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### **Center for Research Libraries**

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# **R E P O R T**

FROM THE

**SELECT COMMITTEE**

ON

**NEGRO APPRENTICESHIP  
(COLONIES.)**

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
12 July 1837.*

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*Veneris, 19° die Maii, 1837.*

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*Ordered, THAT* a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the working of the Apprenticeship System in the Colonies; the Condition of the Apprentices and the Emancipated Negroes, and the Laws and Regulations affecting them; and also the State of Education of the Negroes in the Colonies.

And a Committee was appointed of—

Mr. Fowell Buxton.

Sir George Grey.

Mr. O'Connell.

Mr. Gladstone.

Mr. Baines.

Sir Stratford Canning.

Mr. Labouchere.

Mr. Andrew Johnston.

Mr. Thornely.

Mr. Patrick Stewart.

Mr. Charles Lushington.

Mr. Dunlop.

Sir James Graham.

Lord Viscount Sandon.

Lord Viscount Howick.

*Ordered, THAT* the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

*Ordered, THAT* Five be the Quorum.

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*Mercurii, 12° die Julii, 1837.*

*Ordered, THAT* the Committee have power to Report their Observations, together with the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them, to The House.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

## MEMBERS PRESENT.

*Martis, 23° die Maii, 1837.*

Mr. Andrew Johnston.  
 Sir George Grey.  
 Mr. Fowell Buxton.  
 Sir Stratford Canning.

Mr. Dunlop.  
 Mr. Charles Lushington.  
 Mr. Thornely.

Mr. LABOUCHERE called to the Chair.

*Martis, 31° die Maii, 1837.*

Mr. LABOUCHERE in the Chair.

Mr. Thornely.  
 Mr. Fowell Buxton.  
 Mr. Gladstone.  
 Mr. Andrew Johnston.  
 Examined a Witness.

Sir Stratford Canning.  
 Mr. Charles Lushington.  
 Sir George Grey.  
 Mr. Dunlop.

*Sabbati, 10° die Junii, 1837.*

Mr. LABOUCHERE in the Chair.

Mr. Fowell Buxton.  
 Mr. Gladstone.  
 Mr. Thornely.  
 Mr. Charles Lushington.  
 Mr. Andrew Johnston.  
 Sir George Grey.

Examined a Witness.

Mr. Patrick Stewart.  
 Mr. O'Connell.  
 Sir Stratford Canning.  
 Lord Sandon.  
 Mr. Dunlop.

*Lunæ, 12° die Junii, 1837.*

Mr. LABOUCHERE in the Chair.

Mr. Thornely.  
 Mr. Gladstone.  
 Mr. Charles Lushington.  
 Mr. Andrew Johnston.  
 Mr. Fowell Buxton.

Mr. Baines.  
 Sir George Grey.  
 Mr. Patrick Stewart.  
 Sir Stratford Canning.  
 Mr. Dunlop.

Motion made (by Mr. Buxton), and Question put—

“That in order to secure the Negroes, who may have given information, from punishment, the Evidence in the first instance be given without names, dates or places.”

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 2.

Mr. Fowell Buxton.  
 Mr. Andrew Johnston:

Examined a Witness.

Noes, 5.

Sir George Grey.  
 Mr. Thornely.  
 Mr. Charles Lushington.  
 Mr. Baines.  
 Mr. Gladstone.

*Mercurii, 14° die Junii, 1837.*

Mr. LABOUCHERE in the Chair.

Sir Stratford Canning.  
 Mr. Andrew Johnston.  
 Mr. Gladstone.  
 Mr. Baines.  
 Mr. Charles Lushington.

Examined a Witness.

Lord Sandon.  
 Mr. Patrick Stewart.  
 Sir George Grey.  
 Mr. Fowell Buxton.

*Veneris, 16° die Junii, 1837.*

Mr. LABOUCHERE in the Chair.

Mr. Thornely.  
 Mr. Fowell Buxton.  
 Mr. Charles Lushington.  
 Sir George Grey.  
 Mr. Patrick Stewart.

Examined a Witness.

