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(Grenada.)

P A P E R S

RELATING TO

GOVERNOR AINSLIE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
4 May 1814:
And to be Re-printed, 5 May 1815.

L I S T.

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— (1.) —

Copy of DISPATCH from Earl BATHURST to Major General
Sir CHARLES SHIPLEY; dated, Downing-street, 13th July 1813.

SIR,

Downing-street, 13th July 1813.

A REPRESENTATION having been made to me, that a coloured inhabitant of Grenada had been punished, by the Orders of Colonel Ainslie, during the time that he administered the Government of Grenada, and that there were some circumstances in the case which gave rise to a suspicion of illegality and violence in the proceeding; I am to request that you will take immediate measures for enquiring into the case in question, and report to me such information on the subject as you are enabled to collect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) BATHURST.

To Major General Sir Charles Shipley,
&c. &c. &c.

— (2.) —

Copy of a DISPATCH from Governor Sir CHARLES SHIPLEY, to
Earl Bathurst; dated Grenada, 14th September 1813:—With its
Enclosures.

MY LORD,

Grenada, September 14th 1813.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's letter of the date noted in the margin, informing me of a representation having been made to your Lordship, that a coloured inhabitant of Grenada had been punished by Order of Colonel Ainslie, during the time that he administered the Government of this island; and that there were some circumstances in the case, which gave rise to a suspicion of illegality and violence in the proceedings, and directing me to take immediate measures for enquiring into the case in question, and to report such information on the subject as I may be able to collect.

July 13th.

In obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I now transmit a letter addressed to me by the Speaker of the House of Assembly, together with the accompanying Extracts from the Minutes of that House; in addition to which, I beg leave to submit a Statement of Facts, proved, as I am informed at the Trial, in an Action for an Assault, Battery and False Imprisonment, brought by the Person who sustained the Injury complained of, against the Agent who inflicted the punishment; in which Action damages were recovered for the sum of five pounds currency, and paid by Major General Ainslie. The facts alluded to are these:—

A.—p. 4.
September 12th.

B.—p. 4.
April 28th.
May 1st.

On Friday the twelfth day of April, General Ainslie, accompanied by three soldiers, went to a house in which Michell was working. General Ainslie ordered the soldiers to seize Michell; they did so, and by the Orders of General Ainslie conveyed Michell to the market place. The Clerk of the Market was desired to attend with a driver, which he did. Michell, by the commands of General Ainslie, was laid down and flogged; he was afterwards conveyed to the casemates in Fort George, where he was confined until the sixteenth day of April, when by the Orders of General Ainslie he was liberated. General Ainslie, through Mr. Waugh of this island, gave Michell the sum of nineteen pounds sixteen shillings, as a compensation for the injury inflicted on him, which sum Michell accepted, and was informed at the time of its being offered, that it came from General Ainslie. He returned, however, on the same day, and refunded the money which he had originally accepted. An Action was commenced against the Clerk of the Market, the result of which has been already mentioned.

In that action, the Freedom of the Plaintiff was put in issue upon the plea of Slavery, by the Defendant, but was altogether unsupported by evidence. I am informed by the Advocate for the Defendant, that not being dissatisfied with the verdict, he thought it more prudent to wave the advantage which he had reserved for his Client, from the defect of evidence on this point, than to agitate the business any further.

It is generally understood, that the compensation offered by General Ainslie, was returned by Michell, at the instigation of some other coloured people.

I leave these facts, without comment, to your Lordship's consideration.

I have the honor to be, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SHIPLEY.

C.—p. 6.

P. S.—As the Resolutions of the House of Assembly are founded upon evidence taken before a Committee of that House, I think it right to transmit a copy of that evidence taken from the Minutes.

(Signed) C. SHIPLEY.

—(A.)—

SIR, Grenada, 12th September 1813.
AGREEABLE to the Orders of the House of Assembly, I beg leave now to enclose for your Excellency, a Copy of a Petition of certain free coloured inhabitants of this island, complaining of a circumstance in the conduct of Major General Ainslie, whilst exercising the chief command of this government; with a Copy of the Resolutions of the House thereon; and, on behalf of the House, I have to request your Excellency will be pleased to transmit the same to His Majesty's Minister for the Colonies.

His Excellency
Sir Charles Shipley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ROSS,
Speaker of the Assembly.

(B.)

EXTRACTS from the Minutes of the Honourable the House of Assembly of Grenada, and its Dependencies.

