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P A P E R S

RELATING TO THE

S L A V E T R A D E.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
4 July 1815.

LIST OF PAPERS

Presented on the 2d of June 1815.

- No. 1.—Affidavits of Moyes Perrier and Charles Perrier, dated Dominica, 9 July 1813; Joseph Geroing, dated Dominica, 9 July 1813; and François Vidal, dated Dominica, 9 July 1813 - - - - - p. 3
- No. 2.—Affidavits of Joseph Wilson, dated Dominica, 19 September 1814; and Daniel Constable, dated Dominica, 19 September 1814 - - - - - p. 4
- No. 3.—Affidavits of Alexander Belaire, dated Dominica, 11 November 1814; and of Charles Giroux; dated Dominica, 12 November 1814 - - - - - p. 5
- No. 4.—Affidavit of James Wilson; dated Dominica, 11 November 1814 - - - - - *ibid*
- No. 5.—Letter from Archibald Gloster, Esquire, Chief Justice and President of Council, to William Bruce, Esquire; dated Dominica, 6 November 1814 - - - - - *ibid*
-

PAPERS RELATING TO THE SLAVE TRADE.

3

— N^o 1. —

Copy of a LETTER from Mr. Barrow, dated Admiralty Office,
17th April 1815:—With Two Enclosures.

SIR,

Admiralty Office, 17th April 1815.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to transmit to you, for the information of Earl Bathurst, the enclosed Copy of a Letter, dated the 13th ultimo, from Vice Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane; and also of one which he had addressed to Mr. Munroe, the Secretary of State of the United States, respecting a report of American Negroes, who had sought the protection of the British flag, having been afterwards sold in the West Indies as Slaves.

I am, &c.

Sir *H. Bunbury*
&c. &c. &c.,

(Signed) JN^o BARROW.

(No. 1.—Enclosure in Mr. Barrow's, 17th April 1815.)

SIR,

Tonnant, at Sea, off St. Mary's,
Coast of Georgia, 13th March 1815.

VERY soon after replying to your Letter, No. 211, of the 28th November, respecting the report which had reached His Majesty's Ministers, of American Negroes who had sought the protection of the British flag, having been afterwards sold in the West Indies as slaves, The Times newspaper of the 21st of that month came under my observation, wherein is published a Letter from Mr. Munroe (the Secretary of State of the United States) to the American Commissioners at Ghent, containing a paragraph of which I enclose a Copy, and from which I am inclined to believe has arisen this infamous accusation.

Although from the date of Mr. Munroe's letter (the 28th January 1814) it does not apply to the fleet since under my command, I have considered it but an act of justice to my predecessor, Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren, to call upon Mr. Munroe to substantiate this charge, and to produce his authority for so serious, and I hope, unwarrantable an accusation; and I enclose, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a Copy of my Letter to this purport.

These points, for the honour of the country, and of the individuals to whom they relate, ought to be cleared up; and I trust therefore, that their Lordships will be pleased to move his Majesty's Government to cause an enquiry into these circumstances, and that the investigation may embrace the period I have held this command, which will give me also an opportunity of satisfactorily refuting the charge that has been so maliciously circulated, of my having sent some of these people to an estate I possess in Trinidad.

I have hitherto treated this latter report with contempt, as from its apparent improbability no credence could be given to it; but these accusations are now before the public, and I feel my honour too much interested to remain longer silent, although I cannot help assuring their Lordships of my firm belief, that they will find no sort of foundation for this report of Mr. Munroe's, but a story trumped up among the people on the coast to prevent their Negroes deserting, a thousand such having been related by the refugees coming off from shore.

I am, &c.

J. W. Croker, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ALEX^r COCHRANE,
V. Admiral.

PAPERS RELATING TO

(No. 2.—Enclosure in Mr. Barrow's, 17th April 1815.)

Tonnant, off Saint Mary's, Georgia,
8th March 1815.

SIR,

IN a London newspaper, The Times, of the 21st of November last, I observe in the close of a Letter from you, addressed to the American Commissioners at Ghent, dated 28th January 1814, the following paragraph, which alludes to the Negroes that had taken refuge on board His Britannic Majesty's ships, from the shores of the United States:—

“ It is known that a shameful traffic has been carried on in the West Indies, by the sale of these persons there, by those who profess to be their deliverers; of this fact, the proof that has reached this Department, shall be furnished you.”

Although at the date of your letter I had not left England, consequently the events there said to have taken place were previous to my assuming the command on this station; it is a justice I owe to my predecessor, and the officers now serving in this fleet, to call upon you for the proofs that you state to have reached your Department.

When such accusations are sanctioned by such high authority as the Secretary of State of the United States of America, it is to be supposed that he must have been in possession of sufficient information to induce him to give publicity to them; I therefore trust to your furnishing me with the proofs to which you allude; also such further proofs as you have to adduce against any person, since the British fleet upon the North American station has been under my command.

I have no hesitation in declaring, that I do not believe any Negro, either free or a slave, who had taken refuge on board the fleet under my command, has at any time been sent to the West Indies; the whole were either ordered to the Island of Bermuda, or to Halifax. I further declare, that none of these persons have been kept in a state of slavery, but suffered to go wherever they thought proper. As the local laws of Bermuda did not permit of their settling there, until opportunities offered of their being sent to Halifax, they and their families were maintained at the public expense, and those who performed any work were regularly paid for the same.