Mr. Baines.  
 Mr. Andrew Johnston.  
 Lord Sandon.  
 Sir Stratford Canning.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE—*continued.**Sabbati, 17° die Junii, 1837.*

Sir STRATFORD CANNING in the Chair.

Mr. Gladstone.  
Mr. Charles Lushington.  
Lord Sandon.Mr. Thornely.  
Mr. Andrew Johnston.

Examined a Witness.

*Lunæ, 19° die Junii, 1837.*

Mr. LABOUCHERE in the Chair.

Mr. Charles Lushington.  
Mr. Gladstone.  
Mr. Patrick Stewart.  
Mr. Fowell Buxton.  
Mr. Thornely.Sir George Grey.  
Mr. Baines.  
Mr. Dunlop.  
Sir Stratford Canning.  
Mr. Andrew Johnston.

Examined a Witness.

*Sabbati, 24° die Junii, 1837.*

Mr. LABOUCHERE in the Chair.

Mr. Fowell Buxton.  
Mr. Thornely.  
Mr. Charles Lushington.Mr. Baines.  
Mr. Andrew Johnston.  
Lord Sandon.

Examined a Witness.

*Lunæ, 26° die Junii, 1837.*

Mr. LABOUCHERE in the Chair.

Mr. Fowell Buxton.  
Lord Sandon.  
Mr. Thornely.Sir James Graham.  
Sir George Grey.

Examined a Witness.

*Veneris, 30° die Junii, 1837.*

Mr. LABOUCHERE in the Chair.

Sir George Grey.  
Mr. Gladstone.Mr. Thornely.  
Mr. Dunlop.

Examined Witnesses.

*Lunæ, 3° die Julii, 1837.*Mr. Labouchere.  
Sir George Grey.

Mr. Gladstone.

*Mercurii, 5° die Julii, 1837.*

Mr. DUNLOP in the Chair.

Sir George Grey.  
Mr. Fowell Buxton.  
Mr. Charles Lushington.Mr. Gladstone.  
Mr. Patrick Stewart.

Examined Witnesses.

*Veneris, 7° die Julii, 1837.*

Mr. CHARLES LUSHINGTON in the Chair.

Mr. Dunlop.  
Mr. Fowell Buxton.Mr. Gladstone.  
Sir George Grey.

Examined a Witness.

*Mercurii, 10° die Julii, 1837.*

Mr. LABOUCHERE in the Chair.

Mr. Fowell Buxton.  
Lord Sandon.  
Mr. Patrick Stewart.Mr. Gladstone.  
Sir Stratford Canning.

Report proposed by the Chairman, read and agreed to.

# R E P O R T.

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THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the working of the APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM in the COLONIES; the CONDITION of the APPRENTICES and the EMANCIPATED NEGROES, and the LAWS and REGULATIONS affecting them; and also the STATE of EDUCATION of the NEGROES in the COLONIES; and who had Power to report their Observations to The HOUSE:—HAVE examined the Matters to them referred; and have agreed to the following REPORT:—

YOUR COMMITTEE regret that owing to the late period of the Session at which they were appointed, and the prospect of its premature termination, they have been able to proceed but a little way in the investigation of the various important questions which have been submitted to them.

Under these circumstances, they do not feel warranted in reporting to The House the Evidence which they have received, nor in expressing any general opinion upon it.

There is, however, one subject to which they consider it to be their duty specially to advert: the state of the Workhouses and of the Prison Discipline is so intimately connected with the working of the Apprenticeship system, that it has engaged the anxious attention of Your Committee, particularly as it exists in the Island of Jamaica, to which their inquiries have been principally directed; and it appears to them to be indispensable that there should be instituted, without delay, a strict and searching examination into the state of the Workhouses in the West Indian Colonies, and especially into the construction and use of the Treadmills which are employed in them, and the nature of the coercion adopted to ensure labour among the prisoners.

It has been satisfactory to Your Committee to learn that the attention of the Colonial Office has been directed to this question, and that it is the intention of that Department to take effectual means to obtain the information which is required upon it.

In conclusion, Your Committee would recommend, that a Select Committee should be appointed to pursue this Inquiry in the next Session of Parliament.

*July 1837.*

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FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

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NEGRO APPRENTICESHIP  
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