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4.

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATING TO THE TREATMENT

OF

SLAVES IN THE COLONIES.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
10 June 1818.

LIST OF

COPIES OF COLONIAL ACTS AND CORRESPONDENCE,

Presented to the House of Commons in consequence of certain Addresses ordered on the 22d day of April 1818, to be presented to His Royal Highness The Prince Regent,—for

COPIES OF ALL LAWS passed in or for any British Colonies since the year 1812, and not already presented to this House, respecting the condition and treatment of Slaves, or the prevention of the illicit importation of Slaves, and also respecting the condition of the free coloured Population :

AND, FOR

COPIES OR EXTRACTS OF SUCH ACCOUNTS as have been received from the said Colonies respectively since 1807, and have not been hitherto laid before this House ; showing the increase and decrease of the number of Slaves, and also of the free coloured and white population ; also the present numbers of all the above classes, and, as far as the same can be given, the changes in the relative proportions of males and females in the Slave Population :

AND ALSO, FOR

COPIES OR EXTRACTS OF ALL ACTS passed in furtherance of the objects of the Address of this House, of June 19th, 1816, that His Royal Highness would be pleased to recommend, in the strongest manner, to the local authorities in the respective Colonies, to carry into effect any measure which may tend to promote the moral and religious improvement, as well as the comfort and happiness of the Negroes.

VIZ.

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TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES.

9

A C T S

OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS.

An ACT for laying a further Duty upon the Importation and Sale of certain Slaves.

WHEREAS it is necessary that a further duty should be imposed and collected upon the importation and sale of certain Slaves, brought for that purpose into these Islands, from other parts of His Majesty's dominions, We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Assembly of your Bahama Islands, do most humbly beseech Your Majesty, that it may be enacted; Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency Charles Cameron, esquire, Your Majesty's Captain General and Governor in chief, the Council and Assembly of your said Islands; and it is hereby enacted and ordained, by the authority of the same, That during the continuance of this Act, there shall be imposed, levied, and paid to Your Majesty, your Heirs and Successors, for and towards the support of this Government, for every negro, mulatto, or other slave imported into these Islands for sale, twenty pounds over and above any other duty already imposed, or that shall or may hereafter be imposed upon such importation and sale. And if any person or persons shall import for their own use, any negro, or other slave, and sell the same within twelve months after importation, without payment of the additional duty imposed by this Act, he she or they shall forfeit and pay, over and above any other forfeiture or penalty imposed or payable under or by virtue of any other Act or Acts, twenty pounds for every such negro or other slave so imported and sold as aforesaid.

BAHAMAS.

Preamble.

A further tax on the importation of certain slaves.

2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the monies which shall arise and be received into the public treasury by virtue of this Act, shall be appropriated and applied in such manner as may be directed by any Act or Acts of the General Assembly, and not otherwise.

Appropriation of monies.

3. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the forfeitures and penalties imposed by this Act, shall and may be sued for in any court of these Islands having cognizance thereof, by action of debt, bill or information, wherein no essoign, or more than one imparlance, shall be admitted or allowed; one moiety whereof shall be paid to the informer, and the residue applied in aid of the expenses of this Government.

Penalties how to be sued for.

4. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall continue and be in force from and after the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, for one year, and no longer.

Continuance of this Act.

Passed the House of Assembly, December the twenty-second, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.

J. Webster, Speaker.

Passed the Legislative Council, twenty-eighth December one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.

Wm. Vesey Munnings, President.

Assented to, the twenty-ninth December one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.

Charles Cameron.

A true Copy from the original,
Nesbitt, Sec^y.

An ACT to further continue an Act passed in the forty-fifth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act for trying Questions relative to the Freedom of Negroes, and other Persons of Colour, and for suspending certain Acts therein mentioned."

WHEREAS an Act passed in the forty-fifth year of His Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for trying Questions relative to the Freedom of Negroes, and other

Preamble.

BAHAMAS.

Act continued for ten years.

other Persons of Colour, and for suspending certain Acts therein mentioned," is about to expire : And whereas it is expedient that the same be further continued : May it therefore please Your Majesty, That it may be enacted ; and be it enacted by his Excellency Charles Cameron, esquire, Your Majesty's Captain General and Governor in chief, the Council and Assembly of the Bahama Islands ; and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the above recited Act, and every clause, provision, matter and thing therein contained, shall be, and the same is and are hereby continued in force from and after the passing of this Act, for and during the term of ten years, and from thence to the end of the next Session of this General Assembly, and no longer.

Passed the House of Assembly, fourteenth November one thousand eight hundred and fifteen. *J. Webster, Speaker.*

Passed the Legislative Council, sixteenth November one thousand eight hundred and fifteen. *Wm. Vesey Munnings, President.*

Assented to, the twenty-ninth December one thousand eight hundred and fifteen. *Charles Cameron.*

A true Copy from the original,
Nesbitt, Sec^r.

AN ACT to alter the mode of Proceeding on the Trial of Slaves charged with Treason, Murder, or other Felonious Offences, without the benefit of Clergy.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient and proper that the trial of slaves charged with treason, murder, or other felonious offences without the benefit of clergy, should hereafter be had and proceeded on in the General Court of these Islands, according to the form and practice of the said Court used and followed therein, on the trial of white persons, or free persons of colour, charged with the like offences : May it therefore please Your Majesty, That it may be enacted, and be it enacted by his Excellency Charles Cameron, esquire, Your Majesty's Captain General and Governor in chief, the Council and Assembly of the Bahama Islands ; and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, when any slave or slaves shall be charged with treason, murder, burglary, robbery, burning of houses, or other felony or offence whatsoever, from which the benefit of clergy is taken away by any Statute or Act of Parliament of Great Britain in force within the Bahama Islands, or by any Act of the General Assembly of the said Islands, the trial of such slave or slaves (a bill or bills of indictment being first found by the grand inquest for the body of the said Bahama Islands, and which bill or bills of indictment, the attorney general of these Islands, or other officer prosecuting in the name of His Majesty, shall and lawfully may prefer) shall be had and proceeded upon in the general court of the said Bahama Islands, by and before the chief justice and assistant justices of the said court, or some or one of them, in the same manner and form, and according to the same causes, usage and practice established, observed and followed therein, for and upon the trial of any white person or free person of colour charged with the like crimes and offences, save and except only that the evidence of slave against slave shall in all cases be received.

On an indictment for felony being found against any slave, the trial shall be proceeded upon in the general court before the chief and assistant justices, as in the case of a white person.

Chief and assistant justices to pronounce sentence of death on slaves convicted, and the provost-marshal to cause such sentence to be carried into execution.

2d. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That when any slave or slaves shall be convicted in the said general court of any treason, murder, or other felony or offence whatsoever, from which the benefit of clergy is taken away as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the chief justice and assistant justices of the said general court, or some or one of them, to pronounce sentence of death upon such slave or slaves convicted as aforesaid ; and the provost marshal of the said Islands, or his lawful deputy, is hereby authorized and required to cause such sentence to be carried into execution at such time and place as such chief justice and assistant justices, or some or one of them, shall think proper to direct or appoint.

Act suspended.

3d. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That so much and such part and parts of any Act or Acts of the General Assembly of the said Bahama Islands, as prescribe or regulate any mode of proceeding on the trial of slaves accused of crimes

crimes punishable with death, different from that hereinbefore established and appointed, shall be and the same is and are hereby suspended from and after the passing of this Act, for and during the continuance of this Act and no longer.

BAHAMAS.

4th. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this Act shall continue and be in force for and during the term of seven years, and to the end of the then next session of the General Assembly and no longer.

Duration of this Act.

Passed the Legislative Council, twentieth December one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.
William Vesey Munnings,
President.

Passed the House of Assembly, seventeenth December one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.
L. Kerr, Speaker.

Assented to, the thirty-first December one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.
Charles Cameron.

An ACT to continue an Act, intituled, "An Act to consolidate and bring into one Act, the several Laws relating to Slaves, and for giving them further protection and security; for altering the mode of trial of Slaves charged with Capital Offences, for suspending the several Acts and clauses of Acts therein mentioned, and for other purposes," except so much of the said Act as relates to the trial of Slaves for Capital Offences by any two Justices of the Peace and five Jurymen.

WHEREAS an Act passed in the thirty-seventh year of Your Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act to consolidate and bring into one Act, the several Laws relating to Slaves, and for giving them further protection and security; for altering the mode of trial of Slaves charged with Capital Offences; for suspending the several Acts and clauses of Acts therein mentioned, and for other purposes," will shortly expire; and it is deemed highly expedient and necessary that the same, with the exception hereinafter mentioned, should be continued: May it therefore please Your Majesty, that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by his Excellency Charles Cameron, esq. Your Majesty's Captain General and Governor in chief, the Council and Assembly of Your Majesty's Bahama Islands; and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, That the said Act, and every clause, matter and thing therein contained, with the exception hereinafter mentioned and expressed as aforesaid, be further continued in full force from and after the expiration thereof, for and during the term of seven years, and from thence until the end of the then next session of the General Assembly and no longer; save and except so much of the said Act and every clause, matter and thing therein contained, as relate to the mode of trial of slaves for treason, murder, and other felonious offences without the benefit of clergy, by two justices of the peace and five jurymen, which shall no longer be, or be continued in force, as part of the said Act, any thing hereinbefore contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Preamble.

Act continued;

with an exception.

Passed the House of Assembly, the eighteenth of December one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.
L. Kerr, Speaker.

Passed the Legislative Council, the twentieth of December one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.

William Vesey Munnings, President.

Assented to, the thirty-first of December one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.
Charles Cameron.

An ACT to establish a triennial Census of the Slaves on these Islands.

WHEREAS the occasional measures heretofore adopted to ascertain the extent and nature of the slave population of these Islands, have been found inadequate and needlessly expensive: And whereas it is expedient and necessary to provide by law for a regular periodical census of all the slaves within the Colony, to be compiled from returns of the holders of the same, under suitable penalties

Preamble.

BAHAMAS.

Slave-holders in these Islands to make returns of all slaves they possess on the 1st January 1819, stating the name of the Island where such slaves are employed, their ages, and distinguishing Creole from African-born slaves.

penalties for non-compliance on their part : May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by his Excellency Charles Cameron, esq. Your Majesty's Captain General and Governor in chief, the Council and Assembly of Your Majesty's Bahama Islands, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, That on the first day of January which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, or within three calendar months afterwards, every slave-holder on these Islands shall make or cause to be made a full and complete return of the number of the slaves to them actually belonging or in their possession or charge ; which return shall state the name or names of the owners of such slaves, and also the particular Island where the said slaves are employed ; and shall distinguish those slaves who are under the age of thirteen years, those of and from thirteen to sixty years old, both inclusive, and those above the age of sixty years, and shall distinguish Creole from African born slaves : Provided always, that all slaves not being actually natives of Africa, shall be deemed and taken to be Creoles within the intent and meaning of this Act, and of the Schedule or Returns hereinafter mentioned ; which Return shall be according the form following, to wit :

Form of the required Return.

RETURN of the Slaves, the property of A. B., on the Island of C. the day of 181 :

	Under 13 years of age.	Of and from 13 to 60 years of age, both inclusive	Above 60 years of age.	TOTAL.
Creole Males - - - - -				
Creole Females - - - - -				
African Males - - - - -				
African Females - - - - -				
TOTAL - - - - -				

(Signed) A. B.

Affidavit to be made on the back of such return, of the truth of the statement therein contained, before some judge or justice of the peace.

Penalty on persons neglecting to make such return within the time limited for making the same.

Proviso.

And upon the back of the said return, or annexed thereto, there shall be an affidavit of the person making the same, that the same is a full, perfect and faithful return, to the best of the deponent's knowledge and belief, of all the slaves belonging to the proprietor or proprietors therein named, which were at the Island, therein designated, on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, as aforesaid ; which affidavit shall be sworn to before some judge or justice of the peace, and with such judge or justice of the peace deposited and left, to be dealt with as is hereinafter directed ; and should any person liable to make such return, neglect altogether to make the same, under oath as aforesaid, within three calendar months from and after the said first day of January, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, every such defaulter shall forfeit and pay a fine of one hundred pounds, to be recovered, with costs of suit, by action of debt, in the general court of these Islands, by any person or persons competent to sue in the said court ; one half to the use of the plaintiff, and the remaining half to be paid into the treasury of these Islands, in aid of paying the expenses of His Majesty's government within the same : Provided, however, that if the judges, or a majority of them, before whom the case may be tried, shall certify, that it appeared by evidence on the said trial, that by reason of the sickness of the defendant, or other unavoidable cause, the said default was involuntary, and excusable, and that the said defaulter has since his said default actually made the required return into the office of the secretary of these Islands, then and in all such cases, it shall be lawful for the said judges to order and direct that the plaintiff shall take nothing under his judgment except his costs, and he shall take no more accordingly ; and if any person or persons shall make and swear to any return as aforesaid, knowing the same to be imperfect, or otherwise false or incorrect, every such defaulter shall be liable to the pains and penalties of wilful and corrupt perjury.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the several judges and justices to whom any return or returns shall be delivered as aforesaid, shall, within three calendar months, to be computed from the end of the three months limited for the original making of the said returns, deliver the same, or cause them to be delivered, to the secretary of the colony, or his lawful deputy, at his office in the town of Nassau, accompanied with a list or schedule of the returns so delivered in, and a certificate that the same comprise the whole of the returns to them made as aforesaid, without addition, subtraction or alteration of any kind; and there shall be paid to the said magistrates, as their fee on administering the oath to the said return, the sum of one shilling for each of the first eight slaves, or any lesser number comprised in the said return, which fees shall be paid by the parties making such return; and every such judge or justice of the peace refusing to receive any return, or otherwise making default therein, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and liable to prosecution, by indictment or information, according to law: provided, however, that in all such prosecutions it shall be competent for the defendant in defeasance of the same, to give evidence to the jury of any unavoidable cause that may have prevented the due delivery of the returns as aforesaid.

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Judges and justices, before whom any return shall be made, to deliver the same into the office of the secretary of the colony, within three months after the limitation for the making the original return.
Fees to such judges and justices.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That on the receipt of the said returns from the judges or justices of the peace as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the secretary of the colony, or his lawful deputy, to cause the same to be copied verbatim into a book to be provided for the purpose, and the originals to be numbered, lettered, or otherwise arranged for the greater facility of reference thereunto; and to the said book there shall be a complete index of the names of the owners of slaves, and of the persons making returns in their behalf; and also a general schedule of the whole slave population of the colony, agreeable to the returns as aforesaid.

Secretary of the colony, on receipt of such returns, to cause the same to be registered in a book to be kept for that purpose, to which book there shall be an index.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That on the first day of January in every third year, from and after the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, or within three calendar months afterwards, so long as this Act shall be, or be continued in force, the slave-holders as aforesaid, within these Islands as aforesaid, shall make like returns under oath, as those hereinbefore described, of the several slaves to them belonging, or in their possession or charge, being on the first day of January respectively, in every third year as aforesaid, under the same penalties and forfeitures as aforesaid, for default of making the required returns, or of falsehood, or incorrectness therein. And after the expiration of the three calendar months last hereinbefore limited for the making of the said returns, it shall be the duty of the judges and justices of the peace as aforesaid, within the three calendar months immediately subsequent, to deliver, or cause to be delivered to the secretary of the colony, or his lawful deputy, at his office in Nassau as aforesaid, all the last-mentioned returns then made as aforesaid, in the same form, and under the same pains and penalties, for refusing to receive returns, or other default herein, as is hereinbefore provided in the case of the returns to be made in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen; and in every return subsequent to those of the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, there shall be inserted the number of births and deaths which shall have taken place in the several gangs, of which returns are made during the three preceding years.

In every third year after the 1st Jan. 1819, the like returns to be made as are directed to be made in the year 1819.

V. And the better to ascertain who shall be liable to make and swear to the several returns hereinbefore-mentioned: Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when the proprietor or proprietors of any slave or slaves within this Government, shall reside in the Island, in or upon which the slave or slaves included in any return to be made under this Act, shall be employed, and be of full age, and not under any legal disability or natural incapacity, it shall be the duty of such proprietor or proprietors to make the said returns and affidavits, when any such proprietor or proprietors shall be under age, lunatic, or the like, or being married women with personal property, separate from that of their husbands, it shall be the duty of the guardian and guardians of such infant and infants, lunatic and lunatics, if any such be, lawfully appointed, and of the husbands respectively of such married women, such guardian and guardians, and husbands, being resident as aforesaid, to make such returns and affidavits; but in all cases, when the proprietor or proprietors shall not be resident as aforesaid, or being so resident, shall be incapacitated as aforesaid, and he she or they have no lawfully appointed guardian or guardians; or if the said guardian or guardians, or the husbands of such married women as aforesaid, shall not be

Who deemed liable to make returns under this Act.

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Runaways absent for three successive years, are not liable to be reported until after their actual return.

In case of mortgages of slaves, who considered liable to make returns of such mortgaged slaves.

Proviso.

Duration of this Act.

resident as aforesaid, or the said husbands shall live separately from their wives, then and in all and every such case or cases, the persons having the actual possession or charge of such slave or slaves within these Islands, shall be liable to make and swear to the said returns, and the said returns, by whomsoever made, shall contain not only the number and classification as aforesaid, of all slaves actually in possession of the proprietors thereof, or their agents or representatives, but also, of all slaves at sea, or who shall have run away; but in all cases of runaways, they shall be reported in the said returns, with a note annexed, specifying the special circumstances of each particular case: Provided, however, that if such runaways shall be absent for the space of three successive years, from the service of the owners, it shall be no longer necessary to report them as aforesaid, until after their actual return: And provided also that nothing herein contained shall be construed or taken to prevent any such proprietor or proprietors aforesaid, within the Bahama Islands, although not in the Island upon which the slave or slaves included in any such return, shall be employed, for making such return and affidavit, if he or they shall think fit to make the same.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whensoever any slave or slaves shall be mortgaged, or any property or interest thereon pledged, assigned, or the like, by judgment at law or otherwise, in the way of security for the payment of money or the like, the party in actual possession of all such slaves, either by themselves or others, shall be considered as the actual proprietors of the same, for all the purposes in this Act expressed, touching the due returns of the same: Provided, however, that when slaves shall be hired by the year or otherwise, the person hiring or employing the same, shall not be liable to make the returns and affidavit required by this Act, with respect to such hired slaves, unless when the actual proprietors shall be non-resident on these Islands, or being resident and incapacitated, shall not have guardians or the like, within the limits of the same.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this Act shall continue and be in force, from and after the passing thereof, for and during the term of six years, and from thence to the end of the then next session of the General Assembly, and no longer.

Passed the House of Assembly, the sixteenth of October one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.
L' Kerr, Speaker.

Passed the Legislative Council, the twenty-second of October one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.
William Vesey Munnings, President.

Assented to, the fourteenth of November one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.
Charles Cameron.

BARBADOES.

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AN ACT to repeal part of an Act, intituled, "An Act for the governing of Negroes," and for building and regulating a new Cage.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the building heretofore used for the confinement of runaway slaves in this Island, and commonly called the Cage, is inconvenient in its situation, and unfit for the purposes for which the same was intended: And whereas it is highly necessary for the preservation of private property, and for the promotion of public justice, that the building wherein such slaves are confined should be healthy and commodious: And whereas it is expedient that the acts, statutes, provisions and regulations heretofore made, passed and enacted, of and concerning the said Cage, should be united and consolidated in one general Act; Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Right honourable Stapleton Lord Combermere, Knight Grand Cross of the most honourable military order of the Bath, of the royal Guelphic order, and of the Portuguese royal military order of the Tower and Sword, His Majesty's Captain General and Governor in chief of this Island; Chancellor, Ordinary and Vice Admiral of the same; the honourable the members of His Majesty's Council, and the General Assembly of this Island, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth clauses of an Act of this Island, intituled, "An Act for the governing of Negroes," and all and every the Acts and Statutes of this Island which have been at any time heretofore made and passed, in anywise relating to the

Repeals the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th clauses of an Act for the governing of negroes, and all other

the said cage, shall be and the same are hereby, so far as the same concern or relate to the said cage, repealed and made void, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, and the several provisions and regulations herein made respecting the said cage, are hereby declared and enacted to be alone in force.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That a new cage shall be forthwith erected and finished on the spot of land where Willoughby Fort formerly stood (and which said spot of land, together with the buildings thereon erected, is hereby given and allotted for the purpose aforesaid) in the place and stead, and for the purposes for which the present cage has hitherto been used, under the regulations and restrictions hereinafter expressed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That three members of His Majesty's Council, to be appointed by the Commander in Chief of this Island for the time being, and five members of the General Assembly, to be appointed by the Speaker of the said Assembly for the time being, shall be and they are hereby appointed commissioners (three of whom are hereby declared to be a board) to superintend the building of the said new cage; which said commissioners, or any three or more of them, are hereby invested with full and ample powers to contract and agree with any person or persons whomsoever for building the said cage, and completely finishing the same, according to a plan hereto annexed; which plan, however, may in any instance be varied from or altered, by the consent of a majority of a board of the said commissioners, if they shall see fit; and the said commissioners, or any three of them, shall have full power and authority to agree with the said contractor completely to build and finish the said cage in a masterly and workman-like manner, within a given time to be agreed on, at and for a certain price or sum, not exceeding the sum of three hundred pounds; and the said commissioners, or any three of them, are hereby required to take good and sufficient security from the contractor or contractors for the due performance of his or their contract; and when and so soon as the said commissioners, or any three of them, shall certify in writing to the treasurer of this Island for the time being, that the said building has been finished according to the contract and agreement entered into respecting the same, then and in such case the said treasurer shall pay to the said contractor the sum which shall appear by the said certificates to be due and payable under and by virtue of the contract so to be entered into as aforesaid; and the said commissioners, or any three of them, are hereby also fully authorized, whenever the said cage shall require to be repaired, to report the same to the House of Assembly, that measures may be immediately taken for making such repairs, it being hereby declared that the new cage shall be constantly kept in repair at the expense of the Island.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every person and persons who shall hereafter take up or apprehend any runaway or fugitive negro or negroes, or other slave or slaves, shall and he and they is and are hereby ordered and directed, in the first place, to bring the said slave or slaves to the treasurer of this Island for the time being, and shall before him, the said treasurer, or in case of the sickness or absence of the said treasurer, then before any justice of the peace in Bridge Town (who is hereby required to return such affidavit to the said treasurer) make oath of his name and place of abode, with the time when and place where he apprehended such fugitive slave or slaves, and that he suspects, and has good cause to believe, that the said slave or slaves is or are runaway; which oath the said treasurer is hereby required to take and enter into a book, to the intent that all owners of slaves may come to the right knowledge and understanding when their slaves were apprehended, and by whom, and whether they might be wrongfully taken up or not. And the said treasurer is hereby directed and required, after such oath as aforesaid, to pay out of the public treasury of this Island to the person or persons so apprehending such slave or slaves, and so having made such oath before the said treasurer or the said justice of the peace as aforesaid, the sum of twelve shillings and sixpence currency for each and every slave so apprehended as aforesaid; and in case the said treasurer shall neglect or refuse to pay the said sum of twelve shillings and sixpence, the same shall be recovered against the said treasurer on complaint of the person or persons so apprehending such slave or slaves, to any justice of the peace, as in the case of servants wages; and after such oath shall be so taken as aforesaid, the person or persons so apprehending such slave or slaves shall, under the penalty of five pounds, to be recovered on the complaint of any person, as in the case of servants wages, carry the same, and deliver him her or them

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Acts relative to the cage of Bridge Town.

Clause 2d.

A new cage to be forthwith erected in the place here mentioned, and for the purposes here stated.

Clause 3d.

Appoints commissioners (three to be a quorum) to contract for the building of the cage, to be finished according to the annexed plan, which may be altered if the commissioners think proper; the contractor to complete the cage at a given time, and the expense not to exceed £. 300.

Security to be taken for the performance of the contract; which, when fulfilled, a certificate shall be granted on the treasurer for the payment of the sum that shall appear to be due to the contractor.

The cage to be kept in repair at the expense of the Island.

Clause 4th.

Persons apprehending slaves shall take the oath here prescribed before the treasurer, or in his absence a magistrate may administer it, and return a certificate to the treasurer, who shall enter the same in a book, that owners may know when and by whom their slaves were apprehended.

12 s. 6d. shall be paid by the treasurer, to the person apprehending a slave; recoverable in case of refusal, as servants' wages.

Persons apprehending slaves shall, after taking the oath, on penalty of

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£. 5, deliver such to the provost marshal, or his deputy, who is required to keep them in custody, and to furnish them with food, &c. Proviso.—If a slave escape, the provost marshal shall make satisfaction to the owner, and shall refund the sum paid by the treasurer; and them to the provost marshal of this Island or his lawful deputy or deputies, who is and are hereby strictly charged and required to keep such slave or slaves in safe custody, according to the provisions of this Act, and to furnish the said slave or slaves with good and sufficient food and drink, which is to be proved upon oath, if by the owner of the said slave or slaves it shall be so required to be done: Provided always, if the said provost marshal suffer any slave to escape, he shall make such satisfaction to the owner as by the Governor and Council shall be thought fit, and shall repay to the said treasurer the sum of twelve shillings and sixpence, which he paid on apprehending such slave; and if the said provost marshal shall suffer any slave to be any ways employed out of the cage before he or she shall be legally released, he shall forfeit for each slave so suffered to be employed as aforesaid, to the owner thereof, the sum of ten pounds currency, to be recovered as aforesaid. and if a slave be employed whilst under confinement, he shall forfeit £. 10 to the owner.

Clause 5th.

Male and female slaves shall be confined separately in the cage, and not more than 11 of each shall be under confinement at the same time; whose names, with that of their respective owners, shall be published twice in the newspapers, and after being there 10 days, shall be confined in the gaol.

Slaves not claimed within three months after confinement in the gaol, shall be sold at public auction; notice thereof being first given as here directed; and the money thence arising shall, after the deduction thereout of all fees and necessary expenses, be paid into the treasury.

If the purchaser do not pay within ten days after the sale, or the provost marshal within the like number of days after receipt, pay the net amount to the treasurer, they shall be proceeded against as here mentioned.

Proviso.—If it be satisfactorily proved that the owner of a slave sold be absent from the Island at the time of sale, the treasurer shall, by an order of the governor and council, pay him the net amount raised by such sale.

Proviso.—A Tenant for life not claiming, shall forfeit his interest therein, and the person entitled in reversion shall hold possession.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the male and female slaves confined in the cage, be kept in confinement in separate apartments, without any communication between them; and that not more than eleven males and eleven females be kept and confined at the same time in the said cage; and that the names of all such slaves so confined as aforesaid, together with the names and descriptions of their respective owners, if known, be advertised by the provost marshal, or his lawful deputy, two successive times in the public newspaper of this Island, in which the minutes of the House of Assembly for the time being may be printed and published, by the order of the said House of Assembly; and after such slave or slaves shall be confined in the said cage for the space of ten days, and after such two advertisements as aforesaid, the said two advertisements to be made within the said ten days, such slave or slaves shall be sent by the said provost marshal to the common gaol of this Island, there to be safely and securely confined; and if such slave or slaves shall not be claimed by his or her owner or owners, or his her or their lawful agent or agents, attorney or attorneys, manager or managers, or other person or persons lawfully authorized to claim the said slave or slaves, within three calendar months, commencing from the day on which the said slave or slaves may be sent by the said provost marshal to the said gaol, and upon payment of the expenses herein-after mentioned, it shall and may be lawful to and for the provost marshal of this Island for the time being, or his lawful deputy or deputies, and he or they are hereby fully authorized and empowered to sell and dispose, at public auction, of such slave or slaves, for the most money that can be obtained for the same; of the time and place of which sale, notice shall be given in the said public newspaper of this Island, for two successive times, immediately after the said slave or slaves shall have been so confined in the said gaol aforesaid, before such sale takes place; and the money arising from the sale of the said slave or slaves, shall be paid by the provost marshal into the public treasury of this Island, for the uses of the Island: And in case the purchaser or purchasers, at outcry of such slave or slaves, shall not pay to the said provost marshal the sum or sums so bid for such slave or slaves, within ten days; or in case the said provost-marshal, after receiving the same, shall refuse or omit to pay it over to the said treasurer, within ten days after he shall have so received the same, then and in either of such cases happening, the same proceedings shall be had against the said purchaser or purchasers by the said provost marshal, or against the said provost marshal by the said treasurer, as the case may be, for raising the said money, with twenty per cent. thereon, as are had and used on sales at outcry in the courts of common pleas: Provided always, nevertheless, that if at any time after the sale of such slave or slaves, it shall appear to the satisfaction of the Governor and Council, on application for that purpose, that the owner or owners of such slave or slaves so sold as aforesaid, was or were absent from this Island, or labouring under any legal disability, so that he or she could not claim the said slave or slaves, then and in such case it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor and Council to issue their order to the treasurer of this Island for the time being, to pay over to such owner or owners the net amount raised at outcry, by the sale of his or her slave or slaves: Provided always, nevertheless, That if a tenant for life shall not claim such slave or slaves at or before the time of sale, and the person or persons entitled in remainder, or any person by him lawfully authorized, shall in his behalf put in a claim for the same, and offer to pay all expenses which have been incurred at the cage and gaol, he shall be entitled to immediate possession in fee of all such slave or slaves, and the tenant for life shall forfeit his estate in the same.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if, upon any male or female slaves being brought to the said cage for admission therein, it should happen that the number of slaves brought for admission, together with the slaves then in confinement, exceed the number of male and female slaves allowed by this Act to be confined at one and the same time in the said cage, then and in such case, those slaves who have been the longest confined in the said cage, notwithstanding they may not have been there ten days, shall be delivered to the keeper of the common gaol, there to be safely and securely kept: Provided nevertheless, that the same advertisements as are hereinbefore required to be made respecting slaves confined in the cage, shall be made of and concerning the said slave or slaves so removed under the circumstances aforesaid, in the same manner as if the said slaves had remained under confinement in the said cage, save and except that in the said advertisements, or either of them, it shall be stated that the said slave or slaves hath or have been removed to the said gaol, in consequence of the number of persons therein confined; and such slave or slaves so removed from the cage to the gaol aforesaid, previous to the time when they should have been so removed, shall be sold, in the event of not being claimed within three calendar months after being so sent to the gaol, in the same manner, and under and subject to the same rules and regulations as are hereinbefore prescribed with respect to those slaves which shall be removed from the cage to the gaol in the regular time prescribed by this Act.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when any slave or slaves shall be claimed to be released, either from the said cage or from the gaol, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said provost marshal, or his lawful deputy or deputies, to demand and receive from the owner or owners of such slave or slaves, the sum of twelve shillings and sixpence, so paid as aforesaid by the said treasurer on the apprehending any such runaway slave or slaves as aforesaid, and pay the same over to the said treasurer; and until the same be paid, it shall be lawful for the said provost marshal to detain and keep such slave or slaves in his possession as aforesaid; and the said provost marshal shall also demand and receive the following fees, which must be paid before the said slave or slaves shall be delivered up; to wit, the sum of two shillings and sixpence for each slave who shall have been so confined and delivered, and seven-pence halfpenny for every twenty-four hours for feeding each slave; and in case the said fees shall not be paid, the said slave or slaves shall be sold in the same manner as if no claim had been made: Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted, That the keeper of the cage, or the keeper of the gaol, if the slave or slaves shall have been removed to gaol, shall and each of them is hereby strictly charged and required, before he delivers any slave or slaves who shall be claimed, to take a receipt from the person or persons claiming such slave or slaves, that he she or they have, either in his her or their own right, or in any other right, claimed and received such slave or slaves; and the said receipt shall also contain the name and full description of the person or persons claiming such slave or slaves, together with the place of his her or their residence, and also the name and description of the slave or slaves so claimed and delivered up, which receipts shall be taken and recorded in one or more proper bound book or books, to be kept for that purpose respectively by the keeper of the cage and the keeper of the gaol; which books shall and may be inspected at any time in the day, by any person or persons whomsoever, without any fee or reward being payable for the same.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said cage so to be erected as aforesaid, shall be and the same is hereby expressly declared to be placed under the immediate care and direction of the provost marshal of this Island for the time being, or his lawful deputy, who is hereby declared to be the keeper of the said cage, and to be responsible for the good government and conduct of the same: And the said provost marshal, or his lawful deputy, shall every month make a true, just, and correct return on oath to the clerk of the General Assembly of this Island for the time being, of the number of slaves who have been confined in the said cage or jail, the day on which the said slave or slaves was or were first confined in the cage, and the day on which discharged, the number sent to jail, and discharged or sold; which return shall be made according to the Schedule hereunto annexed, and shall be laid by the said clerk before the House of Assembly at the meeting succeeding the receipt of the same, and the treasurer of this Island for the time being shall account with the committee of public accounts for all monies received by him by virtue of this Act, in the same manner as he is required to do for any other of the public monies in his hands.

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Clause 6th.
Should the number of slaves brought for confinement, together with those in the cage, exceed the limited number, such slaves who shall have been the longer time therein shall be removed to the gaol.

Proviso.—The same proceedings shall in every respect be here taken as is directed in the 5th clause.

Clause 7th.
Upon the release of a slave, the owner shall pay 12 s. 6d. to be returned to the treasurer, 2s. 6d. for confining the slave, and 7½ d. for every 24 hours feeding; and the slave shall stand confined till the fees are paid.

Proviso.—The respective keepers of the cage or gaol, to take particular receipts in a proper bound book, from such persons as shall claim slaves placed in the cage before their release, which receipt-book shall be inspected free of expense.

Clause 8th.
The provost marshal is declared to be the cage-keeper, and responsible for the conduct of the same; and shall make a correct monthly return on oath to the clerk of the assembly, of the slaves sent for confinement to the cage, to be laid before the house. The treasurer to account for all monies he shall receive under this Act.

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Clause 9th.

The magistrates of the Island are declared the legal inspectors of the cage, with power to see that it is kept clean and wholesome, and that proper food be allowed the slaves under confinement; and to report any abuse that may exist to the house of assembly, in order that measures may be adopted for their remedy.

Clause 10th.

The cage-keeper or his deputy for misbehaviour shall be prosecuted at the grand sessions, and punished to the extent of the offence.

Clause 11th.

The cage-keeper shall not, on penalty of £.5. receive a slave into the cage without a certificate from the treasurer.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, and it is hereby expressly declared, That the magistrates of this Island are the proper and legal inspectors, visitors, and supervisors of the said cage, and they are and each and every of them have and hath hereby full and ample power and authority given to and vested in them to visit and inspect the cage whenever they shall think proper so to do; and the said magistrates are, and each and every of them is hereby required to see that the said cage be constantly kept clean, healthy, and wholesome, and that good and sufficient food be allowed to the said slaves in confinement; and should it appear to the said magistrates, or any or either of them, that any abuses are suffered to exist, or that improper conduct is practised by any person or persons having the charge of the said cage, or in any manner connected with or employed in and about the same, then and in such cases the said magistrates, any or either of them, are and is hereby required to make a report in writing of such conduct, or of such abuses, to the House of Assembly, at its first sitting after the same shall be discovered, in order that such measures may be adopted and carried into effect as may seem right and expedient to the said House of Assembly.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if the keeper of the said cage, or his deputy or deputies, shall be guilty of any crime, misdemeanor or offence, or misbehave himself or themselves in their respective situations, he or they shall and may be prosecuted at the court of grand sessions for the same, and punished according to the nature of the said crime, misdemeanor or offence, by fine and imprisonment, or either, at the discretion of the said court.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the keeper of the said cage shall not receive into the said cage any slave or slaves without such certificate as aforesaid from the treasurer, under a penalty of five pounds, to be recovered, levied and raised as in the case of servant's wages, on the complaint of any person whomsoever, one half of the said forfeiture to the use of the public, and the other half to the use of the informers.

Read three times, and passed the Council unanimously, this second day of December one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Wm. Husbands,
Deputy Clerk of the Council.

Condemner.