As I am confident you would not have asserted what you did, without you had considered yourself authorized so to do, I cannot doubt of your readiness to acquaint me with the particulars to which your Letter related, and the authorities you quote; should you think proper to favour me with these, I pledge myself either to disprove every part thereof, or to bring the guilty parties to punishment.

If your informants had been acquainted with the regulations that have been established in all the British West India Islands, since the abolition of the Slave Trade, they would have known the total impossibility of introducing slaves into any of them in the manner they state; the public authorities there could not have permitted the flagrant acts of injustice to have obtained, which have been imputed to those who professed to be the deliverers of the Negroes, upon their quitting the American shores.

I have sent this letter by a ship of war to Hampton Roads, the commander of which has my instructions to wait your answer. I will endeavour to send a duplicate by post. Having by a late dispatch from England, received similar information to that contained in your Letter to the Commissioners at Ghent (which I presume had been sent to the British Government from thence,) it makes it of moment that I should be put in possession of all the facts, that the investigation may be proceeded in before the separation of the fleet takes place, in consequence of the peace.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) ALEX^r COCHRANE.

To The Hon^{ble}. James Munroe,
Secretary of State of the
United States of America,
&c. &c. &c.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

5

— N^o 2. —

Copy of a LETTER from Governor Cameron, dated Nassau,
New Providence, 9th May 1815:—With Eight Enclosures.

Nassau, New Providence,
9th May 1815.

MY LORD,

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's Dispatch, No. 31, of the 2d February, on the 6th instant, directing me to make strict enquiry as to the sale of American Negroes in the Bahama Islands: I have lost no time in obeying your Lordship's commands with respect to it.

I immediately wrote to Mr. Murray, Collector of the Customs, and I have the honour to enclose his answer.

I also examined Mr. Wood in Council, together with his principal clerk, Mr. Bootle, agent for the Moselle, and the King's pilot; and the result of these examinations will appear in the Extract of the Minute of Council, which I have the honour to enclose.

I have the honour to enclose the certificates of the Judge and Registrar of the Vice Admiralty Court, That no Negroes have been brought into this colony for adjudication since the commencement of the late war.

I also enclose the affidavit of Mr. James Dunshee, of the house of Bain, Dunshee & Co.; Mr. Andrew Seton, of the house of Seton & Elliot; Messrs. Baillou & Rae, vendue masters; and Mr. Lord, late agent for prisoners of war.

The day before I had the honour to receive your Lordship's Dispatch, I received a letter from Sir Alexander Cochrane, requesting that the most minute investigation might take place, respecting assertions made by the American Secretary of State, as to the sale of American Negroes in the Bahamas, and requesting that I would forward the result of these investigations for your Lordship's information. I trust that the documents already enumerated, together with the enclosed letter, which the Advocate General had previously addressed to me on this subject, will be satisfactory to your Lordship.

I have the honour to be, &c.

The Right Hon.
The Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) CHARLES CAMERON.

(No. 1.—Enclosure in Governor Cameron's, 9 May 1815.)

Nassau Custom-house,
May 6th 1815.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Letter of this day's date, enclosing me a Copy of His Majesty's Secretary of State's Letter to you, of the 2d February 1815, on the subject of certain Negroes said to have been landed at this port by Captain Moberly, from on board His Majesty's sloop of war Moselle, and reported to have been bought by a certain Mr. Wood, navy agent, for His Majesty's vessels of war; in reply to which I beg leave to assure you, that from the intelligence and confidence placed in me generally by the free People of Colour in this colony, no measure of such a nature could have been effected without my being made acquainted with it. Captain Moberly I am unacquainted with; but from the knowledge I have of the character of Mr. Wood, I am certain that he could not allow himself to commit an act, that he in the end would have so seriously to answer for before the tribunals of justice, as it would be impossible that such a transaction should take place in this colony without the officers of Government being made acquainted with it. Since the Abolition Act two Negroes or People of Colour from America only have been illegally brought into these islands, both of which persons were seized by me and were tried in our Court of Vice Admiralty, and, in consequence of that trial, are now enjoying their freedom. There are also at present several People of Colour who

N^o 1.

N^o 2.

N^o 3.

N^o 4.

N^o 5.

N^o 6.

N^o 7.

N^o 8.

PAPERS RELATING TO

have been discharged from His Majesty's vessels of war, who are now residing here, and enjoying that freedom which was held out to them by the officers commanding His Majesty's forces on the American coast, and many more of them had their option of either landing or being taken to other ports under the British flag, which they have generally preferred, but in the instances alluded to. I therefore feel I am not too confident in affirming it as my belief, that the whole is founded on error, or a most gross perversion of facts. If I have deviated from the contents of the enclosure, it has only been with a view of directing your Excellency's attention to other modes, that will more fully elucidate (if necessary) the subject matter which you may wish to have explained.

I have the honour to be, &c.

His Excellency
Charles Cameron, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. MURRAY,
Collector of H. M's. Customs.

(No. 2.—Enclosure in Governor Cameron's, 9th May 1815.)