Wednesday, 28th of April 1813.

ON the motion of Mr. Munro, leave being given to present a Petition from certain free coloured inhabitants of this Government, he presented the same, and delivered it in at the Table; where it was read, and is as follows:

To the Honourable The SPEAKER and MEMBERS of the General Assembly of the Island of Grenada, and its Dependencies.

The humble PETITION of the Free coloured Inhabitants of Grenada.

Sheweth,

THAT We, the undersigned, free coloured Inhabitants of the island of Grenada, on behalf of ourselves and others, our brethren of the same class, humbly beg leave to approach the Honourable House of Assembly, and with assurances of the truest loyalty towards His Majesty, and highest respect and deference for His Government, to submit to the consideration of the House, the following event: an event the most alarming, as having not only been sanctioned, but actually committed in person by the highest civil and military authority in this island: an event in which the Civil Magistracy of the colony was despised, and its interference rejected, and a military power substituted in its place. We are sensible therefore, that our situation requires a powerful interference to prevent the recurrence of the exercise of a power so unlimited and uncontrolled, when placed at the discretion of an individual, dispunishable by the judicial tribunals of this colony. It is to this Honourable Assembly that we look up with confidence for that interference, which may support and continue to us our Rights, Privileges, and Immunities. The event from which we presage so much danger to them, was as follows:—On Friday the 12th day of this present month, between the hours of one and two o'clock in the afternoon, the astonishment of many of the inhabitants of the town of St. George was excited by the sight of His Excellency the Vice Governor, attend by a guard of three soldiers, passing towards a house in which a free coloured man, named John Michell, was at his work, whom without any question or time for expostulation, he ordered to be seized by the soldiers, and carried to the public parade or market place; where, without attending to, but on the contrary, even scoffing at the assurances of Michell, that he was a free man, he delivered him to the Cage-keeper, with directions to inflict on him the punishment of a public cart whipping, assigning as a reason for it, that he had not obeyed his Proclamation, requiring the free coloured

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coloured inhabitants to take the Oaths of Allegiance. Here Michell was imprisoned in the cage until the slave-driver could be procured, when he received the allotted punishment; nor was he even then discharged, but by the Vice Governor's order was conducted to Fort George, and imprisoned in the Black Hole there, with the allowance of bread and water only; the Vice Governor's further intention, according to the Orders given by him, was to have embraced the earliest opportunity of shipping him off from the island; but a general alarm and indignation having been excited amongst the inhabitants of the colony, and application having been made by advice of counsel for a Copy of the Warrant or Cause of Commitment, on Monday afternoon the 15th instant, with a view to sue forth an Habeas Corpus before the Justices of the Supreme Court of Judicature, he was suddenly released on the next morning, and a sum of money given to him by direction of the Vice Governor; which however, as soon as he understood from whence it came, he returned and rejected. We have stated that the crime imputed to Michell, and for which he was thus punished, was disobedience to the Vice Governor's Proclamation, in not taking the Oaths of Allegiance: but the charge is unfounded, for he actually did attend, and the oaths were administered to him by Mr. Secretary Palmer, in the presence of the Vice Governor himself. But we submit to the consideration of this Honourable House, that if this was an offence, it was punishable by the Civil Judicature of the Colony only. This Civil Judicature was however, as we have before stated, despised and expressly rejected. Nor does the delinquency of the Vice Governor extend only to what concerns the Civil Magistracy. We conceive the employment of His Majesty's troops, and the misdirection of their service in the support of such unconstitutional practices, form a ground of charge before a military tribunal; and we are well assured that the high sentiments entertained by the present respectable Commander in Chief of His Majesty's forces, of the military character, must reprobate the prostitution of the services of His Majesty's troops for such purposes. If the protection of our Civil Judicature is withheld or denied to us, and an arbitrary despotism is to prevail, as in the instance above set forth, and we are to be subjected to the discipline of a cart-whip, what have not the free coloured inhabitants to dread from the continuance of such a power in such hands? And that His Excellency entertains the idea of his having an absolute power over our persons, we beg to refer the Honourable House to his Proclamation of the 28th day of November last, in which any offender against the same is threatened with "being sent off the island, within the space of twenty-four hours." We cannot conclude this Petition, without drawing the attention of the Honourable House to the consideration of that marked suspicion and unwarrantable distrust, which prevails in His Excellency's mind, of the principles of the free coloured inhabitants, and appears to influence his conduct towards them, when he declares in his Proclamation of the twenty-first day of November, that he deems "it expedient that all such persons should be bound as firmly as possible, by all those obligations which are provided by law for securing their loyalty and allegiance to His Majesty." We are not aware of any circumstance in the conduct of the free coloured inhabitants of this colony, which could warrant such an insinuation; but we nevertheless acquiesced without hesitation and without murmur, in this proof of our allegiance and loyalty; and we trust that we do not assume to ourselves a character of general propriety of conduct, to which this Honourable House will refuse their assent. We will not further obtrude on the deliberations of this Honourable House, than to express our earnest hope and reliance on its interference in our behalf, not only by transmitting a Statement of our just apprehensions, for the consideration of His Majesty's Representative His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, but by expressions of a concurrence in sentiment, as to the unconstitutional measures which have given occasion to this Address, and by such other means as the House in its wisdom shall approve, to support and recommend to the earliest attention of His Majesty's Ministers, and their speedy adoption of some means of redress and future prevention.