Read three times, and passed the General Assembly, this fourth day of November one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

J. Wm. Edw^d Elder,
Acting Clerk of the General Assembly.

Assented to, by his Excellency the Governor, on the second day of December one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Wm. Husbands, Deputy Secretary.

A true Copy, from the Secretary's office.—Attested, this thirty-first day of January one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

Wm. Husbands, Deputy Secretary.

BERBICE.

BERBICE.

AN ACT for the Registration of the Slave Population.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient, for the purpose of giving efficacy to the Acts of His Majesty now in force, the 46th Geo. III. cap. 52, for the prevention of the illicit importation of slaves by any of His Majestys' subjects, into the colonies or territories of foreign states or powers, or into the settlements, islands, colonies or plantations on the continent of America, or the West Indies, which have been surrendered unto His Majesty's arms during the late war; the 47th Geo. III. cap. 36, for the abolition of the African Slave Trade; the 51st Geo. III. cap. 23, for rendering the said last-mentioned Act more effectual, for the purposes in the said Act declared; and 53d Geo. III. cap. 112, for enlarging the time for commencing prosecutions for forfeitures under the same: And whereas, although the Governor and Council are fully satisfied that no illicit importation of slaves is or has been carried on within this colony, nor any attempt at the same has at any time taken place; yet to obviate all doubts, which might be injuriously, but erroneously entertained

entertained by certain classes of His Majesty's subjects in Great Britain or elsewhere, or by foreign potentates or powers, or the subjects thereof, that the aforesaid Acts of His Majesty, or any of them, may be infringed, or are liable to be infringed by any of His Majesty's subjects, inhabitants or residents in this Colony, by the unlawful importation of slaves into the same, contrary to the intent, meaning, or provisions of the said Acts, to which the return of peace is supposed to lend particular facilities: And whereas none of His Majesty's subjects are more ready and anxious to promote and carry into due effect the laws of the parent state, or to desire measures for enforcing the provisions of the same, than His Majesty's colonists of Berbice: And his Excellency Lieutenant Governor H. W. Bentinck, president of and in conjunction with the honourable the Council of Government of the said Colony, by law established, considering that a more exact specification, registration, and periodical return of the slaves within the Colony, may be conducive to the aforesaid desirable objects; Be it therefore enacted by his said Excellency, President as aforesaid, and by the said Council of Government, and by authority of the same,—

BERBICE.

Sect. 1. That between the first day of the month of October, now next ensuing, and the first day of the month of January one thousand eight hundred and eighteen next ensuing, and in every third following year, every person who shall then be resident within this Colony, and who shall, on the thirtieth day of September, of the respective years of registration, be in the possession of any slave or slaves within the same, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator, receiver, guardian, lessee, attorney, or in whatever other name or title he may hold the same, shall respectively make and deliver upon oath to the registrar, hereinafter to be named and appointed, such schedule, list, and particulars in writing, as are hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, every person in possession of any slave or slaves as aforesaid, shall so make and return a schedule of list, in writing, therein specifying, in the first place, his or her own name and description, and the name and description of such other person or persons, being the owner or owners of such slave or slaves, on whose behalf the return is made, together with the name of the plantation, if any, to which such slave is attached, and the right or character in which the party making such return, holds possession of and claims title to such slave or slaves, namely, whether as proprietor or mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator or receiver, attorney, executor, administrator, guardian, or otherwise; and after such descriptions as aforesaid, shall proceed to name, describe, and enumerate distinctly the several negroes, mulatto or other slaves belonging to the said owner or owners, in manner following, that is to say; the schedule or paper containing the said list, shall be divided into six perpendicular columns of convenient breadth respectively, entitled at the heads thereof, "Name, Colour, Age, Employment, Sex, and Country:" and in the first of the said columns shall be inserted the name of each slave, by which he or she has been usually called or known; in the second of the columns shall be inserted the colour of such slave, including under the term Colour, all those who are not black; in the third of the said columns shall be inserted the age of such slave; in the fourth of the said columns, shall be inserted the particular trade, occupation or ordinary employment of the slave; in the fifth of the said columns, shall be inserted the sex of the slave; and in the sixth of the said columns shall be inserted whether the slave is an African or Creole, and if a Creole, the name of the Island or Colony in which such slave was born, or from which he or she was brought, according to the best of the knowledge, information, and belief of the owner, or other party making the return, according to the form of the Schedule to this Act annexed, to which all persons are required, so far as it shall be found practicable, to conform.

And where proprietors, managers, attornies, or other representatives are owners of, or acting for more than one estate or plantation, then that such proprietors, managers, attornies, or other representatives, shall make a separate and distinct return, after the manner and in the form afore-mentioned, for every separate estate or plantation so held or represented by them.

Sect. 2. That in all lists or schedules to be made and returned as aforesaid, after the first general returns required by this Act, there shall be in every succeeding return contained a true and particular account of all births and deaths of slaves belonging to the person or persons on whose behalf such return is made, within the three years next preceding since the last returns were made; and also an account

When, by, and to whom, and under what forms and solemnities, returns of slaves are to be made.

Possessors of slaves to return a schedule thereof, with his or her own name, and name of owner, and description of such slaves, with other particulars.

Schedules to contain six columns. How the same are to be filled up.

Distinct returns to be made for every separate estate or plantation.

Account of births and deaths, and of all deductions or additions of slaves, and the cause thereof, to be specified in every succeeding return.

office hours, namely from 10 to 2, to examine the same; every person paying the sum of three guilders for such access and examination. And the said registrar is hereby further directed and required, upon application for the same, to give copies in writing, certified by himself, of any list or lists that may be desired; the person requiring the same, paying for each several list so required, the sum of one guilder ten stivers, if the number of slaves therein contained do not exceed twenty, and the further sum of fifteen stivers, for every further number of slaves not exceeding ten, after the first twenty that shall be contained therein.

Sect. 6. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when and so soon as all the returns, lists, or schedules which shall have been delivered to the said registrar, pursuant to this Act or Ordinance, shall have been entered and recorded as aforesaid, the said registrar shall give notice thereof to the inhabitants of this Colony, in the manner as aforesaid, that the said books are and will continue open at the proper office, for the inspection, free of expense, of all persons who have made returns of slaves, for insertion therein, for the term of two months from the date of such notice; to the intent that all persons interested may be satisfied with the accuracy of the said books, and of the said returns therein contained: And also, that if any owners and possessors of slaves within this Colony, shall from any accident or unavoidable impediment, have omitted to return full and proper lists or schedules of their slaves, as by this Act is required, they may immediately on discovering such error or omission, apply to the Governor for the time being of this Colony, in non-session of the honourable the Council of Government, or to the same, in conjunction with the honourable the Council of Government, during its established and ordinary session, who, upon satisfactory proof that such omission has not been wilful, may thereupon order the admission, registration, and correction of such returns or schedules by the said registrar.

Sect. 7. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case any person or persons whatsoever shall wilfully neglect to give into the said registrar a list or lists, schedule or schedules of his or her or their slave or slaves, as above directed, every such person or persons so neglecting, shall forfeit and pay the sum of twelve hundred guilders, Holland's currency, for every such slave so neglected to be given in, to be distributed or disposed of as hereinafter directed, with respect to fines and penalties to be levied in and by virtue of this Act; such forfeiture or fine to be levied and recovered by the honourable the fiscal, or by the registrar himself, who in such matters is hereby empowered and authorized to levy and recover the same by fiscal action, before the honourable the court of civil justice of this Colony; and all and every slave or slaves so neglected to be given in, if such slave be an African, shall be entitled to his her or their freedom, unless such person so omitting to give in any such slave or slaves, shall within six months after the discovery of such omission, establish by sufficient evidence before the Governor for the time being, that such African slave or slaves, so omitted to be given in, had been legally imported, and such African so rendered free, shall hereby become entitled to the usual sum for maintenance allowed in such or similar cases by the Colony.

Sect. 8. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any person or persons who may be at any time resident in this Colony, and who may have, keep, and retain in his her or their possession, as a slave or slaves, any African or Africans who may have been illicitly imported into this Colony, shall upon conviction thereof, in like manner as above mentioned, by action brought by his honour the fiscal, or by the registrar himself, as empowered and authorized so to do by this Act or Ordinance, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding six thousand guilders, Holland's currency, and be imprisoned in the common jail of this Colony, for any time not exceeding the period of two years.

Sect. 9. Provided always, and it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all persons who shall think themselves aggrieved by any proceedings of the said registrar, in any matter relating to this Act, may petition the Governor and the Council of Government for the time being, who are hereby required and fully empowered to hear the parties, upon any such application, and determine thereon, and either to remit or otherwise, as to them may seem just and fitting, the penalties and forfeitures hereby imposed.

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open to inspection during office hours from 10 to 2.

Registrar to give certified copies of lists.

Fees allowed for same.

When all the schedules recorded, registrar to give notice thereof.

His books to be open for public and gratuitous inspection for two months from date of such notice.

How errors or omissions in returns may be corrected.

Penalty on wilful neglect to make the returns directed.

Unregistered slave (if an African), to be entitled to freedom, unless, &c.

Persons retaining an African slave, knowing him or her to have been illicitly imported, liable to penalty not exceeding 6,000 g.;

and imprisoned not exceeding two years.

Persons thinking themselves aggrieved by registrar, may petition governor and council.

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Registrar to make duplicates of books and certify same on oath.
Form of oath.

Sect. 10. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said registrar shall make and prepare, or cause to be made and prepared, perfect and accurate duplicates of the said books, and shall authenticate and certify the said duplicates by the following affidavit :

“ Before *A. B.* [*inserting the name and title of the Governor for the time being,*] personally appeared *C. D.* [*naming himself,*] registrar of slaves of this Colony, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, makes oath and saith, That the said *C. D.* has carefully examined and compared all the preceding entries in this book, with all the different returns of slaves delivered to him, or to his knowledge or belief, to any deputy, clerk, or assistant by him appointed ; and that he is hereby enabled to depose, and does depose, that the preceding return of the slaves of this Colony, is in all respects correctly and faithfully made.”

To be sworn before governor.

Which affidavit, being subscribed by the said registrar, shall be sworn before the Governor for the time being, who shall subjoin thereto the following certificate under his hand :

Form of governor's certificate thereof.

“ I, *A. B.* [*inserting the name and title of office,*] do hereby certify, That the above affidavit was duly sworn before me, this day of _____ one thousand eight hundred and _____ Witness my hand, this day of _____ one thousand eight hundred and _____

(Signed) “ *A. B.*”

Duplicate books to be delivered to the governor for transmission.

And the said duplicate books, when so authenticated and certified, shall be delivered by the said registrar to his Excellency the Governor for the time being, who shall forthwith transmit the same to His Majesty's principal secretary of state for the colonial department in England.

No erasure in registrar's books to be permitted.

Sect. 11. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no erasure shall, on any pretence or for any cause whatever, be at any time permitted to be made in any of the said books ; but if any clerical error shall occur in the insertion of any name, description, or particulars contained in the Schedule or return from which the same was made, or if any other mistake shall occur in the making up and keeping the said books, a line of red ink shall be drawn through any word or words improperly inserted, so as to leave the original word or words legible, and the correction thereof, by the insertion of any word or words which may have been erroneously omitted, shall either be interlined or written in the margin ; and the registrar shall, either under such word or words written in the margin, or under a mark of reference there made to any such interlineation, subscribe his name at length.

How mistakes are to be corrected.

In case registrar wilfully make or suffer fraudulent entries or erasures, &c.

Sect. 12. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if the said registrar shall wilfully make, or knowingly permit or suffer to be made any false or fraudulent entry in the book or books in his office, or shall fraudulently erase, obliterate or alter, or knowingly permit or suffer to be fraudulently obliterated or altered, any entry which shall have been duly made in the said book or books, the said registrar shall, upon conviction of any such offence before the honourable the court of criminal justice of this Colony, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding the sum of six thousand guilders, Dutch currency, and be imprisoned for any time not exceeding two years, in the common jail of this Colony ; and if any deputy, assistant, or clerk of the said registrar, shall commit, or knowingly permit or suffer to be committed, any such offence as aforesaid, he shall, upon the like conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding the sum of six thousand guilders, and be imprisoned in the common jail of this Colony for any time not exceeding the period of two years ; and if any other person or persons in this Colony shall wilfully make or cause, or procure to be made, any false or fraudulent entry in the said book or books, or shall fraudulently erase, obliterate or alter, or cause or procure to be erased, obliterated or altered, any entry which shall have been made in the said book or books, every such person or persons so offending, shall, upon like conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding the sum of six thousand guilders, of like current money, and be imprisoned in the common jail of this colony, for any term not exceeding the period of two years.

On conviction thereof, how punishable.

The like as to deputy or assistant in such case.

To what penalties others are liable in similar cases.

Sect. 13. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every the forfeitures and penalties arising out of this Act or Ordinance, shall be distributed in such manner and in such proportions as is directed by local provisions in respect to fines or penalties in general.

BERBICE.

How penalties and forfeitures under this Act shall be distributed.

Sect. 14. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That there shall be paid to the said registrar, hereafter to be appointed, out of any of the public monies of this Colony, at and after the rate of two thousand four hundred francs, colonial money, annually and every year, by four equal quarterly payments, to be made in guilders, Holland's currency, during all such time as he shall hold and exercise the said office of registrar, and the further sum of four thousand eight hundred francs, Holland's currency, at such time as he shall complete and produce to his Excellency the Governor for the time being, authenticated duplicates of the aforesaid books of registry.

Registrar's salary and allowance for duplicates of books.

Sect. 15. That it shall and may be lawful for the Governor for the time being of this Colony, to appoint, and he is hereby authorized and required to appoint, by commission under his sign manual, some fit and proper person resident within this Colony, to be registrar of slaves therein; and that such registrar shall be personally resident within this Colony while he shall continue to hold his said office, except when from ill health or other necessitous cause, his temporary absence from this Colony shall be permitted by the Governor for the time being: Provided nevertheless, that such temporary absence shall not exceed the period of twelve months; and if the said registrar shall be at any time absent from this Colony, without such permission or licence as aforesaid, he shall absolutely forfeit his office; and in case of death, absence, or incapacity of the said registrar, or any avoidance of the said office, a new registrar shall be in like manner appointed under the sign manual of the Governor for the time being as aforesaid.

Governor to appoint registrar, &c.

Sect. 16. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every the fines, forfeitures, and penalties hereinbefore imposed, shall be recovered on complaint to his honour the fiscal, or to the registrar, as an officer of the Colony, for the especial purposes or matters arising out of this Act or Ordinance, who shall bring the aforesaid claim, and levy of forfeitures and penalties, before the honourable the court of civil justice, in the usual and ordinary manner, as in the case of fiscal actions.

Fines and forfeitures how to be recovered.

Sect. 17. And in order to prevent the giving in of double returns, which might occur from a doubtful construction of this Act or Ordinance as to the party, whether the actual proprietor or the party in possession shall make the aforesaid return: It is hereby enacted, That the usual proprietor, or his representative, and not the party who, by hire or otherwise, may have temporary possession of any slave or slaves, is bound to give in the returns as above directed.

Provision to obviate double returns.

Sect. 18. And whereas, in case of litigated claims to and concerning any individual slave or slaves, where returns under this Act or Ordinance shall have been made by different persons claiming the same, it may be difficult and impossible for the registrar, as above named, for the purpose of this Act or Ordinance, justly to ascertain the rights thereto of such litigated parties; he, the aforesaid registrar, is hereby directed and authorized, as much as in him lies, to insert the required return, with reference solely to the direct occupation and possession, at the time of the return made, of the party making the same: And it is further, therefore, hereby declared and ordained, that the returns of registry under this Act or Ordinance, shall be receivable only as evidence for the express purposes of this Act, and shall in no ways be deemed or considered admissible as substantiating any claims betwixt individuals in litigation.

Persons hiring slaves not bound to make return thereof.

In case of litigated claims on slaves, how registrar is to insert required return.

Returns to be used solely for the purposes of this Act.

Lastly. His Excellency the Governor and the Council of Government reserve to themselves all right, from time to time, of explaining further the enactments of this Ordinance; hereby confirming, however, all previous laws and regulations touching and concerning this matter, not contrary to the regulations of this Act or Ordinance now published and established.

Confirmation of former ordinances not contrary to the present.

And that no ignorance may be pretended of the several orders contained in this Ordinance, these presents shall be published and sent round for general information.

Thus

BERBICE.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned session, held at the King's House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, this third day of September, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

H. W. Bentinck,

*E. Samuel,
A. Melville,*

*J. G. C. de Nieuwerkerk,
B. J. Schwierts,*

*W. Helder, and
J. Paterson.*

In presence of *R. C. Downer, Sec.*

And published the same day; present, his Excellency Lieutenant Governor Bentinck, and the whole of the honourable members of council.

In presence of *R. C. Downer, Sec.*

Form of Schedule. RETURN of Slaves attached to Plantation situate
the property of

This RETURN, made by [person's name], [quality of the person].

Name of Slaves.	Colour.	Age.	Employment.	Sex.	Place of Birth.

DEMERARY.

DEMERARY.

AN ACT for more fully ascertaining the Slave Population, &c. &c.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it has been asserted in the mother country, that the re-establishment of peace will afford facilities to an illegal introduction of slaves into the British settlements in the West Indies and in South America: And whereas the honourable Court of Policy of this Colony, notwithstanding it feels the strongest conviction that no such importation into this Colony ever has been, or is likely to be attempted, since the enactments of the Abolition Acts of the mother country, is yet anxiously desirous to join in carrying into full execution all measures that may be deemed necessary for giving strength and efficacy to statutes 47 Geo. III. s. 1. cap. 36, and 51 Geo. III. cap. 23, for the abolition of the slave trade:

And whereas many advantages may be derived to the inhabitants of this Colony, from a more exact specification and return of the slave population, which advantages, in fact, were experienced whilst a Registration Act was heretofore in force and vigour: Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency Major General Murray, Lieutenant Governor, &c., President of and in conjunction with the honourable the Court of Policy of this united Colony, by law established, and by the authority of the same,—

Enacts appointment of registrar, and how to be appointed.

Sect. 1. That it shall and may be lawful for the said Governor for the time being, by and with the consent of the honourable the Court of Policy of this united Colony, to appoint, and he is hereby authorized and required to appoint, by commission under his sign manual, by and with the consent of the honourable the Court of Policy, some fit and proper person, resident within this united Colony, to be registrar of slaves therein; and that such registrar shall be personally resident within this

this Colony while he shall continue to hold his said office, except when from ill health, or other necessary cause, his temporary absence from this united Colony shall be permitted by the Governor for the time being: Provided, nevertheless, that such temporary absence shall not exceed the period of twelve months; and if the said registrar shall be at any time absent from this Colony, without such licence or permission as aforesaid, he shall absolutely forfeit his office; and in case of death, absence, or incapacity of the said registrar, or any avoidance of the said office, a new registrar shall in like manner be appointed by the Governor of this united Colony for the time being, by and with the consent of the honourable the Court of Policy, under the sign manual of the Governor for the time being aforesaid.

DEMERARY.

Sect. 2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That between the first day of the month of June now next ensuing, and the first day of the month of September now next ensuing, and in every third following year, every person who shall then be resident within this Colony, and who shall, on the 31st day of May, of the respective years of registration, be in possession of any slave or slaves, within the same, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator or receiver, guardian, lessee, attorney, or in whatever other name or title he may hold the same, not herein described, shall respectively make and deliver upon oath to the registrar, so to be appointed as aforesaid, such schedule, lists and particulars, in writing, as are hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, every person in possession of any slave or slaves as aforesaid, shall so make and return a schedule or list in writing, therein specifying, in the first place, his or her own name and description, and the name and description of such other person or persons, being the owner or owners of such slave or slaves on whose behalf the return is made, together with the name of the plantation, if any, to which such slave is attached, and the right or character in which the party making such return holds possession of, and claims title to, such slave or slaves, namely, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator or receiver, attorney, executor, administrator, guardian or otherwise; and, after such descriptions as aforesaid, shall proceed to name, describe, and enumerate distinctly the several negroes, mulatto, or other slaves belonging to the said owner or owners, in manner following, that is to say: the schedule or paper containing the said list, shall be divided into six perpendicular columns of convenient breadth, respectively, entitled at the heads thereof, "Name, Colour, Age, Employment, Condition, and Country." And in the first place of the said columns, shall be inserted the name of each slave by which he or she has been usually called or known; in the second of the columns, shall be inserted the colour of such slave, including under the term coloured, all those who are not black; in the third of the said columns, shall be inserted the age of such slave; in the fourth of the said columns, shall be inserted the particular trade, occupation, or ordinary employment of the slave; in the fifth of the said columns shall be inserted the condition of the slave, whether invalid, superannuated, or able; and in the sixth of the said columns, shall be inserted whether the slave is an African or Creole, and if a Creole, the name of the Island or Colony in which such slave was born, or from which he or she was brought, according to the best of the knowledge, information, and belief of the owner, or other party making the return. And for the better ascertaining of the proper forms of such returns of slaves as are hereby required to be made, and that every person may strictly adhere thereto, a form, or example of such returns, is contained in a Schedule to this Act annexed, to which all persons are required, so far as shall be found practicable, to conform; in which said Schedule, the above-mentioned six perpendicular columns are drawn and described; and in which are set out and marked two large and distinct lateral divisions, the one for the purpose of inserting the names, colour, age, employment, condition, and country, as aforesaid, of males, and the other of females, as herein required, for the purpose of this Act or Ordinance.

Between the 1st day of June and the 1st of Sept. all persons in possession of slaves to return lists or schedules thereof, upon oath, to the registrar of this colony, containing the name, description, and other particulars of the parties making such returns.

Schedules to describe the names, colour, age, employment, condition, and country.

Sect. 3. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all Lists or Schedules to be made and returned as aforesaid, after the first general returns required by this Act, there shall be in every succeeding return contained a true and particular account of all births and deaths of slaves belonging to the person or persons on whose behalf such return is made, within the three years next preceding, since the last returns were made; and also an account of all deductions from, or additions to, the former list of slaves belonging to such person or persons, within the same period; whether the same shall have happened by desertion, sale, or other transfer of property, enfranchisement, or return of fugitive slaves, or by purchase,

After the expiration of three years, returns to be delivered, containing an account of all deductions from, and additions to, the former stock of slaves, whether by birth, death, or otherwise.

succession,

DEMURRY.

succession, or reversion, or other lawful acquisitions, within this united Colony; or by any lawful importation; which particular cause or mode of deduction, or addition, shall in all cases be distinctly specified in such return, so that the general increase and decrease of slaves, their condition, and numbers, may be fully known and considered.

Returns to be made on oath.

Sect. 4. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every person making any and every such schedule and return, shall, at the time of delivering the same to the registrar, take the following oath; which the said registrar is hereby empowered and required to administer, under the penalty of six thousand guilders, Holland's currency, (that is to say):

Form of oath.

“ You do Swear, That the List or Schedule now by you given in, contains
 “ a true and exact account and description, according to the several parti-
 “ culars therein specified, of all the slaves now attached or belonging to the
 “ Plantation called _____ in _____ or now belong-
 “ ing to you, or in your possession [*if any owner,*] or now belonging to or in
 “ possession of [*name the owner or possessor,*] within this Colony, according
 “ to the best of your knowledge, information, and belief.
 “ So help you GOD.”

Persons who shall, from sickness or otherwise, be prevented from attending personally to deliver in returns to the registrar, may appoint a substitute.

Provided nevertheless, that in case any owner or possessor of slaves resident in this Colony, shall, from sickness or any bodily infirmity, be prevented from attending the said registrar, to deliver such list or schedule of his or her slaves, as hereinbefore is directed, it shall and may be lawful for any other person in behalf of such owner or possessor, to give in such his or her list or schedule, in the form hereinbefore prescribed; such person so giving in for another, at the time of delivering such list or schedule, taking the following oath before the said registrar; who is hereby empowered and required, under the penalty aforesaid, to administer the same:—

Form of oath to be taken by such substitute.

“ You do Swear, That the person for whom you are now about to give in a List
 “ or Schedule of slaves, is prevented doing so in his or her own proper person,
 “ from illness or bodily infirmity; and that the List or Schedule by you now
 “ given in, was signed by such person in your presence; and that the same
 “ contains a true and exact number and description of all the slaves now
 “ belonging to or in the possession of the said _____ according
 “ to the best of your knowledge, information, and belief.
 “ So help you GOD.”

The registrar to publish the periods for making returns.

Sect. 5. And to the intent that all persons required by this Act or Ordinance to return lists or schedules for any slaves, may be duly apprised, and have sufficient notice of the respective times of returning the same; Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That at every period after the first registration, the time for which is now by this Act appointed, the said registrar shall and he is hereby required, some time not less than two months immediately preceding the period herein appointed for the making such returns of slaves as aforesaid, to give notice thereof in the official gazette of the Colony, purporting such respective periods for giving in such returns to him the said registrar; and in case the said registrar shall in any respect fail therein, for every such offence he shall forfeit the sum of twelve hundred guilders, Dutch currency.

The returns to be registered within a limited time, exactly according to the returns.

Sect. 6. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said registrar shall carefully preserve the lists and schedules so returned to him, and cause the same, within six months after the return thereof, or as soon after as possible, to be copied as clearly and distinctly as may be, into one book or set of books duly paged and indexed, to be by him kept in his office, to which all persons may have free access during office hours, to examine the same; every person paying the sum of three guilders for such access and examination. And the said registrar is hereby further directed and required, upon application for the same, to give copies in writing, certified by himself, of any list or lists that may be desired; the person requiring the same paying for each several list so required, the sum of one guilder ten stivers, if the number of slaves therein contained do not exceed twenty; and the further sum of fifteen stivers for every further number of slaves not exceeding ten, after the first twenty that shall be contained therein.

Office copies of the registered lists or returns, to be delivered if required. The registrar to be entitled to certain fees.

When all the returns are registered, notice thereof

Sect. 7. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when and so soon as all the returns, lists or schedules, which shall have been delivered to the said registrar,

registrar, pursuant to this Act or Ordinance, shall have been entered and recorded as aforesaid, the said registrar shall give notice thereof to the inhabitants of this united Colony, in manner as aforesaid, that the said books are and will continue open at the proper office, for the inspection, free of expense, of all persons who have made returns of slaves, for insertion therein, for the term of two months from the date of such notice; to the intent that all persons interested, may be satisfied of the accuracy of the said books, and of the said returns therein contained; and also that if any owners or possessors of slaves within this Colony, shall, from any accident or unavoidable impediment, have omitted to return full and proper lists or schedules of their slaves, as by this Act is required, they must immediately on discovering such error or omission, apply to the Governor for the time being of this united Colony, in non-sessions of the honourable the court of policy, or to the same, in conjunction with the honourable the court of policy, during its established and ordinary sessions; who upon satisfactory proof that such omission has not been wilful, shall thereupon order the admission, registration, and correction of such returns or schedules by the said registrar.

Sect. 8. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case any person or persons whatsoever shall wilfully neglect to give in to the said registrar, a list or lists, schedule or schedules of his or her or their slave or slaves, as above directed, every such person or persons so neglecting, shall forfeit and pay the sum of twelve hundred guilders, Holland's currency, for every slave so neglected to be given in; one moiety thereof to be paid to the informer, and one moiety to be paid into the public treasury of this Colony; such forfeiture or fine to be levied and recovered by the honourable the fiscals, or either of them, or by the registrar himself, who in such matters is hereby empowered and authorized to levy and recover the same by fiscal action, before the honourable the court of criminal and civil justice of this united Colony. And all and every slave or slaves so neglected to be given in, if such slave be an African, shall be entitled to his her or their freedom, unless such person or persons so omitting to give in any such slave or slaves, shall, within six months after the discovery of such omission, establish by sufficient evidence, before the Governor for the time being, that such African slave or slaves, so omitted to be given in, had been legally imported; and such African so rendered free, shall hereby become entitled to the usual sum for maintenance allowed in such or similar cases by the Colony.

Sect. 9. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any person or persons who may be at any time resident in this Colony, and who may have, keep and return in his her or their possession, as a slave or slaves, any African or Africans who may have been illicitly imported into this Colony, knowing the same to have been illicitly imported, shall, upon conviction thereof, in like manner as above mentioned, by action brought by their honours the fiscals, or either of them, or by the registrar himself, as empowered and authorized so to do by this Act or Ordinance, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding six thousand guilders, Holland's currency, and be imprisoned in the common gaol of this Colony, for any time not exceeding the period of two years.

Sect. 10. Provided always, and it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all persons who shall think themselves aggrieved by any proceedings of the said registrar, in any matter relating to this Act, may address by petition the Governor for the time being, who is hereby required and fully empowered to hear the parties upon any such application, and determine thereon, and either to remit, or otherwise, as to him may seem just and fitting, the penalties and forfeitures hereby imposed; he, the Governor, being required, at the next ordinary sessions of the court of policy, to inform the said court of such his direction, upon any such application having been made to him.

Sect. 11. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said registrar shall make and prepare, or cause to be made and prepared, perfect and accurate duplicates of the said books, and shall authenticate and certify the said duplicates by the following affidavit:

"Before A. B. [inserting the name and title of the Governor for the time being,] personally appeared C. D. [naming himself,] registrar of slaves of this Colony, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, makes oath and saith, That he the said C. D. has carefully examined and compared all the preceding entries in this book, with all the different returns of slaves delivered to him, or to his knowledge or belief, to any deputy, clerk,

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to be given; and the means of supplying omissions within a limited time therein specified.

The governor may direct returns to be received and registered after the limited time, in cases of accident or unavoidable impediment, and not from wilful default.

Persons omitting to register slaves, liable to forfeit 1,200 G. H. C. for each slave unregistered.

Persons who may have, keep and retain any African, who may have been illicitly imported, knowing the same, to be prosecuted. Persons convicted, as before, to forfeit 6,000 G. H. C. and imprisoned.

Parties who may think themselves aggrieved by the registrar, may apply to the governor for relief.

The registrar to make duplicates of registers, and how to be authenticated.

Form of oath to be taken by the registrar.

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“ or assistant by him appointed ; and that he is hereby enabled to depose, and does depose, that the preceding return of the slaves of this Colony, is in all respects correctly and faithfully made.”

Which affidavit, being subscribed by the said registrar, shall be sworn before the Governor for the time being, who shall subjoin thereto the following Certificate under his hand.

Form of governor's certificate.

“ I, *A. B.* [*inserting his name and title of office,*] do hereby certify, That the above affidavit was duly sworn before me, this _____ day of _____ one thousand eight hundred and _____ Witness my hand, this _____ day of _____ one thousand eight and _____ (Signed) “ *A. B.*”

And the said duplicate books, when so authenticated and certified, shall be delivered by the said registrar to his Excellency the Governor for the time being, who shall forthwith transmit the same to His Majesty's principal secretary of state for the colonial department in England.

No erasures to be permitted in the registry books.

Sect. 12. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no erasure shall, on any pretence, or for any cause whatever, be at any time permitted to be made in any of the said books ; but if any clerical error shall occur in the insertion of any name, description, or particulars contained in the schedule or return from which the same was made, or if any other mistakes shall occur in the making up and keeping the said books, a line of red ink shall be drawn through any word or words improperly inserted, so as to leave the original word or words legible ; and the correction thereof, by the insertion of any word or words which may have been erroneously omitted, shall either be interlined or written in the margin, and the registrar shall, either under such word or words written in the margin, or under a mark of reference there made to any such interlineation, subscribe his name at length.

If registrar make any fraudulent entries or erasures,

the registrar shall, upon conviction, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding 6,000 G. H. C. and be imprisoned for any time not exceeding two years.

Penalties for such offences by other persons, deputy, &c. to be subject to the like penalties.

Sect. 13. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if the said registrar shall wilfully make, or knowingly permit or suffer to be made, any false or fraudulent entry in the book or books in his office, or shall fraudulently erase, obliterate or alter, or knowingly permit or suffer to be fraudulently obliterated or altered, any entry which shall have been duly made in the said book or books, the said registrar shall, upon conviction of any such offence before the honourable the court of criminal and civil justice of this united Colony, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding the sum of six thousand guilders, Dutch currency, and be imprisoned for any time not exceeding two years, in the common gaol of the Colony ; and if any deputy, assistant, or clerk of the said registrar, shall commit, or knowingly permit or suffer to be committed, any such offence as aforesaid, he shall, upon the like conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding the sum of six thousand guilders, and be imprisoned in the common gaol of this Colony, for any time not exceeding the period of two years ; and if any other person or persons in this Colony, shall wilfully make, or cause or procure to be made, any false or fraudulent entry in the said book or books, or shall fraudulently erase, obliterate or alter, or erase, or procure to be erased, obliterated or altered, any entry which shall have been made in the said book or books, every such person or persons so offending, shall, upon like conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding the sum of six thousand guilders, of like current money, and to be imprisoned in the common gaol of this Colony, for any term not exceeding the period of two years.

Forfeitures and penalties, how to be disposed of.

Sect. 14. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every the forfeitures and penalties arising out of this Act or Ordinance, shall go to the informer, in proportion hereto before specified in section eight ; and all remaining sums, forfeitures and penalties, shall forthwith be paid by the parties recovering the same, into the colonial chest, and become applicable to the usual and current expenses of the government ; save only and excepting the necessary costs and expenses incurred by the recovery of the same.

Registrar's salary, and how to be paid.

Sect. 15. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That there shall be paid to the said registrar, so to be appointed as aforesaid, out of any of the public monies of this Colony, at and after the rate of two hundred pounds sterling annually and every year, by four equal quarterly payments, to be made in guilders, Holland's currency, at the exchange of the time when due, during all such time as he shall hold

hold and exercise the said office of registrar; and the further sum of six hundred pounds sterling, at the exchange as above explained, at such time as he shall complete, and produce to his Excellency the Governor for the time being, authenticated duplicates of the aforesaid books of registry.

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Sect. 16. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every the fines, forfeitures and penalties hereinbefore imposed, shall be recovered, on complaint to their honors the fiscals, or either of them, or to the registrar, as an officer of the Colony, for the especial purposes of matters arising out of this Act or Ordinance, who shall bring the aforesaid claim and levy of forfeitures and penalties before the honourable the court of justice, in the usual and ordinary manner, as in the case of other fiscal actions.

Fines, forfeitures, and penalties, how to be recovered.

Sect. 17. And in order to prevent the giving in of double returns which might occur from a doubtful construction of this Act or Ordinance, as to the party, whether the actual proprietor, or the party in possession, shall make the aforesaid return; It is hereby enacted, That the actual proprietor or his representative, and not the party, who by hire or otherwise may have temporary possession of any slave or slaves, is bound to give in the returns, as above directed.

Persons in legal possession to make the returns, i. e. not persons hiring or having temporary possession.

Sect. 18. And whereas in cases of litigated claims to and concerning any individual slave or slaves, where returns, under this Act or Ordinance, shall have been made by different persons claiming the same, it may be difficult and impossible for the registrar, as above named, for the purposes of this Act or Ordinance, justly to ascertain the rights thereto of such litigating parties; he, the aforesaid registrar, is hereby directed and authorized, as much as in him lies, to insert the required return, with reference solely to the direct occupation and possession, at the time of the return made, of the party making the same: And it is further therefore hereby declared and ordained, That the returns of registry, under this Act or Ordinance, shall be receivable only as evidence for the express purposes of this Act, and shall in no ways be deemed or considered admissible, as substantiating any claims between individuals in litigation. Lastly, the honourable the Court of Policy reserves to itself all right of from time to time explaining further the enactments of this Ordinance; hereby confirming, however, all previous laws and regulations touching and concerning this matter, not contrary to the regulations of this Act or Ordinance now published and established.

Returns of registry made under this Act, to be receivable only as evidence for the express purposes of this Act.

And that no ignorance may be pretended of the several orders contained in this Ordinance, these presents shall be published, and sent round for general information.

Thus done and enacted at our adjourned assembly, held at the Court House, George Town, Demerary, the eighteenth of March, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, and published the twenty-fifth following.

(Signed) *John Murray.*

By Command of the Court, *Charles Wilday*, Cl^r Ct. Policy.

