

§ 197 *cont.*]

1708.

to the Governor. (3) As to the charge of receiving 210*l.* from Guy Ball for stopping a fleet then ready to sail, Skene denied the truth of Ball's affidavit, instancing the Governor's order of 24 May 1704, *not* for stopping the ships but for allowing such as were not ready to stay behind: he further referred to his trial in Barbados (upon which he was acquitted).

The B. of T. find (1) not proved, the evidence of Capt. St. Loe, the only witness, being chiefly hearsay. (2) is established by Skene's own admission; the minute of the Council six months after his exactions cannot justify him, her Majesty's dislike of such evil practices as a burden on trade should be signified to the Governor. In his answer to (3), Skene evades the point, and, from what appears to the Board, he is guilty of having exacted unusual fees and of bribery.

———. Order for Skene's dismissal from being Secretary. 18 Aug.

———. Skene's petition for a review of the proceedings. 20 Sept.

[198.] BERMUDA. *Complaint of Matthew Newnam* 15 July.
(*cf. pp. 77-8*). B. of T. representation, finding Newnam guilty II. *pp.*
of abusing the Governor, judges and Justices of the 605-6.
Peace, and being a frequent disturber of the peace; yet
that the bail and fine imposed were excessive, and that he
may now be released on conditions.

[199.] JAMAICA. *Sir Wm. Beeston's will*. Petition of 1 Aug.
Sir C. Orby and Dame Anne Hopegood. The will is said II. *p. 564.*
to have been signed by the witnesses in an adjoining room
where the testator could see and converse with them.

[200.] PLANTATIONS. *Prizes*. Presentment from the Com- 8 Aug.
missioners of Prizes: with opinions of Attorney General Northey II. *pp.*
and Solicitor General Montagu. Northey thought the prizes 567-8.
taken during the period when the two Acts overlapped should
be brought to England entire, and determined by an
explanatory Act or by the Court of Exchequer. Montagu
considered her Majesty well entitled to the moiety of the