Signed by one hundred and eight free coloured Persons.

Grenada, 17th March 1813.

Resolved,

That the House do, To-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take the same into consideration.

(Grenada.) PAPERS RELATING TO

Saturday, 1st May 1813.

THE House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the Petition of certain free Persons, Inhabitants of this Government; and having spent some time therein, the Speaker resumed the Chair; when Mr. Mitchell, Chairman of the Committee, brought up the Report; which being read, was agreed to by the House.

It was therefore Resolved,

1.—That the Authorities vested in the Executive Colonial Government, are the Delegation of a Trust for the benefit of the governed; and any abuse thereof, is a violation of the Law, and a deviation from the Royal Instructions.

2.—That the House being fully satisfied with, and convinced of the loyal principles and good conduct of the Free Men of Colour within this Government, will at all times, and on all occasions, support them in common with His Majesty's other subjects, in the assertion of their Rights and Privileges, and their claims to the protection of the Laws; and will strongly reprobate any and every attempt made to deprive them thereof.

3.—That Evidence has been adduced to the House, that the Executive Authority has been grossly and wantonly abused by the late Vice Governor Ainslie, in the case of John Michell, a free coloured man; who, by his order, was publicly flogged in the market-place of the Town of St. George, and afterwards lodged and confined in the Black Hole in Fort George, without hearing or trial, on an unfounded charge of not having taken the Oaths of Allegiance; the Colonial Magistracy being thereby altogether disregarded, interfered with, and superseded, and a military force employed in an illegal manner.

4.—That the House views the conduct on the part of Vice Governor Ainslie, with equal concern, regret and indignation; inasmuch as his administration had been previously marked by a zeal for the public service, and an earnest desire to contribute to the welfare, happiness and prosperity of the inhabitants; and is now tarnished by an act repugnant to every principle of justice and humanity, and subversive of the established Jurisdictions, and the Colonial Laws.

5.—That Copies of the preceding Resolutions and of the Petition, be sent to His Honour the President, requesting he will be pleased to transmit the same to His Majesty's Ministers.

(Signed)

JOHN ROSS,

Speaker of the Assembly.

— C. —

SAMUEL AGARD (free coloured man) says, He lived opposite to Baker's Tavern; he saw Governor Ainslie with a corporal and two soldiers, about two o'clock in the afternoon, as he was passing from the bay across the parade towards his house, with a man (whose name he has since learnt to be John Michell) in custody; he saw him carried towards the Cage on the parade; he afterwards heard Governor Ainslie tell Mr. Green, to get a country driver to lay Michell down, give him twenty lashes, and afterwards to deliver him to the corporal of the guard; he heard Governor Ainslie desire the corporal of the guard, to confine him in the Black Hole, and feed him on bread and water till he could get a vessel to send him off the island. Mr. Green applied to have him put in the Cage till he could get a country driver, which was done; he heard Michell say, he turned out in the Militia, and did not know what he had done; the Governor said, he would flog him if he turned out in The King's guard; he flogged him for disobedience to his Proclamation. The Governor did not stay to see him flogged. He, Agard, was present, and saw the twenty lashes inflicted, and afterwards saw Michell delivered to and marched off by the corporal of the guard. The lashes were not inflicted with unusual severity.

