



Center *for* Research Libraries
GLOBAL RESOURCES NETWORK

The Center for Research Libraries scans to provide digital delivery of its holdings. In some cases problems with the quality of the original document or microfilm reproduction may result in a lower quality scan, but it will be legible. In some cases pages may be damaged or missing. Files include OCR (machine searchable text) when the quality of the scan and the language or format of the text allows.

If preferred, you may request a loan by contacting Center for Research Libraries through your Interlibrary Loan Office.

Rights and usage

Materials digitized by the Center for Research Libraries are intended for the personal educational and research use of students, scholars, and other researchers of the CRL member community. Copyrighted images and texts may not be reproduced, displayed, distributed, broadcast, or downloaded for other purposes without the expressed, written permission of the copyright owner.

Center for Research Libraries

Identifier: eddfc311-966e-4c44-9b2f-23ad76336d98

Range: Scans 001 - 050

Downloaded on: 2022-05-23 22:14:05

P A P E R S

PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

RESPECTING THE

SLAVE TRADE;

&c.

Ordered to be printed 25th February 1805.

L I S T.

- A. Copy of a Letter from Earl Camden to Lieutenant Governor Nugent; dated
Downing-street, 4th October 1804 - - - - - p. 1.
A. N° 1. One Enclosure. Heads of Information - - - - - ibid.
- B. Copy of a Letter from Earl Camden to Governor Cameron; dated Downing-
street, 4th October 1804 - - - - - p. 2.
B. N° 1. One Enclosure. Heads of Information - - - - - ibid.
- C. Copy of a Letter from Earl Camden to the Right honourable Lord Lavington;
dated Downing-street, the 4th October 1804 - - - - - ibid.
C. N° 1. One Enclosure. Heads of Information - - - - - p. 3.
- D. Copy of a Letter from Earl Camden to Governor Prevost; dated Downing-
street, 4th October 1804 - - - - - p. 4.
D. N° 1. One Enclosure. Heads of Information - - - - - ibid.
- E. Copy of a Letter from Earl Camden to President Adye; dated Downing-street,
4th October 1804 - - - - - ibid.
E. N° 1. One Enclosure. Heads of Information - - - - - p. 5.
- F. Copy of a Letter from Earl Camden to the Right honourable Lord Seaforth;
dated Downing-street, 4th October 1804 - - - - - ibid.
F. N° 1. One Enclosure. Heads of Information - - - - - p. 6.
- G. Copy of a Letter from Earl Camden to Gov. Bentinck; dated Downing-street,
4th October 1804 - - - - - ibid.
G. N° 1. One Enclosure. Heads of Information - - - - - ibid.
- H. Copy of a Letter from the Earl Camden to President Tucker; dated Downing
Street, 4th October 1804 - - - - - ibid
H. N° 1. One Enclosure. Heads of Information - - - - - p. 7.
- I. Copy of a Letter from the Right honourable Lord Seaforth to Earl Camden; dated
Barbadoes, the 13th November 1804 (Four Enclosures) - - - - - ibid.
I. N° 1. Enclosure N° 1. President Ince's Statement of the Case of Henry Halls - - - - - ibid.
I. N° 2. N° 2. Copy of a Letter from the Advocate General to the Right
honourable Lord Seaforth, dated 25th October 1804 p. 8.
I. N° 3. N° 3. Extract of a Letter from Mr. Pilgrim to the Right honourable
Lord Seaforth; dated 25th September 1804 - - - - - p. 10.
I. N° 4. N° 4. Copy of a Letter from Mr. Rowe to the Right honourable Lord
Seaforth, 29th September 1804 - - - - - ibid.
- K. Report of a Committee of the House of Assembly, appointed to inquire into the
Proceedings of the British Parliament relative to the Slave Trade - - - - - p. 11.
- L. Extract of a Letter from Governor Prevost to Earl Camden; dated Dominica,
10th December 1804 - - - - - p. 34.

-
- M. Extract of a Letter from Governor Bentinck to Earl Camden; dated St. Vincent's,
12th December 1804 - - - - - p. 34.
- N. Extract of a Letter from the Right honourable Lord Lavington to Earl Camden;
dated Antigua, 14th December 1804 - - - - - ibid.
- O. Copy of a Letter from Mr. President Adye to Earl Camden; dated Grenada, 16th
December 1804 - - - - - p. 35.
- P. Extract of a Letter from Governor Prevost to Earl Camden, dated Dominica,
1st January 1805 (Six Enclosures) - - - - - p. 36.
- P. N° 1. Enclosure N° 1. An Account of Negroes exported and imported between 1788
and 1804 - - - - - p. 37.
- P. N° 2. N° 2. A Statement of the Population of Dominica - - - - - p. 38.
- P. N° 3. N° 3. List of Convictions, &c. - - - - - p. 39.
- P. N° 4. N° 4. Copy of a Letter from Mr. Audain to Governor Prevost; dated
31st December 1804 - - - - - p. 40.
- P. N° 5. N° 5. Return of Baptisms, Burials, &c. - - - - - p. 41.
- P. N° 6. N° 6. Copy of a Letter from L'Abbé Canvan to Governor Prevost,
dated 30th December 1804 - - - - - ibid.
- O. Extract of a Letter from the Right honourable Lord Seaforth to Earl Camden;
dated Barbadoes, 7th January 1805 (One Enclosure) - - - - - p. 42.
- Q. N° 1. Enclosure. An Account of Slaves imported and exported - - - - - ibid.
- R. Extract of a Letter from the Right honourable Lord Seaforth to Earl Camden,
dated Barbadoes; 7th January 1805 (One Enclosure) - - - - - p. 43.
- R. N° 1. Enclosure. Copy of a Letter from Mr. Beckles to the Right honourable
Lord Seaforth; dated 19th November 1804 - - - - - ibid.
- S. Copy of a separate Letter from Earl Camden to the Right honourable Lord Seaforth;
dated Downing-street, the 21st January 1805 - - - - - p. 45.

[*]

CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

A.

Copy of a Letter from Earl CAMDEN to Lieutenant
Governor NUGENT; dated 4th October 1804.

(One Enclosure.)

Sir,

Downing Street, 4th October 1804.

I AM to desire you will transmit to me, as speedily as possible, the most correct and particular Information that can be obtained upon the several Points specified in the inclosed Heads of Information.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

CAMDEN.

Lieutenant Governor Nugent,
&c. &c. &c

A. N^o 1.

(Enclosure.)

HEADS OF INFORMATION.

AN Account of all the Negro Slaves imported into Jamaica every Year since 1788; and of the Number re-exported in each Year.

The most authentic and particular Account which can be obtained of the Number of Negro Slaves in Jamaica, dividing them into Classes of Male and Female; Children from 1 to 12; Youth from 12 to 20, full grown; Men and Women from 20 to 60; and the Aged; and stating, as accurately as possible, the Number in each Class respectively: Also,

An Account of the total Number of free Negroes, and of coloured People.

N. B. It is desirable that the Manner in which the Information is obtained, and the Account made up, should be stated as distinctly as possible.

You are also desired to transmit at the same time, in Original and Duplicate, the following further Information; viz.

A List and brief Abstract; or, if that be inconsistent with requisite Dispatch, a true Account of the Numbers, Dates, and Parties Names, of all Accounts or Returns delivered in upon Oath by Masters, Owners, Proprietors, or Possessors of Slaves, or Overseers, or Chief Managers, pursuant to the 7th Section of the Consolidation Slave Act of 1792, from the Month of March in that Year to the last Date of such Account.

Also a like List and Abstract, or general Account, of all Returns made upon Oath by Owners, Overseers, or Managers, in pursuance of the 33d Section of the said Act of Assembly.

If it appears that no such Accounts or Returns have been duly made, or that they have been in any great Measure neglected, you are requested further to send,

An Account or List of all Convictions had, Fines or Forfeitures recovered, and of all Prosecutions commenced against the Defaulters, pursuant to the said Act of Assembly.

If the said Returns and Accounts have been wholly or generally neglected, and no Prosecutions have taken place for that Cause, you are to send a Certificate to that Effect.

PAPERS RESPECTING

B.

(One Enclosure.)

Copy of a Letter from Earl CAMDEN, to Governor CAMERON; dated 4th October 1804.

Downing Street, 4th October 1804.

Sir,

I AM to desire you will transmit to me, as speedily as possible, the most correct and particular Information that can be obtained upon the several Points specified in the enclosed Heads of Information.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

CAMDEN.

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

B. N^o. 1.

(Enclosure.)

HEADS OF INFORMATION.

AN Account of all the Negro Slaves imported into the Bahama Islands, every Year since 1788, and of the Number re-exported in each Year.

The most authentic and particular Account which can be obtained, of the Number of Negro Slaves in the Bahama Islands, dividing them into Classes of Male and Female; Children from 1 to 12; Youth from 12 to 20, full grown Men and Women from 20 to 60; and the Aged; and stating, as accurately as possible, the Number in each Class respectively; Also,

An Account of the total Number of free Negroes and coloured People.

N. B. It is desirable that the Manner in which the Information is obtained, and the Accounts made up, should be stated as distinctly as possible.

You are also desired to transmit at the same time, in Original and Duplicate, the following further Information:

A List and Abstract, or general Account, of all Returns made upon Oath by Owners, Overseers, or Managers, in pursuance of the 16th Section of the Consolidation Slave Act of 1797.

If it appears that no such Accounts or Returns have been duly made, or that they have been in any great Measure neglected, you are requested further to send,

An Account or List of all Convictions had, or Fines recovered, and of all Prosecutions commenced against the Defaulters, pursuant to the said Act of Assembly.

If the said Returns and Accounts have been wholly or generally neglected, and no Prosecutions have taken place for that Cause, you are to send a Certificate to that Effect.

C.

(One Enclosure.)

Copy of a Letter from Earl CAMDEN to Lord LAVINGTON; dated 4th October 1804.

Downing Street, 4th October 1804,

My Lord,

I AM to desire your Lordship will transmit to me, as speedily as possible, the most correct and particular Information that can be obtained upon the several Points specified in the inclosed Heads of Information,

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

CAMDEN.

The Right honourable Lord Lavington,
&c. &c. &c.

THE SLAVE TRADE

3

C. N^o. 1.

(Enclosure.)

HEADS OF INFORMATION.

AN Account of all the Negro Slaves imported into the Leeward Islands every Year since 1788, and of the Number re-exported in each Year.

The most authentic and particular Account which can be obtained, of the Number of Negro Slaves in the Leeward Islands, dividing them into Classes of Male and Female; Children from 1 to 12; Youth from 12 to 20, full grown Men and Women from 20 to 60; and the Aged; and stating, as accurately as possible, the Number in each Class respectively: Also,

An Account of the total Number of free Negroes and People of Colour.

N. B. It is desirable that the Manner in which the Information is obtained, and the Accounts made up, should be stated as distinctly as possible.

You are further particularly required to transmit without Delay, an Account, containing a List and Abstract of all Returns made to the Councils or Assemblies of the different Islands within your Government, in pursuance of the 5th, 35th, and 36th Sections of the Act of the General Council and Assembly of the Leeward Islands, passed in 1798, intituled, "An Act more effectually to provide for the Support, and to extend certain Regulations for the Protection of Slaves, &c." from the Date of the General Act, to the Date of the said List and Abstract; the said List and Abstract to contain the Dates of the said Returns, the Names of the Parties making the same, and the Plantations for which they were made; and also in respect of Returns under the 35th and 36th Sections, the Number of Births and Deaths respectively comprized therein, together with such Causes of Mortality as may be specified therein, by the Physician or Surgeon.

Also, An Account of the Number of Overseers or Directors of Slaves in each Island within the Government, who have appeared yearly, or in any one or more Years since the passing of the said Act, before the Court of King's Bench or Common Pleas of the Island wherein they respectively reside, and taken the Oath prescribed in the 8th Section of the said Act, and of the Number of Owners or Directors of Slaves in each Island, who have at any time made default therein; and also an Account of the Convictions had or Prosecutions instituted for such Default, and the Penalties recovered thereupon.

These Accounts, Lists, and Abstracts, are all to be certified by the proper Officers of the Councils and Assemblies, and of the Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas, respectively. If the said Accounts, Lists, and Abstracts, cannot all be made up with equal Dispatch, or in time to be transmitted by the same Conveyance, you are requested to send them separately as soon as they can be respectively prepared.

If the same, or any of them, cannot be fully or accurately made up, you are to state, and also require the Officers aforesaid particularly to state and certify the Causes thereof, and nevertheless to transmit such Accounts, Lists, and Abstracts, in the best and most perfect Form in which they can be obtained, as speedily as possible. In case of any Difficulty or necessary Delay, you are desired to send precise and full Information, as to the Nature of such Impediments, by the earliest Opportunity, and to state when, and to what Extent; more perfect Information may be expected should the Case really be, that the Act referred to has not been carried into Execution in all or any of the Provisions, the Effect of which is here sought for, you are to state such Failure or Default of Execution without Delay.

N. B. The general Law of the Leeward Caribbee Islands, passed in April 1798, is specially intended in the first *general* Enquiry respecting Convictions and Prosecutions for cruel and oppressive Treatment of Slaves, in the Islands within their Government respectively. You are particularly desired to state, to the best of your Knowledge and Information, in your first Reply hereto, whether any Convictions or Prosecutions have or have not taken place under that Act, within any of the Leeward Islands.

PAPERS RESPECTING

D.

(One Enclosure.)

Copy of a Letter from Earl CAMDEN to Governor PREVOST
dated 4th October 1804.

Sir,

Downing Street, 4th October 1804.

I AM to desire you will transmit to me, as speedily as possible, the most correct and particular Information that can be obtained, upon the several Points specified in the inclosed Heads of Information.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

CAMDEN.

Governor Prevost,
&c. &c. &c.

D. N° 1.

(Enclosure.)

HEADS OF INFORMATION.

AN Account of all the Negro Slaves imported into Dominica every Year since 1788, and of the Number re-exported in each Year.

The most authentic and particular Account which can be obtained, of the Number of Negro Slaves in Dominica, dividing them into Classes of Male and Female; Children from 1 to 12; Youth from 12 to 20, full grown Men and Women from 20 to 60; and the Aged; and stating, as accurately as possible, the Number in each Class respectively: Also,

An Account of the total Number of free Negroes and coloured People.

N. B. It is desirable that the Manner in which the Information is obtained, and the Account made up, should be stated as distinctly as possible.

You are also desired to transmit at the same time, in Original and Duplicate, the following further Information; viz.

A List and Abstract, or general Account of all Returns, made upon Oath by Owners, Overseers, or Managers, in pursuance of the 7th and 8th Clauses or Sections of an Act, passed in December 1788, intituled, An Act for the "Encouragement, Protection, and better Management of Slaves."

If it appears that no such Accounts or Returns have been duly made, or that they have been in any great Measure neglected, you are requested further to send,

An Account or List of all Convictions had, and Fines or Forfeitures recovered, and of all Prosecutions commenced against the Defaulters, pursuant to the said Act of Assembly.

If the said Returns and Accounts have been wholly or generally neglected, and no Prosecutions have taken place for that Cause, you are to send a Certificate to that Effect.

You will also state whether the Island had in 1788 or 1799, when the Act was made perpetual, or yet has, any and what parochial or established Clergy, by whom the Regulations in Sections 3 and 4, have been or can be carried into Effect.

E.

(One Enclosure.)

Copy of a Letter from Earl CAMDEN to Mr. President ADYE;
dated Downing Street, 4th October 1804.

Sir,

Downing Street, 4th October 1804.

I AM to desire you will transmit to me, as speedily as possible, the most correct and particular Information that can be obtained, upon the several Points specified in the enclosed Heads of Information.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CAMDEN.

To Mr. President Adye,
&c. &c. &c.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

5

E. N^o 1.
(Enclosure.)

HEADS OF INFORMATION.

AN Account of all Negro Slaves imported into Grenada every Year since 1788, and of the Number re-exported in each Year.

The most authentic and particular Account which can be obtained, of the Number of Negro Slaves in Grenada, dividing them into Classes of Male and Female; Children from 1 to 12; Youth from 12 to 20, full grown Men and Women from 20 to 60; and the Aged; and stating, as accurately as possible, the Number in each Class respectively: Also,

An Account of the total Number of free Negroes and of coloured People.

N. B. It is desirable that the Manner in which the Information is obtained, and the Account made up, should be stated as distinctly as possible.

You are also desired to transmit at the same time, in Original and Duplicate, the following further Information; viz.

A List and Abstract, or general Account, of all Returns made upon Oath by Owners, Overseers, or Managers, in pursuance of the 11th and 12th Clauses or Sections of the Act of Grenada, for the Protection of Slaves, and promoting their Increase and Population, and for appointing Guardians, &c. passed in 1796.

If it appears that no such Accounts or Returns have been duly made, or that they have been in any great Measure neglected, you are requested further to send,

An Account of all Convictions had, and Fines or Forfeitures recovered, and of all Prosecutions commenced against the Defaulters, pursuant to the said Act of Assembly.

If the said Returns and Accounts have been wholly or generally neglected, and no Prosecutions have taken place for that Cause, you are to send a Certificate to that Effect.

You are further desired to transmit an Account or List of the Names of Persons chosen and appointed Guardians of Slaves in Grenada and the Grenadines, from time to time, from and after the Expiration of the Term of Service of the Guardians named in the said Act to the present Time, pursuant to the Directions of the 15th and 16th Sections of the said Act of Assembly: Also an Account or List of Guardians so chosen and appointed, who have from time to time taken the Oath prescribed by the said 16th Section, together with a List or Account of Certificates of Guardians having qualified by taking the said Oath, which have been transmitted and filed in the Secretary's Office, pursuant to the said 16th Section, distinguishing the Year or Time of Service for which such Guardians have been respectively so qualified, which last-mentioned List or Account is to be certified before you upon Oath, as truly extracted from the original Certificates in the said Office. If it appears that any Guardians so chosen and appointed have omitted to take the said Oath, or refused to act as Guardians, you are desired to transmit an Account certified and proved as aforesaid, of any Convictions or Prosecutions which have been had for such Default under the said Act of Assembly.

You will further state, whether the said Act has been renewed since 1799, or any other Act passed for the same Purposes.

F.

(One Enclosure.)

Copy of a Letter from Earl CAMDEN, to Lord SEAFORTH;
dated Downing Street, 4th October 1804.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 4th October 1804.

I AM to desire you will transmit to me, as speedily as possible, the most correct and particular Information that can be obtained, upon the several Points specified in the inclosed Heads of Information.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CAMDEN.

To the Right honourable Lord Seaforth,
&c. &c. &c.

PAPERS RESPECTING

F. N^o. I.

(Enclosure.)

HEADS OF INFORMATION.

AN Account of all the Negro Slaves imported into Barbadoes, every Year since 1788, and of the Number re-exported in each Year.

The most authentic and particular Account which can be obtained, of the Number of Negro Slaves in Barbadoes, dividing them into Classes of Male and Female; Children from 1 to 12; Youth from 12 to 20, full grown Men and Women from 20 to 60; and the Aged; and stating, as accurately as possible, the Number in each Class respectively; Also,

An Account of the total Number of free Negroes and coloured People.

N. B. It is desirable that the Manner in which the Information is obtained, and the Account made up, should be stated as distinctly as possible.

G.

(One Enclosure.)

