I had with Mr. Lawrence took place about 11 o'clock in the morning.

The second connexion took place about 8 o'clock in the morning.

I do not recollect the day of the week. These were the only times.

*Harriet Southey*, 28 years old, a pauper belonging to Walcot parish, on oath, says:—I know Mary Hewett; she told me she was with child by the Governor, we were walking at the bottom of the yard near the wash-house; she told me she had something laying very heavy on her mind; I asked her what it was, and she replied, that she was with child by Mr. Lawrence, but did not like to say anything about it for fear Mr. Lawrence should scold her. She had never spoken to me on the subject before. It was about 10 months ago from this time that she told me this; she spoke to me twice afterwards on the subject in the laundry, and said she could feel the fluttering of the child; I'm sure Mary Hewett made use of the word "fluttering," other persons heard it.

#### Mr. Lawrence's Defence.

*Richard Thomas Gore*, surgeon, on oath, says:—I am the medical officer of the workhouse; I knew Mary Hewett; I was called in to examine her; I rather think my attention was directed to her by Mr. Lawrence, with a view to ascertain whether she was pregnant. I think it was in 1837. I was never called in more than once with reference to that matter. There was no manual examination, but I satisfied myself of her state, and the conclusion I came to was that she neither was pregnant, nor had been pregnant.

Her understanding appeared so obtuse on the subject, that I do not think she understood my questions in the way females generally do.

I never stated in the kitchen, or any other part of the house at all, that she was in the family way. I have the most perfect and absolute recollection that I never so said.

I do not consider Mary Hewett insane, but I consider her powers of mind considerably less than those of other people in her situation of life.

I consider she is quite capable of telling whether or not a man had criminal connexion with her.

I consider her state of mind to be such as to be easily led away, but I do not consider it so weak as to prevent her telling a connected story.

*James Hammett*, a guardian, on oath, says:—I have known Mary Hewett about 15 years, and I have always considered her of very weak mind; in early age she was subject to fits. As a visitor on the 21st April last, with Mr. Blathwaite and other gentlemen (as a school committee), Mr. Lawrence addressed me on leaving the house, to ask my advice how he was to proceed upon a very delicate subject, telling me that it had been reported in the house that Mary Hewett was with child by him. A few days afterwards, I think the Sunday following, I called at the Walcot house and I saw Mary Hewett; I believe I asked her whether there was any truth in the report of what had taken place in the house, relative to her connexion with Mr. Lawrence, to which she made no reply; but asked me for some money to buy a handkerchief to go over her neck.

— No. 11. —

Second Enclosure to No. 9.

Bath Union, 26 January 1839.

THE evidence taken before me, D. G. Adey, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, on a complaint made by Thomas Hewett, against John Lawrence, the Master of the Bath Workhouse, for appropriating to his own use the sum of one sovereign, which Webb Bates, a pauper belonging to the parish of Walcot, died possessed of, about Christmas 1837.

Mr. Lawrence produced a receipt, dated 28th November 1838, from Joseph Simpkins, for 1 l. as left by Webb Bates.

Joseph Simpkins, overseer of the parish of Walcot, stated that the receipt was in his handwriting, and that the 1 l. was received by him, of Mr. Lawrence at the time stated therein.

— No. 12. —

Third Enclosure to No. 9.

Bath Union, 26 January 1839.

THE evidence taken before me, D. G. Adey, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, on the complaint made by the Rev. C. F. Watts, against John Lawrence, the Master of the Bath Workhouse, for improperly confining Rebecca Collett for 24 hours, in a cell called by the paupers the black hole, about the 22d of November last.

The Conduct Book of the Bath Union was produced, in which appeared the following entry:

	Date.	Offence.	Punishment Awarded.
Rebecca Collett, aged 22.	24 Nov. 1838 -	- - Fighting, and using vulgar and abusive language. 2d offence.	- - Confined for 24 hours in the refractory ward on bread and water. J. C.

In the Conduct Book appeared also the following entry:

Rebecca Collett, aged 22.	25 July 1838 -	- - Absenting herself from the messenger when taken from the Board-room; getting drunk and using abusive language.	- - Confined for 24 hours in the refractory ward on bread and water. C. B.
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Captain *J. Campbell*, sworn:—The charge defined in the Conduct Book, and signed with my initials, was investigated by the Board, and the statements then made bore out the charge even to a greater degree than the Conduct Book alleged. I have a perfect recollection of the whole case.

*C. Battford*, esq., vice-chairman, sworn:—I have no particular recollection of the circumstances of Rebecca Collett's case on the 24th November; but I have no doubt they were investigated by the Board, from such being the usual practice; and that the Board approved of it; the initials *C. B.* in the Conduct Book are mine.

The Admission and Discharge Book was produced, from whence it appeared that Rebecca Collett was admitted on the 30th of October 1838, as pregnant.



*Samuel Ganes*, sworn:—I am porter to the Bath Workhouse. I recollect Rebecca Collett being confined in the black hole in November last. I took her food three times, and went once to see if she wanted water; the last time, in the evening, was about seven o'clock; the first time, in the morning, was about seven o'clock; she then said she was very ill, and thought she would have died in the night; she did not appear ill any more than the rest that are locked up. I let her out about 12 o'clock; she cursed and said she did not care anything about it; she did not appear unusually fatigued; she walked through the yard very well.

Examined by *Mr. Watts*.

There was no straw in the cell; I cannot recollect whether or not it was a cold night. I did not notice the state of the walls of the cell at that period; several paupers asked me whether she was coming out; I did not ask the Governor to let her out; but when I returned the keys to him at nine o'clock I asked him whether she was coming out, and told him she said he did not dare to keep her in. I think he said he would take the chance of that. The reason I asked whether she was coming out, was, that it was stated she was in the family way, and the Governor, when there is any one large in the family way, does not keep them in over night. I cannot say whether or not Nurse Jones was one of the persons who asked me whether she was to come out; and when Mr. Watts asked me on Tuesday, I told him I could not say anything about that; I cannot say whether she had a bonnet or not, she had no cloak. I cannot say whether she had a shawl.

Examined by *Mr. Hammett*.

I cannot say whether or not she cut her food; I did not see her take any out.

Cross-examined by *Mr. Lawrence*.

Mr. Watts told me I was to recollect myself. I had some conversation with you yesterday, and that is what I told you. I do not recollect I said anything to Weeks yesterday on the subject; Mr. Watts has only spoken to me once on the subject, on Tuesday last. I have seen him since, but he has not spoken to me on the subject.

*Mary Ann Wake*, a pauper belonging to Walcot parish, on oath, says:—I was the bedfellow of Rebecca Collett at the time she was locked up, rather better than a month ago; I saw her the day she was let out, about two o'clock; I saw her come out of the laundry; she then came into our ward, the able-bodied women's ward. She was scarcely able to walk; she trembled with cold; her sister, I, and others persuaded her to go into bed, and we warmed her petticoats to put to her bowels and feet, and took two blankets off the other women's bed to put on her bed. She shivered under the clothes, and her teeth rattled in her head; her sister brought her some broth and some tea and gruel before we could get any warmth into her. She went to bed about two o'clock, and it was not till seven o'clock in the evening that warmth was got into her. About seven o'clock, Sandell, a pauper in the house, who then acted as cook, brought up a basin of tea, and said she, Collett, was to drink that by Mrs. Lawrence's express desire, and a rushlight was also sent, and some dry tea and sugar. Directly after the tea was sent, Mrs. Jones, a midwife, came to my bed side; I was in bed with Rebecca Collett; Mrs. Jones said she was very bad, and ought to be removed to where she, Mrs. Jones, was sleeping, in case she might miscarry in the night. She was then taken into Mrs. Jones's ward, and I believe she slept there that night.

Examined by *Mr. Watts*.

I know there was flooding taking place when she came into the ward. Mr. Gore was sent for about five o'clock; he came. I think she was locked up on Sunday, and let out on Sunday.

*Richard Thomas Gore*, medical officer of the Bath Workhouse, on oath says:—I was at the workhouse on the 24th November, and I was called in to Rebecca Collett's

Collett's case, about four or five o'clock in the afternoon. I found her complaining of illness, which illness I considered of a very slight character. She or others mentioned or said she had been in confinement; I do not recollect that she expressed any apprehension of a miscarriage. She said she was pregnant, and seven months pregnant, but I had great doubts of it; she and I differing in opinion as to her being pregnant. I recollect telling her that it was needless we should dispute on the point, as a little time would show; I considered her disease to be an excessive flow of what is natural to females. I prescribed for her, and saw her up again to the 1st December several times, when she was discharged cured. My opinion relative to her pregnancy remained the same.

Examined by *Mr. Watts*.