Felix Palmer (private secretary to Governor Ainslie) says, He saw Michell in the Black Hole, about two days after he was flogged. He went in company with Mr. Waugh, in consequence of Mr. Waugh having stated to him in writing, that Michell was free, and had taken the Oaths; he recollected him, and that he had administered the Oaths to him on the 2d December last, at the Government House in presence of the Vice Governor:

That

GOVERNOR AINSLIE.

7.

That the morning Michell was discharged, he (Palmer) was at Government House; that Governor Ainslie said on the subject, that he, the Governor, was not perfect; that he thought Michell was ill treated, and he wished him to have some pecuniary compensation: That he, Mr. Palmer, afterwards, and after he had been released, offered six joes to Michell in presence of Mr. Waugh; that he told him at the time he offered the money, it was from Governor Ainslie; that Michell accepted it, and said he was satisfied; that about two hours after, Michell came to him, and said the coloured people were angry at him taking the money, although he was satisfied; but he was afraid and therefore returned it. He told Michell to do just as he pleased; to take it or not; the money was returned.

Joseph Barrows (mason) says, He saw Michell flogged in the market place, saw him in custody of the Governor and a corporal and two soldiers. Michell was not marked, he was standing close to Michell when he was laid down and flogged; he saw no wails, but he saw white marks which were made by the whip.

William Muir (saddler) says, He saw Governor Ainslie pass his house, followed by three soldiers, towards Laurence's house, which he entered; he saw him return out with Michell through his shop in custody, who was carried on to the Cage, where he saw Michell laid down and flogged; did not leave his own house; knows Michell to be quiet and peaceable.

John Michell (coloured man) says, The Governor came to his shop with a corporal and two soldiers, who took him away and delivered him into the custody of Mr. Green, who laid him down and flogged him, after being put in the Cage for a few minutes; he heard the Governor desire Mr. Green to flog him, he did not hear the number of lashes ordered; he says he felt the lashes hard enough, his skin was cut, and blood came; after he was flogged, the corporal marched him to the Fort, and put him into the Black Hole, where he was fed on bread and water, and where he was kept four days, and about 8 o'clock in the morning of the 5th he was released; Mr. Waugh gave him money the morning he was released. Mr. Palmer was with Mr. Waugh when he received the money; Mr. Waugh said nothing to him. He afterwards went to Mr. Palmer, and having asked who sent the money, Mr. Palmer told him it was from the Governor, on which he returned it; denies when he returned the money to Mr. Palmer, he said he was satisfied with the compensation, but that the coloured people were angry at him taking the money.

John Spahn (printer) says, That the day on which Michell was flogged, Governor Ainslie came to the Printing Office, and desired him to insert in the Paper, a notification that he had that day taken up a free man and confined him in Fort George, till he could get an opportunity of sending him off the island, for not obeying his Proclamation.

Charles Bareilly says, He knew Michell's person now shewn him, though not by name; he knew him about 4 years ago at Marie Galante, to have been reputed and taken to be a free man, was on board the vessel when the Harbour Master of Dominica came on board, and in his presence told the Captain that he (Michell) could not go on shore; Michell said it was very hard he could not go on shore.

John Murdoch (ordnance cooper) says, He saw Michell in custody of the corporal and file of men, heard the Governor say he would teach him to obey his Proclamation, and that he was a runaway from some island (does not recollect where); heard the Governor order him to the Black Hole; he saw marks on the seat of his trowsers, which he thinks was blood; believes Michell was four or five days in the Black Hole. Michell walked very stiff as if in pain.

Mr. Waugh says, Mr. Palmer paid Michell six joes in his presence; Mr. Palmer said it was from the Governor; Michell seemed satisfied, and knew at the time from whom the money came, he afterwards sent to tell Michell he had four joes more for him; has always heard him reputed Free.

Mr. Green (Clerk of the Market) says, On the 12th March last, Governor Ainslie delivered to him a coloured man whom he desired to have immediately flogged with twenty lashes for disobeying his Proclamation; he, Green, did not know at the time he was free, was afterwards told so by some coloured persons; the punishment was leniently inflicted by his, Mr. Green's, order; the person was brought under the custody of the corporal and two men, to whom afterwards he delivered him.

3 (Grenada.) PAPERS RELATING TO

—(3.)—

Extract of a DISPATCH from Earl BATHURST to Governor Sir CHARLES SHIPLEY; dated, Downing-street, 4th December 1813.