Copy of a Letter from Earl CAMDEN to Governor BENTINCK;
dated Downing Street, 4th October 1804.

Sir,

Downing Street, 4th October 1804.

I AM to desire you will transmit to me, as speedily as possible, the most correct and particular Information that can be obtained, upon the several Points specified in the inclosed Heads of Information.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CAMDEN,

To Governor Bentinck,
&c. &c. &c.

G. N^o. I.

(Enclosure.)

HEADS OF INFORMATION.

AN Account of all the Negro Slaves imported into St. Vincent's every Year since 1788, and of the Number re-exported in each Year.

The most authentic and particular Account which can be obtained, of the Number of Negro Slaves in St. Vincent's, dividing them into Classes of Male and Female; Children from 1 to 12; Youth from 12 to 20, full grown Men and Women from 20 to 60; and the Aged; and stating, as accurately as possible, the Number in each Class respectively; Also,

An Account of the total Number of free Negroes and coloured People.

N. B. It is desirable that the Manner in which the Information is obtained, and the Account made up, should be stated as distinctly as possible.

H.

(One Enclosure.)

Copy of a Letter from Earl CAMDEN to Mr. President TUCKER;
dated Downing Street, 4th October 1804.

Sir,

Downing Street, 4th October 1804.

I AM to desire you will transmit to me, as speedily as possible, the most correct and particular Information that can be obtained, upon the several Points specified in the enclosed Heads of Information.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CAMDEN.

To Mr. President Tucker,
&c. &c. &c.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

7

H. N° 1.

(Enclosure.)

HEADS OF INFORMATION.

AN Account of all the Negro Slaves imported into Bermuda every Year since 1788, and of the Number re-exported in each Year.

The most authentic and particular Account which can be obtained, of the Number of Negro Slaves in Bermuda, dividing them into Classes of Male and Female; Children from 1 to 12; Youth from 12 to 20, full grown Men and Women from 20 to 60; and the Aged; and stating, as accurately as possible, the Number in each Class respectively; Also,

An Account of the total Number of free Negroes and coloured People.

N. B. It is desirable that the Manner in which the Information is obtained, and the Account made up, should be stated as distinctly as possible.

I.

(Four Enclosures.)

Extract of a Letter from Lord SEAFORTH to the Earl CAMDEN; dated Barbadoes, 13th November 1804.

I ALSO enclose four Papers, numbered from N° 1 to 4, containing, from different Quarters, Reports on the horrid Murders I mentioned in some former Letters; they are selected from a great Number, among which there is not one in Contradiction of the horrible Facts, though several of the Letters are very concise and defective; the Truth is, that nothing has given me more Trouble to get to the Bottom of than these Businesses, so horribly absurd are the Prejudices of the People; however, a great Part of my Object is answered, by the Alarm my Interference has excited, and the Attention it has called to the Business; Bills are already proposed to make Murder Felony in both the Council and the Assembly; but, I fear, they will be thrown out for the present in the Assembly; the Council are unanimous on the side of Humanity,

I. N° 1.

(President INCE's Statement.)

STATEMENT in Case of HENRY HALLS.

ON the 10th Day of April 1804, on my Return to Enmore in the Evening, I found Mr. Justice Walton and Mr. Harding, former Manager of Prettejohn's Estate, and now the Manager of the Society's Estate, attached to the Support of Codrington College. Mr. Walton told me that Mr. Harding had brought before him a Man of the Name of Henry Halls, a private Soldier in the St. Michael's or Royal Regiment, who had, in presence of Mr. Harding, in a most wanton, malicious Manner, murdered a Negro Woman, that he did not know personally, but had since heard she was the Property of Mr. Clarke, the Owner of the Estate called Simmons's; that she was a valuable Slave, and had five or six Children. Mr. Walton said that Halls seemed to be very indifferent about the Crime, and that he had called upon me to know what was to be done with him, as Mr. Walton said in his Situation as a Magistrate, the Law of the Island admitted him no Jurisdiction or Authority over him, and he did not consider he had a right to commit him to Prison without my Order. Mr. Harding then gave the following Testimony: That he was returning from Town, and just above the Line of Pilgrim he overtook several Market Negroes and this Man, Halls, on the Road; he did not know this Man at the time, but he had his Musket and Bayonet fixed over his Shoulder, and his Regimentals, as returning from the Alarm which had arisen that Morning, and discharged

discharged at Noon; that when he overtook this Man it was not Six o'Clock in the Evening; as he drew near him, he heard him muttering some Words, and saw him run after some Negroes with his Bayonet charged; that the Woman was on the other Side of the Road still going up; and as he came up this Man, Halls, stopped until the Woman came by, and immediately crossed the Road, as Halls made after the Woman, and plunged the Bayonet into her Body, when the poor Creature dropped, and without a Groan expired; he immediately went to him, and spoke harshly to him, and said, he ought to be hanged, for he never saw a more wicked, unprovoked Murder, and that he would certainly carry him before a Magistrate, and that he should be sent to Gaol; and he said, "for what? killing a Negro?" On which he got Assistance, and brought him to Mr. Walton the Magistrate, and that he, Mr. Harding, had accompanied Mr. Walton to me, to relate the Fact. I told Mr. Walton that I regretted, with real Concern, the Deficiency in our Law; but that there was a Penalty due to the King in such Cases; and that, as Mr. Harding had sufficiently substantiated the Fact, I would order him to be committed till he paid the Forfeiture, or a Suit should be commenced against him: Accordingly he was sent to Prison, where he now remains, and under Arrest from Mr. Clarke's Representatives, to be recovered according to Law, and the King's Fine, and will possibly be there for Life, as I hear he is not worth a Shilling, nor no Expectancy ever to pay it. Perhaps, my Lord, it was a stretch of Power in me to order Commitment before a Recovery of the Fine; but the Evidence of Mr. Harding, a Man of unblemished Character, the Circumstances of the Case so horrid, so wickedly deliberate and unprovoked, conspired to induce me to secure his Person until the only Remedy of some Punishment could be applied. Lamentable indeed is it, that our Assembly (for I cannot allow Legislature to form the Word) should look upon such things with cold Indifference, and not provide that just Remedy which the Law of God and Man, in every other civilized Community but *this*, has in effect, and even upon larger Extent of Population and Slavery; in Jamaica not the smallest Inconvenience has ever arisen. Surely! Surely! they will be more disposed to hear Reason, and to establish Justice!!

To the second Query from your Lordship; I believe the Fact relates to the Case which was instituted by Action in the Court of Exchequer, before your Excellency left the Government, as I signed the Writ when Chief Baron, at the Suit of Colbeck against Crone; and I understand Judgment has been admitted without being given to Jury, against Crone in favour of Colbeck; but whether the King's Fine is included in that Recovery I really do not know, and your Excellency may be better informed from the present Chief Baron or the Attorney General. The Circumstances of that Case I do not know exactly; from common Report, they must have been richly deserving of the *Jus per Coll*—

To the third Query.—I never heard any official Account of the Case; I understand from Enquiry, that the Fact, as to the Murder, is true, that the Party's Name is Thomas Nowell, a Butcher by Trade in the Parish of St. Andrew, and that being in the direct Vicinity of the reverend Mr. Payne, and the honourable Colonel Jordan, your Excellency may obtain a more particular Account of this infamous Wretch, who, I am told, ought to have been removed from Society long ago.

I. N° 2.

Advocate General's Letter to Lord SEAFORTH; dated
October 25th, 1804.

My Lord,

October 25th, 1804.

I HAVE many Apologies to make to your Lordship, for not sending an earlier Answer to the several Questions respecting the Negroes who have of late been most wantonly and inhumanly murdered. The Delay has been owing to the Difficulty I have met with in procuring any thing like satisfactory Information as to the last of the Cases; and therefore I shall hope for your Lordship's Excuse.

With respect to the first; a Man of the Name of Halls, belonging to the Royal Regiment, was returning home from his exercising Duty, on one of the Militia Days;

Days; several Negroes were upon the Road before him going on very quietly, and amongst them a Woman big with Child. Halls was in liquor, and was constantly bawling out to the Negroes and abusing them, and telling them if they did not get out of his way he would make them. On his beginning to run after them, they all got out of his reach, except this unfortunate Woman; Halls ran up to her, and, without the least Provocation on her Part, very coolly and deliberately stabbed her several times in the Breast with his Bayonet. The Woman, I believe, was not killed upon the Spot, but died soon afterwards. Mr. Harding, the Overseer of the Society Plantation, was on his way home, and saw the whole Transaction; he immediately secured Halls, and had him taken to Gaol, where he now is.

As to the second; Mr. Colbeck, who lived Overseer on Cabbage Tree Plantation in St. Lucy's Parish, had bought a new Negro Boy out of the Yard, and carried him home; taking a liking to the Boy, he brought him into the House, and made him wait at Table. Mr. Crone (the Overseer of Colonel Rowe's Estate, and which is near to Cabbage Tree) visited Colbeck, had noticed the Boy, and knew him well. A Fire happening one Night in the Neighbourhood, Colbeck went to give Assistance, and the Boy followed him. On Colbeck's return home he missed the Boy, and as he did not make his Appearance the next Day, Colbeck sent round to the Neighbours, *and particularly to Crone*, informing them that the Boy was missing, and desiring them to send him home if they should meet with him. Two or three Days elapsed, and the poor Creature was first discovered in a Gully, near to Colonel Rowe's Estate; and a Number of Negroes were soon assembled about the Place. The Boy, naturally terrified with the Threats, the Noise, and the Appearance of so many People, hid himself under a Rock in the Gully; by this time Crone and some other white Persons had come up, a Fire was ordered to be put to the Place where the Boy was, and he was actually burnt out. From this Hole the Boy ran to a Piece of Water, which was near, and some of the Negroes went in after him. The Boy, it is said, took up a Stone and threw it at one of them. Crone, who it seems had brought a Gun with him, levelled it at the Boy, and shot him; and other Guns, as I have understood, were also fired. The poor Wretch was then dragged out of the Water, and, without even sending to his Master, a Hole was immediately dug, and he was put into it by Crone's order. I have been told that the Boy was not quite dead when he was buried. Colbeck, the Owner, soon afterwards came up, and had the Boy taken out of the Ground; and there cannot be the least doubt that Crone must have known him to be Colbeck's new Negro who had been missing. A Man of the Name of Hollingsworth, it was said, also fired at the Boy, and Colbeck brought his Action in the Exchequer, under the Act of the Island, against Crone and Hollingsworth. The Cause was ready to be tried, and the Court had met for the Purpose, when Crone and Hollingsworth thought proper to pay double the Value of the Boy, and £.25 for the use of the Island, with all the Costs, rather than suffer the Business to go on; and this I am truly sorry to say was the only Punishment which could be inflicted for so barbarous and atrocious a Crime. The Attorney General and myself were retained as Counsel for Colbeck, and received Instructions to the above purport. The Case did not appear so strong against Hollingsworth; but I verily believe that, as against Crone, it would have been substantiated by the fullest Evidence. It is due to Colonel Rowe to observe, that he was in England when the horrid Transaction took place.

As to the third; a Man of the Name of Nowell, who lives in St. Andrew's Parish, as I understand, had been in the habit of behaving most brutally towards his Wife, and one Day went so far as to lock her up in a Room, and confine her in Chains. A Negro Woman belonging to this Man, touched with Compassion for her unfortunate Mistress, undertook privately to release her; Nowell found it out, and, as I first heard the story, had the Negro's Tongue immediately cut out nearly by the Roots, of which she instantly died. I have since been told, that Nowell had the poor Creature's Tongue put through a Hole in a Door, and cut a Part of it off himself; but that she is still alive. This Case has been told different ways; and I have not, after many Inquiries, been able to satisfy myself as to the real Truth. Thus much I have no doubt is certain, that the Wretch, Nowell, has most barbarously and cruelly used this Negro, merely because she acted a kind and compassionate Part towards her Mistress.

Permit

Permit me now, my Lord, as a Barbadian, to return you my warmest Thanks for the Zeal you have shewn in this Business; and I trust the Day is not far distant, when, through your Lordship's Exertions, I shall see that Act in our Statute Book repealed, which remains a Disgrace to my Country.

I have the honour to be, &c.

M. COULTHURST.

The Right honourable Lord Seaforth,
&c. &c. &c.

I. N° 3.

Extract from the Reverend Mr. PILGRIM's Letter to Lord SEAFORTH; dated St. James's Parsonage, September 25th, 1804.

THE Man who killed the Woman near Pilgrim, is, I apprehend, named Halls or Halts, one of Sir John Burney's Tenants, and belonging to Saint Michael's Regiment of Militia.

The Manager who shot the Man in the Water is named Crone, living on Mr. H. Rowe's Plantation in Saint Lucy's Parish. The Man was an African, a Slave to a Mr. Colbeck, the Manager to a neighbouring Plantation, and had accidentally strayed from his Master; Crone seeing him, pursued him with several Negroes; the poor Creature pelted his Pursuers with Stones, and at length took Refuge in a Pond, where he was inhumanly shot by the dastardly Manager, taken out of the Pond; I repeat, my Lord, what I have heard, though I could hope, for the sake of Humanity, my Information has been false, and buried him while yet alive.

Nowell, a Butcher, living in Saint Joseph's Parish, is the Wretch who murdered the Slave for letting his Wife out of Confinement. The Circumstances of this horrid Barbarity are almost too shocking to be related. On discovering the poor Creature had been instrumental to his Wife's Escape, he obliged her to put her Tongue through a Hole in a Board, to which he fastened it on the opposite Side with a Fork, and leaving her in that Situation for some time, he afterwards drew out her Tongue by the Roots.

This, my Lord, is what I have heard relative to the Cases on which your Lordship desires Information; and as I have heard the Circumstances I have mentioned from different Persons, told in nearly the same Manner, I am led to suspect that the Statement will be found to be but too correct.

I. N° 4.

HILLARY ROWE's Letter to Lord SEAFORTH; dated 29th September 1804.

Checker Hall, Saturday Morning, Sept. 29, 1804.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship's Letter of the 27th instant, did not reach me until this Morning, and I avail myself of the earliest Moment to reply to it.

The cruel Murder to which your Lordship alludes, happened, as I understand, some Months previous to my Return to this Island. On my Arrival the Circumstances, which were currently reported, were told to me, and I heard them with all the Horror and Indignation which they must excite in the Breast of every Man; nor is it in my Power to offer a single Sentence in mitigation; I can only lament, as I most sincerely do, the Deficiency of our Law to punish such enormous Offenders.

I have dismissed Mr. Crone from my Service within the last ten Days. He should not have continued so long my Servant after my Return, but for the Necessity of settling

THE SLAVE TRADE.

11

settling and arranging many Accounts, &c. which had passed under his Direction, during my Absence from the Island of nearly three Years.

I will take care to make Mr. Crone acquainted with the Purport of your Lordship's Letter, that he may make what Defence he thinks proper.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Right honourable Lord Seaforth,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HILLARY ROWE.

K.

The REPORT from a Committee of the House of Assembly of Jamaica, appointed to inquire into the Proceedings of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, relative to the SLAVE TRADE, &c. &c.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Veneris, 23^o die Novembris, 1804.

WE your Committee appointed to inquire into the steps which have been taken in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to abolish the Slave Trade; into the Measures adopted for equalizing the Duties on Sugar, imported from the East Indies and from the British Colonies, and the additional Imposts which have been laid on our principal Staples; to consider of the Effects which these Measures have produced, and are likely to produce, on the Agriculture and Commerce of this Country directly, and indirectly on the Manufactures and Trade of the Mother Country, and report the facts, with their Opinion of the steps which ought to be pursued by the House, in the distressed Situation to which the Island is reduced, have to report,

That, in obedience to the Orders of the House, we proceeded to collect the Information which appeared most material, and could be procured on the several important Subjects to which the House had been pleased to direct our Attention, and to give our most serious Consideration to the Effects produced, or likely to ensue, from the Measures we are about to detail.

Pursuing these Inquiries, in the Order pointed out by the House, we find that no Measures for a direct Abolition of the Slave Trade were taken in the Imperial Parliament, from its Meeting, until the last Session, when a Bill was presented by Mr. Wilberforce to the House of Commons, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade at a Time limited."

This Bill passed the House of Commons on the 27th of June, and was, the Day following, sent to the House of Lords, and read a first Time.

On the 3d of July, the Day appointed for the second Reading, a Motion was made, and carried, for postponing such second Reading for three Months. The Object of this Bill was thus defeated for the present; but there is Reason to believe that the Measure will again be attempted early in the next Session of Parliament.

By the Bill, as it passed the House of Commons, the Abolition was to take place from the 1st Day of January 1805; the Reason assigned in the Preamble of the intended Act being, that the Slave Trade is contrary to the Principles of Justice and Humanity.

We are, however, well informed that, although the House of Commons contented themselves with this general Preamble, the Members who introduced and supported the Bill were as copious, as has been usual on former Occasions, in their Misrepresentations, Mistatements of Facts, and their Abuse of the Holders of West-India Properties; a Procedure to which they should not have called the Attention of this House, but that it seems to have had a most extraordinary Influence on that Body, and, at the very Moment they were appealing to the Principle, induced them to swerve from that even-handed Justice which delights

to listen with Candour to the Claims made on it, by all Parties, to investigate them with Patience, and abhors sacrificing the Rights and Welfare of one set of Men, under the Idea of administering Justice to another. The Bill contemplates no Immolation of our Rights at the Shrine of pretended Humanity, no Deviation from Justice in the Deterioration of our Properties, without Compensation, without Enquiry, without even the last Consolation, seldom withheld from the Oppressed or Unfortunate, a patient hearing of their Grievances and Complaints.

It is proper to state, that our Interests were not neglected on this occasion. A Petition was presented to the House of Commons, by Edmund Pusey Lyon, Esquire, the Agent for this Island, deprecating the Agitation of the Question; setting forth the Rights of the Colonists to enjoy their Estates and Property, acquired under the Sanction of Law, and the fullest Confidence in the good Faith of the British Legislature; stating, briefly, the Injury and Ruin likely to be brought on the Inhabitants of this Island, from depriving them of a Supply of African Labourers; and praying that the Bill might not pass into a Law, and to be heard by Council. A similar Petition was presented by the Planters, Merchants, Mortgagees, Annuitants, and others interested in the British West-India Colonies.

On the Report of the Bill, Counsel were called in, and Mr. Pigott was heard. After opening the Case, he offered to prove it, and proposed to commence with the Evidence of Lord Balcarres, whose Opportunities of acquiring valuable Information it were superfluous to state. The Counsel were ordered to withdraw, and the House of Commons came to what we must be permitted to call the very singular Resolution of rejecting all Evidence, assuming, as we are informed, that no new facts, to vary the aspect of our Case, had occurred, except such as were Matter of public Notoriety, and that they were in possession of a sufficient Body of Evidence as to the State of the main Question; alluding, as we presume, to the Allegations and Assertions, not verified by Oath, on which a similar Procedure of the House was grounded twelve Years before.

The general Allegation of the Slave Trade, being contrary to the Principles of Justice and Humanity, has been so often considered, so fully discussed by reflecting Men in Great Britain, and by special Committees of the House of Assembly here, that it is perhaps unnecessary to enter on the Subject at present. The particular Accusations of Oppression, without the means of Redress, of avaricious and unfeeling Rigour exercised towards our Slaves, unrestrained by a Sense of Interest or the Dictates of Humanity, heaped upon the Inhabitants of the British West India Colonies, have been repelled and refuted by such irrefragable Evidence, that they can now make little Impression, except on the prejudiced and uninformed.