SCHEDULE.

A LIST of SLAVES belonging to (or in the lawful possession of) *A. B.*

MALE SLAVES.

Names.	Colour.	Age.	Employment.	Condition.	Country.

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FEMALE SLAVES.

Names.	Colour.	Age.	Employment.	Condition.	Country.

The whole number of Slaves belonging to (or in the lawful possession of *A. B.*) is

A true Return of A. B. day of

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An ACT for registering the Slaves in this Island.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the Legislature of this Colony is desirous to show its sincere disposition to guard against any possible infringement of the laws for abolishing the slave trade: And whereas a general registry of slaves has been considered the most effectual method of accomplishing the said object; We, therefore, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Governor, Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of Dominica, humbly beseech Your Majesty, that it may be enacted;—

Clause 1st. And be it therefore, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the Governor, Council and Assembly of the said Island, and by the authority of the same, That between the first day of March and the first day of June next ensuing, every person resident in this Island, who shall be in possession of any slave or slaves within the same, whether as owner, mortgagee, trustee, guardian, executor, receiver, lessee, attorney, manager, or otherwise howsoever, shall deliver in upon oath to the treasurer, or his lawful deputy, of the said Island, such returns, lists, and particulars, in writing, as are hereinbefore mentioned; that is to say, in the first place, the right or character in which the party making such return holds possession of such slave or slaves; and where such slaves are attached to and wrought upon plantations, the name of the plantation to which the said slaves are so attached; and shall proceed to name, describe and enumerate the several slaves then belonging to or held in possession by him her or them, by lists to be made out in manner following; that is to say, the said returns shall be divided into eight perpendicular columns, of sufficient breadth respectively, entitled at the heads thereof, "Number, Names, Sex, Colour, reputed Age, Country, ordinary Employment, Remarks:" in the first of which columns shall be mentioned the numeral order of such slave; in the second column, the usual name of each slave; in the third column (which shall be divided into two smaller columns, to be entitled at the heads thereof, "Male and Female,") the sex of such slave; in the fourth column, the colour of each slave; in the fifth column, the reputed age of each slave; in the sixth column, (which shall be divided into two smaller columns, to be entitled at the heads thereof, "Creole and African,") the country of each slave; in the seventh column, the ordinary employment of each slave; in the eighth column, any other circumstances respecting each slave, which may tend more accurately to identify the individual; such as the said slave being a runaway, and the name of the particular island and country in Africa where the said slave may have been born, or from whence he may have been brought, so far as the same can be ascertained; and for the greater uniformity of such returns of slaves, and that no person may pretend ignorance of the proper forms thereof, an example of such return is contained in a Schedule to this Act annexed, marked (A.) to which all persons are required to conform.

And

Clause 2d. And be it further enacted, That between the first day of March and the first day of June, in every third year after the present year, every person then resident in the said Island, who shall be in possession of any slave or slaves within the same as aforesaid, shall deliver in upon oath to the treasurer of the said Island, such returns, lists, and particulars in writing, as are hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, in the first place, the right or character in which the party making such return holds possession of such slave or slaves, and where such slaves are attached to, or wrought upon plantations, the name of the plantation to which such slaves are so attached, shall, in the next place, state the number of slaves contained in the former return, and shall then proceed to specify the number, names, sexes, colour, reputed age, country, and ordinary employment of each, and every such slave as may have been added to or taken from the said former return, together with the causes of such increase or decrease, whether the said increase shall have arisen from birth, purchase, gifts, succession, reversion, or other lawful acquisition whatsoever, or the said decrease from death, sale, gift, manumission, or other cause whatsoever; and in case of such increase or decrease arising from purchase or sale, the name of the person or persons of or to whom the said slave or slaves may have been purchased or sold, to be specified in the return; and for the greater uniformity of the said triennial returns of slaves, and that no person may plead ignorance of the proper forms thereof, an example of such return is contained in a schedule to this Act annexed, marked B, to which all persons are required to conform.

Clause 3d. And be it further enacted, That every person making the returns as aforesaid, shall at the time of delivering the same, subscribe his name or ordinary mark, and take the following oath, which the said treasurer is hereby empowered and required to administer, under the penalty of three hundred pounds for each neglect; viz.

“ I, *A. B.* [*naming himself*] do Swear, That the List or Return now by me
 “ given in, contains a true and exact account and description, according to
 “ the several particulars therein specified, of all the slaves now attached to
 “ or belonging to the Plantation called _____ in the parish of _____
 “ _____ [*or, belonging to me, if an owner,*] or belonging to
 “ _____ for whom I am attorney, agent, trustee, or otherwise,
 “ [*as the case may be,*] according to the best of my knowledge, information
 “ and belief, and that no one of the said slaves has been, to my knowledge,
 “ imported into this Island, contrary to the existing laws for abolishing the
 “ slave trade. “ So help me GOD.”

Provided always, That in case any owner of slaves resident in this Island, shall, from sickness or any bodily infirmity, be prevented from attending the said treasurer or his deputy to deliver such return of his or her slave or slaves, it shall and may be lawful for any other person in behalf of such owner, to give in such his or her list or return, such person so giving in for another, at the time of delivering in such list or return, taking the following oath before the treasurer or his deputy, who is hereby authorized and required, under the penalty aforesaid, to administer the same; viz.

“ I, *A. B.* [*naming himself*] do Swear, That the person for whom I am about
 “ to give in a List or Return of Slaves, is prevented from attending in per-
 “ son by illness [*or, bodily infirmity, as the case may be,*] and that the List
 “ or Return now given in by me, was signed by such owner in my presence,
 “ and that the same contains a true and exact number and description of all
 “ the slaves now belonging to the said *C. D.*, according to the best of my
 “ information, knowledge and belief, and that no one of the said slaves has
 “ been to my knowledge, or (as I firmly believe) the knowledge of the said
 “ proprietor, imported into this Island contrary to the existing laws for
 “ abolishing the slave trade.

“ So help me GOD.”

And to the intent that all persons required to deliver in lists or returns of slaves, may be duly apprised, at the proper time of delivering in such returns;— Preamble.

Clause 4th. Be it therefore enacted, That the treasurer or his deputy shall and he is hereby required, as soon as possible after the publication of this Act, to send printed copies of the same to the officers commanding the militia of the respective parishes and districts, who are hereby required to read the same, or cause the same to be read, on their respective parades immediately after calling the rolls, for three successive

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successive meetings after receiving the same; and in like manner the treasurer shall in the month of February in every third year after the present year, send to the said commanding officers of militia, advertisements in writing or print, by him signed, notifying the proper time of delivering in the triennial returns of slaves required by this Act; which advertisements the said commanding officers are hereby required to read, or cause to be read, on their respective parades immediately after calling the rolls, for three successive meetings after receiving the same; and further, that the treasurer or his deputy shall cause to be printed at the public expense, a sufficient number of forms of returns of slaves directed by the first clause of this Act, according to the Schedule maked (A.), and shall transmit the same, along with the printed copies of this Act, to the respective commanding officers of militia, who are hereby required to distribute the said schedules or forms to such persons as shall apply for the same; and in like manner the treasurer or his deputy shall in the month of February in every third year, after the present year, cause to be printed, and send to be distributed as aforesaid, a sufficient number of the forms of triennial returns of slaves directed by the second clause of this Act, according to the schedule marked (B.); and if the said treasurer or his deputy, or officer commanding the Royal St. George's regiment, or any of his independent companies of militia, shall neglect to perform any of the duties by this clause directed, such party so offending shall, for every such neglect, forfeit the sum of two hundred pounds currency.

Clause 5th. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall willfully neglect to give in to the said treasurer or his deputy the list or return of slaves by this Act directed, such person shall forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds current money, for every slave so neglected to be returned; one moiety to be paid to the informer or person suing for the same, and the other moiety to be paid into the treasury of this Island for the public uses of the Colony; and in case the party so offending shall have possession of any slave or slaves so neglected to be returned for registration in the capacity of mortgagee, trustee, guardian, receiver, lessee, attorney, executor, manager, or otherwise, as the representative of any other person or persons, such person shall not only forfeit for every slave so neglected to be returned the aforesaid sum of one hundred pounds, but shall moreover be liable to the civil suits or actions of any person or persons who shall or may sustain any damage or injury by such neglect; and that if any person shall return as a slave or shall hold in his possession as a slave any African who shall have been illegally imported into this Island, knowing the same to have been illegally imported, the attorney general, upon information lodged to that effect, is hereby required to enter a prosecution against such offender in the court of King's Bench and grand sessions held for the said Island; and every offender convicted of holding such African in slavery as aforesaid, shall forfeit any sum not exceeding five hundred pounds currency, and be imprisoned in the common gaol of this Island for any time not exceeding the period of two years; one half of such fine to be paid to the informer, or person suing for the same, and the other half into the public treasury of the said Island; and such African so having been illegally held in slavery shall be entitled to receive from the treasurer the sum of six pounds twelve shillings per annum, for and during his natural life, or so long as he shall remain a resident of the said Island.

Clause 6th. And be it further enacted, That the treasurer or his deputy shall carefully preserve the original lists and returns given in to him, and cause the same, within three months after receiving them, to be copied clearly and distinctly (under the names of the parishes from which such returns are respectively made) into a book strongly bound and duly paged and indexed, to be by him provided and kept in his office, and such book or books are hereby declared public property; and when and so soon as the said lists or returns shall have been duly entered and recorded as aforesaid, the said treasurer or his deputy shall give notice forthwith by advertisements in the public newspaper, that the said book is completed, and the said book shall continue open in the treasurer's office for the inspection (free of all expense,) of such persons as shall have made returns of slaves for the term of three months from the date of such notification, to the intent that all persons interested may be satisfied of the accuracy of said record: Provided always, That if any owner or possessor of slaves in this Island, shall from any accident or unavoidable impediment, have omitted to return full and proper lists or returns as required by this Act, such person may and is hereby authorized to apply by petition to the legislature,

legislature, and upon approval thereof, the treasurer shall receive such omitted or corrected returns, and in like manner that the treasurer or his deputy shall receive and record the triennial returns of slaves required by this Act, in all respects as prescribed with regard to the original returns.

Clause 7th.—And be it further enacted, That if the treasurer or his deputy shall refuse to receive for registration any return which he ought to make, any entry which he ought to make, or shall in the exercise of his said office, refuse or neglect to do any thing which he is herein required to do, such treasurer or his lawful deputy, shall for every such offence incur the penalty of two hundred pounds currency, and shall moreover be liable to the civil suits or actions of such person or persons as may be aggrieved, or sustain any damage or injury by such refusal or neglect.

Clause 8th.—And be it further enacted, That no erasure shall on any pretence whatsoever be permitted in the said books of registry; and if a clerical error be committed, a line of red ink shall be drawn through any word or words so inserted, without effacing the same, and the corrections thereof shall be made by interlining the proper word or words, and if practicable, in the same hand-writing as the rest of the returns so corrected, and the treasurer or his deputy shall write his name at length in the margin opposite to every such interlineation; but after the said books of registry, whether of the original or triennial returns of slaves, shall be completed and certified as hereinafter directed, no interlineation, alteration or correction, shall on any account be made or permitted to be made therein; and that if the said treasurer or his deputy shall wilfully make, or knowingly permit or suffer to be made, by false or fraudulent entry in his books of registry, or either of them, the treasurer or his deputy shall, upon conviction of such offence, forfeit any sum not exceeding five hundred pounds currency, and moreover be declared incapable of holding the office of treasurer; and if any other person or persons shall fraudulently make or procure to be made any false entry or erasure in the said books, or either of them, every such person shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit any sum not exceeding five hundred pounds currency, and besides be imprisoned in the common gaol for any time not exceeding two years; and the treasurer or his deputy or other person so convicted, shall moreover be liable to the civil suit or action of any person who may have sustained any damage or injury by such erasure or alteration.

Clause 9th. And be it further enacted, That the treasurer or his deputy shall at the expiration of the term of three months, from and after completing the entries of returns of slaves in the original book of registry, and also at the expiration of the like term, after completing the entries of each successive triennial return, finally close and authenticate the said original and triennial registry, by subscribing his name, and affixing his official seal immediately under the last entry, in each of the said books, and shall subjoin an affidavit to the following effect; viz.

“ Before *A. B.* [*inserting the name and title of Governor, or Commander in Chief for the time being,*] personally appeared *C. D.* [*naming himself,*]
 “ treasurer of the said Island, and made oath, that he has carefully and
 “ minutely examined and compared all the foregoing entries, with the different
 “ returns of slaves delivered to him, and that the preceding registry of
 “ slaves is in all respects truly, correctly, and faithfully entered.”

Which affidavit having been subscribed by the treasurer or his deputy, shall be sworn to before the said Governor or Commander in Chief, who shall subjoin a certificate under his hand and seal at arms; viz.

“ I, *A. B.* [*inserting the name and title of office,*] do hereby certify, That
 “ the above affidavit was this day duly sworn before me. Witness my hand and
 “ seal at arms, at government house, this day of in the
 “ year one thousand eight hundred and (Signed) “ *A. B.*”

Clause 10th. And be it further enacted, That the said treasurer shall, after the authentication of the said return of slaves, as hereinbefore directed, take and receive out of any public monies in his hands, the sum of three hundred pounds currency, for all the duties required of him by this Act; and also a like sum for every triennial return so completed; and any person or persons requiring a certificate copy or copies, or extract or extracts from said registry, the treasurer is authorized to demand
 for

DOMINICA. for such copies or extracts, at and after the rate that the registrar is allowed by his docket of fees, for copies or extracts of deeds out of his office.

Clause 11th. And be it further enacted, That in all questions respecting the freedom or slavery of any individual, arising in any court, or before any magistrate in this colony, a duly certified copy of the registration of such individual in the books of the said treasurer, or his deputy, shall be received as sufficient *prima facie* evidence of the slavery of such individual: Provided always, that where any dispute shall arise respecting the right or title of any person or persons to any slave or slaves, such registration shall not be deemed evidence of the property of such person or persons as shall be set forth in the said books of registry, as the reputed owner of such slave or slaves.

Clause 12th. And be it further enacted, That all and every the fines, forfeitures, and penalties imposed by this Act, for which the mode of recovery has not been hereinbefore declared, shall be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record in this Island; and that one moiety of the said fines shall go to the informer or person suing for the same, and the other moiety to be paid into the treasury of the colony, for the public uses thereof.

Clause 13th. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall knowingly and wilfully make any false oath to any of the matters or things by this Act required, or shall corruptly procure or suborn any person or persons to make such false oath, such person or persons so making, or procuring to be made such false oath, as aforesaid, shall be declared guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury, and shall, upon conviction thereof, suffer such punishment as is inflicted for such offences by the laws of England.

Clause 14th. And be it further enacted, That two hundred copies of this Act shall be printed at the public expense, for the use of the members of the legislature, the justices of the peace, the public officers, and the officers commanding the Royal St. George's regiment, and respective independent companies of militia, and that the treasurer do and he is hereby directed to pay for the same.

Passed the House of Assembly, this eleventh day of February one thousand eight hundred and seventeen. *J. A. Garraway*, Acting Clerk of Assembly.
W. Anderson, Speaker.

Passed the Council, this seventh day of March one thousand eight hundred and seventeen. *Joseph Court*, Acting Clerk of the Council.

SCHEDULE (A.)

General RETURN of SLAVES belonging to _____ made this
day of _____ 1817, by _____

Number.	Names.	Sex.		Colour.	Reputed Age.	Country.		Ordinary Employment.	REMARKS.
		Males.	Females.			African.	Creole.		
1.	William -	1	-	Black - -	35	1	-	Driver - - -	An Ibbo, pitted with small-pox.
2.	Eusebe -	1	-	Mulatto -	25	-	1	Mason - - -	Creole of Antigua, blind of the right eye.
3.	John - -	1	-	Cabre -	30	-	1	Field Labourer	Ditto, run away since 1st December last.
4.	Thomas -	1	-	Mestiff -	25	-	1	Cooper - - -	Ditto, of this Island, lost his left leg.
5.	George -	1	-	Black - -	2	-	1	- - -	Sickly, the child of Ann.
6.	Mary - -	-	1	Cabresse -	35	-	1	Domestic - -	Creole of Barbadoes.
7.	Ann - -	-	1	Black - -	20	1	-	Field Labourer	A Congo.
8.	Eliza - -	-	1	Black - -	25	1	-	- - Ditto - -	From the Gold Coast.
9.	Jane - -	-	1	Mulatto -	1	-	1	- - -	The child of Mary.
		5	4			3	6		

SCHEDULE (B.)

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Triennial RETURN of SLAVES belonging to _____ made this
day of _____ 1820, by _____

Number.	Names.	Sex.		Colour.	Reputed Age.	Country.		Ordinary Employment.	Cause of Increase and Decrease.	REMARKS.
		Male.	Female.			African.	Creole.			
230	per last Return	110	120	- - -	-	90	140			
				Increase.						
1	Joseph - -	1	-	Black - -	22	-	1	Carpenter	Purchased of A.B.	Native of Martinique.
2	Thomas - -	1	-	Mulatto - -	30	-	1	Cooper - -	Gift of C. D. - -	Creole of this Island.
3	Harry - -	1	-	Black - -	25	1	-	Field Labourer	Inherited from E.F.	An Ibo.
4	James - -	1	-	Ditto - -	1	-	1	- - -	Born (<i>add date.</i>)	
5	Kitty - -	-	1	Ditto - -	20	1	-	Domestic -	Legacy from G. H.	Mandingo.
6	Nancy - -	-	1	Cabress -	1½	-	1	- - -	Born - - -	The Child of Kitty.
7	Louise - -	-	1	Black - -	½	-	1	- - -	- - -	
237	Total Increase	4	3			2	5			
	Total -	114	123			92	145			
				Decrease.						
1	Alexander -	1	-	Cabre - -	18	-	1	Carpenter -	Sold to J. K.	
2	Bob - - -	1	-	Black - -	25	1	-	Domestic -	A Gift to L. M.	
3	Tom - - -	1	-	Ditto - -	50	1	-	Field Labourer	Died.	
4	Sylvia - -	-	1	Mulatto -	30	-	1	Domestic -	Manumitted.	
5	Polly - -	-	1	Black - -	75	1	-	Sick Nurse -	Died	
6	Sophia - -	-	1	Mulatto -	21	-	1	Sempstress -	Sold to N. O.	
		3	3			3	3			
231		111	120			89	142	TOTAL Remaining.		

An ACT, intituled, " An Act to extend the time limited by the Act for the registry of Slaves in this Island; and to indemnify such persons as may have failed in making their Returns within the time prescribed by that Act, and for other purposes."

WHEREAS it has been found that several persons have from various causes, Preamble. unintentionally failed in giving in their general return of slaves within the period required by the Registry Act, and have since presented them for registration, but which returns the treasurer is not authorized to receive, whereby such persons have become liable to the heavy fines and penalties imposed by the aforesaid Act, and without such returns, the general Registry of Slaves in this Island could not be made complete; for the remedy of such persons, and for obtaining a more complete primary general return,—

Clause 1st. Be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the Governor, the Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of Dominica, that from and after the publication of this Act, the treasurer is hereby authorized and required to receive all returns made to him in manner and form required by the Registry Act, until the first day of October, next ensuing and no longer; and all such persons as may hereafter tender their return of slaves, on or before the first day of October as aforesaid, shall be and they are hereby fully indemnified, acquitted, and set free from all fines, pains, and penalties by them individually incurred by the Registry Act, and from all suits in respect thereof; and the Treasurer is hereby authorized and required to record all such returns as if they had been made in the time prescribed by the Registry

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Registry Act : Provided always, that nothing hereinafter contained shall exempt or exonerate from all and every fine or fines imposed by the said Registry Act on every person or persons who may neglect or refuse delivering in their return of slaves for registration, after the said first day of October next ensuing.

And whereas it has been found impossible to procure in these Islands blank books of sufficient size and substantial binding, wherein to record in a clear, distinct, and permanent manner, the general Registry of Slaves, and that the treasurer will be compelled to send to England for books for that purpose, whereby the time may expire at which such record is directed to be completed before they can be procured ;—

Clause 2d. Be it and it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the further term of four months shall be and is hereby granted to the treasurer to complete such record, free and exempt from all fines and penalties imposed on him by the said Registry Act, provided he shall complete such record within the further extended time.

Passed the House of Assembly, July the twenty-ninth, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

(Signed) *John Henry Newman*, Clerk of Assembly.

W. Anderson, Speaker.

Passed the Board of Council, this sixth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

J. H. Garraway, Acting Clerk of the Council.

Assented to by his Excellency, this sixth day of August one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Charles W. Maxwell.

Passed the Patent Office the same day.

By command, *J. M. Williams*, Gov. Sec. and Cl^r Pat^s.

Duly proclaimed in the town of Roseau, this seventh day of August one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Henry Trew, P. M.

An ACT to establish Courts of Petty Sessions at stated times, for the Trial by Jury of Runaway or other Slaves in custody of the Provost Marshal, for Crimes under any of the Laws of this Island now existing, or hereafter to exist, for regulating, and in some instances varying their Punishment, as established by Laws now in force ; for the more speedy Trial of Slaves committed for Misdemeanors or Petty Offences, by Justices of the said Court without a Trial by Jury ; and to enable the Justices of the Courts of King's Bench and Grand Sessions of the Peace, immediately on the termination of their Sessions, to hold Courts of Petty Sessions for the Trial or Gaol Delivery of Slaves then in Custody of the said Marshal, and for other purposes connected therewith.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the irregular and frequent non-attendance of justices of the peace summoned to hold courts of special sessions under the laws of the Island now in force, has frequently occasioned great delay in bringing slaves committed for crimes or other offences to speedy trial, and considerable loss and expense to their owners, by paying burthensome gaol fees, and the loss of their labour : Therefore, and for remedy whereof, We, Your Majesty's loyal and obedient subjects the Governor in chief of this Your Majesty's Island of Dominica, the Council and Assembly of the same, do most humbly pray Your most Excellent Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained,—

Clause 1. And be it and it is enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, That a court of petty sessions hereby established, shall be holden the first Wednesday of April, June, October and December in every year, at the court-house in the town of Roseau, at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon of each day, and of any succeeding day by adjournment, not exceeding three days ; which court shall consist of five justices of the peace, and not more, at each sitting, whereof, three if present, shall form a quorum, or number competent to hold a court and transact the business thereof ; and the said court of petty sessions is hereby declared to be a court of record in the said Island to all intents and purposes, and shall meet and sit

as

as aforesaid without any commission or public notice being necessary for holding the same, or any particular form to qualify the justices to sit thereat, and the provost marshal of the said Island, or person acting for him, shall summon or cause to be summoned five justices of the peace, as near as may be in rotation, residing in the town of Roseau, the parishes of St. George, St. Paul, St. Joseph, St. Luke and St. Patrick, by giving them seven days notice of the holding of such court, to attend which they are respectively summoned; and the said provost marshal shall summon twelve jurors to attend the said court, and also witnesses when required, by giving each of them the like previous notice for that purpose, of which jurors, six shall be sufficient to form a jury in the said court on the trial therein of causes then depending.

Clause 2. And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the said court of petty sessions is hereby authorized and required to inquire into, try or determine all such complaints, matters or things, and to bring to trial all and every such slaves respectively, as shall be brought before the same, of and concerning, or for all such crimes or offences as the said court is or shall or hereafter may be authorized to try, examine, or inquire into and determine by virtue of powers granted to justices of the peace, or courts of special sessions under any of the present or future laws of this Island, and shall be attended at each sitting by the proper officers; namely, His Majesty's attorney general, the secretary, marshal, coroner, and interpreter, who are bound to be present at, or who have usually attended courts of special sessions heretofore.

Clause 3. And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority aforesaid, That if any of the said justices shall not attend on the day appointed in the said summons, the absence of such justice shall, within twenty-four hours after the day specified for holding the said court, be reported in writing by the provost marshal, or person acting for him, to the chief justice of this Island, or in his absence therefrom, to the senior member of His Majesty's council on the Island, who shall forthwith make an order on such report to the provost marshal, directed in writing, to require such absenting justice or justices of the peace to attend the said chief justice or senior member of the council, at the place therein named, on any day therein specified, between five and within ten days after the date of such order, to account, or give a reasonable excuse for the cause of his or their absence; and if such account or excuse shall not appear satisfactory to the said chief justice, or in his absence to the senior member of the council, or if the said absenting justices, or any of them, shall not attend, then the said chief justice, or senior member of the council, shall and he is hereby empowered and required to impose a fine on such absenting justice or justices for such his or their absence, not exceeding ten pounds nor less than five, current money, and thereupon to issue his order or warrant in writing directed to the provost marshal to levy such fine on the goods and chattels of such absenting justice or justices of the peace, in the same manner that fines imposed by the courts of King's Bench and grand sessions of the peace are generally levied and applied for the benefit of this island, according to the one hundred and thirty-eighth clause of the act of this Island, commonly called the Court Act: Provided always, that it shall and may be lawful for such justice or justices of the peace so fined as aforesaid, to appeal from such order of the said chief justice or senior member of the council, to the Governor or Commander in chief of this Island, who is hereby authorized, on considering the same, to confirm the said order, or to remit or mitigate the fine thereby imposed.

Clause 4. And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority aforesaid, That when any cause, complaint, commitment, matter or thing, shall be brought forward, instituted or depending in the said court hereby established, and shall not be disposed of or determined during the session or sitting thereof, by reason of the non-attendance of parties, jurors, or witnesses, or for any other cause, then the said court may, at the discretion thereof, and it is hereby authorized to adjourn or continue the same to the next session of the said court, and so on *loties quoties*, until the same shall be disposed of, or determined by the court; and where any slave or slaves, or other person or persons shall be brought before the said court for examination, or trial for or relative to offences not capital, or where such trial or examination shall not be completed or determined during the session of the court, then the said justices thereof in open court, or any justice of the peace in consequence of or pursuant

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suant to any order of the court, may out of court discharge such slave or slaves or other person or persons from the custody of the provost marshal, or of any constable (the marshal or constable being first satisfied for his lawful fees, if any are due) on bail being given and entered into by recognizance, in a sum to be fixed by the said court for the appearance of such slave or slaves, or other person or persons, at the then next sitting of the court; which recognizance, if the court shall determine it forfeited for non-compliance with the condition thereof, shall and may be prosecuted in the court of common pleas, in the same manner as forfeited recognizances returnable in the court of king's bench, and grand sessions of the peace are prosecuted, recovered, and the money levied or paid for the benefit of the Colony into the public treasury thereof; and to that end, all recognizances entered into or taken by virtue of this Act, shall before the next sessions of the court after it was returnable, if adjudged forfeited, be filed with the secretary of the said court, and due notice thereof be given by the said secretary, within three days afterwards, to His Majesty's attorney or solicitor general, in order that the same may be sued for, and the penalty recovered and applied as aforesaid; and all witnesses or jurors duly summoned as aforesaid not attending, or not giving a good and lawful reason or excuse at the next session for not attending, to be judged by the court; and all jurors who shall depart the court without the leave of the court, shall for each default, without a reasonable excuse, forfeit as a fine the sum of five pounds current money: but the court may nevertheless, during the sitting of the same, mitigate or wholly remit any fine whatever imposed by the court, but not afterwards, which fine shall be levied and recovered by a warrant or order issued by the authority of the said court, and signed by the secretary of the said court, directed to the provost marshal, and shall be applied as above directed when actually received by the said provost marshal.

Clause 5. And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the justices of every court of king's bench and grand sessions of the peace, hereafter to be holden for the said Island, as soon after the termination of the business before the said last-mentioned court as may be, but not before the final close of the session; and they are hereby authorized and required to adjourn the last-mentioned court, and to form themselves into a court of petty sessions and gaol delivery of and for the trial, punishment, or release of all and every slave and slaves, person or persons then confined in gaol, or in custody, or present in court, in consequence of being bailed for any of the offences aforesaid, cognizable by the court under this Act, and by a petty jury of six persons taken by ballot out of the number of jurors summoned for the common business of the said court of king's bench and grand sessions of the peace, in the same manner and to the same extent as the justices of the court of petty sessions hereby established, are authorized to proceed in similar cases; and the said court so adjourned into a court of petty sessions, is hereby empowered and authorized to make all such rules and regulations in and for the more orderly, regular, or speedy proceedings of or in the said court, or by or of the officers thereof, as they shall deem necessary for effecting the purposes of this Act, or any of them, as well when the said court shall be holden by or before them, as by or before the said justices of the peace at their sittings or sessions aforesaid, by virtue of this Act, and to alter or amend the said rules or regulations as they shall deem necessary for effecting the purposes of this Act, or any of them, or the furtherance of justice in the said court; which rules and regulations shall be as valid and binding in law as if made part of this Act, and inserted in the body thereof.

Clause 6. And be it, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority aforesaid, That in all causes or cases of slaves brought to trial before the said courts, for crimes, offences or misdemeanors, where, on conviction thereof, the person or persons so convicted, would by law be liable to be sentenced to be banished from the Island, or to suffer imprisonment, or some corporal punishment authorized by law, it shall and may be lawful for the said courts, and they are hereby authorized, by the judgment or sentence thereof, to vary or mitigate such mode of punishment, or part thereof, and to order the party so convicted to be punished, in lieu thereof, by solitary confinement in any place now or hereafter to be appointed for the solitary confinement of slaves; or by being put, by way of correction, to work and labour with the gaol gang of slaves usually worked and employed in or about the town of Roseau, for such a length of time as the said court shall think fit, but in no case longer than twelve months, and the gaol fees of such slave or slaves to be charged to the Colony.

And

Clause 7. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That sixty copies of this Act be printed at the public expense, and that the treasurer do pay for the same.

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Passed the Board of Council, this nineteenth day of August one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Arch^d Gloster, President.

F. H. Garraway, Act. Clk. of Council.

Passed the House of Assembly, this ninth day of September one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

W^m Anderson, Speaker.

J. H. Newman, Clerk of Assembly.

Assented to, this ninth day of September one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Charles W. (Great Seal.) Maxwell.

Duly proclaimed in the town of Roseau, this tenth day of September one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Henry Trew, Provost Mar. Gen.

GRENADA REGISTRY ACT, 1817.

GRENADA.

An ACT for establishing a Registry of Negro and other Slaves on the Island of Grenada and its Dependencies.

WHEREAS the restoration of general peace may render the evasion of the laws now in force for the abolition of the slave trade, less difficult to evil-disposed persons, and on this account, as well as for the satisfaction of the mother country, it is expedient that, in addition to the laws now in force in these Islands for ascertaining the annual state of the population, and of the increase and decrease of the slaves therein, that a separate and distinct registry, on a more minute and extended scale, should be established under the rules and regulations hereinafter contained; May it therefore please Your Most excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted, and be it and it is hereby enacted by his Excellency the Governor and Commander in chief in and over the Island of Grenada and its dependencies, the members of His Majesty's Council, and the representatives of the people in General Assembly convened, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, That from and after the publication of this Act, there shall be established in this Island a public registry for the registration and enrolment, in manner hereinafter directed, of the names and descriptions of all negroes, mulattoes, or others, who now are or at any time hereafter shall be in a lawful state of slavery within the said Island and its dependencies, and who shall be respectively registered or returned for registration as hereinafter directed, on or before the thirty-first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Preamble.

Clause 1st.
Enacts that a public registry be established for the registration of all negro and other slaves, to be registered and returned for registration on or before the 31st day of July 1817.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being of the said Island and its dependencies, from time to time to appoint any proper person to be registrar during pleasure, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned; and that such registrar, so to be appointed, shall act personally, and not by deputy; and before he shall be competent to act in that capacity, he shall take, before the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, (who is hereby authorized to administer the same,) the oath following; that is to say,

Clause 2d:
Registrar to be appointed by governor, or commander in chief.

“ I, A. B. [meaning himself,] do solemnly Swear, That I will, according to the best of my judgment and ability, faithfully and impartially execute the office of registrar, pursuant to the directions of the Act under which I have been appointed to that office.”

Oath to be taken by registrar,

“ So help me GOD.”

And shall also enter into a recognizance before the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being in council, himself in the sum of three thousand pounds currency, and two sureties, to be approved of by the Council and Assembly, in the sum of two thousand five hundred pounds like currency, each conditioned for the faithful, impartial, and personal discharge of his duty as registrar; which sureties shall severally

and security given by him.

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rally make oath that they are worth the sums contained in their recognizances, after payment of their just and lawful debts.

Clause 3d.

Books to be provided by him at the public expense, for the purpose of the registries.

And be it further enacted, That the registrar under this Act to be appointed, shall provide, at the public expense, the necessary books, strongly and durably bound, for the purpose of the registries and enrolments hereinafter directed; in which books shall be entered and registered, as hereinafter directed, the names and descriptions of all the slaves in this Island and its dependencies.

Clause 4th.

Between the first day of May and 31st day of July, all persons in possession of slaves to return lists or schedules thereof to the registrar, with the names and descriptions and other particulars, agreeably to form annexed.

And be it further enacted, That between the first day of May and thirty-first day of July one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, all and every person and persons who shall then be resident in this Island, or any of its dependencies, and who shall be in possession of any slave or slaves within the same, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator, receiver, lessee, attorney, agent, executor, administrator, guardian or committee, or in any other right or character, whatever his her or their title, trust or interest in any such slave or slaves may be, shall respectively make and deliver, or cause to be made and delivered, unto the said registrar, to be recorded by him, such schedules, lists, and particulars, agreeably to the form hereunto annexed, marked (A.) subscribed by him her or them, to be called his her or their return of slaves, as are hereinafter mentioned; (that is to say,) a list or schedule as aforesaid, together with a duplicate thereof, containing in the first place, his her or their name or names and descriptions, and the name or description of such other person or persons, being the owner or owners, claimant or claimants of such slave or slaves in whose behalf the return is made, according to the best of the knowledge and belief of the person or persons respectively making such returns, and the right or character in which the party making such returns holds possession of or claims title to such slave or slaves, namely, whether as proprietor, lessee, mortgagee, sequestrator, guardian, committee, trustee, receiver, executor, administrator, attorney, agent, or otherwise, and shall proceed to name, describe and enumerate distinctly therein the several negro, mulatto, or other slaves which shall belong to or be held in possession by him her or them, on the thirtieth day of April next ensuing; and the names of the estates (if any) upon which such slaves respectively are usually worked, by lists, to be entitled in manner following; (that is to say,) "A List of Slaves belonging to or in the lawful possession of A. B." And such lists shall be divided into separate columns or compartments, the one to be entitled, "A general List of Male Slaves belonging to or in the possession of A. B." The schedule or paper containing each of the said columns to be subdivided into perpendicular columns of convenient breadths, respectively entitled at the heads thereof, "Names, Age, Colour, Country, Conspicuous Marks,"—according to the said schedule hereunto annexed, marked (A.); and one of the said returns shall be kept by the registrar, and be deposited in his office, and the other, signed and certified by the registrar, as corresponding with the one kept by him, shall be delivered back to the person making the same; and upon receiving each return, the registrar shall number both parts thereof with the same number, according to the order in which such return is received, and shall give a receipt specifying the number of such return, and the day of receiving the same; the intent of such numbers being, that the registrar may and he is hereby required and directed to examine and register the returns in the exact order in which they are respectively received by him; and in the first of the said columns shall be inserted the name of such slaves; and the name by which each slave shall first be returned and registered shall continue for ever after to be the name of such slave, and shall not afterwards be changed; in the second of the said columns the supposed age of the said slave; in the third of the said columns shall be inserted, negro, mulatto or mustee, as the case may be, and such other designation of shades of colour (if any) as is in use within the Colony; and in the fourth of the said columns shall be inserted whether the slave is an African or Creole; and in the fifth of the said columns shall be inserted the conspicuous mark of such slave; and at the end of each of the said returns shall be summed up, and set down in words at length, the whole number of slaves contained therein; and for the better ascertaining of the proper form of such returns of slaves as are hereby required to be made, a form or example of such returns is contained in the Schedule to this Act annexed, to which all persons are required to conform, and the registrar is hereby required to provide, at the public expense, printed blank copies of the said forms of returns, and deliver them gratis to all persons applying for the same.

