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Mauritius Slave Trade.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Appointed, (in the last Session of Parliament) to inquire whether the Slave Trade has prevailed at the *Mauritius*, and to what extent, and the Causes thereof; and to report thereon to the House, together with the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them.

13 May ——— 23 May
1826.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
26 February 1827.

R E P O R T

From the Select Committee on the *Mauritius* Slave Trade.—*Ordered to be printed, 31 May 1826.*

FROM the lateness of the period at which Your Committee were appointed, it has been impracticable to do more than to commence the investigation of the very important and extensive Inquiry referred to them by the Order of The House.

Your Committee are therefore unable, in the present stage of the proceedings, to do more than to report the Minutes of Evidence already taken; feeling it their duty to add, that they consider it to be as yet premature to suggest that their Minutes should be printed. These Minutes of Evidence may hereafter be made available for such purposes as Parliament may deem expedient.

Your Committee have learned with satisfaction, that every facility will be furnished by the Government, for the purpose of affording means for prosecuting effectually, and bringing to a close, the Inquiry in which Your Committee have been engaged.

31 *May* 1826.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

Taken before the Select Committee on the *Mauritius*
Slave Trade.—1826.

Sabbati, 13^o die Maij, 1826.

THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, ESQUIRE,
IN THE CHAIR.

General *Gage John Hall*, called in; and Examined.

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WHEN did you arrive in the Mauritius?—I believe it was in August 1817.

In what capacity were you there?—As commanding the troops.

How long were you in the Island in the capacity of Commander of the Troops before you became acting Governor?—About three months, I should think.

That was then about November 1817?—Yes.

What rank did you hold?—Major General I went from the Cape, where I had been on the staff.

Was your attention drawn to the subject of the Slave Trade during the time you were Commander of the Forces?—No, not particularly; it did not come within my province, I considered, as military commander.

Did you make any tour through the Island?—I did.

Did any symptom of Slave Trading occur to you during this tour?—During the tour, there were vessels pointed out to me by the officers who attended me, who designated those vessels as known slave vessels, but whether they were or were not, I could not say.

What was the date of the tour?—I do not exactly remember; I cannot speak as to dates at so remote a period, but that happened pretty early after my arrival.

Did that occur within the first three months of your residence there?—Yes; it had occurred previous to Governor Farquhar leaving the colony.

Did the military officers who accompanied you take any measures to give information respecting the Slave Trade?—I cannot say.

Do you know whether any orders were given to the military, respecting the Slave Trade?—I do; I know that an order had been issued by my predecessor, Sir Alexander Campbell, to desire that the troops should not interfere with newly smuggled slaves, newly imported slaves; I should think that order must be known; I think I must have sent it home. I believe the orders were, that they were not to interfere with them at all under any circumstances; that was the way in which I understood the order.

Were those written orders?—Yes, they were.

Did you see them yourself?—I should think I must have seen them, the impression upon my mind is that I did.

Cannot you be certain whether you saw it?—No, I cannot, but it is a thing that must speak for itself.

By whom was that order issued?—By Sir Alexander Campbell.

Do you know what was the cause why those orders were given?—As I understood, and as I believed then, the cause was in consequence of a misunderstanding, or some difficulty with respect to seizures, which took place between Sir Alexander Campbell and the civil authorities.

Did the military who accompanied you tell you that they had orders not to take any notice of the slave vessels?—As to the conversation that might have passed between me and the officers with me that day, it is totally impossible I can recollect; but the impression and the conviction on my mind is, that orders were given that they were not to interfere, and that the soldiers would not interfere, nor the officers.

Do you consider that communication with the civil authorities was that kind of interference

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interference which was prohibited, or that it was merely the seizure of slaves that was prohibited?—I conceive, the seizure of slaves.

Not the communication?—Not the communication; I should think, that could not have been prohibited, nor intended to be.

Were the vessels which you saw manœuvring in such a way as to lead you to think they were engaged in the Slave Trade?—I am not a judge of the intention of ships by their manœuvres; but they were close to the coast, and they were designated to me as vessels known to be slave vessels; they were pointed out to me as such.

Do you recollect how many vessels of that description you saw?—I saw several vessels of that description, in the course of my tour off the coast.

Did you receive any instructions from Governor Farquhar relative to the Slave Trade, prior to his leaving the Island, and what?—No; I do not think that Governor Farquhar and myself had any communication on the subject of the Slave Trade, until I wrote him a letter, which I addressed to him upon the subject.

Did not Governor Farquhar leave you his instructions?—Whatever instructions were handed over, of course I received; but we had no communication on any subject connected with the government in any way.

Did you make any application to Governor Farquhar on the subject of the Slave Trade?—I made frequent applications to Governor Farquhar, to express how unpleasantly I should feel after his departure, if we had not some conferences together with respect to the state of the government in general, but I never got an interview with Governor Farquhar upon these questions; it was his intention two or three times to have granted me such an interview, but it never took place. I was anxious about it; in that interview the Slave Trade and every thing else would have been comprehended.

As there were written instructions by Governor Farquhar to you, are those forthcoming?—Every paper I received from Governor Farquhar, I should think I must have in England; there might have been some I might have left at the colony, but I think I must have every paper I got from him in England.

[Here Sir Robert Farquhar, a Member of the Committee, explained that the instructions in question, were a paper of instructions addressed to General Hall, as his temporary successor, and to which were annexed all the instructions received from England, upon every point of importance, for conducting the government, relating amongst other matters, to the Slave Trade.]

Did you apply to Governor Farquhar to know how far you might be at liberty when you were both Commander of the Forces and Governor, to employ the military as your assistants?—I did.

Was that application in writing?—Yes.

[*The Witness was directed to produce a copy of this as well as of the other papers referred to by him in former answers.*]

Did you receive an answer to your application?—I did.

Did any particular instances of disembarkation of new slaves come to your knowledge during the time you were acting Governor?—Yes; there were several.

Will you state some of them?—There was a debarkation of the San Jac; there was a debarkation of the Minervé.

They were both French vessels?—Yes, they were; there was the Voyageur, also French.

Was the San Jac the earliest vessel in point of time?—I cannot speak to that at this distance of time, but I think it was one of the earliest.

Do you recollect when that was captured?—No, I cannot say exactly when, but I think about June or July.

In what year?—1818.

From whence did that vessel come?—I am pretty sure it had Malays on board; but the officer who made the capture I think must have reported the circumstance to the Admiralty.

Who was the officer who made the capture?—Captain Purvis.

What vessel did he command?—The Magicienne.

Do you know how many slaves he found on board that vessel?—I do not.

Was she condemned?—I am pretty sure she was.

Did you understand that any of the slaves out of that vessel had already been landed?—Yes.

You

You mean before the seizure?—Yes; I should hope that if I should miscall any vessel, if I should apply the name of one vessel to another, that will not alter my deposition upon the point before the Committee; it is totally impossible I can recollect precisely at the moment the names of the vessels.

Did you use any precautions for seizing the slaves that had been landed near the shore, before they were distributed to distant plantations?—I did.

What were those precautions?—I immediately, as soon as I heard of the debarkation, applied to the police, to accompany my aid-de-camp, as well as I remember, to make the seizure of those people.

Did the police officer refuse or consent to go?—The police officer would have gone himself; he was disposed to have gone, but he was prevented by the judicial authorities there.

When you speak of the judicial authorities, to whom do you refer?—He was prevented by the Chief Judge, Judge Smith, and by the President of the Court of First Instance, Lefevre.

How do you know those facts?—From the circumstance of his telling me that he could not go, that he was prevented by them.

What was the name of the man?—I do not remember who the police officer was, but that can be shown; of course there was a correspondence on all those points.

Was it the chief officer of police at Fort Louis, or one of his deputies?—I think it was one of the deputies that was to have gone.

Which of them was it who stated this to you respecting the Chief Judge?—It is totally impossible for me to state that; I have got the correspondence on the subject.

[The Witness was requested to produce the documents referred to.]

Did the police officer tell you, that he not being permitted, it was the duty of one of the Judges to go?—Yes; and I in consequence wrote to one of the Judges, to Judge Christie, to proceed to the place.

Did he consent to go?—He would not go without first communicating with the chief Judge, to know how far he was permitted.

Did he obtain that permission?—No, he did not, he was positively refused leave to go.

How do you know that?—By his own report to me.

Was that a written report?—No, I am pretty sure it was verbal; he came back to my house after dinner.

Is he alive?—Yes, he is.

Smith is dead?—Yes, he is, but I am pretty sure I have his letter.

Did Judge Christie at that time admit that the preliminaries interposed before any seizure was allowed to be made, were employed with a view of giving the importers a full opportunity of conveying away their slaves?—He did; he told me, that that certainly would be the consequence.

The question is, on the intention of it?—That it was done with that view, with that intention.

Will you repeat what he stated to you?—Judge Christie told me, that in consequence of applying to the authorities, it was sure to favour the evasion of the slaves.

Did he state to you, that this previous application to the authorities was interposed for the purpose of giving the importers of slaves a better opportunity of importing them?—I cannot say that those were his words, but that is the impression upon my mind.

Do you mean to say, he meant to convey the meaning that this was a purposed obstacle to the capture of the slaves?—Decidedly so.

You say, that he stated to you, that the consequence of applying to the authorities was, that it was sure to favour the escape of the slaves?—He did.

Was that all that he said?—That was all that he said.

Did he further say, that it was done with that intention and design?—I inferred that from what he said.

Did he say that it was done with that intention and design, and that the object of the difficulty interposed was to favour their evasion?—Certainly.

Did he say so?—He did.

You undertake to say positively, that Mr. Christie said that?—I do, or to that effect; that was the impression he left upon my mind, or to that effect.

Of course, not meaning to say those are the very words?—Of course not; I can only speak to the impression made upon my mind.

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[By my letter, which I have since seen, to the Chief Judge, it appears that the police officer accompanied Judge Christie, if the marshal of the Court of Admiralty, is, properly speaking a police officer.]

[I have Judge Christie's letters to that effect.]

What

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What was the nature of those preliminaries to which you have referred, and by whom enacted?—What I mean by the preliminaries is the form of application to the law officers, for the purpose of the apprehension of the newly imported slaves.

Supposing a person saw a slave illegally imported into the Island, what was it necessary for him to do before he could legally seize that slave?—By the law laid down by the Chief Judge, he would not allow the police officer to make the seizure; he would not allow a puisne judge to make the seizure; he would only allow the civil commissaries, who were at a great distance off, or the marshal of his court, which were processes all so tediously dilatory and objectionable, that I was fully impressed that the slaves would have been either concealed, or in some place of security, before these formalities could have been carried into effect.

Why; did the civil authorities live at a distance?—It depended on where the debarkations were made.

What objection had you to the employment of those civil commissaries?—My objection to employing those people was, that they were themselves connected with the slave dealers, and I displaced two or three of them.

Do you mean that that objection applied to the marshal, as well as the civil commissaries?—No; I mean to apply that particularly to the civil commissaries.

Do you mean to apply that at all to the marshal?—No, I do not, as I have no proof of that.

Do you know how many civil commissaries there were, in point of fact?—I do not.

How many did you displace?—Three, at least.

Were they displaced in consequence of a trial?—No.

By whom were they displaced?—By me, by proclamation.

In consequence of what?—In consequence of their remissness in respect of slaves.

Did you make that charge against them?—I did.

In writing?—Yes.

Do you recollect their names?—I dismissed Mr. Blankard.

Did you make that communication to him?—I must have given the cause to him.

You made a communication to him, stating the cause?—Yes, I did; Mr. Vigereau, and I think, a Mr. La Tour; those three I remember certainly; to each of those I must have communicated the grounds of their dismissal.

Did you state to them the grounds of their dismissal?—Yes, certainly I did.

As conniving at the Slave Trading?—Yes; as being remiss, and conniving at it, and allowing them to land, and not doing their duty when they were called upon by me to do so.

Do you recollect whether those three persons were natives of the Isle of France, or Frenchmen?—They were not Englishmen.

Was there any legal evidence taken with respect to the remissness of those parties on which you founded your proclamation, dismissing them?—I am sure there was, but it is impossible that I can speak to it.

Did you, as those persons were guilty of a great crime, direct a prosecution by the proper authorities against them?—Yes, I must have done it.

Are you sure that you directed a prosecution?—I am pretty sure that I must have directed a prosecution; but I have got the correspondence with those persons, which will speak for itself.

[*The witness was requested to produce the same.*]

Where did Mr. Blankard reside?—He resided at Belombere.

Do you know who were his partners in the estate of Belombere?—I know that Mr. Telfair and Captain Lasaige were two of his partners, and Major Wallgh.

Were the three first Englishmen?—Yes.

Was Belombere a plantation?—Yes, it was a plantation, a considerable property.

Does your knowledge of the partnership between those persons depend upon hearsay, or on what evidence?—On positive evidence.

About what time did the transaction take place of your dismissing this individual?—I cannot state the particular time.

You were in the government about a year?—I think that was about six months after I entered on the government.

Had Mr. Telfair been in partnership with him during the whole time you were in the government?—Oh, yes; long before.

When you give it as your opinion that you gave those persons regular and written notices of the cause, do you mean to speak from distinct recollection, or only that you

[I find on reference to a small part of my papers which I have with me, that those dismissals were simply done by proclamation and reported home; such was the usage and such the practice I believe of both Governor Farquhar and General Darling, and therefore it is most likely that I did not order a prosecution; but until I examine my voluminous correspondence, I can not speak positively.]

you suppose, that in the common course of things, you did so?—I speak from positive recollection, that I must have communicated with the Attorney General.

That you must have communicated with him?—That I did communicate with the Attorney General upon the points of their dismissal.

Then probably as the crime was great, you directed a prosecution?—Whether it was followed up by a prosecution, or I was diverted from it, I cannot say.

Do you state positively, that you gave instructions to the Attorney General to prosecute in this case?—I am convinced it was my object and wish in every instance to have prosecuted, but I found that difficulty with the authorities, particularly in cases of the Slave Trade, that I could not in any instance get my wishes or my orders carried into effect.

Do you mean to say you ever gave orders to the Attorney General to prosecute in any cases in which he did not carry your orders into effect?—Yes, in many instances.

Did you ever give directions to the Attorney General to prosecute any persons for illegally dealing in slaves, in instances in which your directions were not carried into effect?—Yes, where they were not carried into effect.

Did you, finding those directions were not carried into effect, hold any communication with the Attorney General upon the subject, for the purpose of ascertaining why they were not carried into effect?—Yes.

What were the reasons given by him for not carrying them into effect; was it that the evidence was not sufficient, or what other cause was assigned?—Various reasons he assigned.

Were those reasons satisfactory to your mind?—No.

After he had assigned those reasons for not obeying your orders, which were not satisfactory, did you give him peremptory orders to do it?—Yes.

Having given him peremptory orders to do it, did he obey?—He did not obey.

Did you communicate that to the Government at home, in order that he might be displaced, for such a gross dereliction of his duty?—Yes.

That was in writing, of course?—Yes.

Can you produce a copy of that document?—I should think that I could, but I cannot speak positively to these points. I did communicate my complaints to the Government.

Did you communicate his refusal to obey your orders in this respect?—Yes.

In what instance?—I cannot recollect the instance.

Would not such a thing make a great impression upon your mind, if you thought it your duty to communicate it to the Government?—I made my complaints to the Government with respect to the Attorney General. I cannot bear in memory every particular circumstance connected with my government there, unless I know the subjects on which I am to be examined, and refer to the documents.

You did communicate in writing some complaint of the Attorney General?—Yes, I did.

Were those complaints founded on any laxity in the discharge of the Attorney General's duty?—Upon a laxity in the discharge of his duty, and his opposition to me in many respects.

Did they refer to any cases of illegal importation of slaves?—Particularly, especially that.

Do you happen to recollect whether the reasons which the Attorney General assigned to you for not prosecuting, were given in writing, and are they among the correspondence you can produce?—Some were in writing, and some in verbal communication.

What was the name of the Attorney General?—Vireaux.

He was not an Englishman?—No, he was a Frenchman.

Is he still alive?—I believe so, but I am not sure.

Are you to be understood to say, that Judge Christie told you that the judicial authorities interposed those forms, on purpose to prevent the escape of the negroes.

The impression upon my mind was, that the forms which they exacted from me to follow were calculated to favour the escape of the slaves, that the terms caused delay, and that delay gave time for the slaves to be secreted.

Are you of opinion that the difficulties referred to by you with respect to the prosecution of slave offenders, arose from a defect in the law itself, or from a defect in the administration of the law?—From a defect in the administration of the law.

Do you mean to say that the administration of the law was impeded by the conduct of the lower officers who executed the laws, or of the superior officers who directed

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[The series of those questions with respect to my having given directions to the Attorney General to prosecute, and his refusing in particular cases, is too great a strain upon my memory without referring to my despatches and correspondence.—If the documents which accompanied my despatches to the Colonial Office could be produced, they would explain many of those queries. I have sent for my papers and shall examine them.]

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directed those inferior officers to proceed in the execution of the law?—I conceive the difficulties originated with the superior officers.

To what officers do you refer?—I refer to the Judges, to the Attorney General, and in short to all the legal authorities, almost to all.

With what exception?—Those with whom I did not enter immediately into discussion, I should be very sorry to include. I do not mean to say they might not have acted so if I had come into immediate contact with them, and therefore I wish to confine myself to those with whom I was in immediate contact.

Was Judge Christie one of those superior officers whom you conceived to have been so far guilty?—I conceived from the circumstance of my employing Judge Christie upon that occasion, that he was a man that would have acted as he ought to have done; I mean at that time.

Do you include Judge Christie as one of those?—Subsequently I had reason to complain of Judge Christie, at that time I had not.

What was the complaint against Judge Christie?—The complaint against Judge Christie was long subsequent to that.

What was the nature of it?—It is a long detail, I cannot enter into it now; I will beg to refresh my memory before I state the facts.

Can you remember whether your subsequent charge against Judge Christie extended to a dereliction of duty as to the illegal importation of slaves?—I would beg leave to reserve giving my opinion upon that, till I have referred to the documents.

Will you name any of the others against whom you had complaints?—Those with whom I was particularly in contact were Judge Smith, the Attorney General; and with Lefevre I was certainly dissatisfied, he was president of the Court of First Instance.

Were you particularly in contact with Lefevre?—Not so much as Judge Smith; in short I found a general difficulty; I cannot say the particular points on which we were at issue.

What complaints have you to make of the conduct of the Chief Judge Smith?—I have to make complaints of his opposition to nearly every act of my government.

What special acts with relation to the importation of slaves do you complain of on the part of Chief Judge Smith?—I complain, in the first instance, of the conduct he pursued in the cases which have been stated before. I complain of the difficulties he afterwards interposed in preventing a witness upon a very important trial accompanying me to England; I refer to the trial of Cuvilier, Tregros, and Moneron, which took place at the Old Bailey.

Were those the witnesses from Madagascar?—Yes.

To what circumstances do you refer when you say the conduct Judge Smith pursued in the cases that have been stated?—I refer to that particular circumstance of his refusing to allow a slave, who was a necessary witness, to have accompanied those whom I sent to England to be tried for slave dealing. I was assured that he had directed the Marshal of the Admiralty to stop the ship if I attempted to bring that slave over; and I have to complain that that slave, notwithstanding my letter to beg that he might be taken care of after my departure, was afterwards handed over to his master.

Your words were “the conduct he pursued in the cases I have stated;” do you refer to the conduct of Judge Smith, in any other cases than that of the trial to which you have just now alluded; the question referring to the non-enforcement of the law against illicit Slave Trading?—I cannot at this moment recollect another. With respect to slave dealing, there were many instances of his opposition which I can state, but not with reference to slave dealing.

What was the name of the slave whom he refused to allow to come to England?—I think his name was Troptar.

To whose plantation did he belong?—I cannot recollect now, but I can ascertain that.

Did he give you any reason why he refused to permit that slave to come to England?—No; there was a correspondence between us, but I do not think he gave any reason.

Had you any correspondence upon the subject of that slave?—I had.

You will produce that correspondence?—I will.

Did you ever apply or cause application to be made to Judge Smith, respecting the seizure of slaves in any instance except that of the San Jac?—I am pretty sure I did, but I cannot speak to those points until I have referred to my documents. It is a long time since these things happened.

[La Violette was the name; I have the Judge's letter.]

Have

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Have you documents which will show the complaint you made to Judge Smith, of his conduct with respect to Slave Trading?—Yes, I will produce my correspondence upon the subject.

Did any instances occur whilst you were Governor, of slaves having been seized by a person, without authority from the Judge or Commissary, and any attempt being made on their part to prosecute?—There were many instances of the deputations that I granted, seizing slaves.

What followed on their seizing the slaves?—The parties making the seizures were prosecuted after my departure, and penalties brought against them.

What do you mean by your deputations?—When I found that it was impossible to make a seizure of slaves in the ordinary way, I then issued deputations to the officers at the out-posts, from myself on my own authority and responsibility, to make a seizure, I mean to the field officers and the officers in whom I could confide to seize any newly landed negroes.

Were any seizures made by them?—Seizures were made by them.

Were the slaves so seized, proceeded against, in order to be condemned?—They were, in some of the cases; I do not know whether they were in all.

Were there any impediments to such proceedings, for the purpose of having the slaves condemned to the Crown, interposed by the Judges, or any persons in authority?—I cannot recollect what difficulties there were, or if there were any.

You say you gave commissions to some field or other officers?—Yes.

Are any of those officers, to your knowledge, now in England?—There is only one, I believe.

What is his name?—My aid-de-camp, Captain Freeman, he made one seizure.

Were the proceedings against the slaves, in order to have them condemned, carried on whilst you continued in the island?—I believe some of them were, but there was a great delay, for reasons which I do not know.

Where does Captain Freeman reside?—Near Tamworth.

Do you happen to know whether the slaves taken by him, were finally condemned to the Crown?—I believe they were not.

They were acquitted?—I believe they were.

You have said that the persons who made the seizures were themselves, subsequently prosecuted for having made the seizures?—I have.

State the names of those persons who were so prosecuted?—The Collector of the Customs was so prosecuted.

What was his name?—Mr. Finnis, the acting Collector of the Customs at the time; and Colonel Leach was so prosecuted I believe, also. Mr. Finnis, I know was; and before I left the island, there were summonses or notices of prosecution against Colonel Barclay.

Can you recollect any other?—No, I cannot.

Do you think, that by examining your papers, you can find the names of any others?—It is possible; I gave those gentlemen an indemnity bond from myself, to secure them from being prosecuted after I left the island, as having acted under my authority.

Do you know the persons who prosecuted them?—They were prosecuted at the instance of the Chief Judge, I mean through his instrumentality.

Did the Chief Judge try them?—I do not know; I should think certainly not.

Do you know where Mr. Finnis now is?—He is at the Mauritius.

Do you know where Colonel Leach now is?—At the Mauritius.

Do you know where Colonel Barclay now is?—He is at the Mauritius; but the regiment is coming home; there were several officers who acted under my orders.

Were they all prosecuted?—I do not know whether they all were; I know Colonel Barclay was served before I came away.

You stated, that you made those deputations in consequence of finding difficulties in proceeding in execution of the laws against Slave Trading?—Precisely so.

State as precisely as you can, the difficulties which you met with?—There was in the first instance, a difficulty of getting the law officers to proceed to the spots where the debarkations were made; and there was in the next instance, the manner in which the Court of Admiralty was composed, and the difficulties interposed by the officers who constituted that court, from their character.

Did there exist a difficulty before the appointment of those officers, in procuring persons to make the actual seizures?—Great difficulty.

Was it the duty of any particular persons to make the actual seizures before you appointed any individuals for that purpose?—It was.

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The duty of whom?—It was the duty of the civil commissaries of the district where they landed, to have made the seizures, it was the duty of the police, in my opinion, to have made the seizures; it was the duty, in my mind, of every person to have made those seizures.

Was there any and what prohibition by legal authority against any person whatever seizing a slave improperly imported?—There was an interposition of the law authorities, as I have already stated.

Supposing that any soldier had made a seizure of a slave, would any thing have been done, or was any thing done to that soldier for seizing that slave, supposing the slave to have been illegally imported?—I stated, in an early part of my evidence, that the soldiers were not allowed to interfere; they were prohibited, after I delegated to the officers to act in that case; certainly, if a soldier had made a seizure, I should have protected him.

Are you aware whether there was any obstacle to any white free person, not invested with the authority of office, seizing a slave illegally imported?—Certainly, they would not have ventured to do such a thing; they considered it contrary to the law; I have proved that they would not even allow the Judges to make a seizure, much less would they allow a person not in an official situation to make it.

Do you know of any seizure having been made by a person not invested with particular authority, and any thing having been done to that person for making a seizure?—I am not aware of such a case, because it was unlikely such a case would occur, from the terror held out.

What risk was there to alarm any person from making such a seizure?—The circumstance of their being proceeded against by the courts, and penalties exacted immediately.

For making such seizure?—Yes.

Do you remember any instance of a white person making such a seizure, and being prevented from carrying on a prosecution?—I am not speaking from any particular instance that I know of, for I know of none; but I speak from the impression upon my mind, that if a white person saw the slaves marching through the town, they would not dare to interfere.

Why would they not dare to interfere?—From an idea that they should not interfere. I believe there were instances of their marching through the town in broad day, and coming into collision with our soldiers, and rescued after I came away.

In the case of the San Jac, did you make any representation to Judge Smith, in consequence of leave having been refused by Judge Christie to seize the slaves?—Very strong representations in writing.

Is there not a very considerable facility for secreting slaves after they have been landed in the Mauritius, if they are not seized at the time?—Very great.

Do you recollect whereabouts it was that the San Jac was captured?—I think it was about Mapoo.

How far is that from Port Louis?—I should think more than about twenty miles.

In what direction?—I think the south-east.

Do you know whether she was near the shore at the time of the capture?—I cannot say whether she was or not.

Can you state whether there was any claim made for the slaves on board her, by any body?—There is the whole proceeding in the case, which I must have sent home, it would be a very great relief to me, if the documents which attended my dispatches, and which I sent to Lord Bathurst's Office were here, because if they were, they would clearly have reference to a great number of these cases, which might then be proved in the best possible way, as they were officially transmitted; instead of charging my memory with things which it is very difficult in some cases to recollect.

You stated, that upon your tour in the Island, several officers pointed out to you vessels at sea, as slave vessels?—Yes.

[and Major Sale.] Can you recollect the names of any of those officers?—There were only two officers with me, Colonel Dalrymple, now General Dalrymple, and Major Hall.

Are they living?—The first is, the second is not.

Where is General Dalrymple now?—He is, I believe in Scotland, but I have never had any communication with him since.

Can you state any act of complaint against any other judge or superior officer of the law, for not executing his duty in respect of the Slave Trade?—Not that I am aware of; I believe Mr. Horton is aware of the idea of government, of the manner in which the courts were administered; the impression at the Colonial Office

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Office was, that they were ill administered there, because in one of the despatches, it is particularly said, if the constitution of your courts is such, that you cannot bring the culprits to trial in a regular way, in that case, you must send them to England, calling upon them to send them to England.

Can you state any act of complaint against any other judge or superior officer of the law, for not executing his duty in respect of the Slave Trade?—There was another Judge, who was brought to trial by order of Judge Smith himself, for having made away with the property arising from a vessel that came within his own court, at least that came within the Admiralty Court, of which he was proctor, for he was proctor of that court as well as judge of another.

Do you recollect the name of that Judge?—Judge May.

What was the result of that prosecution?—I have the whole proceedings; I know that judgment was prayed; there was a correspondence between Judge May and the Judge himself; I will produce them; I recollect that it was, praying that it might not be followed up, and Judge Smith followed it up before the court, but afterwards they shook hands, and there was never any thing more of it.

Was Mr. May convicted of this crime?—I am pretty sure he was convicted, but I do not believe judgment was passed; he was also tried with Mr. Reader, who was Marshal of the Court of Admiralty; they were both in the same business, and they were both convicted.

For what were they tried?—For having made away with the profits arising from a vessel.

Was that a slave vessel?—I cannot say; but I think it important to show the character of the Court of Admiralty; to show the difficulty of getting those gentlemen to do their duty; and I conceive, with all submission, it is necessary that I should show the character and conduct of the gentlemen who may come before the Committee, as connected with other circumstances, to prove, that if they were men of bad and vicious habits in one thing, the presumptive evidence was, that they would lend themselves to Slave Trading or any thing else.

Can you state any act of complaint against any other judge or superior officer of the law, for not executing his duty in respect of the Slave Trade?—As for mentioning particular acts, it is a difficult thing, but the conviction upon my mind is, that they would not do their duty here, was a case which I believe, was a slave vessel, in which this judge was himself prosecuted; my object is to prove, that such was the composition of the court.

The question is, what officers you complain of, in respect of any part of their conduct in relation to the Slave Trade?—I have stated all which comes within my recollection at this moment.

Is it your opinion, that if the law of the island with regard to Slave Trading, was put into *bonâ fide* practice, it could be suppressed if the authorities of the island did their duty?—As to its being totally suppressed, I cannot say, but that it would be very much lessened, if not nearly suppressed; I believe it was very nearly suppressed at the end of the time I was there.

Was it your general practice, in conveying your orders to the different officers of the government, to do so in writing, or verbally, or both?—Sometimes verbally, but generally in writing, almost always, in fact.

Did Judge Smith die in office?—No, I believe not; he was re-instated after I left the island, and was afterwards displaced before his death; and Vireaux was replaced after I left; and the commissaries I have referred to, were put in their place again after I left, but afterwards displaced.

Lunæ, 15^o die Maii, 1826.

THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, ESQUIRE,

IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Amyot, Esq. called in; and Examined.

YOU are Registrar of Colonial Slaves in Great Britain?—Yes.

Can you give us an account of the slave population of the West India colonies, the latest account?—I have brought with me an abstract of the latest returns.

90.

Including

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Including all the West India colonies?—Yes, the order said islands, but I have included Berbice and Demerara, concluding it was an omission in the order.

[*The Witness handed in the same.*]

Does it include the whites?—No, the slave population only.

This is made out from the returns you have had under the Registry Act?—Yes, varying in the years, the registration year is not the same in all the colonies; in some of the colonies the registration began in 1816, that is, in the colonies for which we legislate; where there are assemblies they began generally in 1817, but in some 1818, consequently the triennial registration would take place in different years.

Those are the latest returns?—Yes, in my possession, that have been received.

How many colonies are stated there?—Seventeen.

In how many do the males exceed the females?—Four.

In how many do the females exceed the males?—Thirteen.

Is there an excess of females over males, on the total?—Yes, of near 4,000, 356,684 males and 360,558 females.

[*A paper was handed to the Witness.*]

Have you seen a Parliamentary return sent by Sir Robert Barclay, the collector of internal taxes?—I see it here, I know nothing of it; it is a document I have no concern with; it does not tally with any account received in my office; I can make no official statement respecting it.

What was the official return according to the census sent to you of the Mauritius, in the first year of the registration?—55,717 males, 29,706 females, making 85,423 total.

What year was that?—The first registration began partly in 1815, and partly 1816.

Does that include Seychelles?—Yes.

What was the return in the year 1817?—There was no return till 1819; there was no return in 1817 or 1818; the order in council originally required an annual return, but by the order in council of the 18th of September 1816, the returns were made triennial.

What was the return in 1819?—20,948 total.

What was the return in 1822?—7,485.

Was each proprietor bound to make return of each of his slaves?—Yes, by the order in council, certainly.

In what time?—Here is the order in council.

Refer to the clause?—Within three calendar months from and after the public notification of the order in council in the island.

In subsequent years two months after the 1st of January?—Yes, within two months after the 1st of January.

What was the penalty for neglecting to do so?—Shall make and deliver to the registrar for the time being an account or schedule in writing by him or her subscribed, to be called, "The annual Return of Slaves," under the penalty of 100*l.* for every false return; and it was directed that from and after the final registry, the authentication of registry, every slave not so registered immediately, shall be deemed and declared to be the property of His Majesty, except fugitive slaves from any other of His Majesty's dominions who may be apprehended in the island, and detained in custody by the authority of any court or magistrate, for the purpose of being delivered to the owner.

You said in 1816 the population was 85,000?—Yes, 85,423.

In 1822, how many was it?—7,485.

What is the difference between the two?—77,938.

When you received the return in 1819, which gave the number of 20,948, was it a part of your duty to make any representation to His Majesty's government, of the difference between the two returns?—I conceive so.

Did you do so?—I did.

When you received the return of 7,485, you pursued the same line of conduct?—I did.

Have any other statements whatever respecting the number of slaves in the Island of the Mauritius, excepting those you have now given in, been returned to your office?—None whatever.

Has a similar irregularity prevailed with respect to the returns made from any of the West India Islands?—Not with respect to any one.

Has the registry at the Mauritius been kept accurately as to other points?—It is impossible for me to judge of the accuracy of the register.

Does

Does the order in council appear to have been complied with in other points?—Yes, it appears so; the columns have been filled up.

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Does the order in council require that the marks of the negroes shall be accurately described?—The directions are very particular that the schedule should be divided into eight columns, respectively entitled at the heads thereof, names, surnames, colour, employment, age, stature, country, and marks; to which shall be added, in the list of families, a ninth column of convenient breadth, entitled relations. There are then directions about horizontal lines.

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With respect to the description of marks, are they stated at length in the registry?—Generally I think not.

Are they stated with the same accuracy, and to the same extent, as in the West India colonies?—In some of the West India colonies there is no column requiring a description of the mark.

Taking Berbice for example?—Yes; in Berbice the column is generally very particularly filled up with the marks of the slaves, country marks, and marks tending further to identify them; there is a column for that.

Would the description given of a negroe in the Berbice returns, in your opinion, enable the registrar to identify the negro?—I should think it would.

In the Mauritius would the description given of the marks enable the registrar, in your opinion, to identify the negroes?—Really it is difficult for me to answer that question, the colour and employment.

The marks particularly?—The marks are not fully stated, that is all I can say; it is sometimes stated whether they are tall or short.

How are they stated?—Very variously in different returns; I can hardly describe particularly how they are stated; they are not stated so fully as in Berbice.

Does the same variety occur in the West India Islands as to the manner of including the marks?—Yes, a great variety occurs in other colonies.

You are speaking of the colonies under the English law?—Berbice and Demerara are under the Court of Policy of the Government; they have not assemblies.

Does it appear upon the face of the returns which have come from the Mauritius, that the directions contained in that order in council have, upon the whole, been fully and completely complied with?—They have been complied with, inasmuch as some entry has been made in every column, but whether fully or completely complied with, I cannot say.

Have those entries been such as you conceived were intended to be made in pursuance of the order in council, judging from your experience of other returns?—I should say, in many instances, they have not been so fully complied with as the order in council requires. There is an explanation which I can read, if you think proper, directly following the directions for the eight columns, explaining what shall be inserted in the eight columns. In the eighth of the said columns, it shall be inserted whether the slave has any and what seams and marks on the face or other parts of the body, such as African slaves commonly have, and which are usually called country marks, or any such brands and marks used in some of the colonies to distinguish the owners property, or has any apparent bodily singularity, defect, or deformity; all which shall be specified with convenient certainty, so as at least to mention the parts of the face or body where any marks, brands, defects, or other singularities appear.

Is the entry which is most general in the registry from the Mauritius, an entry that the slave has marks, or the particular marks?—More particularly that he has country marks.

Country marks convey a definite idea?—Yes.

Would that entry simply "marks," without a farther description of what the marks were, enable the authorities to identify the slaves, in your opinion?—I can hardly offer an opinion about it; I have not been in the Isle of France.

Were any explanations in writing at any time sent to you from the Mauritius by the registrar there, at all accounting for the mode in which the registry had been kept?—None whatever; but I am not in communication with the registrar there or the colonies at all; my only communication is through the Colonial Office.