BAHAMA ISLANDS.

At a Council, 8th May 1815:—Present, His Excellency The Governor;

Honble <i>James Minzies,</i>	} Esquires.
— <i>James Moss,</i>	
— <i>Abraham Eve,</i>	
— <i>Patrick Brown,</i>	
— <i>John McCartney,</i>	

His Excellency the Governor was pleased to lay before the Board a Dispatch from the Right honourable Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, bearing date 2d February last, which was read, and is in the words following:—

SIR,

Downing-street, 2d Feb. 1815.

IT has been represented to me, that in or about the month of June 1813, His Majesty's brig *Moselle*, carried into Nassau several Negroes brought from the coasts of the United States, and that the Commander of the brig there sold them as slaves; and it has been particularly specified, that a Negro from Norfolk, in the state of Virginia, a carpenter by trade, was there sold to a Mr. Wood, of Nassau, for the sum of one thousand dollars; that this Mr. Wood was agent to the brig *Variable*, in His Majesty's service, and made no secret either of the purchase of the Negro, or of the sum he had paid for him.

It being of the utmost importance to ascertain how far this statement is founded in fact, I have to desire that you will, without loss of time, call upon the Collector of the Customs, to whom the care and custody of Prize Negroes particularly belong, for any information which he may be able to give with respect to this transaction; and that you will adopt every other means in your power, by examining Mr. Wood himself and the Negroes of which he may have been possessed at the time specified, in order to discover whether such purchase was ever made by him from the Commander of the *Moselle*.

You will not fail to transmit, by the earliest opportunity, the result of your enquiry for the information of His Majesty's Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Governor Cameron,
&c. &c. &c.

BATHURST.

His Excellency the Governor was thereupon pleased, by the advice of the Council, to send a message to Mr. Wood, the navy agent, requesting his immediate attendance at the Board; and Mr. Wood having accordingly made his appearance, his Excellency put such questions to him as appeared necessary to elucidate the matter stated in the foregoing Dispatch; when Mr. Wood, in the most positive and most solemn manner, declared, that he had no knowledge or participation

THE SLAVE TRADE.

7

participation of the matter alledged against him, and requested that his Excellency would be pleased to allow him to be sworn in presence of the Board, to the truth of this assertion, and also that the whole or any one of his clerks might be called and examined on the subject; which request being judged reasonable, Mr. Wood, and Robert H. Bunch, his principal clerk, appeared, and voluntarily made, in presence of his Excellency and the Board, the following affidavits, which were administered by Mr. M^cCartney, one of the Assistant Judges, and a Member of the Council; and which affidavits are in the words following :

Bahama Islands, }
New Providence, } Council Chamber.

James Wood, of the Island of New Providence, Esquire, navy agent, being solemnly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, voluntarily maketh oath and saith, That he believes His Majesty's ship Moselle, under the command of Capt. Moberly, arrived at the port of Nassau from the coast of America on the 20th July 1813, but that she was not in the Bahamas in the preceding month of June. That the deponent does not believe any Negro Slaves were brought by or landed from that vessel within the Bahama Islands, either at that time or at any time before or since, except four as prisoners of war, whose names are Caleb Musiere, Bob Fogarty, Sam Fogarty, and Grog Fogarty; and which four Negroes have since been duly exchanged, as will appear by a certificate from the late agent for prisoners of war hereunto annexed: And this deponent does most solemnly swear, That he never did purchase any American Slave or Slaves from the Commander of the Moselle, from any other of His Majesty's naval officers, or from any person or persons whatsoever, since the commencement of the late war with the United States of America: And the deponent further saith, That he does not know or believe, that any Slave or Slaves belonging to the United States have been brought in and sold in the Bahama Islands to any other person, since the commencement of the said late war.

JA^a WOOD.

Sworn to before me in Council, }
this 8th day of May 1815. } John M^cCartney, Assist. Justice.

Bahama Islands, }
New Providence, } Council Chamber.

Robert H. Bunch, of the Island of New Providence, gentleman, being solemnly sworn, maketh oath and saith, That he has for some years past been principal clerk to Messrs. Henry & James Wood, of New Providence, navy agents, and as such is intimately acquainted with their business and concerns: That the deponent hath heard the foregoing affidavit of James Wood, Esquire, one of the partners of the said firm of Henry & James Wood, read over to him; and he, the deponent, verily and in his conscience believes the matters and circumstances set forth in the said foregoing affidavit to be just and true in every particular.

ROB^t H. BUNCH.

Sworn to before me in Council, }
the 8th day of May 1815. } John M^cCartney, Assist. Justice.

I do hereby certify, That the following prisoners of war, viz. Caleb Musiere and Bob Fogarty, were received on board the prison ship at this place on the 21st November 1812, and sent to Savannah in cartel Delight on the 24th November 1812, and Sam Fogarty and Grog Fogarty were received on the 15th January 1813, and sent to Rhode Island in the cartel Liberty on the 26th of April 1814.

R. LORD,

Late agent for prisoners of war.

Nassau, May 8th 1815.