So ingenious is the Malice of our Adversaries, that, when driven from this first and leading Ground of an Application for an Abolition of the Slave Trade and of Slavery, they have endeavoured to turn the Vindication to our Destruction, by alledging that we shall sustain no Injury from withholding a Supply of African Labourers, our present Stock being sufficient to keep up the Population, and carry on our Plantations. Another Postulatum assumed is, that no new facts have occurred, which should induce the Legislature of the United Kingdom even to pause and inquire whether this important Measure is of doubtful Efficacy in the Eye of Justice and Humanity, repugnant to sound and enlarged Policy, and destructive of the clearest Rights of the Colonists. A third Position advanced by the highest Authority, is, that a continued Importation of Africans, and an Augmentation of the Negro Population, must increase the Disproportion between the Inhabitants of free Condition and the enslaved Negroes, and add to the Danger of the former, from Insurrections and all their fatal Train of Consequences.

With great Deference we presume to entertain a different Opinion, and, as it is founded partly on local Information, which cannot have fallen within the View of those who are called to decide this Question, and the future Fate of this Country, we shall take leave to submit a few Observations on these Heads, and on the Claim of the Proprietors of West India Plantations, to an Inquiry into their Losses and full Compensation, should the Parliament of the United Kingdom finally doom their Estates to Decay and Destruction.

We find, that the first Proposition for an Abolition of the Slave Trade greatly alarmed the Planters of this Island, and the subsequent and repeated Discussion of the Question has continued to agitate their Minds, and greatly retarded the Prosperity of the Country. Persons of cautious Tempers and timid Dispositions have declined embarking in agricultural Speculations, or trusting their Capitals in loan to those valuable Men engaged in this most useful of all Pursuits. Under these Disadvantages and Difficulties, and others of no less Magnitude hereafter to be touched on, the Cultivation of the Country has been extended, and the Produce greatly augmented. On an Average of four Years immediately after these Discussions began, and ending with 1791, the Quantity of Sugar exported from the Island was 84,348 Hogsheads, 9,164 Tierces, and 1,364 Barrels, equal to 90,658 Hogsheads. For four Years ending the 30th September 1804, the average annual Export has been 115,883 Hogsheads, 14,684 Tierces, and 2,275 Barrels, or 126,028 Hogsheads, being an Increase of 35,470 Hogsheads, although, during three of the said Years, the Crops have been diminished by severe Droughts.

Considerable as has been the Increase in the Quantity of Sugar, it is to Coffee we must look for the great and permanent Advantages, which have accrued to this Island and to the Mother Country from the Importation of African Labourers, for the last twelve Years. Previous to 1783, the Coffee raised in Jamaica was under 500,000*lbs.* and had for some time been decreasing. In that Year, 6*d.* per *lb.* was taken from the Excise. This moderate Encouragement soon doubled the former Quantity.

It was not, however, until the calamitous Situation of St. Domingo gave a Prospect of an extensive foreign Market, that the Attention of the Planters of this Island was seriously directed to the Cultivation of a Staple, which had so much contributed to the Prosperity of their Neighbours. For four Years, ending with 1791, the average Exportation had advanced to 1,653,066*lbs.* annually. In the four Years, ending the 30th September 1804, the Exportation amounted to 69,293,662*lbs.* or 17,323,415*lbs.* and, during the last of these Years, was 22,063,980*lbs.*

It is admitted that many of the Plantations, on which this Article is cultivated, are in their Infancy, that three or four Years elapse before Returns can be expected, and that very few have yet been brought to that productive State which they will speedily attain, if not cramped in the usual Supply of African Labourers, or discouraged by other Restrictions.

When the Quantity of Waste Land fit for the Production of Coffee is considered, and the Progress made under accumulated Hardships, we see no Reason to doubt that the Quantity raised within this Island may be brought to equal that exported from St. Domingo, in its most flourishing State, and are confident that the Produce of the last Year will at no distant Day be doubled. Assuming only that the Settlements already formed, when carried to the highest State of Cultivation, will yield 44,000,000*lbs.* A new Article of Commerce has been created, which Great Britain will re-export (for unfortunately very little is consumed within the Kingdom), and valued at 6*l.* per Cwt. a Price far less than is at present paid by the foreign Purchaser, will add to the general Balance of her Trade no less a Sum than 2,640,000*l.* will load 55 Ships measuring 19,000 Tons, and give Employment to nearly 1,000 Seamen.

By an Abolition of the Slave Trade these Advantages must be given up; the Sugar Plantations, if afflicted with no other Calamity, will gradually sink below the Production in 1791, whilst the short-lived Prosperity of the Coffee Planter will be instantaneously arrested, and his flattering Hopes of Independence converted into a fatal Certainty of Bankruptcy to his Creditors, and Ruin to himself and his Family.

Although the Subject might well justify it, this is not the Language of Declamation, but a mere Indication of Consequences inevitable and demonstrable.

It is Matter of public Notoriety, that hardly any of the Coffee Plantations are fully settled. Several Years are required to bring the Trees to Maturity; very little Labour will keep the Plantation in proper Cultivation, until the important Time arrives when the Berries must be picked and cured. The Number of Labourers

bourers previously sufficient must then be rapidly augmented, or the whole Fruit of the Capital sunk.

Although it might be expedient to provide and settle the Negroes earlier, yet there is no doubt of the Practice being otherwise, from an Impossibility of obtaining the Credit necessary until the Prospect of Repayment is at hand.

An additional Number of Labourers, equal to all at this Moment employed on the Coffee Estates, will be required to cultivate them with Effect and Advantage, and, unless these are supplied, inevitable Destruction will ensue. We beg leave to observe, that no Care or Attention to the Welfare and Increase of the Negroes can prevent these Consequences. They may increase in Number, but the effective Labourers must diminish; the Coffee Plantations having been settled, or at least carried to their present State of Prosperity, within the last twelve Years, are cultivated by Africans, almost all purchased within that Period, and yet in the prime of Life.

A Planter with an hundred such Negroes, may probably work eighty of the Number. Twenty Years hence, supposing his People to increase, by Births beyond the Deaths, to one hundred and twenty, he will not be able to work more than thirty to forty able hands; the rest will consist of Invalids, the Aged past Labour, and Children not yet fit for it. Should fifty additional Labourers be purchased, the Work of the one hundred and seventy will not be more than the first hundred could perform; the Produce and Return to the Proprietor will be much less, not only from the Expence of Taxes, medical Care, feeding and cloathing the larger Number, but because his Fields will be more sterile, and require higher Cultivation and additional Care to yield an equal Return.

We have thought it material to point out the new and critical Situation of the Coffee Planter, and shall not enter so much at length on the Consequences to the Cultivator of Sugar. They have been often well represented, and those, who have inquired and reflected, cannot doubt that the Crops will soon be reduced by the Operation of the same Causes. In one very important view, his State is worse than that of the Growers of the lesser Staples.

It has been said, that when raising of Sugar becomes unprofitable, he may turn his Attention and Industry to other productive Articles.

No Person acquainted with West Indian Agriculture could have hazarded such an Assertion. To say nothing of sacrificing the large Proportion of Capital invested in the Works, and expensive Utensils adapted for the peculiar Processes of Sugar-boiling and Distillation, it is well known that Lands, long employed for raising Canes, are unfit for the profitable Cultivation of any Article exported from this Island. Coffee must be established in Virgin Soil, and Cotton will not thrive on some Lands the best adapted for the Growth of Canes. In many Places even Grass cannot be raised on old Fields worn out with the Production of Sugar. The Cultivation of this Staple, once elected, must be persevered in, nor can it be reduced below a certain Scale without inevitable Loss.

The Expence of the Establishment of a small Plantation in several important Articles, differs little from that of the largest. What the last may support swallows up the whole Produce of the first. We may here observe, that it is to this Peculiarity in Sugar Cultivation that much of the augmented Production is owing. Far from being, in all Cases, a Symptom of Prosperity, extending Plantations is not unfrequently a Paroxysm of Despair. Seeing, that unless his Estate can be brought up to a certain Scale, no Profit can be expected, the Planter borrows to the utmost of his Credit, attains at last the Quantity looked for, but has the Mortification to find that a new Duty and decreased Price place him in the same distressed Situation from which he had made a struggle to emerge. It follows, that if you deprive the Sugar Planter of the means of keeping up the Produce of his Estate to a certain Quantity, by assisting his old exhausted Fields with high Cultivation, by means of additional Labour, you doom him to Destruction; for when he must give up planting Canes, no Alternative remains but to permit his Works to go to Decay, and his Lands to be over-run with Weeds and Bushes; his Negroes must be sold to a more fortunate Neighbour, if, as is more usual in such Cases, the Sheriff be not ready to take them in Execution for a Debt, which their utmost Value is unable to satisfy.

The Course of this Discussion leads us to call your Attention to the Assertion that a Continuation of the present Trade with Africa, by augmenting the Number of Slaves, would increase the Disproportion between them and the Inhabitants of free Condition, and add to the Danger of the Colony. The Consequences which followed the large Importation of Negroes into St. Domingo before the Desolation of that unfortunate island, are produced as an Instance in point, and predicted of an equally rapid Augmentation of our Slaves. It would be easy to shew that the Troubles of St. Domingo were in no degree occasioned by the recently imported Africans: They originated in the Bosom of the Legislature of the Mother Country. The native Africans were not even the immediate Instruments of those who lighted the Torch of Discord and Death in that once happy Country, but with their Masters have been the Victims of ill-timed Discussions and insane Decrees.

Waving this Inquiry for the present, we shall content ourselves with assigning the Reasons for our Belief that very different Consequences are likely to ensue here from those predicted by speculative Declaimers, unacquainted with local Circumstances, if not misled by designing Enemies.

It is admitted that the Disproportion between the Slaves and the Inhabitants of free Condition, is one great Danger arising from the State of the West India Population. But we cannot allow that this Disparity is likely to be augmented by a Continuance of the Trade with Africa, or by a positive Increase in the Number of Labourers from Importation. The great Source of the Inequality is the Number of Estates belonging to Proprietors resident in Great Britain. A few, long settled there, enjoying the Fortunes acquired by their Ancestors in better Times, some for the Education of their Families, or from the State of their Health. One Agent often represents many Absentees, and is desired to carry on the Cultivation of their Plantations with the smallest Number of white People possible, from Motives of Economy.

Of late Years those Gentlemen have not been Purchasers of many additional Negroes: Alarmed by the Measures of which they are Witnesses in Great Britain, and finding that their Plantations, in place of yielding a Revenue, have, in many Instances, been cultivated at a Loss, they have carefully avoided adding to an unproductive Capital, and pressed their Managers for immediate Returns to accumulate something in Great Britain to stop the Clamours of Creditors, or for their own immediate Subsistence.

The Africans imported have been distributed amongst Traders, Jobbers, Overseers, or Persons employed in cultivating the smaller Staples: A few have fallen into the Hands of enterprising Sugar Planters of moderate Fortune, resident within the Island, in some Instances settling new, in more extending and improving old Estates; but the great Body have been employed in opening Lands theretofore of little Value, and establishing Coffee Plantations, of which the rapid Increase and thriving Situation have been before mentioned. Although the absolute Number of Slaves has increased, the relative Proportion of free Inhabitants remains much greater than it would have been, had no Africans been imported.

The only Means by which that most useful Body of Men, the Overseers and Book-keepers on Plantations, can acquire a Competence, is by purchasing a few Negroes (at first generally hired by their Employers on liberal Terms) and gradually adding to the Number, until equal to commencing a Settlement. Take away this sole Mode of acquiring an Establishment, and you drive from the Country the most enterprising and intelligent. In future you would expect in vain Adventurers of the Description who have lately resorted to the Island and superintend Plantations; young Men of decent Families, of good Morals, and in many Instances of liberal Educations.

The Situations in which the Negroes recently imported have been settled, and the Manner in which they have been employed, have greatly conduced, and are daily adding, to the Safety of the Country. Established chiefly on the Mountains in the interior, they have cleared of Wood, and covered with Coffee Trees and Provisions; extensive Tracts, formerly a Shelter for Fugitives from Plantations, or hunting Grounds for Maroons. Great Roads of general Communication have been opened, and are every where intersected by smaller Branches leading to the different Settlements.

ments. Troops may be marched with Facility, and act with effect in Places lately covered with impervious Forests. The immense Powers which civilized Man derives from Science and Tactics can be brought to his Aid, in place of contesting single-handed in solitary Haunts, where all Advantages are on the Side of his savage Adversary. Let any one who doubts these Positions turn to the Annals of our late Maroon Warfare, and consider maturely if the Country has been endangered by the Importation of Labourers from Africa within the last twelve Years, and declare dispassionately whether twice the Number so settled, and properly superintended by a due Proportion of white Inhabitants, would not have greatly added to the public Safety.

If ever a Crisis pregnant with Danger to the Island shall approach from the relative Disproportions of the free and enslaved Inhabitants, it will be when a Dereliction of the Slave Trade by Great Britain, whilst it is continued and encouraged by other Nations, shall drive your best Tradersmen, most enterprising Overseers; and smaller Settlers, to the foreign Colonies, or the southern Part of the United States, and convert their moderate but thriving Plantations, which at present add to the Strength, Salubrity, and Wealth of the Country, into Haunts for Runaways and Thieves, whilst their Negroes will be purchased by a few overgrown Proprietors, who alone have the Means of paying for them; when, for the Reasons already assigned, a further Supply to the white Population cannot be expected, when Roads of Communication and Interfection can no longer be kept open in the Interior, when you can have no effective Militia, no intermediate Body between the enslaved Negroes and the opulent Proprietor resident in Great Britain, represented by an Agent assisted with a few indented Servants, when the Population of the Towns shall have declined with the Prosperity of the Country. Then indeed! the worst Evils, vaticinated by the Advocates for an Abolition, will be at no great Distance, and, like many other Predictions, will complete and assure their own Accomplishment.

The Injustice and Inhumanity of purchasing Slaves in Africa, and the Expediency of continuing in a State of Bondage the Negroes born in our Colonies until they shall be gradually fitted to receive Emancipation, is a Distinction much too refined for the Understandings of the latter; but they will have no Difficulty in apprehending that *the great Country of the Bocaras (or white Inhabitants) have refused to permit their Masters to purchase more Slaves, and would give them Freedom, were it not opposed by their Owners.*

They will soon see that the Situation in which the Island is placed invites them to assist the Wishes of their Friends, before the Delusion shall vanish; and, in such Circumstances, the Struggle will not be long, although the Catastrophe will be terrible!

Whilst we turn from it with Horror, shall we use no Means to avert such Calamities? And must we submit to be told coolly by those who are without its Verge, and little involved even in its Consequences, that, blinded by Prejudice and Avarice, we know nothing about our own Affairs?

We hope that, when the Subject is again under Review in the Imperial Parliament, the House of Commons, if they entertain a Question, the very Discussion of which is pregnant with the greatest Mischiefs to us, will enter on it in a different Temper, and will admit, that, as Britons, bearing faithful Allegiance to our King, and zealously attached to our Country, we brought with us inherent Rights to the full Enjoyment of Property lawfully acquired. That these Rights, if they could not be strengthened, were by Royal Proclamations and Charters recognized to exist undiminished as Colonists: That, by repeated Acts of Parliament, Inducements and Encouragements have been held forth, on the Faith of which an immense Mass of Property has been invested in the West-India Islands; for the Cultivation of Staples, highly advantageous to the Empire, often with little Profit to the Individual:

That but for Assurances, held forth and reiterated in the most unequivocal Manner by the British Legislature, of a constant Supply of African Labourers, the Settlement of these Islands could never have been attempted, and the great Body of British Creditors, whose Fortunes have assisted in opening the Plantations, and are now secured upon them, would not have embarked their Capitals, but from an implicit Confidence in the good Faith of Parliament:

That,

That, if these Colonies, which have heretofore been so advantageous to the Mother Country, are to be endangered by the Experiments of Fanatics, or the visionary Theories of speculative Men:

If the Property of the Inhabitants is to be destroyed, or even to be diminished in Value, the Security of their Creditors frittered away, their Lives and those of their Families placed in such a Situation as shall oblige them to retire to some other Part of the World for Protection and Safety; if their profitable Existence is thought to be inconsistent with what is due from the British Legislature to the Natives of Africa:

If their Rights and Property are to be sacrificed at the Shrine of pretended Humanity and Justice, we also appeal to enlightened Justice for a full Investigation of the Damages which must follow, and complete Compensation for the Losses which shall be sustained, and we claim this as a Right, founded on the clearest Principles of Justice, and sanctioned by the uniform Practice of the British Legislature, in all Cases where the Property of Individuals has been trespassed on or diminished in value by Regulations intended for the general Benefit.

If the House of Commons, influenced by popular Prejudice and led away by Declamations, shall disregard our solemn Appeal to its Justice, which we never should have insinuated to be possible, but for the Decision above alluded to, we trust to an impartial Investigation by the House of Lords, where the Test of an Oath will protect us from much of the Misrepresentation which has been called Evidence in the other House. We have Confidence that they will weigh maturely the Claims of all Parties, and that, in distributing Justice with Mercy to the Sons of Africa, they will not forget the unfortunate, the degraded, the perilous Situation to which a hasty Decision may reduce Thousands of British Subjects, against whom no Delinquency can be proved; who have nothing to reproach themselves with but having placed Confidence in the good Faith of the Legislature of their Country—we will not say too much Confidence, because we yet hope that it will be justified by a Determination that shall put at rest this important Question, on which hangs the future Destiny of this Colony; and we cannot doubt that, should the Voice of that House sanction an Abolition, the same Act will contain a complete Provision for the Indemnification of all Losses, at the general Expence of the Empire.

We recommend that the Agent of the Island be instructed to take every legal Means to prevent an Act so destructive of our Rights as that lately passed by the House of Commons, from receiving the Sanction of either Branch of the Legislature, and to act in concert with such Committees as may be appointed by the Resident West India Proprietors, in pursuing proper Measures for bringing forward, by Evidence and Counsel, our Reasons for objecting to any Alteration in the present System, and our Claim and Right to a Provision in the Act, should it be passed, for due Inquiry being made into the Losses which shall be sustained by the Inhabitants of this Colony, and full Compensation for the Destruction or diminished Value of their Property.

Although an Abolition of the Slave Trade be an effectual, it is not the sole, Means by which the West India Islands may be ruined: the same Object may be obtained as completely, although with somewhat less Rapidity, by encouraging the Cultivation of Sugar in the East Indies, where the Fertility of the Soil, the Facility of Irrigation, the Ease with which Commodities are transported, by means of an extensive inland Navigation, the Abundance of Provisions, the Cheapness of Labour, and the Structure of Society, give Advantages which Nature has denied to these Islands, and where the Cultivator is exempt from the Restrictions, which bear heaviest on our Agriculture, and will operate as a positive and immense Bounty to our Rivals.

Each of these in detail might deserve the Consideration of the House; they are now, however, well known to most Gentlemen of general Information, whose Duty it will be to weigh their Effects, when called to decide on the Propriety of giving additional Encouragement to these highly favoured Settlements, at the Expence of other valuable Parts of the British Empire.