Is it directed in the registry, that if on an estate a slave is purchased that it shall be stated in the registry the marks of that slave, and the estate of the person from whom he was so purchased?—The directions of the order in council are, that in cases of purchase or other acquisition, or sale or other transfer or manumission of slaves formerly registered, the registered name and description of every such newly purchased or acquired, or transferred or manumitted slave, and of his or her former plantation,

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plantation, or owner or owners, shall also be set forth at large in such annual return. The word annual has a reference to the order only.

Are you at all aware of the state and the condition of a slave, whether he is attached to the soil or not?—Not in the least.

Has that direction been complied with in the registry?—Generally speaking, I think not.

Where a slave has been acquired on an estate, what are the terms in which that acquisition is described?—Purchased, I believe.

Does it state, purchased from whom?—Certainly not.

Does it state, purchased from what estate?—Certainly not; more commonly not. I do not mean to say in some instances it may not have been so stated.

In your correspondence with the Colonial Office, have you been in the habit of mentioning in detail the defects of the various registers?—No.

As to the non-compliance with the order in council in the various colonies?—No, I do not recollect I have ever mentioned the defects of the returns with respect to the column under the head of transfer of slaves, or the change of possession of slaves.

Or any other column?—No.

Have the registrars in the Mauritius any means of knowing from the returns, whether a slave purchased, was purchased from a bonâ fide proprietor, or out of a slave ship?—I have no means of knowing that.

Upon the face of these returns are there any means afforded to the registrar to discover whether the slave was acquired by a bonâ fide purchase or any other means?—In those instances in which the name of the former owner has been inserted, I suppose those means must be furnished.

Are you able to state what number that proportion bears to those where the owners are not stated?—No.

Could you prepare it for the information of the Committee?—Yes, of course I could.

[*The Witness was directed to furnish the same.*]

In the West India colonies under the Crown, when slaves are purchased on an estate, is an accurate description given of the estate from which, and the person from whom, they have been so purchased?—In the greater number of instances, not in all. In Berbice there is a column in the return directing the person making the return, to specify the name of the owner of the plantation from which the slave has been acquired; that column is filled up.

How is it as to Demerara?—There is no such column in that register.

Nor in Trinidad?—No; the registry of Trinidad and St. Lucie are exactly in the same form as the registry of the Mauritius, they having been all legislated for at home by orders in council; in the other colonies the forms of the registration are widely different, there are not two colonies where they have the same form of registry; the forms are precisely the same in the Mauritius, Trinidad and St. Lucie, having all been directed by orders in council at the same period.

Taking fifty entries from the Mauritius registry, and comparing them with fifty from the registry in the ceded colonies in the West Indies, in which the registry is kept, upon the same principle do you recognize a perceptible difference in the Mauritius registry, as to the accuracy of making the returns?—No; I should think not; I should think there is no very material difference, except that in Trinidad there is a more exact description of the stature of the slave continued; if the slave has grown in the last three years, the difference of stature is noted.

Do you know whether the measures in those countries are the same?—I do not.

In all other respects does it appear that the Mauritius registry has been kept with the same apparent accuracy as the registry at Trinidad and Berbice, without reference to the numbers?—I should think pretty nearly so, but of course there is a great difference in different returns of different persons; it has been left in all the colonies pretty much to the parties themselves, in what manner they will fill up the column.

Some returned them with greater accuracy and minuteness than others?—Yes.

But, upon the whole, you do not perceive any very great difference between the Mauritius returns, and those from Trinidad?—Not any thing material.

From whom do you immediately receive the returns?—From Lord Bathurst.

Not from the registrar?—No, from the Colonial Office; I have no communication with the registrar, on the government of the colonies.

Neither the one way nor the other?—No communication at all.

Under

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Under what instructions do you act?—The instructions in the Act of Parliament, that constitutes my office; by the Act of Parliament which constitutes the registrar of slaves in Great Britain, it is directed that no transfer of slaves shall be made in this country, unless a certified copy of the registry of those slaves shall be first obtained from the office of the registrar, and inserted in the schedule annexed to the deed of conveyance or mortgage, or transfer; with respect to the colonies in the West Indies, very frequent transfers of slaves are made in this country, and consequently very frequent applications made for copies of the registry; it is not so in the Mauritius, for during those six years that the registry has been established, I have never been called upon for a copy of any return in that colony, for the purpose of transfer.

In point of fact, that schedule obtained from your office is not merely annexed to the conveyances of property for sale, but all settlements of property?—The word I used was, transfer, and of course the settlement is a transfer; I meant in any legal instrument in which they were transferred.

Has your attention been ever sufficiently drawn to the subject to make a general comparison of the manner in which the registers have been kept at Trinidad and the Mauritius, with respect to the marks necessary for the identification of the slaves?—Not, I think, particularly; I cannot undertake to judge of the sufficiency of the description in the colony; what I might consider an insufficient description, might not be so considered in the colony.

Have you made any comparison between the Mauritius and Trinidad, in that point?—No, I have not.

Is there any authority in the order in council to make the registrar go to the estates, and examine the slaves personally himself, to compare them with his register?—I am not aware of any such power.

Is there any provision in the order in council for requiring the inhabitants when they buy or sell slaves, to make an immediate register of that transaction?—Not that I am aware of.

But when they make the return, are they or are they not bound to insert the names of the persons from whom they bought the slaves?—Yes; that I have stated in the triennial returns; they are bound to state that.

Look at this return, presented by order of His Majesty, to Parliament, in 1826, Class B. [*it was handed to the Witness*]; is the particularity that appears in that a specimen of the average particularity that would be found in others?—No, I think not.

By what Act were you appointed?—59 Geo. III. cap. 120.

What is the date of the order in council you have been referring to?—The 24th of September 1814.

State the clauses relating to the appointment of your office?—The registry of colonial slaves in Great Britain was established by the Act of the 59th Geo. III. cap. 120, which has since been confirmed by that of the 5th Geo. IV. cap. 113, to amend and consolidate the laws relating to the abolition of the Slave Trade. After enacting that a registrar should be appointed and an office provided, it is directed, That as soon as such office should be opened, copies and duplicates of the several registries and returns of slaves in the several colonies, &c. should be delivered over to the registrar, and kept in his office, and he is required to make abstracts, &c. and form such arrangements as may best promote regularity in keeping the books, and facilitate search therein. The attendance of the registrar or his clerks or assistants is directed to be given every day from ten till four o'clock, Sundays and bank holidays excepted, and they are required to make searches concerning slaves registered or supposed to be registered, and to give certificates under the hand of the registrar as to the registration or non-registration of slaves, with extracts of their names and descriptions, and of any other particulars relating thereto which may be stated in the registry. It is further provided, That from and after the 1st of January 1820, no purchase shall be made or money lent on the security of slaves, unless they shall appear to have been registered in the office of registrar, and that every sale, mortgage, or conveyance of slaves, who shall not have been so registered shall be void. Also, that no deed or instrument made or executed in the United Kingdom shall be valid in law to pass any slaves, unless the registered names and descriptions of such slaves be set forth in such deed or instrument, or a schedule indorsed thereon or annexed thereto, according to the latest registration or corrected registration in the office of the registrar. The business of the registrar and his clerks materially consists in granting such certified copies of slave returns received from the West Indies.

Sir

Sir
Robert Farquhar.

15 May
1826.

Sir Robert Farquhar, a Member of the Committee; Examined.

WILL you have the goodness to point out any sources of information whence the Committee may obtain an explanation of what has been stated by the last Witness?—In the first instance, I should beg leave to refer to my correspondence upon the registry laid before Parliament in 1823, contained in the papers upon the slave returns; I should beg leave to refer to the Opinions and Report of the Commission of Inquiry, held at the Mauritius in the year 1819, and amongst the papers lately laid before the House of Commons, but not yet printed; the Commission sat in 1819, and the papers were laid before Parliament two months ago, they are now printed; and as a third explanation, I should refer to a paper that has just now been laid before Parliament, a letter from Sir Lowry Cole, the present governor, entering into an explanation upon the whole subject, with the answer to him and the new order in council, all lately laid before Parliament.

Richard Higginson.

Richard Higginson, called in; and Examined.

YOU have been in the King's service?—Yes.

How long were you in the King's service?—Close upon sixteen years.

In what regiment?—The 22d regiment of foot.

Were you in that regiment the whole of the time?—Yes.

What rank had you in that regiment?—A corporal and serjeant in that regiment.

First a private?—Yes.

During the course of your service were you ever in the Island of Mauritius?—Yes.

At what time did you first go to the Island of Mauritius, and how long did you stay?—At the taking of the island.

How long did you stay?—Till 1823.

When were you discharged?—I was discharged, I do not know exactly the month, but it was in 1819.

How came you to be discharged?—At the reduction of the army.

After your discharge did you obtain any employment in the Island of Mauritius?—Yes.

From what rank were you reduced?—I was reduced as a private.

How came it you were reduced?—I was reduced for the escape of a prisoner during my turn on duty.

Were you tried by a regimental court martial?—I was.

What prisoner was it, was it a slave dealer?—No, a soldier.

You let a soldier escape?—Yes.

Where is your regiment at present?—They were at Limerick when I got my character from them; I do not know where they are at now.

Have you had any communication with any of the officers of your regiment of late respecting your character?—No, never since I came home, only I sent to the adjutant to know if he would send me my character.

What was the reply?—He sent me my character, I have received no other reply.

Have you got the answer from the adjutant?—Yes.

[The Witness produced the same, and it was read, as follows:]

“ I do hereby certify, That Richard Higginson served in the 22d regiment for the space of sixteen years, five of which he served as a non-commissioned officer. I have known him all that period, and consider him a sober, honest, and trust-worthy man. He was left at the Isle of France, in consequence of being attached to the convict department.”

(signed)

“ Thomas Edwards,

“ Dated Limerick, 20th March 1826.”

Lieut. and Adjutant 22d regiment.”

After your discharge, what situation or employment did you obtain in the Isle of France?—I was employed in the convict department. I was attached to the colonial company, when I was discharged.

Will you state what your duties were in the convict department?—I was overlooker of convicts in the Isle of France.

What was your duty as superintendent of convicts?—To have the charge of the convicts, to keep them to their work, and to work them such a number of hours from the gun firing at day-light in the morning, till three in the afternoon in summer, and from seven in the winter to two.

By whom were you appointed?—By his Excellency Governor Farquhar.

How

How long did you continue in the office of superintendent of convicts?—From 1819 till 1823. *Richard Higginson.*

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What led to your removal from that situation?—At the time the Governor, Sir Lowry Cole, came out, he made a reduction of the convict department, and he struck the pay out of the allowances we were allowed, and that any person that wished to be discharged, or to come home to England, was to have a passage given free; my being 23 years from England, I wished to come home to see my own native country; and I wrote to the Governor, Sir Lowry Cole, for my discharge, and to proceed home to England, and he granted it.

There was no complaint against you in your official duty?—No.

Where were you chiefly stationed during the time you were superintendent of convicts?—First, I was stationed at Plain William.

Where else?—From that I was shifted to the other side of Grand Wood.

Do you recollect where you were stationed about the month of June in the year 1821?—Yes.

Where?—Close by the river Sanghese.

In the month of June 1821?—I was at Belle Ombre, I believe.

Is that near the Bay Du Cappe?—Four miles and a half, or near five miles English.

Are you positive you were at Belombre?—I am positive I was there in June 1821.

Do you recollect a man of the name of John Louis?—Yes, well.

Who is he?—A captain, commanding Mr. Telfair's schooners.

What Telfair do you allude to?—Charles Telfair.

Does that gentleman fill any official situation in the Mauritius, and where does he reside?—He chiefly resides at Redway; I believe he is secretary to the government.

Is he the proprietor of any estate in the neighbourhood of the post where you were stationed?—He owns all the Belle Ombre estate.

Are you acquainted with a man of the name of Storey, who belonged to the 22d regiment?—I know him; he belonged to the 82d regiment.

What was his rank in that regiment?—He was a lance corporal; he had been a corporal, but he was reduced on account of some affair with the pay serjeant of the company; what it was, I do not know.

Was he quartered in the neighbourhood of the place where you resided, about June 1821?—Yes.

Where was he quartered?—He was at the Bay du Cappe.

Did you see him at that time?—Yes.

State the circumstances of your interview with corporal Storey upon that occasion?—I had occasion to go down to purchase a few articles, that I requested for my own living during the week; there was a Madame Strabell, she used to sell a good deal of fruit and garden stuff, and generally on a Sunday morning mostly. I went down on a Sunday morning, and could get none; and on the Monday I went again, and this Richard Storey was close by Madame Strabell.

Did she keep a public house?—No; only a garden of her own, and she used to sell her garden stuff to whoever would buy it; I went to Richard Storey after I got what I wanted, and stopped there for upwards of two or three hours.

When you visited Storey, did you make any observation, did you see any thing particular?—No, I did not make any observation at first, till after we had been in the hut sometime; I said, it is too hot in the hut, and we will go and take a walk; and there was a canteen about a mile and a half, and I said we will go and have a glass of wine; he said, no; he said, he would not drink any. I said, let us go upon the Cape Hills; and when I told him to go upon the Cape Hills, he said, "Well, we will go;" and when I went upon the Cape Hills, I saw Mr. Telfair's schooner just coming round the rock, and we waited there.

What reason have you to know that schooner was the property of Mr. Telfair?—I have reason to know it well; I have been often on board it, and knew the slaves that used to work the schooner.

Were you able to see who was on board the schooner?—The helmsman was Pierre, the others I did not know.

Had you ever seen Pierre before?—Many times.

Where had you seen him?—He has been at my own place; he has brought me things from Port Louis to Belle Ombre.

What was Pierre?—He was a sort of commander.

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Whose establishment did he belong to when on shore?—He always said, he belonged to Mr. Telfair.

Had you seen him with Mr. Telfair?—No; I never saw him in any other employment than that schooner.

How do you know that schooner was Mr. Telfair's?—I know it perfectly well, it is Mr. Telfair's; because it was built in Mr. Telfair's ground, and Mr. Telfair paid for it.

How do you know it was paid for by Mr. Telfair?—It is marked Mr. Telfair's schooner on the stern of it, as I was told, but I cannot read nor write.

What was the name of the schooner?—I do not recollect.

What reason have you to know that any connection existed between Pierre and Mr. Telfair?—I have no knowledge any further than what the man told me himself; he said he did not belong to Mr. Telfair, but to Governor Farquhar; the reason why he told me this was, that one time I told him, he wronged me out of five dollars that I entrusted him with to buy me some things.

Do you mean, that Pierre said he belonged to Mr. Telfair or Governor Farquhar?—He told me he belonged to Mr. Telfair; and when I told him I would report him to Mr. Telfair, he told me he did not care for me, he belonged to Governor Farquhar.

Was it in reply to the demand you made for those five dollars, that he then stated that he was the property of Governor Farquhar?—I asked him what he had done with the money I had entrusted to him; he told me he got drunk and spent it.

Did you see any one else on board this schooner besides Pierre?—At what time?

At this time, when you and Storey saw the schooner?—Yes.

Did you see any one else you knew?—Yes; Mr. John Louis.

Was he an Englishman or Frenchman?—A Frenchman, I believe; he was a white man, and spoke nothing but French.

Who else was on board the schooner?—There was five regular slaves that used to be continually working the schooner, and this John Louis.

Besides Louis and Pierre, and five regular slaves, who else did you see on board the schooner?—I did not see any one else till such time as the schooner anchored.

What occurred when she anchored?—When she anchored, Corporal Storey hailed John Louis; what it was about, I cannot say; (the number of yards in the water; it is supposed to be not a mile across;) but we could distinguish the word passed between John Louis, from the shore, and Corporal Storey to John Louis, and he desired him to lower the boat, and to send to him that he might come and examine the schooner what he had on board; and the captain of the schooner told him to stop a bit.

What then occurred?—After that he lowered the boat, and it went to the opposite side from Richard Storey; there was a great number of people came off, I dare say upwards of eighteen or nineteen, or twenty for all I know; but the boat was very much crowded with people, and they pushed off to the opposite side to the Mount Mohan side.

What were then on board the boat?—Madagascar people.

How do you know they were Madagascar people: state to the Committee how you could know Madagascar people from any other slaves that might be on board?—It is as easy known a new landed slave as it is a gentleman from a soldier, just the same thing.

What is the distinction that would enable you to know a new landed slave from an old slave?—First and foremost, the new landed slaves when they land from Madagascar are from Mosambique; they have their hair plaited in a different manner; so that when they come to be in the Isle of France, if they are only in one day, whoever has them makes them unplait their hair immediately. Madagascar has only four plaits, one on each side, one on the front and one in the rear; and they were naked, and appeared to be terribly cramped with irons.

Were you able to make any observations upon those slaves that were landed from the schooner, that enables you now to state that they were natives of Madagascar?—Yes.

Do you mean they were so near you could see the way in which their hair was plaited?—Yes.

You were near enough for that?—Yes, I could see them as plain as I can see any gentleman in this court.

You described the river to be a mile wide?—Yes, but where they landed, the ship was not in the middle of the river.

You

You described the boat to come up on the other side of the vessel?—Yes, but the river running down drove them down more to the mouth of the harbour.

They landed on the other side of the river?—Yes, but they got in the current, and came more to the Bay du Cappe.

They came nearer to you?—Yes.

Where were you?—Upon the Bay du Cappe side.

You said you were upon the hills?—Yes.

How far is that?—About as far as the steps of this staircase from here.

How near were you at the time when they were at the nearest point?—The nearest point they were to me was, between two and three hundred yards.

And have you now any doubt they were Madagascar people?—I am sure they was.

What became of the boat after she put off from the schooner?—She went to the schooner a second time.

What became of the boat after she left the schooner?—She retired to the schooner back again.

What did she do with the first cargo of slaves you stated to have been put on shore?—When the boat went to Mount Mohan side there were four slaves that were there, and two accompanied the first party that landed from the boat, and the other two stopped at the shore side and caught hold of their hands and lifted them on the beach, and they remained there; and the men that landed first they conveyed the first party into the woods, and I did not see the other men come back till they were landed.

Were those the four old slaves you say were on board the boat?—No; four slaves at the side of the water, when the slaves landed, they did not come out of the boat.

What became of the boat after she had landed those slaves?—She returned back to the schooner.

Did you see how many landed the first time?—About twenty, from eighteen to twenty.

What did Corporal Storey do during this return of the boat?—When he saw the boat returning the second time, he desired John Louis to send his boat immediately to him that he might come and examine what he was landing; and he said, *Ac fait fout*—.

What steps did Storey then take?—He desired his men to fire, but not to fire upon the boat, but over, perhaps it may frighten him to bring the boat to.

Did he do so?—Yes.

What party was with Storey?—Two men.

Do you know who they were?—I do not know the man's name, but one of them is dead; one of them died the time we was at the post.

How came these men to be with Storey?—They went out to take a walk; it was not above two hundred yards from the place where the guard was appointed.

Had Storey fire arms with his men ready loaded?—No.

How came he to give orders to fire?—When he saw the first boat landed, he told them to go back for their arms.

Was Storey in command of that detachment?—Yes.

Was it his duty to hail and bring any boat to, that attempted to land?—Yes.

And it was in performance of that duty he gave those orders?—Yes.

Did the boat come to?—No.

Were there any further steps taken by the people in the schooner, after the return of the boat, having discharged its first cargo?—Yes, they loaded a second cargo, and during that time they were loading the second cargo, says he to the two men, "You load again;" and when he saw them shove off, he said, "Stop, I had better not fire any more;" (he had to give an account of his ammunition;) "We will go to Mr. Blankard;" that was about three quarters of a mile from his post.

Who was Mr. Blankard?—Civil commissary and chief magistrate of that district.

What was the object of his going to him?—To make his report concerning Mr. John Louis not bringing his boat to, pursuant to order.

Did you remain at Bay du Cappe, after Storey had gone to Mr. Blankard?—Yes, till he came back again.

What occurred in his absence?—There were two boat loads went after he went away.

How many slaves do you conceive were contained in each of those boat loads?—I believe there was nearly as many in the second as in the first.

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From eighteen to twenty?—Yes.

And in the third, how many?—Not quite so many; the boat did not appear to me to be so crowded as it was the two first times.

How many do you suppose were landed altogether?—I dare say there might be from forty to fifty, or a little more.

What became of those men, and where were they landed?—They landed just upon the Mount Mohan side, and they had to walk about twenty yards till they got into a thicket of wood; where they went to afterwards I do not know.

Were they ironed?—No, not when they went ashore.

When were the irons struck off?—Before ever the schooner came into the harbour.

Did you see it?—No, but I had seen the irons in the schooner.

You stated, they appeared terribly cramped with the irons?—Yes.

You have stated there were four old slaves you saw with Louis?—Five.

Were they employed as rowers of the boat, or in any other way in effecting these disembarkations?—Only three.

Were you able to distinguish those whom you called old slaves, from those you conceived to be Madagascar men?—The men employed in Mr. Telfair's schooner were Madagascar men, but old slaves.

Were you able to distinguish the old slaves from the new ones?—Yes.

You have no doubt upon the subject?—No.

Old slaves were dressed in some way?—Yes; Mr. Telfair always dressed his slaves that worked in the schooner; they got a suit of clothes a year.

The old slaves were dressed and the new slaves naked?—Yes; some of them had a bit of rag to cover their nakedness and others not.

What became of Storey?—He came back again, and asked John Louis if he would send his boat.

Did Mr. Blankard return with him?—Mr. Blankard told him to go about his business, and if there is any assistance required I shall send it.

Did you hear him say that?—No; corporal Storey told me it.

Is corporal Storey now living?—He was alive and well when I left him; I left him in a town called Mayburgh.

Is Mr. Blankard the proprietor of any estate in that neighbourhood?—Yes.

What estate?—He is a very large planter in the mountain, he was in the affair of Mr. Telfair at Belle Ombre.

Was he considered part proprietor of Belle Ombre?—Yes; but he gave it up some years ago, about 1815 or 1816.

When did this take place?—In June 1821.

What time of the day was it when you first went out and saw the schooner?—Between three and four o'clock.

In the afternoon?—Yes.

How long did you remain before you left the place entirely?—Till about half-past six in the afternoon.

Between two and three hours?—Yes.

What time did twilight begin at that time of the year?—Twilight is nearly about 8 o'clock, between 8 and 9, you never have above thirteen hours sun.

Mr. Blankard did not come back?—No; he did not, he did not leave his house.

Did Storey take his two men with him when he went to Mr. Blankard's?—No; me and the two men remained there.

What were the names of the two men?—One was of the name of Evans, he is dead.

Do you know the name of the other?—No.

Was he one of the 22d?—No, the 82d; I was not acquainted with him.

Who was the commanding officer of that district?—Captain Bruce, I believe, I do not exactly know; he was shortly changed after that.

Did Storey communicate to his commanding officer all you saw?—He told me he reported it the next day to his commanding officer; whether he did or not I do not know.

You have been in this schooner?—Yes.

Was she a very rakish looking vessel?—No; she was pretty large, but not very rakish, a very dirty looking one outside.

Do you know when she was built?—No; it was before I went to Belle Ombre.

You have been below?—Yes.

Can you describe the appearance of the vessel?—No; she was pretty large inside.

Was there much depth in the hold?—The depth was nearly as much as I could reach, standing up from where they used to put the ballast; there was a kind of deck for the ballast.

What was her usual occupation?—To carry rum and sugars round from Belle Ombre to Port Louis; bring rice and different things from Port Louis to Belle Ombre.

Did you go on board the schooner that particular day?—No, I did not.

You say you had seen irons on board?—Yes, I did, two days afterwards, when she came round to Pass St. Martin.

What quantity of irons did you see on board?—Upwards of two hundred.

Irons that would be sufficient to iron 200 slaves?—Yes, or more than that.

Who was on board?—John Louis and Pierre, and two slaves.

Do you recollect where the irons were lying, any of them?—Just by the mast, between the cabouse and the mast down below.

Can you describe the irons, what description of irons they were?—About a foot and a half long, or not quite so much, and then a ring to go round their leg, and another to go round the other leg, and then they go up the centre and come up the middle, and a ring joins the two together.

Did you say any thing to Louis about those irons?—Yes; he told me they were irons he was going to take to Port Louis.

Did he say what they were for?—No.

Did you see any large water casks in the hold of the vessel?—No.

Were there any convicts where you were at Belle Ombre?—Yes.

Did the convicts ever come down there?—No, they dare not be seen, nor me either, if I was seen, but I used to go and take a walk down with Richard Storey.

Where were you working?—Making a road through the Belle Ombre estate.

Did any conversation take place between you and Louis as to the landing of those slaves?—No.

Did you make any complaint or lodge any information before any magistrate or any official person as to this importation?—No, I did not, it was of no use for me; it was more than I durst do.

Why?—If I had, I should have been turned out of my situation, and what little bread I had was hardly enough to maintain me.

You had never tried?—No; but I got a severe check, from something that occurred when I first went into my department.

Who was your commanding officer?—Captain Rossi.

What was his situation?—He was captain, and superintendent of the convicts.

Was it through him that you received your orders?—Yes.

Was it to him you were bound to make any report?—Yes.

Did you ever receive from him any orders with respect to your conduct on the subject of slave trading, and the importation of new slaves?—Yes.

What were those orders?—My orders were, I took a new slave up that did not know where he was going, nor what he was doing, nor who was his master; he came to my place and asked for something to eat, as I thought, he made motions with his mouth: I did not know what he wanted. I took him to an old man, an old Madagascar man, that used to sell liquor for Mr. Caneberry. I asked him what this man wanted, and he said he was brought from Madagascar, and he did not know where his master was, or who his master was. I said, who is your master; he said he did not know; said he; he wants something to eat. I said to the slave I will take him back and give him something to eat; and I took him back to our head quarters at the convict department at Grand River.

Who was in command there?—Captain Rossi, and the chief overseer, Serjeant Clover.

What did you state to Serjeant Clover when you took up the new slave?—I told him I had got a man who was new landed in the country, who did not know his master nor wherene he was, and he wanted something to eat; I said I had better take him to Mr. Russel; he said no, take him to Captain Rossi; and when I took him he gave me a severe reprimand.

What did he state to you?—He told me I had no business to look after slaves; that if I wished to keep my employment I was to keep off the plantations, and not to meddle with slaves, old or new ones.

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In the conversation you had with this new slave, through the man who translated his language, did he tell you how long he had been from his own country?—About six days he said.

Was his hair in the Madagascar fashion?—Yes, it was.

Were there any orders given at any time by Captain Rossi to you, and with your knowledge, to other superintendents of convicts, on the subject of the Slave Trade?—To every one of the party it was a written order at every post, and repeated regularly about once or twice every three months.

What was the order?—You have no business with slaves; you have no business except with convicts, and you have no business to interfere with new landed slaves or old landed slaves, only mind your convicts, and look after your own work, and see that the convicts work from gun fire till three in the afternoon.

Are you sure that the words of the order made a distinction between new landed slaves and old landed slaves?—Yes, that was the order he gave me.

Are you sure that the written order was any thing more than a general direction not to interfere with people's slaves?—The order expresses, when I went and took this new landed slave, who said he had been only six days from his own country, he said, you have no business with him, I will give a written order, and he sent it out.

You are sure that the written order specified the new landed not the old landed slaves?—Yes.

Was Captain Rossi an English officer?—No, a Corsican.

Was he in any regiment?—No, he was on half pay, but he was aide de camp to Governor Farquhar.

When did this occur between you and Captain Rossi?—In 1819.

Was it in consequence of this reprimand you have stated you received, that you made no complaint or report of what occurred in 1821?—Yes, chiefly upon that and another circumstance that I heard, that happened before I was discharged from the regiment, from two other men in the convict department, during the time they were soldiers; there was William Taylor and Joseph Monk, I believe his name was William Taylor, he went by the name of Bungay Taylor in our regiment.

Did you know Taylor and Monk?—Yes.

Did you know they were punished?—I was not in the regiment at the time; I was at the out posts.

What punishment did they receive?—I did hear Taylor received 100 lashes

Do you know where Taylor is now?—In Norwich.

Was it in consequence of your belief respecting the punishment of those men that you did not make a report to Captain Rossi?—Yes.

Your duty was to superintend the convicts employed in Belle Ombre?—Yes.

How many were there?—Thirty.

Not more than thirty?—No.

When you saw those irons on board Mr. Telfair's schooner, Louis told you they were irons he was taking round to Port Louis?—Yes.

There were at least two hundred sets of irons?—I cannot say there were two hundred, but there appeared to me two hundred, if not more.

Considerably more than one hundred?—Yes.

What was the size of the schooner?—I have seen 3,000 bags of rice taken out of her.

Your time was completely occupied with the care of the convicts?—Yes.

You were busy with them?—Yes.

You had no time?—No; excepting after they had done work.

Had you done work when you were walking out at three o'clock?—Yes; every day, and I only went to work every other day.

Did Louis say they were for the convicts at Belle Ombre?—No; they were not irons for Belle Ombre, I had the charge of them.

Did Louis say those irons were for the convicts at Belle Ombre, or that he was taking them round to Port Louis?—He said he was taking them round to Port Louis.

Did he say what he was taking them round to Port Louis for?—No.

What was the quantity of irons you had for the convicts at Belle Ombre?—Thirty pair.

Was it your habit to iron them regularly?—If they committed petty thefts upon the inhabitants, stealing garden stuff which they are in the habit of doing, and going to steal different kinds of herbs for their own use, if they were found out we were at liberty to iron them for a week or a fortnight.

When

When you first came did you find the irons there?—Yes.

Were there any other irons brought at any other time for the use of the convicts?—No.

Had you any occasion for any more?—No.

You have stated that those slaves were landed in June and they went into the thicket?—Yes.

On whose property were they landed, do you know that?—No; I do not know the person who owns the ground.

Can you say how far it is from Belle Ombre?—Nearly three miles and a half to go round the road, you must cross the hills; if you cross the water it is about three quarters of a mile.

They were landed on the side on which Belle Ombre is not situated?—Yes.

You cannot recollect the name of the owner of the property?—No; it is all a kind of waste ground where they carried them; the high tide overflows part of it.

Are there any woods or thickets there?—Yes, it is all thickets, and woods, and seggs, and then a mountainous country all the way to four or five and twenty yards, or from that to thirty, to the sea side; then it is very thick; after you once get in, you may be there for an hour without seeing any person.

Is it a place convenient for concealing slaves?—Yes, or any thing else; for if you once get in, you cannot find any body.

You have been in the habit of seeing a great many slaves in the Mauritius?—Yes, some thousands.

Have you seen a good many new slaves?—Yes, a great many in my time.

Are you quite capable of distinguishing a new from an old slave?—Yes.

Is there any difficulty in doing it?—Not at all.

Do you know Seychelle slaves, if you were to see them?—Yes; the Seychelle slave is much the same as the Madagascar.

Is there any distinction between the character of the Seychelle slaves, and the Madagascar slaves?—No more than that they have two or three words of French; they have not so much as will ask their own way; some of them have, and some not.

Have they their hair plaited in the same way as the Madagascar people?—No, it is combed out; the hair generally mats together the same as the plaits.

Is the dress of the Seychelle slave and the Madagascar slave the same?—No.

What is the difference?—The dress of the Seychelle slaves, (all that ever I saw of them, and I saw two vessels come at the back of the hospital,) they had a kind of sack or piece of cloth, Madagascar cloth; some one thing, and some another; but more clothing than the new landed slave from Madagascar.

Upon the occasion you have spoken of, did Mr. Blankard himself come down to the spot before the slaves were landed?—No.

Did any officers of the police come down?—No.

You quitted at half-past six?—Yes.

What time did Storey go up to speak to Mr. Blankard?—About half-past four, but he was there again before five.

You remained there till past six?—Not on the Cape Hills, but we waited there for an hour after, we saw no more boats; they hauled the boat up to the stern of the schooner, and then we went to the hut.

Was there ample time for Mr. Blankard himself to come or send the police officer?—Yes.

And no one came?—No.

You have stated, that the parties you saw landed, were naked, and terribly cramped with irons?—Yes.

You stated afterwards, that the irons were struck off when they were in the vessel; did you see the parties in irons at all?—No, I did not; but I was told by a slave that was in the schooner, that they were knocked off.

When you stated that they were cramped with the irons, do you mean, that their walking on landing, was cramped in consequence of any prior restraint?—I do not know; they did not appear to me to be like people used to walking.

You said, that the irons were only used upon the Belle Ombre estate, for punishment of the convicts?—Yes.

Are they the same sort of irons that you saw on board the schooner?—No; they have different kinds for the convicts, according to the crime.

Not like the irons you saw on board the schooner?—No.

Were they of different make?—Yes.

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Does Mr. Blankard or Mr. Telfair stamp or put any mark upon their own irons?
—I cannot say, I did not notice.

You did not notice any mark upon the irons on board the schooner?—I saw none; I examined some of them.

Did you ever see Mr. Telfair on board this schooner?—Yes.

Tell me the dates as far as you can recollect?—I cannot say the dates.

Did you ever see Mr. Telfair giving any directions to Pierre or John Louis?—Yes; I have seen him on board the schooner at the time they have been loading the rum and the sugars; and I have seen him giving directions how much to take, and where to leave it, and after the schooner has been loaded, he has returned back to his habitation.

Was John Louis a brown man?—No, a very red kind of man.

A Frenchman?—Yes.

How was Mr. Telfair's name marked upon the stern?—Painted on the stern.

Was Mr. Telfair's name marked on the stern of the schooner or not?—Yes.

How was it marked, John Telfair, in full letters?—No, Charles Telfair.

What were the exact words?—Mr. Charles Telfair, his schooner, trading from Belle Ombre to Port Louis.

What were the words painted on the stern?—Nothing, only Mr. Charles Telfair, his schooner, trading from Belle Ombre to Seychelle, and from Seychelle to Belle Ombre.*

Were those the words painted upon the stern of the schooner?—Yes.

Charles Telfair's schooner trading from Port Louis to Madagascar, and from Madagascar to Port Louis?—Yes, she used to fetch rice from Madagascar to the Belle Ombre estate.

You were there from the first capture of the colony?—Yes, I was there at the taking of the island.

For some years after you went there, the Slave Trade was openly carried on, was it not?—I cannot say.

Did you never see slaves brought in by ship-loads?—Yes, I have seen those men of war, brigs and men of war boats, bring them in frequently.

You never saw any trading vessels bring in slaves and sell them openly in the market?—No.

At no time?—I saw two vessels brought in, in the rear of the general hospital, from Seychelle, that I was told had slaves on board from Seychelle.

When?—In 1821, but not before that.

Had you the same opportunities of seeing, in the years 1812, 1813 and 1814, as you had when you were overseer of convicts?—No.

Where were you in the early part of the time?—I was never any farther than Port Louis, Mayburg; I was never at any out-post except the Powder Mills.

This vessel of Mr. Telfair's, where used it to lie at anchor?—Generally at Pass St. Martin.

Was that the nearest point to Belle Ombre?—Pass St. Martin is the end of the Belle Ombre estate.

You say the schooner went round two days afterwards to Port Louis?—No, to Pass St. Martin.

Did you soon after that, see Mr. Telfair on board her?—No; not for four or five days afterwards, when she was loading with sugar, to go round to Port Louis.

Do you know that those slaves you saw, went to the Belle Ombre estate?—I cannot say.

Do you know the nearest military post to Belle Ombre?—Jackwooty.

How far off?—Three miles.

There was an officer there?—Yes.

How long were you in Belle Ombre?—Close upon eleven months.

Did you have frequent opportunity of seeing negroes there?—Yes.

Did you ever see there any body of new negroes?—Yes; a great number.

You say, that the size of the vessel was capable of containing 3,000 bags of rice?—Yes; I have seen 3,000 bags landed out of her.

How many slaves could she carry?—I cannot say.

One hundred?—I do not know; it might be one hundred or more.

Did you ever see a number of apprentices at Belle Ombre?—I do not know.

