

“ perty, Name, or Description of the  
“ Ship.

“ Whereupon the Lords of the Committee  
“ beg Leave to inform your Majesty, that a  
“ like Complaint was made to your Majesty’s  
“ Royal Predecessor King Charles the Second,  
“ on Account of Fees taken at the Admiralty  
“ Office, upon issuing Mediterranean  
“ Passes; which having been examined into  
“ by his Majesty, an Order in Council was  
“ issued, bearing Date the 23d Day of March  
“ 1676, for moderating the said Fees: By  
“ which Order it appears, that the Fee of  
“ Twenty Five Shillings was allowed to be  
“ taken by the Admiralty Office, upon the  
“ issuing a Mediterranean Pass, tho’ at that  
“ Time there was no Stamp Duty in being.

“ And their Lordships further humbly in-  
“ form your Majesty, that an Order in Council  
“ was issued in the Reign of your Majesty’s  
“ late Royal Father, bearing Date the  
“ 13th of July 1717, whereby the Office of  
“ Admiralty was allowed to take the like  
“ Fee of Twenty Five Shillings upon the  
“ issuing such Pass; in which Fee are included  
“ the Stamp Duties, payable by Act of Par-  
“ liament.

“ Upon considering which Orders, and  
“ in Regard that Twenty five Shillings was  
“ allowed so long since as the Year 1676,  
“ as a moderate Fee, their Lordships are of  
“ Opinion, that it may be reasonable to al-  
“ low the like Fee to be continued to be  
“ taken, for every new Pass that shall be  
“ issued from the Admiralty Office, inclu-  
“ ding the Stamp Duties, and all other De-  
“ mands of the said Office.

“ But their Lordships are of Opinion, that  
“ no Pass should be deemed a new Pass, but  
“ where the Property, Name, or Description  
“ of the Ship is altered from what it was  
“ in the old Pass; or that there is no old  
“ Pass produced, in order to be cancelled,  
“ upon the delivering a new one.

“ Yet as the frequent Occasions of renew-  
“ ing such Passes (for the better preventing  
“ their falling into the Hands of Foreigners)  
“ may bring too heavy a Burthen on the  
“ Trade of your Majesty’s Subjects, their  
“ Lordships are of Opinion, that the Mer-  
“ chants should not be obliged to renew  
“ their Passes in less Time than Twelve  
“ Months, unless they shall find it for their  
“ Convenience sooner to renew the same;  
“ and that no more than Fifteen Shillings be  
“ taken upon the renewing of any such Pass;  
“ Ten Shillings whereof as the Fee to the  
“ Admiralty Office, and the other Five Shil-  
“ lings for the Stamps, Parchment, Printing,  
“ &c.

“ And it having been alledged by the Pe-  
“ titioners, that further Fees have been taken

“ of the Merchants by the Officers of the  
“ Customs at the Out-Ports of this King-  
“ dom, upon Pretence of extraordinary  
“ Trouble in taking the Oath and Bond,  
“ and giving a Certificate, in order to ob-  
“ tain the said Pass from the Admiralty Of-  
“ fice: Their Lordships do therefore agree  
“ humbly to report to your Majesty as their  
“ Opinion, that the Merchants residing there  
“ ought to be put upon as easy a Footing  
“ in this Respect, as those residing in Lon-  
“ don. And to that End, that the Officers  
“ of the Customs at the Out-Ports should be  
“ strictly enjoyned, upon the Delivery of  
“ any such Pass, to demand no more than the  
“ said Fee of Twenty five Shillings for a  
“ new Pass, and Fifteen Shillings for a re-  
“ newed Pass, according to what is before  
“ proposed to be taken at the Admiralty  
“ Office; and that they do take the Oath  
“ and Bond, and send the proper Certifi-  
“ cate, in order to obtain the said Pass for  
“ the Merchant, without any other Fee or  
“ Demand whatsoever.

“ And whereas it appeared that the said  
“ Officers of the Customs at the Out-Ports  
“ have hitherto transmitted their Certificates  
“ to the Custom House in London, in order  
“ to be sent from thence to the Admiralty  
“ Office for the obtaining a Pass; and that  
“ such Pass, when signed by the Lords Com-  
“ missioners of the Admiralty, hath been sent  
“ from the said Admiralty Office to the  
“ Custom House in London, to be transmit-  
“ ted from thence to the said Officers at the  
“ Out-Ports; which Method may have been  
“ attended not only with unnecessary De-  
“ lays, but also with an Addition of Ex-  
“ pence to the Merchants: Their Lordships  
“ are therefore of Opinion, that for avoid-  
“ ing the same for the future, the said Of-  
“ ficers at the Out-Ports should be required  
“ to send their Certificates, together with  
“ the Affidavit, and what else is required  
“ for the obtaining such Pass, directly to the  
“ Admiralty Office, who should be likewise  
“ required to transmit the Pass directly to the  
“ said Officers at the Out-Ports, to be deli-  
“ vered to the Merchants.

“ And it having further appeared to this  
“ Committee, that some of the Surveyors at  
“ the Out-Ports have demanded a Fee of  
“ Five Shillings, and others a Fee of Two  
“ Shillings and Six Pence, for their extraor-  
“ dinary Trouble in going on board and  
“ measuring the Ships, and afterwards in cer-  
“ tifying a particular Account thereof to  
“ the Collector of the Customs, in order to  
“ obtain a Pass; their Lordships are therefore  
“ of Opinion, that all the Surveyors at the  
“ Out-Ports should be strictly required not  
“ to demand more than Two Shillings and