The term monorrhagia used in the medical return, is a very extensive term, and may mean flow of blood from the female parts either attending or non-attending miscarriage. I expressed my doubt to Rebecca Collett of her being pregnant, seven months gone, which excited in her great annoyance. I can give a decided opinion when a woman is seven months, which I could not give if she was only two or three months gone. It is a very common thing for woman to make mistakes as to their time. I knew the women had been in confinement. I have no recollection of her having any shivering fit; I have no recollection of hearing she had been labouring under a shivering fit from cold. I cannot say I formed any opinion that her indisposition had arisen from the confinement; I did not see anything in the case at the time to lead me to suppose her illness had arisen from the confinement. I was in great doubt as to her being pregnant, and therefore the question of her miscarriage was a secondary consideration, which I did not enter on, except to take the safe side. I do not recollect ever having been called on to attend her before.

*Mary Jones*, a pauper of Walcot parish, sworn, says:—I act as midwife; I recollect Rebecca Collett being confined in the refractory ward; it is about seven weeks ago; I saw her, when she was in her own ward, between seven and eight o'clock; she was in a state of flooding, the same as she was when she came into the house six or seven weeks before. I took her out of her ward and brought her into mine, put her to bed, there she remained till the next morning; there was then nothing the matter with her, and she returned to her ward. She told me she was in the family way six or seven months. When she was taken into my ward she never said anything about a miscarriage; she was conveyed into my ward by Mrs. Lawrence's desire, and I burnt a rushlight with her all night; it was by Mrs. Lawrence's advice she was put into my ward; I had nothing to do with it; I approved of that advice, as I then had her safe in my care. I was not sure whether she might be delivered of a seven months' child. God knows what might happen; I did not think that would happen.

In the morning she went of her own accord into her own back ward; I directed her to do so, as there was nothing the matter with her, Mrs. Lawrence having told me to do so in that case; I mean that there was nothing the matter with her but that she was able to go down stairs to her own ward.

Mr. King.—When I was first called to her the discharge was the usual discharge, not such as led me to suppose premature labour was likely to take place.

Mr. Barrow.—I did not say when I first saw Rebecca Collett, she had better be removed into my ward for fear she should miscarry.

— No. 13. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Rev. C. Fowell Watts to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Gentlemen,  
Bath, 4, Nelson-place, 1 February 1839.  
HAVING sent in the enclosed charges, No. 1, to the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner for investigation, and having received for reply the communication  
489.

6 Enclosures.  
No. 14.

contained

No. 19.

contained in No. 3, I beg leave, with the sanction and by the advice of Mr. Adey to forward them, together with the other accompanying documents, to yourselves, with a request that you will be so obliging as to instruct him to investigate them, if you think it necessary, before he quits these western parts. Allow me at the same time to observe, that I consider Collett's case not only to have been very imperfectly and partially investigated, but also that some of the witnesses gave a most equivocating and unfair, not to say a false evidence. I allude chiefly to the nurse and the medical man. The nurse, for example, pretended she did not expect the woman's miscarriage, which 20 people know she did; she also said the woman walked down stairs the following morning of her own accord, although it is well known that Mrs. Lawrence, the matron, sent to say she (Collett) should not stay in the midwife's (*i.e.* the nurse's) room if nothing was going to happen; that is, if she was not going to miscarry. The medical man likewise stated that he did not form any opinion of the cause of her illness; that he did not go into causes, yet the woman herself, and one or two more who were present, are ready to swear that; and after having heard she had been confined in the punishment cell all night, he said, "Well, I will do my best for you, but why don't you manage to keep out of such places?" which observation, of course, plainly implied that he considered the attack to arise from her confinement. This would have been inquired into and brought out in the course of his examination, had not some of the guardians at my side so interrupted me with continued insults as to affect my memory and self-possession, and had not several important questions been disallowed. I would observe, too, that not only was not the woman permitted to make her own statement, but that I was not allowed to call upon three very principal witnesses; one a man who went to the woman during the night, and the two others women who heard the midwife beg the porter to ask Mr. Lawrence to let the woman out for the night. The examination took place on a Saturday (January 26th), and in the evening I wrote the enclosed note, No. 2, to the Assistant Commissioner, and received the enclosed reply, No. 3. In what I have said respecting facilities not afforded, &c., I alluded not only to the fact of my having been prevented calling upon important witnesses, but also to the facts of some of the guardians so insultingly interrupting me; of the Master having been permitted again and again to bring false statements, and of my not having been allowed to have brought down from the workhouse, under my own eye, the witnesses I required, which I felt to be most necessary, knowing as I did the various ruses in the way of intimidation, &c. &c. that had been had recourse to by Mr. Lawrence. Grieved in my spirit at all I saw and heard (particularly at the feeling of inhumanity exhibited, and at the manner in which the medical men acted), after having received Mr. Adey's note, No. 3, above referred to, I sat down and drew out the questions I have sent you, No. 4, which you will perceive are chiefly signed by medical men of Bristol and Clifton, and most eminent ones they are. I applied to them (amongst whom only one is known to me, and there is, I know, very little intimacy between themselves) on account of my discovering some little reluctance on the part of the Bath medical men, owing to their local interests and ties, &c. &c., but in so plain a case of course it is immaterial from whom the testimony is derived. And now I would again return to the case itself; I mean the investigation of it, on which I beg permission to make a few more remarks. There was clearly an attempt made to treat this case with as much indifference as possible; to make it out that the offence of the woman warranted the punishment inflicted; that the cell was not exactly as I described; that the law sanctioned the punishment, and that the woman is not in the family way. The Offence Book stated her confinement to be for "fighting and abusive language." These are great sounding words, whereas the real offence was the giving a smack on the face to a woman twice her own size, and uttering angry words to her for circulating a false report about her, which many are ready to prove upon oath. The truth is, it is well known, the Master had what is commonly called a spite against the poor woman; that there was no straw in the cell; that the woman was clad as described in the questions the evidence will show; and that the cell which the porter, when questioned, replied he did not at the time notice, was, as described in questions,—so damp that the walls ran with water, I am ready to prove by many witnesses. Indeed the porter has since admitted, that at that season or in damp weather it is so; and how, I would ask, could it be otherwise, when the walls of the entrance hall, where there

No. 17.  
No. 19.No. 19.  
No. 16.

there is a fresh current of air, are so at such times. The porter also replied, in evidence, he did not hear the woman's groans or cries, but he omitted to say he slept so far off, and in such situation, that he could not possibly have done so. The man who went to the woman in the night has only yesterday, in reply to a question I asked him on the subject, said that what he mostly heard was like the groaning of a dying woman. That the law sanctions such punishment for such an offence, and under such circumstances, is a thing too outrageous for an instant to be believed; and I feel assured such a thing cannot be sanctioned in a Christian land. Lastly, the argument about the woman not being in the family way is good for nothing; that she is so I feel persuaded from all I have heard; but if she ultimately proved not to be so, it will make nothing in the Master's favour. The case rests upon this foundation: by the entry in the Admission Book it was proved that the woman was admitted into the house as a pregnant woman, six months gone; and she was also considered to be so by every one, the medical man never having stated her to be otherwise, and accordingly as such she should have been treated. May I be permitted to repeat a conversation I had a few days ago with a master of a workhouse who had been 20 years in the 1st Royal Dragoons, and had held the situation of paymaster, serjeant, and acting paymaster. "Pray do you manage the inmates by severity?—No, I could manage 1,000 without severity. How do you punish them; if sentenced to 12 or 24 hours' solitary confinement, do you keep them in by night?—No, not even men, but divide the 12 hours into two days, six hours a day, and the 24 into three days, eight hours a day. But what do you do with the women?—I never have put in a woman except for the most dreadful conduct, and then only by day, the cells being too damp in such recently-constructed buildings for confinement by night to any one. What would you think of confining a woman in a state of pregnancy for 24 hours in the month of November?—I should consider if I did it that I should deserve next day to be turned out of my place. What would you do to a woman for striking another, and using abusive language?—I should make her stand at the head of the dinner table; confess her fault, and eat dry bread and drink cold water." What different treatment is this to that complained of! In conclusion, gentlemen, I repeat that a more cruel, inhuman case than Collett's scarcely ever, in my opinion, occurred in these Christian days, in which opinion I feel persuaded you will coincide with me. If the present Poor Law system be based on mercy and humanity, it will last and prove a blessing to the land; if on severity and harshness; it will soon fall to pieces, and the cries of the poor and oppressed will enter into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, and bring down heavy judgments on the land. I have just received the accompanying paper, No. 5, from the clerk to the Board of Guardians. What is stated in the resolution respecting the Master's misapprehension of the instructions of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, is most plausible and altogether false, since I know as a fact that he never received any instructions whatever on the matter in question from Mr. Adey, with whose knowledge I went to the performance of my clerical duties on the occasions referred to. Mr. Adey addressed to me note, No. 6, on the false-oath case (which case I purpose putting into the hands of one who will deal with it in the proper way); but why only two charges out of 13 have hitherto been investigated, I cannot tell. And now, gentlemen, I would only add, that I have in this affair acted altogether from a principle of duty in everything I have done; that I have never had any personal ill feeling towards, nor misunderstanding with the Master, during the 18 months I have been Chaplain, keeping myself always to my own province and sphere of duty, and not interfering with his. In bringing forward the charges I have, I conceived I was only doing that which would deserve the thanks of all the guardians, instead of incurring the displeasure and hatred of some of them.