Do you not know what apprentices are at the Mauritius?—Yes.

Are they not new slaves?—They are supposed to be so, that are captured, but prevented from people bringing them into the island, without being detected.

Did you see any of them at Belle Ombre?—Not to my knowledge.

[*On reading the answer to the Witness, he said he wished to correct it, and to say, that I believe there was nothing marked on the stern of the schooner, but Mr. Charles Telfair's name, as I had been told. I do not read or write myself.]

Do you know the difference between a new slave made an apprentice, and one not made an apprentice?—Yes.

What is the difference?—They are better clothed for one thing.

That depends upon the master?—No; the slave put out as apprentice, before he is put out of the slave-lodging, is clothed well, and the master is bound over.

When he goes to the estate, does the master not give him cloathing?—Yes, better than their own slaves.

Did you observe that the slaves were well clothed, or badly clothed?—There are slaves upon the Belle Ombre estate, that I believe, have never seen a coat or a waistcoat, or shirt, from the day they went there to this day.

You say, those Madagascar people seemed very terribly cramped by the irons; what did you mean?—My opinion is, that their legs were cramped up so, that they could not stand up, they did not walk well.

They crouched when they landed?—Yes; their legs appeared to be the same as if they were cramped, they had not the use of their legs like another person.

Did you recognize any of them on the estate of Belle Ombre afterwards?—No, I do not recollect; but the estate of Belle Ombre is very large, and where I was, I might be twenty years without seeing a new landed slave, it reaches thirty miles in a thicket and wood.

The whole island is only thirty miles?—The Belle Ombre estate is very large; it goes all in the wood, and Mr. Telfair had the cutting of the timber down on the other side of the plain De William, it is fourteen miles.

When were you tried by a court martial?—In 1814.

You were then dismissed?—I was reduced in 1814 from a serjeant.

To a private?—Yes.

When did you afterwards get appointed a non-commissioned officer?—No, I never was appointed again.

Had you ever any personal quarrel with Corporal Storey?—No, never in my life.

Did he come from your own part of the country?—I do not know where he came from exactly; he used to tell me he came from Shrewsbury, in Shropshire.

You are a Shropshire man?—Yes; he was very intimate with me when I first landed; I was fully determined to go home, and I changed my things with him for Europe things, and then, after I had changed, I thought proper to stay in the island, after having got a good situation.

Did you hear those Madagascar people make any noise?—No.

Were they mostly men or women?—All of them men.

Did you ever see any slaves apprentices brought from Port Louis in that schooner?—No.

Did you ever see any apprentices with their hair plaited?—Never after they were allowed to go with their master.

How far was Madame Strabell's from the Cape Hills?—Madame Strabell's was about half a mile.

How far was Madame Strabell's from the guard house?—About two or three hundred yards.

Was the guard house between Madame Strabell's and the Cape Hills?—Yes, but nearer to Madame Strabell's.

Any body might see who was near?—Yes.

Other soldiers might see?—There was no other soldier nearer than eight or nine miles.

[The witness withdrew]

Mercurij, 17^e die Maij, 1826.

THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, ESQUIRE,

IN THE CHAIR.

Richard Higginson, again called in; and further Examined.

Richard Higginson.

ARE you acquainted with that part of the Island of Mauritius which lies between the Eel River and River de Poste?—Yes.

Have you been frequently in that quarter?—Yes, I have been several times, not very frequently.

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What is the nature of the coast in that neighbourhood?—Generally very rocky a reef of rocks runs a long way out from the sea shore.

Is it a quarter which is resorted to for the ordinary purposes of trade?—No.

Is that in the Savannah district of the island?—Yes.

Were you in that quarter executing the duties of your office as superintendent of convicts?—Yes.

Do you recollect being there in any part of the year 1821?—Yes.

About what month was it?—I cannot tell the month that I came there, nor the month that I came to the river Anguille, but I left it in November.

Do you recollect how long you had been there?—Nearly about four months; between four and five months, I left it in November 1820.

Were you ever there afterwards?—No; I left it to go to Belle Ombre in 1820.

Did you at any time see any vessels upon that coast?—Yes.

About what time did you see any vessel or vessels upon that coast?—I had been there about six weeks, or it might be more, it might be less; I cannot exactly say to the time, for I did not think of giving any account of it, and therefore I did not put any time on it; I think I had been there about six weeks.

What vessel did you see there?—I saw a vessel that was lying between two reefs of rocks.

What description of vessel was it?—It was a small vessel, I dare say it might hold about from five or six hundred to a thousand flaggons of rice.

You say this vessel was between two reefs of rocks, was she dry or was the tide about her?—The head part of her was dry, and the stern part of her was in the water.

Had you ever seen a vessel in that place before?—I do not recollect ever having seen one in that place before.

Are you perfectly clear of the time of the year at which you were quartered near the Eel River?—Yes, it was in 1820.

Was it before or after you were quartered at Belle Ombre?—I was quartered at Belle Ombre after that.

In what year were you quartered at Belle Ombre?—I was quartered at Belle Ombre in 1820, and remained there till the 14th December 1821; then I went to the Grand Wood from Belle Ombre.

At what time of the year did you go to Belle Ombre from the Eel River?—I believe, to the best of my knowledge, it was in November 1820.

And you stayed there rather better than a year, till the December following?—I staid there till December 1820.

Are there any books kept by your superior officer that could show the exact dates at which you passed from one of those stations to another?—I cannot say, but I believe there is; he had an office, and was allowed a clerk for that purpose.

Recollect yourself, and state in what year you saw the schooner that you have been talking of at the Eel River?—It was in 1820; I had been about a month or six weeks at the Eel River.

Have you such a recollection of those dates that you are confident of the accuracy of them?—No, I have not, for I never thought of being brought to any account of any thing of the kind, or else I should have had the dates; but I never thought of being brought to any account about it.

What was the year in which you were discharged?—1819.

At what time of the year were you discharged?—I cannot say exactly.

Was it the summer or the winter?—About the middle of summer.

What did you do immediately upon being discharged?—Immediately I was put in the convict department I was discharged from the 27th regiment, to the convict department.

Were you employed in the convict department immediately upon being put in?—I was employed about three weeks at Port Louis.

At what time was it that you were employed at Port Louis?—I cannot recollect the month nor yet the day.

When was the year?—In 1819.

Where did you go to from Port Louis?—To Plain William.

How long were you at Plain William?—I believe it was about five months.

What time of the year was it when you left Plain William?—Just before Christmas.

Where did you go to from Plain William?—To the Grand River again, that was our head-quarters.

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How long were you there?—I was there three weeks.

What was your next station?—I went from that, to relieve a man that was taken sick at the other side of the Grand Wood.

How long did you stay there?—Nine weeks.

This was early in 1820?—Yes.

Where did you go to from the Grand Wood?—To Port Louis again.

How long were you at Port Louis that time?—Not above ten days before I was sent out again.

What was the next permanent station you were sent to?—I was sent out to Plain William again.

How long were you at Plain William that time?—I was better than three months.

And from Plain William, where did you go to then?—To the Grand Wood.

How long did you stay at the Grand Wood that time?—Five days.

Where did you go to then?—To Plain William again.

How long were you there then?—I was about three months, or hardly three months.

Where did you go to then?—Then I went to the River Anguille.

How long did you stay at the River Anguille?—I staid at the River Anguille till November of that same year.

That is till November 1820?—Yes.

You have stated, that you saw a schooner lying in the neighbourhood of the Eel River?—Yes.

Was that a place resorted to for the ordinary purposes of trade?—No.

Was it a place that a boat or a vessel could approach without risk?—No; I would think within myself that it was impossible; nor I would not believe that a vessel or a boat could come there, except I saw it myself; but I saw it frequently after that.

You stated, that this vessel was partly dry and partly in the tide?—Yes.

Was any body on board her at the time that you saw her?—I did not see any one.

Was there any mode of communication between that vessel and the shore?—Yes.

What was that mode of communication?—There was a ladder made of ropes that reached from the top of the rock to the sea shore at the bottom.

Did you approach the shore?—Yes.

What did you then see?—I saw the ladder, and I saw the marks of people's steps coming from that ladder, as I thought, where there had been a great number of people passing by a path that was made, and entering into a thicket of a wood.

What kind of a soil was it in which those footsteps were made?—It was a kind of a clayey soil, and the grass that was on it was a kind of moss.

Are you able to state whether the footsteps that you saw were the footsteps of naked people, or had they the appearance of being trod by shoes?—No, there was no sign of any shoes there.

What did you then do?—I went past, and I heard a noise in the part, and as I used frequently to use a good deal of tobacco in smoking, and I saw smoking in the wood, and hearing a noise, I went and asked a man if he would give me a light to my pipe.

What man?—It was a Colombe belonging to Monsieur Jefroix.

Were there any people with that overseer?—Yes.

Whom did you see with him?—I saw two other old slaves along with him first.

Whom did you see besides those two old slaves, if you saw any body?—I asked the gentleman that was come along with the two old slaves to give me a light for my pipe; he asked me what brought me there, and told me to be off, and I told him I would not, I was on the king's ground.

Did you see any body else with those people?—Yes.

Who did you see with them?—I saw a great number of Madagascar people.

When you say they were Madagascar people, of what description of Madagascar people were they; did they seem to be old or new slaves?—They appeared to me to be new slaves.

How was their hair dressed?—It was plaited in different plaits.

Were there any other appearances about those slaves whom you saw in the wood, that made you imagine they were new slaves?—Yes; I saw four old slaves in the wood; one of them brought me a light for my pipe. There is a deal of difference between an old slave and a new one.

Were those new slaves naked or clothed?—Some of them had as much as to hide their nakedness, and some had not.

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Did those who wore any kind of clothing wear Madagascar clothing, or the ordinary slave clothing of the Mauritius?—No; they generally had a piece of a handkerchief or a piece of rice bag, or any thing they could catch; some of them had a Madagascar cloth about them.

Was that the ordinary dress of the slaves in the Mauritius?—No.

Had you any communication with those slaves, so as to ascertain whether they could understand the Creole French or not?—Yes.

State what occurred?—I asked one man to give me a bit of fire to light my pipe, and he did not know what I said; and I asked him again, and he made me no answer; and then the Frenchman came out and asked me what brought me there.

What was that Frenchman's name?—I forget his name now, but I think his name was William.

Do you know a man of the name of Besse?—Yes.

What situation did he fill?—Sometimes he was in the sugar mill.

In whose sugar mill?—Mr. Jefroix. I had seen him in the sugar mill, and I had seen him in the plantation.

Where did the Frenchman come out of?—He came out of the wood.

Was Mr. Besse there?—Yes.

What office does Mr. Jefroix hold?—They call him the commandant in the district.

Have you ever seen Besse and Jefroix together?—Never but twice, I believe.

What were they doing when they were together?—They were talking; I could not tell what their discourse was, but they were talking together in Mr. Jefroix's own yard.

Was the communication such as to make you imagine that one was the servant of the other, or employed by the other?—I know Mr. Besse was the servant of Mr. Jefroix.

Had you any communication with Besse when you saw those slaves in the wood?—No further than he began to abuse me, and told me I had no business there; and I told him I had business within fifty yards of the sea coast in any part of the island; that it belongs to His Majesty, and that he was doing a thing that was not right; he told me to go and mind my own business; and I told him if he was minding his business in the place of doing what he was, he would not be there no more than me.

What do you mean by saying that he was doing what was not right?—I judged they were new landed slaves, and he had no more business with them than I had.

What reply did Besse make to that?—He told me to go off about my business, and I told him that I should not at first; he said again, "you had better go off for you know," says he, "it is in our power to put you out of bread, put your hands behind you and what will you get." He told me to go about my business; I told him no I would not, that I insisted upon having a light to my pipe, upon which he immediately sent a man for a light, one of the old slaves; "now" says he, "go put your hands behind you and say nothing, for if you do you know it is in our power to put you out of bread, and then you will become like a dog," and says he, "who will employ you after that."

What happened then?—With that I went away, and I did put my hands behind me according as he told me; and there was a man that put some money into my hand, a man that I had seen frequently in Monsieur Jefroix's plantation, but whether it belonged to Mr. Jefroix I cannot say; he put two twenty dollar papers and a ten dollar paper into my hand.

Who was that second person?—I do not know his name, I have seen him frequently in Mr. Jefroix's distill-house, but whether he was employed there I cannot say.

Did they say any thing more to you upon your going away?—Nothing more passed, any further than one said after I was gone, *bon garçon*.

Was the name of Captain Rossi mentioned in that conversation?—Yes; he told me when they told me to go away, that it laid in their power to report me to Captain Rossi, and if he thought fit to turn me out of my situation, who would employ me, that I should become like a dog.

When did Besse say this, was it after your receiving the money?—No; previously to the money being given to me.

Did you make any report of this transaction to Captain Rossi or to any other authority in the island?—No, I did not; I had had such orders before that I was afraid to make any report of it.

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Was it from the same reasons that you expressed, in your last examination, that you abstained from reporting it?—Yes.

Did you go there in pursuit of your duty?—No; I went to buy a pig and some garden stuff that one of Mr. Jefroix's slaves used to sell in the morning, he had pigs to sell that all people used to buy, and it was getting the time of the year that I wanted to get a little bit of a pig to fatten up for Christmas.

Where was your station?—At the river Anguille.

Were you road making there?—Making a road up the hill.

You say you were ordered by Captain Rossi not to interfere with the slaves; how came it then that you interfered upon this occasion?—I did not interfere any more, I only asked for a light for my pipe, and if they had given me a light for my pipe, it is ten to one that I should not have seen them; I did not interfere any more about it.

You did not go there expecting to be bribed for holding your peace, did you?—No, not at all.

How was it that you did not report it to Captain Rossi; you say, that Joseph Monck's and Joseph Taylor's court martial frightened you?—It was not only that, but many times I was threatened with other things concerning myself as to slaves; that I had no business to interfere with it.

Was that place where you went to light your pipe a usual place for slaves to be at work in?—No; it is a part uncultivated.

Did you go on board the vessel?—No.

What became of her?—I do not know; I saw the vessel there again about three weeks afterwards.

You never knew what became of her?—No.

Do you know whether the vessel you saw three weeks after was the same?—I do not know exactly, I did not look at the first one.

Do you know what became of the slaves?—No.

Did you see Mr. Jefroix upon that occasion?—No; Mr. Jefroix was an elderly man, that was not able to go out.

How do you know that those old slaves belonged to Jefroix?—I do not know that they belonged to Jefroix.

At what time of the day was this?—It was about seven o'clock in the morning.

What was the overseer doing upon that occasion?—I do not know; he was there in the woods, and when he heard me ask the men for a light, he came immediately out, and wanted to know what I came there for.

Was he a Frenchman?—Yes.

When you first came up to those slaves, you found nobody with them?—I found nobody, except those two old slaves.

Did you ask those old slaves, or some of the new slaves for a light?—I asked a new slave, and he made no answer; and one of the others came immediately up, and I asked for a light for my pipe, and then this commandant asked me what brought me there.

What was that commandant's name?—Besse.

When you asked those Madagascar slaves for a light, and they could not answer, somebody came up immediately from the wood?—Yes.

Who was that?—Two old slaves that I saw at the entrance of the wood.

They were with the Madagascar slaves?—Yes.

Who came up next?—What they call the Colombe, Mr. Besse.

After the conversation had taken place, another person came up?—Yes.

Whom you believe, belonged to Mr. Jefroix?—Yes; I had seen him frequently there.

You called the Colombe by the name of William, is that Besse?—Yes.

Did they tell you not to tell any thing about it?—They told me I had no business to interfere with it.

After they had given you the money, did they tell you not to tell any thing about it?—No; they did not care whether I told or not, because they knew I durst not tell, unless I had a mind to have my life made miserable.

Do you suppose, that the object for which they gave you money, was to prevent your telling of it?—Yes.

That Colombe belonged to Mr. Jefroix?—Yes.

How many of Mr. Jefroix's people were with those new slaves?—I only saw two gentlemen, and four old slaves.

Was the Colombe with the party of new slaves, or was he not?—He was.

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Was there any other person there belonging to Mr. Jefroix, that you knew besides that Colombe?—Yes, there was another person.

Do you know that he belonged to Mr. Jefroix?—Yes.

By gentlemen, do you mean slaves?—No, free men.

The white men?—Yes.

Had those people their hair plaited in Madagascar fashion?—Yes.

After they had given you money, they did not tell you to hold your tongue?—No.

You stated, that one of them said to you, “*allez bon garçon?*”—Yes; that was when I was going away.

Recollect whether they said any thing else to you in Creole French at that time?—Not to my knowledge.

You do not recollect any thing?—No.

You do not know to whom the vessel belonged, do you?—No.

She was a schooner, was not she?—Yes.

Though you do not know the name of this second man that came up to you, who gave you the money, have you any means of explaining who he was; do you know any duties he performed?—I saw him several times, being in the sugar mills where they make the sugar, I saw him at work there; but whether that was his duty, or whether he was in the liquor concern, I cannot say.

He was a distiller, was he?—Yes.

Was there any thing particular about his looks in any way?—He was at work at both those places.

You can speak to him as the same man?—Yes.

In what places did you see him?—In the distillery, and likewise in the sugar mills.

When they gave you the money, did you understand that it was as a bribe to you not to say any thing about the matter?—Yes, I judged it was.

When they gave you the money, did they say any thing about desiring you not to speak upon the subject?—They told me if I spoke of it, that they could get me turned out of my situation, that was the occasion of my getting the money; I told them I would report them.

Did they say any thing about your holding your tongue after they had given you the money?—No, they said, “*allez, bon garçon.*”

Nothing else?—No.

They never said any thing about holding your tongue?—No, not that I can recollect.

Whom did you consider as your commanding officer?—Captain Rossi.

Why did you not report this transaction to him?—I took a new slave in at Plain William, and I was desired never to interfere with any slaves whatever. He said I was minding the inhabitants slaves instead of minding my own duty, and he told me that if ever he knew me interfere with any of the slaves in the island, that he would turn me out of my situation.

What became of that new slave that you brought in?—I left him with Mr. Russell.

Who was Mr. Russell?—The commissary. I brought him to the Grand River, and gave him to Mr. Clover, and he told me to take him to Mr. Russell.

Did Captain Rossi himself tell you this, or did any body else tell it you as what he himself said?—Captain Rossi sent it in writing to every post.

Do you imagine then that that which was in writing was the same in substance as that which he said to you?—Yes.

Did he say it to you in English?—Yes; there was a writing to every post.

Did Captain Rossi, as the commanding officer in that particular service at that time, speak to you in conversation, and say, Higginson, you are not to do so and so?—He desired me never to interfere with any of the slaves belonging to the inhabitants.

By word of mouth?—Yes; and he put it in writing to every post.

Can you read writing?—No.

How do you know then that it was in writing?—Because there was a man at every post I was at to read all the letters that came.

And you heard this man read the letter?—Yes.

Then you do not know of your own knowledge that it was in writing?—No; but I know the man read the letter that Captain Rossi sent to me, because he was there for that purpose.

Then you do not suppose that the purpose of those written instructions was to tell you to mind your own business as overseer of the convicts, but you understood that

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that it was to recommend you to avoid seeing any of those transactions that were going on?—It was to recommend me to the best of my opinion, not to interfere with the slaves in any way whatever.

Then that direction was given to you to prevent your being instrumental in the observation of those transactions?—It was given me as I thought, that no inhabitants should make any report, so that I should have nothing to say with either the slaves or the inhabitants.

Had you or any of your comrades done any thing which occasioned Captain Rossi to speak to you in that way?—Yes; I believe it was from the circumstances of the time of Joseph Taylor and Joseph Monck.

When you took that new slave to Captain Rossi, that you afterwards took to Mr. Russell, the civil commissary, had you neglected your work in any way at the time that you took him?—No.

It was not in those hours when you were called upon to do your duty as overseer?—It was in an hour that I should be at work; but I was doing my duty, because I was going for ashes for the convicts, so that I brought him in along with me.

When did you first mention what you saw on the Eel River?—I never mentioned it to any body till I came home, till I was asked in Chatham.

Who asked you in Chatham?—Mr. Byham.

You have stated more than once that after you had received the money, they said to you, “*bon garçon*,” and nothing else?—Yes.

You have stated also, that they never told you not to tell about it?—No; I cannot say that ever they did; I do not recollect.

You understand Creole French?—A little.

You understood what “*bon garçon*” meant?—Yes.

You would have understood if they had told you in Creole French not to tell?—Yes.

You would have understood if they had said to you such a thing as this, “*ne pas dites ne rien*?”—Yes; now I hear it I believe he said that, but I am not sure, I believe he said that.

What makes you think he said that to you?—Because now it is repeated it comes to my memory.

You have said more than once, that he never told you not to tell?—Yes; but I believe he did say such words.

Have you ever said any where else, that he said those words to you?—No; never to any one except to Mr. Byham or else to Mrs. Nichol when she came to the post, I told her about it.

Who is Mr. Nichol?—A man that came to write for me at Belle Ombre.

You mentioned it then in the island?—Yes; I mentioned it to him.

Do you remember whether you told your comrades that you had made a good day's work, that you had got those twenty dollar papers?—Yes, I did.

You told them that you had got those twenty dollar papers for your day's work?

I told my comrades at Belle Ombre of it; I told two men of the 82d, that were on guard over the convicts, on account of the committing of those two men that deserted; there were two men belonging to each post, two belonging to the 56th, and two belonging to the 82d.

Then some conversation did take place upon this transaction, between you and some of the other soldiers?—Yes; I told my comrades concerning it.

Do you know of any other of your comrades getting a similar reward?—No, I cannot say.

They did not say to you that they had?—No.

Can you mention any body by name, to whom you recollect having mentioned this in the island?—I mentioned it to Mr. Nichol and his wife many times, when we have been talking together.

You say you never mentioned it in England till Mr. Byham came to you?—No.

When did Mr. Byham come to you?—He came to me, when I was down at Chatham.

Who is Mr. Byham?—He is a gentleman; he was commissary general of the police in the Mauritius.

At what time?—In 1820 or 1821.

What communication have you had with Mr. Byham, since you came to England?

—Nothing, any further than he asked me, if I knew any thing about the Isle of France, and I told him the same as I have stated here.

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When did that communication between you and Mr. Byham take place?—
I believe it was in the latter end of January.

What was the nature of the communication you made to Mr. Byham?—He asked me if I knew any thing with regard to the treatment of the slaves, and I told him, yes, I did.

With respect to the treatment of slaves, or with respect to trading in slaves?—Both in the treatment, and in the trading.

What did you say to Mr. Byham?—I told him what I stated here.

Had you any acquaintance with Mr. Byham previously?—No.

Have you had frequent communications with Mr. Byham?—No.

How often have you communicated with him?—About three times.

Did he take down in writing what passed between you?—I do not know.

Did you see him write down what you communicated?—I saw him write.

What money did Mr. Byham give to you?—He never gave me a farthing in his life, nor so much as a glass of wine nor beer either.

What induced you to mention this to Mr. and Mrs. Nichols, at Belle Ombre?—They were companions of mine, we were both at the same post.

Mr. Nichols was the writer at Belle Ombre?—He used to answer letters from Captain Rossi to me.

Do you know where that gentleman is now?—I believe he is in London.

You mentioned it to both Mr. and Mrs. Nichols?—Yes.

Are they both in London now?—Yes.

When did you last see Mr. Byham?—I saw him yesterday, but not to speak to him.

Have not you seen him since yesterday?—Yes, I saw him to-day.

You saw him both yesterday and to-day?—Yes; but I had no conversation with him.

What passed between Mr. Byham and you to-day?—I wanted to ask him if I was not allowed to have what I had stated here read over to me, as I was told that I could either get a copy of the statement, or else have it read over to me, as I had made a mistake in my statement, and he told me yes, that if I went to the gentleman that stops here, he would correct it for me.

Did Mr. Byham call upon you, or did you call upon Mr. Byham to-day?—I called upon Mr. Byham.

Where does he live?—At N^o 2, Berkeley Square.

How came Mr. Byham to attend you to-day?—I asked him if he would look over it for me; but when we came here, the gentleman told me that Mr. Byham had nothing to do with it.

How many conversations have you had with Mr. Byham altogether?—I spoke to him concerning getting me a situation twice or three times, and I believe, to the best of my knowledge, I have never spoken to him with regard to slaves above once or twice since I came to London.

Did he promise you to get you a situation?—No, I only asked him for a character, so that I might get on the Mary-le-bone watch.

Why should he get you a situation?—I only asked him for a character, as I had not got one from the regiment.

You yesterday shewed to the Committee a character from the regiment?—Yes, but I had not got it at that time.

Did Mr. Byham know any thing about you?—He knew me at the Isle of France.

As Mr. Byham was commissary of the police in the Isle of France, how came you not to go to him about this transaction at the time it happened?—Because I was afraid.

Why were you afraid?—For fear it would come to my own commanding officer; I was glad to shut it up any where.

Had you any thing to do with Mr. Byham in your department?—No, nothing.

Where did Mr. Byham live in the Isle of France?—He lived part of the time at Grand River.

How far was he from your station?—From twenty to thirty miles.

Did your business bring you at all into Mr. Byham's presence in the Isle of France?—No.

Did he know you by name in the Isle of France?—No, I do not know that he did.

When you first saw Mr. Byham at Chatham, you did not know his person?—No.

Did

Did you know that he had been civil commissary of police?—Not till he told me his name. *Richard Higginson.*

Did Mr. Byham tell you what you were to say, and what you were not to say, before this Committee?—No; he never mentioned such a word to me, he never mentioned a word concerning it.

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Why did you apply to Mr. Byham for a character as he did not know you in the Isle of France?—I knew him in the Isle of France, but when he came and asked me, if I knew any thing about the slaves in the Isle of France, I did not know him again, but I knew him in the Isle of France.

Why did you apply to a gentleman whom you did not know, and who did not know you, for a character?—He told me his name.

Did you apply to Mr. Byham for a character after you had had those communications with him which you have mentioned?—Yes; after I was discharged I told him, says I, Mr. Byham, I am now discharged from the army; I am sorry for it, Sir, says I; I engaged to go into the army again, thinking to augment my pension a little, and Sir, says I, I am come up here and I am discharged, by whose account I do not know; and Sir, says I, here I am; when I went down to Chatham I sold what little goods I had, even my clothes, I had got nothing; when I got my discharge every thing was taken away from me; and Sir, says I, I do not know what to do to get employment, and I will thank you if you will have the goodness to get me a character, and then I may perhaps remain on the Mary-le-bone watch, as I had been on the Mary-le-bone watch before, and he told me he would try and get me on again.

Can you remember the christian names of those two soldiers who were tried by court-martial?—I cannot tell the christian names.

Were they privates or non-commissioned officers?—Both privates.

What regiment were they in?—The 22d.

About what year did the court-martial take place in?—According to what I heard said, it was about 1817.

You were not present at the court-martial?—No, I was not.

You spoke entirely from hearsay in the regiment?—Yes.

Did you know Mr. Byham's person by sight when you were in the Isle of France?—Yes.

Had you ever spoken to him?—Not to the best of my knowledge.

Did he know you by name, or by sight?—I cannot say.

Will you explain why you applied to him for a character; did you think Mr. Byham knew any thing about you by reputation?—No further than he told me, when he was at Chatham, that he had heard my name mentioned by overseer Clover frequently, and that he had given me a very good character; and he said that I always maintained a very good character.

As a man employed in the convict department?—Yes.

How came Mr. Byham and Clover to come into contact?—I believe Mr. Byham lived just alongside of the Grand River, upon the top of the hill.

Was it there that Clover lived too?—Yes.

Had Mr. Byham any conversation with you upon the subject of your going to New South Wales?—No.

Did you ever tell Clover that you got that twenty dollar paper?—I told him I had got fifty dollars.

What was Clover at the time you told him that?—He was in the first class upon the department; he was like a serjeant major.

You were under him, as a non-commissioned officer?—Yes.

Was he in the habit of superintending you in your duty?—Yes.

And yet you told him that you had obtained that twenty dollar paper?—Yes.

Did you tell him the circumstances under which it was given to you?—No.

What did you say then?—There was a little friendship between me and Clover, and I told him I had just got a present of fifty dollars; he asked me who gave it to me, and I told him.

Did not Clover say to you, why did he give you this present?—Yes, he did, but I did not tell him; I told him it was a thing that happened between him and me.

Who do you mean by *him*?—Between Besse and me.

From Clover's manner, did you think that he understood what it was?—No, I do not know whether he did.

Are you sure that it was from Clover, and not from Nicholls, that Mr. Byham heard the character of you?—Mr. Byham told me that he had heard a good character from overseer Clover about me.

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Clover is in the Isle of France, is not he?—Yes.

Did those men of the 82d, to whom you mentioned this transaction, go out and try to get fifty dollars in the same way?—No.

Did you treat your messmates at all out of that fifty dollars?—I gave the men that were on guard there something to drink.

Was Nicholls one of the men that you treated?—No; he was at Grand River at that time in the hospital.

Can you mention any body by name now in the Isle of France, to whom you mentioned this circumstance, besides Nicholls and Clover?—Yes; I will mention William Fleming, of the 82d.

Who was the other?—Benjamin Cawley; those were the two men that were on guard.

On guard, where?—Over the Sepoys.

Are those the men whom you treated with something?—Yes.

What was the nature of your conversation with Mr. Byham this morning?—I had made a little error in my statement on Monday, and I went to Mr. Byham to inquire in what way I was to correct it; I said that I thought I had made a mistake in reference to Mr. Telfair's schooner.

Did Mr. Byham put down in writing what passed between you and him at all times?—No.

Did not he write down the evidence, that you gave, in your presence?—Yes, he wrote it down in Chatham; that he read over to me.

Did he strike out any part of what you mentioned to him?—Yes, when I found that I had said that which I did not properly understand, or I had made a mistake, he corrected that.

Did he ask you any questions about Governor Farquhar?—Not to my knowledge.

Did he ask you any questions about Mr. Telfair?—No, I do not know that he did.

You said that you gave him precisely the evidence that you have given before this Committee?—Yes, I did.

Did he ask you about Mr. Telfair's schooner?—Yes.

You said just now that you went to correct some error in your evidence on Monday about Mr. Telfair's schooner, did you do so?—Yes.

What was that error?—I said the schooner was built on Mr. Telfair's ground, and was paid for, but it was built before I knew any thing about Belle Ombre or Mr. Telfair, and therefore I could not say whether it was built there.

Had there been any other schooner built to which your evidence would have applied?—Yes; there was a new schooner built there that was launched during the time I was there, before I went round to Port Louis.

Was there any other part of your evidence that you wished to correct?—Yes, but I have not had it all read over to me yet.

In your evidence on Monday you said, that the schooner had Mr. Telfair's name upon it, and you have now inserted, "As I was told, but I cannot read nor write." Is that the fact that you cannot read or write?—Yes.

Are you able to say whether there was any thing written upon that schooner?—Yes, there were letters on the stern of the schooner all in one row, right across, but what was on it I do not know. I was informed it was Mr. Telfair's name.

Who informed you so?—Mr. John Lewis, and Benjamin Nichol and his wife; and I asked Corporal Storey.

Did he tell you that it had written upon it, "Mr. Telfair, his schooner, trading" from such a place to such a place?—No, he did not tell me that it was trading to Madagascar; I said I thought it traded to Madagascar, but the Seychelles I knew nothing about; it does trade from Port Louis to Belle Ombre; it goes backwards and forwards.

You said that that schooner would carry 3,000 bags of rice?—John Lewis has told me so. I have seen no less than thirty waggon loads, with six bullocks to each waggon.

What does a bag of rice weigh in the Mauritius?—One with another they will weigh a hundred weight.

Is there any thing else connected with this schooner that you have been told, that you do not know of your own knowledge?—I wished to correct what I said about the schooner going to Seychelles, because I never was told that she went to Seychelles.

Who

Who told you to correct your evidence?—I was informed by different people that they were allowed to have a copy of their evidence. *Richard Higginson.*

Who told you to correct that part of your evidence?—I went to Mr. Byham this morning; I asked him if I could get it corrected.

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Who wrote the corrections in your evidence this morning?—The clerk of the Committee.

Did you relate to Mr. Byham the substance of your evidence before this Committee?—No.

Did not you tell him that this morning?—I did not tell him the substance of it; I told him about the schooner; that I thought I had made a mistake in the mark on the stern of the schooner; and I asked him if he thought I could get it corrected, and he said, he dared say I might.

The Committee understood you to say, that you had read that very address upon the schooner?—No.

You say you knew those slaves to be new slaves from Madagascar, in consequence of their having their hair plaited; do you suppose that all the inhabitants of Madagascar wear plaited hair?—Yes; I never saw one of them from the country that did not, even the people that came along with the kings and princes had it plaited.

You never were in Madagascar, were you?—No.

Do you recollect who read to you the orders of Captain Rossi, of which you have spoken?—Yes.

Who was it?—Benjamin Nicholls.

Are you quite correct in your memory as to the substance of that order?—The substance of that order was, "You have no business with any inhabitants, and nothing else; mind your convicts, and keep them out of the inhabitants plantations."

Did that order say any thing about new or old slaves?—It specified that we were not to take any notice of slaves.

The other day you said, that it mentioned new and old slaves?—If I did, I am wrong.

You say that a certain order of the commanding officer, Captain Rossi, was read to you by some person; what, to the best of your recollection, did that order state?—It stated, first and foremost, the number of hours we were to work in the day; after that it stated, that in case of rain we were not to work the men above a quarter of an hour; if it was heavy rain, we were to break them off immediately; if it was light rain, we were to work them as long as half an hour in the rain, but no further; and if they were above a mile from their work, if it rained till they got home, then to stop in half a day; but if it left off before they got home, then to take them back; and we were to be very particular not to let the convicts buy and sell off the inhabitants or slaves, and to allow no slaves to come and sell any thing in the camp to the convicts without a written authority from their masters, or else a permit from the commissary of the district, to certify that they had permission to keep a bazaar; and that they were not allowed to come into the camp, only to be upon the banks of the camp; they were not to come inside the lines without the permission of the commander of the post; and if he did not give them permission, they were to be sent back again; and there was a particular order,—“You have no business to enter into any inhabitants plantations, or to allow the convicts to enter; and the convicts are not to have any communication with the slaves, nor the slaves with the convicts; and you are not to interfere with the slaves, either good or bad, of the inhabitants.”

You do not mean to say, that the expression “either good or bad” was used in the order?—It was, “do not interfere with the slaves, good or bad.”

Do you mean to say, that you accurately repeat the words of that order, or that you give the substance of it?—The substance.

Are the words, good or bad, yours, or are you quite sure they are the words in the order?—I believe they are the words that were in the order.

Was there any thing more in the order?—There was the manner of making the roads, and where he was to get the stuff.

Can you remember whether what you have stated as the substance of that order, is the same thing that Captain Rossi stated to you personally in conversation?—It was, except one thing; Captain Rossi desired me particularly, if I saw new or old slaves, if they were on the road, I was never to take any notice of them.

You positively state that you remember that he used the words “new or old slaves”?—Yes, he told me that himself.

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Did he say Madagascar people?—He told me that I had no business to have any thing to do either with the Madagascar or Mosambique people, or with any other slaves; that I was not put over the convicts to look after new or old slaves.

Was there any thing about that in the order that Nicholls read over to you?—No; I believe there was not.

The Committee understood you to say, that the order was precisely or nearly to the same effect as the verbal command of Rossi to you?—The order was, that we were not allowed to interfere with any of the inhabitants slaves.

But it did not say “new or old slaves”?—No.

That was said, however, in Captain Rossi's conversation with you?—Yes.

If you were called upon, could you swear, that “new or old slaves,” were the words used by Captain Rossi?—Yes; in front of the overseer Clover.

Was it in Clover's hearing?—Yes.