“ON the subject of the complaint made by Michell against Governor Ainslie, I am at a loss to discover, from the Evidence adduced before the Committee of the House of Assembly, the grounds upon which the Court awarded such very moderate damages to the Plaintiff; and have therefore to request that you will transmit to me by the first opportunity, the Minutes of the Trial which are adverted to in your Letter.”

—(4.)—

Copy of a DISPATCH from Governor Sir CHARLES SHIPLEY to Earl BATHURST; dated, Grenada, 29th January 1814:—With its Enclosures.

MY LORD,

Government House, Grenada, January 29th 1814.

IN obedience to the Instructions contained in your Lordship's dispatch, of the date noted in the margin; I have the honour to transmit herewith, under the hand of the senior Assistant Judge who tried the cause, the Minutes of the Evidence, in which the Plaintiff Michell supported his case against the Defendant in the action alluded to.

In reply to that part of your Lordship's letter, wherein you express your inability to discover from the Evidence adduced before the Committee of the House of Assembly, the grounds upon which the Court awarded such very moderate damages to the Plaintiff; I have to observe, the Evidence given before that House differed very materially from the Evidence adduced before the Court, because in the former instance, the enquiry was *ex parte*, and General Ainslie had no one to advocate his cause; whereas in the latter, his Counsel took care that nothing should be admitted to prejudice the minds of the Jury, except what could be substantiated, and supported according to the rules of Evidence which prevail in the British Courts of Judicature. Hence the fact of the freedom of the Plaintiff, which was absolutely necessary to support his cause, was taken for granted in one instance, although when the same fact was disputed in the Court, he was unable to bring any Evidence to prove it.

Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

I have the honour to be,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) CHARLES SHIPLEY.

SIR,

St. Georges, January 29th 1814.

I TRANSMIT your Excellency a Copy of my notes in the trial of Michell versus Green, in compliance with the request signified in your letter of yesterday.

It is impossible for me to state what induced the Jury to give such small damages, further than conjecturing they looked on the Defendant as the unwilling agent of another whom he was afraid to disobey; and that they resented the vindictive feeling exhibited by Mr. Adye, evidently resulting from a matter unconnected with the merits of the suit, I mean his suspension from the situation of President of the Council by Governor Ainslie.

His Excellency Sir Charles Shipley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have the honour to be,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed):

GILZUN MUNRO,
Senior Assistant Justice.

MICHELL versus Green. Assault, Battery, and Imprisonment.

PLEA, a Slave, and not free.—Replication, He is free—Issue joined.

Adye for Plaintiff.

Plea of Defendant is novel;—admits the injury complained of is affirmative; Defendant must prove it.

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EVIDENCE:

William Mair sworn.—Knows of Mr. Green's punishing Michell; saw the late Vice Governor taking Michell out of a house, and leading him to the parade, where he was imprisoned in the Cage in the first instance, and afterwards taken out and flogged by a driver, and then led away by soldiers—Witness stood in his own door.

Cross-examined.—Michell is a coloured lad, a Mulatto.

2d. Samuel Agard sworn.—Was present when Michell was flogged by a driver, by the direction of the Vice Governor; was about the Cage before, and when the plaintiff was brought there by the Vice Governor. Heard Plaintiff say he was free, had served in the militia, and did not know what he had done; to which the Vice Governor replied, if he served in The King's Guards, he would flog him. Governor desired 20 lashes to be given by a country driver, which were given.

Cross-examined.—Does not know whether Michell is free, or not.

[Case closed.]

Adye then remarked, Defendant ought to have remonstrated, but did not, and committed an illegal act. Governors may be made to suffer for illegal acts. This Action would be brought against the Governor, but he cannot be got at; Green, an adopter of the Governor's malice, by sending for a country driver as more severe.

Ottley for Defendant.

Cause unpopular; would have preferred the cause of liberty, but advocates have not a choice; must do his duty. The real question is the onus probandi of freedom. In England admits onus in a similar case would be on Defendant, very different here. Every person not white, is prima facie a slave by presumption in the Colonies. The late Judge Smith made a coloured plaintiff prove his freedom; not necessary, if Michell is a slave, for Green to prove who is his master; he may have run away from another island. Witnesses, if coloured, must prove their freedom. The Law, No. 68. Clauses 2 & 8. establish certain ceremonies, necessary to prove freedom by repute; if not gone through, freedom not established. Marshal justified in committing and selling coloured persons not known, and not proving their freedom. Onus probandi in this case lays with Plaintiff, a coloured man; he has not proved freedom, and ought to be nonsuited.