We shall therefore content ourselves with contrasting the comparative Situation of the two Countries, in respect of their Labourers, and the Capital employed in the Operation of converting the Cane Juice into Sugar.

The

The Wages of a labouring Peasant in Bengal * are stated to be one Rupee, or 2 s. 6 d. Sterling *per* Month. In cheap Districts it is ascertained to be as low as half that Sum, or eight Annas. We shall take the average, or 1 s. and 10½ d. Monthly.

Those Manufacturers and Peasants, who have to subsist their Families and themselves out of their Wages, are said to earn, whilst employed, an Anna, or the sixteenth Part of a Rupee, *per* Day. That Subsistence consists of unnutritive Grains and Pulse, seldom of white Corn. Salt is eagerly desired, and, although required to correct this vegetable Diet, cannot be afforded. † “Observe,” says an intelligent Eye-witness, “the Peasant’s Meal, a pinch of Salt, on a Leaf, stands by his Plate of Rice; a few Grains at a Time deceive his Palate, while he swallows several Mouthfuls of insipid Food; his Abstemiousness is not voluntary; he is sensible that he is ill fed. Miserable Hovels, neither secured from Intrusion nor from Weather, formed of Materials which a wealthier Class would refuse for Fuel, hide, rather than shelter, the Peasantry.” “View the Inside of this Dwelling” (continues the same enlightened Spectator); “a coarse Mat his Bed, the Ground his Chair and Table, Cow Dung his Fuel, unglazed earthen Pots his Furniture, a Leaf his Plate. The Clothing is not better; it consists of a Scarf on the Shoulder, another from the Waist, with Sandals on the Feet. A longer Scarf is all that distinguishes the Female. Clothes of good Fabric are within the reach of few: the Dress of the more numerous Class is of that Stuff known in the Trade as Wrappers of Packages, while many are content with Sackcloth. A rugged home-made Blanket, to protect him from the Wet or Cold, is the only Addition or Variation known to the Peasant.”

Such is the Situation of twenty Millions of free Subjects of the British Empire in India, whilst its Legislature is hunting for imaginary Misery in the West-India Colonies, where the Lot of the Labourer is a thousand Times more fortunate; where his physical Wants are abundantly supplied in Sickness as in Health, in old Age as well as in the Vigour of his Days; but, as we must repeat, at an Expence bearing no Proportion to the Wages of the oppressed Peasantry in the East. The Herrings and salted Fish, distributed to a Negro on a Plantation in Jamaica, cost more than the whole Sustenance which falls to the Share of the Bengal Peasant. When hired Labourers assist the Cultivation, a Case not unfrequent, the West India Planter pays as much *per* Day to the Owner of the Negro as remunerates the Eastern Peasant for a Month, 1 s. 10d½. Sterling, often more. ‡ The whole Expence of the Cultivation of an Acre of Canes † is stated (by Doctor William Roxburgh) not to exceed what is paid in Jamaica for digging the Land into Holes for the Plants. yet so excellent is the Soil, that the Produce is equal to two Tons and a Half, whilst one Ton *per* Acre far exceeds the average Returns procured by the laborious Cultivation of Jamaica.

The Apparatus for manufacturing the Sugar, or what we call *Works*, is by the same Authority stated to cost fifteen or twenty Pagodas. As many thousand Pounds are expended not unfrequently on a West India Plantation, half the Sum must be regarded as absolutely necessary for an Estate on a moderate Scale. A large Proportion of it is laid out in Great Britain for Coppers, Stills, Lead, and Ironmongery of various kinds; yet we are told that the Quality of our Sugar affords us an Advantage over the Eastern Settlements, without considering that this Quality arises from such an enormous Expenditure, and by no means makes an adequate Return for it.

Of the great Improvement which all admit to have been made in the Quality of Muscovado Sugar, the Planter has never got the Benefit; it has been chiefly pocketed by the Refiner, whilst the Grower had both the Risk and Cost.

The enlightened Statesmen of former Days looked to the Advantages flowing from a Monopoly of the Consumption of the Trade, and of the Navigation of the Colonies, as an abundant, and the best, Compensation to a great manufacturing and maritime Nation, for the Expence of Protection and their Claim to a reciprocal Monopoly, or at least a decided Preference to their Staples in the Markets of the Mother Country.

* See Asiatic Annual Register, Vol. IV. pages 71 and 72 of Miscellaneous Tracts.

† Ibid. page 71.

‡ Ibid. page 7.

After Great Britain had obtained Dominion in the East Indies, the Duty of 37 *l.* 16 *s.* 3 *d.* on every 100 *l.* of gross Sales was continued on Sugar from thence, whilst she was content with 6 *s.* 4 *d.* *per* Cwt. on the Produce of her Western Colonies. When this Duty was augmented to 15 *s.* *per* Cwt. on Colonial Sugar, without a countervailing Impost on that from the East, it may be doubted whether it was not from want of proper Representation, the Colonies having then had no Experience of the Evil, nor viewed it in all its Extent. This Deviation, however, from the old System, greatly weakened the Protection afforded by it to the Colonists.

Before the further Duties of 2 *s.* 6 *d.* and 8 *d.* were imposed on West India Sugars, by subsequent Acts, the Consequences of the previous Measure were known, and the same additional Custom was levied on the Production of the East. Finally, when the Duties on all Sugars were settled to be collected, in the same Manner, on Quantity, a Difference of 10 *per Cent.* only was made to compensate the peculiar Disadvantages, Restraints, and Expences attaching on West Indian Agriculture, 20 *s.* *per* Cwt. being exacted from the Colonists, whilst 22 *s.* *per* Cwt. were imposed on Sugar from the Eastern Settlements. The same Proportion retained by the Acts which have carried the Duty to the enormous Extent of 26 *s.* 6 *d.* and 29 *s.* 1 *d.* *per* Cwt. on all Descriptions of this over-rated Commodity. Thus Matters remain at present, and this is held out as a sufficient Protection; a Preference decided, but not invidious.

Far from acknowledging the Justice of this Ratio, or admitting its Policy, we are of Opinion, and hope to satisfy the House that, had the Discrimination, proposed by the West India Planters in their Application to His Majesty's Ministers, of 25 *per Cent.* been acceded to, it never could justly have been regarded as invidious. Double that Advance would, in fact, have been an inadequate Protection in the Home-market, and insufficient to compensate the Restrictions and Expences imposed on us for the Benefit of the Mother Country.

As far as these have been thought likely to promote the Navigation, and add to the general Strength of the Empire, they have been cheerfully acquiesced in; but in stating our Claim to a countervailing Duty, or Provision to protect us from the Effects of Regulations abridging our natural Rights, and imposing particular Burthens, from which our Fellow Subjects are exempt, we may be permitted to remark that 2 *s.* 7 *d.* *per* Cwt. will not compensate the mere Cost of additional Freight, Insurance, and Charges of landing our Goods in Great Britain, reshipping and transporting them to a foreign Market in place of being carried to such foreign Market direct, as may be done from the East India Settlements, and in Vessels built, owned, and navigated by Aliens, often enjoying the additional Advantage of being neutral.

Had the Question remained open, whether it was more for the Benefit of the British Empire to raise Sugar in her Eastern Territories, or in the West Indies, we might have been called on to prove Advantages from giving the latter a Preference.

Had the Eastern Provinces come into her Possession cultivating Sugar as a chief Staple, on which the comfortable Subsistence of the Natives depended, however grievous it might have been to the old Colonists, perhaps they could only have claimed, in the Markets of the Mother Country, a Preference decided but not invidious. Were it proposed that the Prosperity of the East Indian Empire should be sacrificed, by proscribing an Article, on which the Subsistence or Wealth of its Inhabitants is dependent, such a Proposition might, indeed, be termed invidious. The moderate Application of the West India Colonists was, and now is, that the Industry of a Country, rich in a thousand natural Advantages, and a Profusion of valuable Commodities, which in all Ages has drawn an immense Balance from the Nations with which she trafficked, may not be directed, by artificial Encouragement from our Parent State, to the Cultivation of the chief Article, on which the very Existence of the Inhabitants of these Islands depends.

Nothing, we think, could have justified such a Measure. but the Scarcity of a Commodity in the Market, and an exorbitant Profit exacted by the Grower from the British Consumer, the Appearances of an increasing Demand and a diminished Supply; and we submit, that it was peculiarly unnecessary and impolitic under existing Circumstances, when the West India Colonies in the Possession of Great

Britain,

Britain, raised much more Sugar than was required for her Consumption, or could be exported to Advantage. It can admit of no Contradiction, that for several Years the Markets have been glutted, and the Price reduced below what is absolutely necessary for the Expences of the Planter, without any Return for his Capital. We refer to the Reports made in the Year 1801, on the Subject of Private Trade, by a Special Committee to the Directors of the East-India Company, and approved of by them, and by a General Court of Proprietors, to establish their Assertion, that Sugar was not known in Bengal or its Dependencies as an Article of Exportation to Europe until very lately, when the East India Company had taken pains to encourage its Cultivation; that it has yet been carried on to no great Extent, and its Progress may be stopped without material Loss to any Person: for that on more mature Reflexion, a Continuation of this Encouragement had been regarded by the East India Directors as a Matter of very doubtful Policy, and the Company were solicitous that the Question might be probed to the bottom, and clearly understood, "Whether it was expedient to withdraw Capital from other Dependencies of the Empire, to carry on the Agriculture of that remote Region?" And the Special Committee, who cannot be suspected of Partiality to our Interests, give it as their Opinion that such a Transfer of Capital would be utterly impolitic, unless called for by some new and imperious Exigency, or that some special Motives for a Preference over the Western Colonies existed, of which they were not aware. We shall suppose that the Projectors of this System were successful to the Extent they expect, of sending 100,000 Tons of Sugar from the Ganges, in a few Years, which in the said Report is stated as their Assertion. We shall admit, what no well-informed Man can believe, that there are in Bengal Funds ready to be embarked for this Purpose without drawing Capital from Great Britain, or, what is exactly the same thing, retaining Property that otherwise would flow to or center in the Mother Country, and we shall only inquire by what Means the Value of this Article is to be paid to the Raisers: it will be found nearly equal to 143,000 Hogheads, of 1,400 Cwt. superior to the Export of Jamaica, and within 30,000 Hogheads of what is sufficient for the annual Consumption of Great Britain. It is to be recollected, that Part of the Plan is to bring over this Commodity in Ships, built and owned in Bengal, and to be chiefly navigated by Lascars, or Indians of all Nations; for it is a Commerce which the East India Directors are not now anxious to encourage by their regular Ships. There can be no doubt that the original Value and Freight of this Quantity of Sugar will drain from Great Britain to her Eastern Provinces, on the most moderate Computation, upwards of 3,000,000*l.* Sterling annually.

The most hardy Advocates for the new System cannot deny that every Shilling of this must be sent in Bullion; for they must acknowledge that the Exportation of British Commodities will admit of very trifling Increase, and that, from physical and moral Causes, her Manufactures will never find a Market amongst the Hindoos, to whose Labour her Consumption of their Manufactures affords already immense Encouragement.

It is impossible that the Kingdom could support this Drain of Silver, and yet it would be one of the least Evils flowing from a successful Accomplishment of the Plans projected, and meeting with Legislative Encouragement.

By pouring an immense additional Quantity of Sugar into a Market already overstocked, the Inhabitants of the Mother Country might enjoy for a Year or two the fallacious Advantage of procuring the Commodity for little or nothing. The Progress even of the Eastern Projectors would be somewhat retarded, but they would doubtless, under the present System, finally prevail, and force the West India Colonists to discontinue the Cultivation of Sugar.

What would then be the Gain of Great Britain, admitting that she continued to pay no higher Price? Her whole Consumption, with Freight to Indian Ships, would require about 4,000,000*l.* in Bullion. It cannot be supposed that the West Indian Islands will be of any commercial Consequence, when deprived of the Cultivation of Sugar; the Market they afford for the Manufactures, the Employment they give to the Shipping of the Mother Country will be at an end. Whilst Great Britain is drained of four Millions of Specie to pay for Sugar from the East, she gives up a Mart in the West India Islands for her Manufactures to an equal

equal Extent, and relinquishes as much more, returned into her Bosom for nothing, and exchanged by her with other Nations, often in a State highly improved by the Labour of her Inhabitants.

Had Great Britain been without the Advantage of exporting a large Value in surplus Colonial Produce, in what Manner could she have supported her immense Expences on the Continent of Europe in the last War? When, even with the Benefit of such a Fund to swell the Value of her Exports, the Drain of Specie had the most alarming Consequences, and forced her Legislature to resort to Measures for keeping up the Credit of a Paper Circulation, that were at least to be deprecated if a Supply of Bullion could have been substituted.

We submit that a Difference of 10 *per Cent.* in favour of West India Sugar; affording no adequate Protection in the Home-market, is a complete Departure from the System of mutual Monopoly, settled by Great Britain and acquiesced in by her Colonies; and to exempt herself from its Operation, whilst enforced on the West India Colonies, is to exercise Power in opposition to Right, and cannot be supported but on Principles which would warrant a Departure from the ordinary Rules of Justice on any Occasion to promote individual Interest:

That the Restrictions imposed on us for the Benefit of the Mother Country, and the Expences occasioned by Regulations intended for her Advantage, must operate as positive Bounties to the Cultivator of similar Staples in the Eastern Provinces, to an Extent difficult to be apprehended in all its Consequences, and not easy to be reduced to direct Calculation, but could certainly not be compensated by double the Advance of 25 *per Cent.* on the Duties on East India Sugar, proposed by the West India Planters:

That we apply for no Proscription of an Article raised for Exportation to Europe in the Eastern Settlements, when they became Dependencies of the British Empire, or on which the Prosperity and Happiness of the Natives are yet dependent: We request only that Thousands of faithful and loyal Subjects, who had been encouraged by the Legislature to embark their Fortunes in cultivating in another Hemisphere a Staple from which their Country has derived immense Advantages, may not be doomed to Ruin, by encouraging new Subjects, more fortunately situated, to wrest from them their chief Means of Subsistence, and that in Violation of the most solemn Compact.

That if, disregarding Justice and contemning our Rights, we shall be refused the Protection of an adequate Impost on our Rivals; and Great Britain, exempting herself from Restraints, shall continue them upon us, the Measure will be unwise and impolitic. The Sugar she consumes must be paid for in Bullion, and not exchanged for British Manufactures; she must give up the Advantages derived from the Expenditure of all our Planters resident in Great Britain, and the Benefit of adding, from a Source so evidently profitable, a large Sum to swell her Exportations, and draw into her Bosom the Wealth of foreign and rival Nations.

We recommend that the Agent of the Island be directed to call the Attention of the Resident West India Body in Great Britain to this important Subject, and that he join with them in adopting every legal Means for obtaining the Repeal of Regulations which are sapping and undermining the Prosperity of the West India Colonies, and, although more slowly, will as certainly accomplish their Ruin, as the direct Attacks which they have the Mortification of bringing under the Review of the House.

We hope, as it is admitted we have a Right to a decided Preference, His Majesty's Ministers and the Imperial Parliament will be of Opinion, that the Situation of the Eastern Settlements and the British West India Colonies fully considered, there is nothing invidious in requesting that the discriminating Duty may be brought back to the ancient Standard; that holding forth 10 *per Cent.* as a decided Preference is little short of Mockery; and that extending it even to 50 *per Cent.* will be found a very inadequate Compensation for the Restrictions and Expences attaching on the West India Colonies, from which the Eastern Settlements are yet exempt, to say nothing of all their natural and peculiar Advantages.

In pursuing the Train of Inquiry before us, we cannot help remarking, that the Annals of Mankind afford few Instances of Statesmen having much promoted the Wealth of Nations by positive Institutions, but very many of having, by injudicious Regulations, arrested their Progress, retarded their Prosperity, or accelerated

accelerated their Decay: Amongst the Means least calculated for the former, and best adapted for the latter of these Objects, all unite in classing excessive fiscal Exactions.

Every Dabbler in Finance allows that there is a Point, which once passed, Requisitions defeat their own Object: He admits the Errors of his Predecessors, but fancies that it was reserved for him to discover the precise Limits to which the Revenue of the Sovereign may be carried without oppressing the Subject: Confident in his Data, and secure of his Calculations, the Representations of those smarting under their Effects are treated with Neglect or Contempt, are regarded as Illusions of Avarice, perhaps held up as the Grumbings of Disaffection. Nothing short of a falling off in the Revenue expected can ensure Attention or procure Relief, and most commonly not until the Injury is irreparable.

Facts, which cannot be controverted, will evince that the Duties on the Productions of a Sugar Plantation have far passed this golden Mean, within which Ministers profess their Intention to retain them, and that they have not only diminished the Consumption, but do not fall on the Consumer. It has been the peculiar Misfortune of the West India Sugar Planter, that not many have understood, and fewer have been disposed to explain, the Extent of his Grievances. Far from having the general Voice of those who are alledged to sustain the Duties on his Staples raised for his Protection, even oppressing him has been a Road to Popularity.

The Financiers, who in Succession have directed the Administration and Revenues of Great Britain for the last thirty Years, have all acted as if the Impositions on his Commodity had not yet been carried to a due Extent.

As there is little Probability of the Duties being soon brought back below the Standard of 1799, we shall not trace their History from an earlier Period. The various previous Imposts were then consolidated, and formed an Aggregate of 17s. 6d. *per* Cwt.; 8d. was added in the same Year, and 1s. 10d. in the Year 1801. Although the Year 1802 saw this Commodity at its lowest Ebb, as the Imperial Parliament at the next Meeting added 4s. *per* Cwt. to a Burthen before intolerable, and in the last Session followed it up with the further Impost of 2s. 6d. it should seem that nothing short of the Ruin of the Grower, and the Annihilation of his Staple, can procure even a Respite: The Answer to all Complaints is brief; the Duty is not meant to attach on him, and will fall on the Consumer.

This would be nothing more than fair; but has the Fact been so? Has the Price of Sugar advanced in proportion to the Exactions, and does the Grower receive what all admit to be equitable, common Interest on his Capital, and a reasonable Recompence for his Labour?

We do not contest the Principle that Duties generally fall on the Consumer, and that Things will find their Level if left to themselves. The prominent Grievance of the Sugar Planter is, that this natural Tendency of Commerce to an equitable Level is, in his particular Case, obstructed by positive Regulations, which prevent feeding the Market in proportion to the Demand, and compel him to bring and land his Goods in Great Britain, however much the Mart be glutted, and Re-exportation obstructed, by Causes over which he has no Controul:

That, not satisfied with the Advantages of Pre-emption, and the various Charges of double Freight, Insurance, Landing, Warehousing, and Commission, which are Profits to the Mother Country, and a direct Tax on the Colonies; not content with getting Sugar below its real Value, and sometimes greatly under its actual Cost to the Importers, by forcing into the Kingdom a Quantity disproportioned to the Demand, Great Britain has, by Laws which can be supported on no Principle of Justice, nor defended on any Plea of Necessity, prevented the Sugar Planter from obtaining the reciprocal and natural Compensation which would follow if his Staple should ever attain a fair, not to say a high Price, which in all other Cases is expected to follow an unnatural Depression.

It is true this oppressive Statute hath not yet brought her much positive Advantage. Its Tendency to prevent Foreigners from depending on a British Market, if a Supply could be otherwise obtained, cannot be doubted. It has therefore in part defeated its own Object, and its Effects, joined to the many other Restrictions, Expences, and Exactions heaped upon the Colonies, have prevented Sugar from ever reaching that Standard, which is supposed to afford a fair Remuneration for Labour and Capital.