I am, &amp;c.

(signed) C. Fowell Watts,  
Chaplain to Bath Union.

No. 18.

No. 15.

— No. 14. —

First Enclosure to No. 13.

To the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

28 January 1839.

The Chaplain to the Bath Union begs leave to hand in the following charges, against the Master and Mistress of the Bath Workhouse, to the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner now in Bath for the purpose of investigating charges preferred against the said Master of the Bath Workhouse.

1. That Mr. Lawrence, the Master of the Bath Workhouse, has been guilty of many acts (and several of these quite recent ones) of the most tyrannical oppression and cruelty towards the inmates of the houses.

2. That Mrs. Lawrence has grossly insulted the Chaplain for faithfully discharging his duties.

3. That Mr. Lawrence has been very deficient in the just and impartial discharge of the duties of his office, confining for 24 hours a pregnant woman for a trifling offence, and letting drunkenness go unpunished.

4. That Mr. Lawrence, on the 25th ultimo, refused the Chaplain admittance into the workhouse, notwithstanding he (the Chaplain) stated his object in demanding it to be the visiting of the sick, and his having come with the knowledge of the Assistant Commissioner.

31 January.

In forwarding these charges to the Poor Law Commissioner the Chaplain thinks it better to state a few of the cases of oppression alluded to in charge 1.

1. The throwing down headlong in one of the yards a poor female cripple, because she did not go quite fast enough, or advanced with some reluctance to the confinement cell.

2. The having two of the working paupers committed to the police guard-house for warming their hands, according to an existing and permitted practice, for two or three minutes, during bitterly cold weather, while employed on very cold work.

3. The keeping these men 24 hours without a mouthful of food.

4. The cursing at a man who was under medical treatment for legs so painfully swollen from walking that he could scarcely stand on them, because he was work, and saying, "I'll be damn'd if you shall eat if you do not work," and accordingly stopping the man's meat.

— No. 15. —

Second Enclosure to No. 13.

Reverend Sir,

White Hart, Bath, 23 Jan. 1839.

With reference to the charge against the Master of the Bath Workhouse, of an alleged false oath, I beg to state that I am clearly of opinion it would be improper for me to examine into it.

The offence should be investigated and dealt with by the ordinary legal tribunals of the country.

The Rev. C. F. Watts.

I have, &c.  
(signed) D. G. Adey.

— No. 16. —

Third Enclosure to No. 13.

1. Would you not say that the confinement of any woman without a bonnet or cloak, or a shawl, or in a small damp cell (*i. e.* the walls running with water), without even a handful of straw in it, in the latter part of the month of November,

ber, for the space of 24 hours, during which period she had nothing to take but dry bread and cold water, would most probably lead to evil consequences?—I think such confinement would endanger the health of any one. *G. Wallis.*

2. Would you not, as a medical man, consider such confinement under such circumstances, much to be deprecated and most unjustifiable?—I do. *G. W.*

3. If a woman so confined and so treated, shortly after her quitting the cell at the expiration of 24 hours (when she spent an hour in a warm laundry) became extremely ill, being seized with such dreadful shivering for three hours, that although wrapped up in several blankets and a heated flannel petticoat around her body, her teeth chattered in her head, and these shiverings followed by a violent flooding; would you not consider such illness to arise from her confinement in the cold cell under the circumstances alluded to?—I certainly should. *G. W.*

4. Does not long exposure to damp and cold as described, very generally occasion such attack?—Yes. *G. W.*

5. Would you not say, that the confinement of a woman, six months gone in the family way, under the above-mentioned circumstances, would be most liable to be attended with very disastrous and serious consequences?—I certainly should. *G. W.*

6. Would you not consider the act of a man who, when applied to at 7 o'clock in the evening (when it began to grow bitterly cold with frost, or even if there were no frost) at the season of the year above stated, to let the woman out for the night, refused to do so, an act of the greatest inhumanity and barbarity?—Undoubtedly. *G. W.*

7. Would you not declare such confinement to a pregnant woman, or even to one reputedly so under the above-mentioned circumstances, unspeakably improper and cruel; and would you say any defence or apology could be made for such confinement?—Such conduct is indefensible. *G. W.*

8. If such pregnant woman were seized with illness, such as is above-mentioned, shortly after her release from the cell, at the expiration of the 24 hours, would you not believe the attack to arise from such confinement?—No doubt I should.

*G. Wallis, M. D., Bristol,*  
Physician to the Bristol Infirmary, &c.

My opinion having been requested on the above questions I can have no difficulty in stating, that such conduct towards any poor individual is perfectly unjustifiable, and would be more than likely to be attended by serious consequences.

*J. Howell, M. D.,*  
Bristol, 29 January 1839. Physician to the Bristol Infirmary.

I certainly coincide with the opinions expressed by Drs. Wallis and Howell.  
*N. Smith, Surgeon.*

29 January 1839.

29 January 1839.

*W. L. Morgan,*  
Surgeon to the Bristol Infirmary.

I concur generally in the opinions expressed above.

*James F. Barnard, M. D.,*  
Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

*J. A. Symonds, M. D.,*  
Physician to the Bristol General Hospital.

I fully concur in the opinions above expressed.

*Wm. Henry Tryer, Surgeon,*  
Bath, 31 January 1839. H. P. Medical Staff.

It is my decided opinion that the treatment in the preceding case has been cruel in the extreme, and calculated to lead to the above consequences.

*Charles Greville, M. D.*  
Bath, 1 February 1839.

The satisfaction (although mixed with pain) the Chaplain feels in obtaining the above signatures, arises from the circumstance that the questions are not mere hypothetical ones, but questions altogether deducible from evidence, and founded on fact. His object in putting the woman Collett's case in the above questions in two forms, will, of course, be abundantly obvious to the Commissioners.

— No. 17. —

Fourth Enclosure to No. 13.

Sir, Bath, Saturday Evening, 20 January.

It is with pain, I observe, that I feel I have great and just cause for complaint at not having been permitted, this afternoon, to call upon a very material witness, who was one of the men that went to the woman Collett in the night, and who would have stated what would, in my estimation, have been very much to the point; viz., that the cries he heard were not those of anger or passion, but the heart-rending lamentations of one in deep distress; of a poor afflicted wretch, half perished, pleading for mercy, piercingly crying aloud for pity and compassion, whose language, when addressed, was, "Oh, I am half dead, I shall perish before the morning, do go and ask to have me let out." I cannot but add, that those facilities have not been afforded me for the eliciting of the truth, and the accomplishment of the ends of justice, that I had reason to look for, while faithfully performing my trying and painful duties. I have the fullest assurance that some of the witnesses have been tampered with, which must have been evident to all. The Lord knows that I have acted, myself, with the most unblemished integrity and uprightness. I may have been chafed at times, but that is not to be wondered at, seeing and hearing all I did. You little know what passed at my side throughout the whole proceedings. I should be glad to have the case of Collett submitted to the opinion and decision of any body of medical men. I beg to send the accompanying papers, and am

Sir, &amp;c.

(signed) C. F. W.

To D. G. Adey, Esq.

— No. 18. —

Fifth Enclosure to No. 13.

Bath Union.

Reverend Sir, Abbey-street, 31 January 1839.

I AM directed to forward to you a copy of a resolution, unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Board of Guardians of this Union, held yesterday:—

"That with reference to the charge inserted in the Chaplain's report, 'that the Master of the Workhouse had refused the Chaplain admission to the workhouse, on Friday the 25th and Saturday the 26th,' the Board are of opinion that the Governor appears to have acted under a mis-apprehension of the instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners, and though the Governor may have considered himself justified in refusing admission, under the peculiar circumstances of the inquiry then pending, the transaction does, upon the face of it, evince a line of conduct of which the Board disapproves, and a principle they cannot sanction."

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) C. Brown, Clerk.

Rev. C. F. Watts,  
Chaplain to the Bath Union.

— No. 19. —

Sixth Enclosure to No. 13.

Reverend Sir, Bath, Sunday Evening, 27 January 1839.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday evening. If you think I have in any way misconducted the inquiry on Collett's case, it is open for you to complain to the Commissioners, who will give your representations every attention.

With respect to the further charges against the Master, enclosed in your note, I desire to state that, taking into consideration all the circumstances, I do not feel myself authorized to investigate them without the directions of the Commissioners; I therefore return them to you, that you may forward them to the Commissioners if you think proper.

I am, &amp;c.

(signed) D. G. Adey.

To the Chaplain  
of the Bath Union Workhouse.

— No. 20. —

Copy of a REPORT from Mr. Adey to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Bath Union:—Inquiry into the Conduct of the Master of the Workhouse.

Gentlemen,

Sherborne, 3 February 1839.

