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P A P E R S
RELATING TO THE
S L A V E T R A D E.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE, 16 December 1812.

S C H E D U L E.

- No. 1.—Extract of a Letter from Vice Admiral Stopford, dated Lion, Table Bay, 29th January 1812, to John Wilson Croker, Esq.
- No. 2.—Extract of a Letter from Vice Admiral Stopford, dated Lion, Table Bay, 6th March 1812, to John Wilson Croker, Esq.
- No. 3.—Extract of a Second Letter from Vice Admiral Stopford, dated Lion, Table Bay, 6th March 1812.
- No. 4.—Extract of a Letter from Captain Lynne of the Eclipse, Senior Officer at the Isle of France, dated 9th January 1812, to Vice Admiral Stopford; enclosed in the Extract No. 3.
- No. 5.—Extract of a Letter from Captain Lynne of the Eclipse, dated 21st May 1812, to Vice Admiral Stopford.
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No. 1.—EXTRACT of a Letter from Vice Admiral *Stopford*, dated from on board H. M. Ship *Lion*, in Table Bay, 29 January 1812, to *John Wilson Croker*, Esq.

WITHIN the last week, three Ships, under Portuguese colours, have put into Table Bay, coming from Mozambique, and bound to Rio Janeiro, with Slaves. I have, in the instance of one of these Ships, acted upon the 5th Article of the Treaty between His Britannic Majesty and the Prince Regent of Portugal, signed at Rio Janeiro on the 19th February 1810, and detained her upon the proof of her being an American Ship, and not built in any part of the dominions of the Crown of Portugal.

These vessels appear to sail in a very irregular manner, as they are not provided with Registers, or Licences, to carry on this species of Traffic.

Their Lordships will observe the great facility afforded to the Portuguese Slave Ships employed between Mozambique and Rio Janeiro, in their stopping at the Cape of Good Hope to replenish their stock of water.

By this convenience, the Traders are enabled to crowd their Ships in a most inhuman manner. This practice would be, in a great measure, stopped, by depriving them of this advantage, and compelling them to adapt their cargoes to the capacity of the vessel for the stowage of water sufficient to perform the whole passage.

Serious injury is also likely to arise to the inhabitants of this Colony by these Slave Ships making a practise of stopping here. Two of the vessels now in Table Bay have the Small-pox on board; and, though every precaution is taken to prevent communication with the shore, yet it is very possible to introduce the contagion, by means of the boats which supply the ships with water.

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

PAPERS RELATING TO

No. 2.—EXTRACT of a Letter from Vice Admiral *Stopford*, to *J. W. Croker*, Esq. dated on board His Majesty's Ship *Lion*, in Table Bay, 6 March 1812.

* The Letter here referred to, bears No. 1. in the Schedule.

IN my letter to you, No. 9*, I stated, that I had detained the Portuguese Ship *Restourador*, from Mozambique to Rio Janeiro, with a cargo of Slaves consisting of four hundred and fifty, which Ship had put into Table Bay for a supply of water: She has, by a decree of the Court of Vice Admiralty, been adjudged a Droit of Admiralty, and the Blacks made over to the Captors. The opinion of the Judge on this occasion, was entirely determined by the inspection of the printed Papers relative to the Portuguese Slave Trade, forwarded by Mr. Barrow on the 2d May, in which it appears that none but Portuguese-built vessels were allowed to carry on the Slave Trade, and the *Restourador* was proved to have been built in America.

L'Eclair,
Industrie,
Prudente.

A different judgment had however been previously given by the Vice Admiralty Court, in the case of the three vessels named in the margin, which were detained off Port Louis, and sent here for adjudication by Captain Schomberg, of His Majesty's Ship *Astrca*. These vessels were conveying Slaves from Tamatave in Madagascar to the Isle of France, in pursuance of the capitulation entered into for the surrender of that place to the British. Private property being, as usual, reserved to the French inhabitants, application was made to Governor Farquhar by those persons who wished to remove from Tamatave to the Mauritius, for permission to take their Slaves with them as private property. Governor Farquhar having assented, Captain Schomberg, the senior officer at Port Louis, agreed to permit the importation of a specified number, and the vessels above-mentioned were employed in the conveyance of them; but on their arrival at Port Louis, a suspicion arising that more Slaves were on board than were permitted to be brought, a search was made, and many persons were discovered secreted below. So material a departure from the original permission, vitiated, in Captain Schomberg's mind, the whole transaction, and he therefore felt himself justified in detaining the vessels. It was his intention to have sent the vessels and Slaves to the Cape of Good Hope, for adjudication in the Court of Vice Admiralty, but the vessels were inadequate to carry the Slaves upon such a voyage; they were therefore landed at the Isle of France, placed under the government, and the vessels proceeded to the Cape under convoy of the *Racehorse*. They arrived in Table Bay on the 24th, 25th, and 26th October 1811; and early in February a final hearing took place; when the whole property was restored to the Claimants, upon the ground (according to the Judge's opinion) that as the conquered Island had so recently become the possession of the British crown, the inhabitants could not be aware of the Laws existing relative to the Slave Trade; but to me it appears, that as it was found necessary by the Owners of these Slaves to secrete them in the vessels, that circumstance implied a strong suspicion of their being conscious of acting in violation of the Law. An appeal against this decision has been lodged by Captain Schomberg's agent.