The

The Spirit in which this Law was dictated, gives no Reason to suppose there was a Wish to allow any unfair Advantage to the Sugar Planter; yet it has fixed, and in Time of Peace, 58*s.* *per* Cwt., as the Price of his Commodity, before any further Exaction is attempted. We think it fair to take the highest average Rate, because at the same Moment the Growers of inferior Sugars, the unavoidable Production of great Part of the Soil of Jamaica, may not obtain 45*s.* *per* Cwt. It would seem not unreasonable to have expected that the London Gazette should have indicated this State of moderate Profit to the West Indian Planter, before a new Duty was thought of; for it is undeniable that, until Sugar reached this Standard, every Shilling required by the Revenue from the Importer was not only advanced, but finally fell upon the Grower, and never was got back from the Consumer.

Apply this to the Month of December 1802, when the Table of Rates to the 43 *Geo.* III. *cap.* 11. was, we believe, last settled: The average Price of Sugar published in the London Gazette for the Year 1802, was 36*s.* 6*d.* *per* Cwt.; but as that was a Period of the greatest Depression, and we are not possessed of the Gazette Prices in 1803, we shall class it with 1801, when the Price was as high as the Sales of Crop 1803 received by Individuals have since indicated: the Average Rates published in the Gazette for that Year were 52*s.* 6*d.* *per* Cwt. and the Medium, taking the two years, will be found 44*s.* 6*d.* *per* Cwt. The Planter, who it is admitted ought to have received 58*s.* exclusive of Duty, contributed directly to the Revenue 13*s.* 6*d.* whilst only 7*s.* 6*d.* fell on the Consumer; and the ill-fated Grower of inferior Sugars never received back any Part of the 20*s.* paid by him for Duty before he could sell his Produce, and satisfy those who were clamouring to divide the Remainder for Freight, Insurance, and Charges.

Minute Calculations are dry and unentertaining, but they are sometimes necessary, and have the Advantage of being incontrovertible.

It has been often computed, and is pretty generally known, that when Sugar falls in the British Market at 56*s.* *per* Cwt. Duty included, the Share of the Planter is about 1½ *d.* *per* lb. or for a Hoghead of 1400 Cwt. at the King's Beam

| | |
|---|-----------|
| | £. 9 16 0 |
| We shall suppose, added to this, 22 <i>s.</i> <i>per</i> Cwt. to bring it to the Maximum settled by the Statute before Part of the Drawback is retained, under the Idea, it is presumed, of the Planter's then having an unreasonable Profit that will be found | 15 8 0 |

This is taking Matters in the most favourable View, by supposing no Charges even of Insurance and Commission to attach on the advanced Price, and we find that 25 4 0
per Hoghead of 1400 Cwt. is thought the utmost that ever should be allowed to the Planter before the Revenue claims a direct Participation, if not the whole of the Surplus.

With Peace Expences, and a fair Price for Rum, it is admitted that this Return would just enable the Sugar Planter to continue his Cultivation without Loss: To those who manufactured a finer Staple, above the average Rate, it would afford an ample Return; but as a very great Proportion of Jamaica Sugar would then be selling at or under £. 20 *per* Hoghead, Estates producing Goods of that Description, unless on a very large Scale, would not yield common Interest on the Capital.

But to give a colour of Equity to the fixing any Maximum, much more one so limited, the Planter should have had a reciprocal Provision to prevent the Produce of his Labour falling below what is admitted to be the lowest Price, at which he can carry on his Estate and have a Return for his Capital.

The present Maximum having been shewn to be a Standard, allowing to the Majority of Sugar Planters a Profit the most moderate, they never can have a Compensation for Years of unreasonable Depression, or the Means of meeting or repairing the Effects of those Calamities to which this Description of Property is known to be peculiarly exposed. If a Principle so oppressive shall not be given up, we at least hope that the Maximum will be greatly extended, and submit that common Justice requires our being allowed the reciprocal Benefit of a moderate Bounty on Exportation, whilst the average Price is at or under 45*s.* when most
Estates

Estates must be carried on at a Loss, and whatever the Treasury exacts will be not merely from the Revenue, but out of the actual Capital of the Planter, in violation of the clearest Right, and in opposition to every sound Principle of Taxation.

These Calculations refer to Years when the Duty was at 20*s.* By barely pointing out the State of the Sugar Market when 4*s.* *per* Cwt. Duty was added to a Burthen then intolerable, we flatter ourselves that the Injustice and Impolicy are established of charging on this Article 20 *per Cent.* when the Exigencies of the State required a general Advance of 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ *per Cent.* on other customable Goods. If Discrimination were to be made, the Situation of the Sugar Planter called loudly for its being favourable to him.

But it must be admitted that all the Evils pointed out have been aggravated by the enormous Augmentation of 6*s.* 6*d.* imposed in the two last Sessions of Parliament. However the British Consumer may feel the high Price of Sugar, he must recollect that, until it attains the Rate of 84*s.* 6*d.* *per* Cwt. by wholesale, including the Duty, the Grower has not what is admitted to be the fair Recompence for his Labour, even with Peace Charges, and that every Shilling abstracted from that Sum is a Contribution from the Planter, extorted out of that Part of his Revenue professedly not intended to be taxed, and out of his Capital when the Prices afford no Revenue, as has often happened of late Years. When Sugars were reduced to 36*s.* 6*d.* *per* Cwt. whilst it has been proved that the fair Price should not have been under 58*s.* it may be thought the Situation of the Sugar Planter could not be rendered worse; the Power of fiscal Exaction is not so limited; he had yet an Article left which gave him some Relief; by the Sale of Rum within the Island he was generally able to discharge the internal Taxes, to pay his white Servants, and purchase Lumber, with many other Articles, trifling in themselves, but necessary not only for the Comfort but the Subsistence of his Family; he could exist, although his Debts were increasing, and Bankruptcy inevitable.

Those who purchased the Rum sent great Part of it to the British Market, where the current Price of from 5*s.* to 6*s.* repaid about 4*s.* Currency *per* Gallon, which they had given to the Planter, with the Customs and Charges of Transportation. Profit was not expected; but the smaller Traders regarded it as the chief Means of remitting for the Goods they imported from Great Britain, and vended within the Island. Of the Effects of the last Duty we have yet received no certain Detail. The additional Duty of 3*s.* 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* *per* Gallon, imposed by the 43 *Geo.* III. *cap.* 69. had nearly annihilated the Value of a Commodity, which in the worst Times had assisted the Sugar Planter to carry on his Plantation, and feed himself and Negroes. From the most authentic Information we can state, that, since the Imposition of the said Duty, the Consumption of Rum has diminished to an alarming Degree; the Demand bearing no Proportion to the Quantity in the Market, the Proprietor cannot obtain the Freight and Charges; in many Instances it has been sold by the Excise Officers, without producing more than the Duties, so that not only the first Cost, but all the Charges have been lost.

When the Duty recently imposed is added to the former Excise and Customs, with the unavoidable Charges of carrying it to Market, Rum costs the Importer upwards of 14*s.* 6*d.* *per* Gallon, exclusive of the original Value of the Spirits and Cask within the Island; when these are added, it will exceed 18*s.* British Spirits are at the same time selling at about one-third of this Price; so that, in whatever way the Duties may be evaded, it is clear that what is actually paid can bear no Proportion to that levied on Rum, and there is every Appearance of the latter being altogether driven from the British Market. Doubtless the Flavour of these Spirits cannot be compared; but the public Taste, once habituated to the worst Motives of Economy, will rivet the Direction at first given by the enormous Difference of Duty.

Should Government, at last sensible of the dangerous and distressful Situation to which the West India Colonists are reduced, wish to encourage the Consumption of Rum, bringing that Spirit again into general Use may be beyond its Power. To Indigo and Cocoa, once of so great Consequence to this Island, a still more fatal Instance may be added of exorbitant Duties defeating their own Object, but not without Ruin to the unfortunate Colonist, the Use of whose Commodity is proscribed. Were our Commerce unfettered, and Things permitted to find their
natural

natural Level, the Value of Rum, exported from the Island, must fall on the Consumers of Sugar, and the Mother Country would be the great Loser, by being deprived of the Freight, Insurance, and other Charges on this valuable Article, admitting that she can raise the same Duty on British Spirits.

Far from complaining of the Principles of the Navigation Acts, we seek for no Relaxation inconsistent with the general Prosperity and Strength of the Empire: We presume that the profitable Existence of the West India Colonies is of no small Consequence in estimating that Strength; yet we submit, that however wise and beneficial the Regulations of these Acts may be, one undeniable Consequence to them is, that our Estates are cultivated at a much greater Expence; and another no less evident is, that their Produce reaches the foreign Consumer saddled with enormous additional Charges, a direct Tax on the Colonists to the Inhabitants of the Mother Country: A third Fact, we apprehend, cannot be contested, that from the Quantity of West India Produce which they force into the British Market and the Difficulties which have attended Re-exportation, the Price of Sugar was greatly below its fair Value. Notwithstanding this Abundance in the Market and low Price, the Consumption has diminished, more particularly in the Year 1803. Whether this arose from the Pressure of the previous Duties, or the Effect of the new Impost, it equally supports our Conclusion, that the Tax had far exceeded those Limits which the Article could support, was less productive to the Treasury, was not discharged by the Consumer, but had absorbed the Revenue, and was eating up the Capital of the Grower: that, from the Effect of the additional Exactions, Rum was, if possible, brought into a worse Situation, because an immediate Substitute was at hand, likely to preclude its ever again coming into general Use, should the late Duties be repealed, or the Consumption be even encouraged by further Reductions.

To establish this Diminution, both of the Consumption and Revenue, we have annexed a Copy of "An Account of the Quantity of Raw Sugar imported into, and of Raw and Refined Sugar exported from Great Britain in three Years, ending 5th January 1804, and of the Duties paid, and Drawbacks and Bounties received thereon, distinguishing each Year," made out and signed by the Inspector General, and laid on the Table of the House of Commons.

From this Document it will be found that, excluding Fractions, the Quantity of Sugar retained within the Kingdom for Consumption was,

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|
| In 1801 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2,753,445 Cwt. |
| In 1802 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2,249,772 |
| In 1803 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,430,417 |

The falling off is the more alarming, from being regular and progressive; and in the Year 1803 the Consumption appears to have been little more than one half of what it was two Years before. The Revenue had diminished, as might be expected, in similar Proportion. The same Authority evinces, that the Money retained for Duties of Sugar, after deducting Drawback and Bounty, excluding Shillings and Pence, was

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| In 1801 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | £. 2,395,251 |
| In 1802 it fell to | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2,180,220 |
| In 1803 it decreased to | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,134,587 |

In shewing the Impossibility of continuing the Cultivation of Sugar in the West Indies, under the present Duties on that Article and on Rum, we have chosen to appeal to Facts well known and easily verified in Great Britain, rather than rest our Case on the fatal Consequences produced and passing under our Eyes here. Every British Merchant holding Securities on real Estates is filing Bills in Chancery to foreclose, although, when he has obtained a Decree, he hesitates to enforce it, because he must himself become Proprietor of the Plantation, of which from fatal Experience he knows the Consequences.

No one will advance Money to relieve those whose Debts approach half the Value of their Property, nor even lend moderate Sums without a Judgment in Ejectment and Release of Errors, that at a Moment's Notice he may take out a Writ of Possession, and enter on the Plantation of his unfortunate Debtor. Sheriff's Officers and Collectors of the internal Taxes are every where offering for Sale the Property of Individuals, who have seen better Days, and now must view their

their Effects purchased for half their real Value, and less than half the original Costs. Far from having the Reversion expected, the Creditor is often not satisfied.

All kind of Credit is at an end. If Litigation in the Courts of Common Law has diminished, it is not from increased Ability to perform Contracts; but from Confidence having ceased, and no Man parting with Property, but for an immediate Payment of the Consideration.

A faithful Detail would have the Appearance of a frightful Caricature.

Unless speedy and efficacious Means are adopted for giving permanent Relief, by a radical Change of Measures, we must suppose that the West Indian Islands are doomed to perish as useless Appendages of the British Empire.

Can the Colonies perish alone? And will not the Statesman, whose Measures shall complete their Ruin, precipitate into the same Abyss the Manufactures and Commerce of the Parent State?

As the comparative Importance of this extensive Branch of the Trade of the Empire, has been seldom fairly estimated, and is not generally understood, we proceed to make some Observations on it, and on the Consequences likely to follow its Annihilation.

A Member of the Committee, whose Knowledge of the Subject is the Result of profound Research and long Experience, has, from the Information furnished by the Inspector General to the Imperial Parliament, made out an Account of the total Imports into and Exports from Great Britain, for the Years 1801 and 1802, distinguishing those of Africa and the West Indian Islands from all other Parts of the World.

He has also entered into a full and minute Investigation of the relative Importance of the Trade of these Islands, compared with every other considerable Branch of the British Commerce. This important Document we beg leave to lay on the Table of the House, as containing much Information from Sources not of easy Access to those residing in this Island.

For the sake of Brevity, we have annexed to our Report only the general Account above-mentioned, but we shall occasionally refer to other Parts of it.

We have also to remark, that although two Years are taken for the Purpose of attaining a fairer Estimate, yet as in 1802 nothing was imported from the small Islands, St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Bartholomew, and St. Martin, their trifling Production is put down as equal to that of the former Year.

It will be found, that the total official Value of Imports into Great Britain from all Parts of the World, Africa and the West Indian Islands excepted, on an Average of these two Years, was

| | | | | |
|--|------------|----|----|------------------|
| That from Africa and the West Indies, the Imports were, | £. | s. | d. | |
| from Africa | 153,761 | 16 | 1 | |
| The conquered Islands | 3,460,868 | 11 | 2 | |
| The British West Indian Islands | 6,944,142 | 19 | 4 | |
| | <hr/> | | | 10,558,773 6 7½ |
| | | | | 31,834,454 15 7½ |
| That the Exports of Great Britain to all Parts of the World, Africa and the West Indian Islands excepted, were in British Manufactures | 21,920,718 | 15 | 0 | |
| In foreign Merchandize, including Colonial Produce | 12,319,253 | 16 | 8½ | |
| | <hr/> | | | 34,239,972 11 8½ |
| The Exports to Africa and the West Indies were, in British Manufactures, to Africa | £. | s. | d. | |
| To the conquered Islands | 647,428 | 12 | 0 | |
| To the British West Indies | 556,124 | 3 | 2½ | |
| | <hr/> | | | 3,231,483 5 8½ |
| In foreign Merchandize, to Africa | £. | s. | d. | |
| To the conquered Islands | 494,989 | 3 | 5 | |
| To the British West Indies | 130,004 | 4 | 0 | |
| | <hr/> | | | 507,827 3 2 |
| | <hr/> | | | 4,435,036 0 11 |
| | <hr/> | | | 932,820 10 7 |
| | <hr/> | | | 5,367,856 11 6 |
| | <hr/> | | | 39,607,829 3 2½ |
| The Balance of Trade in favour of Great Britain, with all Parts of the World, taking the official Value of Commodities, was | | | | 7,773,374 7 7 |

THE SLAVE TRADE.

27

It is stated, that the real Value of Manufactures and Merchandize is much beyond the official Rate, and the actual Balance on the whole Commerce of the Kingdom, much greater than it appears by the official Statement.

There can be little doubt that the Case is so with most Commodities; but in one of very considerable Importance it appears otherwise.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| For Reasons with which we are unacquainted, Coffee was valued, when imported in 1801, at 107 s. per Cwt.; in 1802, at 83 s. 3 d. The Quantity not consumed within the Kingdom being 446,771 Cwt. at 95 s. 1½ d. the average Value, the whole was worth | £. 2,124,953 |
| But by the Account transmitted as an authentic Copy of the Inspector General's State, in each of these Years the Export Price is rated at 14 l. per Cwt. and produces the Absurdity of the Exports being nearly three Times the Value of the Imports, exceeding them in the enormous Sum of | 4,129,841 |
| Although this would give an Appearance of additional Importance to the Re-export of West India Produce, we disclaim all Support from Fallacy of any kind: The official Value of the six following Articles of Colonial Produce exported, viz. Sugar, Coffee, Rum, Cotton Wool, Pimento, and Cocoa, on the Average of the same Years, is computed to be | 9,683,900 |
| Deduct the Error in valuing Coffee | 4,129,851 |
| Leaves the official Value of Exports | 5,554,059 |
| And establishes that the Quantity retained for the Consumption of the Kingdom was valued at | 4,850,952 |
| The whole Imports of these Articles being | 10,405,011 |
| Excluding the African Imports, with which they are classed. | |

Although amongst the six Articles above enumerated Cotton Wool be mentioned, the Quantity exported in that State is trifling; but perhaps, the whole of this Staple imported, exceeding 20,000,000 lbs. and of the actual Value of 1,500,000 l. Sterling, may safely be added to the Exports from West India surplus Produce. Whether you consider it as fabricated into Cloth, consumed within the Kingdom, or wrought up for Exportation, the Effect will be precisely the same. Deprive Great Britain of this Supply from the West India Colonies, she must either pay an equal Sum to foreign States, or, what would be more fatal, diminish the Manufactures from Cotton to the Extent of this immense Proportion of Raw Materials. We have, in the preceding Importations, taken no Notice of the Value of Mahogany, Ebony, and Lignumvitæ; of Logwood, Fustic, or other Dye-woods; of Ginger, Gum Guaiacum, Turmeric, and Castor Oil; of Hides; or, finally, of Bullion; which, in the Aggregate, are of large Amount in the Imports from these Islands, and cannot be treated as inconsiderable even in our present View of the Subject, as regarding Re-export. When they have passed through the Hands of the Manufacturers, and, with Cotton, are added to the five Millions and a half of our Produce exported in a Raw or little improved State, they will be found to draw into Great Britain a Sum nearly equal to the clear Balance on her whole Trade.

It is to be recollected, that we have only been observing on our surplus Produce which enters into the Commerce of the Mother Country with other States. Great Britain exports directly to the West Indies, or indirectly through Africa, for the Purchase of Slaves, 5,367,856 l. of which more than four-fifth Parts are British Manufactures, a Proportion much larger than enters into her general Trade.

This Commerce has the Advantage of not swelling one overgrown Branch, but of being diffused through and giving Vigour to her Agriculture, Fisheries, and Manufactures. Beer, Coals, Copper, Wrought Iron, Herrings, Linens, Woollens, Cotton, Cloth, are the most material Articles, and the bare Enumeration will point out the many important Interests and Objects with which they are connected.

We

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| We may safely assert that the direct Export to Africa and the West Indies being | £. 5,367,856 |
| The Re-export of six Articles of our surplus Produce equalling | 5,534,059 |
| With Cotton, as a Raw Material wrought up and exported in another Shape, we shall class all the Mahogany, Dye-woods, and smaller Staples entering in various Shapes into Manufactures exported, and we keep much within Bounds in adding | 1,500,000 |
| | <u>12,421,915</u> |
| It will be found that her West India Trade enters into the general Exportation of Great Britain for | £. 12,421,915 |
| Whilst her own Industry and all her other Resources only supply | 27,185,914 |
| | <u>39,607,829</u> |
| Her total Exports being | <u>39,607,829</u> |
| On referring to the preceding general State of Imports, the relative Proportion will be found something greater, and very little short of one-third of the Commerce of the Kingdom. | |
| The Imports from the West Indian Islands, throwing out the direct Importation from Africa, being | £. 10,405,011 |
| Whilst those from all other Parts of the World, and adding Africa to the Number, are | 21,429,443 |
| | <u>31,834,454</u> |
| Making a grand Total of | <u>31,834,454</u> |

On this Importation a Revenue exceeding three Millions is raised, and, as we have already shewn, no small Proportion is actually paid by the West India Planter, and never got back from the Consumer.