I RETURN herewith the several documents connected with this inquiry, having reason to believe that the charges in 271 C. remaining undisposed of by me, were, in substance, the same as those contained in 10989 C., and that they had therefore already been investigated by the Board of Guardians, as explained in 270 C. I addressed a letter to the Board of Guardians on the subject, requesting to be informed whether or not my supposition was correct, and if so, whether they wished a further investigation to be made by me. I have this morning received the annexed letter from the clerk, which will not only show you the opinion of the Board of Guardians as to the particular charges to which it applies, but also their strong, and I may say nearly unanimous, opinion of the charges in general.

I am, &amp;c.

(signed) D. G. Adey.

1 Enclosure.

See No. 4.

See No. 1.

See No. 3.

— No. 21. —

Enclosure to No. 20.

Sir,

Bath Union, Abbey-street, 31 January 1839.

IN reply to your letter of the 28th instant, addressed to the Board of Guardians of this Union, I am directed to forward to you the following extract from the minutes of their proceedings at their weekly meeting held yesterday:—

"Resolved unanimously,

"That Mr. Adey, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, having addressed a letter of the 28th Jan. to the Board, and the Board having taken into their consideration the several charges referred to by the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, are of opinion that they are generally but of trivial importance, and most of them of a frivolous and vexatious character (as many of the charges made against the Governor upon this lengthened inquiry appear to be), founded merely upon hearsay, or sundry and very unsatisfactory evidence, and partaking much of the nature and description of those which were disproved on investigation, and for these reasons the Board fully concur in the views of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, and deem it unnecessary to institute a further inquiry therein."

I am, &amp;c.

(signed) C. Brown, Clerk.

To D. G. Adey, Esq.,  
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.



— No. 22. —

Copy of a REPORT from Mr. *Weale* to the Poor Law Commissioners.REPORT on certain Charges brought against Mr. *Lawrence*, the Master of the Workhouse of this Union.

Gentlemen,

Bath Union, 9 February 1839.

I HAVE read over with the greatest care and attention Mr. Adey's reports, and the evidence in the cases above referred to, together with Mr. Watts's letter to you, dated the 1st instant.

On the charge against Mr. Lawrence for having criminal intercourse with Mary Hewett, I really do not feel called on to make any other comment than that it is totally unsupported by any corroborative evidence, and that the fact of his mentioning the report in circulation so long back as April last to one of the visiting guardians is strongly indicative of his innocence. (See Evidence of Mr. Hammett.)

As to the charge against Lawrence for confining Rebecca Collett for 24 hours in the black hole, I must confess that I think such a mode of punishment to any female highly improper; but more especially in a case where the party was reported as being pregnant; but it is clear from the entry made by Lawrence in the Conduct Book that he only considered he was performing his duty; and from the evidence of the vice-chairman, Mr. Battsford, it appears the Board was of the same opinion, by sanctioning the proceeding.

The evidence as to the effect of the punishment, and as to the fact of the pregnancy of the woman, is so conflicting, that I cannot venture to give any opinion on these points; but I would most respectfully suggest that your Board should express a decided opinion that no female in a state of pregnancy should be confined during the night in the refractory ward, and that in all cases where it is necessary to confine any pauper in that place that proper bedding and covering should be supplied to them.

I feel it due to Mr. Lawrence that I should state to you that I have known him well for several years, and that previous to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act he was for about two years employed in the parish of Midhurst, in which I then resided, as Master of the Workhouse and assistant overseer. From the interest I took at that period in parochial affairs very few days elapsed that I was not brought in contact with him, and it never fell to my lot to meet with a better officer, or a man of more correct deportment.

On the formation of the Midhurst Union he was unanimously elected Governor of the Workhouse of that Union, and which situation he quitted only in consequence of the guardians during the second year wishing to decrease his salary. He has been at the Bath Union from its commencement, as Governor of the Workhouse, and during the period that that Union was under my superintendence, I never had the most distant cause to alter the high opinion I had previously formed of his character and ability.

Mr. Lawrence was formerly a pay-sergeant in the artillery; and on his election to his present office he produced the most flattering testimonials, not only from his superior officers in the army, but from every place in which he had been an inhabitant since his discharge.

As Mr. Watts in his letter before referred to has cast some reflections on the conduct of Mr. Gore, the medical officer, I feel called on to remark that there is not a general practitioner in Bath who stands higher either in private or professional life in the estimation of the profession and the public at large than that gentleman; to me he is almost a stranger, and it is on the authority of some of the leading medical men that I venture to make this assertion.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Robert Weale*,  
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

— No. 23. —

Copy of a LETTER from the Rev. *C. F. Watts* to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Nelson-place, Norfolk-crescent, Bath,  
9 February 1839.

Gentlemen,

IN reply to a note, dated Sherborne 4th February 1839, transmitted to me by you from Mr. Adey, containing a communication from the clerk to the Bath Union, to the effect that the charges against the Master of the Workhouse remaining uninvestigated require not Mr. Adey's investigation, I would observe, that the fresh series of charges, dated January 26th, which I sent you on Saturday last, against the said Master of the Bath Union Workhouse, accompanied by a request that Mr. Adey may be instructed to inquire into them, have never been laid before the Board of Guardians, and consequently that the clerk's communication has no reference to them. I am sure, therefore, you will see the propriety of Mr. Adey's investigating them.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *C. F. Powell Watts*,  
Chaplain to the Bath Union.

No. 14.

— No. 24. —

Copy of a LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Clerk of the Bath Union.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,  
12 February 1839.

Sir,

THE Poor Law Commissioners have had under their consideration the several charges brought against Mr. Lawrence, the Master of the Workhouse of the Bath Union, which were examined into by Mr. Adey on the 26th ultimo.

With respect to the charge that Mr. Lawrence had criminal intercourse with Mary Hewett, the Commissioners, in the absence of all corroborative evidence in support of Mary Hewett's statement, cannot consider that the charge is proved.

The Commissioners conceive that in forming their opinion on this case they must be guided by the practice of the criminal courts in cases of rape, and by the expressed views of the Legislature as to the evidence necessary in bastardy cases.

The Commissioners feel it due to Mr. Lawrence to add, that they think the fact of his having mentioned the report as in circulation as far back as April last, to one of the visiting guardians, Mr. Hammett, is an indication of his innocence which ought not to be disregarded.

With reference to the charge of confining Rebecca Collett for 24 hours in the refractory ward, the Commissioners must observe that it seems to them to be very doubtful whether she was pregnant, or whether her health was seriously affected by this punishment.

The Commissioners, however, are of opinion that as she was entered on her admission into the workhouse as pregnant, and there was no distinct proof of her not being in that condition, it was improper to confine her in the refractory ward during the night; and still more improper to omit to supply her with proper bedding and covering, which should in all cases be provided for those whom it may be advisable thus to confine during the night.

The Commissioners entertaining no doubt that this expression of their opinion will prevent the recurrence of any similar circumstance, do not deem it necessary to take any ulterior steps as regards this case.

As regards the charge made against the Master of the Workhouse, of appropriating a sovereign belonging to a pauper, Webb Bates, at the time of his decease, it does not appear to the Commissioners that the delay in paying it over to the parish officer affords adequate ground for supposing that it was dishonestly withheld.

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No. 13.

Since the receipt of the evidence on these charges, the Commissioners have received a communication from Mr. Watts, the Chaplain to the Union, a copy of which they transmit to the guardians for their information. The Commissioners are well aware that, in requiring an investigation to take place into the several charges of oppression, as stated by Mr. Watts in the memorandum sent by that gentleman to Mr. Adey, on the 6th ultimo, they are inconveniently occupying the time of the guardians and of their Assistant Commissioner, but these charges having been deliberately made by the gentleman holding the important office of Chaplain to the workhouse, the Commissioners do not perceive any satisfactory alternative open to them, by means of which an examination into those charges can be avoided.

No. 14.

Mr. Adey will, therefore, communicate with the guardians of the Bath Union, and will fix as early an opportunity for going into this subject as the other public demands on his time will permit; and he will, at the same time, examine into the complaint made by the Chaplain of his having been grossly insulted by Mrs. Lawrence.

(Signed by order of the Board,)

E. Chadwick, Secretary.

— No. 25. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Rev. C. F. Watts to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

4, Nelson-place, Bath.

I must apologize for again troubling you, which I should not do had it not occurred to me that I had omitted things in my last letter I should not have done. In stating to you the communication that had taken place between myself and the guardians, since the investigation of charges by Mr. Adey, I omitted one I felt it my duty to make to them a few weeks since, and which, probably only displeased them.

"To the Board of Guardians, &c., &c.—Gentlemen, I consider it incumbent upon me to make you acquainted with what I casually learnt a few days ago, from a conversation that passed in my hearing, between two men who had evidently heard of the sovereign case; viz., that the sovereign for which Mr. Lawrence it appears in no way accounted until a few weeks since, came into Mr. L.'s possession in the latter part of the year 1836, the period at which the pauper died to whom it belonged."

