



POST OFFICE.

COPIES of any CORRESPONDENCE which may have taken place relative to *Mr. Rowland Hill's* appointment to, and removal from, the Situation recently filled by him in connexion with the Post-office.

(*Mr. Hutt.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed;
22 March 1843.

Brawford 1870(16)

POSTAGE.

RETURN to an ORDER of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 12 March 1844;—for,

COPY of so much of the TREASURY MINUTE of the 26th day of December 1839,
respecting the Mode of carrying out the PENNY POSTAGE ACT, as relates to
the Preparation and Application of POSTAGE STAMPS.

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, }
14 March 1844.

G. CLERK.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 15 March 1844.

EXTRACT of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 26th December 1839.

THEIR Lordships, upon full consideration, have decided to require, that, as far as practicable, the Postage of Letters shall be prepaid, and to effect such prepayment by means of Stamps. Their Lordships are of opinion that the convenience of the Public will be consulted, more especially at first, by issuing Stamps of various kinds, in order that every one may select that description of Stamp which is most suitable to his own peculiar circumstances; and with a view of affording an ample choice, their Lordships are pleased to direct that the following Stamps be prepared:—

First, Stamped Covers; the Stamp being struck on pieces of paper the size of half a sheet of quarto letter-paper;

Second, Stamped Envelopes; the Stamp being struck on pieces of paper of a lozenge form, of which the stationers and others may manufacture envelopes.

Third, Adhesive Stamps; or Stamps on small pieces of paper with a glutinous wash at the back, which may be attached to letters either before or after they are written; and

Fourth, Stamps to be struck on paper of any description which the Public may send to the Stamp-office for that purpose.

The paper for the first, second, and third kinds of Stamps to be peculiar in its watermark, or some other feature, but to be supplied to Government by competition.

My Lords direct that the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes and the Commissioners of Excise should receive the official directions to take the necessary steps, in conjunction with this Board and with the Postmaster-General, for the preparation of the Stamps herein enumerated.

Although the necessary experiments and investigations, which have been conducted under the direction of this Board, are already far advanced, my Lords fear that a considerable time will be required for completing the preparation of the dies, plates, and machinery (much of which is unavoidably of a novel construction,) necessary for the manufacture of the Stamps, and being desirous of affording to the public, with the least possible delay, the full advantage of the intended reduction in postage, their Lordships propose at once to effect such reduction.

On the use of Stamps, however, my Lords have fully decided; they will be prepared with the least possible delay, and when ready, due notice will be given of their introduction.