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COPY of a DESPATCH from Admiral Sir CHARLES ELLIOT, K.C.B., to his Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

(No. 33.)

BY LORD DUKE,

St. Helena, June 10, 1868.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1867, delayed till this date chiefly by the continued illness of the chief clerk in the secretarial department.

2. It will be observed that there has been no material alteration, so far as the revenue and expenditure are concerned, during the year 1867 compared with the year 1866.

3. In my annual report which accompanied the Blue Book for the year 1866 I had the satisfaction to report that much progress had been made in the restoration of the public buildings against further devastation by the white ant, and I am now enabled to state that, with the exception of the Female Colonial Hospital and the reconstruction of a small building to serve as a girls school, all has been effectively completed needing immediate attention.

4. Your Grace is, however, aware that the Government has not been in a situation to make any advances on easy terms for the restoration of the dwellings under which the great mass of the poorer people are living in this town, and I must not omit to repeat that there are no other reliable means whatever in this Island than the Government may be able to furnish for placing the body of the population under safer shelter. From that point of view I must always consider it to be a matter of regret and anxiety that the loan of 30,000% proposed in 1864 was not negotiated.

5. In my Despatch, No. 18, of the year 1867, it was my duty to report the total destruction of the Government jail in Rupert's Valley, by fire. I also reported that adequate dispositions had been made for the safe custody of the prisoners in the old jail at Jamestown. The military prisoners, however, since this event, are confined in the military cells under the custody of their own officers. With the present claims upon the Government I see but little hope of commencing a new jail for the next two or three years.

6. Before the conclusion of the present year I hope to be able to complete the system of underground drainage from the latrines at the barracks to connect with our own underground sewer in the lower part of the town, proposed in my Despatch No. 3 of 1868.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos,  
&c. &c. &c.

	Revenue.	
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1866	£	21,339
1867	£	21,983
	Expenditure.	
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1866	£	24,052
1867	£	24,250