

would be pleased to take the Fortifications of the said Island under his own Royal Protection. [The Board of Trade and the Committee have reported,] That the Request contained in the Prayer of the said Address is of the most unusual Nature and that it appears to be the more extraordinary as the Legislature of these Islands lately applied for a supply of Arms Ammunition and Stores which His Majesty was graciously pleased to grant in confidence of that intention which seemed to be implied in the Request namely that this like the rest of His Majestys Colonies would bear the Expence of erecting and maintaining its own Fortifications And as no one of the American Colonies has as yet obtained or even desired such a total Exemption from this sort of Expence as is now applied for, that therefore it is by no means adviseable to make a precedent which in its consequences may become so grievously burthensome to the Mother Country But that however it is of great Importance that the said Islands should in time of War be put into such a State as may prevent their falling into the hands of the Enemy and be rendered of that utility (to which they are by their Situation peculiarly adapted) in distressing the commerce of France. [It is ordered that the Governor] do give full Information to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations in Order to be laid before His Majesty at this Board in what way the expence of maintaining the Fortifications in the said Islands has hitherto been provided for, and do also transmit Plans of the several Forts with full and particular Accounts of their actual Condition, of the number of Cannon, Small Arms, Soldiers and Militia, and of every Circumstance relative to their present State of Defence together with his Opinion as to the Species and degree of Additional Strength which he conceives absolutely necessary for the Security of the said Islands, to the end that such Measures may be taken thereupon as His Majesty shall judge proper. [XVII. pp. 481-2.]

[161.] [Reference to the Committee of the] Petition and Appeal of John Dunbar Esqr. and Elinor his Wife William

14 Jan.
Antigua.

1752.

Gunthorpe Esqr. and Elizabeth his Wife and Ann Watkins Spinster by her Guardians and also of Stephen Blizard Jonas Langford William Mackinen Robert Christian and John Watkins Esqrs. all now or late of His Majestys Island of Antigua from two Decrees made by the Court of Chancery of the said Island on the 29th of January 1750 and 16th of May 1751 in favour of Ashton Warner Esqr. His Majestys Attorney General of the Leeward Islands Daniel Warner Esqr. De la Court Walsh Esqr. Margaret Watkins Widow John Watkins (son of Samuel) Christopher Baldwin and Jane his Wife and Mary Watkins an Infant and Richard Lee her Guardian in relation to the Will of Thomas Watkins Esqr. deceased whereby it was pretended that the said Thomas Watkins had devised several Estates to Charitable Uses. [p. 432.]

11 Feb. This day John Sharpe of Lincolns Inn Esqr. Entered an Appearance for Ashton Warner at the relation of Daniel Warner Esqr. Deputy Treasurer of Antigua and for the said Daniel Warner on behalf of the present and future Councils and Assemblys of Antigua and the poor reduced and honest Familys of the said Island, the Original Complainant to the Appeal of John Dunbar and others. [p. 493.]

4 June. [On the death of Ashton Warner, the Committee revive the appeal by making Henry Webb, the present Attorney General of the Leeward Islands, a party.] [XIV. p. 117.]

(1753.) [In accordance with the Committee report of 1 March, both
7 Mar. decrees are reversed and the information dismissed without costs, but the appellants are to pay 50*l. stg.* out of the estate of Thomas Watkins to the respondents Margaret and John Watkins, Christopher and Jane Baldwin, Mary Watkins, and Richard Lee.] [XIV. pp. 129, 130, 255, 301, 322, 329, 330-1, 344.]

14 Jan. [162.] [Reference to the Committee of the petitions of
Virginia. Anne, the widow, and George, the son and heir, of George Mason, gent., of Virginia, for a day for hearing their appeal from a Chancery decree of 14 April, 1748, overruling their demurrer to Edmund Withers' bill against them for recovery of an estate late belonging to John Withers, deceased, and