[No Witnesses for Defendant.]

Adye rejoining—Admits onus probandi lays on a Witness, but not on a Suitor. Every party coming into Court must be presumed entitled to justice. As to Judge Smith's making a Plaintiff prove his freedom, he might have been, and may have been a clever man; but was one of the most wrong-headed men he knew. Governor Ainslie prevented Plaintiff from going to Dominica to get proofs of his freedom. (Here Ottley said, there was no evidence of this before the Court, which Adye admitted.) The Act 51. was now obsolete. It was temporary, and in force but for two months; want of remedy for Michell if not free, ground for an assumption of jurisdiction here. Strong analogy between villeinage and slavery. Hargrave's notes on Somerset's case (see State Trials) onus probandi lays on the lord, not on the villein. As to all coloured persons being presumed slaves, partus sequitur ventrem, a Mulatto may be born of a white woman; would Mr. Attorney General call for proof of freedom? It would be very indecent if he did. The Defendant professes himself ready to prove the Plaintiff by his Plea: he has not done so, and Plaintiff is entitled to recover.

Ottley concluding.—Mulatto born of white woman must prove his mother *white*, before admitted free. It is not always necessary when a Plea concludes with a verification, nor a matter of course that the party pleading has the onus upon him. When a matter lies in the knowledge of a Plaintiff, and not a Defendant, former must prove. Hoped the point must be reserved, and if the Jury went against him, small damages would be given.

The Court:—Agreed with Mr. Adye, as to the impropriety of the punishment; and, in the event of the Plaintiff being entitled to sue, thought the Jury could not do otherwise than find for him. Upon the whole, thought he ought to have proved his freedom. He might have examined Witnesses to the point in Dominica, under the 35th Clause of the Court Act, if prevented landing there or not, of which it was admitted there was no proof. This Clause, his Counsel was well aware of, having that very day, in another cause, spoke to it. The Colonial Act requiring "*proof of manumission*" in certain cases past since the celebrated case of Somerset. Mr. Hargrave, who says in that case the *onus probandi* lays on the lord and not on the villein, admits there is a wide difference between

slavery

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slavery in the Colonies, and villeinage in England. Many runaways from other colonies are taken up and committed here. According to Mr. Adye, they may sue out a Habeas Corpus against the Magistrate or Marshal, and put them on the proof of their slavery; and a person not admissible as evidence, *may* prosecute a person for bearing testimony against him. In the case of Clozier *versus* Lumsden, in this island, the Defendant called the Plaintiff a slave, and hurt his credit. The Plaintiff was put upon proof of his freedom; he proved it, and recovered. This we thought ought to have been done here. Would reserve the point for special argument. As to damages, left that entirely to the Jury.

Verdict—Guilty; subject to opinion of the Court. Damages £. 5. Defendant submitting to pay, no special argument took place on the point of Law.

GISLUN MUNRO, S. A. J.

Grenada, 29th January 1814.

—(5.)—

Copy of a DISPATCH from Earl BATHURST to Governor AINSLIE;
dated, Downing-street, 29th March 1814.

SIR,

Downing Street, 29th March 1814.

A COMPLAINT was sometime since made to me of your having, while administering the government of Grenada, inflicted a severe punishment upon a coloured inhabitant of the name of Michell, I thought it my duty immediately to make enquiry into the subject, and to require from the Governor of Grenada, a full Statement of all the circumstances, and the minutes of what passed on the trial, which afterwards took place. I am sorry that I cannot find in them a complete justification of your conduct; for although that part of the charge, which accused you of having maltreated a free inhabitant, is certainly disproved, yet you have not denied, either by your Counsel or by Evidence, that you ordered a slave to be seized, punished, and confined, without any specification of his offence.

As, however, you immediately offered to the injured individual what was at the time accepted by him as a sufficient compensation for the injury sustained, I am led to hope that your violence towards him proceeded from momentary passion, and not from any settled disposition to act violently towards an individual of the class to which he belonged; and I trust that you will sufficiently see the necessity of guarding, by your future conduct, against the repetition of similar complaints against you, which, if substantiated, would not fail to call for the expression of the severest animadversion.

I have, &c.

To Governor Ainslie.

(Signed) BATHURST.

(Grenada.)

P A P E R S

RELATING TO

GOVERNOR AINSLIE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,

4 May 1814;

And to be Re-printed, 5 May 1815.