Another cargo of these Blacks has lately been sent to the Cape by Captain Lynne, of His Majesty's Sloop *Eclipse*; one hundred and forty-five of these people were taken by him off Port Louis, in a vessel of forty tons burthen. These were also said to be private property of the French inhabitants of Tamatave, and removed under the sanction of Governor Farquhar's permission; but as it was well known that the number of Slaves at Tamatave at the time of its surrender did not amount to the number already imported, Captain Lynne was of opinion, that these Blacks were also illegally removed, and he took the opportunity of the *Hercules* Transport coming to the Cape of Good Hope, to send them here. But the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court has declined coming to any decision upon them, as there were no claimants; the law allowing a year for the appearance of some person of that description. As the expense of maintaining these people for a long time falls upon the Captors, I beg leave to point out to their Lordships how much such an expense will hereafter tend to make Captains very reluctant in detaining ships of this description, if there is a probability of such an enormous expense being attached to it. In this instance the Agents of the Captors have, at their risque, let these men out to different inhabitants, and thereby released the Captors from the immediate expense of their maintenance; but in general the inhabitants are unwilling to have them upon an uncertain tenure.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

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An English Merchant vessel, called the Snake, having lately arrived from England, I received by that opportunity, from the Secretary of the African Institution, a Copy of the Act of Parliament, of the 14th May 1811, imposing fresh penalties upon dealers in Slaves. I have therefore communicated to Governor Farquhar my intention to seize every vessel so employed, after the 1st of January 1812, and have given the necessary orders to the ships upon the station.

No. 3.—EXTRACT of a Second Letter from Vice Admiral the Honourable *Robert Stopford*, dated His Majesty's Ship *Lion*, in Table Bay, 6 March 1812, to *John Wilson Croker*, Esq.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, an Extract of a Letter written by Captain Lynne, of His Majesty's Sloop *Eclipse*, on the capture of a *Chasse Maree*, laden with Slaves.

No. 4.—EXTRACT of a Letter (dated January 9, 1812) received from *Henry Lynne*, Esq. Commander of His Majesty's Sloop *Eclipse*, and Senior Officer at the Isle of France, to Vice Admiral *Stopford*. (Enclosure to No. 3.)

THE shameful abuse of the indulgence granted by Government to the inhabitants of this Island, and Bourbon, is such, that it is high time it should be checked. A List was given of eight hundred and sixty-three Slaves, at Tamatave, as private property, at the time of the capitulation of that Colony; whereas, I am fully convinced, not half that number were in their possession; and I have now certain information of eight hundred and eighty having been introduced into the two Islands since; notwithstanding which, Mr. Deller, who is stiled the accredited Agent of Government, writes word, that there are three hundred and forty-seven Slaves still remaining to be sent from Tamatave.

You may rely, Sir, on my using my utmost endeavours to seize and detain them, feeling that I am fully authorized to do so by the Slave Act.

No. 5.—EXTRACT of a Letter from Captain *Lynne*, of H. M. Ship *Eclipse*, dated the 21st May 1812, to Vice Admiral *Stopford*.

THE Natives of Madagascar also come over in their canoes to plunder the coasting vessels, taking the Slaves, or whatever else they may have on board; which they have done for some time past with impunity and great success.

There are regular ships come annually from Rio Janeiro to Mozambique with supplies, and take in return, Slaves, ivory, gold dust and gum. The Americans have always been in the habit of coming here, and still continue to do so every year in the months of June and July, and smuggle Slaves to the Brazils and Spanish America. A brig also, lately from Seychelles, but belonging to the Isle of France, had been there, and taken away two hundred Slaves.

During the time the Isle of France was in possession of the French, there was a great traffic carried on; they calculate on an average there were about 12,000 Slaves annually exported from the Portuguese settlements on the African coast to their settlements in India, Brazils, &c."

P A P E R S

RELATING TO THE

SLAVE TRADE.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be printed,
12 February 1813.*