Did you, when Captain Rossi stated that to you, understand what he meant by the words “new slaves”?—I cannot say.

You state, that he said “you are not to have any thing to do with new or old slaves;” do you know what he meant by “new slaves”?—Yes.

What did he mean?—I do not know what he meant; he told me to have nothing to do with new or old slaves.

What did you understand him to mean?—That I was not to interfere with new or old slaves.

What are old slaves?—People that have been in the country some time.

What are new slaves?—Persons that are new in the country.

Do you mean slaves brought into the country within two years from the time that you spoke of, or within one year, or what time?—I do not know; the slave that I brought in at the Grand River, I took him to a man that sold liquor at a canteen, just on the side of the road, and I asked him to ask him in Madagascar, what he said, and he said, he was a slave that was brought from his own country about six or seven days; and I asked him who his master was, and he said he did not know.

Had you, before Captain Rossi gave you these directions, stated any thing to him about the apprehending a new slave?—Yes, I had.

Those verbal orders were given to you after that transaction?—After I told him about the slave, that was the order that he gave me, says he, “it is nothing to you, let you see a slave where you will, you have nothing to do with him, neither new nor old.”

When Captain Rossi made use of the words “new slaves,” did you understand him to refer to slaves of the same description as the slave which you had then seized?—That I brought in; I thought that was what he meant.

Were those written orders read by Nicholls to you, soon after this transaction?—They were orders sent out in about three months after that.

What became of those written orders of Captain Rossi?—When I left the convict department, I was desired to deliver them over to the man that relieved me.

Who was that man?—William Chandler.

Do you know where William Chandler is?—He was in the convict department when I left.

You do not know whether he is there still?—No.

You were quartered in the Plain William?—Yes.

Do you know the woods belonging to Mr. Cockerell, in that place?—Yes.

Do you remember at what time you were there?—I was there in 1819.

Do you recollect any thing that happened to you in the early part of the year 1819, in the woods of Mr. Cockerell?—Yes.

What was your employment there?—My employment was cutting timber to build huts.

Were there any orders given to you as to the particular wood in which you were to cut that timber?—Yes, I was ordered to cut wood to the left; but at the place where we were ordered to cut the timber, it did not answer the purpose that we wanted it for; it was not large enough, nor long enough.

What did you do then?—I took a part of the convicts that I had under my charge to another wood; it was more to the right of where we were desired to build our huts.

You were ordered to cut the timber in a particular wood?—Yes; to the left of our camp.

Where did you go to cut timber, in consequence of not finding timber to suit you in the first place?—We went to the wood next to that upon our right of Mr. Cockerell's

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Mr. Cockerell's; they were both Mr. Cockerell's woods, only one was on the right, and the other on the left.

Had you ever cut wood in that second place before?—No.

Did you give Mr. Cockerell, or the proprietor of that wood, any notice that you intended to change the spot in which you were to cut timber?—No.

What happened when you went to cut timber in the second wood?—When I went to cut timber in the second wood, the convicts, some part of them, were on at some distance before me, and they began to cut some small wood, which they call gullets, for the purpose of tying on the top to tie the grass to; and when they went into the wood, there was a great noise kicked up in the wood, and I ran to see what was the matter, and I met Mr. Cockerell's nephew in the wood.

What did you see in the wood?—He asked me what I wanted there? I told him I wanted to know what was the matter with this noise, and he told me to take my Sepoys out immediately; that that was not the place for them to cut wood.

Did you see any thing directly in the wood?—Yes, I saw a great number of tubs, with provisions for slaves, and I saw a great number of slaves under some bushes that had been cut; the bottoms of them had been cleared away and thrown on the top; I looked upon it, that the main part of it was thrown over for shelter, and to the best of my knowledge, there were either six or seven large tubs, some with boiled maize in, and with manioc in.

Were there any sheds there?—There was a kind of a shed there; they had cut away some part of the bottom, and thrown it at the back on the top, and the people were standing underneath it.

Of what description of slaves were those?—They were nearly all naked, and their hair was all plaited; some of them had as much as would hide their nakedness, and some had not.

Are there any particular marks that the Madagascar people have to distinguish them from other slaves?—No, I never saw any.

You have stated, that you met the nephew of Mr. Cockerell?—Yes.

Had you known him long before?—Yes, I had known him for some time before that.

Had Mr. Cockerell any authority there?—No.

What occurred between you and Mr. William Cockerell, the nephew?—He desired me to come away from the wood; we went away immediately, and with that Mr. Cockerell came up along with his nephew, and desired us not to come to that wood. He said that was not the wood he had appointed, and desired us never to go to that wood any more; that we should not have no more wood there if we paid him fifty pounds.

Having already stated that you could distinguish new slaves from old slaves, do you consider those slaves whom you saw on that occasion to be new or old slaves?—I considered them to be new ones, which I am confident they were; they could not speak a word of the language.

Was that a place where slaves, in the ordinary prosecution of their business, would have been placed for work?—No.

On leaving the wood, did you meet any other people?—Not excepting William Blackburn, and some more convicts, that were coming.

Who is William Blackburn?—He had charge of a whole number of 160 men.

Was he superintendent of the convicts?—Yes.

Was he superior in command to you?—Yes.

Did you make any report to Mr. Blackburn on that occasion?—I told him that Mr. Cockerell would not allow us to cut any timber out of that wood, and that we must go back to the other one.

Did you state to Blackburn any thing about those new slaves?—No, I did not; because I thought Blackburn saw them himself.

Was there any conversation between you and Blackburn at all respecting the slaves you saw in the wood?—Not to my knowledge.

How many do you suppose were there?—I thought there might be about 150.

Was it far from the place where you found those slaves that you met Blackburn?—No; just as we were coming out of the wood.

Did you or he give any orders to the convicts on that occasion?—Mr. Cockerell desired Mr. Blackburn, when they came up to the place where we were appointed to build the huts, not to come and cut any more wood there, he said, that we should have no more timber out of his ground; Mr. Cockerell desired Mr. Blackburn not to cut any timber.

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Neither on the right hand or the left?—No.

Did he say that in French?—No, in English.

When did you go to breakfast that day?—Between eight and nine o'clock.

Was it before you discovered those slaves in the wood?—It was before breakfast I discovered them.

Did you, or did Blackburn in your presence, make any report to Captain Rossi of that?—Yes; Blackburn made a report to Captain Rossi concerning not getting timber, but whether he made any report about seeing the slaves in the wood I cannot tell, because he never had any conversation with me concerning it; he wrote concerning not getting any more timber.

Are you clear that no conversation of any kind occurred between you and Blackburn, your commanding officer, respecting those slaves?—No, I do not recollect ever saying any thing; during the time that Blackburn was writing this letter, I went back for my own curiosity.

Where did you go to?—I went to the wood where I had seen the slaves before, and when I went there they were all at breakfast.

Who were all at breakfast?—The slaves.

Were the Cockerell's there at the time you returned, or was any body else with the slaves?—There was no one there but four old slaves and a commandant, who took no more notice of me than as if I had regularly belonged to them.

Were you at that time discharged from the army in which you were?—I was discharged from the army.

What time of the year was it?—Towards the latter end of the year.

Were those old slaves giving any food at that time to the others?—They were giving out the food in cocoa nut shells.

Was that the ordinary way of serving food out to slaves in the island?—Yes.

And you are clear that you made no communication to Blackburn of what you saw, and had no conversation with him upon the subject?—Not to my knowledge.

Did you ever see any Bourbon slaves?—Yes.

How are they generally clothed?—A great deal better than what they are in the Isle of France.

You have not any reason to think that those people in the wood were any of them Bourbon people?—No; because I was in Bourbon better than a twelve-month.

Were those slaves talking when you saw them at their manioc?—They were having some kind of gibberish among themselves, I could not understand them.

Did they at all appear to have been confined with irons?—They appeared to me to be very much confined, the same as if they were cramped, and they were all over with a kind of scab like the scurvy upon them.

Did they appear dirty?—Very dirty, and their hair seemed as if it had never been combed, all of a mat.

What proportion were there of women amongst them?—There were a great many women, but not half so many women as men.

Any children?—There were some young boys that I saw, and there might be some young girls, but I cannot exactly say whether they were boys or girls, there were some young people.

And all seated upon the ground?—Yes.

Did Blackburn say any thing to you about them?—Not to my knowledge.

Did the commander of the party come up to you at all, or to Blackburn?—Not till we came to the huts, and then he denied us from going into the woods to cut any more timber.

Was he a French Creole?—A Frenchman, I believe, he came from Old France.

Do you recollect the words he said to you?—No, I cannot say that I do.

Was any thing said to him in answer to that when he told you not to go into the woods?—Yes; Blackburn asked him what was the reason, and he said it was not proper that we should go into the woods; as we had not cut that which he pointed out, he would not allow us to cut any more.

You stated that you left Blackburn, writing a letter to the commanding officer, and went back out of curiosity?—Yes.

Can you recollect what time passed between your first seeing those people and returning out of curiosity?—I dare say it might be better than a quarter of an hour.

Then you did not see these people again in the course of the day afterwards?—I did not see them after the second time; I did not go to look.

How far from the shore was this spot where you saw the people?—I believe they reckon it about seven miles.

Does the wood go down to the water edge?—No, it is off in a brambozette that runs right down on the sea side, it is a sort of thicket. *Richard Higginson.*

Did you mention this circumstance to any body?—Not to my knowledge; I never thought nothing at all about it. 17 May
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Is the coast such, in that neighbourhood, that there is any facility of approaching it with a vessel?—Yes, there is Petty River and Black River, where there is a constant trade.

Why did you not tell Mr. Blackburn what you had seen?—I never thought any thing more about it. What made me never tell him was, that I thought Blackburn saw it as well as I did.

Was he with you?—He was with me just as I came out of the entrance of the wood; he was coming for a load of timber himself.

Were you ordered to cut wood, with your gang of slaves, on Mr. Cockerell's account, or for government?—For government; for building the huts.

Of what description were those convicts?—Indian convicts; the inhabitants call them Sepoys.

Were the orders that you received, to cut wood on the left, given to you by Cockerell, or by government?—We were ordered to go to the French inhabitants, to know if they would let us cut wood, and if not, to apply to the civil commissary.

Who told you to go to the left to cut wood?—Mr. Cockerell himself; he told us to cut wood.

Was the hair of those slaves plaited, or not?—Yes, it was.

You stated, in another part of your evidence, that it was matted?—I said it was plaited in the Madagascar plait, and the hair looked the same as if it had never been pulled out from the first day they came over.

Robert Thompson, called in; and Examined.

HAVE you been in the military service?—Yes. *Robert Thompson.*

In what regiment?—The 56th.

Are you now in the service?—Not now.

What are you now?—I am a pensioner now.

Are you an out-pensioner of Chelsea Hospital?—Yes.

When did you get your discharge?—I was discharged from the regiment three years ago, the 25th of last April.

Where were you discharged?—From Port Louis, in the Isle of France.

How long were you in the service?—About nineteen years and some months.

Were you a private?—Yes.

Were you ever stationed in the Mauritius?—Yes.

When did you first go to that island, and how long did you stay there?—I first went there in 1815.

How long did you stay there?—I remained there from that till 1823.

Have you ever been employed in the island for the purpose of endeavouring to effect the capture of slaves that had been disembarked in the island?—Once.

When was that?—I cannot exactly state the time.

What year was it in?—I cannot exactly say the year.

Is it a good many years ago?—Yes.

Was it soon after your landing?—No, some time after I had landed.

Was it about the year 1816 or 1817?—I judge it to be thereabouts, but to be positive I cannot say.

On that occasion, did your party succeed in taking any of those slaves?—Yes, there were a few taken, about eight or nine.

From your having resided in that island, do you think you are capable of distinguishing between an old slave on the island, and a slave which is newly imported?—Yes, I think I could tell a new slave from an old one, that had been on the island some time.

Is there any difference in the way in which their hair is made up?—Yes, a great difference.

What is the difference?—When they are newly landed, their hair is generally plaited, and hanging all about their face.

Do you mean all of them Africans and Madagascars?—No, the Madagascars have long hair.

Have the Africans plaited hair?—Short curly hair.

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How is the long hair of the Madagascar slaves settled on their first coming into the island?—I never took particular notice.

What do mean by long hair; do you mean like your hair?—Yes, I saw them with long hair.

Something like yours?—Yes, but quite black.

And plaited?—Yes, I have seen them plaited.

Is the hair of the Madagascars generally plaited?—Yes.

Do you know a place in the Island of Mauritius called Jacoute?—Yes, I do.

In what part of the island is that place?—I know I lay there, but I do not know what district of the island it is in.

How far is it from Port Louis?—I never went from Port Louis; I went from Mayburgh.

How far is it from Mayburgh?—About thirty miles.

How far is it from Belle Ombre?—About two miles and a half, or three miles.

Were you ever stationed there?—I was.

At what time?—I do not know the time; I was stationed there under the command of Captain Foreman.

Can you recollect about what year it was?—No, I cannot say; I could soon know if I was to make inquiries.

Was it long before your discharge?—No great length of time.

Do you think it was about the year 1822?—I think it was sooner than that.

Do you think it was earlier than the year 1821?—I think it was about 1821, but I could soon know that.

At what time of the year was it?—That I cannot say.

How long were you stationed at Jacoute?—I was a month there at that time.

Did you know two men in that regiment named John Nowlan and Thomas Beadle?—Yes.

Are they now living?—That I cannot say; one of them was discharged before I was, the other I left in the regiment.

Do you remember any walk that you took with them at the time you were quartered at Jacoute?—Yes, I went to see them when they were stationed at Belle Ombre.

What happened then?—We went walking down by the plantation.

What plantation?—Mr. Telfair's plantation, I believe it was his, they said it was his plantation.

Was that plantation the plantation you have described by the name of Belle Ombre?—Yes.

Did you see any thing particular on that occasion?—I saw a schooner at anchor at a small distance from the shore, and I saw some blacks landed.

What schooner was it?—I took it to be Mr. Telfair's schooner.

Why did you consider that schooner to be Mr. Telfair's?—Because I saw the schooner when she was first on the stocks.

Where was she built?—At Belle Ombre.

Are you quite sure that the schooner that you saw at anchor was the new schooner that you have seen on the stocks?—Yes, positive.

How far was she from the shore at the time that you saw her?—She was no great distance from the shore.

How many yards do you think she was from the shore?—I do not know exactly, it might be a hundred yards.

Was she half a musket shot?—She was nearer than a musket shot, she was within half musket shot.

What did you see when you looked at the schooner; were there any people on board?—Yes, I saw people on board; I saw one boat with a number of blacks, and I saw them landed.

How many do you suppose there were?—I dare say there might be fifteen, or nearly that amount.

Were they clothed, or were they naked?—They had some kind of clothes about them, their bodies were all naked.

Did they appear to you to be of the description of new slaves, or old slaves?—That I would not be positive about, because I was not taking particular notice of it; but I saw them landed, and I mentioned to those two men that I thought there was something extraordinary there; we stopped a short time, and then we left and came away.

Why did you think there was any thing extraordinary in it?—We had nothing to do with it.

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You stated that you considered it something extraordinary; why did you consider it extraordinary?—I thought that they were landing slaves at the time.

When you state that you thought they were landing slaves, do you mean that they were landing old slaves, transferred from one part of the island to another, or importing new slaves?—I thought they were importing new slaves.

Why did you think so?—From seeing such a number in one boat together; it is a thing that is not very common; I knew they had no employment there.

Had you ever seen a schooner come in there before?—No, I cannot say that I had.

Was that an ordinary place for the vessels to come in for the purposes of ordinary trade?—No; very few came there.

Was there any harbour there; was there good anchorage there?—Yes; the schooner came to an anchor.

What do you call the river?—I do not know the name of the river, but there is a name for it.

Was that a usual place for schooners or vessels to land for the purpose of the ordinary trade between the Belle Ombre estate and Port Louis?—I do not know; I was but seldom or ever there.

What became of those people when you saw them brought out of the vessel?—I saw them enter the plantation, and I saw no more of them.

Were they under the care of any particular person?—There appeared to be a black slave along with them that went in the first.

Was that black slave of the same description as the others?—He appeared to be what they call there a continental slave, by his appearance.

Where was it they landed?—They landed on the beach close by the plantation.

What plantation?—At Belle Ombre, Mr. Telfair's plantation, at least it goes by that name.

What became of the boat after it had landed this cargo?—She returned to the schooner again.

Did you see any thing more pass?—No; I did not wait any longer.

At what time of day was this?—It was in the evening.

At what o'clock?—I cannot exactly say what o'clock it was, it was all dusk light, it was about eight o'clock, I dare say.

Were you able to make any observation upon those slaves as to how their hair was plaited?—No.

Were you able to say whether they could walk with ease?—They did not appear to walk very easy.

Did you consider it as part of your duty to take notice or to make any report upon this subject?—No; it was rather out of my business, I had got my officer's liberty to go to see these two men, and I had no orders to that effect.

Did you make any report to your officer upon that subject?—No.

Had you seen new slaves in other parts of the island?—Yes; I have been where there have been more than a hundred that have been taken at sea, that have been captured.

Are you able to state from a comparison between those slaves that you saw landed from the schooner and those captured slaves, whether those were new slaves or not?—I was hardly close enough to them.

How do you know that it was Mr. Telfair's schooner?—I would be positive of the schooner.

Was she rigged in any particular way?—She had a particular appearance, she lay so low in the water.

What sized schooner was she?—She was a good large schooner.

Can you read?—Yes.

Could you read any painting of letters upon her?—Yes; but she lay with her head in.

You had seen her on the stocks, and you knew the schooner well?—Yes.

When you had seen her before had she any thing painted upon her stern?—I never took notice, when she was on the stocks she had nothing painted on her stern.

Was she rigged in any particular way, was she very rakish?—She was very lofty.

Was not the general order, in the event of any soldier seeing any landing, immediately to report it to the commanding officer?—Yes; I have often heard said that it was an order, but I never saw it.

Who was your commanding officer at that time?—Captain Foreman.

*Robert Thompson.*17 May
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Were you under him?—Yes.

Do you know any thing of any alterations that were made in the military orders with respect to slaves at any time, when you were in the island?—No; I never new any thing about it.

Did you see the vessel often after the slaves were disembarked?—No.

How often do you think you saw her?—I do not think I saw her after that.

Did you ever see her, except on the stocks?—Yes, after she was launched.

You saw her often after she was launched?—Once or twice.

Was there any painting on her stern?—I never took notice.

Had you any doubt in your own mind, that those were new slaves?—I suspected so.

Had you any doubt in your mind on the subject?—It was a thing that I was not thinking much about at the time; I thought I had no reason to be particular about it.

You cannot take upon you to say whether they were old or new slaves?—I would not swear whether they were old or new.

Have you at any time, when you were in the island, seen a quantity of slaves that you believed to be new slaves, exclusive of those you saw come out of the vessels?—No; I cannot say that I have.

Veneris, 19^o die Maij, 1826.

THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, ESQUIRE,

IN THE CHAIR.

*Captain Fairfax Moresby, R. N. called in; and Examined.**Captain
Fairfax Moresby.*19 May
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ARE you a captain in His Majesty's Navy?—I am.

Had you ever a command at the Mauritius?—Yes; I was senior naval officer at the Mauritius.

In what year and what month did you go to the Mauritius?—I arrived at the Mauritius on the 9th of February 1821.

What vessels were under your command at that period, upon your first arrival?—There were no other vessels than the *Menai* and one colonial schooner.What force was the *Menai*?—She was rated a six and twenty gun frigate, a small frigate.

When you arrived at Port Louis, did you find Sir Robert Farquhar Governor?—I did.

Did he put any vessel under your command?—He did not put any vessel under my command, but she devolved under my command.

What vessel was that?—A schooner purchased by Sir Robert Farquhar, which was at that time detached to prevent the Slave Trade at the Seychelles.

How long did you continue in that station in the whole?—From February 1821 to May 1823.

Under whose command was the schooner you have referred to?—It had been under the command of Captain Rennie.

Was Captain Rennie an officer in the navy?—Yes, of the same rank as myself.

During the period that you continued at the Mauritius, did Governor Farquhar put under your command any other schooners, or were there any additional schooners put under your command?—Yes, various, at different times.

Did you cruize off the coast for the purpose of preventing the Slave Trade?—Yes; the squadron will comprise a great many vessels and boats of different kinds.

There was a squadron under your command?—Yes; that squadron was employed in cruizing round the coast, and being stationed at the different openings of the coast the whole time I was there.

Placed under your command by Governor Farquhar?—Yes; that is a part of that squadron; there was another part supplied by the commander-in-chief of His Majesty's navy.

Did you receive directions from Governor Farquhar to exert yourself actively in the prevention of the Slave Trade?—I did not receive directions, but I received strong

strong remonstrances ; Governor Farquhar was not competent to give me directions, but he made requisitions, without number, upon me to do so.

Have you copies of the letters you received?—Yes ; this book (*producing it*) contains one portion of them.

Did you receive orders before you left England to exert yourself actively for that purpose?—No ; on my being detached, I belonged to the squadron at St. Helena under Rear Admiral Lambert, and here is a copy of the order under which I sailed for the Mauritius (*producing it.*)

When you were detached for the purpose of proceeding to the Mauritius, did you then receive orders, that on your arrival at the Mauritius, and during your stay there, you should take decisive measures for the prevention of the introduction of slaves?—Yes, I received those specific orders.

Who had the command on the station at St. Helena?—Admiral Lambert, in the first instance.

What is the date of those orders?—They are dated at St. Helena, the 26th of December 1820.

Have you a copy of those instructions which you can put in?—No, I have not any, but the copy in this book.

Shall you have any objection to leave the book with the clerk to take a copy from them?—Personally, I have no objection ; but there are confidential letters contained in this book which I think ought not to be produced.

[*The witness read the instructions from his book, and was directed to furnish a copy of the same to the Committee.*]

Upon your arrival at the Mauritius, when you had an interview with Sir Robert Farquhar, did you, upon that interview and at different times, both by word of mouth and in writing, receive communications of his anxiety that you should exert yourself to prevent the introduction of slaves?—Yes, constantly ; and the subject of those communications and conversations I detailed to the commander-in-chief, and a copy of those letters I have in this book.

Will you furnish a copy of those communications?—They are of a great length, filling half of this book ; Governor Farquhar's first letter is acknowledging the receipt of mine, sending him a copy of my instructions ; the first letter upon this subject is the 1st of March 1821 (*the same was read.*) I do not think that letter implies the anxiety which was displayed by Sir Robert Farquhar to prevent the Slave Trade.

Will you point out another letter which bears more immediate upon that point?—I had ordered a lieutenant to remain at the Mauritius to cruize to windward, to prevent the Slave Trade to the island ; and during my absence, a report of a vessel having landed slaves at the Island of Providence, one of the dependencies on the Mauritius, came to the knowledge of Governor Farquhar, and he induced Lieutenant Hay, by the following letter, to deviate from the orders I had given him, and to go in search of those slaves. The letter is of the date of the 28th of March 1821. On that occasion, a second schooner was provided by Sir Robert Farquhar, to accompany Lieutenant Hay.

You mean a colonial schooner?—Whenever I allude to a schooner provided by him, it is a colonial schooner.

At the colonial expense?—Yes.

[*The letter was read.*]

Was it of great consequence, in your judgment, that the treaty which had been entered into between Sir Robert Farquhar and Radama, the king of Madagascar, should be preserved entire and inviolate?—Most certainly I am perfectly persuaded that abolition of the Slave Trade from that island depended upon that, I speak, of course, generally upon the abolition of the Slave Trade ; there may be miscreants at all times that would come.

Supposing no understanding to exist between Radama and the governor of the Mauritius, would the facilities for importing slaves have been greater from Madagascar than from any other place, on account of its proximity, and the extent of the coast?—Certainly ; there were regular roads across the country, by which they were marched from the western coast, upon being landed, to the eastern coast.

Are you to be understood, that the African slaves were crossed over to Madagascar?—The greater part of them.

Then across Madagascar, again embarked, and sent to the Mauritius?—Yes ; they had resting places on the voyage, such as Johanna and other places.

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Do you not know that Governor Farquhar was extremely anxious to keep up a good understanding between the British and Radama, with the view of preventing the importation of slaves from Madagascar?—I know that to be the case, for I was Sir Robert Farquhar's agent on all those occasions; I was the executive person employed to carry that treaty into effect.

Do you not know that the object of Sir Robert Farquhar, in that treaty, was to prevent the introduction of slaves?—Most certainly.

Did you yourself, in your communications with Radama, exert yourself sedulously for the purpose of accomplishing those objects?—I hope so; it was my wish.

In your judgment, were they, as far as Madagascar was concerned, effectual for that object?—Certainly, subsequent to the year 1820.

Previously to the year 1820, a treaty had been concluded between Sir Robert Farquhar when formerly governor, and Radama?—Yes, it had in the years 1817 or 1818.

And a sum equal to 2,000 *l.* a year agreed to be given to Radama, with a view to keeping up a good understanding between the two governments?—Yes.

Have you not reason to know that that treaty was infringed, after he left the island, by Governor Hall?—Yes, I have with me official letters, which I wrote to Admiral Lambert after my arrival, specifically relating to that to which I am now asked; the first letter, a public letter to Admiral Lambert, is dated Port Louis, the 27th February 1821. There are two letters; I do not think one can be read without the other.

Do you not know that Sir Robert Farquhar, after he again took possession of the government of the island, exerted himself to re-establish a good understanding between the English government and Radama?—Yes, I do.

You say you were employed as agent for that purpose?—I was.

Do you not believe that had a great effect in suppressing the Slave Trade?—I am sure it was the main hold by which the Slave Trade from Madagascar was suppressed.

Were you rightly understood, that it was during General Hall's government, that the good understanding between Radama and the English government was suspended in consequence of his refusing to go on with the treaty?—That was prior to my going to the Mauritius; it was during General Hall's government; and the reasons the agent for the government gave me, when I arrived at Tamatave, was, that the treaty had not been carried into effect by Governor Hall; and the result was the immediate occupation of Tamatave by the slave dealers.

General Hall did not confirm the treaty; the consequence of which was the immediate occupation of Tamatave by slave dealers?—I should rather say, perhaps, he did not conform to the treaty.

By the paying the amount which had been stipulated?—Just so; I will beg to read an extract from a public letter to Admiral Lambert, dated Tamatave, 3d May 1821, giving a relation of the state of Madagascar when I arrived there.

[*The same was read.*]

That was the result of your own information and your own observation, written at your own suggestion to Admiral Lambert?—Yes.

Where you had the opportunity of observing what was the state of things?—Yes.

Besides the island of Madagascar, do you know that Governor Farquhar was extremely anxious to prevent the importation of slaves from the whole of the African coast that was under the government of the Iman of Muscat?—Yes.

Were you employed in communications with the Iman?—Yes; in fact I acted in concert with Sir Robert Farquhar during the whole time I was there, and I am sure I was heart and Soul in the cause.

He knew you were heart and soul in the cause?—Yes, I suppose so.

And he desired you to take all measures which you thought expedient and proper to accomplish that object?—He never refused me any thing that I asked.

Did you make such arrangements with the Iman of Muscat as to prevent the trade from the whole of that coast to the Mauritius?—I formed a treaty from instructions drawn up by Sir Robert Farquhar.

Was the object of that treaty the prevention of the exportation of slaves to the Mauritius?—The great object of that treaty was to prevent the sale of slaves to any Christian power, and attaching penalties and punishments to persons who should attempt it in his dominions.

Have

Have you reason to believe, that after that treaty was carried into effect, the Iman was sincere in giving to it operation?—I think that there was no want of sincerity; after I arrived in London there was a translation of a letter, dated the 17th of June 1823, from the Iman to me, forwarded to me up to that period; I supposed he was very sincere, and I hope he continues so.

It is addressed to you, where?—It was sent to the Mauritius; it was merely to Captain Murzeeby.

[The letter was read as follows:]

“ Captain Murzeeby,

“ Dear Sir,—Since you left Muscat you did not write me until these date, but I hope that you are enjoying a better health.

“ I have the pleasure to inform you as I have received a letter from my men, from Zanzabare Who informs me a French Marchent Ship arrived there. the Captain of her Publiced saying they required Firewood and water. the Captⁿ of the Ship he slyley wanted to make Bargin with some of the inhabitent of that place for Slaves, however he had striked bargin with Six of those men on the subject these 6 men who desired the Captain to go behinde of the Island that they would Give him Slaves, afterwards the head man of the Island he founded that the Captain has made Bargin with those people as soon as the head man had this information he immediately send a boat with few Sepoys after the Ship. Soon after the Ship, Saw the boat following them they made all possible Sail and got off from it, but some people says the Ship got Slaves and others says none; Among of those Six men three of them the head man of the Island he gotted and Put them in Iron and had sent to Muscat, the other three had Desarted in the Jungle, the French Ship went to Kelvah as soon as I have received the letter about this subject I immedately Dispatched my Ship Sulley to Kelvah and Zanzabare to bring those People who had made the bargin about Slaves with French Captain as soon as I get them under my possession I will severely punnishing them and will properly Corrected as an example for the Rest As the head man of the Island has not mentioned me in his letter these Ships name therefore I could not mentiond in my letter to you, for these business which they have dun they required good punishment, I have to inform you about these perticular you dont belive that I forget I have made an Agreement between me and the Breetish—if you require any thing to bee dun in this place I am ready to do at any Tim.

“ I Remain

“ Dear Sir

“ Yours Truly

“ Muscat

“ 17th June 182

“ 1823.

L. S.

“ P. S. After I wrote you this letter I have inquired from the people arriving from the Islend of Zanzebar on account of the Captⁿ Name and the Ship name the Ships name they cood not make it out as to the Captⁿ Name is Dubois and the suparcargo's name is Dinna.”

There is a very extensive range of coast under the dominion of the Iman?—I should suppose the immediate influence of the Iman does not extend above five degrees, three hundred miles of country, but he has a claim, and will enforce any obedience to his orders, by his squadron going to particular places, from Cape Delgado to the mouth of the Persian Gulf.

What was the line you drew for the suppression of it?—It was from Cape Delgado to Cape Dieu in India.

From that Cape had he power down to Mosambique, the Portuguese settlement?—He claimed that power.

Was he in a condition to enforce it?—Yes; he was in a condition to enforce obedience from the entrance of the Persian Gulf to the latitude of Cape Delgado, which is about 12° south.

That goes to the territory claimed by the Portuguese?—Yes.

Do you know what the vessel was, referred to in the letter of the Iman?—Yes; I do not recollect her name; she was a brig, commanded by Dubois.

It was a Bourbon vessel?—Yes, it was under the white flag; I suppose she belonged to Bourbon.

You are understood to say, that in consequence of the treaty entered into with the Iman from the northern cape as far as the territory claimed by the Portuguese at Mosambique, he bound himself to take measures for the purpose of preventing the export

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export of slaves by any christian powers?—Yes, he did, unquestionably; he did not consider that he could enforce it on people of a different religion; that it was lawful with his religion, and therefore he would not include the Mahomedan powers.

Did the Iman give power and authority to the British cruizers to seize any vessels breaking that treaty?—Yes, after a certain date, and beyond a certain limit.

Southward of the territories of the Portuguese are the territories of the British, running down to the Cape of Good Hope?—There are territories belonging to the Caffre tribes, between our settlement at the Cape of Good Hope and the Portuguese.

Do they deal in slaves?—No.

With exception of those possessions, to which the Portuguese claim sovereignty, down to the Cape of Good Hope, the territories of the Iman included, every part from which slaves could be got?—The treaty included every part of the coast to which the Iman laid claim, from the Persian Gulf to Cape Delgado.

Had you, by that treaty, secured the whole of the coast, except that part claimed by the Portuguese, so far as related to the exportation of slaves?—As far as Cape Delgado.

Do you think that the treaty, and the measures then taken by the concurrence of Governor Farquhar, and by his directions, were effectual for the object for which they were employed, of preventing the exportation of slaves?—They were sufficiently effectual, provided the executive officers had the means of enforcing obedience to those treaties.

Was every thing done that could be accomplished for that object?—That there was.

Did the Iman appoint the Governor of Zanzebar?—He was appointed by the Iman.

You have mentioned that you had the command and the disposition of the vessels about the Mauritius, that were employed for the purpose of preventing the importation of slaves; were those vessels actively and vigilantly employed for that purpose?—Yes; and I will take the onus upon my own shoulders if any debarkation took place while I was there; for if it was any body's fault it was mine; I had certainly the means of preventing it.

During what period?—From February 1821 to May 1823.

Sir Robert Farquhar came away with you?—Yes, he did.

He was there as Governor a month or two before you arrived?—I found him there; I believe he had not been long.

During this period, there was one debarkation of slaves that was discovered?—An officer I detached, chased her on shore.

The vessel was chased on shore, and the slaves taken?—Some were surrounded and taken, and some escaped, I believe.

With the exception of that debarkation of slaves, do you know, or have you reason to believe, there was any other?—I firmly from my soul believe, there was no other, I cannot prove absolutely that there was not, but I believe it was almost impossible.

Was every exertion in your power made, under your directions, to prevent it?—Most certainly; there are officers here who will prove that we have been in the habit of sleeping even on the sands, and on the coral reefs to watch the slave traders, who we understood were expected, but they never arrived.

Did Governor Farquhar furnish you with all the means you thought requisite for the purpose?—Instantaneously; without hesitation.

Did he appear to be very anxious for the object?—Yes; I think I never saw any man more so.

Do you know the situation of Belle Ombre?—Very well.

Were you acquainted with Mr. Telfair?—Yes, I know him; I have met him frequently, and have been upon his estate at Belle Ombre, once or twice.

Were you on very good terms always with Mr. Telfair?—No; I think on no more than common terms, on which one gentleman is with another; we are now at issue; he has detained, rather illegally, some prize money to which I conceive myself entitled, but as a gentleman, I am on very good terms with him.

He claims title to that prize money?—Yes, he does.

Have you any reason to believe, that at any time between the month of March 1821, and the month of May 1823, when you quitted, any slaves were landed at Belle Ombre, or in the neighbourhood?—No, certainly not; I do not believe there was a slave landed at Belle Ombre, or in that neighbourhood, during that period.

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Can you state whether, in the month of May 1821, it was possible for any slaves, without your knowledge, to have been landed at Belle Ombre; was the disposition such as to render it extremely difficult, and almost impossible?—About that period, I had private information from several quarters, in fact, by going among the lower classes of Creoles themselves, that a debarkation of slaves was anticipated in that neighbourhood; and on my return after the 22d of April, I immediately took those precautions which I think will prove, that it was impossible a slave could have been landed at that period of May or June.

State the two points of time, how soon in May?—Certainly from the 1st of May to the last day in June, because I staid at the Mauritius; I intended to have sailed from the Mauritius, but I staid at the Mauritius till I ascertained from private information that the vessel expected had landed her slaves at Bourbon; she was a vessel commanded by a man named Barrion or Barrier.

Do you remember her name?—No, I do not; during this time I issued various orders to the different officers. I can better explain it by saying, along the coral reefs there are only three openings or three positions by which a vessel could enter, the one at Mourn, the next at the Bay de Cap, and the other is a very intricate passage, indeed nearly opposite the estate of Belle Ombre, but all three places within sight of each other.

In consequence of those rumours, did you make disposition for the purpose of preventing the landing at any of those places, and for the purpose of discovering the fact if a landing took place?—Yes, and I have the orders I issued to the persons to go to those places and live there and remain there.

You say you desired persons to go to the spot to guard against that, in what way?—They had a boat attached, and they were to keep a look out in sight of the military, and the boat to remain stationed off the coral reef, and they were all within signal distance of Port Louis. I would have heard in five minutes, if a slave vessel had attempted to land.

Were those measures effectual for the object, in your judgment?—I conceived they were, and I conceive so now.