I ought, too, to have given you, in full, my reply to the proposal made me to resign:—

"To the Board of Guardians, &c. &c.—The Chaplain of the Union begs to inform the Board of Guardians, that he cannot think of resigning his present office, feeling, as he does, that he has never at any time done anything prejudicial to, but, on the contrary, ever studiously consulted the best interests of the Union. With respect to the circumstances attendant upon, and connected with, the recent investigation before the Assistant Commissioner, the Chaplain begs leave to state, that in the last interview he had with the Assistant Commissioner, at the complete close of the proceedings, he received from him the following testimony in his favour: 'Mr. Watts, I have no fault whatever to find with you. I was certainly much grieved to see the bad spirit evinced towards you without any cause, and I again and again told the guardians that you were not to be blamed for anything you had done, for that you had only performed your duty.'

"Mr. Watts takes this opportunity of observing, that it is Mr. Lawrence who is injuring the best interests of the Union, if, by the best interests of the Union, is meant the welfare of the poor, since there are at the present moment two poor women lying afflicted with sickness, the effects of Mr. Lawrence's unfeeling and cruel conduct, or, as some may say, consideration of the best interests of the Union."

And now I would first say a few words in connexion with the above reply. Surely that man must be considered to consult the best interests of any system who endeavours to correct abuses, which only can be done by making those abuses known; and he it is who is injuring those interests who is the daily practiser of abuses; and here I would observe, that it is impossible to say how bad is the odour that attaches to the Bath Union, in consequence of the tyranny and

and oppression of the Master and Mistress of the Workhouse. I have spoken of two women having been made ill by the exercise of this tyranny. The case of one of the two I will take the liberty of giving, in as few words as possible. First, however, it will be necessary to state, that throughout the winter, 10 or 15 women at a time have been employed, from morning till evening, in an extremely cold outhouse, without a bit of fire in it, at picking oakum; the woman in question, having upon her a *prolapsus uteri*, from a bad confinement, told Mr. Lawrence, in inclement weather, that Mr. Gore, the medical man, had said she should not expose herself to the cold, nor stay, at any time, in a cold place; to which, she says, he replied, that he neither cared for Mr. Gore or any other medical man, and if she did not go along and work, she should not eat. The early part of last month, during bitterly severe weather, the poor creature, feeling herself very cold and unwell, went into a ward to warm herself, when she was driven out by the Master, and, in a day or two after, was taken very ill, with cold and fever, into a sick ward, where she continued for, I think, about three weeks, the nurses, and all about her in the ward, replying, upon my asking what was the matter, that it was cold and fever, arising from being kept in the oakum shop without a bit of fire. Several women have been known to say, they were so benumbed with cold, that they could scarcely rise from their seats, or move their limbs. Now, how easily may all this evil and misery have been remedied, by just putting a stove in the place, which the Master seems to think would have been too great a luxury for the poor creatures. With many apologies for taking up so much of your time, I beg to subscribe myself, gentlemen,

Yours, &c.

(signed) C. Fowell Watts.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have been perfectly astounded at casually hearing that the chief cause assigned by the guardians for my suspension, has been my having been reported by the Master to have created, among some of the women, a spirit of insubordination. Now, if it is meant intentionally so, by word, or anything else, I reply, a more wicked calumny and falsehood could not possibly be uttered; or, if even unintentionally so, owing to circumstances, I would reply, it is a piece of cunning sophistry, and that if insubordination exist, or has existed among them, which I never before heard of, it is altogether owing to the oppression and tyranny I have in part alluded to. I have, myself, not been into their ward, except for two seconds with a friend, since the investigation, although I feel they need so much my visits. I have also understood that a memorial, teeming with the offences and misconduct I have been guilty of, has been sent you by the guardians, but what those offences are, I am quite at a loss to conjecture, being perfectly ready, as I am, to submit my conduct in every particular, since I have been Chaplain, to the judgment and decision of any impartial body of men well acquainted with circumstances.

March 4, Thursday Evening.

Note.—This letter was referred to Mr. Adey on the 25th of April.

— No. 26. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Rev. C. F. Watts to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

4, Nelson-place, Bath.

I TAKE the liberty of again addressing you, to request you to have the politeness to inform me whether it is or not your good pleasure to take any notice of the papers I sent you some weeks since. I have within the last few days heard of Mr. Adey having been again in Bath, but I did not hear of his having done anything in the matter of the charges against the Master of the Workhouse here. Allow me to add, that of course not the shadow of a doubt can possibly rest upon the minds of any honest and impartial men as to the guilt of the Master of the Workhouse

Workhouse in the immorality case that was investigated, I mean the case of Mary Hewett.

8 March 1839.

I beg to subscribe myself, &c.  
(signed) C. F. Watts.

N. B. I should have observed that I have received no kind of communication from the Board of Guardians since I last addressed you.

Note.—This letter was referred to Mr. Adey on the 9th of March.

— No. 27. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Rev. C. F. Watts to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

4, Nelson-place, Bath.

I AM sorry to be obliged again to trouble you, which I do for the purpose of informing you of the manner in which the Guardians have acted towards me, and in order that you may the better understand this, it will be necessary to go back a little. On the 29th of December last I was requested to be present at a meeting of the Board, when I was questioned respecting the attendance of the Master of the Workhouse at Divine worship; and afterwards I was asked if I knew anything against him; to which I replied I had heard several things, if hearsay statements would do, when I was requested to send them into the Board in the shape of charges. This I accordingly did in two series of charges, and subsequently I sent yourselves a third series, as you know. Ever since the late investigation by Mr. Adey, I hesitate not to affirm that the conduct of the Master has been most oppressive and improper. There is lying extremely ill at the present time a poor woman, the victim of his cruel tyranny, as I have stated to the guardians; and I have a short time since been obliged to make the following entries in the Chaplain's Book:

"March 2. Two girls, who have been associates of bad characters, if not bad characters themselves, have lately been sent amongst the school children, and are in the habit of using most improper language among them."

The above entry was seen by the Board on the 6th, when by an entry of the chairman, it was requested that I would report the names of the young women alluded to.

"March 9. The names of the young women above alluded to are Sarah Pearce and Mary Banks; and most grieved do I feel that they should still be permitted to associate with the school children, considering as I do every hour of such intercourse to be fraught with danger to the morals and general principles of the children. Why they were sent among them I cannot imagine. Surely the person that did this ought to have been aware that evil consequences (as I find has been the case) would be most likely to result from such association."

Having conversed with the schoolmistress after making the last entry, I felt it my duty to write as follows:

"9th. I am sorry to be obliged again to allude to the afore-mentioned young women, which duty compels me to do. The schoolmistress had before only spoken to me in the most general terms of their misconduct; but what she has just partially communicated (for delicacy would not permit a more open and complete disclosure) has perfectly shocked and horrified me. One has been in the habit of cursing and swearing among the children, and the other it appears has done still worse; and how could anything better be expected, one having been in the black ward, and the mother having kept, I understand, a house of ill fame." On the 11th these young women were removed, but not until the children's morals had been most seriously injured through this very improper proceeding of the master. After having, gentlemen, not only of late, but upon all occasions, discharged my duty faithfully as unto God, and done nothing but as an act of duty and in perfect conformity, as it appears to me, with your printed regulations, and after having received the testimony of Mr. Adey that I had only done my duty, I have to state, that on the 14th instant I received a request from the Board of Guardians to resign my office, without assigning any other reason for this

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strange proceeding than a consideration for the best interests of the workhouse and Union generally; a reason that perfectly astounded me, who for a year and nine months have given nearly all my time and strength to the spiritual interests of those committed to my care. Having replied to this request that I could not think of resigning my charge, feeling as I did that I had never at any time done anything but with a view to the best interests of the Union, and that the one who was injuring them was the Master of the house, I received on the 20th instant the communication that I was suspended from my office, a proceeding assuredly the most outrageous that ever was heard of, which nothing could justify but conduct on my part of so flagrant a kind as would oblige the Bishop to strip me of my gown, and which I feel convinced cannot for a moment meet with your sanction. Since writing the above, I have thought it better to send you the communications alluded to, as having been made to me on the 14th and 20th instant; and upon the word "unanimous" used in the last I would beg leave to observe, that I know the Board to be much divided on the subject in question; it has been made quite a party matter by a great portion of the Board, instead of one of justice and truth.

I am, &c.  
(signed) C. Fowell Watts.

P. S.—I feel obliged by the acknowledgment of the receipt of my former letter through Mr. Adey, from whom I heard a few days ago.

23 March 1839.

— No. 28. —

Enclosure to No. 27.

Reverend Sir,

Bath Union, Abbey-street, 14 March 1839.

I AM directed to forward to you the following resolution, passed by the Board of Guardians of this Union: Resolved, "That from all the circumstances immediately attendant upon and connected with the recent investigation before the Assistant Commissioner of certain charges brought against the Master of the Workhouse by the Chaplain, the Board deem it to be both expedient and necessary, for the best interests of the workhouse and of the Union generally, that Mr. Watts should not be continued in the office of Chaplain; and they trust that Mr. Watts will see the propriety of yielding to the views of the Board, and will avail himself of their expressed opinion on this subject to tender the resignation of his office, and relieve the Board from any other more painful alternative."