The foregoing affidavits having been read, his Excellency the Governor stated to the Board, that as an opportunity offered for England, he was desirous of transmitting to His Majesty's Government every possible information on the subject of the present investigation, and suggested that Messrs. Bootle and Johnson, navy agents, might be able to afford some additional explanation, and the attendance of one of the co-partners of that concern being accordingly requested,

requested, Mr. Bootle appeared, and in presence of the Board made the following affidavit:—

Bahama Islands, }
New Providence } Council Chamber.

John Bootle, of the Island of New Providence, Esquire, navy agent, being solemnly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, maketh oath and saith, That he and his co-partner Freeman Johnson, have been agents for His Majesty's sloop Moselle since some time in the year 1813;—that the Moselle, under the command of Captain Moberley, arrived at the port of Nassau from the coast of America on or about the 20th of July in the year 1813: And the deponent further saith, that he does not believe any Slave or Slaves was or were brought from the United States of America by the Moselle, landed and sold in the Bahamas, either at that time or any other time or times, either before or since; and the deponent is well satisfied, that if any such Slave or Slaves had been so brought and disposed of, he must have known it, from the circumstance of his being one of the agents for the said sloop of war, Moselle; and, lastly, the deponent maketh oath, that he never heard, and he does not believe, that any American Slave or Slaves has or have been brought into and sold in the Bahama Islands, by or under the authority of any of His Majesty's Naval Officers, or any other person or persons, during the late war between Great Britain and the United States.

JOHN BOOTLE.

Sworn to before me, in Council, }
this 8th day of May 1815. } *John M^cCartney*, Assistant Justice.

The messenger of the Board was sent to request the attendance of Mr. Mackee, the pilot for His Majesty's ships on this station. Mr. Mackee attended accordingly, and having reference to his book of entry of arrivals and departures, made the following affidavit:—

Bahama Islands, }
New Providence, } Council Chamber.

John Mackee, of the Island of New Providence, a licenced pilot of the Bars, being solemnly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, maketh oath and saith, That for these three last years he has been the pilot usually employed in taking charge of His Majesty's ships and vessels coming to an anchorage on the Bahama station: And the deponent further saith, That on the 23d day of April 1813, His Majesty's sloop Moselle, then commanded by Lieut. Litchfield, arrived at the port of Nassau, and in a few days after sailed for Bermuda or the coast of America; that the Moselle again arrived at New Providence, under command of Captain Moberley, on the 20th day of July 1813, from the coast of America, but the said vessel was not in the Bahamas in the preceding month of June.

(Signed) JOHN MACKEE.

Sworn to before me, in Council, }
the 8th day of May 1815. } (Signed) *John M^cCartney*, Assistant Justice.

Extracted from the Minutes of the Privy Council of the Bahama Islands, by
(Signed) SAMUEL NESBITT, clerk.

(No. 3.—Enclosure in Governor Cameron's, 9th May 1815.)

Bahama Islands, }
New Providence. } MSS.

In the Vice Admiralty Prize Court.

WE, the undersigned, the Honourable Peter Edwards, Esq. the Judge Surrogate, and the Honourable Patrick Brown, Esq. Registrar of the Vice Admiralty Court of the Bahama Islands, do hereby certify, that from the commencement of our said official situations, which was some time previous to the commencement of the late American war, and until the end thereof, no Negro or Negroes belonging to the United States of America, was or were brought into the said Court for adjudication, and sold under any decree or authority of the same.

In testimony whereof we have hereunder set our hands, and caused the seal of said Court to be hereunto affixed, this 8th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1815.

(L. s.) (Signed) PETER EDWARDS, Judge Surrogate, &c.
P. BROWN, Registrar.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

9

(No. 4.—Enclosure in Governor Cameron's, 9th May 1815.)

Bahama Islands, New Providence.

James Dunshee, of the Island of New Providence, Esquire, a partner in the firm of Bain, Dunshee and Co. of the same place, public vendue masters, makes oath, That the said firm has carried on the business of public vendue masters, during the whole period of the late American war to the present moment: And the said deponent further makes oath, That in the course of the aforesaid periods, many Negroes have been sold at auction by the said firm, but that the whole of the Negroes so sold were represented to be, and this deponent verily and in his conscience believes they were the genuine property of the inhabitants of these islands; and that no American Negroe or Negroes, whether free or slaves, whether taken in prize or otherwise, were ever, to the knowledge of this deponent, sold at auction or otherwise by this deponent, or any other person, for or on account of the aforesaid firm.

(Signed) JAMES DUNSHEE.

Sworn to before me, this }
9th day of May 1815. } (Signed) F. Mathews, P.M.

(No. 5.—Enclosure in Governor Cameron's, 9th May 1815.)

Bahama Islands, New Providence.

Andrew Seton, of the Island of New Providence, Esquire, a partner in the firm of Seton & Elliott, of the same place, merchants and vendue masters, makes oath, That the said firm has acted as vendue masters during the whole period of the American war to the present time, during the whole of which said period it has never come to the knowledge of the deponent, that any American Slave or Slaves, free Negro or free Negroes, whether taken in prize or otherwise, have been disposed of at public auction in these islands: And the deponent further says, That no person of the above description was ever, to the knowledge of this deponent, offered for sale or attempted to be sold by this deponent or any other person; for or on account of the said firm.

(Signed) AND^r SETON.