[*An order to Mr. J. B. Cooper, Midshipman of the Menai, dated the 22d of April 1821 read.*]

How long were those orders in operation before there was a recal of them?—Those orders were in continuance, and the post was kept at that place on shore by me in addition to the military post, and a boat always stationed during the whole of the period of my command; the officers were changed. Occasionally I gave general instructions for boats and tenders.

Speaking with reference to the Bay de Cap, would it have been possible for a schooner, with 60 or 70 slaves on board, to have landed in the middle of the day at the Bay de Cap, in the middle of the month of May, while those orders were in force?—It was impossible, unless the officers connived, and I think I was on the spot myself, for I went down and made inquiry, hearing that it was a fallacious report raised for some purpose, probably to withdraw my attention from the weather side of the island, while they attempted it there.

If they had seized the slaves, they would have been entitled to a reward?—*Yes; it is a difficult thing to get that.*

Who kept that?—I do not know that; an order of a similar kind to the officer commanding one of the schooners placed under my command by Sir Rober Farquhar is dated the 17th of April, addressed to Mr. Gilmore Harvey, a midshipman.

The words in *italic* I hope the Committee will allow to be erased.

F. Moresby.

[*The same was read.*]

Were you understood to say, that boats were stationed in each of the openings you have mentioned?—Sometimes there were two, sometimes three, sometimes one, but if for the service of the ship I was obliged to withdraw boats, I never left them without boats, and posts were put on shore at intermediate spots to observe what was going on.

The question refers to the month of May?—During that period I was particularly vigilant upon this subject in that quarter, in consequence of information I had received.

Did you take a French vessel called the Succès?—Yes.

Where did you take her?—In the neighbourhood of the Amarantes; I chased her forty-one hours; we ran several hundred miles.

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That

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That was at the period when you went to the northward?—Yes I went for the very purpose of intercepting her, and found her at the very spot where I expected to find her.

Did Governor Farquhar request you to proceed for that object?—No; it was a suggestion of my own, but he gave me the information which led me to go there.

The result was, that the Succès was taken?—Yes; and I had another one close to me, with the same number of slaves; another of a similar description.

Was that taken?—No; she escaped under cover of the night.

What was her name?—The Auguste.

Did those vessels belong to the Mauritius?—The Succès belonged to Nantz; the Auguste had been fitted out at the Mauritius, and would have been liable to seizure, as having fitted out for the Slave Trade from the Mauritius.

Did the same precautions you have stated to have taken place in May, continue through June?—They continued till 1823; I never withdrew any of those posts, nor relaxed till I came away.

You drove the Courier on shore?—My officer did.

Do you remember this proclamation being issued by the governor?—(*The same being shewn to the witness.*)—Yes, I recollect it.

[*The same was read as follows.*]

“ New Mauritius Gazette, Saturday, 10th March 1821.

“ PROCLAMATION

“ Of His Majesty GEORGE IV. of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King.

“ His Excellency Robert Townsend Farquhar, Governor and Commander-in-chief of the Island of Mauritius and dependencies, Captain General, Vice Admiral, &c. &c. &c.

“ WHEREAS information having been received by government, that on the night of the 3d and 4th of this month a chasse-marée, or small schooner, was wrecked near the Pointe aux Feuilles, and burnt, after having been chased by one of the colonial schooners, commanded by an officer belonging to His Majesty's ships stationed in these seas, and that a number of new Mozambique blacks have been seized on the following day, not far from the spot in question, by the officer commanding the nearest military post, and which blacks have been conducted to Port Louis under an escort, to be there tried according to law: And whereas the remainder of the negroes composing the cargo of the said slave dealing vessel has, to the present moment, escaped detection.

“ His Excellency the Governor having at heart the punishment, according to the utmost rigour of the law, of the individuals engaged in this criminal attempt to renew a traffic, which, for the honour of the colony, his Excellency had been disposed to believe had been entirely abandoned. Independently of the confidence which his Excellency reposes in the concurrence of the respectable inhabitants, he has been pleased to offer a reward of two thousand dollars to any person or persons who shall arrest, seize, and convict, before the court of this colony, the individuals guilty of this odious crime; if they are found to be subjects of His Britannic Majesty, a similar sum of two thousand dollars shall be paid to the person who shall be the first to produce full and decided proofs of the sale, purchase or concealment of the blacks thus illegally imported, and who shall be found in the possession of the said purchasers or concealers, three days after the publication of the present Proclamation.

“ A further sum of one thousand dollars shall be paid to any person or persons who shall furnish to the police or to the government such information as shall lead to the discovery and immediate arrest of the new blacks recently landed.

“ In short, a reward of twenty-five dollars shall be accorded for each black landed on the occasion now alluded to, who shall be given up either to the police in Port Louis, or to the civil commissary in the country districts, or who shall be secured in consequence of information given, without any inquiry being made to the prejudice of the persons thus proceeding, as to the manner in which the said blacks have come into their possession, provided, however, that they have not participated in their importation or introduction.

“ A full pardon shall moreover be accorded or granted to any of the individuals, save and except the owners and captain, who, having been the authors, contrivers

contrivers, and accomplices in the said importation, shall furnish the means of seizing the guilty, and the objects of the crime.

“ Given at the Government House, Port Louis, Isle of Mauritius, this 7th of March 1821.

“ *R. T. Farquhar.*”

“ By order, *G. A. Barry,*

“ Chief Secretary to Government.

“ A true translation, *F. E. S. Viret,*

“ Sworn interpreter to Government.”

Is that the Mauritius Gazette [*a paper being shown to the witness*]?—It is.

[*The same was delivered in, and the following extract was read therefrom :*]

“ New Mauritius Gazette, Saturday, 7th April 1821.

“ GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

“ THE pursuit of the felons who were concerned in the crime of the Slave Trade, in the Courier, having as yet failed in bringing to justice the principal actors and assistants in that atrocious transaction, and his Excellency being determined not to relax in any effort until those persons are brought within the reach of the law ; and, as these felons cannot escape pursuit, unless assisted or harboured by some of the inhabitants who may not be aware of the danger of such mistaken lenity, and assistance to the felons ; his Excellency directs that the following extract of the law on the subject may be published for general information :

“ A person who knows a felony has been committed and receives, relieves or assists the felony, or prevents his apprehension, or furnishes him the means of escaping his pursuers, or gives him money or victuals to support him, or allows him to enter his house, or other shelter to conceal him, becomes an accessory to the felony, and is liable to suffer the same punishment as the principal ; and so strict is the law where a felony is actually complete, in order to do effectual justice, that the nearest relations are not allowed to aid or assist one another. If a parent assist the child, or the child his parent ; if the brother receives the brother, the master his servant, or the servant his master, who may have, any of them, committed a felony, the receiver becomes accessory and suffers as a felon.”

“ Certain information has been received by his Excellency of several vessels, under various flags, being engaged in the Slave Traffic from the east coast of Africa, and some have been already discovered chased and seized, with slaves on board, close to the islands of the northern Archipelago, which form the independencies of this Government ; his Excellency, therefore, warns the several proprietors of those islands, and His Majesty's subjects in general, that the utmost severity of the law will be inflicted upon any persons who may be engaged directly or indirectly in this nefarious traffic, or who suffer their lands to be made a depôt for such purposes.

“ Chief Secretary's Office,

“ Port Louis, 6th April, 1821.

By order,

“ *G. A. Barry,*

“ Chief Sec. to Gover.”

What was the date of the capture of the *Succès*?—The 20th of March 1821.

Do you remember that address to the inhabitants of the Mauritius, now shown to you, being published in the Gazette on the 24th of March 1821?—Yes, I do.

[*The same was read as follows :*]

“ Adresse de son Excellence le Gouverneur aux habitans de l'île Maurice.

“ Habitans,

“ Il est de mon devoir de rappeler encore tout votre attention sur l'entreprise criminelle, sous tous les rapports, qui vient troubler l'ordre et la tranquillité dont j'espérais vous voir jouir, d'après les dispositions et la déclaration solennelle et réitérée des personnes les plus respectables d'entre vous.

“ J'avais à l'avance pris les mesures propres à prévenir les suites de la tentative que je prévoyais devoir être fait par le Coureur, (celle-ci devant, suivant toutes les apparences, être la dernière qui sera essayée sur les côtes de cette île) et j'espérais que, secondé par le zèle des fonctionnaires publics et par l'intérêt même bien entendu des habitans, les coupables ne trouveraient aucun asyle dans l'île, en supposant qu'ils pussent réussir à y mettre le pied.

“ Leur arrestation devait mettre un terme à toutes mesures tendantes indispensablement à troubler le repos du paisible cultivateur.

90.

“ C'est

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“ C'est dans ses vues, c'est dans la vue de faire à jamais respecter la loi, et d'écartier pour toujours de vos tranquilles demeures l'idée même d'aucune inquiétude de ce genre, que je n'ai épargné et que je n'épargnerai aucuns moyen d'atteindre les auteurs de cette entreprise et d'en saisir les objets.

“ Déchu jusqu'à ce jour dans mes espérances, par la protection accordée à quelques individus qui en sont indignes, soit par des personnes égarées par un sentiment de compassion mal placé, soit par des individus qui par la se constituent participes de leur crime de félonie, je considère de mon devoir de vous éclairer sur les suites d'une indulgence dont peut-être beaucoup d'entre vous ignorent les conséquences, et c'est à cet effet que je m'adresse maintenant à vous, non comme un chef, employant la menace pour contraindre l'obéissance aux ordres dont l'exécution lui est confiée, mais comme un père qui ne s'occupe qu'à détourner de ses enfans les maux que l'imprudence peut attirer sur eux.

“ Je vous prie donc de réunir tous vos efforts à ceux du gouvernement, car je dois vous faire connoître, qu'en outre des recherches et des perquisitions ordonnées, et qui ne cesseront qu'après la réussite la plus complète, la rentrée indispensable de tous les noirs composant la cargaison du Coureur, exigera désormais non-seulement l'examen le plus scrupuleux, mais encore plus rigoureux que jamais de tous les noirs soupçonnés faire partie de ceux introduits par ce dit navire.

“ Je dois aussi informer ceux qui pourrnt encore l'ignorer, et rappeler aux autres, que la loi soumet à des peines très-sévères, ceux qui se trouveraient possesseurs, a quelque titre que ce soit, des susdits noirs, et voulant donner une dernière preuve du désir qu'a le gouvernement qu'il y ait peu de coupables à punir je vous déclare ici qu'il est accordé jusqu'au dix Avril prochain pour la remise desdits noirs, sans qu'il soit fait aucune question, aucune recherche à ceux qui les remettront soit à la police, soit aux commandans ou commissaires civils des quartiers, (ainsi qu'a été fait déjà par on habitant respectable), sur la manière dont ces noirs seront venus en leur pouvoir, conformément à la proclamation du 7 de ce présent mois; que même ils pourront réclamer les 25 piastres par tête, promises par la même proclamation; mais que passé la susdite époque du 10 Avril prochain, rein ne pourra soustraire les détenteurs reconnus de quelque uns de ces dits noirs à quelque titre que ce soit, aux peines sévères et infamantes portées contre eux par la loi.”

“ Port Louis, 22 Mars 1821.”

“ R. T. Farquhar.”

Are you satisfied that, during the whole period you had the command there, every exertion was made for the purpose of preventing the importation of slaves?—Yes, and if any were imported, I will take the blame of it upon myself; I do not think it possible.

Did Governor Farquhar zealously co-operate upon that occasion?—Certainly, in every possible way.

Do you recollect the circumstance of a French 24 gun vessel having gone to Muscat, after the treaty, and having been refused slaves by the Iman of Muscat?—I recollect that perfectly well.

Do you remember that a French man of war, just previous to or about the same time, went to the Iman of Muscat, with a view of getting, either by treaty or purchase, the island of Zanzebar?—I was told at Muscat that the French had endeavoured to purchase it; I was told by the chief man, or the prime minister, of the Iman of Muscat, that it was so.

When you went to the Mauritius, did you find that many persons resident there were deeply concerned in the Slave Trade?—I must be understood to state, that I only retail that which I myself was told; I have no documents to prove that of any persons, but only general information that particular persons were employed in the Slave Trade.

Were you convinced that there were many persons resident in the Mauritius who were deeply concerned in the Slave Trade?—Most certainly so.

Were any of those persons in the employment of the British government?—I was told there were many *employés*; and in making use of the word *employés*, I mean to speak to many French persons who were left in the different offices of government. My opinion is, that the report was true; that is, not that they were employed in the Slave Trade, but implicated in receiving slaves on their estates, or were implicated with the slave traders.

Have you any doubt, that since the capture of the Mauritius by the British, a vast number of slaves have been illegally introduced; the question referring to the period

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period of the capture in 1810, up to March 1821?—I may, perhaps, come down to so late as the year 1819; there were many slaves introduced into the colony.

Do you think there were a vast number of slaves introduced?—I am not competent to get at the number; I should think there was a very large number. When I mention 1819, I have no documents to go by.

You say you were told there were many *employés* concerned in the Slave Trade; do you mean that you were told, while you had the command, there were many who at that period were concerned in the Slave Trade, or that there were many persons still continued as *employés* who had formerly been concerned in the Slave Trade?—I mean to say, that prior to my arrival at the Mauritius, I had information that people who had been employed under the French government, and still continued under the English, since the cession of the island to the English, had been implicated in the Slave Trade.

Prior to the year 1819?—Yes.

Were those persons all of them French to whom you are referring?—I may detail the whole calumny of the colony. When the people differ at the head of a little hothouse like that, we hear the calumny, or what others may consider truth, of the whole colony; it is no evidence, at the same time I have no hesitation in answering.

You yourself know nothing personally of these transactions?—No.

But you collected that which you have stated in general conversation?—Yes.

Have the kindness to read that letter—(*a letter being shown to the witness*)?—This is my writing.

Have you written a letter, dated the 15th of March 1826, in which there is this paragraph, "There can be no doubt that since the period of the Mauritius falling under the English government, a vast number of slaves have been brought there, and, I may add, down to a recent date; my sources of information were generally correct; my opinion is, that the information already implicating the most respectable inhabitants, and even *employés*, was too true"?—That is an answer to a letter written to me by Mr. Buxton; I think the date referred to in the subsequent sentence is that of March 1821.

The year 1821 was the time at which you came into the command?—Yes.

You were employed immediately after that in settling the arrangement with the king of Madagascar?—Yes; here is the information given me by Sir Robert Farquhar, and there are names of thirty or forty, among whom will be found some of the most respectable planters.

What is the date of that?—It is an anonymous letter to the government, which was handed over to me by Sir R. Farquhar. I found the information, so far as I could ascertain, to be correct.

At what period was that given to you?—Very soon after I came to the island.

[*The witness delivered in the same.*]

You are understood to say, that you considered the most respectable inhabitants of the colony engaged in the Slave Trade up to March 1821?—The understanding there, is not exactly marked whether it was that they had been engaged in the Slave Trade or were implicated in it. I think the words engaged in the Slave Trade will bear a different meaning; I mean, that at one period or other they had received new blacks, or in some measure involved themselves in the question of trading in slaves.

Were many respectable persons deeply concerned in the Slave Trade?—Yes, I think they were prior to the period of going to the Mauritius.

Was the Slave Trade considered a crime by those respectable inhabitants?—No, I do not think it was.

Are you convinced from ocular demonstration, that there had been an extensive Slave Trade?—Certainly; I ought to mention, perhaps, that there was one instance of a vessel having landed slaves eight months before my arrival, therefore I would rather apply the observation to that date than that of March 1821.

What was the name of that vessel?—I cannot recollect.

In what year was that?—In the year 1820.

In what part of the island did that vessel effect her landing?—I do not recollect.

You say, that you were convinced, from ocular demonstration, there had been an extensive Slave Trade at the period preceding your arrival?—Yes.

What do you mean, when you say, from ocular demonstration?—I judge, certainly, from seeing very few fathers and mothers belonging to them; but one can judge

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judge whether the Slave Trade exists without going far, where new blacks are supposed to be, but they may have been purchased from other individuals; where one sees a number of blacks, and there are very few old people, comparatively speaking, to be the means of having such a population, and mostly young male slaves of five or six and twenty, the inference is, that they have been most probably new slaves.

Was that the case, that in the plantations you visited, you saw but few old persons?—Generally speaking so, but I have seen instances to the contrary; but mine was a very slight inspection. I know very little of the interior of the Mauritius. I used to go round occasionally to visit my posts, but I am not competent to give an opinion on the slaves which were there, it was merely in the way I have stated.

Did you observe that the males exceeded the females?—Yes, certainly.

To a considerable extent?—Yes; the occupations of the males perhaps might have brought them more under my eye, being more out of doors; but I know the males to have been considerably greater in point of number than the females. As I have made no hesitation in my communication with the chairman of this Committee, I will beg leave to produce my correspondence with him to Sir Robert Farquhar.

You gave to the chairman of this Committee leave to make use of your letter?—Certainly.

When you speak of ocular demonstration, do you refer to the recent establishment of planters and to the number of their slaves?—I am now asked from a correspondence with the chairman, but it will be but fair that his queries to me should be read, and the subjects on which the letter was written to me, for I think the inquiry was respecting the Seychelles, and not respecting the Isle of Mauritius. I have stated nothing, I believe, but that which I had before stated in my letters to the admiral, and which have been forwarded to the Admiralty.

It appears from your letter, that the information you have stated related to the Mauritius?—Perhaps it may; I had conceived that it related to the Seychelles.

You say that from the number and quality of the slaves on some of the plantations, you were convinced there had been a slave trading?—I was convinced that new slaves had been imported upon those estates.

Be good enough to mention any estates you visited, if you recollect them?—I can certainly mention several, but knowing only the owners' names of one estate, I wish to decline mentioning the individuals, repeating that I felt convinced new slaves had been either imported or purchased, or perhaps only young males selected, who, for what I know, might have been legally bought.

Were you ever on Belle Ombre?—Yes, I have been frequently there passing, and I think I have once or twice stopped at Mr. Telfair's house.

Did you see any of Mr. Telfair's slaves?—Yes, I saw them at their work; they were divided over a very large estate; and I saw them assembled in the evening; they certainly shewed an example for any parish minister; I believe greater care was never taken of any people in a moral and religious view.

How many slaves did you see collected there in the evening?—Guessing in round numbers, I should say, perhaps, there were two hundred, I cannot tell exactly.

Were there many old persons among those?—No, very few.

Did the males exceed the females?—Yes, but there was a greater proportion of children than on any other estate I saw, the school room was full.

Did the males generally exceed the females?—I think they did in the same proportion as on the other estates; I observed they might have been called more into the sugar plantations.

What proportion do you consider that to be?—I really cannot tell; all I can say is generally that they were in a greater proportion, I think about two men to one woman; I give this as very general information, the documents would prove the fact.

Have you clear proof that the Slave Trade existed at the Seychelles during your service?—Yes, I think I have; I have not had time to look at my documents, but I believe I have documents to prove that it did exist there, for at my suggestion eighteen constables were sent up to prevent it.

Was the slave trading at the Seychelles as clear as the sun at noon day?—Yes; I think it was, it could not be clearer.

Did you know Mr. Madge?—Yes, I did.

Do you know how many years he had lived there?—No, I do not.

Did you hear whether he came there with any property?—I heard the contrary, that he did not.

When

When you were there, was he a proprietor of a vast number of slaves?—I was told he was the ostensible owner of 180 or 200 slaves, and I have no reason to believe the information I got incorrect.

Was he the proprietor of any islands?—I understand he was, of two small islands, on which tortoises are caught, to make the tortoise shell combs of, and where extensive plantations of the cocoa nut tree and cotton were planted.

How many islands do the Seychelles consist of?—The Seychelles only six or seven, but the Amaranthes are very numerous.

Do you know how he obtained those islands?—I have not the least knowledge how he obtained them.

Was Lieutenant Hay under your command?—Yes, he was.

He made a visit to the Seychelles?—He did.

At the visit he made to the Seychelles, did he make any report to you of having found a vessel under suspicious circumstances?—Yes, I think he did; and if it was an official document, I must have it by me; it must be about the 12th July 1821. I see I have a letter from Lieutenant Hay to Governor Farquhar, dated the 8th of May 1821.

[*The same was read.*]

I find he must have been at the Seychelles in June, for here are copies twice in my book, and Mr. Madge's letters to me in June; I recollect perfectly his making a report to me, but I cannot find it at this moment; I arrived at Seychelles, and found Mr. Hay waiting there for me, that was about July 1821; I think I found him waiting, according to his orders, for my arrival; and he came on board, and made those reports to me, but I am not certain whether he made them in writing.

What were the reports he made?—It was relating to a vessel which had made a landing at the island of La Digue; that was an island on which no government authority resided, there was no one there to prevent their landing.

Did Lieutenant Hay report to you any conversation he had had with Mrs. Madge?—He probably did, but I do not call it to my mind.

The particular conversation alluded to is, that Mrs. Madge said to him, "You have arrived three hours too late; if you had arrived three hours sooner, you would have taken the slaves on board the vessel;" on which Mr. Madge said, "Hold your tongue; do not talk about that you do not understand?"—I recollect hearing something of that nature; I cannot state the particulars of the conversation, but some laughable thing of that kind having taken place; the vessel was lying there at the time he arrived; I do not think she could have been got into the state she was within the short space of three hours; I arrived myself two days afterwards.

During the time you were there, were any slaves introduced to the Mauritius from the Seychelles?—Yes.

That is a legal importation, is it not?—Yes, it is; I detained a vessel about the period of April which brought slaves to the Mauritius; I will beg to read an extract from a letter to Rear Admiral Lambert, dated Port Louis, the 21st of June 1821: "On the 10th instant I detained the colonial schooner, Emile, having fifty-one slaves on board for the Seychelles, the half of which belonged to the captain, his wife and mother. I examined them most strictly in the presence of the king's counsel and the king's proctor; it was evident many of them were what were called new blacks; but the difficulty of communication, and the expense attached, over-ruled the desire I had of prosecuting the claimants of the suspected blacks. The Emile sailed from hence to Madagascar in December last, has been amongst the Amaranthes, and now returned with a small quantity of cotton and the slaves in question. I have restored the vessel, after acquainting His Majesty's collector of the customs of my suspicions, who, from longer experience and other favorable circumstances, has more facility to prosecute persons importing black, clandestinely than I have; but at the same time it may be observed, that the collector in his own person has little chance of convicting individuals of the fact of importing slaves, for it is not to be supposed the importers of new slaves will ever run the risk of bringing them before him until schooled in their questions, or perhaps changed on their arrival."

[*The Witness was directed to furnish a copy of the whole of the document.*]

You stated that you observed some of the slaves on board the Emile were new slaves, how did you know them to be new slaves?—I supposed that they were new slaves from the little knowledge they had of the French Creole language in the first place,

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place, and from being unconnected with any other party of slaves, from their not knowing each other; and I would refer to the very imperfect manner in which they answered the registrar's questions, for though they bring them, it is with the greatest difficulty you can trace any resemblance.

Were you, from all those circumstances, convinced that they were new slaves?—I was most certainly convinced that many of the slaves that came from the Seychelles were new slaves.

Are any of the old slaves on the Mauritius allowed to remain with their hair in the Madagascar plait, supposing them to have been introduced from those districts in the island in which the hair is plaited in a particular manner?—I do not know that they are allowed to do it; I cannot call to my recollection that I have seen any with the manner of the Madagascar hair; but very few slaves are natives of Madagascar, they are Mosambique slaves who have come across the country.

When captured slaves are apprenticed in the island, are they provided with clothing by the persons to whom they are apprenticed?—Yes, always; they are always apprenticed to those who appear the most deserving, and generally to the tailors and shoemakers, and so on.

In case you found on the Island of Mauritius a party of slaves naked, and with their hair in the original plait, you would not conceive those slaves to be apprentices on the island?—No, most certainly not.

Did the slaves that you stopped on board the *Emile* bear the character they professed to bear, of registered slaves;—In my opinion they did not; there were fifty-one slaves on board her, detained on suspicion by me; the same vessel had brought seventeen on the 8th of August preceding.

To whom were those slaves registered as belonging?—The half of them, or more than the half, to the captain, his wife and mother, they had been residing at the Seychelles, they had brought those slaves over, as part of their property, to the Mauritius.

Did you happen to know whether they were sold a few days afterwards?—I heard that some of them were.

Would there have been any illegality in purchasing those slaves coming from the Seychelles?—No; they were legally imported, and might be legally disposed of.

Did you observe any discrepancies between themselves and their registers?—In some of them I did.

Did any of your lieutenants stop any other vessels with slaves on board?—An officer was appointed, with a special purpose, by me to examine all vessels coming in.

Who were those officers?—A marine officer, for a long time, and his orders are in this book; and the measures he should take there are instructions to those officers who were appointed to the different duties, in every way we could adopt of meeting this introduction from the Seychelles, to endeavour to find whether any were illegally brought in.

Where were those marine officers stationed?—A marine officer was stationed with a boat in Port Louis, for the very purpose of examining those vessels for his own satisfaction; and he attended at the custom house always.

Do you recollect the name of any naval officer you appointed for that purpose?—Mr. Barnes was the lieutenant of marines who was appointed; but the officers were appointed from time to time; and here are the instructions to those officers; I cannot refer to every one, here are their general instructions.

Who was the first lieutenant of the *Menai*?—When we first went to the Mauritius, a Mr. Greville was first lieutenant.

Did you ever employ him to stop those vessels coming from the Seychelles?—I think he was so employed for a short time.

Do you recollect whether he seized any slaves because they did not correspond with their registers?—I do not think he did; he was first lieutenant only for a short time.

Had you another first lieutenant?—Yes, Mr. Biddulph; Mr. Greville was first lieutenant when first I went to the Mauritius; he was superseded on Mr. Biddulph's return from England, and then Mr. Hay became first lieutenant on Mr. Biddulph's invaliding.

From the 30th of May 1819 to the 11th of October 1821, how many slaves were removed from the Seychelles to the Mauritius?—I answered that question in my letter to the chairman; here is a report copied from the custom house report; the number appears to be 345.

Was there a greater average of those sent from the Seychelles to the Mauritius at a subsequent

a subsequent date?—I have not proof to say there was, but I have been told there was, I should think there were a greater number.

Had the white population at the Seychelles increased?—No; I was told it had rather decreased, one of the old inhabitants regretted the circumstance that the white population had not increased.

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Had the black population increased?—Very considerably.

To the extent of several thousand?—I was told so; there were a great number certainly.

Do you know what was the state of the Seychelles soon after the capture?—I have Captain Beaver's remarks upon the Seychelles in 1811. He reports from the returns taken, the number, but I have stated to the chairman the only information I possessed.

[The witness was requested to furnish a copy of this document.]

Did the cholera morbus at the Mauritius afford facility for the introduction of new slaves?—I think it did.

How?—I think from the information I collected, that the amount of slaves who died during the cholera morbus was never faithfully returned to government, and that new slaves were introduced and supplied with the registrar's of part of those deceased. I do not mean to say that the slaves were introduced at the period of 1819 or 1820 at all; I do not believe they were, but I believe that slaves who had been in the island and were not regularly registered came into the register of those deceased at that date; I do not mean to say that I believe the slaves were then introduced.

Did you find on board on any vessel a paper describing the marks which slaves ought to have in order that they might answer the description of others registered at the Mauritius?—I remember seeing a paper, whether in the Succès, or the Industry, or the Emilè, I cannot say; but I saw such a paper.

Did you report that paper to the governor?—I cannot recollect indeed whether I did.

Was that paper found among the ship's papers?—No; merely a letter from one individual to another.

Have you got that letter?—No, I have not; I recollect the circumstance.

Can you recollect the substance of the letter?—It was merely describing that if a slave came from Seychelles or some other place, it should be of such and such an age, and with such and such marks.

Do you mean, pointing out that as a general plan?—It was with respect to one individual.

Are you sure that this letter referred to and described the transfer of slaves from the Seychelles to the Mauritius, and did not refer to the removal from the coast of Africa or Madagascar to the Mauritius?—I really cannot tax my recollection, it struck me as being a decisive mark of wishing to have a new slave, it was not from a respectable person nor to any person of consequence or authority.

Would that mark correspond to the marks of a class of slaves, or merely of an individual?—To the mark of an individual slave.

Are you certain this letter referred only to one individual?—I am positive of that, if it referred to an accidental mark, a cut in a particular place, I think.

You have stated that you were satisfied the Slave Trade was put down from 1820?—No. I know it took place in 1821, that there was one debarkation.

What vessels did you capture engaged in the Slave Trade during the time you were there?—The first vessel that was destroyed by the officers of the Menai, was the Courier, the second was the Succès, and the third the Industry; in the course of that service I detained a great many for perhaps twenty-four hours, or perhaps twelve hours, till I could be fully satisfied that there was no just cause for further detention; but those were the only ones that were seized.

Did not you chase some other vessels which you conceived to be engaged in the Slave Trade?—I chased the Auguste.

Did not you chase the Albatros?—The Auguste and Albatros were the same vessel.

Was the Industry a noted slave vessel for several years?—Yes, very well known indeed.

Was she supposed to have brought any great number of slaves to the Mauritius?—The captain told me he had landed at the Mauritius and Bourbon, in that vessel, several thousand.

Did he say during what time?—No; previous to his capture, which was in 1821; and

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and it is very likely, for she carried a great number. The Industry was condemned because she belonged to British subjects; she was under the white flag, but it was proved that Battal, one of the part owners, was in the Mauritius, and he was imprisoned.

There was no obstruction to her landing slaves under the white flag at Bourbon?—I should have taken her wherever I found her.

The French authorities would not have prevented it?—No.

Had she any flag hoisted at the time you took her?—No, the captain begged permission to hoist the white flag after she was taken.

Was she a Bourbon or a Mauritius vessel?—The circumstances of her belonging to the Mauritius were these; Battal, the elder brother, had involved himself in difficulties, a process was sued out against him, which would have ruined his mother and family if it had been served; his younger brother at the Mauritius undertook to pay his debts, and the vessel was made over to the younger Battal as a security, consequently he became the owner of the vessel.

When was it the interest was made over to Battal of the Mauritius?—Previous to her capture; I cannot remember the date, it was very recently before.

Were not all the voyages of the Industry, from the year 1819 to the last time she landed at the Mauritius, from Bourbon and back to Bourbon?—Yes, I believe they were; the information said, that he the captain professed he would, in spite of me or Governor Farquhar, land again at the Mauritius, but he never attempted it.

What was the name of the captain?—Mongin.

Was he an inhabitant of the Mauritius?—I think he was a Creole of the Mauritius; his mother lived there.

What was the name of the owner?—Battal was the part owner.

Was Dubignion an owner?—I have no doubt she was owned by others; they were the ostensible owners; Dubignion was a fictitious name; his name was Lange.

Was Dubignion, otherwise Lange, the reputed owner of part of this vessel?—Yes.

Was he an inhabitant of the Mauritius?—I do not know, I think I heard he was; also, at any rate, his connections were there; he was a very superior man; I should take him to be a Frenchman, educated in France; he was a very superior man in point of intellect.

Was he found on board the vessel?—He was.

In what capacity did he represent himself to be?—I think as supercargo, if I recollect right.

Are you sure he did not represent himself to be a passenger?—Yes; to myself he told me he was only a passenger, in fact, he threatened to bring a process upon me for having taken him.

Did a man of the name of Sæuer, supposed to be a respectable inhabitant of the Mauritius, come forward to swear that Dubignion was a subject of France?—Yes; I recollect his doing it.

Was it proved, that that Sæuer had perjured himself in what he stated?—Yes; I think that was very clear.

Was Battal a clerk in the Register office?—No, not that I know; he was a clerk at Rondeau's establishment, a mercantile naval establishment there.

Are you sure he was not a clerk in the Register office?—I think he was not.

Was the brother, who was outlawed, an officer in the Registry?—I do not know, I think that I have heard that he was.

Were you one of the Commissioners on the trial of the captain and owner of the Industry?—Yes, I was.

Did any particular circumstances occur during that trial that attracted your particular notice?—Yes.

Have the goodness to state them, the question referring to the trial for the felony?—When they were acquitted of the felony, it was my wish that those men convicted in the penalties should be laid hold of, that they might not escape from the court. Some of the Commissioners refused to permit it, and held that they should go out of court; that we were at liberty to take them outside; we were not likely to come to an agreement. Sir Robert Farquhar desired us to sign a paper, giving our opinion; but I do not recollect its precise contents. Sir Robert Farquhar, to secure himself, I believe, from the idea that he had liberated the prisoners, required us to sign a paper; I did so, being over-ruled; the consequence was, that those who were already convicted in the penalty of 9,000*l.* and might have been incarcerated for life, were carried on men's shoulders out of court, the people huzzaing as if it were a jubilee.

Who

Who was the grand Judge?—Mr. Smith, at that time.

Are you sure it was Mr. Smith and not Governor Farquhar, that said they should be released if they were acquitted?—Judge Smith himself told me as long as they were in that court, no man should lay a finger upon them.

Are you sure Governor Farquhar did not say the same thing?—No, I am not sure he did not; the paper which Sir Robert Farquhar has will put that question at rest, for there was a difference of opinion between them upon the point; it gave me very great pain at the time, and irritated me a great deal; so that as to particulars my memory is deficient.

Did Governor Farquhar address himself to the court at that time?—Yes, he did.

Do you recollect the substance of what he said?—I think the substance was principally upon the power of the jury; I do not recollect any thing particular relating to the evidence beyond common place observations.

Did the speech of Governor Farquhar call forth loud acclamations from those same persons that afterwards carried those men upon their shoulders?—I do not recollect that it did.

Did you desire that the court should be cleared at any time?—I think I did once or twice. I know they escaped much against my will; when I found I was over-ruled, I could do nothing more upon the subject, but I certainly recollect it was Judge Smith who advised me to be over-ruled; I thought he was the best man to know what was to be done upon the occasion, and I gave up to him when he told me it was not legal.

Do you recollect any expression made use of by any of the people in court applying the term, *Ale pour des habitans* to any person?—No; it was a very stormy court, I recollect that.

You say, those persons were convicted in certain penalties, was any warrant produced, or any officer with a warrant, to take them into custody under the judgment of any other court?—Yes, I believe that Reader, the marshal, had very particular instructions to take them.

Did he produce a warrant to the judge?—I will not state that.

Did you know the Madagascar people by sight?—Yes, I could tell them.

Did you observe any thing peculiar in the manner of their head dress?—Yes.

In what manner did they wear their hair?—The lower people wear their hair in large and loose curls, but the higher class of Madagascar people have their hair very beautifully braided in ringlets, in fact, they have two women engaged two days in dressing one of their heads.

Should you suppose the slaves who might come from Madagascar would have their hair plaited?—I should suppose not, certainly.

Should you know a new slave just landed from his mere appearance, without examining or speaking to him, at the distance of a hundred yards?—No, certainly not.

Were you acquainted with a schooner belonging to Mr. Charles Telfair?—I know one or two vessels he had engaged in carrying timber from Belle Ombre.

In the month of June 1821, with the precautions you have mentioned, was it practicable in your opinion, that that schooner should land fifty or sixty slaves in broad day light at Belle Ombre?—I think it absolutely impossible.

Suppose they were not landed all at first; but that a boat carried twenty, and then returned for a second and a third cargo, so as to occupy from three o'clock till five or six, would that add to the difficulty in your mind, of its passing without discovery?—I speak very confidently upon that subject, because my attention was directed particularly to this spot; I was told there was a large boat lying there ready to bring slaves on shore, and that there was also a vessel building for the Slave Trade at the Bay de Cap; when I went to Bay de Cap, I found a very old large boat remaining there, which was perfectly useless, and could not float; she might have been used in former times.

Did you know of the building of a new boat about that time?—I have just mentioned, that there was a report of a vessel building for the Slave Trade, at that period; I examined her, and found she was a vessel adapted for the colonial purposes of a trading vessel, like all the other vessels in the island; she put to sea, and was upset the first voyage, and there was an end of her.