Schedule to contain and describe names, age, colour, country, and conspicuous marks.

Registrar to provide at public expense, printed blank copies of forms and deliver them gratis.

And whereas it will tend greatly to the convenience of the said registrar, and of the several persons required by this Act to make the returns hereinbefore directed, that stated periods should be appointed for the inhabitants of the town of St. George, and the different parishes of the said Island, and of the Grenadines annexed to the government thereof, for giving in such returns to the said registrar; Be it, and it is hereby further enacted, That all and every the returns required by this Act to be given in for the town of St. George, shall be made and delivered to the said registrar from the first to the fifteenth day of May next inclusive. The returns for the parish of St. George shall, in like manner, be made and delivered from the sixteenth to the thirtieth day of the said month of May inclusive. The returns for the parishes of St. John and St. Mark, from the first to the fifteenth day of June next inclusive. The returns for the parish of St. Patrick shall in like manner be made and delivered to the said registrar from the sixteenth to the thirty-first day of June next inclusive. The returns for the parish of St. Andrew shall in like manner be made and delivered to the said registrar from the first to the fifteenth days of July next inclusive; and the returns for the parish of St. David shall in like manner be made and delivered to the said registrar from the sixteenth to the thirty-first day of July next ensuing; and the returns for the island of Carriacou, and the other islands dependent on the said island of Grenada, shall and may in like manner be made and delivered to the said registrar at any time between the said first day of May and thirty-first day of July next ensuing.

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Clause 5th. Separate periods appointed for taking the returns of the different parishes of the Island.

And be it further enacted, That any and every person making and subscribing any and every such schedule or return, and before the same shall be received by the registrar for registration, such person or persons so making and subscribing any and every such schedule or return, shall make oath before the registrar or (in case of sickness) before any of His Majesty's justices of the peace (such cases of sickness to be proved before such justice by the oath of a medical practitioner) to the purport and effect following; which oath the said registrar, or in case of sickness as aforesaid, any of His Majesty's justices of the peace is hereby authorized and required to administer without fee or reward; such oath to be annexed to the said return.

Clause 6th. Every person making such returns to make oath before the registrar, or in case of sickness, before a magistrate, to the purport and effect following.

" I, *A. B.* do solemnly Swear, That the Schedule or Return hereunto annexed contains, as I verily believe, a just, true, and full return, account and description of all the slaves in the possession of or belonging to or worked upon the Plantation therein named [*or, belonging to or in the possession of the owner, or the parties therein named, as the case may be, and being within this Colony*] save and except as to such slaves as may have absented and secreted themselves, or absconded, whose names are therein set forth [*when the same is the case*]; and I do further Swear, That the said Return or Schedule is made by me, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, truly and without fraud, deceit or evasion.
" So help me GOD."

Form of oath.

And be it further enacted, That as soon as any such returns as aforesaid shall have been duly made and received by the registrar, he shall proceed to register and copy the same, with all convenient speed, in a fair, distinct and legible manner, in a proper book or set of books to be kept by him, precisely conformably with the said returns.

Clause 7th. Returns to be registered within a limited time, in books to be kept by registrar, conformable to returns.

And be it further enacted, That on the thirty-first day of December next ensuing, the registrar shall finally close and authenticate the primary or original registration of all the slaves in this Island and its dependencies, which shall thenceforth be called, "The Original Registry of Slaves of the Island of Grenada and its Dependencies," in manner following; to wit, in each of the said books, or in the last of any set of such books, the said registrar shall write with his own hand, in large legible characters, immediately after the last entry of the said returns or lists of slaves, either on the same, folio or double page, or on the back of the last leaf containing the same "Registry of Slaves of the Island of Grenada and its Dependencies, up to the thirtieth day of April one thousand eight hundred and seventeen:" And the said registrar shall thereto subscribe his name and affix his seal; and below the said signature shall be written in like characters, by the said registrar, the following affidavit:

Clause 8th. On 31st December next, primary or original registration to be closed and authenticated.

" Grenada. " Before *A. B.* [*inserting the name and title of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in chief for the time being*] personally appeared

Form of affidavit to be annexed to original returns.

“ the better protection, and for promoting the natural increase and population of
 “ Slaves within the Island of Grenada, and such of the Grenadines as are annexed
 “ to the government thereof, for compelling an adequate provision for and care of
 “ them, as well in sickness and old age as in health; and for constituting and appoint-
 “ ing Guardians to effectuate and carry into execution the Regulations and purposes of
 “ this Act :” And also an account of all deductions from, or additions to the former
 stock of slaves belonging to or in the possession of such person or persons within the
 same period, by other means than deaths or births, whether the same shall have hap-
 pened by desertion, sale, or other transfer of property, or enfranchisement, or by the
 return of fugitive or absent slaves, or by any other ways or means whatsoever; which
 particular cause or mode of deduction or addition, shall in all cases be distinctly spe-
 cified in such last-mentioned returns; and in case of purchase, or other acquisition,
 or sale, or other transfer or manumission of slaves formerly registered, the registered
 name, and description of every such newly purchased or acquired, or transferred, or
 manumitted slaves, and of his or her former owner or owners, claimant or claimants,
 shall also be set forth at large in such annual returns; and every such return shall also
 contain all such further particulars in respect of every newly acquired slave named
 therein, as are hereinbefore directed to be contained in the said original returns; and
 when by the death of the owner, or any other cause, there shall have been, within
 the period to which the return relates, any change of property in and possession of
 any slave from the owner or owners under whose name or names the same were reg-
 istered, such change of property and possession shall also be mentioned in the said
 annual returns; and such returns shall also state the aggregate number of slaves
 respectively comprised in the immediately preceding returns, as well as the aggre-
 gate number of slaves belonging to or possessed by the person or persons at the
 time of making such returns respectively; but when there has been no alteration
 since the last return in the number or description of the slaves belonging to or pos-
 sessed by the person or persons by or for whom the return is made, or the property
 thereof, it shall be sufficient to state the whole number of slaves, and to add, “ No
 “ alteration required by law to be specified, has taken place since the last return :”
 and one of the said annual returns shall be kept by the registrar and deposited in his
 office, and the other shall be immediately compared therewith, and if found to corre-
 spond, shall be then certified and delivered back by the said registrar to the person
 making the same.

And be it further enacted, That every person making and subscribing any such
 annual return shall take the following oath before the registrar, such oath to be
 annexed to the said annual return. Clause 12th.
Annual returns to
be made on oath.

“ I, *A. B.* do solemnly Swear, That the contents of the annexed Schedule or
 “ Return are true, and that the same contains, to the best of my knowledge
 “ and belief, a full, fair and correct account of all the births and deaths
 “ which have happened among the slaves belonging to or possessed by
 “ the owner or owners, possessor or possessors therein named, and being
 “ within this Island or any of its dependencies, since the original registra-
 “ tion thereof, or during the preceding year, and of all other additions or
 “ deductions from the said slaves within the same period, and of the whole
 “ number of slaves now actually belonging to [*or*, in the lawful possession
 “ of] the said Form of oath.

“ So help me GOD.”

And it is hereby further enacted, That as soon as any such annual returns as
 aforesaid, shall have been duly made and received by the registrar, he shall pro-
 ceed to register and copy the same in a fair, distinct and legible manner, in a
 proper book or set of books to be kept by him for that purpose, precisely conform-
 able with such annual returns, and shall make out an index thereof in the same
 manner as is hereinbefore directed with respect to the said books of original re-
 gistration; and the said registrar shall also make out duplicates of all and every
 such books containing the annual returns, and of the indexes thereto, and shall
 subscribe both the original and duplicate thereof, with his name, and shall subjoin
 to each of the same an affidavit in the following form, to be made before the
 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in chief for the time being, who is
 hereby authorized to take the same. Clause 13th.
Annual returns to
be registered.

Indexes to be made.

Duplicates to be
made and sworn to
before governor.

“ Personally appeared *C. D.* [*meaning himself*], who being duly sworn on Form of oath.
 “ the Holy Evangelists, makes oath and says, That the preceding entries are
 “ true

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“ true copies of the Returns for the year ending one thousand eight hundred and
 “ dred and he having carefully compared the same with the
 “ said Returns remaining in his office.”

To be certified by governor and transmitted to secretary of state.

Which affidavit being subscribed by the said registrar, shall be sworn before the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in chief, who shall certify the same to have been sworn in manner hereinbefore directed, in respect of the said original books of registry, and the said last-mentioned duplicate shall be thereupon delivered to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in chief, who shall carefully transmit the same by the first safe conveyance under his official seal to His Majesty's principal secretary of state for the colonial department in England.

Clause 14th.

When original returns are entered, registrar to give notice to governor, to be by him notified to inhabitants, that registry is ready to be verified, and that same will continue open for inspection of all persons concerned, for two months, in order that any person having omitted to make his return, or having made an error therein, may apply to the governor for an order to registrar to make his return, or to rectify same;

And be it further enacted, That when and so soon as the original returns delivered to the registrar agreeably to the provisions of this Act, shall have been respectively entered and enrolled as aforesaid, the registrar shall forthwith give notice thereof to the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, who shall thereupon publicly notify to the inhabitants, in such manner as he shall deem most fit and effectual, that the registry of slaves is ready to be verified before him; and that the same is and will continue open at the proper office for the space of two months, for the inspection of all persons who may be interested therein; and if at any time within the term prescribed by the said notification any owner or possessor of slaves shall make it appear to the satisfaction of the said Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, that the non-delivery of his or her return to the registrar within the allotted period, or any error or omission therein has arisen from accident, unsurmountable impediment, or any other sufficient cause, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in chief for the time being, to make an order in writing by him subscribed and directed to the registrar, commanding him to receive and enrol any such return or rectified return, as if the same had been made and delivered to him in proper time, which order the registrar is hereby enjoined to obey.

which order registrar is bound to obey.

Clause 15th.

No erasure to be made in any of the books of registry.

And be it further enacted, That no erasure shall on any pretence, or for any cause whatsoever, be at any time permitted to be in any of the said books of registry; but if any clerical error shall occur in the insertion of any name, description, or other particular therein, so that the same shall differ from the name, description, or particulars contained in the return from which the same was made, or if any other mistake shall occur in the making and keeping the said books of registry, a line of red ink shall be drawn through any word or words improperly inserted, so as to leave the original word or words legible; and the correction thereof, by the insertion of any word or words which may have been erroneously omitted, shall be either interlined or written in the margin, and always when practicable, by the same hand as the rest of the same list or entry, and the registrar shall either under such word or words written in the margin, or under a mark of reference there made to any such interlineation, subscribe his name at length; but after the registry of original returns of slaves shall have been completed and certified upon oath as hereinbefore directed, no interlineation, insertion or other correction of the registry of any such original return, shall on any account be made or permitted, except as is hereinafter expressly provided.

After registry of original returns, no alteration or correction whatever to be made, except as after expressly provided.

Clause 16th.

Persons wilfully neglecting or omitting to return slaves in their possession, to forfeit for every slave £.200 currency; one moiety to be paid into public treasury, and the other to the informer;

And be it further enacted, That if any person shall wilfully neglect or omit to make and deliver a schedule or return of the slaves in his or her possession, pursuant to the directions and requisitions of this Act, within the period allotted for enrolment in the original, or any annual registry, every such person so offending, shall forfeit for every slave so wilfully neglected or omitted to be returned, the sum of two hundred pounds of current gold and silver money of the said Island, to be recovered as hereinafter mentioned, the one moiety of such penalty to be paid into the public treasury for the use of the Colony, and the other moiety to the person who shall sue for the same; and in case the party so offending shall have possession of any such slave or slaves so wilfully neglected or omitted to be returned for registration as aforesaid, in the capacity or character of mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator or receiver, lessee, attorney executor or guardian, or other representative of any person or persons, he or she shall not only forfeit for every slave so wilfully neglected or omitted to be returned, the said sum of two hundred pounds of money aforesaid, to be recovered and accrue in

in manner above stated; but shall moreover be liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every person or persons, who shall or may sustain any damage or injury by any such wilful neglect or omission, and who shall, besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, be entitled to recover against the party so offending in treble costs of suit: Provided always, that no person shall be liable to any penalty as aforesaid, for or in respect of any slave or slaves, who may have absconded or have been out of his or her control at the time of making such original or subsequent return as aforesaid, so that such person do and shall specify the name or names of such slave or slaves in the affidavit hereinbefore required to be annexed to the respective schedules or returns.

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and shall be liable to civil suits of persons who may sustain injury, and be liable to pay treble costs of suit.

And it is hereby further enacted, That the collectors of the customs of the ports of St. George and Grenville respectively, shall once in six months, after the passing of this Act, return to the registrar a list of all slaves who in the course of the preceding six months shall have been exported from these ports respectively, with the name or names of the person or persons licensed to export such slave or slaves; and in case, at the period of any such annual return as aforesaid, it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the registrar, that there is no person within this Colony, either by reason of chance of residence or otherwise, liable to make such annual return of the slave or slaves so exported, then and in every such case the registrar is hereby authorized and directed to enter in his registry the name or names of the last-mentioned slave or slaves, corresponding with the returns made to him by the collectors or chief officers of the respective ports aforesaid; and every such registration as last aforesaid, signed by the registrar, and certified by him to be correct to the best of his knowledge and belief, shall be deemed and taken as a sufficient registration within the intent and meaning of this Act, and be as valid as if made by the owners or possessors of such slave or slaves.

Clause 17th. Collectors of the customs of the ports of St. George and Grenville, to make, every six months, returns to the registrar of all slaves licensed to be exported.

If no person in the Island liable to returns of such exported slaves, registrar to register same from collectors' returns.

Such registration to be deemed sufficient.

And be it further enacted, That any person or persons whosoever who shall knowingly and wilfully make, or aid, abet and assist in making, any false or fraudulent entry in any of the said books of registry, or the duplicates thereof respectively, hereby directed to be made, or shall fraudulently erase, obliterate, or alter, or aid, abet and assist in fraudulently erasing, obliterating or altering any entry which shall have been duly made in any of the said books of registry, shall upon conviction of any such offence suffer death, as in cases of felony without benefit of clergy.

Clause 18th. Any person wilfully making any false or fraudulent entry, or erasing or obliterating any entry, to suffer death without benefit of clergy.

And be it further enacted, That if the registrar shall in the exercise of his said office, wilfully neglect or refuse to receive for registration any return, and to give a receipt for the same, or to make any entry which he ought to make, according to the directions hereinbefore contained, and the true intent and meaning of this Act, the registrar so offending shall, upon conviction of any such offence in the supreme court of judicature, be punished by fine not exceeding five hundred pounds, nor less than two hundred pounds current money of Grenada, to be paid into the public treasury of this Island, and for the public uses thereof; and every registrar so offending, shall be removed from his office or appointment, and shall be, and he is hereby declared to be incapable of enjoying the same office and appointment again, and shall moreover, with his securities, be liable to the civil suits or actions of all persons who shall sustain any damage or injury by any such offence, who, besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, shall recover against such offenders double costs of suit.

Clause 19th. Registrar wilfully neglecting or refusing to receive any return for registration, to be punished by fine, not exceeding £. 500, nor less than £. 200 currency; be removed from his office, and be subject to the civil suits of persons injured.

And be it further enacted, That a copy or extract, certified by the registrar, of the registered list or schedule of slaves belonging to any plantation, or to any particular owner or owners, or of any such annual return as is hereinbefore directed to be made, shall at any time after the registry thereof, at the request of any person or persons whomsoever, at the expense of the person or persons requiring the same, be made and delivered to him her or them by the registrar; and all persons shall have free liberty to inspect the said books at all times, in the presence of the registrar, or of any one or more of his clerks, from nine o'clock in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon of each day, (Sunday excepted,) paying such fee as hereinafter is mentioned.

Clause 20th. Certified copies, or extracts of registered lists, to be delivered by registrar to owners, at their request and expense; and all persons at liberty to inspect books.

And be it further enacted, That there shall be paid to the registrar, out of the public treasury of these Islands, a salary at the rate of eight hundred pounds currency, for the first year, and a salary at the rate of two hundred pounds, like currency, for each of the following years, during his residence within this government, and performing the duties of his office, such salary to be paid quarterly, the first quarterly

Clause 21st. Registrar's salary.

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quarterly payment thereof to be made at the expiration of three calendar months next after the date of his appointment, in pursuance of this Act, and so in proportion for any less time than a quarter of a year.

Clause 22d.
Registrar entitled
to specified fees.

And be it further enacted, That the said registrar shall be entitled to demand and receive the following fees of office and no more, (that is to say,) for every search into each separate return of slaves in his registry, the sum of four shillings and six-pence currency, for every copy or extract from his books of registry, not exceeding ninety-six words, the sum of two shillings and three pence currency, and for every such copy or extract exceeding ninety-six words, at the rate of two shillings and three-pence currency, for every ninety-six words therein contained, and so in proportion for any additional number of words under that amount, such fees to be paid by the persons respectively requiring such extracts, copies, or certificates as aforesaid.

Clause 23d.
Persons swearing
falsely to be guilty
of perjury.

And be it further enacted, That in case any person or persons whatsoever, shall be guilty of any false and wilful forswearing, in taking any oath under the proceedings of this Act, or shall unlawfully and corruptly procure or suborn any person to take any such oath falsely, he she or they being thereof duly convicted, shall for every such offence, incur the pains and penalties inflicted by law on all such persons as shall commit wilful and corrupt perjury, or shall procure or suborn any person to commit any wilful and corrupt perjury.

Clause 24th.
General issue may
be pleaded.

And be it further enacted, That if any action, bill, plaint, suit, or prosecution shall be brought against any person or persons for any act, matter or thing to be done, or for any default in omitting any act, matter or thing directed to be done by virtue of this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for all and every persons and person sued or prosecuted as aforesaid, to plead thereto the general issue, that he she or they is not or are not guilty, and to give such special matter in evidence to the jury which shall try the issue; which special matter being pleaded, had been good and sufficient matter in law to have discharged the said defendant or defendants of the matter or thing, or default, laid to his her or their charge.

Clause 25th.
Registrar to swear
to his return before
governor or com-
mander in chief.

And be it further enacted, That the person so to be appointed registrar, if in possession of any slave or slaves, shall and he is hereby required to take such oath before the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, as he is required to administer to persons giving in returns of slaves aforesaid, for the purpose of being registered under this Act.

Clause 26th.
Office to be in town
of St. George, and
open from nine to
three o'clock.

And be it further enacted, That the registrar's office shall at all times be in the Town of St. George, and the hours of attendance shall be from the hour of nine o'clock in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon.

Preamble.

Whereas the present Act being of great importance, and may not, in its present enactments, be calculated to answer all the purposes intended thereby, but may by experience be found defective, and require alteration; in order, therefore, to afford the legislature an opportunity to give the measure a fair trial, and to remedy any defects or imperfections that may be found therein,—

Clause 27th.
Act to be in force
four years only.

Be it further enacted, That this Bill shall continue and be in force from the day of the publication thereof, for and during the period of four years and no longer.

Passed the Assembly this fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

(Signed)

Geo. Hyde, Acting Clerk of Assembly.

Passed the Council this twenty-eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

(Signed)

Owsley Rowley, Deputy Clerk of the Council.

Dated at the town of St. George and Island of Grenada, this thirty-first day of March, in the fifty-seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth; and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

(Signed)

Geo. Gun Munro, Speaker.

Assemblies.] TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES. 47

Assented to by his Excellency the Governor and Commander in chief in and over the Island of Grenada and its dependencies, Chancellor, Ordinary and Vice-admiral of the same, this thirty-first day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

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(Signed) *Owsley Rowley*, Deputy Clerk of the Council.

SCHEDULE (A.)

A LIST of SLAVES belonging to [or, in the lawful possession of
and worked upon Estate.

LIST of Male SLAVES belonging to [or, in the lawful possession of
upon Estate.] and worked

NAME.	Colour.	Country.	Supposed Age.	Marks.

A LIST of Female SLAVES belonging to [or, in the lawful possession of
upon Estate.] and worked

NAME.	Colour.	Country.	Supposed Age.	Marks.

The whole Number of Slaves belonging to [or, in the lawful possession of
upon Estate.] and worked

A true Return,

A. B.

day of

18

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SCHEDULE (B.)

Annual RETURN of the Increase and Decrease of the Slaves belonging to or in the lawful possession of *A. B.* and attached to Estate, in the parish of _____ [or, unattached, or personal, as the case may be.]

INCREASE.

	INCREASE.						Male.	Female.
	Names.	Age.	Mother's Name.	Colour.				
By Births.	James	-	Mary Ann	Black	-	-	1	-
	Maudlains	-	Juliet	Black	-	-	-	1
	George	-	Elizabeth	Mulatto	-	-	1	-
	Jane	-	Harriet	Black	-	-	-	1
	Total						-	2
	Names.	Age.	Colour.	Country.	Conspicuous Marks.	How acquired.	Male.	Female.
By Purchase, or how otherwise.	Tom	26	Black	African	Has a scar on right cheek	Purchased of T. Jones	1	-
	Hamlet	30	Black	Creole	None	The gift of D. Clunie	1	-
	Total Increase						-	4

DECREASE.

	DECREASE.						Male.	Fem.
	Names.	Age.	Colour.	Country.	Conspicuous Marks.	Manner of Death.		
By Death.	James	25	Black	African	Was blind of an eye	Of dysentery	1	-
	Hector	55	Ditto	Ditto	None	Of dropsy	1	-
	Jane	42	Yellow skin	Creole	-	Consumption	-	1
	Total						-	2
	How disposed of						Male.	Female.
By Sale, or how otherwise.	Mary	23	Mulattress	Creole	Fine tall figure	Manumitted	-	1
	Ned	35	Negro	African	Squints	Transported to Trinidad	1	-
	Total Decrease						-	3
December 31, 1817, RECAPITULATION.	Number of Slaves per Return up to the 30th April 1817, two hundred and twenty-seven						112	115
	Increase during the year 1817, as above						4	2
							116	117
	Deduct Decrease during the year 1817, as above						3	2
	Total Number of Slaves this day, two hundred and twenty-eight						113	115

Duly published at the town of St. George, in the Island of Grenada, the 31st day of March 1817.

(Signed) *Tho. White, D. P. M.*
Phineas (L. M. S.) Riell.

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) *Owsley Rowley, D. Secretary.*

An ACT to amend an Act, intituled, "An Act for establishing a Registry of Negro and other Slaves in the Island of Granada and its Dependencies."

WHEREAS by an Act of these Islands, intituled, "An Act for establishing a Registry of Negro and other Slaves in the Island of Grenada and its Dependencies," it is among other things enacted, that previously to the receipt by the registrar of any return or returns tendered to him by any person or persons making the same, such person or persons shall make and subscribe a certain form of oath, which oath shall be annexed to each return: And whereas the registrar appointed in pursuance of the said Act, under a misconception of the said Act, did not require the form of oath to be subscribed and annexed to the returns for the town and parish of Saint George, having only administered the oath required to be taken, verbally, to the respective parties, whereby the provisions of the said Act have in some measure been contravened, and doubts are entertained as to the mode and manner in which such returns, and the returns generally, are to be transcribed into the book of record required to be kept by the said Act; for remedy whereof, we, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Governor, Council, and Assembly of these Islands, pray Your Majesty that it may be enacted and ordained; and be it and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, That the registrar of slaves within this government shall and he is hereby required to insert all returns which have been actually sworn to in his book of record, although the form of oath may not have been annexed thereto and subscribed by the party making the same; and that the said registrar shall not insert in the said record the oath attached to, or required to be attached to each return, excepting in the case of the first return for the town of St. George, and the first return of the parish of St. George, and the first return of each and every other parish and district, including the Island of Carriacou and the Grenadines, as a separate and distinct district, as hereinafter directed; and the said registrar shall and he is hereby required and directed to enter all the said returns in classes and districts as aforesaid, as near as may be alphabetically, in the said book of record, in order to exhibit the same as clearly and distinctly as possible.

Clause 1st.
Registrar required to insert all returns in his record, taken by him on oath, although oath not attached.

And whereas by the said Act it is among other things enacted, that the returns for the Island of Carriacou and the Grenadines should be given in at any time between the first day of May and the thirty-first day of July; and doubts are entertained whether such returns should be recorded in the rotation in which they have been received or otherwise; Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in transcribing the said returns from the Island of Carriacou and the other Grenadines, the registrar shall and he is hereby required to select the same, and insert them in the book of record, after the parish of St. David, and in a distinct and separate department, in the same manner as the other parishes are, any thing thereinbefore contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Clause 2d.
Return for Carriacou, to be selected and entered in book of record, next after returns for parish of St. David.

And whereas the affidavit directed to be attached to the annual return of slaves does not appear to be sufficiently perspicuous; and doubts may arise whether the return or absence of runaway slaves should be inserted in such annual return; Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the twelfth clause of the said recited Act be and is hereby repealed; and that in the place of the oath therein prescribed to be taken and annexed to every such annual return, the following oath shall be substituted and taken before the registrar by every person making and subscribing such return.

Clause 3d.
Twelfth Clause of original bill repealed, and following oath substituted therefor.

" I, *A. B.* do solemnly Swear, That the contents of the annexed Schedule or
 " Return are true, and that the same contains, to the best of my knowledge
 " and belief, a full, fair and correct account of all the births and deaths, and
 " of the increase and decrease, whether occasioned by purchase, sale, or by
 " the return or absence of any runaway slaves, or in any other manner what-
 " soever, which have happened or taken place among the slaves belonging
 " to or attached, and usually worked upon the Plantation therein named, or
 " the property of, or in the lawful possession of (if unattached,
 " or personal slaves) since the original registration thereof, or during
 " the preceding year, and of the whole number of slaves now actually
 " belonging to, or attached to, and usually worked upon the said Plantation,
 " and in the possession of the said *A. B.*"

Oath:

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Clause 4th.
Returns for Carriacou to be made at Carriacou.

And whereas the compelling the inhabitants of the Island of Carriacou and the Grenadines to attend the registrar at his office, in the town of Saint George, has been found to be productive of serious inconveniences; Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in respect to all future returns to be delivered to the registrar as to the increase and decrease of the slave population, it shall not be necessary for the inhabitants of Carriacou, to repair to Saint George for such purpose as aforesaid; but the registrar shall and he is hereby authorized, required, and directed to receive the returns of the inhabitants of Carriacou, and the other Grenadines, at some convenient time and place, to be fixed by himself, and publicly notified by him in the Island of Carriacou, to which Island he shall repair in person, in due time to discharge his duty, as required by this Act.

Clause 5th.
Time for taking returns for Carriacou, extended from 31st January to 28th Feb. in every year.

And whereas the time limited for taking the annual returns required by the said Act, to the thirty-first day of December next, and each and every succeeding year, does not extend beyond the thirty-first day of January in each and every succeeding year; and the personal discharge of the duty of the registrar in the Island of Carriacou, will require that the same should be enlarged; Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the time for taking the return for the Island of Carriacou, be extended from the thirty-first day of January to the twenty-eighth day of February in each and every year, and that due notice of this extension be given by the said registrar in the Saint George's gazette.

Clause 6th.
Abstracts of returns to be made out by registrar.

And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That on the completion and closing of the said record, and of each and every annual record of the increase and decrease, and previously to making the affidavit directed to be by him taken before the Governor and Commander in chief, in respect to the accuracy of the said record, the registrar shall and he is hereby required to make out and insert in the said record, a numerical abstract of the returns of each district, and shall from such separate abstracts make out one general abstract or addition of the separate abstracts, exhibiting in one line and at one view, the entire state of the slave population, and of the increase and decrease in the same during the preceding year, and shall insert such general abstract and separate abstracts in the said book of record.

Clause 7th.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a Public Act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such, by all judges and other persons, without specially pleading the same.

Passed the Council, this third day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

(Signed) *Owsley Rowley*, Deputy Clerk of the Council.

Passed the Assembly, this ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

(Signed) *John Charles Ker*, Clerk of Assembly.

Dated at the town of Saint George and Island of Grenada, this thirtieth day of September in the fifty-seventh year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith and so forth, and the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

(Signed) *John Heyes*, Speaker.

Assented to by his Excellency the Governor and Commander in chief, this thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

(Signed) *Owsley Rowley*, Deputy Clerk of the Council.

Duly published in the town of Saint George, this eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

(Signed) *Geo. Hyde*, Deputy Provost Marshal.

Phineas (L. M. S.) Riall.

A true Copy,

(Signed) *Owsley Rowley*, Deputy Secretary.

J A M A I C A.

An ACT for manumising a Slave named Prince William, belonging to the Public.

WHEREAS a negro man, named Prince William, one of the slaves belonging to the public, and attached to the use of the King's House, has manifested the most exemplary conduct as a servant to his grace the Governor, and it is expedient and proper that such meritorious conduct should be suitably rewarded, may it please Your Most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted; Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, That from and immediately after the passing of this Act, the said slave, named Prince William, shall be deemed and taken to be manumized, and he is hereby for ever afterwards manumized and set free from all manner of slavery and servitude whatsoever; and the receiver general for the time being, is hereby directed to pay annually to the said negro man, named Prince William, during his life, the sum of twenty pounds for his support and maintenance, the first payment to be made on that day twelve months after the passing of this Act. Preamble.

Passed the Council, this ninth day of December one thousand eight hundred and sixteen. *W. Bullock, Cl. Coun.*

I Consent, this eleventh December one thousand eight hundred and sixteen. *Manchester.*

Passed the Assembly, this ninth day of December one thousand eight hundred and sixteen. *James Lewis, Speaker.*

Vera Copia ext',
W. Bullock, Cl. Coun.

An ACT for providing Curates for the several Parishes of this Island, and for promoting Religious Instruction amongst the Slaves.—December nineteenth, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.

WHEREAS from the extent of many of the parishes of this Island, and the number of the inhabitants resident therein, religious instruction cannot be extended to all, under the present ecclesiastical establishment of this Island: And whereas it is right and proper that religious instruction should be given to the slaves in this Island, and for that purpose it is necessary to increase the number of officiating clergymen; May it therefore please Your Majesty, that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly of this Island, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, and as soon as conveniently may be, the rectors of the several parishes in this Island shall be assisted in propagating the Gospel amongst the slaves of this Island, and in educating them in the Christian religion, by curates to be appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person executing for the time being the functions of Governor, and to be distributed in such manner, and assigned to such parts of this Island, as to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or the person executing for the time being the functions of Governor, may seem best calculated to promote the purposes of this Act: Provided always, that the persons so to be appointed, shall at the time of their respective appointments, be possessed of due testimonials that they are qualified according to the canons of the Church of England, by having taken deacon or priest's orders; and which testimonials shall be recorded in the office of the secretary of this Island: And provided always, that the number of curates so to be appointed, shall not exceed the number of beneficed ministers established in this Island. Preamble.

The rector of the parishes in this Island, to be assisted in propagating the Gospel amongst the slaves, by curates to be appointed by the governor.

Proviso.

Proviso.

2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That each and every curate so to be appointed, shall be allowed a reasonable sum, not exceeding three hundred pounds, current money of this Island, by the year, to be paid and payable quarterly by the receiver general, on the certificate hereinafter mentioned being produced to him. Salary to be allowed the curates,

JAMAICA.

and the duty which they and the rectors are to perform.

3. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, the rectors and curates of the several parishes of this Island shall, in the afternoon of every Lord's Day, at an hour to be by them for that purpose appointed, attend at the parish church, and at such other place as shall be provided for Divine worship as hereinafter mentioned, in order to perform the duties of their function relative to the catechising and the instruction of all such persons, free or slaves, in the Christian religion, who shall attend for the purpose, and shall accordingly perform such duties (accidental or temporary cases of sickness, and other inevitable prevention excepted,) and that without fee or reward.

The rectors or curates to appoint two days, exclusive of Sundays and holidays, for the religious instruction of the negroes on estates.

Proviso.

4. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, the rectors or curates of the several parishes of this Island shall, besides the usual duty of Divine service on Sundays and holidays, and the duty hereinbefore required, appropriate at the least two days in each week to go to some one or other of the estates or plantations in the said parish in rotation, and then and there perform the duties of his function, in the instruction of all such of the slaves of the said plantation, who may be willing and desirous to be instructed in the doctrines of the Christian religion: Provided always, that the consent and approbation of the person in possession of the estate or plantation so intended to be visited, shall be first had and obtained for that purpose.

Vestries to appoint proper places for the performance of divine service by the curates.

5. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the justices and vestry of the several parishes of this Island shall and they are hereby required, when and as soon as they shall receive notice from the secretary of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person executing for the time being the functions of Governor, that a curate has been provided, to appoint some proper place or places besides the church, wherein Divine service may be performed on Sundays and holidays by the rector or curate.

Receiver general not to pay the sums allowed the rectors and curates without a certificate of the duties required by this Act, being performed by them.

6. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall not be lawful for the receiver general of this Island to pay the sums allowed by law to the rectors and curates of this Island without a certificate from the justices and vestry, in vestry assembled, of the parish of such rector or curate, stating that such rector or curate has performed the duties required by this Act, (accidental cases of sickness or other inevitable prevention excepted.)

Fee of 2s. 6d. for the baptism, &c. of slaves.

7. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That for baptising slaves, registering the same, and granting a certificate thereof, the rector shall be entitled to a fee of two shillings and sixpence for each slave.

An ACT for the Subsistence, Clothing, and the better Regulation and Government of Slaves; for enlarging the powers of the Council of Protection; for preventing the improper transfer of Slaves, and for other purposes.—December nineteenth, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient that the laws now in force relating to slaves should be revised, and other provisions enacted, to promote their moral and religious instruction, and by means whereof their general comfort and happiness may be increased, as far as is consistent with due order and subordination and the well-being of this Colony: May it therefore please Your Majesty, that it may be enacted; Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly of this Your Majesty's Island of Jamaica, That from and after the commencement of this Act, the Act intituled, "An Act for the protection, subsisting, clothing, and for the better order, regulation and government of Slaves, and for other purposes," passed the fourteenth day of December, in the fiftieth year of Your Majesty's reign, may be and stand repealed, and the same is hereby repealed accordingly.

50 Geo. III. cap. 16, repealed.

Slaves to be religiously instructed, and such baptised as can be made sensible of a duty to God, and of the Christian faith.

2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all owners, proprietors and possessors, or in their absence, the managers or overseers of slaves, shall, as much as in them lies, endeavour the instruction of their slaves in the principles of the Christian religion, whereby to facilitate their conversion, and shall do their utmost endeavours to fit them for baptism, and as soon as conveniently can be, cause to be baptised all such as they can make sensible of a duty to God and the Christian

Christian faith; which ceremony the clergymen of the respective parishes are to perform when required.

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3. And be it enacted, That from and after the passing this Act, no shop shall be kept open during the time of Divine service.

No shop to be kept open during divine service.

4. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the commencement of this Act, the slaves belonging or employed on every plantation or settlement, shall, over and above the holidays hereinafter to be mentioned, be allowed one day in every fortnight to cultivate their own provision grounds, exclusive of Sundays, except during the time of crop, under the penalty of twenty pounds, to be recovered against the overseer or person having the care of such slaves: Provided always, that the number of days so allowed to the slaves for the cultivation of their grounds shall be at least twenty-six in the year.

Slaves to be allowed one day in every fortnight, besides Sundays, except during crop, under penalty of £. 20.

Proviso.

5. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That during the crop, not only shall the slaves as heretofore be exempted from the labour of the estate or plantation on Sundays, but that no mills shall be put about or worked between the hours of seven o'clock on Saturday night and five o'clock on Monday morning, under the penalty of twenty pounds, to be recovered against the overseer or other person having the charge of such slaves.