Sworn to before me, this }
9th day of May 1815. } (Signed) F. Mathews, P. M.

(No. 6.—Enclosure in Governor Cameron's, 9th May 1815.)

Bahama Islands, New Providence.

Isaac Baillou & Charles Rae, both of the Island of New Providence, vendue masters, make oath, That these deponents have acted as public vendue masters and agents for prizes during part of the late American war, under the firm of Baillou & Rae, and have, moreover, a perfect knowledge of all the sales effected prior to the time of their first commencing business as aforesaid, by Alexander Young, late of the Island of New Providence aforesaid, vendue master and prize agent: And the deponents further maketh oath, That at no time of the above-mentioned period, including the said war, from its commencement to its termination, was any American Negro or Negroes, whether free or slaves, taken in prize or otherwise, sold or offered for sale by these deponents or the said Alexander Young.

(Signed) ISAAC BAILLOU.
CHA. S. RAE.

Sworn to before me, this }
9th day of May 1815, } (Signed) F. Mathews, P. M.

(No. 7.—Enclosure in Governor Cameron's, 9th May 1815.)

Bahama Islands, New Providence.

Richard Lord, of the Island of New Providence, Esquire, makes oath, That the deponent has been agent for prisoners of war during the whole period of the late American war, during which period many Negroes and Mulattoes were delivered to this deponent, by virtue of his aforesaid office, as prisoners of war, many of whom moreover acknowledged themselves to be Slaves, whose owners were

PAPERS RELATING TO

were resident in the United States of America: And the deponent further says, That the whole of the said Negroes and Mulattoes, whether free or slaves, were equally treated as prisoners of war, exchanged or set at liberty; but never to the knowledge of this deponent, sold, offered for sale, or attempted to be sold or offered for sale: And the deponent further says, That the port of Nassau was the only one of the ports in these Bahama Islands, to which prisoners of war were brought; and that he verily and in his conscience believes, that no such sale every took place within this island.

Sworn at Nassau, May 9th 1815, } (Signed) R. LORD.
before me, } (Signed) F. Mathews, P.M.

(No. 8.—Enclosure in Governor Cameron's, 9th May 1815.)

SIR,

New Providence, May 5th 1815.

YOUR Excellency must, without doubt, have been surprised at seeing, in our last Gazette, Copies of the Papers which have lately been published, under the authority of the Government of the United States, upon the subject of the pretended sale of American Prize Negroes in these islands; and although the charge appears, upon the face of it, to be groundless, your Excellency may, nevertheless, think it right that it should be contradicted.

I have, as your Excellency knows, been his Majesty's Attorney, Advocate and Procurator General of these Islands, for the last fourteen years; and I was present at perhaps every sitting of our Prize Court, during the late American war, so that I have had the very best opportunities to know what has been passing in that Court; and I take upon myself, without any reserve, to assert, that not a single Negro or Person of Colour, taken from the Americans and brought into these islands, in the course of the war, was either prosecuted, condemned or sold here; and that it was our invariable practice to liberate or exchange them all, whether freemen or slaves.

An instance occurred in the year 1808, and another in 1811, in which Negroes, who probably were born free, were trepanned and smuggled into this colony, by masters of American vessels:—the first, a man called Robert Sawyer, in the brig, Joseph Ross, James Henryham, master, from Washington, in North Carolina; the other a young woman, named Catharine Richardson, in the schooner Cynthea, of New York, Charles Johnson, master. But both of those Negroes were seized, prosecuted, and made free here, by sentences of our Admiralty Court, under the authority of the Act of Parliament for the Abolition of the Slave Trade; and I took the liberty to write letters, giving notice of these transactions, both to Mr. Monroe, the American Secretary of State, and to the Society established at Philadelphia for the Abolition of Slavery.

I have the honour to be, &c.

His Excellency *Charles Cameron*, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. WYLLY.

— N^o 3. —

Copy of a LETTER from Governor Cameron to Earl Bathurst,
dated 9th May 1815:—With two Enclosures.

MY LORD,

Nassau, New Providence,
May 9th, 1815.

I HAVE the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information, a Message and Document, said to have been sent by Mr. Madison to the Senate of the United States; and a Letter I have received from Mr. Lord, late agent for prisoners of war, by which it appears that there was no American prisoner of war here of the name of Williams during the year 1813.

I have the honour to be,

Right Hon^{ble} Earl *Bathurst*,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) CHARLES CAMERON.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

II

(No. 1.—Enclosure in Governor Cameron's, 9th May 1815.)

SALE OF CAPTURED NEGROES.

Message from the President to the Senate of the United States.

I transmit to the Senate a Report from the Acting Secretary of State, complying with their Resolution of the 24th October last.

JAMES MADISON.

February 28, 1815.

REPORT,

THE undersigned, acting as Secretary of State, to whom was referred the Resolution of the Senate of the 24th October last, requesting the President of the United States to lay before the Senate (provided he shall not consider the same improper to be communicated) the proof of any traffic carried on in the West Indies by the sale of Negroes taken from the United States by the British forces since the present war, has the honour to state, that such proof was transmitted to the Executive by the Honourable St. George Tucker, in the form of an affidavit of Captain Williams, from which it appeared, that he had been a prisoner in the Bahama Islands, and that, whilst there, he had been present at the sale of Negroes taken from the vicinity of Norfolk and Hampton.