Whether tried on the Principles of the mercantile System, or on those of the Economists, as developed to the English Reader in the Writings of Mr. Hume and Doctor Adam Smith, this important Commerce will be found equally beneficial.

Applying the Test of the former, the immense Advantage of giving Encouragement to the Agriculture and Manufactures of the Kingdom is not diminished by what the Advocates for that System most dreaded, an unfavourable Balance, for, adding to the actual Exports to Africa and the West Indian Islands our surplus Produce, re-exported and entering into the general Balance with other Nations, a considerable direct Balance will be found in favour of Great Britain; and it must now be admitted by the most rigid Advocates for the old System, that what is retained for the Expences of the Proprietors resident in Great Britain, and the Interest of the Capitalist, whose Funds are lent to the Planters, must be added to that Balance, and is as much a Part of the general Revenue of the Kingdom as if dug from a Mine in Cornwall.

On the Principles of the Economists this Commerce is no less beneficial, and superior to any other possessed by the Mother Country, her Home-trade excepted. None affords so extensive Encouragement to the Productions of her Land and Labour, or furnishes such a Surplus of valuable Commodities to be exchanged for foreign Equivalents, whether these shall consist of Merchandize, of Naval Stores or Raw Materials for Manufactures, of Corn in Times of Scarcity, or Military Services in the Hour of Danger.

It is justly stated by Mr. Irving, the Inspector General, who on this Topic agrees with the Economists, that the true Criterion of the Resources of the Country is the Value of her surplus Manufactures and Merchandize from domestic Industry and her Colonial Produce. And we trust we have satisfactorily established that the Value of the last bears no mean Proportion to the Magnitude of the first.

A bare Inspection of the General Table, will shew the vast Superiority of the West India Trade over any other carried on by Great Britain.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

29

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| The only Branch which can support a Comparison is that with foreign Europe. | |
| Taking the whole Continent, the average Value of the Imports is | - £.9,333,665 |
| Falling short of those from the West Indian Islands, excluding | |
| Africa, by | - - - - - 1,071,346 |
| The Export to foreign Europe, of British Manufactures, is of the | |
| Value of | - - - - - 9,644,202 |
| Of foreign Merchandize, including Colonial Produce | - 10,177,576 |
| From which deduct the Error in valuing Coffee | - - 4,129,841—6,047,735 |
| The total Exports to foreign Europe will be found | - - - - - 15,692,037 |

And it must not be forgotten, that great Part of the foreign Merchandize, and a considerable Proportion of Raw Materials for the domestic Manufactures, had previously been obtained from the West India Colonies, it having been shewn that they occasion an Export of the most valuable kind to the Extent of £.12,421,915.

But a large Proportion of the foreign European Trade, even in Time of Peace, is carried on by foreign Shipping, and during War is chiefly transported in neutral Bottoms.

It is the peculiar Advantage of the Colonial Commerce, that it adds in a pre-eminent degree to the Naval Strength and Safety of the Empire; other Branches may give Employment to Manufacturers, or add to the Wealth of Merchants, and yet not raise a single Sailor to protect the Riches which excite the Envy of rapacious Neighbours.

By the Cultivation and Transportation of the West India Staples the Coffers of the Individuals are swelled, the Revenue of the State augmented, domestic Industry invigorated, whilst they afford the most valuable Nursery, and the best School for hardy Seamen, accustomed to the Navigation of large Vessels. Independent of encouraging the Fisheries, and promoting the general Navigation of the Empire, on Reference to the official Documents, it would be found that the direct Trade between Great Britain and the West Indies, in the Year ending the 5th January 1803, employed 1,060 Ships, measuring 292,183 Tons, and navigated by 16,793 Seamen. To those on whom dry Figures do not make much Impression, or whose Researches have not been directed towards the Progress of the Naval Strength of Great Britain, it may be more striking to mention that this Shipping* exceeds the Tonnage, British and Foreign, which carried on the Commerce of England in the Reign of King William, and that the Sailors are 5,000 more than the whole native Seamen employed in the Trade of the Kingdom, when the Battle of La Hogue gave her the Dominion of the Ocean.

The slight and rapid Sketch, to which the Nature of this Report limits us, will yet, we hope, afford some Idea of the Importance of the West India Commerce to the Manufacturers, the Merchants, the Farmers, and Landholders of Great Britain: Far from wishing to exaggerate, we have Reason to believe that the Review of the Inspector General does not extend to Scotland, and we are certain that it does not exhibit the Intercourse between these Islands and Ireland, which has always been considerable, and is on the Increase.

By the Resolutions on the Finances of the Empire, presented to the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the last Session, it appears that the general Imports of the Kingdom, and particularly the Exports of British Manufactures, in the Years 1803 and 1804, fall greatly short of those for the two Years preceding. As there is no room for believing that the Consumption or Production of the West India Colonies have decreased, there is Reason to think that the relative Proportion of their Trade to the general Commerce of the Kingdom has become greater, and is augmenting.

Yet in place of cherishing this Source of national Prosperity; in place of extending and encouraging a Market which no Despot can shut against her, will it hereafter meet Belief, when the Mists of Fanaticism shall be dissipated, that at a Moment when all Intercourse with her was proscribed in the most opulent and commercial States of Europe, and both Force and Artifice employing to exclude

* Chalmer's Estimates, edit. 1804, page 61.

her from the others, when Great Britain was preparing to meet the mightiest Host that ever had been arrayed against her, and was engaged in a Contest for national Existence, of which her youngest Son might not see the Termination, her Statesmen adopted Measures more fatal to her Prosperity, than all that the rancorous Hatred or insidious Guile of her arch Enemy could have accomplished or hoped, and by Laws and Regulations, withholding from the West India Colonies a necessary Supply of Labourers, giving undue Encouragement to rival Settlements, and heaping upon their Staples exorbitant and oppressive Imposts, finally accomplished the Overthrow of these once flourishing Islands, and by their Fall ruined the Manufactures, withered the Commerce, and subverted the Naval Strength of the empire?

Strongly impressed with the present distressful Situation of this Country, and the Dangers hanging over it from the Probability of such fatal Measures being pursued by

APPEND-

N^o

AN ACCOUNT of the Quantity of RAW SUGAR imported into, and of RAW January 1804, and of the Duties paid, and Drawbacks

| | IMPORTED. | | | | EX- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-------|----------------|----------|-----------|-------|
| | RAW. | | | | RAW. | | | |
| | Quantity. | | Duty. | | Quantity. | | Drawback. | |
| | Cwt. | qrs. lb. | £. | s. d. | Cwt. | qrs. lb. | £. | s. d. |
| British Plantation - - | 1801 | 3,729,302 1 8 | 3,486,572 | 10 2 | 409,105 2 27 | 486,544 | 19 10 | |
| | 1802 | 4,173,148 1 16 | 4,051,021 | 9 9 | 1,023,210 2 14 | 968,690 | 14 7 | |
| | 1803 | 2,943,639 3 6 | 3,064,179 | 10 10 | 591,845 2 25 | 737,624 | 2 2 | |
| East India - - - - | 1801 | 61,213 2 21 | 88,384 | 16 4 | 60,741 0 22 | - | - | |
| | 1802 | 57,714 0 22 | 23,016 | 19 4 | 25,540 0 4 | - | - | |
| | 1803 | 68,296 0 0 | 53,988 | 12 10 | 28,512 0 15 | - | - | |
| Foreign Plantation - - | 1801 | 186,048 1 18 | 10,687 | 5 9 | 165,220 3 23 | - | - | |
| | 1802 | 66,216 1 26 | 4,920 | 11 1 | 93,979 0 8 | - | - | |
| | 1803 | 152,294 1 6 | 15,213 | 19 8 | 138,534 2 11 | - | - | |

NOTE, The Drawbacks and Bounties above stated are the Sums actually paid in each Year, and not exclusive of the temporary Duty on Sugar under the Act 43d of His Majesty, Cap. 70, amounting to

* Refined Sugar is reduced into the Denomination of Raw

THE SLAVE TRADE

31

by His Majesty's Ministers, we finally recommend that an Appeal be made to our most gracious Sovereign, to whom none of his oppressed People have ever applied in vain, by an humble Petition, in which it is presumed their Honours the Council will wish to join, setting forth our most prominent Grievances, and most humbly praying His Majesty's most gracious Interposition, to protect us in the profitable Enjoyment of our Property, by affording the Supply of Labourers necessary for the Cultivation of our Estates, to prevent a Deviation from that System of reciprocal Monopoly, so long and happily established between the Mother Country and her Colonies, and to save his faithful and loyal Subjects in this Island from utter Ruin, by an Accumulation of oppressive and exorbitant Duties on our Staples, which can only be productive to the Treasury in proportion as they are exacted from the inadequate Revenue, or diminishing Capital of the Planter, and must ultimately defeat their own Object by checking, if not destroying, the Cultivation of Sugar in this Island.

D I X.

I.

and REFINED SUGAR exported from, Great Britain in Three Years, ending 5th and Bounties received thereon; distinguishing each Year.

| PORTED. | | | | More Imported than Exported. | More Exported than Imported. |
|---------------|-----------------|--|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| REFINED. | | Total of Raw and Refined SUGAR Exported. | | | |
| Quantity. | Bounty. | Quantity. | Drawback and Bounty. | Quantity. | Quantity. |
| Cwt. qrs. lb. | £. s. d. | Cwt. qrs. lb. | £. s. d. | Cwt. qrs. lb. | Cwt. qrs. lbs. |
| 333,384 2 10 | 604,776 11 7 | *975,857 0 8 | 1,091,321 11 5 | 2,753,445 1 0 | — |
| 529,509 0 9 | 902,111 3 8 | 1,923,375 3 24 | 1,870,801 18 3 | 2,249,772 1 20 | — |
| 541,987 1 19 | 1,191,967 17 11 | 1,513,222 2 7 | 1,929,592 0 1 | 1,430,417 0 27 | — |
| - - - | - - - | 60,741 0 22 | - - - | 472 1 27 | — |
| - - - | - - - | 25,540 0 4 | - - - | 32,174 0 18 | — |
| - - - | - - - | 28,512 0 15 | - - - | 39,783 3 13 | — |
| - - - | - - - | 165,220 3 23 | - - - | 20,827 1 23 | — |
| - - - | - - - | 93,979 0 8 | - - - | 0 0 0 | 27,762 2 19 |
| - - - | - - - | 138,534 2 11 | - - - | 13,759 2 23 | — |

the computed Amount on the Quantities exported within the Period of the Account. This Account is £.291,318. and the Drawback to £.18,126. 6s.

at the Proportion of 34 Cwt. of Raw to 20 Cwt. of Refined.

William Irving,

Inspector General of the Imports
and Exports of Great Britain.

AN ACCOUNT of the TOTAL VALUE of the IMPORTS into
distinguishing the British Manu-

N^o

| | Value of Imports. | | | Amount 1801 and 1802. | | | AVERAGE. | | |
|---|-------------------|----|----|--------------------------|----|----|------------|----|-----|
| | £. | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. |
| 1801 Foreign Europe | 9,509,146 | 4 | 7 | 18,667,331 | 19 | 1 | 9,333,665 | 19 | 6½ |
| 1802 | 9,158,185 | 14 | 6 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Ireland and British European Dominions | 2,851,892 | 8 | 11 | 6,341,862 | 3 | 6 | 3,170,931 | 1 | 9 |
| 1802 | 3,489,969 | 14 | 7 | | | | | | |
| 1801 United States of America | 2,706,518 | 0 | 5 | 4,630,022 | 15 | 10 | 2,315,011 | 7 | 11 |
| 1802 | 1,923,504 | 15 | 5 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Foreign West Indies | 95,214 | 16 | 7 | 239,809 | 7 | 8 | 119,904 | 13 | 10 |
| 1802 | 144,594 | 11 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 1801 All other Parts not enumerated | 201,259 | 10 | 4 | 464,828 | 11 | 0 | 232,414 | 5 | 6 |
| 1802 | 263,569 | 0 | 8 | | | | | | |
| 1801 British Continental Colonies | 558,805 | 9 | 11 | 988,159 | 11 | 4 | 494,079 | 15 | 8 |
| 1802 | 429,354 | 1 | 5 | | | | | | |
| 1801 East Indies | 5,424,441 | 16 | 4 | 11,219,348 | 9 | 7 | 5,609,674 | 4 | 9½ |
| 1802 | 5,794,906 | 13 | 3 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Africa | 138,660 | 0 | 8 | 307,523 | 12 | 2 | 153,761 | 16 | 1 |
| 1802 | 168,863 | 11 | 6 | | | | | | |
| | 42,858,886 | 10 | 2 | 42,858,886 | 10 | 2 | 21,429,443 | 5 | 1 |
| 1801 Antigua | 286,637 | 0 | 2 | 623,162 | 0 | 4 | 311,581 | 0 | 2 |
| 1802 | 336,525 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Barbadoes | 278,985 | 11 | 1 | 771,504 | 11 | 9 | 385,752 | 5 | 10 |
| 1802 | 492,519 | 0 | 8 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Dominica | 301,370 | 17 | 0 | 648,979 | 13 | 3 | 324,489 | 16 | 7½ |
| 1802 | 347,608 | 16 | 3 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Grenada | 368,644 | 1 | 1 | 874,575 | 11 | 5 | 437,287 | 15 | 8½ |
| 1802 | 505,931 | 10 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Jamaica | 4,432,186 | 15 | 10 | 8,771,517 | 13 | 7 | 4,385,758 | 16 | 9½ |
| 1802 | 4,339,330 | 17 | 9 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Montserrat | 59,840 | 2 | 9 | 95,791 | 11 | 10 | 47,895 | 15 | 11 |
| 1802 | 55,951 | 9 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Nevis | 109,528 | 6 | 6 | 254,875 | 18 | 7 | 127,437 | 19 | 3½ |
| 1802 | 145,347 | 12 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 1801 St. Kitt's | 272,930 | 0 | 3 | 635,014 | 11 | 6 | 317,507 | 5 | 9 |
| 1802 | 362,084 | 11 | 8 | | | | | | |
| 1801 St. Vincent's | 274,588 | 13 | 1 | 622,571 | 17 | 4 | 311,285 | 18 | 8 |
| 1802 | 374,983 | 4 | 3 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Tortola | 88,472 | 3 | 0 | 170,522 | 15 | 11 | 85,261 | 7 | 11½ |
| 1802 | 82,050 | 12 | 11 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Trinidad | 203,203 | 15 | 10 | 419,719 | 13 | 3 | 209,884 | 16 | 7½ |
| 1802 | 216,565 | 17 | 5 | | | | | | |
| | 13,888,285 | 18 | 9 | 13,888,285 | 18 | 9 | 6,944,142 | 19 | 4½ |
| 1801 Demerara | 1,406,186 | 14 | 2 | 2,268,272 | 10 | 0 | 1,134,136 | 5 | 0 |
| 1802 | 862,085 | 15 | 10 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Martinique | 775,210 | 6 | 7 | 1,339,903 | 4 | 7 | 669,951 | 12 | 3½ |
| 1802 | 564,692 | 18 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 1801 St. Lucia | 63,597 | 6 | 8 | 116,954 | 9 | 6 | 58,477 | 4 | 9 |
| 1802 | 53,357 | 2 | 10 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Tobago | 185,965 | 6 | 1 | 448,532 | 6 | 0 | 224,466 | 3 | 0 |
| 1802 | 262,566 | 19 | 11 | | | | | | |
| 1801 St. Thomas | 57,088 | 19 | 6 | 114,177 | 19 | 0 | 57,088 | 19 | 6 |
| 1802 Supposed the same | 57,088 | 19 | 6 | | | | | | |
| 1801 St. Croix | 126,862 | 5 | 4 | 253,724 | 10 | 8 | 126,862 | 5 | 4 |
| 1802 Supposed the same | 126,862 | 5 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Curraçoa | 22,458 | 6 | 1 | 111,961 | 12 | 1 | 55,980 | 16 | 0½ |
| 1802 | 89,503 | 6 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 1801 St. Bartholomew | 34,020 | 5 | 4 | 68,040 | 10 | 8 | 34,020 | 5 | 4 |
| 1802 Supposed the same | 34,020 | 5 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 1801 St. Martin | 2,786 | 2 | 1 | 5,572 | 4 | 2 | 2,786 | 2 | 1 |
| 1802 Supposed the same | 2,786 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 1801 Surinam | 1,431,664 | 7 | 6 | 2,194,597 | 15 | 8 | 1,097,298 | 17 | 10 |
| 1802 | 762,933 | 8 | 2 | | | | | | |
| | 6,921,737 | 2 | 4 | 6,921,737 | 2 | 4 | 3,460,868 | 11 | 2 |

Imports annually from all Parts, except Africa, the British West India } 21,275,691 9 0
and conquered Islands - - - - - }
Imports annually from Africa, as above - - - - - 153,761 16 1
Imports from British West Indies, as above - - - - - 6,944,142 19 4½
Imports from the conquered Islands, as above - - - - - 3,460,868 11 2

Imports annually from all Parts of the World - - - - - 31,834,454 15 7½

N. B. The Islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Bartholomew, and St. Martin, were not in our Possession in order that the Average of

THE SLAVE TRADE.

