

[GOVERNMENT OF ENGLAND, 1668]

[20 Charles 2]

[Inquisition before commissioners for charitable uses in London]

London [1] **An Inquificion** indented taken att the Guildhall of the City of London the Third and Twentieth day of Aprill in the Twentieth yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles the Second by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the faith &c **Before** Sr William Peake Kn^t Lord Maior of the s^d City Sr Thomas Alleyn Kn^t and Bart Sr John Lawrence Kn^t Sr George Waterman Kn^t Sr William Hooker Kn^t Sr Richard Ford Kn^t John Howell John Verney Esq^{rs} & Robt Jeoffries William Savage Gent

By vertue of a Comijsion under the greate Seale of England bearinge date the Fowerteenth day of January last past to them and others Issued for the Good execucion of a Statute made in the high Court of Parliament holden the Seaven and Twentieth day of October in the Three and Fortieth yeare of the raigne of the late Queene Elizabeth Entituled *An Acte to redrefse the misimpoyment of Land^r goodes and Stock^r of money heretofore given to charitable uses* by the Oathes of William Sherington John Cullum Henry Spurfton William Finch James Astry Benjamin Skutt James Whitehall Richard Westrom David Kinge Edward Boverly Thomas Parvis Richard Nicholborne Edward Walford Jacob Lucy Randolf Isaackson Richard Ennes John Gould Richard Middleton John Burkworth William Daniell and John Morgen honest and lawfull men of the said City of London [being] duely impannelled returned and sworne upon the said Statute and Comijsion Say upon their Oathes

That on or about the Thirteenth day of September in the yeare of our Lord God One thousand six hundred Sixty and Six

the Kings *Majestie* that now is did issue forth a Proclamacion thereby comandeinge a general fast to bee observed by all his *Majesties* Subject^r of England and Wales and the Towne of Berwick upon Tweed and

in the said Proclamacion his *Majestie* comanded all the Ministers in their respective Churches and Chappells upon that day earnestly to recomend the distresed state and Condic^on of those who were undone by the late fire unto the charity of well disposed Christians

which said moneyes soe given and collected was by the said Proclamacion to bee returned up to London and there paid into the Lord Maior of the City of London or Such as he should appoint to the end that the Same might bee duely and orderly distributed by the advice and direccions of the Lord Maior of the City of London and Lord Bishop of London unto and amongst such poore Sufferers by the late fire as should bee found to have most neede thereof

That by vertue of the said Proclamacion divers greate Sumes of money were collected and by Order of Sr William Bolton then Lord Maior of the City of London paid unto Sr Thomas Player Chamberlain of the City to the intent the same should bee onely and Orderly distributed by the advice and direccions of the Lord Maior of the said City and Lord Bishop of London as is aforesaid And

that afterwards that is to say the Six and Twentieth day of Aprill One thousand Six hundred Sixty and Seaven the said Lord Bishop of London with the said Sr William Bolton then Lord Maior of the said City did Subscribe an Order directed to the Said Sr Thomas Player in these words followinge that is to say

Apr^l 26^o 1667 Sr Thomas Player Wee pray you do issue out to the bearer hereof Five hundred poundes of such moneyes as have binn brought into the Chamber of London for releife of poore persons that have suffered by the late dreadfull fire: the Same beinge to bee distributed among Such persons that are poore tradesmen and this shall bee yo^r Sufficient Warrant Humfry London W^m Bolton Maior

To Sr Thomas Player Chamberlain of the City of London

[1] UK National Archives, C93-30-12_003.

Upon which Order afterwards that is to say the third day of May One thousand Six hundred Sixty and Seaven the said Sr Thomas Player did pay unto Randall Bolton the said Sum of Five hundred poundes for which he did give his acquittance the said third day of May as by the said Order and acquittance showed in Evidence unto the Jurors aforesaid att the time of the takeing this Inquifition Doth appear

Which said Sume of Five hundred poundf acknowledged by the said Sr William Bolton was paid over by the said Randall Bolton unto the said Sr William Bolton

who according to the said Proclamacion and Order ought to have diftributed the same unto poore tradesmen undone by the said fire as aforesaid which he hath not done

And the Jurors aforesaid doe further say

that afterwards that is to say the Tenth day of July in the yeare of our Lord God One thousand Six hundred Sixty and Seaven the said Sr William Bolton did receive of the said Sr Thomas Player Seaven hundred poundes which with the Five hundred poundes more formerly acknowledged in the said Receipt to bee received by him did make up one thousand poundes and was parte of the said Fower thousand poundes as by his the said Sr William Boltons receipt under his hand the said Tenth day of July aforesaid and likewise showed in Evidence unto the said Jurors doth fully appear

Which said Severall Sumes of three hundred poundes and Seven hundred poundes and every parte thereof beinge moneyes given for Supportacion aide and help of persons decayed by the said late fire the said Sr William Bolton hath not diftributed accordinge to his Ma^{esties} said Proclamacion And

that afterwards that is to say Thursday the one and Twentieth day of November in the yeare of our Lord God One thousand Six hundred Sixty and Seaven the then Lord Maior and Court of Aldermen did make an Order that the said Sr William Bolton shoulde bee warned

to bee att the said Court of Aldermen on Tuesday then next following and

to bring with him a true and plaine Accompt of the thousand poundes he received from the

Chamber of London in the time of his Maiorality of the Contributions for the releife of the poore that Suffered by the last dismall fire that is to say of the persons names and of every ones proporcion or Sum^mf particularly to whom he diftributed the said money as by the said Order of the Court of Aldermen showed in Evidence likewise unto the said Jurors appeareth

So that the totall Sum^me which the said Sr William Bolton hath received for the uses and intents before exposed Doe amount unto the Sume of Fifteene hundred poundes which he hath not diftributed accordinge as was directed by the aforesaide Proclamacion and Orders nor to the intents for which the same was given

And lastly the Jurors aforesaid doe further say That the said Bishop of London by his Letter dated from London house the Thirteenth day of December in the yeare of our Lord God One thousand Six hundred Sixty and Seaven and directed to the Right Honourable Sr William Peake then and now Lord Maior of the said Citty praying his Lordship with the Ajsistance of the Court of Aldermen

to make a Strict examination of all the moneyes taken out of the Chamber of London by Sr William Bolton late Lord Maior of the said Citty for the releife of the poore undone by the late fire in the sd Citty and

to use all lawfull and just meanes for the recovery of such moneyes as he should not give unto them a Satisfactory Accompt of That for the said poore might bee further retained and his the said Ld Bishops proceedinges accordinge to the trust his Maj^{estie} reposed in him bee inscified as by the said Letter should likewise in Court unto the said Jurors fully appeareth

In Witnefse whereof to one parte of this *present* Inquifition delivered by the said Jurors to the said Comifioners and by them to bee returned into the High Court of Chancery aswell the said Comifioners as the said Jurors Handf sett their Handes and Seales And the other parte thereof remaininge with the Foreman of the said Jurors the said Comifioners sett their handes and Seales the day and yeare first above written

Wm Peake Maior *John Howell* Recorder *John Verney* *Robt G Henry* *Richard Ford* *Wm Sher-*

*Inquisition of 1668 into funds not used to relieve
sufferers of the great fire of London*

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*Enquête de 1668 sur le détournement de fonds
secourant les victimes du grand incendie de Londres*

*ington Sr John Cullum Henry Spurston James
[Astry?] James White[?]hall [Edward: Wal-
ford?] Ric^d: Westrum[?] Rand Isaacsen
Ja: Lucie Richard Myddelton Rich: Ennes John
Mo[?]rgen Will: Daniel*