This affidavit, voluntarily given, and strengthened and corroborated by a variety of circumstances, was considered at the time as full proof of the fact, and was transmitted to our Ministers at Ghent. When the Resolution of the Senate was transmitted to this Department, application was made to Judge Tucker, and subsequently to Major Griffin, for the original affidavit, or for an authenticated copy: As neither have yet been received, and as it is deemed improper longer to delay this Report, the undersigned begs leave to refer to the accompanying papers, marked 1, 2, 3, and 4, from which the material facts stated in the affidavit may be collected, and the circumstances which have prevented its transmission to this Department explained. This subject will be further investigated, with a view to place it, in all its circumstances, in the most satisfactory light.

All which is respectfully submitted,

Department of State,
28th February 1812.

JAS. MONROE.

(No. 1.)

SIR,

Richmond, November 24th.

I DO myself the honour to enclose you a Letter from my friend Mr. Cabell, and one from Mr. John Tabb Smith, the Magistrate before whom the affidavit was made, a copy of which I transmitted to the President. Mr. Cabell has written to Major Griffin, to endeavour to procure the original, and if he should fortunately obtain it, I will lose no time in forwarding it to you.

I have, &c.

John Graham, Esq.
Department of State,
Washington.

ST. GEORGE TUCKER.

(No. 2.)

Copy of a LETTER from Joseph C. Cabell, Esq. to the Honourable
St. George Tucker, dated

MY DEAR SIR,

Richmond, November 22d.

I HAVE received your favour of the 14^t inst. embracing an Extract from the Letter lately written to you by Mr. Graham, of the Department of State, on the subject of the Resolution of the Senate of the United States, of the 24th ult.

I distinctly recollect all the material circumstances in regard to the copy of the affidavit, which you forwarded to the President. About the period that Major Thomas Griffin, of York, went on board the British squadron in Lynn-

haven

PAPERS RELATING TO

haven Bay, for the purpose of endeavouring to recover his Negroes, who had gone off to the enemy, I happened to be in Williamsburg. The destination of the Slaves that had been taken or received by the British, was then a subject of curiosity and concern throughout the lower country. I understood that a seafaring man, by the name of Williams, who had been a prisoner with the enemy, and had recently arrived at Hampton, had gone, in company with Major Thomas Griffin, of York, before John Tabb Smith, a respectable magistrate of the country of Elizabeth City, and had made oath, That while a prisoner in one of the Bahama Islands, he had been present at the sale of the Negroes that had been carried off from the vicinity of Hampton and Norfolk; that the Negroes were sold at high prices; and that a Negro carpenter from Norfolk was purchased for a thousand dollars. Several gentlemen of the first respectability, who had conversed with Major Griffin, informed me that he spoke of Williams as a man whose appearance entitled him to credit, and that he had accordingly published the affidavit in the town of York. Through the medium of Mr. Coke, of Williamsburg, I procured a copy of this paper, which I handed to you, and was forwarded by you to the President. The affidavit was a subject of general conversation about that time. The circumstances under which Williams arrived at Hampton, the manner in which he described the Negroes sold in the Bahamas, and particularly the carpenter from Norfolk, and the appearance of entire sincerity in his narrative, left no doubt, I was assured, on the mind of either Mr. Smith or Major Griffin, that the alledged sale had actually taken place. I did not see Major Griffin, nor did I enquire what he intended to do with the original affidavit of Williams: my conjecture was, that he would send it on to the Committee of Congress, charged with the business of collecting proofs of the barbarous conduct of the war by the enemy; as it seems he had not done so, I presume it remains in his possession. I will write immediately to him with the view of ascertaining whether this be the fact; and if it be, to request the favour of him to enclose me the affidavit. The result of my enquiries of that gentleman shall be made known to you without delay.

In the interim I remain, &c.

J. C. CABELL.

(No. 3.)

Copy of a LETTER from John Tabb Smith, Esq. to Judge Tucker; dated Hampton, Nov. 21, 1814.

SIR,

YOUR favour I have now before me. Some time in the year 1813, there came before me Captain Williams (I think his name was,) in company with Major Thomas Griffin, of York, with the affidavit you speak of in your letter, which he swore to before me, and I gave my certificate thereto; I then gave the affidavit to Major Griffin, and expected to see it published in one of the Richmond papers, but never heard of it since, but from your letter. I expect the original can be got from Major Griffin; but if it is mislaid I will recollect the substance of the affidavit, and will render you any service in my power.

I am, &c.

JOHN TABB SMITH.

If it can be got from Major Griffin, it had better be in the Captain's own words, with my certificate.

St. George Tucker, Esq.

J. T. S.

(No. 4.)

SIR,

York, Virginia, 16 Feb. 1815.

YOUR favour of the 16th instant has been received. I have examined my papers, and cannot find the original affidavit of Captain Williams, therein alluded to. The copy I gave Mr. Cabell was literally correct; the original has been mislaid, or I fear lost in the bustle of moving papers from hence, so frequently as has been done, to place them without the reach of the enemy during the war. I will again examine and endeavour to recover the affidavit, and will forward the same to the Department of State as soon as it shall be recovered.