In your judgment, could that landing have taken place in the way just stated to you?—I have said, that in my opinion, it could not; I have I think almost proved the impossibility of it.

Do you apprehend it to be impossible, on account of the disposition you made

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of the boats belonging to the Menai?—And with the disposition of the military force, we had not only boats on the coast, but there were sentries on shore.

Do you think the return of the French to Bourbon, the treaty of Paris, and the permission obviously given to the Slave Trade at Bourbon, retarded the moral feeling of disgust of the inhabitants of the Mauritius, at this nefarious traffic?—I do not think myself competent to answer that question.

Do you think the treaty of Paris gave a fresh impetus to the Slave Trade?—I think it may have done at the Mauritius.

Lance, 22^o did Maii, 1826.

THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, ESQUIRE,

IN THE CHAIR.

Captain *Fairfax Moresby*, R. N. again called in; and further Examined.

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YOU have been examined with respect to the possibility of Slave Trading taking place along the southern coast of the Mauritius, where were you stationed yourself at the period in the examination referred to, from the 1st of March to the 1st of July?—On the 1st of March 1821 I was at Port Louis, and continued there until the 6th of March, or thereabouts; I speak a day or two before or after; I returned to Port Louis from a cruise in the first week in April, about the 4th.

In what direction had that cruise been?—Among the dependencies to the northward of the Amaranthes; I continued at Port Louis till about the 23d of April, when I went to Tamatave, and returned the 27th or 28th of May to Port Louis; I continued there until the last day of June.

The evidence, then, which you gave with regard to the impossibility of any Slave Trading taking place about the Bay de Cap, was derived from the confidence you feel in the previous arrangements you had made, and in any report you received from your officers, and not from any knowledge on your own part?—It certainly was from the confidence I had in my officers during my absence, not from my own personal knowledge during my presence in the Mauritius.

Were you present for any part of the time in the quarter of the island to which your evidence particularly applies, namely, the southward?—Yes.

During what part of the time?—Twice or thrice; I might have gone down there in June.

Are you aware of any difference of opinion prevailing amongst naval officers with regard to the possibility of the carrying on the Slave Trade at the Mauritius in consequence of the unprotected state of its coasts?—Yes; I have seen a document from Captain Owen, declaring that it was possible to renew it.

Is this the document to which you refer, a letter from Captain Owen to Sir Lowry Cole, bearing the date of the 4th of August 1825, in which he states, “Neglected as the Seychelles and Amaranthes are, and indeed the coast of Mauritius itself, not immediately in the vicinity of Port Louis, ever since my arrival in those seas, I must repeat the business of landing slaves on any of those points might be effected, even without risk to the vessels who might transport them?”—That is a document I have seen.

Have you been able to collect any other opinions of naval officers of a similar character to that referred to?—I believe it is the opinion of every naval officer, that if the coast is left unprotected, people may land slaves upon it, but I think that paragraph must have been written without consideration, certainly during the time I commanded in the Mauritius, for I defy any man breathing to say I neglected the coast. Captain Owen was in that quarter while I was there, but he never visited the Mauritius; he speaks of the time he was at Mozambique.

Is Captain Moorsom on the Mauritius station at present?—Not at present; he relieved me.

Have you ever seen a report from him, in which he speaks of the physical impossibility of preventing the landing of slaves?—I cannot say that I have seen the report, but I have had some correspondence with Captain Moorsom, and it does not strike me that that is the tenor of his language.

How many vessels had you under your command?—I have a paper which I have
hastily

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hastily drawn up since I was here last, which will answer that question, if I am allowed to read it. "On my arrival at the Mauritius in February 1821, the Eliza schooner supplied by the colonial government was under the orders of the officer I superseded; she was at that time detached with an officer and crew from the Tees to the Seychelles, for the prevention of the Slave Trade; a large boat was also placed at the disposal of the senior naval officer, and employed cruizing off the south end of the island; another schooner, the Henrietta, had been purchased, and was nearly ready for service; this schooner I immediately equipped and manned, and ordered to cruize to windward of the island; at this period there consequently were placed at the disposal of the senior naval officer, by the colonial government, the schooner Eliza, adapted for any service within the limits of the dependencies of the Mauritius, the Henrietta schooner of smaller burthen, adapted for the immediate circuitry of the Mauritius, and a large boat, the latter I returned to the colonial government as unfit for the service, and her place was supplied by boats from the Menai. During my absence from Port Louis in March, a third schooner was hired, the Poissard, and placed under the orders of Lieutenant Hay, detached from the Menai in the Eliza, and proceeded on special service; this schooner I directed Lieutenant Hay to discharge on the 28th of June 1821. In May 1821, the colonial brig Wizard was at my request fitted out, officered and manned from the Menai, and placed at the senior naval officer's disposal, consequently the colonial vessels were now three, the Wizard, Eliza and Henrietta, officered and manned from the crew of the Menai, and by the assistance of fifty blacks from the colonial government, these vessels continued actively employed until the 20th of April 1822, when the Henrietta was upset whilst cruizing off the Mauritius. From this period to May 1823, the Wizard and Eliza were at the disposal of the senior naval officer, and boats occasionally, as required; then the officers and crew of the Menai, consisting of about 130 persons, with the addition of fifty blacks supplied by the colonial government, composed the force specifically employed for the suppression of the Slave Trade on the Mauritius station, from February 1821 to May 1823, with the exception of a very short period, and the visit of Commodore Nourse in the Andromache in October 1822, who with the Cygnet and Wizard visited Zangibar and Mozambique on his return to the Cape of Good Hope."

Did you, as a naval officer, consider that a perfectly adequate force for the proposed object?—Yes, I did; it was a force of my own proposal, and I considered it sufficient.

How long was the Eliza employed in the vicinity of the Mauritius?—I shall find some difficulty in answering that question, without a great many references; she was generally employed either at the Seychelles or in the immediate vicinity of the Mauritius, or between that and Tamatave, but I believe the greater part of the time in the immediate vicinity of the Mauritius.

Did not Sir Robert Farquhar offer more vessels and more men to you if you could employ them, and did you not in reply write this letter, dated Port Louis, 14 November 1821?—Yes, that is my signature to my clerk's writing.

[The following extract was read.]

"I can nearly vouchsafe that no clandestine landing has taken place since the destruction of the Courier; neither is there reason to apprehend one whilst the present measures are vigorously pursued. I have always been of opinion, that the Seychelles supply this island with a considerable number of new blacks, who the ingenuity of the owner make answer to the register in the government agent's office at Mahé; these, with a few that may be occasionally smuggled from Bourbon, constitute the only supply that this island now receive; the stoppage of which rests more with the constant vigilance and careful scrutiny of those officers, before whom, in the first case, the transferred blacks are brought, and in the other of the police and port officers, than in the duties of the naval department. During the absence of the Menai, the Henriette I have ordered to cruize round the island; the Eliza will receive the same instruction on her return. The Menai will return about the middle of December, when I shall equip four boats, to remain during the hurricane months in the different passes of the coral reefs. The additional expense which I shall solicit from the colonial government, will be the supply of four tents, to shelter the men from the weather. The vessel which your Excellency mentions, I expect, is the Furette; I have long had my eye upon her, with two others, which were lost in the late gale at Madagascar. I have received intelligence that they were about to attempt a renewal of the Slave Trade; and as they

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they were under the English flag, I directed the cruizers to seize them wherever they might be found. Providence, in the destruction of two of these vessels, seems peculiarly to have visited with ruin the abettors of the guilty traffic. Thus your Excellency will observe, that it is my opinion, so far as relates to the Isle of France, that the means adopted are effectual to prevent the probability of a landing of slaves being effected; on the contrary, that were your Excellency to place at my disposal more extensive means, I could not for the present benefit by them."

In what month was the *Henrietta* put at your disposal?—Immediately upon my arrival.

Was she ever detached to the Seychelles, or to any other port?—Not that I am aware of.

Do you recollect at what time the *Poissard* was put at your disposal?—She was put at the disposal of Lieutenant Hay when he sailed from the Mauritius; I think it must have been about the latter end of March 1821.

Did she continue under the command of Lieutenant Hay during the whole time you remained there?—No; she was discharged by my order. I sent an order to Captain Hay, through Lieutenant Greville, to discharge her from the service.

At what time?—The order to Lieutenant Greville is dated the 21st of June 1821.

Then, in point of fact, the *Poissard* was under the command of Captain Hay, and employed in preventing the introduction of new slaves but two months?—I suppose about that period; but in the intermediate time Lieutenant Hay had discharged the vessel. She was discharged at Port Louis during my absence at the Seychelles; therefore she must have been discharged about the time the order was issued.

Then she was less than two months in the employment?—I cannot speak to the exact period without referring to documents which I have not here. My order was to go to the Seychelles, nine hundred miles; therefore it would not come to him for some time.

During that period, was she the greater part of the time at the Seychelles?—Certainly not.

Did she visit the Seychelles at that time?—I believe that Lieutenant Hay reported to me that she had once, in company with himself; but I cannot speak from memory. In referring to the dates in my book, circumstances now come to my remembrance which I did not remember on Friday.

When was the *Wizard*, which had been the *Succès*, put under the command of one of your officers?—The 27th of May 1821.

Did she not leave Port Louis on the 8th of June 1821?—She was ordered, on the 6th of June, to cruize in parallel 21° south latitude, and from five to fifteen leagues east of the Isle of Bourbon, and she was ordered to continue on that service till the 17th of that month.

When did she sail again?—She was ordered to sea, and I believe sailed on the 21st of June; and she was ordered to the westward of the Seychelles, in the parallel of the Island of Oiseaux.

Did she not return to Port Louis on the 10th of September?—She must have been in company with me at that period; the next order to Lieutenant Greville is dated the 8th of August 1821, directing him to keep company with the *Menai*, but if, from unavoidable circumstances, he separates, to proceed to the Mauritius; we arrived off that place in company together about the 10th of September, I think.

Did she not sail for Calcutta on the 9th of October?—Her order to sail for Calcutta was dated the 3d of October, and I think she sailed a few days afterwards.

Did not Sir Robert Farquhar offer to supply the place of that vessel, by another vessel, during her absence?—Yes; to the best of my memory, he did.

Did Sir Robert Farquhar apply, pending the absence of that vessel, offering any means of replacing her by other vessels?—Yes; during the absence of the *Menai*, of course contemplating that of the *Wizard*, I had ordered the *Henrietta* to cruize round the island, and the *Eliza* would receive the same instructions upon her return; but I must observe, that it was not upon the *Henrietta*, the *Eliza*, or the *Wizard*, that I placed any confidence, they were the minor part of the means employed to prevent that Trade; it was specifically on the boats employed at the entrance of the coral reefs, and the signals I had established on shore.

When

When you left the Mauritius, did you leave your boats there?—No, I do not recollect that I did; the ship which relieved me had the same quantity of boats that I had.

When you went on your different services to sea, did you leave boats to guard the entrances?—Yes.

As many as you thought necessary for that purpose?—Quite so; I have gone to sea with only thirty effective in the Menai, besides the blacks, for the purpose of leaving sufficient men.

From the experience of the men under your command, do you believe they were sincere in their exertions during your absence?—I am very much deceived if they were not; I really believe they were sincere.

You think they did their duty faithfully?—Yes, I do.

If you had conceived that any of them did not, you would have displaced them?—Yes, certainly; there were officers who I conceived did not do their duty from time to time; who were not so active as they ought to be, and they were retained under my immediate eye; it remains with the captain of a ship to select men for a particular service.

Did they know how much you had this at heart?—Yes; they must have known that, for I shared every privation with them.

During the first six months and a half you were there you were absent three months, and a part of a fourth month?—I arrived on the 9th of February at the Mauritius, and I sailed about the 6th of March; I returned to the Mauritius about the 4th of April, and I sailed again on the 23d, and returned again the 27th of May; and I left the Mauritius about the last day of June or the 1st of July again.

From the 1st of July to the 10th of September you were again absent?—Yes, I was.

You were at the Mauritius seventy-eight days, between the 9th of February and the 10th of September, and were absent from the Mauritius 134 days?—Yes, I believe that to be correct.

In your absence from the Mauritius were you employed in suppressing the Slave Trade?—Yes; it was during that period that I captured the Industry at Zanzibar.

Did you conceive that your leaving the Mauritius, after you had made your arrangements, was the best way of effecting that object?—Yes; I should have thought it a very idle way of employing the Menai to continue there.

How far are the Seychelles from the Mauritius?—About three hundred leagues.

In the month of July 1821, the Menai being absent, the Poissard being discharged, and the Wizard being absent, what force of vessels was there at the Mauritius?—I am liable to make a mistake, perhaps, which can be corrected by more immediate reference to papers, for during that time a vessel of war might have come up, and orders were left for any vessels of war coming up to take upon themselves the suppression of the Trade to the Mauritius; but the fewest means which could have been used at that period were the Henrietta, the signal posts established on shore, and I think three boats, if I recollect right. I find an order, dated Port Louis, 28th of June 1821, to Captain Roberts, of His Majesty's ship Sheerwater.

Of what force was that vessel?—She was a sloop of war.

Do you know how long she continued there?—I really do not recollect.

Where were the three boats placed?—I am certain a boat was never withdrawn from the Bay de Cap or the Mourn; there was one generally at Port Louis.

Where is the Mourn?—The first opening to the coral reefs from Port Louis. A boat at the Mourn can watch the whole length of that coast, it is an elevated spot.

Do you conceive that a schooner and three boats could watch the coast all round?—With the posts on shore, most effectually.

Were the boats crews in two watches?—The arrangements were made for their watching generally, perhaps only centinels at different posts, and sometimes they might be relieved three times in the night, sometimes four, sometimes only twice, according to the service.

Do you think, if there was a boat placed at Port Louis, the Bay de Cap and the Mourn, they would protect the coast near Grande Riviere?—No, I do not think that; but there was always a vessel stationed at Grande Riviere, south east.

What vessel was that?—The Henrietta, commanded by Mr. Gilmore Harvey.

Did not a vessel at one time come into Grande Riviere, south east?—She attempted to get in, but was wrecked. She was chased by the Henrietta on shore; there

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This question I
take to relate to
Grande Riviere,
south east.

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there she would have been captured, but she ran upon the reefs in preference to being taken.

How many spots were there upon the coast of the Mauritius on which landings might be effected?—I can tell from the chart immediately; I suppose about a dozen.

Look at the list handed to you?—Into many of those they could not get in in the night; there are several that I have been almost wrecked on myself.

And in the day time they would be seen from the shore?—Yes, unless it was a very thick fog, which is uncommon there.

Can you point out which of the places would be accessible to vessels?—Some of my officers in the command of boats would be better able to speak to that; the greater part of the points mentioned are of the most difficult access. To give an idea of the difficulty, the *Eliza*, immediately after I resigned the command, was officered of course by the person succeeding me; he sent his master, a very intelligent seaman, to make himself acquainted with the coast, and I gave him some of my seamen to teach him how to navigate on the coral passes. He attempted one of the passes, when they knew from the heave of the sea and the current that he would be lost; he was wrecked immediately.

Were the means you employed sufficient, in your judgment and according to your experience, to prevent a landing?—Yes, certainly; and with respect to those coral openings, it must be recollected, there is no anchorage outside of them; that it is in vain for a vessel to come off them and let go her anchor; it would be certain destruction, until he got to the inner part of them.

Are they at a great distance from the shore?—From a mile and a half to six or seven miles, the sea breaks upon the outer edge.

You mentioned that you were chiefly at Port Louis from the 22d May to the end of June?—Yes.

And that, during that time you went two or three times to the Bay de Cap?—Yes, I did.

Did you go there on receiving a specific information with regard to attempts to land slaves?—Yes, a report to me, that there had been a report by a soldier of slaves having been landed, or an attempt to land.

Did the soldier make a report to you of having fired upon the boats as they were attempting to land?—There were a serjeant and two privates; they were stationed in a hut on the Belle Ombre Estate; one of the soldiers told me he had fired two muskets at a vessel.

Do you remember his name?—No, I never asked his name.

Do you happen to remember the regiment he belonged to?—No, he had no particular uniform there; I rather think he had his white clothing on.

Did he specify to whom he supposed the boat to belong at which he fired?—I cannot call that to my memory; but from the conversation I clearly ascertained, that it was a vessel going with timber from Belle Ombre.

You clearly ascertained that no disembarkation of slaves had taken place?—The impression upon my mind was, that it was impossible.

Did that impression arise from your examination of the soldier, on a subsequent examination?—At the moment of the conversation with the soldier.

Are you acquainted with Monsieur Blankard?—There is a person of that name, at the Mauritius.

Had you any conversation with him?—I do not recollect that I had with him; I used to go among them to get information in one way or another; I cannot say whether I saw him upon this occasion.

Do you think you should know the persons of any of those soldiers, if you saw them again?—I should think he would recognize me as having been there at the period; I cannot say whether I should know him.

Do you think, that if you met him before the Committee, you could mutually explain all the circumstances of that case?—If his memory is as good as mine.

How soon after this circumstance occurred, did you go to Belle Ombre?—I went the very day after, or the same day that I received the report.

Did that report state that any slaves had been landed?—The report was given me by a Frenchman; I cannot say how it was, for the reports were daily, that the soldiers had fired at, or stopped a slave ship, or slaves had been landed; I went immediately to the spot.

Did you find the fact to be, that any slaves had been landed?—The impression upon

upon my mind was, from the conversation with the soldier, and from different persons about, that there had not.

Did the soldier tell you that he had seen any slaves landed?—No, if I remember rightly, not; that he had fired at a vessel which would not bring to, and that she had gone into the Bay de Cap; she was either lying there then, or had sailed that morning, I cannot recollect which.

Was Captain Rennie your predecessor?—Yes.

Was he likely to know whether the Slave Trade had been abandoned?—I cannot answer for another man; I do not know his means of knowledge.

Did he officially declare that the Slave Trade was entirely abandoned?—Not to me.

Did he make any official communication to you to that effect?—I must observe, that I do not think Captain Rennie could have made any official communication to me; indeed I am sure he did not, for all his official communications were to the Commander in Chief at St. Helena; I have a letter from Sir Robert Farquhar, alluding to Captain Rennie's communications, it is dated the 9th February 1821.

[The witness read the same from his letter book.]

[A letter was delivered in by Sir Robert Farquhar, and was read, as follows:]

“ His Majesty's ship the Tees, in Tron Fanfaron, Mauritius,
February 9th, 1821.

“ Sir,

“ I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of yesterday's date, requesting me to state whether any violation of the abolition laws respecting the slave traffic, have taken place, since the return of your Excellency to this government (July 1820.)

“ In reply thereto, I beg to acquaint your Excellency, I have every reason to suppose that not a single slave has been landed since that period, and during the time I have had the honour to command on this station; the schooner furnished by your Excellency, (having crews from His Majesty's ship under my command) have been kept constantly cruising, and have not made any captures.

“ I have the honor to be,

“ Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant,

“ George Rennie, Captain.”

“ To His Excellency R. T. Farquhar, Esq.

“ Governor of the Mauritius, &c. &c. &c.”

Did you, in the first month after your arrival, find reason to doubt the correctness of Captain Rennie's information, that the Slave Trade had been totally abandoned?—Yes, I did.

Was not, in the course of one month after your arrival, the Courier, a slave vessel, set on fire, the Succès captured, and another vessel chased?—The Courier was run on shore and burnt upon the Mauritius; no other vessel, I believe, attempted to land on the Mauritius.

Did not you capture the Succès?—Yes; I will state what my suspicion was.

Did not you chase another vessel?—Yes, I chased the Auguste.

You have stated, that the capture of the Courier put an end to the Slave Trade to the Mauritius?—Yes, I think it did.

Do you think it had prevailed prior to the capture of the Courier?—I do not think there had been more than one instance within the last eight months.

What instance is that you allude to?—As it was before my arrival, I only give general information; I believe it was pretty generally known that there had been a debarkation of slaves on the Mauritius.

How do you know that eight months prior to your arrival there had been any Slave Trading?—I have given it from general information I collected; there had been none besides that.

Was that information collected from Captain Rennie?—He might have given it me, but I do not immediately recollect that he was absolutely the person who told it me; I think if I had received it only from Captain Rennie, I might have doubted; but I had it from people who I knew were engaged in the Slave Trade, and who were afterwards employed by me as pilots, and paid by the colonial government; I was not sure whether I had not the very man who effected the landing.

Please to give a list of the vessels you captured?—The Courier, the Succès and the Industry.

Were those vessels carrying on the Slave Trade to the Mauritius or the Isle of Bourbon?

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Bourbon?—The Courier was carrying on the Slave Trade at the Mauritius direct; the others were doubtful vessels, but they were French vessels, and manned by French subjects; and the only reason we had to suspect the Succès was, the communication with her owner at Nantz, directing her that if she could, without running more risks run his slaves at the Mauritius than he would at Bourbon, he should land them there on account of the dearth of slaves from the cholera morbus.

Do you remember the names of the vessels you chased?—No; nor I cannot substantiate what they were; I can only state the Auguste to be a slave vessel.

The Emilè?—I detained her in the Port Louis for a short period.

Was it not a matter of peculiar danger to seize those vessels?—Yes, certainly, there was a great responsibility attached to it.

Was there not in the court were the cases were tried every disposition to acquit those vessels?—I think, where a jury had to deliver a verdict, there was a disposition to acquit the people tried of the felony; but I do not know that there was a disposition to acquit those tried for the penalties, where it depended upon the sentence of the judge more than the jury.

Were not the charges upon the capture very heavy in cases of conviction?—I think the charges legally were not heavy, but the charges which were made were exorbitant, were enormous.

What was the gross produce of all the vessels and slaves which you captured?—I should think they did not amount to five hundred; about four hundred and seventy of those captured, I think there were one hundred or one hundred and twenty of those in the Courier, some of whom were taken and some escaped.

The question refers to the gross produce to you and your officers for all the vessels and all the slaves you captured?—I have not those documents with me; I think the gross produce given by Government exceeded 2,000*l.* and that the charges dwindled it down to about 1,700*l.* but a great portion of that still remains at the Mauritius, detained by the court there, therefore I cannot answer that without referring to the documents at home.

What allowance did you take for taking the presents to Madagascar?—I received the allowance according to the established Tariff of the Admiralty; I gave to Sir Robert Farquhar the established Tariff, and they were regularly paid me I believe.

Do you recollect what allowances were made for bringing back the princes?—No, I do not exactly recollect; I can read the letter I wrote to the Admiralty stating that I had taken those allowances; I know these were not so much as in many instances, the scale pointed out; I believe I might have been legally entitled to the highest scale.

Did you know Mr. Hastie?—Yes, very well.

What had he originally been?—I think he was in one of the regiments originally, a serjeant in one of the regiments stationed at the Mauritius.

Did you know his sub-agent Barnsley?—No; he was appointed sub-agent at my recommendation at the request of Mr. Hastie, I think I had heard his character and thought he was a man I could recommend.

You have said that General Hall did not carry into effect the treaty with Radama; do you happen to know from Hastie what were his reasons?—No; I do not remember Mr. Hastie's statement of his reasons.

Did you ever see a return from Mr. Hastie, dated the 20th June 1818, in which he acknowledges to the acting governor, that 1,726 slaves had been allowed to depart from Radama's dominions after the signing of the treaty; General Hall being the governor at that period?—I do not remember ever having seen that document.

Do you happen to know that those 1,726 slaves had been for sometime collected upon the coast, but they had not been shipped in consequence of His Majesty's ships Phæton, Conway and Musquito, being cruising on that station?—I know nothing of those transactions.

Did you ever hear of them?—I never heard of them; what I have before said with respect to General Hall, was the effect which the non-compliance with the treaty had upon Tamatave; upon my arrival there they were then collecting their slaves, as I stated the last day that I was here.

Was there an enormous Slave Trade carried on especially amongst the dependencies of the Mauritius, about the 5th April 1821?—I think there was an extensive one, generally speaking, amongst the whole of the dependencies.

What are the dependencies of the Mauritius?—The Seychelles and the Amaranthes, the islands comprised to the northward of Cape Amber as far as the line, and eastward as far as the Chogos Archipelago.

The

The question is, whether there was an enormous Slave Trade, especially amongst the dependencies of the Mauritius, about the 5th of April?—Yes; there was a very extensive Slave Trade.

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So extensive as to deserve the epithet of enormous?—Yes, I think so.

Did you tell the Governor that 1,300 slaves were at sea, intended for the Mauritius, from a certain part of Zanzibar, and that 20,000 were collected at Zanzibar for the same purpose, and twenty-four vessels fitting out for the same purpose?—Yes; I remember communicating that officially to Governor Farquhar.

Have the goodness to read your letter of the 4th April 1821 upon that subject?

[*The same was read.*]

(*Captain Moresby.*)—It was my duty to correspond with the commander-in-chief, he was the person with whom I entered more confidentially into the circumstances of the Slave Trade to the Mauritius, than with Sir Robert Farquhar, because I think if I became culpable, Sir Robert Farquhar would be answerable too, and if he became so, so should I; I related in my letter to the Admiral, matters relative to Sir Robert Farquhar which I never mentioned to himself; there is a further letter of the 9th April on the same subject.

[*The same was read.*]

It was in March 1821 that you first fell in with the *Courier*, was it not?—Yes, I think it was in March she was captured; in was in the evening of the 3d of March.

Where did you fall in with her?—It was not I, it was the lieutenant whom I detached, Lieutenant Weatherly, commanding the *Henrietta* colonial schooner.

Was the *Courier* run on shore?—Yes.

Do you know how many negroes there were on board?—The pilot, Dorval, afterwards told me that there were a hundred. Dorval commanded her at the time, or was one of the officers on board her.

Did Dorval tell you that he commanded her at that time?—To the best of my recollection he did; he always spoke of the *Courier* as a vessel he commanded.

How long did Lieutenant Weatherly pursue her?—She was discovered on the evening of the third, Devil's point, bearing north west; he was able, before the close of day, to approach within one mile of her; and at that time she bore up for the reefs to avoid the *Henrietta*.

Was not the vessel set fire to?—Yes; there is one fact, which perhaps will answer a question put to me as to the difficulty of getting into the coral passes; the grand pass that this vessel went for is the largest pass in the Isle of France; and she had on board one of the most experienced pilots of the Isle of France, Dorval, and yet he could not get in in the night; he ran her on shore, and an experienced officer I had was afraid of running after her.

Did not the firing of the vessel give notice to the soldiers on shore?—I rather think that notice was given to the soldiers by two fires, made to show the vessel where to come in; if that did not do it, of course the firing of the vessel must have done it.

How many of the slaves were captured by the soldiers?—I do not know; I have heard between twenty and thirty, but I have no specific information. Dorval told me that the rest of them were stolen by the people about the place; that he never got any thing for one of them.

If the military posts in the neighbourhood were so efficient as to prevent the Slave Trade, how happened it, that from the notice of those two bonfires and the firing of the vessel, they did not contrive to secure the whole?—I had not been at that time the circuit of the island, and did not know what officers were there; it was immediately on my arrival before I fully effected the measures I had intended.

Did Dorval, the captain of the *Courier*, confess to you that he had been regularly, and for a long time, engaged in the Slave Trade?—Yes.

Did he confess to you that he had introduced six thousand slaves himself into the Mauritius?—No, I do not recollect his specifying the number. I recollect the captain of the *Industry* telling me, she had been the means of introducing six thousand slaves to the colonies, to the Mauritius, and its dependencies. I think it was the captain of the *Industry* told me that.

Had not Dorval committed murder and piracy on the coast of Zanzibar?—He had not actually himself, I believe, committed murder, but those attached to the vessel he was on board, no doubt had. I believe not himself; he was not on the spot, but on board the vessel when the murder was committed by the boat of the vessel detached.

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Could he land at Zanzibar before an arrangement was made with the commander there?—No; I do not think it would have been safe.

Would he have been unsafe, in consequence of his having been supposed to have committed murder and piracy there?—Yes.

Was any reward offered for his apprehension in the Mauritius?—Yes, I believe there was.

Do you know whether, when he was arrested, he had a secret pardon in his pocket?—No, I do not know that; I know that I was the principal cause of his being pardoned.

Did he ever tell you, that he knew he should not be taken, because he knew too much that implicated persons in the Mauritius?—I think he is a man that would say any thing; of course an unprincipled fellow, and I have not a doubt, in some of the conversations I have had with him, he has implied that.

Did not you first see the *Succès* on the 20th March 1821?—Yes.

You pursued her for two days, did you not?—I pursued her for forty-one hours.

Was Bertrand the captain of the *Succès*?—Yes.

And Le Torzee the supercargo?—Yes.

Did you not receive information upon which you depended, that it was the intention to land slaves on the dependencies about the 25th of April?—Yes, about that period.

Did you not, in consequence of that information, go to those dependencies, and did you not find a slave vessel on the spot where you expected to find her?—Yes, I found her on the very spot where I expected, as if she had been waiting for me.

Did not Sir Robert Farquhar give you that information?—He did.

Did you not discover that the motive for sending them to the dependencies was, that they might come with what are called ?—Yes; or *acclimité*, was the colonial term.

Did you not find papers on board the *Succès*, directing the agents of the owners to attempt to land at the Mauritius?—Yes, I found a letter on board from the owner at Nantz to the supercargo of the *Succès*, directing him, if he could, without running more risk than he would do in running them at Bourbon, to attempt to land them at the Mauritius, as from the numerous deaths which had taken place during the cholera morbus, slaves were at a high price.

Did not you find a paper, stating, that the introduction of fifty slaves at the Mauritius, would be more profitable than that of a whole cargo at Bourbon?—I recollect a paper of that sort, but whether on board the *Succès* I cannot say; when a captain finds sufficient cause for detention, he seals up her papers, and delivers them to the Register of the Court of Vice Admiralty, they being sworn to either by the captain or the boarding officer of the vessel; so that I or the acting officer may have very little access to them, unless there is something found out which requires our immediate attention.

Was the *Succès* close to Providence?—At that time we were not acquainted with the exact situation of the island, we supposed ourselves to be within one or two miles, but we could not have been so near, or we should have seen it, though it was night.

Had you the evidence of some of the crew that she was bound for Providence?—I think Peter Miller, a Dane, on board, told me she was bound to Providence, but most of those ships touch at these islands to recruit their water.

Did she make efforts to push for the *Amarantes*?—Yes.

Did she get so close as almost to run you on the rocks?—No; by the reckoning of the French captain he thought he had run past them, but he was out of his reckoning, and by that means saved his own vessel.

Were you entirely of opinion that the *Succès* was one of the vessels of which you received information, as proceeding to introduce slaves into the Seychelles, Mauritius, or Roderique?—I was at that period, but I have had reason to alter that opinion since.

What reason have you had to alter that opinion since?—Because since I captured the vessel I have seen at Bourbon the people who were directed to receive her cargo off Point Rouge.

Did she throw over her guns, boats and anchors, and her papers?—No; she threw over her boats, guns and anchors, but her papers were secured, at least there were papers thrown overboard, but a great number of papers were secured on board her.

Did you examine the papers that were on board her?—I examined a great part of them, all which appeared to have any relation to the Slave Trade, or the concerns of the vessel herself.

Did

Did you find any papers implicating any persons at the Mauritius?—There was a letter found on board, it can be produced; I speak with very great caution upon the subject, because my memory has not been a good one; those papers are forthcoming, for I believe they were put into the register at the Isle of France, in a private letter either to the captain or the supercargo, or the mate of the Succès. There was certainly, in a taunting manner, a reply to some letter he had written, that the people of the Mauritius were not altogether clear of the crime of Slave Trading themselves, and the names of Mr. Telfair and Royers were mentioned; but it was a private letter; if it had been a document I could have gone to the Governor, and said, here is a proof; I should have done so immediately.

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Was this, among the other papers, handed over to the register?—I firmly believe it was.

Was this register Mr. Telfair himself?—It was the deputy register.

Was that Mr. Telfair's brother?—No.

Mr. Telfair was at the head of that office, was he not?—He was at that time register of that office.

Do you know what place Mr. Royers holds there?—He is the harbour master.

Do you know what is the salary of that office?—No; I have heard him say what it was.

Did you ever receive any other information as to Mr. Royers being implicated in the Slave Trade?—I have no hesitation in saying that I never received any specific information, but if I am to tell what I have heard of the inhabitants, it may be considered by some as valuable truths, but I consider them gross calumnies; if I were to tell all I have heard I should go on for two months. I heard most extraordinary stories, but told by most extraordinary persons, and persons not worth crediting; I will not, therefore, answer these questions unless the Committee oblige me, unless I can state what person told me. I have heard through very discreditable persons in the course of conversation, perhaps that Telfair or Mr. Royers might have been in former years engaged in the introduction of slaves.

Did you pay any credit to that information?—At the moment it was of no importance to me what persons had done in 1810 and 1812 and 1813; I found them, I must say, full of zeal in assisting me. Mr. Royers, in every instance, was a most active man in his situation; we were often brought together in the fitting out of boats, and when the Governor gave me requisitions upon him for boats, I was never delayed an hour or a minute, but one of those statements might respect Mr. Royers.

Had you reason to give credence to the various reports made to you by different persons of the Slave Trading in the Mauritius?—Up to the year 1821; but only in one instance for some time prior to that, that was eight months before, I had reason to give credence to the information I received with respect to the Slave Trade from the time I went there to the time I came away; I cannot speak to the time prior, I can only refer to that which was related to me at the time. All the information I had I endeavoured to use. A list was given me, and I acted upon it during the time I was there, and from many of the circumstances being certainly true, I had no reason to suppose that others were false, but I never verified them.

Have you any doubt on your mind that between 1810 and 1821 a vast Slave Trade had been carried on?—Yes, I think there had.

Did you hear any thing specifically relative to any bribes having been given by slave traders to any British officers employed there?—No, most certainly, to my recollection, I never did hear a thing of the sort.

The question does not refer to military or naval officers, but colonial officers?—Dorval, in his conversations the three months he was on board the ship with me, told me that many such things had taken place, but I had only his word for it.

You did not hear it from any other person?—I do not think I ever did.

Have you ever repeated that to any one, expressing your belief of the truth of it?—I do not believe I have, I have no recollection that ever I did.

Did the correctness of the information you received relative to the proceedings of the Succès induce you to believe the remainder?—In the case of the Succès, I received all my information from Governor Farquhar, I received that contained in the same letter.

In consequence of the information received from Governor Farquhar, you undertook a long voyage, and found the vessel where you were told you would find her?—Yes.

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Did the accuracy of that information lead you to believe the remainder of that which was contained in his letter?—It induced me to put great confidence in it.

Was not a part of that information that it was the intention to make a depôt at the Isle of Providence?—Yes, and that was told me by Sir Robert Farquhar.

Did you give chase a few days after the capture of the Succès to another vessel?—Yes.

On what day was that?—I cannot recollect the exact day, but a very short time afterwards.

Do you know what her name was?—The Auguste.

What course was she steering?—When first seen she was steering to the southward.

Was that in the direction of Mauritius or of Bourbon?—She was most probably steering as near a direct course as she could; she would have very likely fetched neither the one nor the other, but it was as near the course as she could steer.

Did you hear from the crew of the Succès, that she was one of two vessels which had sailed from Zanzibar with slaves, for the dependencies of the Mauritius?—Yes, I did.

Of what duration was the voyage in which you captured one, chased another, and heard of a third vessel?—I think three weeks.

This was a few days subsequent to the driving on shore of another vessel, the Courier?—The Courier was the first vessel.

Did you afterwards capture the Industry?—Yes.

Was she a long and well known slaver?—Yes.

What number of slaves had she on board when you first pursued her, and did not take her?—I never saw the vessel before; there is a mistake in the name in my letter book.

Did the Industry annually import some hundred slaves to the Mauritius and Bourbon?—I was told so.

Up to what period had she imported those slaves into the Mauritius?—I cannot state that.