Rev. C. F. Watts, Chaplain  
Bath Union.

I am, &c.  
(signed) C. Brown, Clerk.

— No. 29. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Clerk of the Bath Union to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

Bath Union, 29 March 1839.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians of this Union to forward to you the accompanying report on the subject of the suspension of the Chaplain, adopted at a meeting of the Board on Wednesday the 27th instant.

I am, &c.  
(signed) C. Brown, Clerk.

1 Enclosure.

— No. 30. —

Enclosure to No. 29.

COPY of a REPORT of a Committee of Guardians of the Bath Union.

Board Room, 23 March 1839.

REPORT of the committee appointed to draw up a report, to be forwarded to the Poor Law Commissioners, upon the subject of the suspension of the Chaplain of this Union.

Your Committee have agreed to the following report, which they submit for the approval and adoption of the Board :

"The Board of Guardians of the Bath Union having, in the exercise of the powers vested in them by the 31st section of the workhouse regulations, deemed it necessary to suspend the Chaplain of their Union from the duties of his office, they now proceed to state the causes that have compelled them to adopt this measure; and while they regret the necessity for occupying the time and attention of the Commissioners in stating those causes at some length, such is the nature, extent, and influence of the combined circumstances which have led to it, the importance of the subject to the interests of the Union generally, and in justification of their own proceedings, the Board feel called upon to enter into a full and explicit detail of this affair.

"During a period of one year and five months from the Chaplain's first appointment, up to the time at which charges were preferred against the Master of the Workhouse by Mr. Hewett, it does not appear that the Chaplain made any complaint against the Master, or even impugned his conduct; but on the investigation of the charges referred to, the Chaplain was produced to prove the absence of the Master during the performance of Divine service in the house. The following extract is taken from the minutes of the Chaplain's evidence on that occasion.

"If I saw any improper proceedings in the workhouse, I should think it my duty to inform the Board. I have seen nothing in the conduct of the Governor, schoolmistress, or other officer in the house, which I have thought it my duty to report to the Board."

"The Chaplain subsequently explained, that though he knew nothing improper in the conduct of the Master of his own knowledge, he had been informed by the inmates of the house of many acts of gross misconduct on his part. The Board, however, declined to entertain new charges, having no relation to those then under consideration, and brought to their knowledge for the first time in this unexpected and indirect manner, but suggested that the Chaplain should prefer them in a formal and official manner; and accordingly two lists of charges, 13 in number, were preferred at different times. But the proceedings upon these charges being fully known to and approved of by the Commissioners, it would be unnecessary for the Board to advert to them; were it not that they feel bound to record the expression of their regret and strong disapprobation of the personally acrimonious spirit manifested by the Chaplain towards the Master, in the prosecution of these charges; a spirit little in accordance with the character and office of a Christian minister, and displaying an excess of irascibility and intemperance indicative, in the opinion of the Board, of a total absence of all mental control and government.

"The nature and character of these charges, as well as of those preferred by Mr. Hewett, and the sources from whence they emanated, gave to them, in the first instance, a very doubtful and questionable hue; but the result of their investigation by the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, at least of all those of a criminatory nature, has been exculpatory of the conduct and character of the Master, and quite satisfactory to the Board; but it would not appear to have been equally satisfactory to the prejudiced mind of the Chaplain, who, by preferring another list of charges, still in abeyance (differing though they may in form and words, yet similar in origin and character to those already disposed of), continues to evince a rancorous feeling towards the Master wholly undiminished.

"These hostile proceedings and personal animosities are productive of much discomfort and great perplexity to the Master, in the execution of his important and

and responsible duties; are fostering a spirit of discord, and producing collisions between the officers of the establishment, by exciting party feeling; imposing upon the Board irksome and painful additional labour, by the recurrence of weekly appeals to them, arising out of this discordant state of things; tending to neutralize the authority of the Master, and tacitly encourage insubordination and a spirit of combination among the dissolute and refractory inmates of the house (with whom, almost exclusively, have originated all the charges against the Master). These combined and momentous evils have led the Board to consider it both expedient and necessary for the well-being of the Union, that the Chaplain should be discontinued in his office; and under this conviction the Board adopted a resolution (Appendix A.) calling upon him to resign; but as some few individual guardians were averse to carrying it into immediate execution, considering that it would be premature to act thereon until proceedings upon the charges still in abeyance had been taken, the resolution was for the moment suspended; but though the Board agreed to its momentary suspension, their opinion of the Chaplain's incompetency and unfitness for his office, and their conviction of the utter impossibility of the Master's carrying on his duties at the workhouse with advantage to the Union, or with efficiency or satisfaction to himself, while the Chaplain remained, was wholly unchanged.

On the usual board-day, three weeks after the proceedings above referred to, it was intimated for the first time by one of the guardians, to whom it became accidentally known, that the Chaplain had, since his first appointment, been in the constant habit of omitting what appeared to the Board to be an important part of his clerical duties; namely, that part of the Communion Service appropriated to the Sunday morning service of the church. The Chaplain attended personally at the Board the succeeding Wednesday to answer to the allegation; he admitted the fact, and subsequently offered some reasons for the omission; but this interference on the part of the Board, it seems, effected no change in the Chaplain's course, as the same omission was continued at the subsequent Sunday's service at the house.

When before the Board upon the subject of the omission of his duty above referred to, the Chaplain made some complaints of the conduct of the Master and Matron, but which were not of that importance to require the further interference of the Board at that time; especially characterized as they were by that spirit of animosity and invidious feeling engendered by former proceedings. But, with the desire to prevent the recurrence of similar personal differences and heart-burnings, which would seem to arise in some measure from what appeared to the Board to be a mistaken view of the extent of his privileges and the nature of his duties, the chairman took occasion to point out his views (in which the Board fully concurred) of the nature and extent of the Chaplain's duties, and of the privileges that devolved upon him in their performance. Tenaciously adhering, however, to the detail of his complaints, the Chaplain continued to occupy the time and interfere with the business of the Board to a most inconvenient length by his prolix and desultory statements, unconnected altogether with the object for which he attended; to all of which the Board (with the view of obviating the evils of a lengthened controversy to which they had on several former occasions been exposed) avoided any reply, and it was only at the repeated but courteous interventions of some of the guardians that he withdrew when he did.

This dereliction of what seemed to the Board to be an important part of the Chaplain's clerical duties, added to the perpetual discord and hostile collision thus weekly and almost daily manifested, seriously affecting the well-being of the workhouse, induced the Board to carry into execution the suspended resolution, which was communicated (Appendix B.) to the Chaplain accordingly.

The subsequent board-day brought the Chaplain's reply (Appendix C.), declining to accede to the views of the Board. But in addition to this reply, the Board were perfectly astonished at the contents of a letter (Appendix D.) from the Chaplain to the chairman, which, when communicated to the Board, produced one simultaneous feeling of indignation, and led to the unanimous adoption of a resolution (Appendix E.) of the Board then present, amounting in number to 30, to suspend the Chaplain from his office, which measure, with their reasons for having done so, hereinbefore stated, they now transmit for the decision of the Poor Law Commissioners thereon.

(signed) G. H. Anderson. S. Barrow. Charles Batsford.  
T. Whitter. J. Campbell.

## Appendix (A.)

Moved by Captain Campbell, and seconded by Mr. Barrow :—

That from all the circumstances immediately attendant upon and connected with the recent investigation before the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, of certain charges brought against the Master of the Workhouse by the Chaplain, the Board deem it both to be expedient and necessary, for the best interests of the workhouse and of the Union generally, that Mr. Watts should not be continued in the office of Chaplain; and they trust that Mr. Watts will see the propriety of yielding to the views of the Board, and will avail himself of their expressed opinion on this subject, to tender the resignation of his office, and relieve the Board from any other more painful alternative; but that the communication of this resolution to Mr. Watts be suspended until the further determination of the Board.

## Appendix (B.)

Moved by Captain Campbell, and seconded by S. Barrow, Esq. :—

That the Clerk be directed to communicate to the Chaplain the resolution of the Board (13 February), containing their opinion as to the expediency of Mr. Watts tendering the resignation of his office.

## Appendix (C.)

To the Board of Guardians of the Bath Union.

THE Chaplain of the Union begs to inform the Board of Guardians that he cannot think of resigning his office, feeling as he does that he has never at any time done anything prejudicial to, but, on the contrary, ever studiously considered "the best interests of the Union." With respect to the circumstances immediately attendant upon and connected with the recent investigation before the Assistant Commissioner, the Chaplain begs leave to state, that in the last interview he had with the Assistant Commissioner, at the complete close of the proceedings, he received from him the following testimony in his favour: "Mr. Watts, I have no fault whatever to find with you; I was certainly much grieved to see the bad spirit evinced towards you without any cause, and I again told the guardians that you were not to be blamed for anything you had done, for that you had only performed your duty." Mr. Watts takes this opportunity of observing that it is Mr. Lawrence who is injuring the best interests of the Union (if by the best interests of the Union is meant the welfare of the poor), since there are at this present moment two poor women lying afflicted with sickness, the effects of Mr. Lawrence's unfeeling and cruel conduct, or as some may say, "consideration for the best interests of your Union."