Slaves exempted from labour on Sundays during crop, and no mills to be worked between seven o'clock on Saturday night, and five penalty of £. 20.

o'clock on Monday morning, under a

6. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every master, owner or possessor of any slave or slaves, or his or her overseer or chief manager, shall, under the penalty of ten pounds for each neglect, personally inspect into the condition of the negro grounds once in every month at least, in order to see that the same are cultivated and kept up in a proper manner, of which oath shall be made as in this Act is hereafter directed: And whereas it may happen that on some plantations, pens, settlements and towns in this Island, there may not be lands proper for the cultivation of provisions, or where by reason of long continuance of dry weather, the negro grounds may be rendered unproductive; then and in that case the masters, owners or possessors do, by some other ways and means make good and ample provision for all such slaves as they shall be possessed of, equal to the value of three shillings and four-pence currency per week for each slave, in order that they may be properly supported and maintained, under the penalty of fifty pounds.

Negro grounds to be inspected every month.

Where there are not proper lands, each slave is to have provision equal to 3s. 4d. per week.

7. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every master, owner or possessor of slaves shall once in every year provide and give to each slave they shall be possessed of, proper and sufficient clothing, to be approved of by the justices and vestry of the parish where such master, owner or possessor of such slaves shall reside, under the penalty of one hundred pounds.

Proper clothing to be given to slaves annually, under penalty of £. 100.

8. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every master, owner, proprietor or possessor of slaves, his or her overseer or chief manager, at their giving in an account of their slaves and stock to the justices and vestry on the twenty-eighth day of December in every year, or at the vestry which shall be held next after that day, shall under the penalty of one hundred pounds for every neglect give in an account on oath of the nature and quantity of the clothing actually served to each slave on such plantation, pen, or other settlement, for the approbation of the justices and vestry as aforesaid; and shall likewise at the same time declare on oath, that he has inspected the negro grounds (where such negro grounds are allotted) of such plantation, pen or settlement, according to the directions of this Act, and that every negro on the property is sufficiently provided with grounds.

Yearly accounts to be given in of the provision made for, and clothing delivered to, slaves, under penalty of £. 100.

9. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That on the twenty-eighth day of December in every year (the time of giving in as aforesaid,) or within thirty days after, the owner, overseer or manager of every plantation, pen or settlement, shall give in to the justices and vestry of their respective parishes, on oath, an account of all the births and deaths of the slaves of such plantation, pen or settlement for the preceding year, under the penalty of fifty pounds, to be recovered from the owner of such plantation, pen or other settlement.

Account of births and deaths of slaves to be given in yearly, under penalty of £. 50.

10. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if the not giving in upon oath such several accounts shall be owing to the neglect of the overseer or manager of such plantation, pen or other settlement, it shall and may be lawful for

If neglect in giving in accounts proceed from overseers or managers, owners

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to deduct the penalty from their wages.

Overseers to be paid £. 3 for every slave born on plantations, to be divided between the mothers, midwives, and nurses; and which is to be deducted from the taxes of the proprietors.

Females who have six children living, whether their own or adopted, are to be exempted from hard labour, and their owners from taxes for them;

proof being given that the mother, or adoptive mother, and children, are living.

Possessors of slaves not to turn them away on account of infirmity,

but keep them on their properties, and provide for them, under penalty of £. 20.

Wandering slaves may be taken up and sent to the workhouse, to be supported till possessor summoned and matter enquired into.

If possessor found guilty, and refuse to pay penalty, workhouse fees, &c. he is to be sent to gaol till he pay.

the owner, proprietor or possessor of such plantation, pen or other settlement, to stop and detain the penalty he or she shall suffer by this law, out of the wages of such overseer or manager.

11. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case it shall appear, to the satisfaction of the justices and vestry, from the return of the owner, overseer or manager aforesaid, that there has been a natural increase of the number of slaves on any such plantation, pen or other settlement, the owner or proprietor of such plantation, pen or other settlement, shall pay to the overseer the sum of three pounds for every slave born on such plantation, pen or other settlement, in the time aforesaid, and which shall be then living, such sum to be by the said overseer divided in equal proportions among the mothers of the surviving children, the midwife, and the nurse or nurses attending such children; and the owner or proprietor of such plantation, pen or other settlement, shall have a deduction from the first of his or her public taxes that shall become due, of the sum so paid, on producing a certificate from the justices and vestry of such increase, and a receipt of the overseer of the sum so paid.

12. And, in order that further encouragement may be given to the increase and protection of negro infants, be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every female slave who shall have six children living, or who having raised from infancy and during the period of nurture, a child or children of deceased mothers, and which shall continue to live with her as her adopted child or children, shall have of her own and of such so raised and adopted child or children six children living, shall be exempted from all hard labour in the field or otherwise; and the owner or possessor of every such female slave shall be exempted from all manner of taxes for such female slave, any thing in the Act commonly called the Poll-tax Law, or any other of the tax laws of this Island, passed or annually to be passed, to the contrary notwithstanding; and a deduction shall be made for all such female slaves from the taxes of such owner or possessor, by certificate of the justices and vestry: Provided nevertheless, that proof be given on oath, to the satisfaction of the said justices and vestry, not only that the requisite number of children, together with the mother or adoptive mother, are living, but also that the mother is exempted from all manner of field or other labour, and is provided with the means of an easy and comfortable maintenance.

13. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no master, possessor or owner of any slave or slaves, whether in his or her own right, or as attorney, guardian, trustee, executor or otherwise, shall discard or turn away any such slave or slaves on account or by reason of such slave or slaves being rendered incapable of labour or service to such master, owner or possessor, by means of sickness, age or infirmity; but every such master, owner or possessor as aforesaid, shall be and he is hereby obliged to keep all such slave or slaves upon his her or their properties, and to find and provide them with sufficient clothing, wholesome necessaries of life, and not suffer such slave or slaves as aforesaid to be in want thereof, or to wander about or become burthensome to others for sustenance, under the penalty of twenty pounds for every such offence, to be recovered in a summary manner before any two justices of the peace in this Island, who are hereby authorized, empowered and required to cause such master, owner or possessor, his her or their attorney or agent, and such other persons as they shall judge necessary, to be summoned before them, to enable them to judge and determine of the propriety of such information, and whether such master, owner or possessor ought to incur the said penalty; and in the mean time and until such trial can be had, the said justices of the peace, upon their own view, or upon the information of any free person on oath, are hereby empowered and required to take up such wandering, sick, aged or infirm slave or slaves, and to lodge him her or them in the nearest workhouse, there to be clothed and fed, but not worked, at the expense of the master, owner or possessor, until such trial as aforesaid can be had; and if it shall appear to the said justices on such trial, that the party or parties so complained of, is or are guilty of the said offence, and shall refuse to pay the said sum of twenty pounds and the fees of such workhouse, for the maintenance of such slave or slaves, together with the charges of clothing and of the conviction, the said justices are hereby required and empowered, under the penalty of twenty pounds, forthwith by warrant under their hands and seals directed to the constable, to commit such offender or offenders to the common gaol of the county or parish where the offence shall be committed, there to remain until he or she shall pay

pay the said sum of twenty pounds and charges as aforesaid, one moiety of which said fine shall be paid to the informer, who is hereby declared to be a good witness, and the other moiety shall be paid into the hands of the churchwardens of such parish, for the poor of the said parish, any law, custom or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

And whereas from the decease and change of residence of many proprietors of slaves, and other circumstances, and from the manumission of negro, mulatto, and other slaves, without any suitable provision being made for their future maintenance, many unhappy objects afflicted with contagious distempers, or disabled from labour by sickness, age, and otherwise, and having no owners, prove dangerous, or become a burthen and nuisance to the several towns and parishes of this Island: For remedy whereof, Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the justices and vestrymen of the several towns and parishes in this Island, be empowered to lay a tax upon the several towns and parishes, in the same manner as the parochial taxes are usually laid, for the purpose of raising such a sum as they shall judge sufficient to provide for the maintenance, clothing, medical care and attendance in the workhouses, or other convenient places of the said several towns and parishes of this Island, of such negro, mulatto, or other slaves, or other unhappy objects as aforesaid: And the magistrates respectively of such town and parish, are hereby empowered and required, upon application being made to them, or either of them, or upon view, to order all such objects as aforesaid to be removed and conveyed to the respective workhouses of each parish, where (if a slave) the former proprietor or proprietors, owner or owners of such slave lived or resided; or if a person manumised or made free of the parish wherein the owner or owners commonly resided, or the property was situated, to whom or to which such manumised person belonged, immediately previous to the execution of such manumission, or if such manumission be by will, immediately previous to the decease of the testator or testatrix, there to be lodged and taken care of as aforesaid; and the magistrates and vestries of the several towns and parishes as aforesaid, are hereby empowered and required to make, from time to time, all such humane and salutary regulations, for the purposes aforesaid, as to them shall seem necessary and expedient; and the supervisor or keeper of the workhouse in such parish, to which such slave or free persons shall be sent by warrant from any other parish, shall be obliged to receive the same, under the penalty of twenty pounds.

15. And it is hereby enacted and declared, That every parish in this Island, to which any manumised person shall be removed in pursuance of this Act, or any clause of any former Act, for this purpose, as to the place of the legal settlement of such person, shall be entitled to claim all the advantages to be derived by law from the security bond directed to be entered into and given, in and by an Act passed in the fifteenth year of His present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for regulating the manumission of Negro, Mulatto, and other Slaves, and to oblige the Owners to make a Provision for them during their lives," by any person or persons manumising any slave or slaves, to the churchwardens of whatsoever parish such bond may have been given, as fully as if the same had been entered into with the churchwardens of the parish to which such manumised person shall become burthensome.

16. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case any goods, chattels, or slaves belonging to the owners of such old, infirm, and deserted slaves as aforesaid, who shall have become burthensome to any parish for support, shall thereafter be found in any part of this Island, it may and shall be lawful for the churchwardens of every such parish to recover the full amount of all expenses to which such parish shall at any time have been put on account of such deserted slaves, before any two justices of the peace of the parish or precinct wherein such goods, chattels, or slaves shall be found, by distress and sale of the same.

17. And whereas it sometimes happens that aged, infirm, or disabled slaves, belonging to the estates of insolvent debtors remain in the custody of the provost marshal of this Island, or his deputies, without a possibility of the same being sold for the benefit of the creditors of such estates; Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That upon proof being made on oath, by any deputy marshal, before any two magistrates of the district wherein he shall hold his appointment, that any slave or slaves of the above description, has or have been in his custody for more than six months thereto preceding, that such slave or slaves have been repeatedly put up to sale by public outcry, that no bidder has offered to purchase the same,

Justices and vestries to lay taxes for support of disabled negroes,

who are to be passed to the parishes where their former owners resided; as are those free poor who have been manumised.

Vestries to make regulations for their accommodation.

In the case of manumised persons becoming burthensome to any parish, such parish may have recourse to the security-bond, entered into under 15 Geo. III. cap. 18.

Property of owners liable for support of deserted slaves, though not in the parish they become burthensome to.

Disabled slaves, the property of insolvent debtors in custody of provost marshal, may be removed, by order

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of two magistrates, to the parish where their owner resided;

and there is no probability of his or her being sold, it may and shall be lawful for the said two magistrates to make an order under their hands and seals, for the removal of such slave or slaves to the parish wherein the owner of such slave or slaves resided, at or immediately before the time when he or she took the benefit of the Act for the relief of insolvent debtors, now in force or hereafter to be in force, there to be maintained and provided for, according to the directions of this Act hereinbefore declared.

such order being recorded in clerk of peace's office; provost marshal and his deputies indemnified in acting under it.

18. And it is hereby enacted, That such order being recorded in the office of the clerk of the peace of the precinct wherein the gaol of such deputy marshal as aforesaid shall be situated, shall be deemed and taken, in all the courts of this Island, as a complete and perfect acquittal of all demands, claims, suits, and actions of every kind, on or against such provost marshal, or any of his deputies, as may or shall be made, instituted or preferred by any person or persons whatsoever, on account or by reason of the removal of any such slave or slaves as aforesaid, out of his or their custody.

If negroes afflicted with contagious diseases are allowed to leave the property, and travel about the country, the owner, &c. permitting the same, to forfeit £. 20 for each.

19. And whereas negroes afflicted with the yaws, coco-bay, or other contagious disease, are sometimes permitted to leave their masters' property, and travel about the country, to the great annoyance of the public, and of those in the neighbourhood; Be it enacted, That every owner or proprietor of slaves, or his her or their overseer, (as the case may be,) permitting the same, shall forfeit the sum of twenty pounds for every such offence; one moiety of which to be paid to the informer, and the other moiety to the churchwardens, for the poor of the parish in which the offence shall be committed, and which forfeiture shall be recovered in a summary manner on oath of the informer, or other person complaining, to be levied by warrant of the said magistrates, who, on refusal or failure of payment, are hereby authorized to commit the delinquent to the county or nearest gaol until paid.

Field slaves are to have half an hour for breakfast, and two hours for dinner; and not to work before five, nor after seven, except during crop, under penalty of £. 50.

20. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every field slave on any plantation or settlement shall on work days be allowed half an hour for breakfast, and two hours for dinner; and that no slaves shall be compelled to any manner of field-work upon the plantation, before the hour of five in the morning, or after the hour of seven at night, except during the time of crop, under the penalty of fifty pounds, to be recovered against the overseer or other person having the charge of such slaves.

Slaves to be allowed the usual holidays; but they are not to have two successive days.

If any persons allow them more holidays at those seasons, they forfeit £. 5.

21. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That for the future, all slaves in this Island shall be allowed the usual number of holidays that were allowed at the usual seasons of Christmas, Easter and Whitsunday; provided that at every such respective season, no two holidays shall be allowed to follow or succeed immediately one after the other, any law, custom, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding: and if any master, owner, guardian or attorney of any plantation or settlement, or the overseer of such plantation or settlement, shall presume, at the seasons aforesaid, to allow any holidays to any slave, on any such plantation or settlement, other than is directed by this Act to be given, every person so offending shall forfeit the sum of five pounds.

Slaves taking up runaways, or discovering their being harboured, are to be rewarded at discretion of a magistrate.

22. And, in order to encourage slaves for every good and worthy act that they shall do, be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every slave or slaves that shall inform against any person who shall have, or conceal any runaway slave or slaves, so that such runaway slave or slaves may be taken and restored to his or their owner or owners, or be committed to any workhouse, every such slave or slaves so informing, shall be entitled to such reward as any justice shall think just and reasonable, and be paid by such person or persons as such justice shall determine ought to pay the same, not less than ten shillings, nor exceeding twenty shillings, to be enforced by a warrant under the hand and seal of such justice.

If they kill or take rebels, they are also to be rewarded.

23. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any slave or slaves shall kill or take any slave or slave in actual rebellion, he or she shall receive from the churchwardens of the respective parishes where such slave or slaves shall have been killed, the sum of three pounds; and the sum of five pounds if taken alive, and a blue cloth coat; to be paid and furnished by the churchwardens of the respective parishes where such slave or slaves shall have been killed or taken; the whole expense whereof shall be reimbursed by the receiver general for the time being, out of any monies in his hands unappropriated.

24. And

24. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person hereafter shall wantonly, willingly or blood-mindedly, kill, or cause to be killed, any negro or other slave, such person so offending, shall, on conviction, be adjudged guilty of felony without benefit of clergy, and shall suffer death accordingly for the said offence: Provided always, That such conviction shall not extend to the corrupting the blood, or the forfeiture of lands or tenements, goods or chattels, any law, custom, or usage to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

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Persons wilfully killing slaves to suffer death.
Blood not corrupted thereby.

25. And in order to prevent any person from mutilating, dismembering, or cruelly beating or confining any slave or slaves, Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any master, mistress, owner, possessor, or other person whatsoever, shall at his her or their own will and pleasure, or by his her or their direction, or with his her or their knowledge, sufferance, privity or consent, mutilate or dismember any slave or slaves, or wantonly or cruelly whip, maltreat, beat, bruise, wound or imprison, or keep in confinement, without sufficient support, any slave or slaves, he she or they shall be liable to be indicted for such offence in the supreme court of judicature, or in any of the assize courts of this Island; and, upon conviction, shall be punished by fine not exceeding one hundred pounds, or imprisonment not exceeding twelve months, or both, for each and every slave so mutilated or dismembered, punished or confined; and such punishment is declared to be without prejudice to any action that could or might be brought at common law for recovery of damages, for or on account of the same, in case such slave or slaves shall not be the property of the offender: and in atrocious cases, where the owner of such slave or slaves shall be convicted of such offence, the court before whom such offender shall have been tried and convicted, are hereby empowered, in case they shall think it necessary for the future protection of such slave or slaves, to declare him her or them free and discharged from all manner of servitude, to all intents and purposes whatsoever; and in all such cases, the court are hereby empowered and authorized, if to them it shall appear necessary, to order and direct the said fine of one hundred pounds to be paid to the justices and vestry of the parish to which the said slave or slaves belonged, to the use of the said parish; the said justices and vestry, in consideration thereof, paying to each of the said slave or slaves so made free, the sum of ten pounds per annum for his or her maintenance and support during life: and in case any slave or slaves shall suffer any before-mentioned mutilations, or wanton punishment or confinement, such slave or slaves, on his her or their application to any justice of the peace, the said justice of the peace shall be and is hereby directed, required and empowered, on view, and its appearing to his satisfaction, that such mutilation or wanton punishment have been really suffered, to send such slave or slaves to the nearest workhouse where such offence shall be committed, and such slave or slaves shall be there safely kept and carefully attended, but not worked, at the expense of such parish, until such time as there shall be a legal meeting of the justices and vestry of such parish; which meeting the said justice shall call as soon as conveniently may be: which justices and vestry so met, are hereby created and appointed a council of protection of such slave or slaves; and the said justices and vestry so met, are hereby directed and empowered to make further and full inquiry, upon view, and by the examination of witnesses, into the commitment of the mutilation or punishment of such slave or slaves; and if to them it shall appear proper, the said justices and vestry are hereby empowered and required to prosecute to effect such owner or owners, the expense of which prosecution shall be paid by the parish where such offence shall be committed; and in case the owner or owners of such slave or slaves, shall appear capable of paying the costs and charges of such before-mentioned prosecution, the said justices and vestry are hereby empowered to commence a suit or suits against such owner or owners of such slave or slaves, and recover all costs and charges out of purse by them laid out and expended in such suit or suits; and the keeper or supervisor of the workhouse where such slave or slaves shall have been first committed, is hereby directed and required, upon due notice of the first meeting of the justices and vestry of the parish where the offence was committed, to produce such slave or slaves, for the inspection and direction of such justices and vestry, under the penalty of one hundred pounds for every neglect in not producing before such justices and vestry such slave or slaves.

Persons mutilating slaves, or consenting thereto, may be fined £. 100, and imprisoned twelve months,

besides being liable to an action of damages.

Court may, in atrocious cases, manumit mutilated slaves,

and order the penalty to be paid to vestry,

who are to allow each slave £. 10 per annum.

Slaves complaining to a magistrate may be sent to the workhouse, to be supported and attended till meeting of vestry,

who are hereby created a council of protection, and are to inquire into such mutilations, and prosecute the offenders.

Owners may be sued for costs.

Workhouse-keeper to produce mutilated slaves at first vestry, under penalty of £. 20.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case any justice of the peace shall receive any complaint or probable intelligence from any slave or otherwise,

Justices being informed that slaves are mutilated, or

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confined without support, are to issue their warrants in order that they may be brought before them.

No slave to have more than ten lashes at a time for one offence, unless the owner, or supervisor, &c. be present, nor more than thirty-nine on any account in one day, under penalty.

Complaints of slaves being improperly punished, to be inquired into summarily by two magistrates;

and, where they are groundless complainants, to be punished.

Penalties on persons putting weights or chains on slaves, or iron collars, other than here designated.

No slave to travel (unless to market) without a ticket,

under penalty of forty shillings on the owner, &c.

otherwise, that any slave or slaves is or are so mutilated or punished, is or are confined without sufficient support, it shall and may be lawful for such justice of the peace, and he is hereby empowered and required forthwith to issue his warrant to any constable, ordering him immediately to proceed to the place where such slave or slaves are confined, and such slave or slaves to release and bring before such justice, who on view of the fact, is hereby authorized to send such slave or slaves to the workhouse for protection, there to be kept, but not worked, until inquiry shall be made into the fact, according to law.

27. And, in order to restrain arbitrary punishment, Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no slave on any plantation or settlement, or in any of the workhouses or gaols in this Island, shall receive more than ten lashes at one time and for one offence, unless the owner, attorney, guardian, executor, or administrator, or overseer of such plantation or settlement, having such slave in his care, or supervisor of such workhouse, or keeper of such gaol, shall be present; and that no such owner, attorney, guardian, executor, administrator, or overseer, supervisor or gaol-keeper, shall on any account punish a slave with more than thirty-nine lashes at one time, and for one offence, nor inflict, or suffer to be inflicted such last-mentioned punishment, nor any other number of lashes in the same day, nor until the delinquent has recovered from the effects of any former punishment, under a penalty not less than ten pounds or more than twenty pounds for every offence, to be recovered against the person directing or permitting such punishment, in a summary manner, upon conviction before any two magistrates, by warrant, besides being subject to be prosecuted by indictment in the supreme assize courts, or courts of quarter sessions of this Island, as for an offence against this Act.

28. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case any justice of the peace shall receive any complaint or probable intelligence, from any slave or otherwise, that any slave or slaves has or have been improperly punished, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for such magistrate to associate one other of the magistrates of the said parish with him, and to inquire in a summary manner into such complaint; and if upon inquiry it shall be found that the said complaint is true, it shall be the duty of the said magistrates, and they are hereby required to proceed against the offender according to law; but if it shall appear that such complaint was groundless, the said magistrates shall punish the complainant, and the person giving information thereof, in such manner as to them may seem proper.

29. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no such person shall on any pretence whatsoever, punish any negro or other slave, whether his own property or otherwise, by fixing or causing to be fixed an iron or other collar round the neck of such slave, or by loading the body or limbs of such slave, for any offence whatsoever, with weights or chains of any kind, other than a light collar without hooks, to indicate that such slave is an incorrigible runaway, or one accustomed to commit depredation on grounds of the other negroes, and which collar shall only be put on by the directions of a magistrate, on complaint being made, under a penalty not less than five pounds, nor exceeding fifty pounds, to be recovered in a summary manner before any two or more justices of the peace of the parish or precinct where the offence shall be committed; and all and every the justices of the peace within this Island, are hereby authorized, directed, and required, under the penalty of one hundred pounds, on information, and view of such offence, to order such collar, chains, irons, or weights, to be immediately taken off from the slave or slaves wearing or bearing the same.

30. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no slave, such only excepted as are going with firewood, grass, fruit, provisions, or small stock, and other goods, which they may lawfully sell, to market, and returning therefrom, shall hereafter be suffered or permitted to go out of his or her master's or owner's plantation or settlement, or to travel from one town or place to another, unless such slave shall have a ticket from his master, owner, employer, or overseer, expressing particularly the time of such slave's setting out, and where he or she is going, and the time limited for his or her return, under a penalty not exceeding forty shillings for every slave so offending, to be recovered from the master, owner, employer, or overseer, in a summary manner, before any one justice of the peace, by warrant of distress, complaint being made to him upon oath, unless the master, owner, employer, or overseer

seer of such slave shall prove upon oath, before any justice of the peace of the parish or precinct where such master, owner, employer, or overseer may or shall live or happen to be, that he did give the said slave such ticket as aforesaid, or that such slave went away without his consent, in which case the justice to order punishment; and if such justice shall refuse or neglect his duty, either in causing the penalty to be forthwith levied, on complaint being made to him as aforesaid, on the owner, overseer, or any other person who shall suffer a slave, being under his or their direction, to go without a ticket as aforesaid, every justice so offending shall forfeit the sum of five pounds; any law, custom, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

31. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no ticket shall be granted to any slave or slaves for any time exceeding one calendar month.

32. And whereas, the more effectually to conceal runaway slaves, or prevent their being apprehended, tickets are given by Indians, free negroes, or free mulattoes: Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any Indian, free negro, or mulatto, granting or giving such ticket with such intent, shall be liable to be tried for the said offence before the supreme court of judicature, or in either of the courts of assize in this Island where the offence shall be committed; and on conviction, shall suffer transportation, or such other punishment as the court in their discretion shall think proper to inflict, not extending to life.

33. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if such ticket shall be granted or given by any white person, with such intent as aforesaid, to any slave or slaves before or after his or their absents themselves from their owner, employer, overseer or manager, such white person shall be liable to be tried for the same before the supreme court of judicature, or either of the assize courts of this Island, where the offence shall be committed; and on conviction, shall suffer such punishment as the court in their discretion, shall think proper to inflict, not extending to life.

34. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any master, owner, guardian, possessor, or attorney, overseer or book-keeper of any plantation or settlement, shall hereafter suffer any strange slaves to assemble together and beat their drums, or blow their horns or shells upon any plantation, pen, or settlement, or in any yard or place under his her or their care or management, or shall not endeavour to disperse or prevent the same, by immediately giving notice thereof to the next magistrate or commissioned officer, that a proper force may be sent to disperse the said slaves, every such master, owner, guardian, possessor, or attorney, overseer or book-keeper, shall for every such offence, upon conviction thereof, upon an indictment in the supreme court of judicature or courts of assize, or quarter sessions of the parish wherein such offence shall have been committed, pay a fine of fifty pounds to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, for and towards the support of the government of this Island, and the contingent charges thereof: Provided nevertheless, that information of such offence shall be made, upon oath, before any of His Majesty's justices of the peace, within the space of fourteen days after the commission of the offence.

35. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all officers, civil and military, shall be and are hereby empowered and required to enter into any plantation, settlement, or other place, to disperse all such unlawful assemblies, and to suppress and prevent all unlawful drummings, or other noise, as beforementioned, any law, custom, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding, according to the nature, degree, or circumstances of the case.

36. And whereas it has been found by experience, that rebellions have been often concerted at negro-dances and nightly meetings of slaves; and as it has been found also that those meetings tend much to injure the health of negroes; Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any owner or proprietor, overseer, or in his absence, any book-keeper, or other person having the care and management of any plantation or settlement, shall suffer any slaves to assemble together, or beat their drums or blow their horns or shells, every such owner or proprietor, overseer, book-keeper, or other person so offending, shall for every such offence, upon conviction thereof, upon an indictment in the supreme court of judicature, or before the justices of assize, or court of quarter sessions wherein such offence shall be committed, suffer imprisonment, without bail or mainprize, for any term not exceeding six calendar months; provided information is made upon oath as aforesaid, before one of His Majesty's justices of the peace, within fourteen days after

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if he cannot prove he gave a ticket, or that the slave went without his consent. If justices do not inflict this penalty, they forfeit £. 5.

Tickets to be only for one month.

Free people granting tickets to slaves of others, to be punished as the court shall direct.

White people doing so, to be also punished at discretion of the court.

Penalty of £. 50 for not endeavouring to suppress unlawful assemblies of slaves.

Information must be given within fourteen days.

Civil and military officers to suppress such assemblies.

Overseers, &c. who suffer such assemblies, to be imprisoned six months,

if information given in fourteen days

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Slaves may have diversions on the properties they belong to, if no drums, &c. are used;

but they must be over by ten at night.

Negro burials to be over by sunset, or owner, &c. forfeits £. 50.

Burials in the towns, &c. must also be over before sunset.

Penalty on persons permitting unlawful assemblage of slaves at their houses or settlements, if complained of in fourteen days.

Owners, &c. of slaves, knowingly permitting them to keep horses, &c. to forfeit £. 30. for each offence.

When stock given in, oath to be made that none of the horses, &c. belong to any slave, under penalty of £. 30. for neglect or refusal.

Any person discovering horses, &c. belonging to slaves, must send them to the pound.

How they are to be disposed of.

after the commission of such offence; but nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any master, owner or proprietor of any plantation or settlement, or the overseer thereof, from granting liberty to the slaves of such plantation or settlement only, for assembling together upon such plantation or settlement, and playing and diverting themselves in any innocent amusements, so as they do not make use of military drums, horns, or shells; but that they shall and may grant such liberty when and as often as they please, any thing in this or any other Act to the contrary notwithstanding; provided that such amusements are put an end to by ten o'clock at night.

37. And in order to prevent riots and nightly meetings among negroes and other slaves, to the disturbance of the public peace, and endangering their healths, Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all negro burials shall in future take place in the day-time only, so that the same may be ended before sunset; and if any master, owner or possessor of slaves, his or her overseer or chief manager, shall knowingly suffer or permit the burial of any slave otherwise than as before directed, he shall forfeit the sum of fifty pounds; and if any burials shall take place in any of the towns of this Island, or in savannahs, commons or other places not in charge of an overseer, after sunset, every person of free condition in whose house, yard or premises any slaves shall be permitted to assemble for attending such burial, shall forfeit a sum not less than five pounds nor exceeding fifty pounds, and the negro or other slaves who shall meet for the purpose of attending such burial, or be found thereat, shall, upon conviction before two or more magistrates, suffer such punishment as the said magistrates shall direct, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes.

38. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any Indian, free negro or mulatto, or white person shall hereafter suffer any unlawful assembly of slaves at his or her house or settlement, every such Indian, free negro, mulatto or white person shall, upon due conviction thereof before any court of quarter sessions, suffer punishment by fine, not exceeding one hundred pounds, or imprisonment not exceeding six months: Provided nevertheless, that information thereof shall be given on oath within fourteen days of such unlawful meeting.

39. And whereas the permitting and suffering negro and other slaves to keep horses, mares, mules or geldings, is attended with many and great mischiefs to the Island in general; in order therefore to remedy the same, Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the commencing of this Act no master, owner or proprietor, attorney, guardian, trustee or other person in possession of any plantation, pen or settlement, or holding a property of slaves, although not settled on any property, shall knowingly permit or suffer any slave or slaves to keep on such plantation, pen or settlement, any horse, mare, mule or gelding; and in case of so doing shall, for every offence, forfeit the sum of thirty pounds, to be recovered in a summary manner, before any two justices of the peace for the parish or precinct where such offence is committed or permitted.

40. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every master, owner, proprietor, attorney, guardian, trustee or other person, at the respective times of their giving in an account of their slaves and stock to the justices and vestry, shall also make oath that none of the said horses, mares, mules, or geldings so given in do belong to any negro or other slave, and that such person so giving in, or his her or their employer or employers, hath not nor have in his her or their possession, to his her or their knowledge or belief, any horse, mare, mule or gelding belonging to, or reputed to belong to, any slave or slaves; and in case any person or persons shall neglect or refuse so to do, any person so refusing or neglecting shall, for every offence, forfeit the sum of thirty pounds, to be recovered in the same summary manner, and to be disposed of as hereinafter mentioned; and if any person or persons shall hereafter discover any horse, mare, mule or gelding belonging to any negro or other slaves, he shall forthwith take and send the same to the nearest pound of the parish where such horse, mare, mule or gelding shall be found, and the keeper of the pound aforesaid shall and he is hereby obliged to receive the same, under penalty of ten pounds for each and every horse, mare, mule or gelding so refused, unless the same shall be disordered so as to endanger the cattle or other stock already in the pound, in which case only it shall and may be lawful for such pound-keeper to refuse such disordered horse, mare, mule or gelding; and upon reception into the pound of any horse, mare, mule or gelding, the property or supposed property of any negro or other slave, the pound-keeper aforesaid shall,

for

for four successive weeks, advertise the same in the gazette or chronicle of the county where such pound is situate, under the head of negro stock, and describing the height, colour and marks in the most particular manner; and in one week after the expiration of the said four weeks' advertisement, shall put up and sell the same, at the usual place of public sales in the said parish, and after deduction of the usual charges of the pound, in which no mile-money shall form a part, shall pay one moiety of the net proceeds to the person who brought in such horse, mare, mule or gelding, and the other moiety to the churchwardens of the parish, for the benefit of the poor of the said parish.

41. And whereas it may happen that slaves directed to be manumised by will may find it difficult to establish their freedoms, by reason of the person or persons acting under such will refusing to enter into the security required by law on the manumission of slaves; Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, whenever any person shall, by will in writing, expressly manumise, or direct to be manumised, any slave or slaves belonging to him or her, the usual bond required by law in cases of manumission shall not be necessary, but the estate of the person so manumising any slave or slaves, or directing any slave or slaves to be manumised, shall be and the same is hereby declared to be liable to the payment of the annual sum required by law to be paid to any slave manumised, and the freedom of such slave so manumised, or directed to be manumised by will, shall be at once established: Provided always, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to exempt such slaves so manumised from any debt or demand against the estate of the testator, to which such slave or slaves should be otherwise liable: And provided always, and it is hereby enacted, That any will in writing which by law would be deemed valid and sufficient for disposing of goods and chattels or other personal estate, shall be and the same is hereby declared to be valid and sufficient for manumising, or directing to be manumised, any slave or slaves, any thing in a certain statute made and passed in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of his Majesty King Charles the Second, commonly called the Statute of Frauds and Perjuries, or in a certain Act of the Governor, Council and Assembly of this Island, made and passed in the sixteenth year of His present Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act to regulate the Devises of Negro, Mulatto, and other Slaves in Wills," or any act, law, usage, or custom to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

42. And whereas it is expedient to prevent slaves from being purchased by persons for the purposes of re-sale; and to prevent such re-sales, Be it enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, if any person or persons shall be found travelling about from place to place exposing or offering for sale any negro, mulatto, or other slave or slaves, it shall and may be lawful for any person whomsoever to seize and detain any such person or persons, and the slave or slaves under his or their charge, and to carry such person or persons, and slave or slaves, before any one of His Majesty's justices of the peace or parish where such offences shall be committed; which said justice is hereby authorized and required to call to his assistance one other justice of the said parish, and which two justices being so associated shall, on due proof on oath that the party or parties brought before them had been found exposing or offering a slave or slaves to sale, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, cause the said slave or slaves so offered for sale to be publicly sold, by warrant under the hands and seals of the said two justices, one moiety of the monies arising from the sale thereof, after deducting the expenses of the said sale, to be paid into the hands of the churchwardens of the said parish where the offence shall be committed, for the use of the poor of the said parish, and the other moiety to the use of the person or persons who shall bring the offender or offenders before the said justices.

43. And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the oath of the person or persons bringing such offender or offenders before the said justices shall be received and taken, and shall be considered good evidence against such offender or offenders.

44. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any sale or sales of slaves shall be so made as aforesaid, the same shall be, and are hereby declared to be null and void, and that no title shall accrue to the purchaser or purchasers thereof; and any slave or slaves so sold shall become forfeited, and any justice of the peace, on receiving information on oath of any such sale or sales, shall issue his warrant

Properties of persons manumising slaves, subjected to the annual sum allowed by law for their support.

Slaves to be manumised by will, not exempted from any debt against the estate of the testator.

Legal instruments in writing, for the disposal of goods, &c. sufficient in the manumission of slaves.

Persons travelling about the country for the purpose of trafficking in slaves, to be taken up and carried, with the slaves, before a justice, who is to proceed against them as herein directed.

The oath of the informer sufficient.

Sales of slaves made as aforesaid to be null and void, and the slaves forfeited. Justices, on information, to issue

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warrants to take up slaves so sold, to sell them, and manner

warrant to take up such slave or slaves ; and if it shall appear to his satisfaction that such slave or slaves has or have been so sold, he shall declare the same to be forfeited, and proceed to sell the said slave or slaves, and apply the money arising from such sale in manner hereinbefore mentioned.

Proceedings under this Act cannot be removed into the supreme or assize courts.

45. And be it hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no writ of certiorari or other process shall issue or be issuable, to remove any proceedings whatsoever had in pursuance of this Act, into the supreme court of judicature, or any other of the courts of this Island.

Slaves concerned in rebellions, or committing murder, &c. to suffer death, transportation, &c.