33

II.

and EXPORTS from GREAT BRITAIN, in 1801 and 1802;
 facture from the Foreign ones.

| Export of British Merchandize. | | | Amount 1801 and 1802. | | | AVERAGE. | | | Export of Foreign Merchandize. | | | Amount 1801 and 1802. | | | AVERAGE. | | | | | |
|--|----|----|-----------------------|----|----|------------|----|-----|--------------------------------|----|----|-----------------------|----|----|--|----|-----|--|--|--|
| £. | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. | | | |
| 8,116,031 | 10 | 10 | 19,288,605 | 8 | 8 | 9,644,302 | 14 | 4 | 8,869,108 | 19 | 8 | 20,355,152 | 0 | 6 | 10,177,576 | 0 | 3 | | | |
| 11,172,573 | 17 | 10 | | | | | | | 11,486,043 | 0 | 10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,781,879 | 16 | 2 | 4,075,289 | 10 | 4 | 2,037,644 | 15 | 2 | 1,444,377 | 17 | 0 | 2,924,385 | 17 | 0 | 1,462,192 | 18 | 6 | | | |
| 2,293,409 | 14 | 2 | | | | | | | 1,480,008 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| 7,251,134 | 16 | 6 | 12,395,013 | 3 | 5 | 6,197,506 | 11 | 8½ | 266,396 | 2 | 6 | 442,008 | 14 | 11 | 221,004 | 7 | 5½ | | | |
| 5,143,878 | 6 | 11 | | | | | | | 175,612 | 12 | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| 13,008 | 12 | 9 | 86,278 | 14 | 0 | 43,139 | 7 | 0 | 2,828 | 18 | 1 | 10,048 | 7 | 3 | 5,024 | 3 | 7½ | | | |
| 73,270 | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | 7,219 | 9 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 59,274 | 12 | 6 | 136,635 | 4 | 4 | 68,317 | 12 | 2 | 3,142 | 6 | 2 | 8,352 | 0 | 6 | 4,176 | 0 | 3 | | | |
| 77,360 | 11 | 10 | | | | | | | 5,209 | 14 | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,087,783 | 8 | 7 | 2,446,357 | 1 | 3 | 1,223,178 | 10 | 7½ | 212,097 | 0 | 0 | 435,743 | 12 | 11 | 217,871 | 16 | 5½ | | | |
| 1,358,573 | 12 | 8 | | | | | | | 223,646 | 12 | 11 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,728,680 | 9 | 10 | 5,413,258 | 8 | 0 | 2,706,629 | 4 | 0 | 217,577 | 4 | 6 | 462,817 | 0 | 4 | 231,408 | 10 | 2 | | | |
| 2,684,577 | 18 | 2 | | | | | | | 245,239 | 15 | 10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 558,428 | 14 | 1 | 1,294,857 | 4 | 0 | 647,428 | 12 | 0 | 565,195 | 4 | 3 | 989,978 | 6 | 10 | 494,989 | 3 | 5 | | | |
| 736,428 | 9 | 11 | | | | | | | 424,783 | 2 | 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 45,136,294 | 14 | 0 | 45,136,294 | 14 | 0 | 22,568,147 | 7 | 0 | 25,628,486 | 0 | 3 | 25,628,486 | 0 | 3 | 12,814,243 | 0 | 1½ | | | |
| 115,589 | 16 | 5 | | | | | | | 9,617 | 8 | 11 | | | | | | | | | |
| 125,982 | 1 | 10 | 241,571 | 18 | 3 | 120,785 | 19 | 1½ | 7,166 | 3 | 2 | 16,783 | 12 | 1 | 8,391 | 16 | 0½ | | | |
| 222,364 | 19 | 2 | | | | | | | 54,465 | 0 | 10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 202,178 | 4 | 5 | 424,543 | 3 | 7 | 212,271 | 11 | 9½ | 48,400 | 3 | 0 | 102,865 | 3 | 10 | 51,432 | 11 | 11 | | | |
| 52,080 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 8,141 | 19 | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| 122,912 | 9 | 8 | 147,992 | 10 | 9 | 87,496 | 5 | 4½ | 24,568 | 12 | 7 | 32,710 | 12 | 0 | 16,355 | 6 | 0 | | | |
| 162,613 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | 18,022 | 3 | 9 | | | | | | | | | |
| 187,096 | 6 | 1 | 349,709 | 9 | 5 | 174,854 | 14 | 8½ | 24,666 | 12 | 8 | 42,688 | 16 | 5 | 21,344 | 8 | 2½ | | | |
| 2,064,665 | 13 | 4 | | | | | | | 172,174 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,927,838 | 9 | 11 | 3,992,504 | 3 | 3 | 1,996,252 | 1 | 7½ | 120,946 | 8 | 9 | 293,120 | 11 | 11 | 146,560 | 5 | 11½ | | | |
| 30,482 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | 2,421 | 8 | 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| 26,323 | 19 | 3 | 56,805 | 19 | 4 | 28,402 | 19 | 8 | 3,214 | 19 | 1 | 5,636 | 7 | 9 | 2,818 | 3 | 10½ | | | |
| 17,381 | 7 | 10 | | | | | | | 1,162 | 5 | 10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21,766 | 0 | 8 | 39,147 | 8 | 6 | 19,573 | 14 | 3 | 1,618 | 15 | 4 | 2,781 | 1 | 2 | 1,390 | 10 | 7 | | | |
| 86,053 | 14 | 6 | | | | | | | 6,511 | 12 | 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 110,318 | 13 | 7 | 196,372 | 8 | 1 | 98,186 | 4 | 0½ | 12,046 | 0 | 7 | 18,557 | 13 | 2 | 9,278 | 16 | 7 | | | |
| 110,023 | 19 | 4 | | | | | | | 5,180 | 19 | 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 134,460 | 12 | 4 | 244,484 | 11 | 8 | 122,242 | 5 | 10 | 5,343 | 2 | 2 | 10,524 | 1 | 9 | 5,262 | 0 | 10½ | | | |
| 63,054 | 11 | 10 | | | | | | | 2,553 | 6 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 84,082 | 10 | 7 | 147,137 | 2 | 5 | 73,568 | 11 | 2½ | 2,565 | 15 | 6 | 5,119 | 1 | 8 | 2,559 | 10 | 10 | | | |
| 349,682 | 12 | 2 | | | | | | | 52,494 | 13 | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| 246,015 | 4 | 0 | 595,697 | 16 | 2 | 297,848 | 18 | 1 | 32,372 | 11 | 1 | 84,867 | 4 | 7 | 42,433 | 12 | 3½ | | | |
| 6,462,966 | 11 | 5 | 6,462,966 | 11 | 5 | 3,231,483 | 5 | 8½ | 615,654 | 6 | 4 | 615,654 | 6 | 4 | 307,827 | 3 | 2 | | | |
| 336,300 | 18 | 1 | | | | | | | 28,060 | 14 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 128,393 | 14 | 1 | 464,694 | 12 | 2 | 232,347 | 6 | 1 | 17,370 | 3 | 7 | 45,430 | 17 | 9 | 22,715 | 8 | 10½ | | | |
| 240,898 | 7 | 1 | | | | | | | 88,237 | 8 | 9 | | | | | | | | | |
| 77,715 | 18 | 7 | 318,614 | 5 | 8 | 159,307 | 2 | 10 | 43,233 | 5 | 9 | 131,470 | 14 | 6 | 65,735 | 7 | 3 | | | |
| 4,755 | 11 | 8 | | | | | | | 1,024 | 17 | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,341 | 16 | 6 | 6,097 | 8 | 2 | 3,048 | 14 | 1 | 18 | 7 | 6 | 1,043 | 14 | 6 | 521 | 17 | 3 | | | |
| 102,687 | 14 | 6 | | | | | | | 2,848 | 14 | 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| 24,303 | 1 | 2 | 126,990 | 15 | 8 | 63,495 | 7 | 10 | 3,957 | 11 | 9 | 6,806 | 6 | 5 | 3,403 | 3 | 2½ | | | |
| 4,656 | 4 | 1 | | | | | | | 340 | 14 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 4,656 | 4 | 1 | 9,312 | 8 | 2 | 4,656 | 4 | 1 | 340 | 14 | 2 | 681 | 8 | 4 | 340 | 14 | 2 | | | |
| 13,906 | 13 | 8 | | | | | | | 1,403 | 6 | 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 13,906 | 13 | 8 | 27,813 | 7 | 4 | 13,906 | 13 | 8 | 1,403 | 6 | 7 | 2,806 | 13 | 2 | 1,403 | 6 | 7 | | | |
| 34,004 | 9 | 0 | | | | | | | 22,911 | 15 | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| 4,474 | 6 | 6 | 38,478 | 15 | 6 | 19,239 | 7 | 9 | 12,366 | 16 | 5 | 35,278 | 11 | 9 | 17,639 | 5 | 10½ | | | |
| 7 | 15 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 15 | 0 | 15 | 10 | 0 | 7 | 15 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 92,377 | 12 | 8 | | | | | | | 33,204 | 4 | 11 | | | | | | | | | |
| 27,853 | 11 | 1 | 120,231 | 3 | 9 | 60,115 | 11 | 10½ | 3,285 | 16 | 8 | 36,490 | 1 | 7 | 18,245 | 0 | 9½ | | | |
| 1,112,248 | 6 | 5 | 1,112,248 | 6 | 5 | 556,124 | 3 | 2½ | 260,008 | 8 | 0 | 260,008 | 8 | 0 | 130,004 | 4 | 0 | | | |
| To all Parts of the World, except the West Indies and Africa | | | | | | 21,920,718 | | | 15 | | | 0 | | | To all Parts of the World, except the West Indies and Africa | | | | | |
| To Africa, as above | | | | | | 647,428 | | | 12 | | | 0 | | | To Africa, as above | | | | | |
| To the British West Indies | | | | | | 3,231,483 | | | 5 | | | 8½ | | | To the British West Indies | | | | | |
| To the conquered Islands | | | | | | 556,124 | | | 3 | | | 2½ | | | To the conquered Islands | | | | | |
| To all Parts of the World | | | | | | 26,355,574 | | | 15 | | | 11 | | | To all Parts of the World | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 12,319,253 | | | 16 | | | 8½ | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 494,989 | | | 3 | | | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 307,827 | | | 3 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 130,004 | | | 4 | | | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 13,252,074 | | | 7 | | | 3½ | | | | | | | | |

in 1802; but, in the foregoing, are put down as if they had been so, and produced as in 1801.
 Two Years may be more correct.

L.

Extract of a Letter from Governor PREVOST, to Earl CAMDEN (N^o 59.); dated Dominica, 10th December 1804.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's Letter, Circular, of the 4th of October last, inclosing a Paper expressing the Heads of Information required from hence relative to Imports and Exports of Slaves, and other Matters respecting that unfortunate Race.

From the Nature of the Report I shall have to make your Lordship on the last Subject, some Delay will be unavoidable; but you may depend on none unnecessary.

From the many Years I have passed in the West Indies, and as a Resident in most of the Colonies, I may venture to represent to your Lordship the Legislature of the Island of Dominica, as distinguished by the Laws it has passed for the Encouragement, Protection, and Government of Slaves; but I am sorry I cannot add, that they are as religiously enforced as you would wish; however, the Treatment of Negroes depends less on the Temper of the Master, whose Interest in his Slaves well-being is not always a sufficient Check. Slaves are in general treated with Mildness and Humanity; they are well fed and tolerably clothed. The Pomp, the Shew, and the Mysteries of the Catholic Religion, induces the Negroes, who are disposed to have any, to prefer it.

M.

Extract of a Letter from Governor BENTINCK, to Earl CAMDEN; dated St. Vincent, 13th December 1804.

I HAVE laid before the Council and Assembly the Letter of the 4th of October, with the Heads of Information; in consequence of which, a Committee of both Houses has been appointed to prepare a Bill for the Purpose of enforcing the Attainment of such Information.

N.

Extract of a Letter from the Right honourable Lord LAVINGTON, to the Earl CAMDEN, K. G.; dated Antigua, 14th December 1804.

SINCE the last Dispatch (N^o 4, of the 19th of November) which I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship, I have received, by a Jamaica Packet, your Lordship's Commands in your Circular Letter of the 4th of October, accompanied by certain Heads of Information, on which I have your Lordship's Orders to transmit to you, as speedily as possible, the most correct and particular Information that can be obtained, upon the several Points which are specified in them; and by the Prince Ernest Packet, which anchored at this Island Yesterday, I was honoured with your Lordship's Letter, N^o 6, of the 18th of October.

I do not fail to remark, that in the Heads of Information enclosed with your Lordship's Letter of the 4th of October, a Desire is expressed of all practicable Dispatch, as well as of Correctness and Precision, in my Reply to the several Subjects of Enquiry; and I trust that your Lordship will have the Goodness to be persuaded that no avoidable Delay shall be committed in collecting the Information which is required of me, and in transmitting it to your Lordship; but it is a Piece of Respect which is due to your Lordship, as well as of Justice which I owe to the Sincerity of my Determination to render my Obedience to your Lordship's Commands on this Subject, as satisfactory to you as possible, to express some Apprehension, that,

with

with the most unremitting Industry, I may not be able to convey to your Lordship the Information which you require with all the Expedition which I could wish. There are some Points on which, in the Opinion of His Majesty's Board of Council in this Island, as well as in my own, it will be very tedious and difficult to collect the necessary Intelligence with Accuracy; not from any Disaffection in the Inhabitants of this Government to the Subjects of Enquiry, nor the smallest degree of Disrespect to His Majesty's Government, but from the Inattention and Indisposition, too prevalent in human Nature, to active Exertions and laborious Investigations, where they are neither imposed by the Obligation of Law, nor required by the Duty of Office. It is my Intention first to endeavour to procure, by private Requisition, the Points of Information, which are necessary to enable me to obey your Lordship's Commands; and indeed I have received Assurances of Assistance from all Quarters in which I have communicated them. But if I should have reason to suspect that the Calculations which may be laid before me are conjectural, and of course liable to Incorrectness and Error, it is my present Opinion, as it seems to be that of the principal and best informed Persons in this Island, whom I have consulted on the Execution of your Lordship's Commands, that the most effectual Method of obtaining that kind of Information, on the Accuracy of which I can rely, will be by the Coercion of an Act of the Island, which shall exact Information upon Oath, and under severe Penalties, and which I have no Reason to doubt the Disposition of either House of the Legislature to concur with me in passing, if it be found necessary. But if in this Island, which by His Majesty's Instructions is that of my chief Residence, and in which, by my personal Attention, I can immediately superintend the Progress of the Enquiries which are necessary to enable me to answer the Heads of Information, the Task is not exempt from no inconsiderable Difficulties, I submit to your Lordship's Candour, the little Prospect which I have before me, of paying that expeditious Obedience to your Lordship's Commands, (which I devoutly wish to do) from the several other Islands under my Command, entirely unconnected with and dissimilar in their Government from one another; and in which I cannot observe, without Concern, that Business of every kind (and particularly public Business) is, and has long been, transacted with a degree of Order, Precision, and Method, very inferior to the System which has long characterized the Island of Antigua. I however beg leave to repeat my Assurances to your Lordship, that I undertake the Execution of your Lordship's Commands on this Subject, with an Earnestness and Zeal that, I trust, will atone for the miserably infirm State of my Health; which, unfavourable as it may be to Exertion, will, I hope, be discovered by no other Circumstance or Appearance in my Correspondence with your Lordship, than my own Confession.

O.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. President ADYE to Earl CAMDEN;
dated 16th December 1804.

Grenada, 16th December 1804.

My Lord,

I AM honoured with your Lordship's Dispatch of the 4th of October, enclosing certain Heads of Information to be procured in this Colony, and transmitted to your Lordship. In consequence whereof, I have directed the proper Officers of the several Departments from whence the same may be most accurately obtained, to furnish me with Returns which shall be forwarded to your Lordship as early as possible. Those Objects of Enquiry which relate to the Number of Negroes imported and exported, and the Proceedings under the Guardian Act of this Island, will be speedily procured; but I fear I shall not be able to obtain the Return of the Negroes now in the Government, classed in the Manner pointed out by your Lordship, nor the Number of free-coloured Persons, before next Month. There shall however be no Delay on my Part.

I have the honour to be, &c.

A. C. ADYE.

The Earl Camden,
&c. &c. &c.

P.

Extract of a Letter from Governor PREVOST, to the Earl CAMDEN; dated Dominica, 1st January 1805.—N^o 61.

IN addition to that Part of my Letter of the 10th of last Month, (N^o 59.) which related to the Heads of Information required by your Lordship, I have the honour to enclose herewith the following Papers, being the most authentic and particular Information I can obtain.

- N^o 1. An Account of Negroes imported and exported from 1788 to December 1804.
- N^o 2. A Statement of the Population of the Colony of Dominica, &c.
- N^o 3. A List of all Convictions had, and Fines and Forfeitures recovered, &c. &c.
- N^o 4. A Letter from the Reverend John Audain, containing a Return of the Baptisms and Burials, &c. &c.

The principal Revenue of Dominica arises from a Tax on Slaves of every Denomination and Description without Exception, in consequence the Steps taken only led to ascertain their Numbers in the gross, requiring from the Owners no other Description than that to be found in the Return. Although I am conscious it will not meet your Lordship's Expectations, still I preferred transmitting it, to incurring a Delay of several Months in the pursuit of more correct Information.

The Act of the Legislature intituled "An Act for the Encouragement, Protection, and better Government of Slaves," appears to have been considered, from the Day it was passed until this Hour, as a political Measure to avert the Interference of the Mother Country in the Management of Slaves. Having said this, your Lordship will not be surprized to learn the Clause 7th of that Bill has been wholly neglected. As to the 8th Clause, it is too intimately connected with the public Interest to be allowed to sleep.

I am apprehensive you will find the Account of all Convictions had, and Fines or Forfeitures recovered, and of all Prosecutions commenced against the Defaulters, pursuant to the said Act of the Assembly, very unsatisfactory; however here, now and then, the Act has shewn some Symptoms of Life.

As to the parochial and established Clergy, I find a Mr. Margaret filling the Situation from January 1788 to January 1793; he was succeeded in 1797 by a Mr. Peters, and ultimately in January 1802, my Predecessor Colonel Johnstone presented the Rectory of the Parish of St. George's to the Reverend John Audain, the present Incumbent, whose Letter will explain to your Lordship why the Clauses 3 and 4 are not carried into Effect, and the Obstacles he meets with.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

37

P. N° I.

Port of Roseau, } ACCOUNT of NEGROES Imported and Exported
 Dominica. } from 1788 to December 1804.

| Imported. | N° | Exported. | N° |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| In the Year - - - 1788 | 6,203 | In the Year - - - 1788 | 4,960 |
| Ditto - - - 1789 | 3,647 | Ditto - - - 1789 | 3,412 |
| Ditto - - - 1790 | 2,271 | Ditto - - - 1790 | 1,771 |
| Ditto - - - 1791 | 2,390 | Ditto - - - 1791 | 1,760 |
| Ditto - - - 1792 | 3,632 | Ditto - - - 1792 | 2,390 |
| Ditto - - - 1793 | 2,037 | Ditto - - - 1793 | 1,119 |
| Ditto - - - 1794 | 150 | Ditto - - - 1794 | — |
| Ditto - - - 1795 | — | Ditto - - - 1795 | — |
| Ditto - - - 1796 | 299 | Ditto - - - 1796 | 3 |
| Ditto - - - 1797 | 349 | Ditto - - - 1797 | 60 |
| Ditto - - - 1798 | 1,097 | Ditto - - - 1798 | — |
| Ditto - - - 1799 | 762 | Ditto - - - 1799 | 202 |
| Ditto - - - 1800 | 962 | Ditto - - - 1800 | 9 |
| Ditto - - - 1801 | 336 | Ditto - - - 1801 | — |
| Ditto - - - 1802 | 603 | Ditto - - - 1802 | 394 |
| Ditto - - - 1803 | 1,043 | Ditto - - - 1803 | 67 |
| Ditto - - - 1804 | 1,386 | Ditto - - - 1804 | 8 |
| | <u>27,167</u> | | <u>16,155</u> |

RECAPITULATION.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Imported from 1788 to 1804 - - - - - | 27,167 |
| Exported during same Period - - - - - | 16,155 |
| Apparent Balance remaining in the Island - - - - - | <u>11,012</u> |

Custom House, Roseau,
 Dominica, 27th December 1804.

The above extracted from the Books of this Office.