You stated, that in your transactions with Mr. Royers, who is harbour master, you had frequent opportunities of personally witnessing the zeal and alacrity with which he supplied you with the means of prosecuting slave traders?—Yes, I had.

Had you any transactions with Mr. Telfair, enabling you to judge of his zeal and activity upon that subject?—No, I never had with Mr. Telfair; I have had conversations with Mr. Telfair upon the subject of the Slave Trade, and I must own I have received considerable information from him upon that subject.

Information which you found of more or less service to you in the prosecution of your duty?—Yes, certainly.

Did not the directions of Sir Robert Farquhar to you with a view to your adopting measures for the suppression of the Slave Trade, apply equally to the Seychelles as to the Mauritius?—The suggestions of Sir Robert Farquhar always related generally to the whole of the station.

Did you make this report to Sir Robert Farquhar [*the same being shewn to the witness*]?—Yes, I did.

[*The same was delivered in, and read as follows:*]

“ Sir,

“ His Majesty’s Ship Menai, at anchor, Mahé Roads,
Seychelles, July 1821.

“ On Saturday the 8th, following the Sunday that the Menai sailed from the Mauritius, she arrived here.

“ The Poissard, according to the orders I had sent Lieutenant Hay, commanding the Eliza, was discharged from the colonial service (on the 28th ultimo); Lieutenant Hay proceeded at the same time to visit those Islands of Amarantes, which he had not before done, and cruize in their neighbourhood; from this service he has just returned. Lieutenant Hay informs me, that a week prior to his arrival, the Courier of Seychelles, landed a cargo of slaves at the Island of La Digue, and that another vessel had hovered several days off one of the Amarante Isles, under pretext of want of water, but I conjecture, upon hearing the measures that have been adopted, he changed his course, and it is probable is the same who landed a cargo of slaves at Bourbon about that period.

“ These are the only instances that are come to my knowledge of a debarkation having taken place or attempted; I continue to make the strictest enquiry, and I have

have the satisfaction to believe, that the destruction of the *Courier*, the capture of the *Succès*, added to the means your Excellency has placed in my power, has quite appalled the most daring of the slave dealers; it cannot be concealed, that those islands have a superabundant slave population, nor is it possible to detect those who have been clandestinely imported, but I hope the evil will end here.

“It is to be regretted, that the local interests of the person holding the agency of these islands under your Excellency’s appointment, is so great in favour of possessing a large slave population, being actually an extensive slave owner, and proprietor of different islands and estates, requiring their labour.

“I have not the least intention to speak individually of Mr. Madge, but on the broad principle of using the most effectual means to suppress the illicit traffic, and recommending that whenever circumstances will admit, the person holding the agency of these islands, should be prohibited from being the owner of a slave population.

“The *Wizard*, under the orders of Lieutenant Greville, has just returned from cruizing in the parallel of these islands westward, she will resume her station tomorrow, gradually approaching Zanzibar, where I expect to be going by the way of Johanna, on the 4th of next month, into that port; she will precede me for the purpose of surprizing those vessels, of which your Excellency has information, should circumstances prevent my interfering with vessels at anchor in the port; my visit will, at least, have a decided good effect. Your Excellency is well aware of the anxious duties I have to perform, while in the neighbourhood of your Excellency’s government; I have been able to execute them, I trust, to your satisfaction, and that of the naval commander in chief; but it behoves me to be most cautious in the open seas, or in ports not within your Excellency’s government; I mention this, that you may not, from the interest your Excellency takes individually, in the suppression of the Slave Trade, or from the expenses your Excellency has incurred in your high official situation, be disappointed at my not acting in as energetic a manner as you could wish. I shall not fail to report to the naval commander in chief, the effect of the visit of the small cruizers to those islands, for I cannot but regard it as the most decisive step that has been taken.

“I have the honour to be,

“Your Excellency’s most obedient humble servant,

“To His Excellency Governor Farquhar,
&c. &c. &c.”

“*Fairfax Moresby.*”

Is there any garrison at the Seychelles?—No, there is not.

Martis, 23^o die Maij, 1826.

THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, ESQUIRE,
IN THE CHAIR.

Captain *Fairfax Moresby*, again called in; and Examined.

DID it appear upon the trial of the *Industry* up to what year she had imported slaves into the Mauritius?—I think it did appear. I was asked yesterday, whether I had the Register’s account on the condemnation of the *Industry*, I have now brought it with me.

[*The Witness produced the same, and it was inspected by the Committee and returned to him.*]

Were the officers of the *Industry* English subjects?—Yes.

Were the majority of the crew English subjects?—I think about a half.

Had she English flags aboard?—Yes, she had.

Did they appear equally worn with the French?—If I recollect right they were almost worn out, and the French was nearly a new one.

You say that the crew were about equally of one country and another, will you look at that Report? [*a paper being shown to the Witness.*]*—That is a copy of my letter, it was written at the moment; that I see states the majority of the crew to have been English.*

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Did you send the letter, of which this is a copy, to General Farquhar?—I did.

[*The same was delivered in and read, as follows:*]

“ His Majesty’s Ship Menai, Zanzibar,
“ 7th August 1821.

“ Sir,

“ I have the honour to congratulate your Excellency and all friends of humanity on the detention of the long and well-known slave trader Industry, who has annually poured so many hundred victims of her traffic upon the shores of Mauritius and Bourbon. I discovered the Industry from the mast head of the Menai, at anchor off Zanzibar, the 4th instant, ready to proceed with a cargo of slaves; the wind failing I anchored, and dispatched two boats to take possession of her; one hundred and forty slaves were found in irons. Her commander, Mongin, declared her to be under the French flag, although she had none flying; her officers are English subjects, and a majority of her crew, so that the information your Excellency received of her assuming each national flag as circumstances required is true, English ensigns being found equally worn with the French flag; added to this, I have discovered letters which prove that one Bataille of the Mauritius is the person who has directed her movements, and who is no doubt the real owner; thus I trust the case of the Industry will be made so evident, that the French government at Bourbon will open their eyes to the frauds that are daily practised upon them to procure clearances from Bourbon for vessels engaged in the worst of traffics, and dishonourable even insomuch that it is against the commands of their sovereign, and the laws of France. I have fully explained to the Governor of Zanzibar the motives which induced me to seize this vessel, and your Excellency will no doubt communicate with the Iman of Muscat upon the same subject.

“ I have the honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) “ Fairfax Moresby, Captain and Senior Officer.”

“ To His Excellency Governor Farquhar, &c. &c. &c.”

(*Captain Moresby.*)—I observe the word is, the majority of her crew, my impression is that the word was moiety in my original letter book, but in the letter I sent to Sir Robert Farquhar it appears to be majority; in my letter-book it is written moiety.

What became of the prisoners made in the Industry?—If I recollect rightly the greater part of them ran from the vessel when boarded at Zanzibar. Sydney Reoff and some others were on shore at Zanzibar, they escaped; what became of the rest I do not recollect.

How many times did you order the court to be cleared during the trial of Mongin and Dubignon?—I do not recollect; I think two or three times.

Do you recollect why you ordered the court to be cleared?—The impression on my mind was, that we were not likely to come to an agreement till we were by ourselves.

Was it in consequence of any impropriety of behaviour on the part of the audience?—I think it was in one instance.

You say that Governor Farquhar requested you and some others to sign a document to clear himself from the idea of having liberated those persons?—Yes, he did.

Was Mongin a British subject, notorious for his crimes?—Yes, he was; he became a British subject by the cession of the Isle of France to the English government.

Had he been guilty of piracy and murder on the Malay coast, in pursuit of the same nefarious traffic?—I was very well informed so.

Did you believe that?—My belief was that he had been guilty of piracy on the coast, but as for the act of murder I did not form an opinion upon it; from what I heard I was not competent to form an opinion upon it; the Slave Trade, piracy and murder, are so completely assimilated to each other, that I do not know where to draw a line.

Did you see a letter from Governor Farquhar to the Iman of Muscat, stating that the Industry was commanded by a neutralized British subject, Mongin, who had been engaged in the Slave Trade for ten years?—I think I have a copy of that letter, if it is shown to me I can speak to it. [*It was shown to the Witness.*] I can recollect that letter perfectly.

[*The same was read, as follows:*]

“ Sir

“ Sir,

“ Port Louis, 1st October 1821.

“ Since I had the honour of writing to your Highness on the 10th May last, by the Futhal Selam, a duplicate of which communication accompanies this letter, I have not had an opportunity of again addressing you; and I now send this dispatch to be forwarded to your Highness from Bengal, as I am most anxious to communicate with you relative to an incident which took place in the roads of Zanzibar, a dependency of your Highness's government, in order to prevent any misconception of its nature, which might give rise to misunderstandings between our respective governments.

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“ In the dispatch already adverted to, I had the honour of drawing your Highness's attention to the inhuman Slave Trade carried on between Zanzibar and the other ports, on the east coast of Africa and the European settlements in these seas, in direct contravention to the positive laws and institutions of the states to which these possessions belong.

“ I had the honour to solicit from your Highness a prohibitory regulation, forbidding such daring infractions of our laws to be practised in your Highness's ports, with the view of preventing such criminal enterprizes from disturbing the peace and tranquillity of these colonies, and of inducing your Highness to co-operate with the British government, in the final extinction of the Slave Trade throughout the eastern coast of Africa, the principal parts of which are under your Highness's dominion.

“ At the same time, in order to avail ourselves of all the powers at our disposition, or within our reach and influence for the same most desirable object, I communicated to the senior naval officer commanding His Majesty's ships and vessels on this station such intelligence as I could procure, and as might enable him to discover, pursue, and bring to justice the daring criminals in question.

“ This officer, Captain Moresby, of the Menai, proceeded in consequence to cruise in such directions as might intercept slave vessels proceeding from any of the ports in your Highness's dominions or dependencies; and he was fortunate enough to fall in with, and detain a European vessel, with a cargo of slaves from Zanzibar destined to these islands, and brought her for adjudication here when the ship and cargo, after due legal investigation, has been sequestered to His Majesty.

“ During the same cruise, Captain Moresby fell in with and chased a small vessel called the Industry, which has been engaged in the Slave Trade, against our laws, for the last ten years, and has always escaped capture by the superiority of her sailing, and the skill and cunning with which her affairs have been managed.

“ This vessel was known to be commanded by a naturalized British subject called Mongin, a man notorious for his crimes, and for whose apprehension a reward of two thousand dollars had been offered by this government, in order that he might be brought to justice for acts of piracy and murder committed by him on the Malay coast, in pursuit of the same nefarious commerce.

“ The property also, according to our information, belonged to a naturalized British subject of this island residing here at present, who will be immediately brought to trial; the crew in like manner was for the most part composed of British subjects.

“ With this information, therefore, it became the duty of Captain Moresby to endeavour, by all the means in his power, to seize and detain the vessel Industry, her crew, and cargo, and bring them before the courts of this island.

“ With this view he proceeded to sea, and cruized in search of her, until, on the 7th August, he found her lying at anchor in the roads of Zanzibar. This vessel being thus within his reach, he felt it to be his duty to take immediate peaceable possession of her, which he did by sending a boat, which met with not the slightest opposition, the culprits being taken in the fact of violating the most sacred of their own laws, having on board one hundred and thirty slaves destined to be landed in these colonies.

“ Had Captain Moresby hesitated to act as he has done in this case, there can be no doubt that the captain of the Industry (had time been allowed him to get under weigh), must have escaped from the pursuit, as this vessel has done invariably for the last ten years, and would have landed her cargo of slaves on these islands; the occasion, therefore, was too fortunate to be lost; the persons and property which have been detained are exclusively subject to this jurisdiction, and the vessel was not under any colours.

“ Captain Moresby lost no time in landing, and explaining to the governor of Zanzibar

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Zanzebar every part of this transaction, which did not in the slightest degree interrupt the harmony between them.

" I have deemed it my duty to enter into this detail, to prevent the effect of any misrepresentations of the event which might reach your Highness from other quarters. These are the facts simply as they have come to my knowledge, borne out by authentic documents, and therefore not susceptible of refutation.

" Having thus explained, I trust to your Highness's satisfaction, the only incident requiring observation, I avail myself of this occasion of renewing to your Highness the expression of my earnest wishes, that a commerce, mutually advantageous to our respective states, sanctioned and protected by our laws, may be established in place of the odious traffic that has been abolished: assuring your Highness that every encouragement and protection shall be granted to vessels of your dominions, and that they shall be received here with the same friendship and indulgence as the vessels of our own nation.

" I have the honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

" R. T. Farquhar."

" To his Highness the Iman of Muscat,
&c. &c. &c."

How many slaves had the *Industry* on board?—I think between 140 and 150.

Had she been so fortunate as to escape from you at Zanzebar, must she not have escaped your pursuit, and landed her cargo, as she had done for ten years before at the Mauritius?—No, I think not, and these are my reasons. When I quitted the Mauritius on the 1st of June, I think it was the *Cygnets* sloop of war was to remain there a few days; the *Sheerwater* was expected from Johanna, and consequently must come by the same route which the *Industry* would have done; and my order to Captain Roberts, on the 23rd of June 1821, was as follows: " Pursuant to the directions of the commander in chief, you are to place yourself under my command; you are to use your utmost despatch in replenishing and making good the defects of His Majesty's sloop under your command; follow your own judgment for the suppression of the illicit traffic in slaves to this island. The inclosed confidential papers will make you acquainted with the extent of that traffic, and it is peculiarly desirable that you should take a position for the interception of the *Industry*; it is probable she will sail from Zanzebar about the 5th of July, and will attempt a debarkation of blacks upon this island. If you do not receive more definite information than the inclosed papers announce, I should recommend your cruising off Mapoor. You are to be at Port Louis on the 15th of August, and should the *Menai* not arrive before the 20th, you will then proceed to the Cape of Good Hope." The *Eliza* was also despatched from the Seychelles, on the 13th of July, to the Mauritius; she consequently was in the route of the *Industry* coming from the Seychelles. The *Wizard* was cruising immediately off the island of Zanzebar, in the event of the *Industry* coming out, ready to meet her; so that at this period the active measures employed against the Slave Trade were larger than at any other during my command.

You were asked, do you not suppose she would have come to the Mauritius as she had done for ten years before; for how many years previous to her capture do you know or believe that the *Industry* did not land slaves at the Mauritius?—My belief is, that she did not land any slaves at the Mauritius after the year 1819.

Why do you believe that?—From the recollections of the information I received, and conversations I had with the crew and different persons respecting the Slave Trade; and I think from what happened upon the trial of the *Industry* also, when she was condemned. At this period, all the naval force were cruising for the interception of that very vessel; therefore, in whatever way the force was distributed, the exclusive aim was to capture this vessel. I requested, in my public letter, that Sir Robert Farquhar would write to the Iman of Muscat.

Was Mr. Telfair one of the *employés* to whom you referred as suspected of slave trading?—Amongst the general information which I got from Dorval, his name was mentioned, with that of others.

Have you any document there which refers to his name?—Not one; nor have I ever possessed one, except the one I found on board the *Succès*.

Did you yourself suspect Mr. Telfair to be one of the persons engaged in the Slave Trade?—Most certainly not, during the period of my service in the Mauritius.

Would you have examined a vessel carrying his timber as carefully as you did
a regular

a regular slave trader?—All vessels approaching the Mauritius were examined as carefully as they could be.

Did you, in point of fact, examine the vessels to which you have referred, carrying timber between Belle Ombre and Port Louis?—I have no doubt they were examined, because men were appointed to remain on board them till their cargoes were discharged, to see that there were no slaves secreted; I have no doubt that vessel was examined among the rest.

Do you happen to remember, whether any men of yours were on board that vessel at the time you received information that a soldier had fired two or three guns over her?—No, I cannot bring that to my memory.

Have you the report in writing which you received of this soldier's having fired over the vessel?—No, I had no written report.

How did that fact come to your knowledge?—It was told me by a Frenchman at the Mauritius; I cannot recollect the exact date, it was one day in May or June.

Did you make any communication to the officers under your command, who were on that particular station, with reference to that fact?—I went down myself to the spot.

Did you see the officers who were under your command, and on that station, when you made that visit?—Yes; to the best of my recollection I think I saw Mr. Cooper, a midshipman, I cannot positively speak to the fact.

Did you enquire into the facts?—I enquired from a soldier who was there, as I stated before, he had white clothing on; I believe he was a soldier; I think I found there were two soldiers and a serjeant; he was in a little hut on the Belle Ombre estate, opposite the pass.

What was the result of that enquiry?—The impression upon my mind was, that the report was a fallacious one.

That they had not fired?—That they had not fired, or that, if they had fired, they had fired wantonly.

This was about June 1821, that you received the information of the firing?—Yes, it was.

Was not the Bay de Cappe adjacent to Belle Ombre?—Yes; it joined the Belle Ombre estate; I believe the Bay de Cappe was a small promontory, and the Belle Ombre estate is bordered by the Lagoon, immediately to the southward of it.

What was the nature of the information you received which led you to take such extraordinary precautions with regard to this Bay adjacent to Belle Ombre?—I was told it was a point upon which a slave vessel would attempt to land her cargo.

You chased the *Auguste*, and you captured the *Industry*?—Yes, I did.

Have you any reason to believe that the *L'Espoir* was bound for the Mauritius?—I have reason to believe that one or two small vessels were bound to the Mauritius, and I think the *L'Espoir* was one, but I cannot speak exactly to the name.

Was the *L'Espoir* a regular slave trader?—She was not a regular slave trader, she was a vessel of small burthen, if I recollect, and had occasionally been employed in the Slave Trade.

Do you know whether she was regularly registered under the English flag?—That I cannot say.

Have you found Lieutenant Hay's letter, giving an account of having seen a vessel that had just landed slaves at the Seychelles, or at Providence?—I do not think Lieutenant Hay wrote to me officially about any vessel that he had seen that had recently landed her slaves; I referred yesterday to a brig having landed slaves three or four days before his arrival; after that, Lieutenant Hay went to cruise for a week, and then he joined me. It was about the first week in July that the conversation with Mr. Madge must have taken place, if it took place; for when he came into the Seychelles the second time, I was lying there, and had been lying there two days.

If it was a verbal report, do you recollect the tenor of it?—Yes; it is stated in a letter which I gave in yesterday, to the following effect: "That a week prior to his arrival, the *Courier of Seychelles* landed a cargo of slaves at the Island of Ladeeg, and that another vessel had hovered several days off one of the *Amarantes* under a pretext of want of water; but I conjecture, on hearing the measures which had been appointed, he changed his course, and it is probable is the same who landed a cargo of slaves at Bourbon about that period."

Did you take Dorval to the Seychelles with you?—I think he must have gone with us to the Seychelles; I may be mistaken, but that is the impression upon my mind.

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Did Dorval tell you that the Seychelles were made a depôt for slaves?—I do not know that he particularly did; I had that information from different persons; I cannot say particularly that it was he told me so.

From your own observation do you believe that to be the fact?—Yes, I do, certainly.

Did Dorval tell you that he had landed a thousand slaves at the Seychelles in 1822?—I do not recollect.

Did he point out to you any hidden wells?—I do not know that he did; he was a chattering fellow.

Did he point out any places at the Seychelles or Providence, where there were hidden wells for the supply of slaves?—At the Seychelles, certainly not. I do not remember it at Providence; I recollect something of that kind at John de Nova.

Do you remember his pointing out a secret well which would not have been discovered by any persons who did not know the exact spot?—It was certainly very well covered over, but I cannot say whether it was Dorval pointed it out to me. I think it was Mr. Hay pointed it out to me; whether Dorval pointed out it to him I cannot say.

Was Dorval present when Mr. Hay pointed it out to you?—I cannot say.

You said, that from May 1819 to October 1821, three hundred and forty-five slaves were transferred from the Seychelles to the Mauritius, how do you know that fact?—The purser of the *Menai* went to the custom house, and copied it from the custom house books.

Did he copy the number of slaves that were transferred from the Seychelles to the Mauritius in 1822, and that part of 1823 when you were there?—I have the return here which he copied, I think that extends the landing beyond the time I have specified; it is without signature, but it is in the hand-writing of my purser, and he went by my orders to copy it.

[*The Witness delivered in the same, and it was inspected and returned to him.*]

Do you know how many were introduced into the Mauritius from October 1822 to the 1st of May 1823?—No, I do not.

Do you know whether any were refused for not being regular?—Yes, I think in two or three cases they were.

In 1822, and the part of 1823 you were there, were there a larger proportion sent from the Seychelles to the Mauritius than there had been sent in preceding years?—I think that the average number must have increased.

Do you think it had doubled?—I really cannot speak to that fact; it certainly had increased, but not having any return it is impossible that I can speak to that. I was at the Mauritius only at times, and when I was absent of course the officer under me had that duty to perform.

Do you happen to know, that during the time you remained there, from the 1st of January 1822 to June 1823, five hundred and seventy-three slaves were brought in from the Seychelles to the Mauritius?—No, I do not know that; but I think it a very likely number to have been introduced.

Would you have been surprized, if it had appeared by the custom house returns and official gazettes, that 828 slaves had been brought up from the Seychelles to the Mauritius, in the years 1822 and 1823?—No, that would not have surprized me.

Were they entered on board sometimes as domestics?—Frequently as domestics.

Were the persons who carried so large a retinue of domestics with them; persons of large fortune?—No, certainly not as to all outward appearance; as far as all visible signs of opulence could go, they certainly were not.

Were you not surprized, that persons seeming so poor should travel about sometimes with forty or fifty domestics?—I never found myself that number attached to any person; I never saw that, but in the case of the *Ameline* and another vessel, whose name I forget; I think thirty out of the people belonged to the captain and his mother, who were on board.

Have you not observed, repeatedly, in the newspaper, that slaves reported in the official gazettes to have been brought only three days from the Seychelles to the Mauritius, were advertised to be sold by public auction?—In the case of the *Ameline*, it came to my knowledge, that they were sold two or three days after they arrived.

Did you not, from that, infer, that they had been brought in for sale?—Certainly, I did; I spoke of those slaves as the servants of one person, whether they were domestics or plantation slaves I could not tell.

They were entered as domestics?—I believe they were entered as the domestic slaves

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slaves of those persons; the register of each slave is brought with him, and describes him exactly what he is; it is by the register of the slaves that we go.

Is there a class of slaves described as domestic?—I do not recollect that distinction myself; those that I saw were evidently, to all appearance, plantation slaves; they did not bear the appearance of having to wait, even in that country, on the master or mistress, in the state I saw them in; it will appear from the custom house returns how they were entered.

Did they appear to be new slaves, just imported?—Yes; I have stated that they appeared to be new slaves, slaves who had been but a very little time at the Seychelles.

Look at that newspaper, and state whether you recollect at all the passage at the top of that column [*the same being pointed out to the witness*]?—I recognize the paper, but I do not recollect the vessel herself exactly; but the boarding list would tell me, but I do not know whether it is in existence; the boarding list of the ship, and the officers, could be got at the Admiralty, I have no doubt; the boarding list was sent to the commander-in-chief by me, and possibly he transmitted it to the Admiralty, or possibly he kept it as a document by him, and destroyed it at the end of his command; I cannot say which was the case.

You recognize this as the official newspaper of the Mauritius?—Yes, I do.

Do you happen to recollect whether any slaves were advertised for sale, coming by the Theodore, the Theodore having arrived a few days before, and reported to have no slaves on board?—No; I do not remember.

The slaves you refer to were slaves coming from the Seychelles?—Yes, they were legally imported and legally sold, as I have before stated; but the impression upon my mind was that they had not had a very long habitation at the Seychelles.

Have the goodness to look at this newspaper, do you recognize this as a Mauritius newspaper?—I do.

Do you observe that the brig Theodore is stated to have arrived on the 5th of August 1823?—Yes, that appears.

Do you observe in the Gazette of the 16th of August, twelve Seychelles negroes advertised to be sold, reported to have arrived by the Theodore?—Yes, I do; but I think it very likely they relate to a former voyage; those twelve negroes might have come at an earlier period; it is a very short voyage, a twenty days voyage; the period referred to in this newspaper is after I had left; I think so glaring a thing as that would hardly appear upon paper; I think it must relate to an anterior voyage, but being after the period I had left, I cannot, of course, speak to it.

Did you observe that slaves were continually sold, reported to have been brought up a few days before from the Seychelles?—Yes, they were repeatedly sold.

You have said, you had clear proof of Slave Trading at the Seychelles during your service?—Yes.

Did you make any representations to the governor against Mr. Madge, who was the chief agent at the Seychelles?—I certainly did not intend to make it individually against Mr. Madge, I meant to make it against the chief agent of government, in his official situation.

Have the goodness to state the nature of the representation you made?—It is contained in a letter of the 13th of July 1821: "It is to be regretted that the local interests of the person holding the agency of those islands under your Excellency's appointment, is so greatly in favour of possessing a large slave population, being actually an extensive slave owner, and proprietor of different islands requiring their labour. I have not the least intention to speak individually of Mr. Madge, but on the broad principle of using the most effective means to suppress the illicit traffic, to recommend that whenever circumstances will admit the persons holding the agency of those islands, should be prohibited from being the owner of a slave population."

Did you, on slaves coming up week after week from the Seychelles, and seeing that those bore the appearance of new slaves, make any representation to the Governor upon that subject?—I perhaps may have made it to the Governor, but in all my statements to the commander in chief, I set before him the facilities given to slaves being introduced into the island; I believe I also wrote to Sir Robert Farquhar upon the subject.

Were not every possible means adopted to prevent any information from the Seychelles?—All means were adopted; I believe it was the sincere wish of Governor Farquhar, that they should be adopted, as far as they could be, by the local authorities at the Seychelles.

If the Slave Trade at the Seychelles was as clear as the sun at noon-day during

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the time of your service, and if slaves had been legally introduced from the Seychelles to the Mauritius, can you doubt that there had been a considerable illicit introduction of slaves into the Mauritius through this channel of the Seychelles?—I think they were illicitly introduced into the Seychelles, and then legally imported into the Mauritius.

So that there was an indirect Slave Trade?—Yes; there was an indirect Slave Trade, no doubt.

You mentioned a given number you had seen on board, either entitled domestics or slaves of some person; what is the greatest number you have known on board one vessel?—I think the *Ameline* had the most; she had fifty-one; they are very small vessels, which come from the Seychelles; vessels of forty or fifty tons burthen.

Have you known many instances of that number or nearly that number?—Yes, I have known several that must have had from thirty to fifty; fifty, perhaps, is the greatest number I can recollect.

According to your judgment, have the custom house officers endeavoured, as much as they could, to prevent this practice?—I think they did, for we were allied together in endeavouring to prevent it to detect the new slaves.

Did they in point of fact convict any number of those?—No, they were not tried, they were sent back on board the vessel, and taken to the island they came from; for instance, if a registration of a slave was refused, unless he bore the most decided marks of a new slave, he was returned by the vessel when she went to the Seychelles.

Had not the naval commanders, and had not the collector of customs, the power by law of seizing and prosecuting to condemnation any slave of that description he considered to be new?—Yes, and I give my reasons to the Committee in the case of the *Ameline*, why I did not prosecute, in my memorandum to the purser who is left behind, who was stationed particularly at Port Louis, being a very trust worthy man; I have said, "That the midshipmen left in charge of the colonial schooners are to refer to him, Mr. Sholl, the moment they have reason to suspect that a clandestine attempt is made to import slaves; Mr. Sholl will then consult with the collector of customs on the expediency of prosecuting them in the Court of Vice-Admiralty, and should the collector of customs be of opinion with Mr. Sholl, that the laws for the prevention of an illicit traffic in slaves have been violated, will proceed, and so on."

Why did you not prosecute any of those slaves, seeing that so many of them were new?—I stated my reasons in a letter I wrote to Admiral Lambert on the 21st of June 1821. In that letter there is the following paragraph: "On the 10th instant, I detained the colonial schooner *Ameline*, having fifty-one slaves on board from the Seychelles, the half of which belonged to the captain, his wife and mother. I examined them most strictly, in presence of the King's counsel and King's proctor." I thought the case so glaring a one at the time, that I requested the law officers of the crown to assist me. "It was evident many of those were what are called new blacks; but the difficulty of conviction, and the expense attached, over-ruled the desire I had to prosecute the claimants of the suspected blacks. I have liberated the vessel, after acquainting His Majesty's collector of customs of my suspicions; who, from longer experience, and other favourable circumstances, has more facility to prosecute persons importing blacks clandestinely than I have."

In a letter put in yesterday, you stated, with reference to two vessels, "one debarked slaves, and another had been cruising several days off the *Amarantes*; those are the only instances which have come to my knowledge of debarkation having taken place, or been attempted, at the Seychelles. I have made the strictest inquiry, and I have the satisfaction to believe, the destruction of the *Courier*, and the capture of the *Succès*, added to the means your Excellency has placed in my power, has quite appalled the most daring slave dealers." What other supposed instances can you quote?—From the capture of the *Courier*, in March 1821, to the time I wrote that letter, in July 1821, I do not know of any other attempt. I was not informed of any other, nor do I believe there were any.

What were the subsequent attempts?—There were reports of attempts, but I had not any facts upon the subject of them.

There was no permanent naval force at the Seychelles, was there?—No.

Could not one vessel at the Seychelles have prevented any landing there?—I should be sorry to be an officer put in that situation, with that responsibility, with only one vessel, there being six or seven islands.

If you had had a greater disposable force under your command, and had stationed part of that permanently at the Seychelles, would the illicit importation, in your opinion, been materially prevented?—Certainly.

Do you not think that it might be prevented altogether by any naval means at the Seychelles?—Yes, I think it might.

Is there good anchorage at the Seychelles?—Yes, and good harbours.

If one vessel would not effect it, what number would?—One vessel, supplied with effective means, I think would do it; that is, one vessel supplied with a tender and boats, such as Sir Robert Farquhar supplied to me.

Do not almost all the vessels that come from the Seychelles to the Mauritius bring a greater or less number of slaves?—Yes; I think there are few which do not bring two or three, sometimes ten, the average perhaps six or seven.

Did you see, at the Seychelles, the exertions made by Mr. Harrison when sent there by Governor Farquhar?—I took Mr. Harrison with me, and I saw the active measures he took with the gendarmerie, and I wrote that I hoped the evil would end there.

Did he not remain out at nights in search of those persons?—I have heard that he did.

Did you hear of Captain Lesage having been nearly murdered in the same pursuit?—That was prior to my arrival.

You have stated that some of the vessels brought up six or seven; in the list before the Committee, it appears there was no one brought so small a number, but from twelve to twenty, or thirty and forty?—I have no doubt that is correct.

How often were you at Belle Ombre?—I do not remember, I should suppose I have passed over the estate of Belle Ombre, perhaps eight or ten times, but I do not think I remained there above twice or three times.

How often did you see the slaves collected together there?—I saw the slaves collected at prayers I think one evening at sunset; I think that was the only time I saw them collected.

Do you know what quantity of food they were allowed?—No; but I remember enquiring at the time, and I think it appeared to me to be sufficient.

Did those slaves profess to be christians?—Some did and some did not; in that particular estate they were taken great care of, I think more so than on any other estate; there was a very good school-room erected and a garden on the spot, and the children learned to read and to work in the same manner as the poorer classes of people do in this country on Bell's or Lancaster's system.

How many slaves did you see collected together?—I should think about two hundred.

Was that the whole body of slaves on the estate?—I cannot tell.

Was the estate an extensive one?—Yes, it was.

Do you remember how many miles it reached?—I think I must have gone two or three miles up the estate.

Were there any slaves smuggled from Bourbon during your time?—I never could convict any, I suspected there had been; I beg to be permitted, before I close my examination, to read to the Committee two letters, one which I received from the chairman, and my answer to him; I think the extracts which have been read from my letters will be better understood by reading them; that it will appear that my correspondence with the chairman is of very recent date, and that when I received his letters I did not hesitate to give to Mr. Buxton as a public character all the information I could do, but I did not feel myself justified in laying before him public documents: the letter I received from him is in these terms "March the 7th, 1826. 54, Devonshire-street;—Sir, I have lately received various communications which convince me that the Slave Trade, to a great extent, has been carried on at the Mauritius, I am very sensible of the very great and persevering efforts which you made in order to abolish it, and I flatter myself you will not refuse your aid in this country. I have given notice of my intention to bring the matter forward in Parliament; it would however be a matter of great importance to me or rather to the cause of humanity, if you would have the goodness to communicate with me, and I wish it to be understood, that whatever information I receive from you shall be strictly confidential, I will not use it except with your permission, nor will I mention your name." That of course I immediately gave way to when I was called up here.

You subsequently authorized the chairman to make use of any letters he had received from you?—Yes, I did. "If you should come to London, perhaps you

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would do me the favour to let me have an interview with you." Upon these general principles I opened my correspondence with Mr. Buxton; and to his letter I returned this answer; "Sir, I am favoured with your letter of the 7th instant; you are right in supposing I will not refuse my aid to the cause you advocate, but an officer is placed in a delicate situation in referring to official transactions, where his appointment has made him the active agent, or to documents that have necessarily come into his possession. You are good enough to remark that my correspondence shall be strictly confidential; under this impression I shall not hesitate to give you on paper whatever information you may request, and that I can with propriety, and would personally communicate with you, but by long and continued illness, the effects of an African climate, joined to a severe domestic calamity, the recent loss of my only son, prevents me. You say you have lately received communications, &c.; you will excuse me, Sir, when I caution you against advancing such an assertion publicly without the most decided proof; if you fail, it will do more harm to the cause generally than you are perhaps aware. The Mauritius is a small isolated spot, where the renewal of the Slave Trade can only be effected by the most culpable negligence on the part of the executive officers; the means placed at their disposal for its prevention exceed those I possessed, and the sincerity of the government in the desire that they shall be effectually applied cannot be doubted, so that if a fleet of Slave Traders hovered round the Mauritius, a debarkation would be nearly impossible. Many persons resident at the Mauritius were deeply concerned in the Slave Trade, but from the destruction of the Courier in 1821 to 1823, no direct attempts at the Slave Trade had been made. I have been in constant communication with the Mauritius since that period, and think I should have heard if it had happened beyond the extent of one instance mentioned; that a few slaves are introduced from the Seychelles dependencies of the Mauritius, who do not in fact bear the character they profess of registered slaves, cannot be doubted, neither can it be prevented whilst the present laws respecting the removal of slaves exist; and that there may be instances of slaves smuggled in from Bourbon is also very possible, as the trade is to that island partially carried on, and the difference of value of a slave may attract the cupidity of the dealers; but I do not think that you can safely say that the Slave Trade, to a great extent, is carried on at the Mauritius. You are aware, no doubt, that the Slave Trade to the Mauritius, if carried on, is but as a drop in the ocean comparatively speaking; if the Slave Trade is renewed from any port of the east coast of Africa, from Delagoa Bay to the Persian Gulf, it is a most melancholy retrogression in the great march towards final abolition; this subject comprehends extensive matter to enquire into and act upon. When I returned from the Mauritius I hastily drew up a short account, which I think Lord Bathurst and Mr. Peel perused; I also shewed it to Sir T. Acland; it will give you a full and I think clear statement of the Slave Trade generally from the Eastern coast of Africa, and particularly to the Mauritius and Bourbon. If you should wish to peruse these papers I will send them by coach, in the full persuasion that at present you will not make allusion to your source of information; in fact, the public documents I think have already been moved for in Parliament, if not they can be obtained.

"Your's, &c.

"F* Moresby."

Have you seen the mode in which the Slave Trade is carried on?—From the eastern coast of Africa to Zanzibar, and to the Isle of Bourbon, and those only can detail the horrors of the Slave Trade who have witnessed it, from the capture of the negroes to their consignment to the slave ship.

Did you address this letter to the chairman?—I did.