46. And whereas it is absolutely necessary that the slaves in this Island should be kept in due obedience to their owners, and in the due subordination to the white people in general, and as much as in the power of the legislature, all means and opportunities of slaves being concerned in rebellious conspiracies, and committing other crimes, to the ruin and destruction of the white people and others in this Island, prevented, and that proper punishments should be appointed for all crimes to be by them committed : Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any slave or slaves shall, after the commencement of this Act, enter into or be concerned in any rebellion or rebellious conspiracy, or commit any murder, felony, burglary, robbery, or set fire to any houses, out-houses, negro-houses, cane-pieces, grass or corn-pieces, or break into such houses, out-houses or negro-houses, in the day-time, no person being therein, and stealing thereout ; or compass or imagine the death of any white person, and declare the same by some overt act ; or commit any other crime which would subject white persons, or persons of free condition, to be indicted for felony, such slave or slaves shall, for every such offence or offences, upon trial and conviction thereof in manner hereinafter mentioned, suffer death, transportation, or such other punishment as the court shall think proper to direct, according to the nature and extent of the offence.

If slaves offer violence to white, or free people, court to order punishment,

47. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any slave shall assault or offer any violence, by striking or otherwise, to or towards any white people or persons of free condition, such slave, upon due and proper proof, shall, upon conviction, be punished with death, transportation, or confinement to hard labour for life or a limited time, or such other punishment, according to the nature of the offence, as the court shall in their discretion think proper to inflict ; provided such assault or violence be not by command of his her or their owners, overseers, or persons entrusted with them, or in the lawful defence of their owners' persons or goods.

unless sufficient reason shown.

How slaves possessing fire-arms are to be punished.

48. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any slave or slaves shall hereafter be found to have in his her or their custody or possession, any fire-arms, pikes, sabres, swords, cutlasses, lances, gunpowder, slugs or ball, without the knowledge of his her or their owner, proprietor or possessor, or his her or their overseer, such slave or slaves shall be taken before two magistrates, who shall, if they are of opinion that the same was with evil intent, commit such slave or slaves to the gaol, to be tried by a slave court, as hereinafter directed, and upon conviction, the said slave or slaves shall suffer death, transportation, or such other punishment as the court shall think proper to direct.

Slaves pretending to supernatural power may be sentenced to death, &c.

49. And in order to prevent the many mischiefs that may hereafter arise from the wicked art of negroes going under the appellation of Obeah men or women, and pretending to have communication with the Devil, and other evil spirits, whereby the weak and superstitious are deluded into a belief of their having full power to exempt them whilst under their protection, from many evils that might otherwise happen ; Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the commencing of this Act, any slave who shall pretend to any supernatural power, in order to excite rebellion, or other evil purposes, or shall use or pretend to use any such practices, with intent, or so as to affect or endanger the life or health of any other slave, shall upon conviction thereof suffer death or transportation, any thing in this or any other Act to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Punishment on slaves preaching or teaching as anabaptists, or otherwise without permission.

50. And whereas it has been found, that the practice of ignorant, superstitious, or designing slaves of attempting to instruct others, has been attended with the most pernicious consequences, and even with the loss of life ; Be it enacted, That any slave or slaves found guilty of preaching and teaching as anabaptists, or otherwise, without a permission from their owner, and the quarter sessions for the parish in which

which such preaching and teaching takes place, shall be punished in such manner as any two magistrates may deem proper, by flagellation, or imprisonment in the workhouse to hard labour.

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51. And whereas a practice of nightly and other private meetings, has frequently taken place amongst the slaves in several parts of this Island, and which have been unknown to the owner, attorney, or other person having charge of the slaves of the property, and as such meetings are injurious to the health of the slaves, and of dangerous tendency; Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in future all such meetings shall be deemed unlawful, and the persons who shall or may attend them, shall be liable to be apprehended and taken before any magistrate of the parish wherein the offence shall be committed; and if any person of free condition attend such meeting, and it appears to the said magistrate, on the oath of the person accusing the party, that he or she is guilty, he or she shall be committed to gaol to be tried at the next quarter session of the parish for the said offence; and if convicted thereof, he or she shall be sentenced to imprisonment in the county gaol, for such period of time as the justices before whom he or she shall be so convicted think proper to direct, not exceeding three months; and if the offender be a slave, he or she shall be tried at a slave court, and if convicted thereof, he or she shall be sentenced by the said court to hard labour for such time as the court shall think proper to direct, or to receive such other punishment, by flogging, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes at one time, as the court shall order and direct.

Nightly meetings of slaves unlawful, and free people attending them, how punishable.

If offender be a slave, he or she is to be punished as slave court may direct.

52. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any negro, or other slave or slaves, shall mix or prepare, with an intent to give or cause to be given any poison, or poisonous or noxious drug, pounded glass, or other deleterious matter, in the practice of Obeah or otherwise, although death may not ensue on the taking thereof, the said slave or slaves, together with their accessaries, as well before as after the fact (being slaves,) being duly convicted thereof, shall suffer death, any thing in this or any other Act to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Slaves preparing or giving poison, though death does not ensue, are to suffer death.

53. And be it further enacted, That if there shall be found in the possession of any slave any poisonous drug, pounded glass, parrots' beaks, dogs' teeth, alligators' teeth, or other materials notoriously used in the practice of Obeah or witchcraft, such slave, upon conviction, shall be liable to suffer transportation from this Island, or such other punishment, not extending to life, as the court shall think proper to direct.

Punishment on slaves having any poisonous drugs, pounded glass, &c. in their possession.

54. And whereas it is necessary to prevent secret and unlawful meetings of slaves; Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every slave or slaves who shall be found at any meeting formed either for the purpose of administering unlawful oaths, by drinking human blood mixed with rum, grave-dirt, or otherwise, or of learning the use of arms, or for any other unlawful or dangerous purpose, such slave or slaves shall, upon conviction thereof, suffer death, or transportation for life, as the court shall direct.

Slaves found at any meeting, formed for administering unlawful oaths, &c. are to be punished as court shall direct;

55. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons, either white or of free condition, shall be present at any such meeting, and aiding and assisting in any of the unlawful purposes before mentioned, such person or persons shall, upon conviction thereof in the supreme court, or either of the courts of assize of this Island, be punished by death, transportation off this Island for life, or fine or imprisonment, or both, at the discretion of the court before whom such person or persons shall be tried.

as are white or free people, present at such meetings.

56. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons having knowledge of such unlawful meetings as aforesaid, shall not forthwith give information thereof to a justice of the peace, such person or persons shall, on conviction before the supreme, or either of the courts of assize of this Island, suffer such punishment, by fine or imprisonment, or both, or by public whipping, as the court before which such person or persons shall have been so convicted shall direct.

Persons having knowledge of such unlawful meetings, and not giving information thereof, to be punished at discretion of court.

57. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any negro or other slave shall, after the commencement of this Act, steal any horned cattle, sheep, goat, hog, horse, mare, mule or ass, or shall kill any such horned cattle, sheep, hog, goat, horse, mare, mule or ass, with intent to steal the whole carcass of any such horned cattle, sheep, goat, hog, horse, mare, mule or ass, or any part of the

Slaves stealing horned cattle, sheep, horses, &c. may be condemned to death.

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the flesh thereof, such negro or other slave shall, on conviction thereof, suffer death, transportation, or such other punishment as the court in its discretion shall inflict.

If slaves have in their possession twenty pounds of meat unaccounted for, they are to be whipped, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes; and if above twenty pounds, justices to assign punishment not affecting life.

58. And whereas great numbers of horned cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, horses, mares, mules and asses, are frequently stolen and killed by negro and other slaves, in so secret and private a manner, that it is with the greatest difficulty they can be found out and discovered, in such manner as to convict them of such offence, although large quantities of beef, mutton, and the flesh of other valuable animals, are found upon him her or them; in order, therefore, to prevent such evils in future, and to punish the perpetrators of such acts agreeable to their crimes; Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any negro or other slave shall fraudulently have in his her or their custody or possession, unknown to his or her master, owner, overseer, or other persons who shall have the overlooking or employing of such slave, any fresh beef, veal, mutton, pork, or goat, or the flesh of horse, mare, mule or ass, in any quantity not exceeding twenty pounds weight, without giving a satisfactory account in what manner he or she became possessed thereof, such negro or other slave, upon conviction thereof before any two magistrates, shall be whipped in such manner as such magistrates shall direct, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes; and if there shall be found in his her or their custody or possession, a larger or greater quantity than twenty pounds weight of fresh beef, veal, mutton, pork, or goat, or the flesh of horse, mare, mule or ass, and such slave shall not give a satisfactory account how he or she became possessed of such meat, then such negro or other slave, upon conviction thereof, shall suffer such punishment as the said two justices shall think proper to inflict or direct, not extending to life or imprisonment for life.

Punishment on slaves maiming or injuring horned cattle, horses, &c.

59. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any negro or other slave shall wantonly and cruelly cut, chop, shoot at, or otherwise maim and injure any horned cattle, horse, gelding, mare, mule or ass, such negro or other slave shall, for every such offence, be tried in a summary manner before two or more justices of the peace of the parish or precinct where the offence shall be committed; and the said justices of the peace shall, on conviction of such slave or slaves, order and direct such punishment to be inflicted as they shall think proper, not exceeding fifty lashes, to be inflicted at one or more different times, or two months hard labour in the workhouse; and in all cases where from such treatment as above set forth, any horned cattle, horse, mare, mule, gelding or ass, shall be killed, or shall die within ten days after the offence committed, although the carcass, or any part of the flesh thereof, may not be stolen, such negro or other slave shall be tried at a slave court, and on conviction thereof suffer death, transportation, or confinement to hard labour for life, or such other punishment as the court shall think proper.

Also on those wantonly cutting and chopping any other slave.

60. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any slave or slaves shall, by wantonly and cruelly cutting, chopping, striking, or by any other manner or way whatsoever mutilate, disfigure, dismember, or injure any slave or slaves, so as to endanger life, although death shall not ensue, or that such slave or slaves shall become a cripple, or lose any of his or her limbs, or be deprived of the use thereof, all and every or any such slave or slaves so offending shall, for every or any such offence, be tried at a slave court, and upon conviction shall, for the first offence, suffer such punishment, not extending to life, as the court shall think proper to direct, according to the circumstances of the case; and for a second offence, upon conviction, shall suffer death, or transportation for life, as the court shall direct.

Punishment on slaves clearing their grounds by fire.

Overseers, &c. having knowledge that any fire has been made for such purpose, and not doing their utmost to extinguish it, to be fined at discretion of two justices.

61. And whereas the practice of negroes to clear their grounds by fire is highly dangerous to the neighbouring properties, and frequent instances of alarm and injury occur from want of some restraint in that respect; for prevention of so great an evil, Be it further enacted, That if any injury shall arise to the owner, proprietor, or possessor of one property, by a slave or slaves on the adjoining property clearing ground by fire, the slave or slaves who shall so clear ground by fire, by which injury shall result to the adjoining property, shall be proceeded against, tried and punished if found guilty, as and for a misdemeanour; and if the overseer, or other person then actually having charge of the property on which such fire shall originate, shall have knowledge that any negro under his charge has made any such fire for clearing his or her ground, and shall not forthwith use his best endeavours to cause the same to be extinguished, and such fire shall cause injury to the neighbouring property, such overseer, or other person, shall suffer such fine as any two justices of the peace of the parish,

parish wherein such injury shall happen, shall award, not exceeding ten pounds for one and the same offence; the complaint whereon shall be heard, determined, and the penalty, when imposed, shall be enforced in a summary manner, before any two justices of the peace.

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62. And whereas it is very dangerous to the peace and safety of this Island, to suffer slaves to continue out as runaways, and it is absolutely necessary to declare and make known to the public, what slaves shall be deemed such: Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the commencement of this Act, any slave or slaves who shall be absent from his owner or employer, without leave, for the space of five days, or who shall be found at the distance of eight miles from the house, plantation, or other settlement to which such slave or slaves shall belong, without a ticket or other permit to pass, except as hereinbefore excepted, in going to and returning from market, shall be deemed a runaway.

Slaves absent five days, or found eight miles from home, without tickets, to be deemed runaways.

63. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any slave shall run away from his or her owner or lawful possessor, and continue absent for a term exceeding six months, such slave, being convicted thereof, shall be sentenced to be confined to hard labour, for such time as the court shall determine, or be transported for life, according to the magnitude of the offence.

Slaves who shall run away for a period longer than six months, to be punished as the court shall direct.

64. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any slave shall run away from his or her lawful owner or possessor as aforesaid, and continue absent for any term not exceeding six months, such slave shall be liable to be tried before two justices, and upon conviction thereof, shall for the first offence suffer such punishment, by flogging or confinement to hard labour, not exceeding three months, as the said two justices shall think proper to direct; but if the said slave hath frequently run away, and is by his owner or possessor declared to be an incorrigible runaway, he shall be treated as if he had run away from his said owner or possessor, and continued absent for a term exceeding six months, and such slave being convicted thereof, shall be sentenced to be confined to hard labour, or be transported for life, as the court shall direct.

Punishment on those who continue absent for a shorter period.

65. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any slave or slaves who shall knowingly harbour or conceal any runaway slave or slaves, shall be liable to be tried for the same, at the slave court hereinafter appointed, and on conviction, shall suffer such punishment as the court shall think proper to direct, not extending to life.

Slaves harbouring runaways, to be adjudged by a slave court.

66. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any slave, or other person or persons whatsoever, who shall apprehend any runaway slave or slaves, shall for every one so apprehended, be entitled to receive from the owner, employer, or overseer, or manager of such slave or slaves, the sum of ten shillings, and no more, besides mile-money, at the rate of one shilling per mile for the first five miles, and sixpence per mile for every mile afterwards: Provided nevertheless, That nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to extend to an allowance of the said sum of ten shillings, and mile-money in addition to the sum allowed to Maroon negroes for apprehending runaways: And provided also, that it is not hereby intended to deprive the said Maroons of their legal and established reward of forty shillings for each negro.

Owner, &c. to pay ten shillings, and mile-money for each runaway taken up.

Proviso.

This Act not to alter rewards to Maroons.

67. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the person or persons so apprehending such runaway slave or slaves, shall convey him her or them to their respective owner, employer, or manager, or to the workhouse of the parish in which they may be apprehended, if any workhouse is established there; and in case of there being no workhouse, to the next gaol; and the gaoler or workhouse keeper is hereby required and ordered to receive such slave or slaves into his or their custody, and to pay the party delivering such slave or slaves, the said sum of ten shillings, and mile-money as aforesaid, and no more, for each slave so delivered, under the penalty of five pounds.

Slaves, when apprehended, to be conveyed to the owner, &c. or the workhouse of the parish; but if no workhouse in the parish, then to the nearest gaol; and workhouse or gaol-keeper must receive

such slaves, and pay reward and mile-money under penalty of £. 5.

68. And to the end that the owners and proprietors of runaway slaves may have a due knowledge where such slaves are confined, after their being apprehended and sent to any workhouse or gaol in this Island, in order that such owners or proprietors may apply for such slaves: Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the commencement of this Act, all and every the keepers of the

Workhouse and gaol-keepers to advertise weekly in

workhouses

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each county paper, all runaways in their possession, with full descriptions of them, under penalty of £. 10; charging 3s. 4d. for each paper per month, which owners are to reimburse.

Printers accounts to be annually paid by treasurers.

Slaves may be detained till advertising is paid for,

as well as the reward, with 12½ per cent.; 6d. per day for maintenance, 2d. per day for medical care, where necessary, &c. which charges must be attested.

Proviso.

Slaves in confinement to have sufficient provisions, under penalty of £. 10.
Rations for them.

On negroes, or other persons detained as runaway slaves, alleging themselves to be free, custodes to summon a special sessions to investigate the truth thereof.

Proviso.

No slave detained as above, to be sold, until such investigation takes place.

workhouses or gaol-keepers, in any of the parishes of this Island, shall and they are hereby obliged, once in every week, to advertise in the gazette of St. Jago de la Vega, the Royal Gazette, and the Cornwall Chronicle, the height, names, marks, and sex, and also the country, where the same can be ascertained, of each and every runaway slave then in their custody, together with the time of their being sent into custody, and the name or names of the owner or owners thereof, if known, and that upon oath, under the penalty of ten pounds for every slave so neglected by him to be advertised; and for the expense of such advertisement, they the said workhouse keepers or gaol-keepers shall and may and they are hereby authorized to charge the owner or proprietor of such runaway slaves so advertised, at and after the rate of three shillings and four-pence per month for each paper, and no more; which said sum of three shillings and four-pence per month for each paper, to be paid to the printers of the several papers respectively, the amount of whose accounts, after being properly authenticated upon oath, shall be paid annually by the treasurers for the time being of the several workhouses in this Island: And that it shall and may be lawful for the keeper of the workhouse, or gaol-keeper, to detain and keep in his or their custody such runaway slave or slaves so brought unto him or them, until the owner or owners thereof, or some person on their behalf, properly authorized, shall pay unto him or them what he or they so paid to the person or persons who apprehended and brought such slave or slaves into custody, with the two shillings and sixpence in the pound, for laying out his or their money, the cost of advertising, at and after the rate above mentioned, and sixpence for every twenty-four hours such slave or slaves shall have been in custody, for maintenance, and two-pence per day for medical care, and extraordinary nourishment where necessary, the expense of clothing when supplied, and also the charges of advertising above directed, and no other fees whatever; and that the gaoler, workhouse keeper, or supervisor, and no other person, shall attest upon oath that the charges in the account for mile-money, and the reward for apprehending such slave, were actually paid to the person who brought such runaway, and that the whole of the charges in the said account, are strictly conformable to law: Provided always, and it is hereby declared, That the owner or owners of any slave, to be committed by the judgment of any slave court, or by order of the magistrates, to any workhouse by way of punishment, shall not be answerable for, or compelled to pay the workhouse fees, for the time such slave shall be so committed and confined.

69. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the keeper of every workhouse or gaol in this Island, shall under the penalty of ten pounds for every neglect, provide and give to every slave confined in such workhouse or gaol, a sufficient quantity of good and wholesome provisions daily: that is to say, not less than one quart of unground Guinea or Indian corn, or three pints of the flour or meal of either, or three pints of wheat flour, or eight full grown plantains; or eight pounds of cocoas or yams, and also one herring or shad, or other salted provisions equal thereto; and shall also, under the like penalty, provide and supply every such slave confined as aforesaid, with good and sufficient clothing where necessary.

70. Provided always, and it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case any negro or other person sent in and detained in any gaol or workhouse as a runaway slave, shall allege himself or herself to be free, it shall be the duty of the custos or senior justice of the parish or precinct wherein such gaol or workhouse is situated, to convene, as soon as conveniently may be, a special sessions, consisting of not less than three justices of the peace of such parish or precinct, and of which special sessions, and of the time and place of holding the same, due notice shall be given in the several county newspapers of this Island, and which special sessions, being so convened, shall carefully and attentively investigate, inquire into and examine the truth of such allegation; and if it shall appear to such special sessions that such person so detained as a runaway slave is free, such person shall be forthwith discharged; and in case it shall appear to such special sessions that such person is a slave, he or she shall be forthwith remanded to the workhouse or gaol whereto he or she had been sent: Provided always, and it is hereby declared, That the decision of such special sessions shall be without prejudice to the prosecution of the right or title of any person to such runaway, or to the prosecution by such person detained as a runaway of his or her right or title to his or her freedom.

71. And it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no slave or slaves so detained as a runaway slave or slaves shall be sold by any gaoler, supervisor or workhouse-keeper, until such special sessions has been convened and held,

held, and such investigation, inquiry and examination had, and without the same being certified by the justices attending such special sessions under their hands, and seals; and the sale of any runaway slave or slaves made without such certificate being obtained, shall be, and the same is hereby enacted and declared to be null and void to all intents and purposes, and no right, title or interest whatsoever shall pass thereunder to any purchaser whomsoever, any thing in this Act or in any Act of the Lieutenant Governor, Council and Assembly of this Island, made and passed in the thirty-second year of His present Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for establishing public workhouses in the several parishes in this Island," or any other act, law, usage, or custom to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

72. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the commencement of this Act every supervisor, intendant, or keeper of any public workhouse in this Island who shall have any action in replevin, "homine replegiando," or ejection brought against him for any negro or other slave or slaves in his custody, shall, under a penalty for every offence, not less than five pounds nor exceeding fifty pounds, as shall be inflicted by the judges of His Majesty's supreme court of judicature, or courts of assize in this Island, immediately after he receives such replevin, "homine replegiando," or ejection, give notice in the several county newspapers of such action, and at whose suit it is brought, and the name or names of such negro or other slave or slaves, together with his her or their mark or marks, and the best information he can get concerning the real owner of such slave or slaves, and shall continue such notice for four weeks before the trial shall be had upon such replevin, "homine replegiando," or ejection, or such slave or slaves be taken out of the custody of such supervisor, intendant or workhouse keeper; the costs of which, and all other expenses incurred, shall be paid to such supervisor, intendant, or workhouse keeper by the person who shall recover such slave or slaves: And if any person or persons shall give notice to such supervisor, intendant, or keeper of any workhouse, of his her or their intention to take the defence of any action so brought, such supervisor, intendant, or keeper of a workhouse, shall detain in his custody the slave or slaves for or by whom such action shall be brought, until the trial of such action or order of the court thereon, under the penalty of one hundred pounds, unless the security offered in cases of "homine replegiando," shall justify, before a judge of the grand court, or courts of assize, in such sum as such judge shall think proper, notice of such justification, and the time and place thereof, and the judge before whom the same is to be taken, being given to the person intending to take the defence of such action.

73. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no runaway slave shall, on any account, be committed to gaol by any magistrate of a parish where there is any workhouse established, but to such workhouse only.

74. And whereas several slaves have found means to desert from their owners and depart from this Island, to the great damage of such owners, in evil example to other slaves, who may be thereby induced to attempt, or conspire, to do the same: And whereas there is reason to suspect that such slaves have been aided and assisted in such escape and departure by other persons, and there is not any adequate punishment provided by law for such desertion or departure, or attempting or conspiring to desert and depart this Island, or for persons aiding, assisting or abetting such deserters: For remedy whereof, Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the commencement of this Act, if any slave shall run away from his her or their employer or employers, owner or owners, and go off, or conspire or attempt to go off this Island, in any ship, boat, canoe or other vessel or craft whatever, or be aiding or abetting, or assisting to any other slave or slaves in such going off this Island, he she or they so running away and going off, or conspiring or attempting to go off, or so aiding, assisting or abetting in such going off, being thereof convicted, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as the court shall think proper to direct.

75. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any Indian, free negro or mulatto, shall from and after the commencement of this Act, knowingly be aiding, assisting or abetting any slave or slaves in going off this Island, and shall be convicted thereof, either in the supreme court, or in other (either of) the courts of assize of this Island, such Indian, free negro or mulatto, shall forthwith be transported off this Island by the provost marshal or his lawful deputy,

Public notice to be given by supervisors, &c. of replevins, &c. brought against them for slaves in the workhouse.

If any person give notice to supervisors, &c. of an intention to defend such actions, supervisors must detain in custody the slaves in dispute, under penalty.

Runaways to be committed to workhouses only.

Slaves attempting to depart this island, or assisting others in such attempt, may be sentenced to death.

Free people of colour assisting slaves in going off, are to be transported, and suffer death if they return.

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into whose custody such person or persons shall be committed; and if such person or persons so convicted, sentenced, and transported, shall be afterwards found at large in this Island, he she or they, on proof of his her or their identity before the said supreme court or courts of assize as aforesaid, shall suffer death without benefit of clergy.

If white people do so, they forfeit £.300 for each,

76. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any white person or persons shall knowingly be aiding, assisting or abetting any slave or slaves in going off this Island, he she or they being convicted by bill, plaint or information, in the supreme court of judicature, or either of the courts of assize in this Island, shall forfeit the sum of three hundred pounds for each slave; one moiety whereof shall be to our Sovereign Lord the King, his heirs and successors, for and towards the support of the government of this Island, and the contingent charges thereof, and the other moiety to the party or parties at whose suit or complaint such person was convicted; and shall also suffer imprisonment at the discretion of the said court, for any space of time not exceeding twelve months, without bail or mainprize.

and may be imprisoned a year.

Accessaries may be proceeded against, though principals are not convicted.

77. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to proceed against the person or persons so aiding, assisting or abetting any slave or slaves in going off this Island, whether the principal or principals be convicted or not; any thing in this or in any other act, law, custom, or usage to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

If slaves, not authorized, travel with dogs, &c. or hunt with instruments of death, punishment may be awarded by two justices.

78. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no negro or other slave shall be allowed to travel the public roads with dogs or cutlasses, or other offensive weapons, without a ticket from his owner; or to hunt any cattle, horses, mares, mules, or asses in any part of this Island, with lances, guns, cutlasses or other instruments of death, unless in the company of his or their master, overseer, or some other white person by him or them deputed, or by permission in writing; and if any negro or other slave shall offend, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, he she or they being convicted thereof before two justices, shall suffer such punishment as they shall think proper to inflict, not extending to life or transportation for life.

On complaint of felonies, burglaries, &c. by slaves, justices to issue a warrant.

79. And whereas it is necessary to declare how and in what manner slaves shall be tried for the several crimes which they may hereafter commit: Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after this Act shall commence and be in force, upon complaint made to any justice of the peace of any murder, felony, burglary, robbery, burning or destroying of houses, out-houses, negro-houses or cain grass, or corn-pieces, or breaking into such houses, out-houses or negro-houses, in the day-time, no person being therein, and stealing thereout; rebellious conspiracies, compassing or imagining the death of any white person or persons, or any other offence whatsoever committed by any slave or slaves, that shall subject such slave or slaves to suffer death, transportation or confinement to hard labour, such justice shall issue out his warrant for apprehending such offender or offenders, and for all persons that can give evidence, to be brought before him or any other justice of the peace, and the evidence of slaves against one another in this and all other cases shall be received; and if upon examination it appears probable that the slave or slaves apprehended is or are guilty, the justice before whom such examination shall be had and taken shall commit him her or them to prison, and bind over the witnesses to appear at a certain day, not less than ten days from the day on which the complaint shall be made, and at the place where the quarter sessions are usually held; and where there are no quarter sessions held, at the place where the parochial business is usually transacted (except in the precinct of Saint Thomas in the East and Saint David, where such trial shall take place at the place where the quarter sessions are usually held,) and shall certify to two other justices of the peace of the cause of such commitment, and require them, by virtue of this Act, to associate themselves to him, which the said justices are hereby severally required to do, under the penalty of twenty pounds for every neglect or refusal; and the said justices so associated shall issue out their warrant, directed to the deputy marshal of such parish or precinct, to summon twenty-four persons, such as are usually warned and empannelled to serve on juries (the master, owner or proprietor of the slave or slaves so complained of, or the attorney, guardian, trustee, overseer, or book-keeper of such master, owner or proprietor, or the person prosecuting, his or her attorney, guardian, trustee, or overseer or book-keeper always excepted,) personally to be and appear before the said justices, or any three or more justices of the peace of the said parish

Slaves to be evidence against each other.

Justice to call in two other justices (who must attend, or each forfeit £.20), and they are to summon a jury, from which particular persons are exempted.

parish associated for the same purpose, at the day and place aforesaid, to be expressed in such warrant, and between the hours of eight and twelve of the clock in the forenoon, when and where the said persons so warned by the deputy marshal as aforesaid are hereby severally required to attend, under the penalty of five pounds on each defaulter, and when and where the said justices shall cause the said slave or slaves so complained of to be brought before them, and thereupon twelve of the said persons so summoned as aforesaid shall compose a jury to try the said slave or slaves, and shall by the said justices (the charge or accusation being first read,) be sworn to try the matter before them, and to give a true verdict according to evidence; and such charge or accusation shall be deemed valid, if sufficient in substance; and if the said jurors shall, upon hearing the evidence, unanimously find the said slave or slaves guilty of the offence wherewith he she or they stand charged, the said justices shall give sentence of death without benefit of clergy, or transportation, or confinement to hard labour for life or a limited time, according to the nature of the offence, and shall cause such sentence to be carried into execution at such time and place as they shall think proper, women with child only excepted, whose execution shall be respited until a reasonable time after delivery: Provided always, That nothing in this Act contained shall hinder or prevent the said justices, upon any such trial where any slave or slaves shall be condemned to die, from respiting the execution of such sentence for any term not exceeding thirty days, or until the pleasure of the Governor, or the person executing the functions of Governor, shall be known, in case proper cause shall appear to them for so doing; and that if the Jury upon any such trial shall apply to the said justices to suspend the execution of any sentence until the pleasure of the Governor, or person executing the functions of Governor, is known, the said persons shall be obliged to suspend the same for thirty days, and to report the particulars of the trial to the Governor, or the person executing the functions of Governor, forthwith, under the penalty of fifty pounds on each justice who sat on such trial, except in cases of trial of any slave or slaves convicted of actual rebellion, or for rebellious conspiracy, in all which cases the said justices shall, if they think it expedient, order the sentence passed on such slave or slaves to be carried into immediate execution: And it is hereby declared, That at every court of quarter sessions held in each and every parish or precinct within this Island, the justices there assembled shall and may, after the usual business of the said court shall be done, form themselves into a court for the purpose of inquiring into, hearing and determining all manner of offences for which any slave or slaves are liable to be punished with death, or transportation, or confinement to hard labour as aforesaid, and shall open the said court by proclamation, declaring the same to be a slave court for such purpose, and shall thereupon, on the like charge in writing, and in like manner in all other respects as the three justices associated and met as hereinbefore mentioned, are by this Act directed to proceed in the trial of slaves for such offences, proceed to try, and deliver the gaol or workhouse within the said parish or precinct, of all and every slave or slaves who shall or may then be in the custody of the marshal or keeper of the workhouse, within each and every parish or precinct, and shall further call a jury, consisting of twelve jurors, to be called and taken from the pannel returned to the said court of quarter sessions, and shall cause them to be severally sworn, as they shall appear, to try all and every such slave or slaves as shall be brought before them, charged with any such offences as aforesaid, and a true verdict give, according to evidence, as in other cases: Provided always, That no less than three justices shall constitute a court for the trial of any slave or slaves for any crime or offence that shall subject such slave or slaves to suffer death, transportation, or confinement to hard labour for life as aforesaid: Provided always, That if any slave or slaves shall have been detained in custody, under commitment, for six calendar months, and no indictment shall have been preferred against him her or them, or person appearing to prosecute the complaint during that time, it shall be the duty of the said justices so associated for the purpose of holding such slave court, to discharge such slave or slaves by proclamation, at the expiration of such six calendar months from the time of the commitment of such slave or slaves: And provided always, That in any case, upon an indictment against any slave or slaves for murder, where malice prepense shall not be proved to the satisfaction of the jurors, such jurors shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, at liberty to return a verdict of manslaughter, if they shall think the nature of the case shall require it; and the person or persons so found guilty of manslaughter shall suffer such punishment as the court shall think fit to inflict, not extending to life or transportation for life.

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Jurors not attending, to forfeit £. 5.

Twelve persons to compose a jury.

If slaves convicted, justices may give sentence of death, transportation, &c.

Justices may suspend execution for thirty days, if they see cause;

and must do it on an application of the jury.

except in cases of rebellion, when they may order immediate execution.

When business of quarter sessions ended, justices to form themselves into a slave court,

for the purpose of gaol delivery.

Not less than three justices to constitute a court for trial of slaves, in certain cases.

Slaves detained under commitment for six months, and no indictment preferred against them, to be discharged by proclamation.

Where slaves are indicted for murder, if malice prepense do not appear, verdict of manslaughter may be returned.

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Jurors summoned for quarter sessions, must serve in slave courts, under penalty of £. 5.

Penalty of £. 10 on persons warned to attend trials, and neglecting to do so.

Jurors, witnesses, &c. under this Act, protected in their persons,

and slaves from being levied on.

Records to be kept by clerk of the peace,

who must attend trials, and record proceedings in thirty days under penalty of £. 20. Deputy marshal must warn jurors, and attend at such trials, under penalty of £. 50.

Punishment on slaves for giving false evidence.

If slaves against whom warrants are issued, are concealed by owners, &c. they forfeit £. 100.

Six days notice of trial to be given to owners, &c. of slaves.

How such notices are to be served, where owners reside in a different parish to that in which their slaves may have committed offences, and are to be tried.

80. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every the jurors who have been returned to serve as jurors at the quarter sessions to be holden as aforesaid, are hereby required, under the penalty of five pounds, to be and appear at the said slave court so to be formed and holden as aforesaid, and to serve as jurors thereon as they shall respectively be called; and that upon all trials of slaves under this Act, no peremptory challenges of any of the said jurors, or any exception to the form of the indictment, shall be allowed.

81. And be it further enacted, That all witnesses of free condition, legally warned, and who do not attend to give evidence at any trial under this Act, or show by affidavit a sufficient cause for his or her absence, shall be liable to a fine of ten pounds.

82. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all jurors serving at slave courts, and every person or persons whose presence may be requisite at the examination of any slave or slaves, and who shall be required by warrant or summons under the hand and seal of any justice of the peace, and all and every slave or slaves who shall be brought as witnesses, shall be protected in their persons from all mesne or judicial process whatsoever in their going to, attending at, and returning from such examinations or trial, and that such slaves shall not be subject to be levied on.

83. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That a record shall be entered up of all proceedings on the trials of slaves for any crime that shall subject any slave or slaves to suffer death, transportation, or confinement to hard labour, in a book to be kept for that purpose by the clerk of the peace, or his lawful deputy, of the parish or precinct: who is hereby obliged to attend all such trials, and to record the proceedings within thirty days after such trial, under the penalty of twenty pounds for each neglect; and he shall be entitled to receive from the churchwardens of such parish the sum of five pounds, and no more, for attending each trial, entering up the record, and all other business incidental thereto: and further, that the deputy marshal for the said parish, or some proper person acting under him, shall, under the penalty of fifty pounds, warn the jurors, and attend the trials of all slaves, and also attend at the execution of such offenders as shall be condemned to die; and that he shall be entitled to receive from the churchwardens of the said parish, for warning jurors and attending the trials of slaves at all special slave courts, the sum of five pounds for each court, to be held under this Act, and the further sum of five pounds for attending the execution of each offender as shall be condemned to die.

84. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case any slave or slaves shall, with evil intent, give false evidence in any trial had under this Act, such slave or slaves, being thereof convicted, shall suffer the same punishment as the person or persons on whose trial such false evidence was given, would, if convicted, have been liable to suffer.

85. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in future whenever a warrant shall be granted by one or more of His Majesty's justices of the peace against any slave, if the said slave cannot be immediately taken on the said warrant, the owner, possessor, attorney, guardian, or overseer of such slave shall be served with a copy of the said warrant, and if he she or they do not carry the said slave before a magistrate, to be dealt with according to law on the said warrant, and if it should be afterwards proved that the owner, possessor, attorney, guardian, or overseer of such slave wilfully detained or concealed the said slave, he she or they shall forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds.

86. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all trials of any slave or slaves under this Act, six days notice of such trial shall be first given to the owner, proprietor, or possessor of such slave or slaves, his her or their lawful attorney or attorneys, or other representative or representatives, any law, custom, or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

87. And whereas it may sometimes happen that the owner, proprietor, or possessor of a slave may reside in a different parish or precinct from that wherein such slave may have committed the offence, for which he or she is to be tried: BE it therefore enacted, That in such cases the clerk of the peace of the parish or precinct wherein the offence is to be tried, shall transmit the notice of such trial to the clerk of the peace of the parish or precinct wherein the owner, proprietor, or possessor

possessor as aforesaid may reside, who shall forthwith thereupon, under the penalty of twenty pounds, deliver such notice, and a copy thereof, to one of the lawful constables of the said parish, to be by him, under the penalty of ten pounds, served on such owner, proprietor, or possessor; and the said constable is hereby required to make an affidavit of the manner in which he may have served the said notice, to be sworn to before any justice of the peace, and shall return such notice, so sworn to, to the clerk of the peace from whom he received the same, to be by him transmitted to the clerk of the peace of the parish or precinct where the offence is to be tried, in due time; for which duty the clerk of the peace of the parish where the warrant shall be served, shall be paid the sum of one pound six shillings and eight-pence, and the constable the sum of one pound six shillings and eight-pence, by the acting churchwarden of the said parish.

88. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all cases where the punishment of death is inflicted, the execution shall be performed in a public part of the parish, and with due solemnity; and care shall be taken by the jaoler or deputy marshal that the criminal is free from intoxication at the time of his trial, and from thence to and at the time of his execution, under the penalty of twenty pounds; and the mode of such execution shall be hanging by the neck and no other, and the body shall be afterwards disposed of as the court shall direct.

Executions must be public and solemn.

89. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all cases where any slave or slaves shall be put upon his her or their trial, and receive sentence of death, or transportation, or commitment to hard labour for life, the court at the time of trying such slave or slaves shall also inquire of the jury, upon their oaths, what sum or sums of money the owner, proprietor, or possessor of the said slave or slaves ought to receive for such slave or slave, and certify the same, so that such sum or sums of money do not exceed the sum of one hundred pounds for each slave so sentenced as aforesaid; and if the conviction be for running away, the value to be set by the jury shall not exceed fifty pounds.

Slaves sentenced to be executed or transported, to be valued by the court.

90. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all cases where any slave or slaves shall be brought to trial, and sentenced to death or transportation, and valued according to the directions of this Act, the provost marshal or his lawful deputy shall, under the penalty of two hundred pounds, carry such sentence into execution, as soon after the passing thereof as an opportunity shall offer; and in case of sentence to transportation, shall forthwith sell such slave or slaves for transportation to the best advantage in his power; and shall under the penalty of two hundred pounds, within the space of one month from the time of such sale, render to the owner, proprietor, or possessor of such slave, or other person legally entitled to receive the same, a just and true account, upon oath, of the sale or sales of such slave or slaves, and of the legal charges attending the same, and pay over to such owner, proprietor, or possessor, or other person legally entitled to receive the same, the proceeds of such sale or sales, after deducting all legal charges as aforesaid; and if it shall happen that the charges due to the provost marshal, or his legal deputy, for confinement and subsistence of said slave or slaves, shall amount to or exceed the amount of the sales, the same shall be sworn to by the said provost marshal, or his lawful deputy, on the back of the certificate of valuation, in which case the receiver general shall pay the whole amount of such valuation.

Provost marshal must execute orders of slave-courts as soon as possible, under penalty of £. 200.

91. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all cases where any slave or slaves shall be sentenced to death, or confinement to hard labour for life, and be valued according to this Act, such slave or slaves shall be paid for by the receiver general of this Island, out of any monies in his hands, upon production of a legal certificate of such sentence and valuation, but not otherwise; and in all cases where any slave or slaves shall be sentenced to transportation, and valued in manner aforesaid, the receiver general shall, in like manner, upon production of a like certificate, together with the account upon oath, hereinbefore directed to be made by the provost marshal or his lawful deputy, but not otherwise, pay the amount of the valuation of such slave or slaves, after deducting the amount of such account.

Valuation of slaves sentenced to death, &c. under this Act, to be paid by receiver general.

92. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every slave who, under the authority and by virtue of this Act, shall be sold for transportation by the provost marshal or his lawful deputy, shall, notwithstanding such sale, remain in the custody of the said provost marshal or his said deputy, until the purchaser of such

Purchasers of slaves sentenced to transportation, to give bond in £. 500 penalty, to transport them in thirty days.

JAMAICA.

Bond to be lodged in clerk of peace's office.

such slave shall have entered into bond, with sufficient security, to our Sovereign Lord the King, under the penalty of five hundred pounds for every such slave so purchased, that every such slave shall be transported off this Island, within thirty days after the date of such bond, and shall in the mean time be kept in close confinement on board the ship or vessel in which such slave is intended to be transported: which bond shall be taken by the said provost marshal, or his lawful deputy as aforesaid (for which the provost marshal, or his said deputy, shall receive from the party entering into the same all expenses incidental thereto), and be filed among the records in the office of the clerk of the peace of the parish or precinct where such slave was tried.

Purchasers to make oath that slaves shall be transported, and that they shall not be re-landed.

93. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every such purchaser of any slave, so directed to be sold for transportation as aforesaid, shall at the time of executing such bond as aforesaid, also make oath, in writing on some part of the said bond, before the provost marshal, or his lawful deputy as aforesaid (either of whom is hereby authorized and required to administer the same), that every such slave so purchased by him shall be transported to (death or danger of the seas excepted), and that the said slave so purchased shall not, with his knowledge, privity or consent, be re-landed in this Island.

No slave to be delivered until bond taken and oath made, under penalty.

94. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the provost marshal, or any of his deputies, shall not, under the penalty of three hundred pounds for each offence, deliver over to any purchaser or purchasers any slave, so sold for transportation as aforesaid, until such bond is entered into and oath taken as aforesaid; and in case any such slave, so sold for transportation as aforesaid, shall be found within this Island after the expiration of the thirty days before limited for his or her transportation, such slave shall become forfeited to the crown, and be re-sold for transportation by the provost marshal or his lawful deputy, in the same manner, and under the like penalties, as are hereinbefore enacted, and the net proceeds of such re-sale shall be paid over to the receiver general, for the use of the public.

Such slaves going at large may be apprehended by any person, and on due proof, re-sold.

95. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every slave sold for transportation under and by virtue of this Act, who shall be found at large within this Island, at any time after such sale as is hereinbefore directed, may and shall be lawfully apprehended by any person whomsoever, and immediately taken up before any of His Majesty's justices of the peace; and if it shall appear to the satisfaction of such justice, that such slave has been formerly sold for transportation by virtue of this Act, such justice shall, by warrant under his hand and seal, direct such slave to be delivered to the provost marshal or his lawful deputy, to be re-sold for transportation only; and the monies arising from such sale, after deducting a commission of five pounds per centum, and all necessary expenses, shall be paid over, one moiety thereof to the person apprehending such slave, and the other moiety to the receiver general for the time being, for the support of the government of this Island.

If slaves return from transportation they are to suffer death.

96. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any negro or other slave, who shall have been transported from this Island under the direction of this Act, or of any other Act heretofore in force respecting slaves, for murder, rebellion, or being engaged in a rebellious conspiracy, or obeah, or arson, shall wilfully return from transportation, such negro or other slave shall, upon conviction, suffer death without benefit of clergy.

Masters of vessels wilfully bringing back transported slaves, to forfeit £. 300 for each, and suffer imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

97. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if the master of any ship or vessel shall knowingly and wilfully bring back to this Island any negro or other slave, who shall have been transported from this Island under and by virtue of this Act, or any other Act heretofore in force respecting slaves, such master, being convicted thereof by bill, plaint or information, in the supreme court of judicature, or either of the courts of assize of this Island, shall forfeit the sum of three hundred pounds for each slave so brought back; one moiety whereof shall be to our Sovereign Lord the King, his heirs and successors, for and towards the support of the government of this Island, and the contingent charges thereof, and the other moiety to the party or parties at whose suit or complaint such person was convicted, and shall also suffer imprisonment, at the discretion of the court, for any space of time not less than three, nor exceeding twelve months, without bail or mainprize.

98. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any negro or other slave, who may be sentenced to be confined in the workhouse for the term of two years, or a less time, shall escape from such confinement before the expiration of his sentence, such negro or other slave being retaken, shall, on proof of his or her identity before two justices of the peace, be adjudged by them to be sent back to confinement, to complete the term for which he or she was sentenced to confinement, and to receive a whipping, not exceeding fifty lashes.

99. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any negro or other slave, who may be sentenced to be confined to hard labour for life in any workhouse, shall escape therefrom, every such negro or other slave being retaken, shall, on proof of his or her identity before two magistrates, be adjudged by them, either to be recommitted to his or her former punishment, or be transported off this Island for life.

100. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if the provost marshal, or any of his lawful deputies, or any lawful constable or workhouse-keeper, shall willingly or negligently suffer any slave or slaves to escape, who shall be committed to his or their custody, for any offence under this Act, such marshal, constable, or workhouse keeper who shall suffer such escape, shall, on conviction thereof before two magistrates, forfeit the sum of fifty pounds, to be recovered in a summary manner, by warrant under the hands and seals of the said two magistrates, for the use of the parish, and without injury to the rights of the owner, to sue for the value of the same.

101. And be it further enacted, That when any slave or slaves shall be discharged by proclamation, the deputy marshal or workhouse keeper shall be entitled to receive all such fees as shall be due to him or them for such slave or slaves at the time of such discharge, from the public, upon application and due proof made in the most solemn manner to the Assembly, or any committee thereof, that such slave or slaves, during the time they were in the custody of such deputy marshal or workhouse keeper, was or were found and provided with proper and sufficient provisions and necessary clothing, agreeably to this law.

102. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no gaol-keeper in this Island, or any person acting under him as clerk or deputy, shall on any pretence whatsoever, work or employ any slave or slaves sent to his custody upon any plantation, pen or settlement, belonging to or in the possession of any such gaol-keeper, nor hire or lend such slave or slaves out to work for any other person or persons, during the time such slave or slaves shall be in custody; but that all such slaves shall be and remain in the common gaol of the county, parish, or precinct, in order to be inspected by any person or persons desiring the same; and in case any gaol-keeper shall offend herein, he shall for every offence forfeit the sum of fifty pounds.

103. And whereas there are many inferior crimes and misdemeanours committed by slaves, which ought to be punished in a summary manner before two magistrates; Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all misdemeanours and inferior crimes committed by any slave or slaves not hereinbefore mentioned and directed in what manner they are to be tried, shall be tried in a summary manner before two or more justices of the peace of the parish or precinct where the offence shall be committed, reasonable notice of the time and place of such trial being given to the owner, proprietor, or possessor of such slave or slaves, or his her or their attorney or attorneys, or the person or persons having the care of such slave or slaves; and the said justices of the peace shall, on conviction of such slave or slaves, order and direct such punishment to be inflicted as they shall think proper, not exceeding fifty lashes, or six months imprisonment to hard labour.

104. And be it further enacted, That the clerk of the peace for attending such summary trial, and making out the order of the magistrates thereat, which he is hereby bound to do under the penalty of fifty pounds, shall be entitled to receive from the churchwardens of the parish, the sum of one pound six shillings and eight pence; and the constable for attending at the trial, and at the execution of the order of the magistrates thereon, shall receive the sum of ten shillings, except in the city of Kingston, where the fees to the clerk of the peace shall be thirteen shillings and four-pence, and to the constable five shillings, in consequence of the great number of such trials in that city.

JAMAICA.

Slaves sentenced to confinement in workhouse for two years, escaping, may be ordered fifty lashes and re-committed; and those sentenced for life, escaping, may be transported.

If marshal, constable, &c. suffer them to escape, they forfeit £. 50, and may be sued for value.

Fees of slaves discharged by proclamation, to be paid by the public, proof being given that they were properly maintained.

Gaol-keepers not to work out slaves sent to them for confinement, under penalty of £. 50.

Two justices may inquire into inferior crimes, giving notice to owners, &c. of slaves, and order punishment.

Clerks of peace to attend such summary trials, under penalty of £. 50, for which they are to be paid £. 1. 6s. 8d. Fee to constables.

JAMAICA.

Justices to enforce this Act, as well during martial law, as at other times.

Recovery and application of penalties not before disposed of.

Proceedings to be commenced within twelve months.

Offences committed under former Act may be heard, tried, &c. as if it were still in force.

Commencement of this Act.

105. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the justices aforesaid, and they are hereby required, to do their several and respective duties under this Act, when martial law shall happen to be in force, as they might or ought to have done if martial law were not subsisting; any law, custom, or usage to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

106. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all penalties in this Act mentioned, and not already declared how they shall be recovered and applied, shall, if not exceeding fifty pounds, be recovered in a summary manner before any two of His Majesty's justices of the peace, by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels, and if amounting to or exceeding fifty pounds, to be recovered in the supreme court of judicature, or in either of the courts of assize, by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, wherein no essogin, protection, or wager of law, or *Non vult ulterius prosequi*, shall be entered; one moiety of which penalties shall be paid to the churchwardens, for the use of the parish where the offence shall be committed, and the other moiety to the informer, or him her or them who shall sue for the same: Provided always, That all proceedings for the recovery of penalties under this Act, shall be instituted within twelve months after the offence be committed.

107. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all crimes committed by slaves during the time the Act intituled, "An Act for the protection, subsisting, clothing, and for the better order and government of slaves, and for other purposes," passed in the year one thousand eight hundred and nine, was in force, shall be heard, tried, and determined, and such slave punished, in the manner directed by the said Act, and as if the same were now in full force, and for which purpose only the said recited Act shall be considered as still in force.

108. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this Act shall commence, continue, and be in force, from the thirty-first day of December, in the present year.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

An ACT for establishing a Registry of Slaves in the Island of Montserrat.

WHEREAS a periodical registration of the slave population, in a precise and definite form, may tend more effectually to prevent the illicit introduction of slaves, and bar all possibility of encroachment on the rights of freedom; may it therefore please Your Most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted, and Be it, and it is hereby enacted by Your Majesty's Governor in Chief in and over your Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, and Barbuda, and Your Majesty's Council and Assembly of this your Island of Montserrat, That from and after the publication of this Act, there shall be established and kept in the town of Plymouth, in the said Island, an office of public registry for the registration of the names and descriptions of all negroes, mulattoes or other persons, who now are, or shall or may be at any time hereafter, held in a state of slavery within the said Island, and who shall be respectively returned for registration, as hereinafter directed and required; and that it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, his heirs and successors, or for the Governor or Commander in Chief of the Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, and Barbuda, for the time being, by letters patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or of the said Government, to appoint from time to time, and at all times hereafter, a fit and proper person to discharge the duties annexed to the said office; and that any and every such registrar so appointed, shall reside within the said Island, and not be at liberty to depart from thence (under pain of forfeiting his said office) without having previously obtained a licence or permission for that purpose in writing from the said Governor or Commander in chief for the time being.

2. And be it further enacted, That on or before the first day of January now next ensuing, every person who shall be then resident in the said Island, and who shall be in possession of any slave or slaves within the same, (either as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator or receiver, lessee, acting attorney, executor or guardian, or in any other right, capacity or character whatsoever,) shall make

and deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the registrar or his lawful deputy, at his office in the said Island, such a list or particular in writing, subscribed by him or her, as hereinafter mentioned and defined; (that is to say,) a list or particular, entitled, "An original Return of Slaves," which shall be divided into five perpendicular columns of convenient breadth; and in the first of the said columns shall be inserted the name and description of the person making the return, and the name and description of the person or persons on whose behalf the return is made, and the right, capacity or character in which he or she holds possession of, or claims title to, the slave or slaves returned, namely, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator or receiver, lessee, acting attorney, executor or guardian, or otherwise; in the second of the said columns shall be inserted the name of each slave, and the name by which each slave shall first be returned and registered shall continue for ever after to be the name of such slave; in the third of the said columns shall be inserted the sex of each slave; in the fourth of the said columns shall be inserted, "black" or "coloured," including under the term "coloured" all who are not black; and in the fifth of the said columns shall be inserted the reputed age of each slave; and at the end of such list or particular shall be set down, in words at length, the total number of the slaves returned: and for the better preserving a becoming uniformity in the said lists or particulars hereby required to be made, an appropriate form or example thereof is comprised in a Schedule to this Act annexed, marked with the letter (A.) and which all persons are enjoined as closely as possible to imitate.

3. And be it further enacted, That every such original return shall be verified or supported by an affidavit (or, if the party making the same be a quaker, by an affirmation,) thereunto annexed, sworn (or affirmed) before one of His Majesty's justices of the peace of the said Island, and to the purport and effect following:

" I, *A. B.* [*naming the deponent or affirmant*] do Swear [*or, solemnly affirm,*]
 " That the Return now by me delivered to be registered, contains, to the best
 " of my knowledge and belief, a true, faithful and accurate account and de-
 " scription of all the slaves belonging to me, [*or, in the lawful possession of*
 " the owner or claimant therein named and being within this Island,] save
 " and except as to such slaves as may have absconded, as hereinafter men-
 " tioned, whose names shall be here set forth; and I do further swear,
 " [*or, solemnly affirm,*] that no one of the said slaves has been to my know-
 " ledge imported into this Island contrary to the existing laws for abolishing
 " the slave trade.

" So help me GOD."

4. And be it further enacted, That after the said original returns shall have been duly made and delivered to the registrar as aforesaid, he shall proceed with all convenient dispatch to cause the same to be literally transcribed and recorded, in a fair and legible hand, in a book, or set of books, strongly and durably bound, to be provided and kept exclusively for that purpose at the public expense.

5. And be it further enacted, That no erasure shall, on any account or pretence whatsoever, be made in any of the said books of registry; but if any clerical or other error shall be committed in inserting any name, description or other particular therein, a line of red ink shall be drawn through any word or words so improperly inserted, without effacing the same, and the correction thereof, by introducing or substituting any other word or words, or otherwise, as the case may be, shall be either interlined or noted in the margin, (and always when practicable in the same hand in which the return so corrected shall have been inrolled) and the registrar shall either under such word or words so noted in the margin, or under a mark of reference there made to any such interlineation, subscribe his name at length; but, after the registry of original return of slaves shall have been completed and certified upon oath, as hereinafter prescribed, no interlineation, alteration or correction, shall on any account be made, or permitted to be made therein.

6. And be it further enacted, That all persons shall, at all times in the regular office hours, that is to say, between the hours of ten and two of the clock in the forenoon, upon tender of the fees hereinafter mentioned, have free access to and full liberty to inspect all and every or any of the said register books, and be entitled to call for and receive an office copy or copies of their respective returns and certificates of the non-registration of slaves.

7. And be it further enacted, That when and so soon as the original returns delivered

MONTSERRAT. delivered to the registrar agreeably to the provisions of this Act, shall have been respectively entered and enrolled as aforesaid, the registrar shall forthwith give notice thereof to the Governor, or Commander in chief, or President for the time being, who shall thereupon publicly notify to the inhabitants, in such manner as he shall deem most fit and effectual, that the registry of slaves is ready to be verified before him, and that the same is and will continue open at the proper office, for the space of twenty days, for the inspection of all persons who may be interested therein.

8. And be it further enacted, That if at any time within the term prescribed by the said notification, any owner or possessor of slaves shall make it appear to the said Governor, or Commander in chief, or President for the time being, that the non-delivery of his or her return to the registrar within the allotted period, or any error or omission therein has arisen from accident, insurmountable impediment, or any other sufficient cause, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor, Commander in chief, or President for the time being, to make an order in writing, by him subscribed and addressed to the registrar, commanding him to receive and enrol any such return or rectified return, as if the same had been made and delivered to him in proper time; which order the registrar is hereby enjoined to obey.

9. And be it further enacted, That the registrar shall, at the end or expiration of the said last-mentioned term of twenty days, proceed finally to close and authenticate the said original registry, which shall thenceforth be entitled, "The Original Registry of Slaves of the Island of Montserrat," in manner following; to wit, the registrar shall subscribe his name, and affix his seal of office immediately under the last entry of the book, or last of the set of books in which the said returns shall have been enrolled, and subjoin an affidavit to the following effect:

"Before A. B. [*inserting the name and title of the Governor, or Commander in chief, or President for the time being,*] personally appeared C. D. [*naming himself,*] the registrar of slaves in and for the said Island of Montserrat, and made oath, that he has carefully and minutely examined and compared all the foregoing entries in this book, [*or, set of books,*] with all the different returns of Slaves delivered to him, or to his knowledge and belief, to any deputy, clerk or assistant by him appointed or employed, and that the preceding original registry of slaves of the Island of Montserrat is in all respects truly, correctly and faithfully made."

Which said affidavit being subscribed by the said registrar, shall be sworn before the said Governor, or Commander in chief, or President for the time being, who shall subjoin thereto a certificate under his hand and seal, to the following effect:

"I, A. B. [*inserting his name and title of office,*] do hereby certify, That the above affidavit was this day sworn before me. Witness my hand and seal, this _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and _____

"A. B." (L. S.)

10. And be it further enacted, That at the end or expiration of the period of three years, to commence and be computed from the time of closing and authenticating such original registry as aforesaid, and at the end or expiration of every succeeding period of three years, thenceforward every person resident on the said Island who shall be in possession of any slave or slaves within the same, either as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator or receiver, lessee, attorney, executor or guardian, or in any other right or capacity whatsoever, shall make and deliver, or cause to be delivered to the registrar at his office in the said Island, such a list or particular in writing, subscribed by him or her, as is hereinafter mentioned and defined; that is to say, a list or particular entitled, "A Triennial Return of Slaves," which shall be divided into eight perpendicular columns of convenient breadth, and in the first of the said columns shall be inserted the name and description of the person making the return, and the name and description of the person or persons on whose behalf the return is made, and the right, capacity or character in which he or she holds possession of, or claims title to the slave or slaves returned, (namely,) whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator or receiver, lessee, acting attorney, executor or guardian, or otherwise; in the second of the said columns shall be inserted the name of each slave;

slave ; in the third of the said columns shall be inserted the sex of each slave ; in the fourth of the said columns shall be inserted a specification of the colour of each slave, in the same manner as hereinbefore directed ; and in case of acquisition of any slave or slaves by other legal means, except by births or the recovery of fugitive slaves, the name of the person from whom such slave may have been acquired, whether by purchase, lease, devise or inheritance, or any other legal means, shall also be inserted ; in the fifth of the said columns shall be inserted the reputed age of each slave ; in the sixth of the said columns shall be inserted the number of the slaves, named and described by the owner or possessor in his or her last return ; in the seventh of the said columns shall be inserted a particular detail of any additions which may have been made to the number of slaves who belonged to or were in the possession of the person making the return, at the last preceding period of registration, whether the same shall have happened by, or have been owing to birth, purchase, the apprehension or voluntary return of fugitives, or any other lawful acquisition or means of increase ; and the name or names of the slaves so born, purchased, apprehended, or voluntarily returned to service, or otherwise lawfully acquired, shall be also set forth at length in such column ; and in the eighth of the said columns shall be inserted a particular detail of any deductions which may have been made from the number of slaves who belonged to or were in possession of the person making the return at the last preceding period of registration, whether the same shall have happened by, or have been owing to death, sale or other transfer of property, permanent desertion, manumission, or other cause of decrease ; and the name or names of the slave or slaves so dead, sold, or otherwise transferred, permanently deserted, manumitted or otherwise defalcated, shall also be set forth at length in such column, and at the end of such list or particular shall be set down in words at length the total number of the slaves therein returned, and of the added or deducted slaves therein described ; and for the better preserving a becoming uniformity in the said lists or particulars, an appropriate form or example thereof is comprised in a Schedule to this Act annexed, marked with the letter (B.) and which all persons are enjoined as closely as possible to imitate.

11. And be it further enacted, That every such triennial return shall be verified or supported by an affidavit (or, if the party making the same be a Quaker, by an affirmation,) thereunto annexed, sworn (or affirmed) before one of His Majesty's justices of the peace of the said Island, and to the purport and effect following :

“ I, A. B. [*naming the deponent or affirmant*] do Swear [*or, solemnly Affirm,*]
 “ That the Return now by me delivered to be registered, contains, to the best
 “ of my knowledge and belief, a true, faithful, and accurate account and
 “ description of all the slaves belonging to, [*or, in the lawful possession of*
 “ the owner or claimant therein named,] and being within this Island [*save*
 “ and except as to such slaves as may have absconded, as hereinafter men-
 “ tioned, whose names shall be here set forth,] as also a true, faithful and
 “ accurate detail of such additions to, or deductions from the stock of slaves
 “ possessed by me at the time of making my last preceding return, as have
 “ since happened, together with the particular cause or causes of such addi-
 “ tions or deductions. And I do further Swear, [*or, solemnly Affirm,*] That
 “ no one of the said slaves has been, to my knowledge, imported into this
 “ Island contrary to the existing laws for abolishing the slave trade.
 “ So help me GOD.”

12. And be it further enacted, That the said triennial returns shall be registered in the same manner and form, and under the same rules, regulations, provisoes and restrictions, in every respect and particular as are hereinbefore prescribed, provided and reserved, for or touching the registration of the original returns hereinbefore directed to be made ; and the registers thereof shall be made up, closed and authenticated in the same manner and form, and within the same space of time hereinbefore prescribed for making up, closing and authenticating the original registry.

13. And be it further enacted, That the registrar shall, once in three years, duly, regularly and punctually, transmit or cause to be transmitted to the office of His Majesty's principal secretary of state for the colonial department in England, a book, or set of books, similar to that or those in which the original returns shall be kept, containing a true and faithful duplicate or transcript of any and every such registry, verified before and certified by the Governor, or Commander in chief or President for the time being, under his hand and the seal of his government.

MONTserrat.

14. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall neglect or omit to make and deliver a schedule or return of slaves in his or her possession, pursuant to the directions and requisitions of the Act, within the period allotted for enrolment in the original or any triennial registry, every such person so offending shall forfeit for every slave so neglected or omitted to be returned, the sum of two hundred pounds of current gold and silver money of the said Island, to be recovered as hereinafter mentioned; the one moiety of such penalty to be to the use of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, and the other moiety to the person who shall sue for the same; and in case the party so offending shall have possession of any such slave or slaves so neglected or omitted to be returned for registration as aforesaid, in the capacity or character of mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator or receiver, lessee, acting attorney, executor or guardian, or other representative of any person or persons, he or she shall not only forfeit for every slave so neglected or omitted to be returned, the said sum of two hundred pounds of money aforesaid, to be recovered and accrue in manner above stated, but shall moreover be liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every person or persons who shall or may sustain any damage or injury by any such neglect or omission, and who shall, besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, be entitled to recover against the party so offending, treble costs of suit: Provided always, That no person shall be liable to any penalty as aforesaid, for or in respect of any slave or slaves who may have absconded or have been out of his or her control at the time of making such original or subsequent returns as aforesaid, so that such person do and shall specify the name or names of such slave or slaves in the affidavit hereinbefore required to be annexed to the respective schedules or returns.

15. And be it further enacted, That if it shall be made to appear, to the satisfaction of the Governor, or Commander in chief, or President for the time being, that any slave or slaves has or have been omitted to be returned for registration in the original registry, or any triennial registry hereinbefore directed to be made, without any actual neglect or wilful default of the owner or possessor, or owners or possessors thereof; or that any slave or slaves, although duly returned for registration, has or have been omitted from the registry through the negligence, inadvertency or oversight of the registrar, his clerks or assistants, then and in either of such cases or events it shall and may be lawful for the said Governor or Commander in chief, or President for the time being, and he is hereby authorized and required to remit any penalty or penalties which may have been so incurred by reason of any such omission or default.

16. And be it further enacted, That every slave who shall not be duly registered according to the requisitions and provisions of this Act, shall and may be prosecuted for non-registration by any of His Majesty's subjects, and shall be condemned as forfeited to the use of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, unless the person claiming title thereto shall establish, by positive or strong presumptive proof, that such slave has not been imported into the said Island contrary to the laws in force for the abolition of the slave trade; and His Majesty's attorney or solicitor general, or law officer of the Crown of the said Island, shall, at the instance of any and every person who shall produce a certificate from the registrar of the non-registration of any slave, make and file an information against the same in His Majesty's court of king's bench and common pleas of the said Island; and every person so prosecuting for non-registration shall be entitled to full costs of suit against the owner or possessor, even though the same shall not have been confiscated as aforesaid.

17. And be it further enacted, That if any registrar of slaves shall, in the exercise of his office, willingly refuse to receive for registration any return which he ought to receive, or to make any entry which he ought to make, or to do any other act which he ought to do, according to the directions herein contained, he shall be liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every persons and person who shall sustain any injury or damage by any such refusal; and if any such registrar shall wilfully make, or knowingly permit or suffer to be made, any false or fraudulent entry in the books of registry in his office, or either of them, or in any of the said duplicates, transcripts, or abstracts herein directed to be made out, or shall fraudulently erase, obliterate, or alter any return or entry which shall have been duly made and recorded in the said books of registry, or either of them, he shall, upon conviction of any such offence, be liable to such pains and penalties as are by the laws of Great Britain inflicted upon persons convicted of forging, or fraudulently altering public judicial

judicial records, and shall moreover be liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every persons and person who shall sustain any injury or damage by any such offence, who, besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, shall recover against such registrar treble costs of suit; and if any assistant or clerk of any such registrar, or if any other person whosoever in the said Island, shall commit or knowingly permit or suffer to be committed, any such offence as aforesaid, he shall, upon conviction thereof, be liable to such pains and penalties as are by the laws of Great Britain inflicted upon persons convicted of forging or fraudulently altering public judicial records.

18. And be it further enacted, That to the intent that all persons may be duly apprized of the approach of the period appointed for the triennial registration of slaves, by virtue of this Act, the said period shall from time to time and at all times hereafter, for and during the space of thirty days before the same shall arrive, be duly and publicly advertised by the registrar, by sticking up a public notice at the court-house door.

19. And be it further enacted, That any two or more of the justices of His Majesty's court of king's bench and common pleas of the said Island shall or may, on the application or information of any of His Majesty's subjects, (at any time of the year, and either in or out of court,) by warrant under their hands and seals, directed to the provost marshal of the said Island or his lawful deputy, empower and command him to take and detain in his custody the body of any person who shall be proved before them to have incurred any or either of the penalties imposed by this Act, until he or she shall fully pay and discharge the amount of the penalty or penalties for which he or she shall have been so committed, together with the costs which shall or may have been expended in prosecuting for the same.

20. And be it further enacted, That the certificate of any and every registrar of slaves, appointed in pursuance of the Act, by him subscribed, certifying any copy or extract from the books in his office, or the non-registration of any slave or slaves therein, shall be received in all courts, and by all judges, magistrates, and other persons in authority in the said Island, as sufficient evidence of the truth or authenticity of such copy or extract, and as sufficient *prima facie* evidence of the matters so certified, reserving nevertheless to the party or parties against whom any such certificate shall be adduced in proof, the right or privilege of contradicting, impeaching, or correcting the same, by comparison with the original book or books of registry.

21. And be it further enacted, That such registrar of slaves shall be entitled to receive annually the sum of sixty pounds of current money of this Island, to be paid him out of the public treasury; and the said registrar shall likewise be entitled to demand and receive the further sum of three-pence, gold and silver money, for every slave named in any certified copy of registered returns which may be required or demanded of him; and for every search in his registry, the sum of two shillings and three-pence, gold and silver money; and for every ordinary certificate by him given and subscribed, nine shillings, gold and silver money.

And be it further enacted, That in case any person whosoever shall wilfully forswear in taking any oath by this Act required to be taken, or shall unlawfully and corruptly procure or suborn any person so to do, he or she, being duly convicted thereof, shall for every such offence incur the pains and penalties inflicted by law upon persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury, or subornation of perjury.

Dated at Antigua, this tenth day of July, in the fifty-seventh year of His Majesty's reign, and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

<p>Passed the Assembly this third day of July one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.</p> <p>Henry Dyott, Clerk of the Assembly.</p>	{ Tho's Winstead, Speaker pro tempore. }	<p>Passed the Council this third day of July one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.</p> <p>James Masters, Clerk of the Council.</p>
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Geo. Wm. Ramsay, Governor.

MONTSEERRAT.

Original RETURN of SLAVES. (A.)

Names and Descriptions of Persons making the Return, &c.	SLAVES IN POSSESSION.			
	Names.	Sex.	Colour.	Reputed Age.
A. B. Proprietor - -	A. B.	Male.	Black.	Thirty-five.
C. D. (Attorney of E. F.) } Proprietor - - - }	C. D.	Female.	Coloured.	Twenty.
	Total - -			

(Signed) A. B. day of 181

Triennial RETURN of SLAVES. (B.)

Names and Description of Persons making the Returns, &c.	SLAVES IN POSSESSION.				Number of Slaves last returned.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Names.	Sex.	Colour.	Reputed Age.			
A. B. Proprietor - -	A. B.	Male.	Black.	Thirty-five.	150.	1 by birth, " A. "	2 by deaths, " D. " " E. "
C. D. (Attorney of E. F.) } Proprietor - - - }	C. D.	Female.	Coloured.	Twenty.		2 by purchase from G. H., " B. "	1 by sale, " F. "
						" C. "	1 by manu- mission, " G. "
	Total.					Total.	Total.

(Signed) A. B. day of 181

NEVIS REGISTRY ACT.—1817.

An ACT for establishing a Registry of Negro and other Slaves, in the Island of Nevis.

WHEREAS it has been deemed expedient that an original registry, and periodical returns from time to time, of the negro and other slaves in this Island, should be made, for the purpose of ascertaining the number, and identifying the persons, of such negro and other slaves, and their progressive increase and decrease: And whereas such registry and return will be best accomplished by means of a public registry being established for the registration and enrolment of the several negro and other slaves in this Island hereinafter mentioned; we, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Governor in chief of these Your Majesty's Islands of Saint Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands, and the Council and Assembly of the Island of Nevis, do pray Your Most Sacred Majesty, That it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act there shall be established in this Island a public registry for the registration and enrolment, in manner hereinafter directed, of the names and descriptions of all negroes, mulattoes or others, who now are or at any time hereafter shall be held in a state of slavery within the said Island, and who shall be respectively registered, or returned for registration, as hereinafter directed, within ninety days from the passing of this Act: And that it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, his heirs and successors, or for the Governor or Commander in chief of Saint Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands, by letters patent under the seal of the said government, to appoint from time to time and at all times hereafter, a fit and proper person to discharge the duties annexed to the said office; and that the person and persons so to be appointed registrar, shall reside within this Island of Nevis, and shall not be at liberty to depart from thence without having previously obtained a licence or permission for that purpose from the Governor or Commander in chief of the said government for the time being.

And be it further enacted, That the person so to be appointed shall provide the necessary books, strongly and durably bound, for the purpose of the registry and enrolment hereinafter directed, in which books he shall enter and register, as hereinafter directed, the names and descriptions of all the slaves in this Island.

And be it further enacted, That on or before the expiration of the ninety days aforesaid, every person who shall be resident in this Island, and who shall be in possession of any slave or slaves within the same, either as owner, renter, trustee, attorney, agent, manager, or in any other right or character, whatever his or her title, trust or interest in any such slave or slaves may be, shall respectively make and deliver in, or cause to be made and delivered in, upon oath to the registrar of slaves in this Island, or his lawful deputy, to be recorded by the said registrar, such schedules, lists and particulars in writing, subscribed by him her or them, to be called his her or their return of slaves, as are hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, an alphabetical list or schedule in writing, in the form of schedule (A.) hereunto annexed, and which said schedule or return shall be subscribed by the person giving in the same, and the total number of male and female slaves inserted in words at length.

And be it further enacted, That the said registrar shall from time to time deliver gratis to every person who shall apply for the same, printed blanks, according to the forms prescribed in the schedules to this Act annexed, for the purpose of being filled up and returned as hereinafter directed.

And be it further enacted, That every person making and subscribing any and every such schedule or return, shall cause the same to be delivered to the registrar or his lawful deputy, at his office in the said Island, having first made oath to the purport or effect following, before one of the justices of the peace in the said Island, who are hereby authorized and empowered to administer the same, such oath to be annexed to the said return:

" I, *A. B.* do hereby make oath, That the above list or schedule signed by me,
 " and intended to be delivered to the registrar of slaves of this Island for
 " registration, in compliance with an Act for establishing a general registry
 " of all the negro and other slaves in the said Island, contains a just, true,
 " and

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“ and full account and return in all respects of all the negro and other slaves
 “ belonging to or in the lawful possession of
 “ and being within the said Island, save and except as to such slaves as
 “ have absconded or secreted themselves, and whose names and descriptions
 “ are hereunto annexed; and that the said return is made to the best of
 “ my knowledge and belief.

“ So help me GOD.”

And be it further enacted, That as soon as any such returns or schedules as aforesaid shall have been duly made and received by the said registrar, he shall proceed to register and copy the same with all convenient speed, in a fair, distinct and legible manner, in a proper book, or set of books, to be kept by the said registrar, precisely conformable to the said returns, which returns shall then be filed.