John Graham, Esq.
Department of State,
Washington.

Very respectfully I am, &c.

THO' GRIFFIN.

THE SLAVE TRADE

13

(No. 2.—Enclosure in Governor Cameron's, 9th May 1815.)

SIR,

Nassau, May 5 1815.

In answer to your Excellency's Letter of this date, I have to inform you, that Benjamin Williams, a midshipman of the United States' sloop Frolic, was admitted to parole here on the 26th April 1814, and sent to Bermuda in His Majesty's ship Orpheus on the 11th June following, and that no other person of that name appears on the book of parole prisoners.

I have the honour to be, &c.

His Excellency
The Governor and
Commander in Chief.

(Signed) R. LORD.

— N^o 4. —

Copy of a LETTER from John Barrow, Esq. dated Admiralty-Office,
12th May 1815;—With Four Enclosures.

SIR,

Admiralty-Office, 12 May 1815.

IN reference to my letter of the 17th ultimo, transmitting the Copy of a Letter from Vice Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane, with the Copy of one he had addressed to the Secretary of State of the United States, requesting his production of the proofs he possessed of the reported sale of American Refugee Negroes in the West Indies, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to send you herewith, for the further information of Earl Bathurst, Copies of two Letters from the Vice Admiral, dated 18th and 22d of last month, and of their Enclosures, containing further particulars on that subject.

I am, &c.

Major General
Sir Henry Bunbury, K. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. BARROW.

(No. 1.—Enclosure in Mr. Barrow's, of 12th May 1815.)

SIR,

Bermuda, 22d April 1815.

I send you herewith, to be laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Copies of Letters that I have received from Mr. Baker, His Majesty's Chargé des Affaires to the United States of America, containing the Reply of the Secretary of State of the United States, to my Letter of the 8th March, respecting the sale of American Refugee Negroes, of which I transmitted a Copy to you in my Letter, N^o 51, of the 13th of March last.

Their Lordships will perceive how much more ready the American Government was to promulgate these accusations, than to prove them when called upon so to do.

I am, &c.

John W. Croker, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

ALEXANDER COCHRANE,
Vice Admiral.

(No. 2.—Enclosure in Mr. Barrow's, of 12th May 1815.)

SIR,

Washington, 25th March 1815.

I had the honour to receive on the evening of the 23d inst. your Excellency's Letter, dated on the 8th, together with the Copy of the Letter to the American Secretary of State, which was enclosed.

In an interview to-day with Mr. Munroe, I did not fail, in compliance with the request of your Excellency, to urge the immediate communication of the

PAPERS RELATING TO

proofs relative to the traffic in Negroes taken from the United States, referred to in his instructions to the American Ministers at Ghent, in order that an investigation might, in the event of these documents affording ground for such a proceeding, be instituted before the separation of the fleet on this station.

Mr. Munroe informed me, that your Excellency's letter to him had been received, and that he had transmitted it to the President, who is at his country seat in Virginia, to learn his pleasure respecting the answer to be returned to it, which he assured me should be sent with the least possible delay.

In conversing on the subject he expressed great regret at the revival of any question which had grown out of the war, and which was uncongenial to the present relation between the two countries. I gave him the strongest assurances of the desire, both of His Majesty's Government and of your Excellency, to bury all animosities in the most complete oblivion, but observed, that this was of a character distinct from other topics connected with the war, that a specific accusation had been made, said to be supported by proofs, which His Majesty's Government were anxious to procure, for the purpose of bringing to justice any British subjects who might be found chargeable with the offence imputed, and that to pass over the matter in silence would lead to a supposition equally injurious to the Government, and unjust towards all those to whom the charge might be thought to apply.

On his adverting to the irregularity of this correspondence, during the residence in the country of an accredited Agent of the British Government, I informed him that your Excellency was not at the time actually apprized of the appointment of any Representative of His Majesty's Government in the United States, but that to remove all difficulty in point of form, I would undertake to communicate his reply, should he not wish to transmit it direct to your Excellency.

His Majesty's Plenipotentiaries at Ghent, in obedience to the instructions of their Government, delivered to the American Plenipotentiaries an official Note, requesting to be furnished with the proofs called for by your Excellency's Letter, with a view to the punishment of any offenders, to which they had not, at the period of the signature of the treaty, received a reply, although one was expected to be sent before the departure of the respective missions.

I have, &c.

ANTHONY ST. JOHN BAKER.

The Hon. Sir *Alex. Cochrane*, K. B.
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 3.—Enclosure in Mr. Barrow's, of 12th May 1815.)

SIR,

Washington, 6th April 1815.

THE American Secretary of State has requested that I would forward the enclosed Letter, which he has written in reply to that he received from your Excellency, dated on the 8th ultimo, on the subject of the proofs of the alleged traffic in Negroes taken from the United States. Mr. Munroe conceiving it proper that all correspondence interesting to the two Governments should pass through His Majesty's Mission at Washington, has made a communication to me, containing the information requested by your Excellency, a Copy of which Letter I have herewith the honour to enclose.