[*The same was delivered in, and read, as follows:*]

"Sir,

"You are acquainted, no doubt, with the extent of the trade formerly carried on from the east coast of Africa; the Mauritius and Bourbon occupied but a small proportion, and prior to 1818, the supply of slaves to those islands were through Madagascar, that is, the negroes were purchased by Arabs on the coast, transported to Johanna, from thence to Bombetor on the western coast of Madagascar, and marched to the eastern side, whence, from Foulpoint or Tamatave, they were shipped for the colonies; the great market for the trade was in the Persian Gulf, at Cutch Scind, the Portuguese settlements, and the colonies in the western hemisphere; and, for the supplies, Zanzibar alone was nearly completely,

consequently,

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consequently, the transport of negroes to this point from the interior, and along an extended line of coast, on the first operations to which I alluded, and which you are so anxious to have. The negroes brought to Zanzibar were of various nations; I have selected indiscriminately three or four of the same cargo, and found they were strangers to each other's language; they had either been taken in war, which I clearly understood being surprised in the night, when the population of a village were carried off, sold by their friends, or taken by the white men, under which term they mean the Portuguese and Arab traders; they had travelled various distances, some for eighty days, and some were the inhabitants of the coast, kidnapped whilst fishing, or betrayed by their own countrymen; of those that came from a long distance, I was enabled to establish some particulars. At Zanzibar it is the constant employment of the Arabs stringing in various forms small and different coloured glass beads; the Hakeem was usually so occupied; these beads are purchased for a small sum by the Arab traders living on the coast, who have others in their employ of the half Arab caste; these make their way into the interior, carrying presents adapted to the taste of the chiefs of that part of the country through which they pass, and whose protection is guaranteed to them on their return. Thus they arrive at a point where little intercourse has taken place, and where the inhabitants are in a state of barbarism; here they display their beads and trinkets to the chiefs, according to the number of slaves they want; a certain village is doomed to be surprised; in a short time the Arabs have their choice of its inhabitants; the old and infirm are either left to perish or slaughtered; they immediately commence their march to the sea coast, generally towards Quiloa or Massia; and so destructive is this march, from the reflected power of the sun on the eyes, that I do not recollect to have seen one Arab who had followed this employment, that had not lost an eye, and many were totally blind. On the march to the coast, the captives that cannot be kept in motion by the whip of the Arab, are abandoned; women, when in the pains of labour, with the sick and the young, soon fall; their track is over those who have gone before, and each successive band leaves memorials behind; so little can the Arab value the negroes as property, that the first purchaser has not a profit of one dollar a head; those that arrive on the coast are selected, according to the different views of the traders; I shall confine myself to those sent to Zanzibar. The Arab dows or vessels are large unwieldy open boats, without a deck, with one immense sail, calculated for navigating only with favourable breezes; as the winds are periodical monsoons, the Arabs wait their change before they commence their voyage, consequently each vessel can make but one voyage in the year; it is during this one, perhaps not exceeding three or four days, that the sum of human misery and wretchedness is complete. I before said, the vessels are open boats, that is, without a deck, yet they are capacious; some, I suppose, measuring a hundred tons burthen; in these vessels temporary platforms of bamboos are erected, leaving a narrow passage in the centre, the same on each side, if the vessels are large enough to permit it, if small, only the centre passage; the negroes are then stowed, in the literal sense of the word, in bulk; the first along the floor of the vessel, two adults side by side, with a boy or girl resting between and on them, until the tier is complete. Some vessels are broad enough for two rows, and some for three; over them the first platform is laid, supported an inch or two clear of their bodies, when a second tier is stowed, and so on until they reach above the gunwale of the vessel; the Arabs, during the passage, supply them scantily with water, and occasionally fill their mouths with rice. The voyage they expect will not exceed twenty-four or forty-eight hours. It often happens, that a calm or unexpected land breeze delays their progress; in this case a few hours are sufficient to decide the fate of the cargo; those of the lower portion of the cargo that die cannot be removed; they remain till the upper part are dead, and thrown over; and from a cargo of from 200 to 400, stowed in this way, it has been known that not a dozen, at the expiration of ten days, have reached Zanzibar. On the arrival of the vessels at Zanzibar, the cargo are landed; those that can walk up the beach are arranged for the inspection of the Imauns (officers), and the payment of duties; those that are weak or maimed by the voyage, are left for the coming tide to relieve them from their miseries, so strongly corroborative of the thoughtlessness with which the Arabs abandon what must be considered property, is the insignificance of their loss; a few beads buying, in the first instance, the whole cargo, and the profit, when landed in Zanzibar, being only two or three dollars a head. When those that are healthy have been a few days well fed, they are decorated with beads, copper trinkets, rubbed with oil, and smeared with paint. In this state, forming a long

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string, they follow an Arab chaunting their qualities, good tempers, and they proceed round the town. If one strikes the fancy of an observer, an examination takes place, which, for brutality, has never been exceeded in Smithfield; perhaps the bargain is concluded for a well grown young man, for six to nine dollars; for the girls near the age of puberty, more. In the evening they are deprived of their ornaments, and sent to the purchasers; such is the outline of the first transport of the negroes from the eastern coast of Africa to Zanzibar. I think it is sufficient for making your intended motion complete, without entering into the more extended voyages of the Arab slave ships, or the various measures adopted for the supply of slave ships by the regular traders. I regret that you should feel mortified that I am not able to give you the statement you wish, but if you were aware of the very uncertain state of health I have so long been in, you would, I am sure, be satisfied at my writing so much as I have done. With respect to its being known that I have given you information, I do not care about it; what came to me in my official situation as senior naval officer, although there is no positive directions against it, I think I ought not to promulgate. Under this impression it was I declined making reference to individuals. I have heard, within these few days, that the *Succès* is ordered to be restored to the French government. What can be done against the Slave Trade by naval officers, after this decision? A vessel, condemned five years or nearly so past, whose owners had directed an attempt to land slaves at the Mauritius; whose captain avowed his intention of running the king's ship who chased him, on the island dependencies of the Mauritius, and part of whose crew deposed the fact of their being on the look out for the very island, where the best information had induced the king's ship to wait her arrival. Better that we had never interfered or legislated, when the misery of the human race is thus likely to be multiplied; the truth is, we are not, as a nation, in that temper and condition of maritime superiority to hold language, and act as in times past. The French captured an English vessel shortly before my arrival at the Mauritius, but I have never heard we obliged them to restore her, either in fact or value. We must, however, hope that better times will come; the present are not propitious. That which we are not able to enforce may of itself rise up in France, a right feeling on the Slave Trade.

“Very faithfully, your's,

“Lympstone, 18th April 1826.”

“Fairfax Moresby.”

In what state was the *Succès* when you took her?—She was in a very dreadful state; the slaves had been confined during the whole of the chase, and I believe several of them were on the very point of suffocation.

Do you remember how many had died previous to the capture?—I believe eleven or twelve.

Between the time of capture and your bringing her into port, how many died?—Eighteen.

What was the time between her capture and her being brought into port?—I think she was captured the 5th or 6th of March, and was brought in in ten or twelve days.

Were the slaves sickly, diseased, debilitated, and in the last stage of dysentery?—There were many of them in the last stage of dysentery.

If you had not captured the *Succès*, would not, in your opinion, a much larger proportion have died?—Certainly.

You have said, that there can be no doubt that, since the capture of the *Mauritius*, a vast number of slaves have been illegally introduced?—I have.

That that went on to a recent date, and that by recent you mean March 1821?—Just so; I have carried it to that date, because that is the date of the last capture. It had lately subsided; the last instance before that being eight months before.

That many of the inhabitants, even *employés* of the government, had been concerned in the Slave Trade?—Yes; which expression I have explained.

Does *employé* mean any thing but a civil officer?—I referred more particularly to persons who had been employed under the French government, and still held situations under the English government; but I was wrong in one instance, for I mentioned one that was not an *employé*.

That from ocular demonstration you were convinced there had been extensive slave trading?—Yes, I think there had been.

That you had clear proof that the Slave Trade existed at the Seychelles during your service, and that it was as clear as the sun at noon-day?—Yes, I have stated that.

That

That slaves from the Seychelles were brought to the Mauritius in considerable numbers?—Yes; there were the numbers stated in the custom-house report.

That the Slave Trade was not considered a crime by the colonists?—That is a matter of opinion; I think they did not consider it as a crime.

That you saw, that notwithstanding the drain upon the slave population of the Seychelles, its population had increased some thousands?—I could make no comparative observation upon the increase of the population of the Seychelles; my observation went so far as the report of Captain Beever in 1810. I had no opportunity of ascertaining the average increase of the populations; but between these two dates there was, no doubt, a very large increase of the slave population.

With all those facts before you, and those opinions, you have stated that you think that the Slave Trade, at the time of your departure, had been entirely extinguished, and extinguished by the moral feeling which had grown up in the colony?—I firmly believe that the Slave Trade at the Mauritius had been extinguished at the period of my departure; but I think it is very doubtful whether the moral feeling of the colony had any thing to do with it.

Do you mean to say, when you assert that it was extinguished, that there was not an indirect slave trading still carried on?—I cannot call an indirect slave trading that which comes from the Seychelles in a legal form, and is legally passed through the custom-house; and where his Majesty's naval officers are satisfied that it is a legal transfer of slaves from one island to another.

Do you, in point of fact, believe, that slaves illegally taken from Africa were from the Seychelles introduced into the Mauritius?—Yes, I believe that to be the case.

Was the transfer of the slaves from the Seychelles to the Mauritius a legal importation, as far as the Mauritius was concerned?—I have said it was.

When you say that the Slave Trade to the Mauritius was extinguished, do you mean the direct trade in slaves, or an indirect Slave Trade by the Seychelles?—I mean the direct Slave Trade to the Mauritius.

During the whole of your professional establishment at the Mauritius, had you an opportunity of forming an opinion of the disposition shown by the governor, Sir Robert Farquhar, with respect to the effectual suppression of the Slave Trade, in every point of view?—Yes; I think it was impossible any one could show more anxiety or zeal than Sir Robert Farquhar did.

Are you of opinion, that in the peculiar state of the Mauritius, with the state of moral feeling which existed in that island in consequence of its having been a French colony, in which the Slave Trade was legal, and being transferred to this country, the course taken by Sir Robert Farquhar, of entering into a treaty with Radama, was one of the most judicious means of putting an end to the Slave Trade in that quarter?—Yes; and I am sure upon that treaty entirely depends the suppression of the Slave Trade.

Do you not think it was a more judicious application of effort to negotiate that treaty with Radama, than to pursue the violation by local measures for the extinction of the Slave Trade in the island?—Yes, I think they will not bear a comparison, that the treaty was attended with much more benefit for the suppression of the Slave Trade than any executive measures which could be taken.

If you found that the Slave Trade was so effectually put down by measures resorted to while you were there, can you believe it could have been carried on to the Mauritius to a vast extent, and for a great number of years together, without gross neglect in some quarter or other?—That is a question which is certainly matter of opinion. I believe there is not a man in existence that could at one period, immediately after the restoration of the Isle of Bourbon to the French authorities, have prevented the Slave Trade to the Mauritius, without a very effective maritime assistance.

Hart Davis, Esq. called in; and Examined.

WHEN did you arrive in the Mauritius?—I arrived in the Mauritius in the month of November 1819.

What was your situation there?—Collector of the Customs.

When did you leave the Mauritius?—In the month of July 1823.

Were you, from your official situation, likely to be acquainted with any illegal debarkation of slaves that might be made in the Mauritius?—From my official situation, it was almost impossible I should not be acquainted with the circumstance sooner

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sooner or later, because if they were taken up in the island by the military or the civil officers, or by any other power, eventually they were sent to the collector of customs for him to prosecute.

Do you remember any such debarkation or seizure between July 1820 and May 1823?—There was a debarkation of the *Courier*, which was in 1821, as well as I remember, in the spring of 1821, in the month of April or May I should think.

Were there in that period any capture of English slave vessels connected with the colony?—The *Succès* was taken by Captain Moresby in 1821; the *Succès* was a French slave vessel, and the *Industry* also; I am not aware that was connected with the colony; the *Industry* was a vessel frequently seen at the Mauritius, for she traded from Bourbon to the Mauritius, and was certainly suspected of being a Slave Trader at times also; but, as well as I recollect, the owners and managers of the *Industry* were in no way connected with the Isle of France; there was a man of the name of Mongin, whether he was master or owner I do not remember, but I recollect that he was the principal person connected with her; I think he was an inhabitant of the Isle of France, but a Bourbon man.

Was the *Courier* the only English vessel taken during that period in the Isle of France, or which landed slaves?—I am not aware of any other between those periods; there was a vessel landed slaves in the early part of the year, while the cholera morbus was going on, several of whom I seized at different times and prosecuted.

Do you know the name of that vessel?—I do not believe the name of the vessel was ever known; a great portion of the slaves thrown upon the island during the time of the cholera morbus was raging in the beginning of 1820.

Do you know what became of the *Courier's* slaves?—There were, I think, in the whole thirty-nine of them seized at different times in the island and prosecuted; what number the whole cargo consisted of I had no opportunity of knowing; there were two I believe seized subsequently in the following year, making forty-one, I think, in the whole.

Do you remember Sir Robert Farquhar's proclamation relating to the *Courier* and the slaves?—I remember there was a proclamation published, offering a reward for the taking them.

Were there any other new slaves seized in the island between July 1820 and May 1823?—There were two new slaves seized in, I think, 1822, who finally proved to be two men of the *Courier*.

Were there not any new slaves in the different debarkations before 1820, who were seized and prosecuted?—Not, I think, subsequently to the date of July.

Are those the two slaves whom you referred to, who had been seized in addition to the thirty-nine?—Yes, there were thirty-nine seized and prosecuted at the same time, in the beginning of 1820; I prosecuted some slaves, I forget the exact period.

How many were there?—I think eighteen were prosecuted, of whom seventeen were convicted and one was released.

Do new slaves, when seized on shore, come to your hands?—Yes.

How do they come to your hands?—If they delivered themselves up to the military, or were found by the military, I believe the orders were for the military to send them to the civil commissary of the district, taking a receipt for them; the civil officer of the district then sent them, as a matter of course, to the officer of police in Port Louis, and there it was to be determined whether they were Maroon slaves or new blacks, subject to prosecution and confiscation; in the first instance, being sent to the police, they would be regarded as Maroon slaves, and if claimed by the master, and the police, had no doubt it was an old slave, he would be delivered up on the production of the certificate of registration, which the master would adduce; but if any doubt existed in the minds of the police as to their being new slaves, they will then send them to the customs for the collector of customs to interpose in the matter, and prosecute, as he is the only person who can prosecute slaves under the Abolition Act.

That was the general rule with respect to any slaves on shore suspected to be new?—Yes; it not unfrequently happened that the slaves who delivered themselves up to the military, stating themselves to be new slaves, turned out on examination not to be so, for a Maroon slave delivered himself up to the military in the hope that he might be considered a new slave, and might get delivered from slavery in consequence, so that it did not always follow, that the slaves represented to be new slaves turned out so.

Were

Were any of the new slaves seized between July 1820 and May 1823 in your opinion belonging to any other vessel than the Courier?—None.

In your opinion, was any considerable landing of slaves likely to have taken place at the Mauritius without such an event being generally known in the island?—I think not, decidedly, from the instances which took place while I was there; I conceive that any landing which did take place would have been immediately known, for though a body of slaves might be kept together in a wood for short time without being seen, stragglers would be always likely to be quitting the main body, and the moment that one was taken up it would be known of course that there was a body there.

Is it, in your opinion, likely that if it had been known that Mr. Telfair had received any new blacks, such a charge would not have been promulgated against him by many persons in the island?—Certainly; there had been a great deal of party spirit in the island, and Mr. Telfair was a person who had many enemies, therefore I should think it very unlikely, or I should say almost impossible, that I should not have heard of such a thing.

Do you conceive it likely that if a slave vessel landing new slaves in the middle of the day was fired at by soldiers, such a fact would not have been communicated to the commander-in-chief in the island, and from your knowledge and intimacy with the commander-in-chief by him to you?—I should think certainly, no soldiers could have any thing to do with a slave vessel without the military authority being acquainted with it, and from the intimate footing I was on with General Darling, I should think it very unlikely it should take place without my being made acquainted with it, as I was on an intimate footing with him, and constantly in communication with him on the subject of Slave Trading; I cannot suppose it possible that the soldiers could be aware of any landing of slaves of which he would not be apprized.

Do you think they would have fired at vessels without his being apprised?—If they were slave traders of course I conceive so; if they had fired at a vessel knowing or believing her to be a slave vessel.

Do you know whether the soldiers had any orders to secure any new slaves they found landing?—Yes; I do not recollect the words of the order, but I know there was an order, and they were to receive all blacks that gave themselves up, stating themselves to be new slaves; any new slaves found landing they were to seize, and I rather think they were to hand them over to the civil power.

Do you believe that the general order now shown to you was acted upon? (*The same being shown to the witness.*)—Yes; this is the proclamation to which I alluded.

That gives the military the power of securing the slaves when they are landed?—Yes.

[*The same was read as follows:*]

“ Head Quarters, Powder Mills, Saturday, 18th November 1820.

“ GENERAL ORDERS.

“ The following Orders having been prepared in obedience to the commands of His Royal Highness the commander-in-chief, Major General Darling directs that they shall be in force until the pleasure of His Royal Highness shall be signified as to their being established as the local regulations of this command.

“ All officers are in consequence expected to be in possession of a copy,

“ By command of Major General Darling,

“ *Effingham Lindsay,*

“ Colonel, Deputy Adjutant General.”

“ Proceedings to be adopted in the case of newly imported negroes:

“ 1. No officer or soldier has authority to seize any negro supposed to be smuggled or newly imported.

“ 2. When negroes are discovered in the act of landing, they are in that case to be detained, with all persons concerned or assisting in the landing.

“ 3. When information is given at any of the ports of newly landed negroes, the non-commissioned officer in charge is instantly to send and apprise the officer (if within a convenient distance) under whose orders he is immediately placed.

“ 4. He is at the same time to send to the civil commissary of the district, and to repair with the men under his command to the spot where the negroes are understood to be assembled or secreted, that he may be in readiness to act; but he will

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not seize any negro until his assistance is required by an officer of the civil government.

“ 5. It will be his duty to watch the negroes if removed, to follow them, leaving a man to inform the civil commissary of the road they had taken, and any particulars which it may be necessary to communicate.

“ 6. The officers commanding out-posts are to act conformably to what is herein laid down, and the result of all proceedings in cases of this nature is to be immediately and circumstantially reported to the military secretary, for the information of the general officer commanding.

“ 7. When negroes deliver themselves up, or are brought to any of the posts as newly imported, they are to be taken to the police office or to the civil commissariat of the district; a receipt is to be obtained specifying the number which, with a report of the circumstances, is to be forwarded to the military secretary.

“ 8. The officers and non-commissioned officers in charge of posts are to be in possession of a memorandum of the name of the civil commissary of the district, and they must take care that the men are acquainted with his residence, so as to prevent any time being lost in communicating with him on emergencies.”

Under what regulations were slaves, transferred from the Seychelles, admitted into the Mauritius?—I do not recollect the Act of Parliament under which the transfer takes place; it is an Act of George the Third, allowing the transfer of slaves from one colony to another.

Were you authorized to seize any of those new slaves, or slaves coming in any way which created a suspicion in your mind?—Certainly, under the Act of Parliament.

Had you not an interest in seizing them?—Certainly; the bounties given by the order in council made it the interest of any person to seize blacks that could be legally seized and condemned.

Was Mr. Telfair the registrar of slaves at the Mauritius at that or any other time?—No; Mr. Bradshaw was the registrar of slaves.

Was it your opinion, during your residence at the Mauritius, that the planters, or any of them, were or were not engaged in slave trading?—No, I should not think the planters themselves were. In the beginning of 1820, at the time the landing took place which I have before alluded to, when General Darling was acting governor, he was extremely annoyed at it, hoping it had been entirely brought to a close at that period; but he published a proclamation, or an address to the inhabitants, rather implying that the planters themselves were the cause of it; because, he said, although I do not pretend to say you, the planters, are the slave traders, or the importers, it must be obvious, that if there were no purchasers there would be no importers. Great indignation was felt by the respectable planters at this proclamation, on the ground that it conveyed directly an attack upon them, as being the importers of slaves; and they stated, that although persons might always be found in every colony to run a venture of that kind, which would be a profit to themselves, it was a very unfair proceeding to charge the planters generally as participating in any degree in the advantages which would arise out of a small number of slaves being introduced, when not one in five thousand of them could, even in the common course of purchase, have the chance of having one of them in his possession; and I confess my own private opinion is, that the respectable planters in the Mauritius really wished the thing to be discontinued, when I say that it is not only on the principle of their morality, but that it was positively their interest to do it away; and I think, however they might have been misled in their interest originally, latterly a very strong feeling prevailed that it was consistent with their interest to put an end to it.

Did you know Captain Rossi in the Mauritius?—I did; I was slightly acquainted with him.

What was his situation?—Superintendent of convicts, and aid-de-camp to Sir Robert Farquhar.

What was the employment of the convicts?—The convicts were employed on the roads, in keeping the roads of the colony in order.

Are you acquainted with any orders, written or verbal, that were given by Captain Rossi to the superintendents of convicts, with reference to their non-interference with slaves?—No, I am not.

Do you conceive such were the duties of the superintendent of convicts, that it was

was desirable he should be limited to the execution of his duties, without being employed in looking out for slaves?—Certainly; it was impossible that a man could look after the convicts, and after new slaves, at the same time.

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Do you not think it the duty of the head of the convict department to issue orders to the superintendants to limit their interference to the special duties of their situation?—I can easily believe a necessity might have arisen from this circumstance, that it might have been considered a very meritorious act, as indeed it always would be, on the part of soldiers, or any persons connected with government, to seize any blacks suspected of being new slaves; but that had led, as I understood it was before I was in the island, to great inconveniences, under General Hall's short government, and to considerable irregularities, as I believe they were considered by the law officers; and it was finally then determined, that soldiers ought not to be getting into the plantations, with a view of forming their own judgment whether slaves were or were not recently imported, that they might see that; but until that took place, I rather apprehend it was thought a meritorious part of a soldier's duty so to occupy himself; and although in the military it might not have produced much inconvenience, as there might be others to do their duty, I can easily believe, that in an officer like a superintendent of convicts, it might be productive of most serious inconveniences: that, I think, might very naturally call for an order, such as I have described; whether it did, I cannot say.

When you draw the distinction which you have done, between the duty of a superintendent of convicts and a searcher after new slaves, would you apply that to any interference on the part of the superintendents of convicts, if a debarkation actually took place under their eyes, and that, without seeking for the new slaves, a violation of the law took place under their own knowledge?—Oh dear no! I cannot conceive, that if the debarkation took place under any person's eyes, they could omit to interfere.

From your knowledge of Captain Rossi, do you think he could be capable of issuing an order, either verbal or written, which should have for its object the prevention of seizure, on the part of the superintendent of convicts, in cases where such seizure was not manifestly incompatible with the exercise of their daily duty?—I should think not decidedly; because, in the first place, although I was not intimate with Captain Rossi, yet, from every thing I have seen of him, I should think his moral feeling would prevent any order of that kind; but, independently of that, it was so obvious, that any officer of government issuing an order of that kind, would subject himself to so heavy a responsibility, that I cannot conceive that any man, but of shallow judgment, would do so.

You think his moral feeling would prevent his doing it?—Yes, certainly; he was a very strict, active officer, rather a disciplinarian, and, I conceive, a man who would adhere to his orders more strictly than most persons.

Supposing a debarkation had taken place in the day time, in the Bay de Cap, of fifty or sixty slaves, and that this debarkation had been witnessed by one or two or more soldiers, and that it had been attended with the circumstance of one or two shots having been fired by those soldiers to bring the vessel to; admitting all this to be true, do you think it possible that such facts should have escaped the knowledge of General Darling?—If the vessel was really a slave vessel, I conceive it was absolutely impossible. I can conceive a vessel being mistaken for a slave vessel, the persons having at first thought she was a slave vessel, and afterwards being undeceived, in which they might not think it necessary to communicate with their commanding officer; but if she was a slave vessel, and challenged as such, I think it absolutely impossible that such facts should not be known to General Darling within six hours; and I am quite satisfied I should have soon heard of it, for I was in continual habits of communication with General Darling on the subject of slave trading.

What was the character of General Darling with respect to his alacrity in the discharge of his public duty?—General Darling is a very active officer, one of the most active officers generally, for he is never happy if he has not some active business on his hands; with regard to the Slave Trade, it appeared to be, from the time of his going out, a point on which not only his own feelings were strongly excited, but on which he considered that his duty required great exertions on his part; and I do not know one I have ever seen that I should say was, from his moral feeling and his idea of duty combined, more likely to have followed up any clue towards the

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detection of Slave Traders, as far as he thought he could rightly. I have often conversed with him on the subject.

Did you know the schooner owned by Mr. Telfair?—Yes, I believe he had one or two; but in fact every inhabitant had one, their produce was brought round to Port Louis, the only port from which it can be exported, and a schooner was the only vessel by which it could be done.

If there had been a sudden increase of negroes on any plantation in the island, assuming that a debarkation had been made, by which the gang had been numerically increased, do you think you should have had knowledge of that fact?—Not of the increase of slaves on the plantation; I have nothing to do with the registration of slaves or their situation on the plantations, but as they must eventually come to the collector of the customs, if taken for prosecution; but as I was in the habit of intimacy with General Darling, through whom any thing of that kind was likely to be immediately heard of, the soldiers, being scattered about the island, the new slaves giving themselves up to the soldiers frequently, I do not think it likely that any thing of that kind could take place without my being made acquainted with it.

When you speak of any knowledge likely to come to you officially of Slave Trading in the Mauritius, you refer only to the circumstances of slaves illegally imported being taken, and not of slaves who might have been imported but not taken?—No; officially I could have no sort of acquaintance with persons of whose arrival I had not heard; but this I mean to say, I do not think it at all likely, as far as my opinion goes, that there was any person in any situation above quite the lowest orders but would have heard of a landing if it took place, it was a thing commonly talked of; we heard that there had been such a thing in such a place, and though the blacks were not caught, yet in the two instances that did occur while I was there, it was very generally known that such an event had taken place.

When you express your confidence, that soldiers firing on a slave schooner effecting an illegal debarkation of slaves would be reported to General Darling, do you not assume that the soldiers, under these circumstances, were at their post, and that in consequence of the execution of their duty at their post, they fired upon the schooner and reported the circumstance?—I can conceive, that if the soldiers were off duty and wished to hide what they had been doing, they would not report it of themselves.

Supposing soldiers off their posts, and not on duty, witnessing a debarkation and firing to bring a schooner to, would that have been as likely to have been reported to General Darling as if the occurrence had taken place in a more regular manner?—If they thought they had been doing wrong, in all probability they would not have been willing to report any thing they had done wrong then, but as this would have been recorded as a meritorious act, I cannot conceive why it should not be reported by them.

Suppose they had been off their post?—I conceive a soldier off his post would be very unwilling to report any thing which occurred.

You have said, that you should be likely to hear, sooner or later, of any slaves being landed, because if they were taken up they would sooner or later come before the collector of the customs for him to prosecute, that supposes that you would have been acquainted with the importation of such slaves as were discovered and prosecuted; but do you or do you not conceive, that it might be extremely possible that slaves might have been run on shore and taken into the gangs upon estates in different parts of the island, when it was the interest of the parties to conceal them, and that they might have been so concealed as never to have come to the knowledge of the constituted authorities at all?—No, I do not, for this reason; of the blacks that I prosecuted whilst in the Isle of Mauritius, I was for six months receiving communication, one was brought in after another from one landing, and the way in which they were brought in was this; a black is sent with a certificate of registration, probably so that a person may buy a black with all the legal forms attending such a sale; the black at the same time is desirous of getting away from this slavery, and as soon as he becomes aware that there are civil commissioners or parties of soldiers stationed in his neighbourhood, to whom he can give himself up, he takes the first opportunity that can present itself of giving up himself to a civil commissary or a soldier; and it not unfrequently happened that blacks gave up themselves as new slaves who turned out not to be new slaves; but the greatest part of those taken up while I was in the island, except in the case of the Courier, where there were twenty taken up in one lot, but a list amounting to fifty or sixty were invariably brought in by one
and

and one at a time, consequently I cannot suppose it possible that any number of slaves could be distributed among the plantations, in the manner described, without some one of those slaves, at some period or other, giving up himself to one of the civil commissaries or the soldiers in his neighbourhood; if it turned out that his story was a true one, the government, I think, could not but become aware of the fact of a landing having taken place.

Were those civil commissaries, generally speaking, French or English?—French; but they gave a receipt to the military for every black taken up.

Do you apprehend that those civil commissaries were anxious to discharge their duty in the seizure of new slaves?—I should think they must have been, because as I said before, whatever their moral feeling might be upon the subject, they must have felt as every man in any authority in the island did feel, that their character as officers of the government depended upon their executing with fidelity that particular duty entrusted to them.

Did you find, during the whole time you were there, that feeling on the part of the civil commissaries?—I do not speak from my own knowledge of them, for I do not think I was acquainted with any of them; they lived in the country, they did not live in the town.

Were they planters?—Yes.

Did they partake of the general feelings of the rest of the inhabitants of the island?—Not, perhaps in the same degree at any period as a planter in the same station, for there is a feeling among the French greater than among the English in respect of government; the lowest subaltern in a French colony fancies himself a part of the government, and he has an *esprit du corps* not generally known.

What was the feeling among the inhabitants on this subject?—I think from the end of 1819, the feeling of the inhabitants was favourable to the suppression of the Slave Trade, decidedly so latterly, and I really thought in the beginning of the year 1820, when the proclamation was published conveying reproach on the planters generally, that they did exonerate themselves fairly from the imputation.

Was that the proclamation of General Darling?—Yes.

Was that issued after you had gone into the island?—Yes, it was.

The question alludes to the proclamation of July 1819?—No; that I allude to was during the prevalence of cholera morbus I recollect.

Do you conceive that General Darling had the means of knowing and judging accurately what was the feeling of the planters upon this subject?—Perhaps not accurately.

Had he a means of judging accurately whether there were violations of the law with regard to Slave Trading?—I think so, for the reasons I have stated.

Are you aware that he issued a proclamation stating this, “The Major General regrets his disappointment in this most reasonable expectation, certain individuals having carried their disobedience of the laws to an extent which calls for the prompt interference of the government, in order to prevent by legal, but severe measures, those daily violations which though public and notorious, no one will assist in bringing to justice, and but too many are ready to protect and conceal; the inhabitants therefore, who as good subjects should unite in putting a stop to the Slave Trade which is carrying on at this moment with a vigour as peculiar to this island as it is disgraceful to the station which it fills in the civilized world, cannot be surprised at the adoption of any measures which may hold out a prospect of efficiency for the object it has in view, can no longer be influenced by any consideration of inconvenience to commerce at large?”—I heard there had been such a proclamation, but it was before I was on the island.

Do you conceive that the circumstances justified the language?—It was not justified by any thing I saw in the island, but it is very possible that on the change of an acting governor some individuals like Mongin and connected in some degree with the colony, who were at least looking out at all times for an opportunity to run a cargo of slaves if they could with impunity, might have thought at the moment of General Darling's coming into the government, a laxity would take place before a person was well aware of his authority or the measures to be adopted; I can conceive, therefore, that they might be extremely active at a moment like that, and that General Darling would therefore feel it peculiarly incumbent upon him the moment he discovered this, to issue a proclamation as strong as he could, to

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strike a terror into those persons, and to let them see that he was not more dormant than the person who preceded him; indeed I rather think that was General Darling's own view upon the subject subsequently; for I have often discoursed with him on the system of the Slave Traders, and he said that he thought upon his first arrival in the island, they had been extremely in hopes that the activity that had prevailed previously to his arrival, was going to be suspended, and that it was a good opportunity to make an endeavour.

Having referred to the authority and information of General Darling, do you apprehend that proclamation would have been issued if the state of the facts had been contrary to it?—I conceive undoubtedly there must have been some landing of new slaves to have authorized that proclamation.

Supposing that applicable to the state of things at the date of its issue, do you conceive that such an alteration of practice and opinion had immediately taken place, as to render a continuance of the traffic a matter extremely improbable?—That again depends, putting the moral feeling out of the question, on a question of fact. I can conceive, that on a new governor coming to his post, the traffickers would take an opportunity of trying whether that was not a fit moment for running cargoes of slaves, and that if they were foiled in their first attempt, they would no longer think it worth their while to attempt it; for amongst that class of persons, Mongin, and others like him, one cannot suppose there was any moral feeling whatever: it arose entirely from a feeling of interest. That is not the class of persons I allude to, when I speak of planters.

Do you suppose that the regular slave traders would have felt it to be their interest to run a cargo of slaves into the Mauritius, unless there had been something like an understanding with parties resident in the Mauritius to take them?—There must have been some understanding, but I believe the mode of proceeding would be pretty much like that in the case of the Courier: a party of blacks being landed, would be got into the wood; there, it would be hoped, they could be kept secret for some time until they had made arrangements for selling them; and in order to sell them, they must get certificates of registration; now, unquestionably, in the Mauritius there must at all times be, and I dare say there always will be, a certain set of persons of low and bad character, who would never object to being engaged in any scheme of that sort, provided their interest seemed to lead to it. There were particularly some men of colour, of supposed bad character in that way, whose names I do not now recollect; but nothing would be more easy, than, with a connexion with half a dozen persons of that sort possessing slaves, which, in fact, is the only property almost, having a certain number of slaves registered, and consequently having a certain number of certificates of registration, that, as their blacks died, they would have a certificate of registration to dispose of; but in a connexion with the party running the slaves on shore, they would fit a certain number of certificates of registration to those blacks.

Have you not seen a dispatch from Major General Darling, dated Mauritius, the 17th December 1819, addressed to Mr. Goulburn, in which there are these words: "That there is a great number of unregistered slaves on the island, is an indisputable fact, which is sufficiently established by the frequent reports I have had made to me during the short period I have held this command, in which I have not failed to notice the activity and ardour with which the Slave Trade is pursued by the dealers, and the avidity with which new negroes are purchased by all descriptions in the community, when once introduced into the colony?"—No; I was not aware of such a dispatch; I have heard General Darling speak of the substance of the dispatch.

Have you heard General Darling speak of the avidity with which new negroes were purchased by all descriptions in the community?—No.

Was not General Darling, at that particular period, in a state of violent animosity with the colony at large?—Yes; he was on bad terms with the colony at the time I arrived there in December 1819.

Was not the cause of that animosity the vigorous measure he took for putting down the Slave Trade?—That was a cause unquestionably for his being at enmity with a certain proportion of the community, but I think that was not a cause for his being at enmity with the community at large; what I understood to be the cause of his quarrel with the colony was, his having charged on the planters generally, what they considered ought only justly to be charged upon a very small proportion

portion of the community ; if they were right in their feelings, I confess I am not at all surprised that they should feel an animosity upon the subject.

Where did you reside in the island?—In Port Louis the greater part of the time.

In the year 1820, you were never probably in the southern part of the island, about the Bay de Cappe?—No, I was never there in my life.

Had you any officer belonging to your department in that quarter, from whom you were in the habit of receiving reports?—Never.

You were in the constant habit of communication with General Darling?—Yes, I was.

You were in the island in February 1820?—Yes.

Did he communicate to you, as he did to Lord Bathurst, that various landings of new slaves took place in different districts of the island from day to day?—No, he did not, most decidedly.

Do you think he would have stated that to you, if he knew the fact?—That is the period at which I have already stated one landing undoubtedly did take place.

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23 May
1826.

MAURITIUS SLAVE TRADE.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Appointed, (in the last Session of Parliament)
to inquire whether the Slave Trade has pre-
vailed at the *Mauritius*, and to what extent,
and the causes thereof.

13 May ——— 23 May
1826.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
26 February 1827.