16 March 1839.

## Appendix (D.)

Sir,

4, Nelson-place, Thursday Afternoon.

I CANNOT help addressing you a few lines, in consequence of what passed at the Board yesterday, expressive of the greatest surprise at the manner in which you expressed yourself, after the conversation that passed between us at your own house a short time since. It is very evident that you have allowed the Master of the Workhouse (who, it is clear to every honest mind is one of the most unprincipled and wicked of men) to bring whatever statements he has pleased before the Board, without giving me the opportunity of replying to them, forgetting and violating the Scripture rule of allowing the accused to have the accuser face to face; and it is evident the impression has been given, that I am in the habit of visiting the workhouse for other purposes than those strictly clerical and spiritual, a thing I have never done, except upon one single occasion, and that a few days ago, when I took a friend over the house. I admit you disclaimed charging me with this, but your doing so was accompanied with inconsistency that I could not understand, and much astonished me. Allow me to remark, that your observations (I cannot call them replies, for they were not so) were also altogether irrelevant. I had asked for a reply to a plain and important question, but this you chose completely to evade. I had been complaining of the conduct of the Matron, whom I had stated to have most improperly and insultingly interrupted me while discharging the sacred duties of my office, and then asked if such conduct was to be allowed towards a Christian minister, adding, "Pray was I engaged or not in the performance of my duty in reproving the young woman for immoral conduct before the school children?" upon which you made the irrelevant observations alluded to, but which I have thought it quite unnecessary to repeat, as you must sufficiently remember them. I do not hesitate to say, that your manner of dealing with my question was strongly calculated to encourage the greatest

greatest insolence and disrespect in the Master (who was present), and also the Matron, towards the Chaplain, whoever he may be. Indeed, the fact of your speaking as you did, before the Master (whom you have ever avoided reprimanding in the slightest degree for his iniquities, at least in my presence), just amounted to your sanctioning every act of oppression, tyranny, and wickedness he has been guilty of. I dare not, in conclusion, forbear remarking upon the painful indifference with which you seemed to treat the subject of the injury done to the morals of the children, by the unjustifiable proceeding of Mr. Lawrence, who knew well the bad character and evil habits of the young woman; and I also take the opportunity of stating that the information I sent you respecting the sovereign, the nurse of the ward in which the pauper died can confirm; she informed me that she had made a mistake of a year, when speaking of the matter before the Board.

14 March 1839.

I am, &c.  
(signed) C. Fowell Watts.

P. S.—Since writing the above, I have received a communication from Mr. Brown, of which I shall take the necessary notice in due time.  
Thursday Evening.

## Appendix (E.)

Moved by S. Barrow, Esq., seconded by Mr. Passmore :—

That the Chaplain of this Union, the Rev. C. F. Watts, be suspended forthwith from the performance of his duties, and a cheque drawn for 22*l.* 10*s.*, his salary to the 25th instant; and further, that a committee of five be appointed to draw up a report to the Poor Law Commissioners, setting forth the cause of such suspension.

## —No. 31.—

COPY of a LETTER from the Clerk of the Bath Union to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

Abbey-street, Bath, 3 April 1839.

I AM directed by the Board of Guardians of this Union to request you will suspend your decision on the case of the Chaplain, until a further communication is made to you by them on the subject.

I am, &c.  
(signed) C. Brown, Clerk.

## —No. 32.—

COPY of a LETTER from the Clerk of the Bath Union to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

Bath Union, 18 April 1839.

IN consequence of alleged irregularity attending the suspension of the Chaplain of this Union, the Board of Guardians proceeded yesterday again to the vote, and I am directed to forward to you the following resolution, which was then passed :—

"That the Board, after due notice, having again taken into their consideration the conduct of the Chaplain, they now confirm and adopt, in all respects, their resolution of the 27th day of March last, and that the clerk do acquaint the Poor Law Commissioners thereof forthwith."

I am, &c.  
(signed) C. Brown, Clerk.



— No. 33. —

Copy of a LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Rev. C. F. Watts.

Sir,

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,  
19 April 1839.

THE POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS are of opinion, that in consequence of your late conduct towards the Board of Guardians, and of the resolution respecting your tenure of the office of Chaplain to which the Board have recently come, it will not be desirable that you should continue to hold that office. The Commissioners therefore trust that you will, by a voluntary resignation of the office, relieve them from the painful necessity of taking measures for removing you from it.

(Signed by order of the Board,)

E. Chadwick, Secretary.

— No. 34. —

Copy of a LETTER from the Rev. C. F. Watts to the Poor Law Commissioners.

Gentlemen,

4, Nelson-place, Bath, Friday Evening.

It has just been privately reported to me, that the Board of Guardians (or, more properly, a majority of them,) have sent up a report to you relative to my conduct, accompanied by a resolution for my removal. I have been informed that, among other complaints altogether unfounded, and originating in nothing but bitterness of spirit, in certain individuals at the Board (as Mr. Adey must know), I have been charged with having persisted in omitting the Communion Service, after having received instructions to the contrary, or at least after having been censured for the omission. Now, most positively do I affirm that nothing ever passed upon the subject, except what follows: Some weeks ago I was asked if the Communion Service was omitted, to which I replied "Yes;" adding, that I was informed by the schoolmaster, the first time I officiated, it was not customary to have the Communion Service, as it was advisable and necessary to shorten the service; I also stated that I knew the former Chaplain had, for nearly 12 months, conducted the service with the above omission, which I had reason to suppose was done with the knowledge and sanction of the Board, as the Master had two or three times said he had received instructions to let the people have their dinners as soon after half past 12 as possible. Not a word of reply was made by the guardians, either in the way of censure or instruction, so that I of course performed the service, the only other Sunday I officiated, in the usual manner, not having an idea I was to do otherwise. I have likewise been informed that a letter I addressed to Mr. Anderson at his private residence was appended on to the report, &c., sent you. I can only say that I felt it to be my duty to write this letter. In conclusion, gentlemen, I would observe, that I have not sent you the above statement from any anxiety about the losing or holding a situation in which I have seen iniquity of every kind winked at, and oppression in every shape countenanced and allowed, but because I consider it to be due to myself to do so. The majority of votes against me I understand to have arisen from the circumstance of the friends of a wealthy magistrate at the Board, who had been very warm and zealous in the late business, having exerted all their energies on the occasion.

19 April 1839.

I am, &c.  
(signed) C. Fowell Watts.

Saturday Morning.

P. S.—I have just received your letter, in reply to which I have to observe, that I cannot understand what is meant by the expression "late conduct towards the guardians," feeling as I do, that not only have I never, at any time, over-

stepped the bounds of duty, but also have, at no time, forgotten the gentleman and Christian minister in my behaviour towards them. Their conduct (I mean some of them) towards me, from the very commencement of the late proceedings, has been everything that was unbecoming and disgraceful, instead of what it ought to have been towards a clergyman, and why? just simply because I boldly and unflinchingly stood upon the cause of justice, humanity, and truth. How they behaved during the investigation by Mr. Adey, he can, if he likes, testify. Insult upon insult has been unprovokedly heaped upon me. I can only add, that I am ready to submit my conduct, and all I have done, to the judgment of the public, as I purpose doing; such a consciousness have I of uprightness, rectitude, and Christian faithfulness, unmixed with anything like an improper spirit, in all I have done. I cannot think, gentlemen, of resigning my post, in which I have ever conscientiously discharged my duty. You can of course adopt whatever measures you please for removing me from it: the responsibility lies with yourselves. My clerical friends quite accord with me in opinion.

April 20.

N. B.—I received a note a short time since from Mr. Adey, saying he should investigate the fresh charges as soon as possible after Easter. There seems to be a determination this shall not be done.

— No. 35. —

ORDER for the DISMISSAL of the Chaplain of the Workhouse.

To the Guardians of the Poor of the Bath Union, in the County of Somerset; to the Reverend C. Fowell Watts, Chaplain of the Workhouse of the said Union; to the Clerk or Clerks to the Justices of Petty Sessions, held for the Division or Divisions in which the Parishes and Places comprised in the said Union are situate; and to all others whom it may concern:

Know all Men by these Presents, that We, the Poor Law Commissioners, in pursuance and execution of the powers and authorities vested in us, under and by virtue of the statute made and passed in the 4th and 5th years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act for the Amendment and better Administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," do hereby remove the said C. Fowell Watts from the office of Chaplain of the Workhouse of the said Union. And we do hereby order and direct the said C. Fowell Watts forthwith to cease to exercise and perform the powers and duties of the said office.