Finding, notwithstanding the verbal assurances which I had given to the Secretary of State, in the interview of the 25th ultimo, that difficulties in point of form still continued to prevent the production of the proofs in question, with a view altogether of removing them, I renewed in writing my offer to be the channel of conveying his reply on this subject, and again informed him, that at the time of your Excellency's addressing your letter direct to him, you were unacquainted with the appointment of any person to take charge of His Majesty's affairs in the United States. This is the note to which Mr. Munroe alludes in the first part of his letter to me.

I abstain from all remark on the extraordinary nature of the evidence on which so serious a charge has been made by such high authority. Your Excellency being now in possession of the proof mentioned in the instructions to the American Ministers at Ghent, will be enabled to take such steps as you may

THE SLAVE TRADE.

15

may think proper, for the vindication, in the eyes of the world, of all those to whom the accusation might be supposed to refer; and it will remain with His Majesty's Government to adopt such further measures as may be deemed advisable in relation to the other points contained in Mr. Munroe's letter.

I have, &c.

ANTH^y ST. JOHN BAKER.

His Excellency
Sir *Alex. Cochrane*, K. B.
&c. &c. &c.

(No. 4.—Enclosure in Mr. Barrow's, of 12th May 1815.)

SIR,

Department of State, 5th April 1815.

I HAD the honour to receive a Letter from Admiral Cochrane, of the 8th March, reciting a paragraph in my Letter of the 28th of January 1814, to the Commissioners of the United States at Ghent, by which they were informed that it was known that a shameful traffic was carried on in the West Indies by the sale of Slaves taken from our citizens, by those who professed to be their deliverers, and that the proof of the fact which had reached this Department should be forwarded to them. Admiral Cochrane has requested me to furnish him with the evidence on which that communication was made, and with any further proof which may have been received by the Department since its date.

I need not remark to you, that as peace is restored, and you have been appointed and received by this Government as *Chargé d'Affaires* of His Britannic Majesty, it would be irregular for me to communicate with another person on any subject depending between our Governments. I had anticipated that Admiral Cochrane was unacquainted with your appointment when he wrote to me, and concluded that he would have addressed himself to you had he known of it. I am glad to find, by your letter of yesterday, that you view the subject in the same light. Through the regular channel, I shall not hesitate to furnish the information that is desired, of which I have apprized Admiral Cochrane, in the enclosed letter, which you will have the goodness to forward to him.

When the letter from which the above extract is taken was written to our Ministers, the fact of the sale of the Slaves in the West Indies had been repeatedly asserted on the authority of persons coming thence, in a manner to make a decided impression of its truth. Several representations had been made to this Department to that effect. Some of the Slaves were stated to have been sold for life; others for a term of years nearly equivalent to slavery; and others subjected to involuntary labour without being sold. They were represented also to have been sold in neutral as well as British islands. A communication on this subject was received from Judge Tucker, a gentleman of distinguished respectability, and a Judge of the Courts of the United States for the district of Virginia, with an affidavit of Captain Williams, who had been a prisoner in one of the Bahama Islands, and who deposed, that he had been present at the sale of the Negroes who were carried there from the neighbourhood of Norfolk and Hampton. This evidence, connected with other facts which were also asserted and believed, that many of the Slaves had been enticed, and some taken by force from their masters; and that the capture was not confined to men, but that women and children were included, left no doubt of the truth of the allegation, in whatever light the Slaves were to be considered, being a part of our population, and the property of our citizens. This fact, as it respected the character of the war, the interest of the owners, and the Slaves themselves, was of great importance; and it is my duty to communicate it to our Ministers, that it might be attended to, and have its due weight in the negotiation.

The affidavit of Captain Williams, being the only document reduced to that form which has been communicated to this Department, was the only one which was forwarded to our Ministers. It happened that the document received here was transmitted to them, without preserving a copy of it; that circumstance appearing on a call of the Senate at the last Session of Congress, Judge Tucker was requested to supply the defect, by obtaining and forwarding to this Department another copy duly authenticated. The enclosed Report of the Senate contains a copy of his communication; that document alone having been forwarded

warded to our Ministers, and reported to the Senate, is therefore the only one sent to you. In the representations to this Department no individual British officer was designated. They stated the fact of the sale of the Slaves in the West Indies generally, without alluding to any individual. During the war it was not in the power of the United States to establish the fact in a more authentic form. This can be done only by strict investigation in the West Indies, where the Slaves were said to have been sold. It will be easy for this Government to furnish a list of the Slaves who were taken from the United States, the times when they were taken, and in many instances the ships to which they were carried. The British Government will be able to ascertain what disposition was afterwards made of them. In this way the truth or fallacy of the allegation may be established.

Although it was not anticipated that any appeal would be made to this Government on this subject, now that the peace happily restored to the two nations has closed all discussions connected with the accidents of the war, I am nevertheless instructed to state, that it will afford every aid in its power towards placing the affair in its true light, which may be acceptable to the British Government.

I beg you to be assured, that should it appear on due investigation that credit has been given to unfounded representations, this Government will hasten to take such measures as may be best calculated to do full justice to all the parties concerned.

With great respect, &c. &c.

Anthony St. John Baker, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JAMES MUNROE.



P A P E R S

RELATING TO THE

SLAVE TRADE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
4 July 1815.