Signed

{ James Laing, Coll^r
 { John Gorton, Compt^r

P. N^o 2.

The most particular STATEMENT which can be obtained of the POPULATION of the Colony of Dominica, including White Inhabitants of every Description, Free Persons of Colour, and Slaves, is as follows :

In the Year 1797, the Number of Negroes was ascertained to amount to 13,570 Males and Females.

| Annual Detail of the Population. | White Persons. | | | | Free Persons of Colour. | | | | Slaves. | | | REMARKS. |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------|--------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------|--|
| | Males above 16. | Males under 16. | Females. | TOTAL. | Males above 16. | Males under 16. | Females. | TOTAL. | Males. | Females. | TOTAL. | |
| In the Year 1801 the Census amount- ed to - - - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10,326 | 10,460 | 20,786 | |
| In the Year 1802, to | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10,431 | 10,968 | 21,399 | |
| In the Year 1803, to | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10,858 | 10,635 | 21,493 | |
| In the Year 1804, to | 678 | 243 | 673 | 1,594 | 674 | 589 | 1,559 | 2,822 | 11,161 | 10,922 | 22,083 | In this Year is included 152 Male and 58 Female Runaway Slaves in the Woods. |

No Return of the Negro Population can be had for the intervening Years since 1797 unto 1801.

Treasury Office,
Dominica, 31 Dec. 1804.

I certify the above to be a true Statement, as
taken from my Books.

Rob^t Metcalf,
Deputy Treasurer.

P. N^o 3.

A LIST of all Convictions had, and Fines and Forfeitures recovered, and of all Prosecutions commenced against Defaulters, pursuant to an Act of the Legislature of Dominica, passed in December 1788, intituled, "An Act for the Encouragement, Protection, and better Government of Slaves."

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1789. 12th August | Cæsar, for the Murder of a Negro, named Tony, executed. |
| 1791. 4th February. | Paul, Michael, Antoine, and Janvier. |
| 5th. | Jean Baptiste, Prosper, Charlo, and Pero. |
| 10th. | Jappa and Jimell. |
| 19th. | Tom, Maya, Charles, Hippolite, Gregoire, and Baft. |
| 22d. | Cyrus, Hannibal, and Renault. |
| | N. B. The preceding nineteen Negroes were condemned and executed, for being principally concerned in the Rebellion which took place in this Island in the Year 1790. |
| 1st March. | Jean Louis Pauliniere, chief of the rebellious Negroes, executed. |
| 30th June. | Mr. Sargenton was fined in the Sum of £. 30 Currency, for ill-treating a Negro Slave, the Property of Doctor Fellan. |
| 1792. 16th January. | Matthew, for practising Witchcraft, executed. |
| 1798. 6th February. | Belvidere Leefon, a free Negro Woman, fined in the Sum of £. 25 Currency, for cruel and barbarous Punishment of her Slave. |
| 24th May. | Lindor, for the Murder of a Negro Woman, executed. |
| 1799. 7th February. | Cæsar Moore, a free Negro, fined in the Sum of £. 25 Currency, for cruel and barbarous Punishment of his Slave. |
| 1800. 9th September. | David Rainy, free Negro, for Robbery, executed. |
| | Quashey, for supplying Runaway Negroes with Gunpowder and Provisions, executed. |
| 30th September | Cordelia, a free Negro Woman, ordered to be confined 12 Months in the Common Gaol, for Cruelty to her Slave. |
| 11th November | Johnson, chief of a Runaway Camp, executed. |
| 1801. 11th June. | Pieque Bois, for Robbery, executed. |
| | Antoine, for the Murder of his Master, Mr. Grano, executed. |
| 9th July. | Patrick Rooney, a Soldier in His Majesty's 68th Regiment of Foot, was condemned for the Murder of the Negro Caliste, but was reprieved by his Excellency Governor Johnstone. |
| 1803. 17th March. | Prince, for holding Correspondence with Runaway Slaves, supplying them with Provisions, &c. pardoned by his Excellency Governor Prevost, in consequence of a Recommendation of the Bench. |
| 16th December | Cato, for the Murder of the Negro Tom, executed. |

Register's Office, Dominica,
31st December 1804.

I do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true Copy, taken from the Records of my Office.

(Signed)

John Ch. Constable,
Acting Register.

P. N° 4.

Copy of a Letter from the Reverend JOHN AUDAIN, to
Governor PREVOST; dated Dominica, 31st Dec. 1804.

Dominica, 31st December 1804.

Sir,

IN conformity to your Letter, I herewith transmit to you an accurate Return of all the Baptisms and Burials of the free-coloured People and Slaves, from the 1st Day of January 1802, to this 31st Day of December 1804, being the Day I was instituted to the Living of the Town of Roseau, and Parish of St. George's.

The very incorrect State of the only Documents I have been able to get from the Secretary's Office, renders it impossible for me to furnish your Excellency with the Return you have required from the Year 1788, no Register being to be found for the Space of four Years of that Time.

From the Extracts I have returned you from my Register, your Excellency will readily perceive that the Increase is infinitely greater than the Decrease; and I have no doubt, but it has heretofore been, and will be generally so.

Your Excellency may also observe, that in my Return I have made no mention of the Marriages; my Reason for it is, that a very few *even* of the *free-coloured People* marry, and not *one Slave* since I have been here. Why they do not I readily conceive, particularly the Slaves. Their Owners do not exhort them to it, and *they* shew no Disposition *themselves* to alter that mode of Cohabitation which they have been accustomed to from the Infancy of the Colony. A lawful Union of the Slaves, considered in a moral point of View, is devoutly to be wished; but I have my Doubts, whether any *real* Good will arise from it, until they are more generally instructed in the Principles of the Christian Religion, and become more serious; yet still, I think, it may be attended with no political Evil or Inconvenience.

I have the honour to be, &c.

John Audain, A. M.
Rector of St. George's.

To Governor Prevost,
&c. &c. &c.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

41

N° 5.

AN EXACT RETURN of all the BAPTISMS and BURIALS of the FREE COLOURED PEOPLE and SLAVES, in the Town of ROSEAU, the Parish of GEORGE'S, and the other Parishes in the said Island, from the 1st Day of January 1802, to the 31st Day of December 1804, by the Reverend JOHN AUDAIN, A. M. Rector of the said Parishes.

| | Baptism of Free Infants. | | Baptism of Slaves. | | |
|----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|---------|
| | Males. | Females. | Infants. | | Adults. |
| | | | Males. | Females. | |
| 1802 - - | 46 | 34 | 76 | 44 | 204 |
| 1803 - - | 72 | 37 | 99 | 82 | 287 |
| 1804 - - | 107 | 98 | 240 | 180 | 976 |
| TOTAL - | 225 | 169 | 415 | 306 | 1467 |

| | Burials of Free Infants. | | Burials of Slaves. | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|---------|
| | Males. | Females. | Infants. | | Adults. |
| | | | Males. | Females. | |
| | 17 | 22 | 34 | 27 | 16 |
| | 31 | 18 | 17 | 21 | 12 |
| | 30 | 19 | 14 | 27 | 9 |
| | 78 | 59 | 65 | 75 | 37 |

John Audain, A. M.

Rector of the Town of Roseau,
and the Parish of St. George.

P. N° 6.

Roseau, 30th December 1804.

Sir,

IN answer to your Excellency's Letter of the 11th Instant, relative to the Marriages, Christenings, and Burials, of the Free Persons of Colour in this Island, and Slaves, since 1788, to the last of December 1804; I have to answer, in order to comply with your Excellency's Injunction on these three Points: Primo, That since this Island became a Part of the British Empire, my Predecessors kept no Registers of the Burials or Christenings of Slaves; and as to their legal Marriages, no such thing is practised in the English Islands. As to the Marriages of Free People of Colour, one in a thousand is, I believe, legally married; and the rest, according to the Law of Nature, which is to join and separate ad libitum. With regard to their Christenings, such as have Property are registered when they require it, and the rest are indifferent about it, as they are in general illegitimate; it is the same with their Interments.

I have the honour to be, &c.

L'Abbé Canvan.

To

Governor Prevost,
&c. &c. &c.

PAPERS RESPECTING

Q.

Extract of a Letter from the Right honourable Lord SEAFORTH to Earl CAMDEN; dated Pilgrim, 7th January 1805.

“ON inspecting the Returns of the Churchwardens, I found them so irregular and incorrect, that I thought it would create more Confusion than Information if sent. I have called for new Reports, according to a Form I have now sent the Churchwardens. I enclose herewith (N^o 1.) the Returns made me by the Custom House, and by the Treasurer; the Treasurer's Imports agree *exactly* in every Year with the Custom House Returns, which is a pretty good Criterion of their Truth. The Return of the Number of free-coloured and black People, required, being in gross, is taken from the Churchwardens Reports.”

Q. N^o 1.

AN ACCOUNT of SLAVES Imported and Exported in the Island of BARBADOES, since the Year 1788 inclusive.

| Years. | Slaves Imported. | Slaves Exported. |
|----------|------------------|------------------|
| 1788 - - | 1,585 | 1,270 |
| 1789 - - | 556 | 490 |
| 1790 - - | 131 | 91 |
| 1791 - - | 426 | 310 |
| 1792 - - | 744 | 591 |
| 1793 - - | 1,438 | 1,107 |
| 1794 - - | 1,218 | 943 |
| 1795 - - | 2,059 | 1,729 |
| 1796 - - | 3,582 | 3,280 |
| 1797 - - | 3,462 | 2,895 |
| 1798 - - | 3,244 | 2,786 |
| 1799 - - | 1,968 | 1,491 |
| 1800 - - | 830 | 790 |
| 1801 - - | — | — |
| 1802 - - | 608 | 400 |
| 1803 - - | 3,177 | 2,498 |
| 1804 - - | 999 | 854 |
| 17 - - - | 26,027 | 21,525 |

N. B. Many Vessels from the Coast of Africa enter but never land any Slaves here; all which are included in this Account; and also Slaves have been permitted sometimes to be exported in neutral Bottoms, for the Safety of British Subjects, to the Sister Colonies.

The above was given in to Lord Seaforth by the Collector of the Customs, and an exactly similar Account of the Import was given in to Lord Seaforth from the Treasurer's Office, with the Exception of the Year 1804, which is not yet made up at that Office; and the Account was accompanied by the following Remark:

“It would be erroneous in any Calculation to count upon the Importation of Slaves, as many Cargoes are sold for Exportation, and in consequence of such Sale are subject to the Duty, and therefore appear under the Head of Imports, although not landed in the Island; and there is seldom an Island Sale, but some of the Slaves are exported, as for instance, although the Importation for the Years 1796, 1797, 1798, and 1803, appears to be great, yet the *greater Part* of them were sent from this to other Markets; added to which, a great Number of Slaves go from hence to other Islands, with their Owners, by Ticket from the Commander in Chief, and therefore do not appear on the List of Exports.”

SEAFORTH.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

43

RETURN of Free-coloured People in the Island of BARBADOES,
May 1802.

| | Men. | Women. | Boys. | Girls. | TOTAL. |
|---------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------------|
| St. Michael's - - - | 156 | 417 | 209 | 238 | 1,020 |
| Christchurch - - - | 16 | 21 | 14 | 15 | 66 |
| St. Philip - - - - | 37 | 69 | 54 | 40 | 200 |
| St. George - - - - | 35 | 33 | 21 | 24 | 113 |
| St. John - - - - - | 34 | 38 | 37 | 14 | 123 |
| St. James - - - - - | 9 | 12 | 13 | 9 | 43 |
| St. Thomas - - - - | 6 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 31 |
| St. Peter - - - - - | 34 | 74 | 45 | 39 | 192 |
| St. Lucy - - - - - | N. R. | N. R. | N. R. | N. R. | 61 |
| St. Andrew - - - - | 43 | 71 | 84 | 100 | 298 |
| St. Joseph - - - - | 23 | 21 | 15 | 23 | 82 |
| | | | | | <u>2,229</u> |

SEAFORTH.

R.

Extract of a Letter from the Right honourable Lord
SEAFORTH to Earl CAMDEN; dated Pilgrim, 7th
January 1805.

I ENCLOSE the Attorney General's Letter to me on the Subject of the Negroes so most wantonly murdered. I am sorry to say, *several* other Instances of the same Barbarity have occurred with which I have not troubled your Lordship, as I only wished to make you acquainted with the Subject in general.

R. N^o 1.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. BECKLES to Lord SEAFORTH;
dated 19th November 1804.

Bay Plantation, 19th November 1804.

My Lord,

I HAVE delayed to answer your Excellency's Note of the 19th of September, enclosing Queries as to some Cases of cruel Murders committed upon Slaves, with the hope of being able to establish the Facts, so as to communicate them to your Excellency without any Doubt of their Authenticity; but, notwithstanding every Inquiry, I can make no Discovery of the Murder which had been currently reported to have been committed by one Nowell, of the Parish of St. Andrew. The Fact is by many supposed to be true, at the same time that it is denied by others, and all that I can ascertain is, that Nowell is in general a cruel Man to his Slaves.

The Militia Man is — Halls, of St. Michael's Regiment, returning from his Duty upon an Alarm, after stopping at a Dram Shop, where he had drank so as

to be rather intoxicated; hearing some Negroes singing before him, who were returning from their daily Labour, he called out to them that he would kill them; upon which a Mr. Harding, who was going the same Way, told him to take Care what he was about; he immediately pursued the Negroes, who not supposing that he really intended to do them any Injury, but imagining that what he had said was in Joke, did not endeavour to escape, but as he came up to them, they separated to make room for him to pass; the nearest to him being a Woman far advanced in Pregnancy, he ran his Bayonet into her, without the smallest Provocation, and killed her on the Spot: Mr. Harding and another Gentleman, who were Eye-witnesses, seized him and carried him before the President, who sent him to Prison.

In the other Case, which happened in the Parish of St. Lucy, two white Men were concerned, Crone and Hollingsworth. A Mr. Colebeck, the Manager of a Plantation in the Neighbourhood, had some Months before purchased an African Lad, who was much attached to his Person, and slept in a Passage contiguous to his Chamber. On Sunday Night there was an Alarm of Fire in the Plantation, which induced Mr. Colebeck to go out hastily, and the next Morning he missed the Lad, who he supposed had intended to follow him in the Night, and had mistaken his Way. He sent to his Neighbours, and to Mr. Crone among the rest, to inform them that his African Lad had accidentally strayed from him; that he could not speak a Word of English, and that possibly he might be found breaking Canes, or taking something else for his Support; in which Case he requested that they would not injure him, but return him, and he would pay any Damage he might have committed. A Day or two after Mr. Colebeck was informed that Crone and Hollingsworth had killed a Negro in a neighbouring Gully, and buried him there. He went to Crone to inquire into the Truth of the Report, and intended to have the Grave opened to see whether it was his African Lad. Crone told him a Negro had been killed and buried there; but assured him it was not his, for he knew him very well, and he need not be at the Trouble of opening the Grave. Upon this Colebeck went away satisfied; but receiving further Information, which left no Doubt upon his Mind that it was his Negro, he returned and opened the Grave, and found it to be so. I was Mr. Colebeck's leading Counsel, and the Facts stated in my Brief were as follows: That Crone and Hollingsworth being informed that there was a Negro lurking in the Gully, went armed with Musquets, and took several Negro Men with them. The poor African, seeing a Parcel of Men come to attack him, was frightened; he took up a Stone to defend himself, and retreated into a cleft Rock, where they could not easily come at him; they then went for some Trash, put it into the Crevice of the Rock behind him, and set it on Fire; after it had burnt so as to scorch the poor Fellow, he ran into a Pool of Water near by; they sent a Negro to bring him out, and he threw the Stone at the Negro, upon which the two white Men fired several Times at him with the Guns loaded with Shot, and the Negroes pelted him with Stones. He was at length dragged out of the Pool in a dying Condition, for he had not only received several Bruises from the Stones, but his Breast was so pierced with the Shot that it was like a Cullender. The white Savages ordered the Negroes to dig a Grave, and whilst they were digging it, the poor Creature made signs of begging for Water, which was not given to him; but as soon as the Grave was dug, he was thrown into it, and covered over, and there seems to be some Doubt whether he was then quite dead. Crone and Hollingsworth deny this; but Colebeck assured me, that he could prove it by more than one Witness, and I have Reason to believe it to be true, because on the Day of Trial Crone and Hollingsworth did not suffer the Cause to come to a Hearing, but paid the Penalties and the Costs of Suit, which it is not supposed they would have done had they been innocent.

I have the honour to be, &c.

The Right honourable Lord Seaforth,
&c. &c. &c.

John Beckles.

Copy.

S.

Copy of a Letter from Earl CAMDEN to Lord SEAFORTH;
dated Downing Street, 21st January 1805.

(Separate.)

Downing Street, 21st January 1805.

My Lord,

IN your Lordship's Letter of the 13th of November, you resume a former Statement of great and shocking Barbarities committed by His Majesty's Subjects upon Negroes, and you enclose several Papers, particularly referring to the Murders committed by Persons of the Name of *Hall*, of *Crone*, and of *Nowell*. At the same time your Lordship laments the Indifference with which these Atrocities are viewed in the Island; the very inadequate Punishments which, under the existing Laws, can be inflicted to avenge them; the Facility with which even those Punishments may be eluded or commuted, and the little or no Disgrace which attaches upon the Perpetrators.

It is some Satisfaction, however, to learn, that the Feelings you have expressed, and the Investigation you have caused, has created no little public Attention and Alarm; that the Council have taken up the Subject; that Bills are preparing to make the Punishment of such Crimes more commensurate to the Offence; and that the Counsel seem ready to perform their Duty with Alacrity and Firmness: But this Satisfaction is much allayed by your Lordship expressing your Apprehensions, that any Measures which your Lordship may suggest, or the Council adopt, will make no Impression upon the House of Assembly, or have the least Influence to produce their Concurrence.

Under this Consideration of the Subject, your Lordship has requested to be furnished with His Majesty's Instructions in respect to the Course you are to pursue for stopping the Barbarities which may be exercised upon Negroes, and for giving them that Protection which at once Justice and Humanity command, and both public and private Interests require. I am, therefore, to acquaint your Lordship, that having laid before His Majesty your Representations on this Subject, I am commanded by His Majesty to convey to you His Royal Approbation of the Zeal and Vigour with which you have proceeded, and that it is His Royal Pleasure that you do send a Message in His Name to the Council and House of Assembly, exhorting them to commence an immediate Investigation, in order to ascertain the Barbarities and Murders which may have been committed upon Negroes, and recommending them to stigmatize all Actions of Individuals that have been marked with Cruelty and Barbarity, with Resolutions of the severest Reprobation; and also to pass Laws, which, following up the System already adopted in Jamaica and other Islands, shall produce Regulations favourable to the Well-being and Protection of the Negroes, tending to rescue them from the Danger of improper Usage by their Masters, and constituting the maiming and murder of a Negro by any Person whatever to be a capital Felony.

His Majesty learns, with Satisfaction, that His Council of the Island of Barbadoes, are not likely to shrink from their Duty upon this Subject, but zealous to perform what Justice and Humanity dictate.

His Majesty cannot harbour a Doubt, but a similar Disposition will actuate the House of Assembly. His Majesty confidently trusts, they will not be outdone in the Discharge of that Duty to which they are especially appointed, for the Prefer-

vation

46 PAPERS RESPECTING THE SLAVE TRADE.

vation of the Security, and insuring the Comforts and Happiness of the Persons committed to their Protection; nor will His Majesty allow himself to believe, that when they shall have reviewed the Inadequacy of the Laws to repress the Evils complained of, and the disgraceful Barbarity which Impunity encourages, they will stamp such Enormities with the Authority of their Approbation, and to which a Refusal on their Part to discharge the Duty of their Trust must evidently amount.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CAMDEN.