And we do hereby order and direct, that the Guardians of the Poor of the Bath Union, shall, within one month from the date of this Order, appoint a fit and proper person to be the Chaplain of the Workhouse of the said Union, in the place of the said C. Fowell Watts; and the said Guardians shall, as soon as conveniently may be after such appointment, report the same, together with the amount of salary intended to be given to the person so to be appointed Chaplain of the Workhouse, to us the said Poor Law Commissioners, in order that we may approve or disallow the same, or give such other directions thereon as the case may require.

Given under our hands and seal of office this 25th day of April, in the year 1839.

Seal of the Poor Law Commissioners, (L. S.)

(signed) J. G. S. Lefevre.  
G. C. Lewis.



— No. 36. —

Copy of a LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Clerk of the Bath Union.

Sir,

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,  
25 April 1839.

In issuing their order for the dismissal of Mr. Watts from the office of Chaplain to the Workhouse of the Bath Union, the Poor Law Commissioners desire to state that they concur in the opinion of the Board of Guardians (expressed in their resolutions of the 17th instant, and the 27th ultimo), that Mr. Watts could not continue to perform the duties of Chaplain in a satisfactory manner, considering his present relation to the Board of Guardians, whose responsible officer he is. Even in his last letter to the Commissioners (in which he refuses to adopt their suggestion of voluntarily resigning his office), he states that the conduct of the Board of Guardians, towards himself, has been "unbecoming and disgraceful," and that "insult upon insult has been unprovokedly heaped upon him" by them. If such be Mr. Watts's opinion of the conduct of the Board of Guardians to him, it is impossible that he should continue to act under them in a subordinate capacity, with advantage to the public service.

The Commissioners, however, wish to add, that the dismissal of Mr. Watts from the office of Chaplain, will in nowise interfere with the investigation of his additional charges against the Workhouse Master.

(Signed by order of the Board,)

W. G. Lumley, Assistant-secretary.

— No. 37. —

Copy of a REPORT from Mr. Adey to the Poor Law Commissioners.

BATH UNION.

See No. 14.

Additional Charges (881 C.) of the Chaplain against the Master of the Workhouse.

Gentlemen,

1 May 1839.

See No. 24.

HAVING observed from your letter (3116 C.) to the clerk to the Guardians of the Bath Union, that the dismissal of Mr. Watts from the office of Chaplain, would in nowise interfere with the additional charges against the Workhouse Master, I addressed the note to Mr. Watts, No. 1, annexed.

2 Enclosures.

On Tuesday morning he called on me, and after a long desultory conversation, left with me the letter (No. 2, annexed.)

I have since made such further inquiry as Mr. Watts's letter enabled me to do; and I find that these additional charges are (as I suspected and reported to you on the back of 1845 C.) virtually the same charges that have been investigated by me, and reported to you, or investigated by the Board of Guardians, and explained fully to their satisfaction, but put in a different shape, in order to obtain a re-investigation; as I conceive such a mode of proceeding would be most unjust to the Master of the Workhouse, and would, I am sure, lead to still further irritation on the part of the Board of Guardians, I respectfully submit to you the propriety of your acquainting Mr. Watts with the view I have taken of these additional charges, and that you therefore do not think it necessary that I should proceed further with the inquiry.

Waiting your further instructions,

I remain, &amp;c.

(signed) D. G. Adey.

— No. 38. —

First Enclosure to No. 37.

Dear Sir,

White Hart, Bath, 27 April 1839.

BEFORE proceeding to examine into the charges against the Master of the Bath Workhouse, contained in your letter of the 26th January last, I must beg the favour of you to furnish me with the following further information.

With reference to the first charge, "That Mr. Lawrence has been guilty of several acts (and many of them quite recent ones) of the most tyrannical oppression and cruelty towards the inmates of the house;" pray, specify the names of the inmates on whom such acts were perpetrated, and the periods when the same took place.

With respect to the second charge, viz. "That Mrs. Lawrence has grossly insulted the Chaplain when in the discharge of his duties;" pray state the nature of the insult, and the period of its occurrence.

With respect to the third charge, viz. "of confining for 24 hours a pregnant woman for a trifling offence, and letting drunkenness go unpunished;" pray, acquaint me with the name of the woman, and the period at which she was confined, and the name of the drunken person alluded to, and the date of the transaction.

I am, &amp;c.

(signed) D. G. Adey.

To the Rev. C. F. Watts.

— No. 39. —

Second Enclosure to No. 37.

4, Nelson-place, Monday Morning,  
April 29, 1839.

Dear Sir,

UPON reconsideration, I admit I do not see why my altered position in the Union should lead me to decline following up the remaining charges against the Master of the Workhouse left uninvestigated, although at the same time I must admit I feel very little disposed, under existing circumstances, to subject myself to the renewed insults of wicked and godless men, and perhaps treatment nearly as bad and disgraceful as I saw the young man Hewett, without any cause whatever, receive from them. I trust, however, there will be some little check and restraint put upon them on the present occasion, and therefore send you the information you ask for, previously observing, that I consider the conduct and proceedings both of the guardians and Commissioners in putting off this investigation to the present period, when, I have every reason to believe, several of the parties who would be required to appear have been sent out of the house, and when I am so differently circumstanced to what I was a few months ago, is of a kind I will not express my opinion of, but will leave it to an honest and impartial public to pass judgment upon. Upon referring to my memorandum book, I find I can only furnish you in part with the information you require, not having taken down dates in every case.

Charge 1st. Name of woman pushed down headlong, &c. &c. Laurel Davis; I have no date. Names of men sent to police station for warming their hands, and kept 24 hours without food, John Jennings and Henry Saxby; date about 14 months ago. Name of man with swollen legs cursed at, &c. &c. John Jennings; date some time in last November.

Charge 2d. While the Chaplain was speaking to a man named Reynolds, in the buttery, Mrs. Lawrence came in and made a violent attack upon him (the Chaplain), applying to him various opprobrious epithets, such as mean, dirty, shabby, &c. for having asked, as she said, questions about her, which he replied he had never at any time done. This, however, did not satisfy her; she then desired him and the man to go out, which the Chaplain said he would, as soon as he had eaten a bit of bread and cheese, when Mrs. L. exclaimed, "Well, then,

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then, if you don't choose to go out, I will give it to you; for I'll lock you in here for a couple of hours, and see how you will like that." The door was then locked, but in a few minutes opened again, and the Chaplain shortly after quitted the buttry, Mrs. L. still continuing to abuse him for having listened to anything he had heard against any of her family. Date, January last.

Charge 3d. The name of the drunken man is — Rose; date of transaction, December last.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *C. Fowell Watts.*

To D. G. Adey, Esq., White Hart.

— No. 40. —

Copy of a LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Reverend  
*C. F. Watts.*

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,  
7 May 1839.

Sir,

THE Poor Law Commissioners have received from their Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Adey, a copy of a letter addressed by him to you on the 27th ultimo, requesting information on the subject of the additional charges preferred by you against the Master of the Bath Union Workhouse, on the 26th of January last, and the Commissioners have also received from him a copy of your reply to his inquiries, dated the 29th ultimo.

The Commissioners learn from a report from their Assistant Commissioner, that he has made inquiry on the subject of the further charges you have brought against the Master of the Workhouse, and the Commissioners are informed that these charges are virtually the same as those which have already been investigated by Mr. Adey and the Board of Guardians, and reported to and decided upon by the Commissioners.

Under these circumstances the Commissioners have to acquaint you that they do not deem it necessary further to interfere in the matter in question, and the Commissioners have informed Mr. Adey that they do not require him to make any additional investigation with respect to the charges adverted to.

(Signed by order of the Board,)

*George Coode, Assistant-secretary.*

— No. 41. —

Copy of a LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Clerk of the Bath Union.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,  
7 May 1839.

Sir,

THE Poor Law Commissioners herewith forward to you, for the information of the Board of Guardians of the Bath Union, a copy of a letter they have addressed to the late Chaplain of the Union, the Reverend C. Fowell Watts, relative to the additional charges preferred by him against the Master of the Union workhouse.

(Signed by order of the Board,)

*George Coode, Assistant-secretary.*

Enclosure, copy  
of No. 33.

— No. 42. —

Copy of a LETTER from the Poor Law Commissioners to Mr. Adey.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,  
7 May 1839.

Sir,

THE Poor Law Commissioners have to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 1st instant, relative to the additional charges preferred by Mr. Watts, the late Chaplain of the Bath Union, against the Master of the Workhouse; and the Commissioners enclose for your information a copy of a letter they have addressed to Mr. Watts, by which you will learn that the Commissioners deem it unnecessary that you should institute any further investigation with reference to the charges in question, Enclosure, a copy  
of No. 38.

(Signed, by order of the Board,)

*George Coode, Assistant-secretary.*

BATH UNION WORKHOUSE.

COPY of the Proceedings in the Investigation  
into the Conduct of the Master of the Bath  
Union Workhouse.

(*Lord Granville Somerset,*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
5 August 1839.