And be it further enacted, That no erasure shall on any pretence, or for any occasion whatsoever, be at any time permitted to be in any of the said books of registry; but if any clerical error shall occur in the insertion of any name, description or other particular therein, so that the same shall differ from the name, description or particular contained in the schedule or return from which the same was made, or if any other mistake shall occur in the making up and keeping the said books of registry, a line of red ink shall be drawn through any word or words improperly inserted, so as to leave the original word or words legible; and the correction thereof, by the insertion of any word or words which may have been erroneously omitted, shall either be interlined or written in the margin, and always, when practicable, by the same hand as the rest of the list or entry; and the registrar shall either under such word or words, or under a mark of reference there made to any interlineation, subscribe his name at length; but after the registry of original return of slaves shall have been completed and certified upon oath as hereinafter directed, no interlineation, insertion, or other correction of the registry of any such original return, shall on any account be made or permitted, except as is hereinafter expressly provided.

And be it further enacted, That an office copy, certified by the registrar, of the registered list or schedule of slaves belonging to any plantation, or to any particular owner or owners, shall, after the registering thereof, at the request of the owner or owners, claimant or claimants, or party or parties who made the return of such list or schedule, be made and delivered to him her or them by the said registrar; and all persons shall have free liberty to inspect the said register books in the presence of the registrar or his assistant, for the purpose of ascertaining that all returns and lists or schedules by them or on their behalf delivered, have been accurately registered in manner aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, That when and so soon as all the original returns or schedules which shall have been delivered to the registrar of this Island pursuant to this Act, shall have been entered and registered as aforesaid, the registrar shall give notice thereof forthwith to the Governor or civil Commander in chief of this Island for the time being, and such Governor or civil Commander in chief shall thereupon notify to the inhabitants of this Island, in such manner as he shall deem most fit and effectual, that the registry of slaves is ready to be verified before him, as far as respects the original registry of slaves, and that the same is and will continue open at the proper office for the inspection of all persons who have made returns of slaves for insertion therein, or who are desirous of such inspection, for the term of ninety days from the date of such notification, to the intent that all persons interested may be satisfied as to the accuracy of the said registry; and also, that if any owners or possessors of slaves within or belonging to the Island, shall have, from any accident or unavoidable impediment until that time, omitted to return full and proper schedules or lists of their slaves unto the said register, as by this Act required, they must immediately apply to the said Governor or civil Commander in chief, who, upon satisfactory proof that such omission has not been wilful, is hereby empowered to make an order to the registrar for the admission and registration or correction of their returns or schedules, and which order the registrar is required to obey, so as every such new or corrected return may be registered in the said books in manner aforesaid, before the end of the said term of ninety days before mentioned.

And be it further enacted, That at the end of the said last-mentioned term of ninety days, the registrar shall proceed finally to close and authenticate the primary or original registration of all the slaves in this Island, which shall thenceforth be called

called the original registry of slaves of the Island of Nevis, in manner following (to wit), in the said book, or in the last of any set of the said books, the said registrar shall write with his own hand in large legible characters, immediately after the last entry of the said returns or lists of slaves for the Island of Nevis, either on the same folio or double page, or on the back of the last leaf containing the same, "Here ends the original registry of slaves for the Island of Nevis;" and the said registrar shall thereto subscribe his name and affix his seal of office, and below the said signature shall be written in like characters by the said registrar, the following affidavit:

"Before *A. B.* [*inserting the name of the Governor or civil Commander in chief*] personally appeared *C. D.* [*naming himself*] the registrar of slaves for the Island of Nevis, who, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, maketh oath and sayeth, That he the said *C. D.* hath carefully examined and compared all the preceding entries in this book, [*or, in this set of books*] with all the different returns of slaves delivered to him, or to his knowledge and belief, to any deputy, clerk, or assistant by him appointed; and that he is enabled thereby to depose, and doth depose, that the preceding original registry of slaves of the Island of Nevis, is in all respects correct, and faithfully made."

Which affidavit being subscribed by the said registrar, shall be sworn to before the said Governor or civil Commander in chief, who shall subjoin thereto the following certificate under his hand and seal:

"I, *A. B.* [*inserting his name and title of office*] do hereby certify, That the above affidavit was duly sworn before me this _____ day of _____ one thousand eight hundred and _____ Witness my hand and seal, this _____ day of _____ one thousand eight hundred and _____"

And be it further enacted, That after the expiration of three years, to be computed from the time when any such original registry shall be completed and authenticated as aforesaid, and after every succeeding period of three years in times to come, on the first day of January in the next following year, or within sixty days after that day, every person resident in this Island, who shall be in the lawful possession of any slave or slaves within this Island, whether as owner, renter, trustee, attorney, agent, manager, or in any other right or character whatever, shall make and deliver, or cause to be made and delivered upon oath to the registrar of this Island, an account or schedule in form (B.) hereunto annexed, of all the additions to the former stock of slaves belonging to or in the lawful possession of such person or persons on whose behalf the return is made, within the three years next preceding, whether by birth, purchase, return of fugitive or absent slaves, or by any other lawful ways and means whatever; and also an account or schedule in form (C.) hereunto annexed, of all deductions from the former stock of slaves belonging to or in the lawful possession of such person or persons on whose behalf the return is made, within the three years next preceding, whether by death, sale, transfer, manumission or otherwise; and when by the death of the owner, or by any other cause, there shall have been, within the period to which the returns relate, any change of property in and possession of any slaves from the owner or owners under whose names they were registered, to any new owner or owners, such change of property and possession shall also be mentioned in the said triennial returns, and such returns shall also state in words at length, the whole number of slaves then belonging to or possessed by the person or persons mentioned in such returns; but where there shall have been no alteration since the last return in the number or description of the slaves belonging to or possessed by the person for whom the return is made, or the property thereof, it shall be sufficient to state the whole number of slaves, and to add, "No alteration required by law to be specified has taken place since the last return."

And be it further enacted, That any person making and subscribing such return shall take the following oath before one of His Majesty's justices of the peace:

"I, *A. B.* do solemnly Swear, That the contents of the schedule or return now by me delivered are true, and that the same contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a full, fair, and correct account of all additions to or deductions from the number of slaves belonging to or possessed by _____ and being within this Island, whether by birth, purchase, return of fugitive or absent slaves, death, sale, transfer, manumission _____"

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“ mission, or otherwise, since the original registration thereof, [or, during
 “ the last three years] and of the whole number of slaves now actually
 “ belonging to [or, in the lawful possession of] the said

“ So help me GOD.”

And be it further enacted, That if any person, who by this Act is directed to make and deliver a return of the slaves in his or her possession for registration as aforesaid, shall wilfully omit or neglect to do so, whereby such slave or slaves shall be omitted to be duly registered in the original or any subsequent registry pursuant to this Act, every such person so offending, shall forfeit for every slave omitted to be registered as aforesaid, the sum of one hundred pounds sterling money, to be recovered and applied in manner hereinafter directed; and in case the party so offending shall have possession of any such slave or slaves omitted to be registered as aforesaid, in the capacity of mortgagee, trustee, attorney or manager, for any other or others or in any other right or character whatever, such person shall not only forfeit for every slave omitted to be registered as aforesaid, the like sum of one hundred pounds sterling money, to be recovered and applied in manner hereinafter stated, but shall moreover be liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every the person or persons who shall or may sustain any damage or injury by any such omission as aforesaid, and who, besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, shall be entitled to recover against the party offending double costs of suit.

And whereas it may happen, in some instances, that owners and possessors of slaves within this Island, at the time of the said first or original registration, may from accident or some unavoidable impediment, omit to return the same for registration within the times herein respectively limited for that purpose, or that persons in possession of slaves not their own absolute property, may wilfully or negligently make such omissions without the concurrence or consent of the absent owners or persons interested in such slaves; Be it therefore enacted, That if any owner or owners, possessor or possessors of slaves with this Island, shall have omitted to make his her or their return thereof, within the time hereinbefore limited for the said first or original registration, or subsequent registration within the time hereinbefore in that respect limited; and if such owner or owners, possessor or possessors, or any other person or persons, who at the time of such omission was or shall have since become the owners or possessors, whether in his own right or in the right of any other person or persons, of any slave or slaves so omitted to be returned, shall at the time of making his her or their triennial return next after any such omission or default, apply to the Governor or civil Commander in chief of this Island, and prove to his satisfaction that such omission was not wilful, but arose from some specified accident or other unavoidable impediment, or from the neglect or default of some person or persons other than the owner or owners of the said slave or slaves, or from some other cause which may appear to the said Governor or civil Commander in chief as a satisfactory ground for complying with the request of the said party, it shall be lawful for the said Governor or civil Commander in chief to order that such party or parties so making his her or their triennial return next after such omission or default, to the said registrar, shall be at liberty to insert the names and descriptions, and all other particulars hereinbefore required, of and relating to all and every slave or slaves, the subject of any such former omission or default, and also in such return such account as hereinbefore directed of all additions to or deductions from the stock of slaves in respect of which such return is made, which shall have occurred within the preceding three years; and such return, when duly made and registered, together with the cause of the former omission and default, and the date of the order for supplying the same, which shall be certified and signed by the said registrar on the registry of such return in the proper book, shall from thenceforth be deemed and taken to be as valid and effectual for all the purposes of this Act, as if the matters therein contained had been duly returned and registered at the proper period.

And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons making any such original or subsequent return of slaves as aforesaid in this Island, shall falsely and wilfully insert therein any name or names, description or descriptions of any slave or slaves, or pretended slave or slaves belonging to him her or them, knowing that such slave or slaves, or pretended slave or slaves, as shall be so named and described doth not or do not in fact belong at the time of making such return, to him her or them, (except such slaves as hereinafter mentioned) every such person so offending shall forfeit for every slave, or pretended slave so falsely returned, the sum of one hundred

hundred pounds sterling money, to be recovered and applied in manner hereinafter directed: Provided always, That no person shall be liable to any such penalty as last aforesaid, in respect of any slave or slaves which he or she shall prove to have been at the time of the return actually employed upon the plantation, or in the service of the asserted owner or owners, claimant or claimants, to whom the same were represented by such return to belong, although he or she shall not be able to prove that the property in such slave or slaves was such as was stated in the return, except when the prosecutor shall give evidence beyond the falsification of the return in point of property, to show that the same was fraudulent or wilfully false: Provided also, That no person shall be liable to any such penalty or forfeiture as last aforesaid, in respect of any slave or slaves who may have absconded or secreted themselves from the service or employ of their respective owner or owners, claimant or claimants, or other person or persons entitled to such slave or slaves, or be out of his her or their control at the time of making such original or subsequent return of slaves as aforesaid, so, nevertheless, that such owner or owners, claimant or claimants, or other person or persons do and shall specify the names and descriptions of all such slaves in the affidavit hereinbefore mentioned.

And be it further enacted, That before the registrar shall enter on the performance of the functions of his office of registrar of slaves, he shall take the following oath before the president in council, who is hereby authorized to administer the same:

“ I, *A. B.* do solemnly promise and Swear, That I will not knowingly or
 “ willingly make, or permit or suffer to be made, any false or fraudulent
 “ entry, erasure or obliteration, in the registry of slaves to be committed to
 “ my charge; but if any such false or fraudulent act shall become known to
 “ me, will immediately give notice thereof to the Governor or civil Com-
 “ mander in chief of this Island; and will in all respects faithfully and
 “ uprightly perform the duties of the office of Keeper of the Registry of
 “ Slaves for this Island.

“ So help me GOD.”

And be it further enacted, That if any registrar shall, in the exercise of his said office, wilfully refuse or neglect to receive for registration any return, or to make any entry which he ought to make according to the directions in this Act specified, or shall knowingly or wilfully, contrary to the said directions or to the true intent and meaning of this Act, receive for registration any return, or make or cause or suffer to be made any entry which ought not to be so made; or in case any registrar shall wilfully make, or knowingly permit or suffer to be made, any false or fraudulent entry in the books of registry in his office or either of them, or in any of the said accounts or abstracts hereby directed to be made out; or shall fraudulently erase, obliterate or alter, or knowingly permit or suffer to be fraudulently erased, obliterated or altered, any entry which shall have been duly made in the said book or books of registry, the said registrar shall, upon conviction of any such offence, not only be liable to all such pains and penalties as ought by law to be inflicted on persons convicted of forging or fraudulently altering public records, but shall for ever forfeit his said office, and shall moreover be liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every person and persons who shall sustain any damage or injury by any such offence, who, besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, shall recover against such registrar double costs of suit; and if any deputy, assistant, or clerk of any registrar, shall commit, or knowingly permit or suffer to be committed, any such offence as aforesaid, he shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to the like pains and penalties; and if any other person or persons shall wilfully make or cause to be made any fraudulent entry or erasure in the aforesaid books of registry or returns, or either of them, every such person or persons, on conviction thereof, shall be liable to the pains and penalties inflicted by law upon persons convicted of fraudulently altering public records, and shall furthermore forfeit for every such offence, the sum of five hundred pounds sterling money, to be recovered and applied in manner hereinafter directed, and shall, moreover, be liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every person or persons who shall have sustained any damage or injury by such offence, who, besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, shall be entitled to recover against such person so offending double costs of suit.

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And be it further enacted, That the certificate of registrar of slaves of this Island by him subscribed, certifying any copies or extracts from the books in his office, or the non-registration of any slave or slaves therein, shall be received in all courts, and by all judges, magistrates, and other persons in authority in the said Island, as sufficient evidence of the authenticity of such copy or extract, and a sufficient evidence *primâ facie* of the matter so certified, saving, nevertheless, to the party or parties against whom such evidence is adduced, the right of contradicting, impeaching, or correcting the same, by an inspection of and comparison with the original book or books of registry.

And be it further enacted, That the said registrar shall, for his trouble of receiving and filing the aforesaid lists and returns so delivered in to him, and for transcribing the same into the necessary book or books as hereinbefore directed, and for giving a certified copy thereof if required, be entitled to demand and receive from the public treasury of the said Island, for the first year of such return, the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds current money; for every subsequent year, the sum of one hundred pounds like money; for every search in his registry, the sum of three shillings; for every certificate by him given and subscribed, except the original office copy as before named, the sum of nine shillings; and shall likewise receive payment from the said Treasury for the books and blank forms he is by this Act directed to provide.

And be it further enacted, That from nine o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon, every person may have access to the book or books so kept in the said registrar's office; and that the said registrar shall, upon request by any person authorized to make the same, within ten days after such request, deliver to such person a copy or copies of any such list or schedule by him required, which shall be duly certified as a true copy, and for which the said registrar shall be entitled to receive from the person so requesting, at the rate of two shillings for every ninety words; and in case the said registrar shall omit or neglect any of the duties imposed on him by this Act, or shall take any larger or more fee or fees than are therein prescribed, he shall forfeit, on conviction of every such offence, the sum of one hundred pounds sterling.

And be it further enacted, That in any action or suit which may be hereafter brought for the purpose of establishing the right of freedom in any negro or coloured person claimed as a slave by any inhabitant or proprietor of property in this Island, that in all such actions or suits, a certificate of such registrar as aforesaid, shall in the first place be exhibited, or the original book or books be produced, or their non-production accounted for, to the satisfaction of the court before whom the said action or suit shall be tried; and in case the said certificate shall not be produced, or the said original book or books produced, with the name and description of such person respecting whom the question of freedom shall arise, inserted therein as a slave, or the non-production of the same accounted for to the satisfaction of the said court, the person or persons concerning whom such question shall arise, shall henceforth be reputed free.

And be it further enacted, That if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, that any slave or slaves, has or have been omitted to be returned for registration in the original registry, or any triennial registry hereinbefore directed to be made, without any actual neglect or wilful default of the owner or possessor, or owners or possessors thereof, or that any slave or slaves, although duly returned for registration, has or have been omitted to be registered, through the negligence, inadvertency or oversight of the registrar or his deputy, clerks or assistants, then and in either of such cases or events, it shall and may be lawful for the said Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, and he is hereby authorized and required to remit any penalty or penalties which may have been so incurred, by reason of any such omission or default.

And whereas it is essential to the security and stability of West Indian property, that some precaution should be taken against the emigration of fugitive slaves to neighbouring Islands, where their names being unregistered, they may require a virtual emancipation: Be it therefore enacted, That every negro or person of colour, who shall at any time after the publication of this Act, arrive in this Island, pretending to be free, but not being provided with any regular deed or instrument of manumission, shall, within the space of twenty-four hours after his or her arrival, appear

appear before the Governor, Commander in chief for the time being, or President of His Majesty's Council of this Island, and produce to him a certificate of his or her reputed freedom, under the hand and seal of the Governor, Commander in chief for the time being, or President of His Majesty's Council of some other British Colony in the West Indies, under the penalty of fifty pounds of current gold and silver money of the said Island, to be recovered and applied as hereinafter mentioned; and unless and until every or any such negro or person of colour who shall have so arrived, shall be in possession of, or obtain such certificate as is above required, he or she shall be and remain subject to every law or regulation which shall be in force in the said Island, in any manner relating to slaves: Provided always, That nothing in this clause contained shall extend or be construed to extend, to any negroes or persons of colour who have heretofore been, or shall hereafter be born free within the said Island, or who have been generally hitherto reputed to be free therein.

And be it further enacted, That in case any person or persons whomsoever shall be guilty of any false or wilful forswearing in taking any oath under the proceedings of this Act, or shall unlawfully and corruptly procure or suborn any person to take any such oath falsely, he or she being thereof duly convicted, shall for every such offence, incur the pains and penalties inflicted by law on all such persons as shall commit wilful perjury, or shall procure or suborn any person to commit any wilful or corrupt perjury.

And be it enacted, That all penalties imposed by this Act be appropriated as follows: one half to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, to be applied to the public use of this Island, the other half to him who shall inform and sue for the same, and may be sued for and recovered in a summary way, by complaint or information in writing before any magistrate, who, upon such complaint or information lodged, shall summon the party complained of, and also the witness, to appear before him and any other justice, one whereof shall be a judge of the court of king's bench and common pleas, and on due proof made, either by confession, or on the oath of one credible witness, may give judgment thereon; and if the said penalty be not immediately paid or secured to the satisfaction of the said justices, they may issue their warrant thereon, to distrain the offender's goods and chattels, which if not redeemed in ten days, and the expenses of the distress paid, shall be publicly sold by the provost marshal or his lawful deputy, and the amount of such distress and expense, and also all costs of the said sale, deducted therefrom, and the overplus (if any) paid over to the person whose goods were distrained; and if sufficient distress cannot be found, the said justices may commit the offender to the common gaol of this Island, for the space of sixty days, unless the said penalties and expenses be sooner paid: Provided always, if any person shall feel himself aggrieved by any such conviction, such person may, within ten days, appeal to the Governor or Civil Commander in chief of this Island, who may hear and determine the same in a summary way, and his decision of such appeal shall be final, and the party appealing shall give notice of such his appeal to the person suing for such penalty, ten days before the day fixed by the Governor or Civil Commander in chief for hearing the same.

Dated at St. Christopher, the sixteenth day of April, in the fifty-seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Magnus Morton, Speaker of the House of Assembly.

Passed the Board of Council, the fourteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

John R. Small, Cl^k Sec^y.

Passed the Assembly, this fourteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

John Huggins, Clerk of the Assembly.

Thomas (L. s.) Probyn.

Published by beat of drum, this eighteenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

George Hobson, Dep. Pro. Marshal.

NEVIS.

SCHEDULE (A.)

An Alphabetical LIST and RETURN of all the Negro and other Slaves now resident on the Estate called _____, and belonging to or in the lawful possession of,

Given in by me, this _____ day of _____ one thousand eight hundred and _____

No.	Names.	Sex.	Country.	Colour.	Reputed Age.

SCHEDULE (B.)

An Alphabetical LIST and RETURN of all the Additions to the original stock of Slaves resident on the Estate called _____, and belonging to, or in the lawful possession of _____ whether by birth, purchase, return of fugitive or absent Slaves, or otherwise, since the last Return.

Given by me, this _____ day of _____ one thousand eight hundred and _____

No.	Names.	Sex.	Country.	Colour.	Reputed Age.	By Birth, Purchase, or Return, and if purchased, of whom.

SCHEDULE (C.)

An Alphabetical LIST and RETURN of all Deductions from the original stock of Slaves resident on the Estate called _____, and belonging to, or in the lawful possession of _____ whether by death, sale, manumission, absconding, or otherwise, since the last Return.

Given by me, this _____ day of _____ one thousand eight hundred and _____

N ^o on original List, or subsequent Return.	Name.	Dead, Manumitted, or Absconded.	If sold, to whom.	Date of Sale, &c.

Nevis.—Secretary's Office, April, 28th, 1817.

I certify that the foregoing pages contain a true and correct copy of the original Act for establishing a Registry of Slaves in this Island, recorded in this office.

John R. Small,
Colonial Secretary.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S.

An ACT for establishing a Registry of Negro and other Slaves in the Island of Saint Christopher's.

MAY it please Your most Excellent Majesty, That it may be enacted; and be it and it is hereby enacted by the Governor in chief of Your Majesty's Islands of Saint Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands, and by the Council and Assembly of this Your Island of St. Christopher, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, there shall be established in this Island a public registry for the registration and enrolment, in manner hereinafter directed, of the names and descriptions of all negroes, mulattoes, or others who now are or at any time hereafter shall be held in a state of slavery within this Island; and that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, or Commander in chief of St. Christopher's, Nevis, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands, by letters patent under the seal of the said government, to appoint from time to time, and at all times hereafter, a fit and proper person to discharge the duties annexed to the said office; and that the person and persons so to be appointed registrar shall reside within this Island of St. Christopher's, and shall keep the office for the registration of slaves in some safe and convenient part of the town of Basseterre, and shall not be at liberty to depart from the said Island without having previously obtained a licence or permission for that purpose, from the Governor or Commander in chief of the said government for the time being; and that such licence or permission shall not be given for a longer period than twelve months, and shall not be renewed oftner than once in four years.

2. And be it further enacted, That the person so to be appointed, shall at the public expense, provide the necessary books, for the purpose of the registry and enrolment hereinafter directed, strongly and durably bound; in which books the names and descriptions of all the slaves in this Island shall be registered, as hereinafter directed.

3. And be it also enacted by the authority aforesaid, That on or before the first day of July next ensuing, every person who shall then be resident in this Island, and who shall be in possession of any slave or slaves within the same, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator or receiver, lessee, manager or attorney, guardian or committee, or in any other right or character, whatever his or her title, trust, possession or interest of or in such slave or slaves may be, shall respectively make and deliver, or cause to be made and delivered into the office of the said registrar of slaves, to be recorded by him, such schedules, lists and particulars in writing subscribed by him her or them, to be called his her or their return of slaves as are hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, a list or schedule in writing, containing his or her own name and description, and the names and descriptions of such other person or persons, being the owner or owners, claimant or claimants of such slave or slaves on whose behalf the return is made, and the right or character in which the party making such return holds possession of such slave or slaves; namely, whether as proprietor, lessee, mortgagee, sequestrator, guardian, committee, trustee, receiver, executor, administrator, attorney, manager, or otherwise; and shall name, describe, and enumerate distinctly therein the several negro, mulatto or other slaves then belonging to or held in possession by him her or them; and shall also distinctly specify in separate columns, in manner described in the Schedule hereunto annexed marked (A.), the respective sexes, colours, usual employments, and reputed ages of such slaves, and whether Creole or African, if Creole, the name of the Island or Colony in which such slave was born, to the best knowledge and belief of the party making the return; if African, the name of the district or part of Africa from whence such slave was brought, to the best of the knowledge and belief of the party making the return.

4. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every person making and subscribing any and every such schedule or return, shall cause the same to be delivered to the said registrar of slaves, so to be appointed for the said Island, having first made oath to the purport or effect following, before one of the justices

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11. And be it further enacted, That after the expiration of three years, to be computed from the time when any such original registry shall be completed and authenticated as aforesaid, and after every succeeding period of three years in times to come, on the 1st day of January in the next following year, or within ten days after that day, every person resident in this Island who shall be in the lawful possession of any slave or slaves within this Island, whether as proprietor or mortgagee, sequestrator, trustee or receiver, lessee, manager or attorney, committee or guardian, or in any other character, or who shall own or possess any personal slave or slaves whatsoever within this Island, whatsoever his or her title, trust, or interest in any such slave or slaves may be, shall make and deliver, or cause to be delivered into the office of the said registry of slaves of this Island for the time being, an account or schedule in writing, by him or her subscribed, to be called, "The Triennial Return of Slaves," containing a true and particular account of all births and deaths of slaves belonging to the person or persons on whose behalf such return is made, within the three years next preceding since the said original or last triennial returns were made; and also an account of all deductions from or additions to the former stock of slaves belonging to or in the lawful possession of such person or persons within the same period, by other means than deaths or births, whether the same shall have happened by permanent desertion, sale, or other transfer of the property, or enfranchisement, or by the return of fugitives or absent slaves, or by any other lawful ways and means whatsoever, which particular cause or mode of deduction or addition, shall in all cases be distinctly specified in such last-mentioned returns; and in cases of purchase or other acquisition, or sale or of other transfer, or manumission of slaves formerly registered, the registered name and description of every such newly purchased, or acquired, or transferred, or manumitted slave, and of his or her former owner or owners, claimant or claimants, shall also be set forth at large in such triennial return; and every such return shall also contain all such further particulars in respect of every newly acquired slave named therein, as are hereinbefore directed to be contained in the said original returns; and when, by the death of the owner or any other cause, there shall have been, within the period to which the return relates, any change of property in the possession of any slave, from the owner or owners under whose names the same were registered, to any new owner or owners, such change of property and possession shall also be mentioned in the said triennial returns; and such returns shall also state the whole number of slaves then belonging to or possessed by the person or persons mentioned in such returns; but when there has been no alteration since the last return, in the number or description of the slaves belonging to or possessed by the person by or for whom the return is made, or the property thereof, it shall be sufficient to state the whole number of slaves, and to add, under the oath of the party, "No alteration required by law to be specified has taken place since the last return."

12. And be it further enacted, That the registered schedule shall be entered in a book by the person returning the same into the registry, and delivered with the estate for the negroes, on which the registry is made to any person who may succeed him in possession of the said negroes, with an account of all the changes and alterations that have taken place in the same by death, birth or otherwise, during his possession; and in the same manner upon every other change of possession: and that all such changes by death, birth, or otherwise, shall be entered, within the space of twelve months, in the parish books, by the churchwarden, free of expense, agreeable to the list furnished by the person or persons in possession, under the penalty of one hundred pounds, to be forfeited by every person in any respect offending against this clause.

13. And be it further enacted, That every person making and subscribing any such triennial return, in cases where any such alteration shall have taken place as is required to be specified, shall take the following oath before any one of His Majesty's justices of peace, duly qualified, in the said Island, who are hereby enjoined to administer the oath without fee or reward.

"I, *A. B.* do solemnly Swear, That the contents of the Schedule or Return
 "now by me delivered, are true, and that the same contains, to the best of
 "my knowledge and belief, a full, fair, and correct account of all the births
 "and deaths which have happened among the slaves belonging to or possessed
 "by, [*the owner or owners therein named,*] and being within this Island
 "since

“ since the original return and registration thereof, or during the last
 “ three years, and of all other additions to, or deductions from, the said
 “ slaves within the same period, and of the whole number of slaves now
 “ actually belonging to, or in the lawful possession of the said

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“ So help me GOD.”

“ Sworn before me, this day of

14. And be it further enacted, That if any person who by this Act is directed to make and deliver a return of the slaves in his or her possession, for registration as aforesaid, shall omit or neglect to do so, whereby such slave or slaves shall be omitted to be duly registered in the original or subsequent registry, pursuant to this Act, every such person so offending shall forfeit for every slave omitted to be registered as aforesaid, the sum of one hundred pounds of sterling money, to be recovered in such manner as any other penalty or forfeiture may be recovered in this Island, by any law thereof; the one moiety of such penalty to be paid into the public treasury of the said Island, to the use of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, for the support of the government of this Island, and the other moiety to the person suing for the same: And in case the party so offending shall have possession of any such slave or slaves omitted to be registered as aforesaid, in the capacity of mortgagee, trustee, sequestrator or receiver, manager or attorney, guardian or committee, for any other or others, or in any other right or character whatsoever, such person shall not only forfeit for every slave omitted to be registered as aforesaid, the like sum of one hundred pounds of sterling money, to be recovered and go in manner hereinbefore stated, but shall moreover be liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every the person or persons who shall or may sustain any damage or injury, by any such omission as aforesaid; and who, besides full reparation for every damage or injury, shall recover against the party offending double costs of suit.

15. And whereas it may happen in some instances, that owners or possessors of slaves within this Island, at the time of the first or original registration, or of some subsequent registration, may from accident or unavoidable impediment, omit to return the same for registration, within the times hereby respectively limited for that purpose; or that persons in possession of slaves not their own absolute property, may wilfully or negligently make such omission without the concurrence or consent of the absent owners or persons interested in such slaves; Be it therefore further enacted, That if any owner or owners, possessor or possessors of slaves within this Island, shall have omitted to make his her or their return thereof within the time hereinbefore limited for the said first or original registration, or subsequent registration, within the time hereinbefore in that respect limited; and if such owner or owners, possessor or possessors, or any other person or persons, who at the time of such omission was, or who shall have since become the owner or possessor, whether in his own right or in the right of any other person or persons, of any slave or slaves so omitted to be returned, shall at any time, after making his her or their triennial return, next after any such omission or default, apply to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in chief of this Island, and prove to his satisfaction, by such credible evidence as from the nature of the case may be reasonably expected and required, that such omission was not wilful, but arose from some specified accident or other unavoidable impediment, or from the neglect or default of some person or persons, other than the true and absolute owner or owners of the said slave or slaves, or from some other cause which may appear to the said Governor as a satisfactory ground for complying with the request of the said party, it shall be lawful for such Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in chief of this Island, to order that such party or parties so making his her or their triennial return next after such omission or default, to the said registrar, shall be at liberty to insert the names and descriptions, and all other particulars hereinbefore required, of and relating to all and every slave or slaves, the subject of any such former omission or default; and also in such return such account as is hereinbefore directed of the births and deaths, and all other deductions from, or additions to, the stock of slaves, in respect of which such return is made, which shall have occurred within the preceding years: and such returns, when duly made and registered, together with the cause of the former omission or default, and the date of the order for supplying the same, which shall be certified and signed by the said registrar, on the registry of such return in the proper book, shall from thenceforth be deemed and taken to be as valid and effectual for all the purposes of this Act, as if the matters therein contained had been duly returned and registered at the proper period.

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16. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if any registrar shall in the exercise of his office, wilfully refuse to receive for registration any return, or to make any entry which he ought to receive or make, according to the direction herein contained, and the true intent and meaning of this Act, or shall knowingly or wilfully, contrary to the said directions, or to the true intent and meaning hereof, receive for registration any return, or make or cause, or suffer to be made, any entry which ought not to be so received or made; or in case any registrar shall wilfully make, or knowingly permit or suffer to be made any false or fraudulent entry in the books of registry in his office, or either of them, or in any of the said accounts or abstracts hereby directed to be made out; or shall fraudulently erase, obliterate, or alter, or knowingly permit or suffer to be fraudulently erased, obliterated or altered, any entry which shall have been duly made in the said books of registry, or either of them, the said registrar shall, upon conviction of any such offence, not only be liable to all such pains and penalties as ought, by the laws in force in this Island at the time of such offence, to be inflicted upon persons convicted of forging or fraudulently altering public judicial records, but shall for ever forfeit his said office, and shall be incapable of ever after holding the same; and shall moreover be liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every person or persons who shall sustain any damage or injury by any such offence, who, besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, shall recover against such registrar double costs of suit; and if any assistant or clerk of any registrar shall commit, or knowingly permit or suffer to be committed, any such offence as aforesaid, he shall, upon conviction thereof, not only in like manner be liable to all such pains and penalties as ought by the laws of this Island to be inflicted on persons convicted of forging or fraudulently altering public judicial records, but shall forfeit such his office or employment, and be incapable of ever after holding the same; and if any other person or persons within this Island, shall wilfully make, or cause or procure to be made, any false or fraudulent entry in the said books of registry, or either of them, or in the said returns, or shall fraudulently erase, obliterate or alter, or cause or procure to be erased, obliterated or altered, any entry which shall have been made in the said books of registry or returns, or either of them, every such person or persons so offending shall, upon conviction, not only be liable to all such pains and penalties as ought by the laws of this Island to be inflicted upon persons convicted of forging, or fraudulently altering public judicial records, but shall forfeit to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, all his her or their estate, right, title, property and interest, of in and to any slave or slaves that shall be the subject or subjects of any such false or fraudulent entry, erasure, obliteration or alteration.

17. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons making any such original or subsequent return of slaves as aforesaid, in this Island, shall falsely and wilfully insert therein any name or names, description or descriptions of any slave or slaves, or pretended slave or slaves, belonging to him her or them, knowing that such slave or slaves, or pretended slave or slaves, as shall be so named and described, doth not, or do not in fact belong, at the time of making such return, to him her or them, (except such slave as hereinafter mentioned) every such person or persons so offending shall forfeit for every slave, or pretended slave, so falsely returned, the sum of one hundred pounds, sterling money, to be recovered in such manner as any other penalty or forfeiture may be recovered in this Island, by any law thereof, the one moiety thereof to be paid into the public treasury of this Island, to the use of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, for the support of the government of this Island, and the other moiety thereof, to the use of such person as shall inform, sue and prosecute for the same. Provided always, That no person shall be liable to any such penalty or forfeiture as last aforesaid, in respect of any slave or slaves which he or she shall prove to have been, at the time of the return, actually employed upon the plantation, or in the service of the asserted owner or owners, claimant or claimants, to whom the same, by such return, were represented to belong, although he or she shall not be able to prove that the property in such slave was such as was stated in the return, except when the prosecutor shall give evidence beyond the falsification of the return, in the point of property, to show that the same was fraudulently or wilfully false.

18. Provided also, That no person shall be liable to any such penalty or forfeiture as last aforesaid, in respect of such slave or slaves, who may have absconded or secreted themselves from the service or employ of their respective owner or owners, claimant or claimants, or other person or persons entitled to such slave or slaves, or be out

out of his her or their control, at the time of making such original or subsequent return of slaves as aforesaid; so, nevertheless, that such owner or owners, claimant or claimants, or other person or persons, do and shall specify the names of all such slaves in the affidavits hereinbefore mentioned, and shall moreover set forth in such return or returns the most faithful and accurate description which, under the circumstances of the case, can be furnished of such absent or missing slave or slaves, together with a particular statement of the facts and circumstances which prevent the owner or owners, claimant or claimants, or other person or persons from complying with the directions hereinbefore contained, and making such return as hereinbefore required.

19. And be it further enacted, That the certificate of the registrar of slaves of this Island, by him subscribed, certifying any copies or extracts from the books in his office, or the non-registration of any slave or slaves therein, shall be received in all courts, and by all judges in the said Island, as sufficient evidence of the authenticity of such copy or extract, and as sufficient evidence, *prima facie*, of the matters so certified; saving, nevertheless, to the party or parties against whom such evidence is adduced, the right of contradicting, impeaching, or correcting the same, by any inspection of and comparison with the original book or books of registry.

And it is further enacted, That the registrar of slaves of this Island shall receive from the public treasury of this Island, the sum of two hundred pounds current money, for the original primary registration of the slaves within this Island; and one hundred pounds current money for every triennial registration of slaves; and shall take and receive for every search in his registry, the sum of four shillings and sixpence; for every certificate by him given and subscribed, the sum of nine shillings; and for every copy and extract from entries in his registry at the rate of three-pence for every slave therein contained and described to be paid, by the person or persons requiring the same.

20. And be it further enacted, That from and after the final closing and authentication of such original registry as aforesaid, on complaint or information, in writing and oath, by any party claiming title to any slave or slaves, as owner, mortgagor, mortgagee, tenant for life or years, claimant in remainder or reversion, or otherwise, or on complaint or information on oath as aforesaid, by any person interested as creditor, by judgment or otherwise, or claiming any other legal or equitable lien upon or against any slave or slaves, or the owner or owners thereof, that such slave or slaves have been omitted to be returned for registration by the party or parties to be named and described in such complaint or information, in possession of such slave or slaves, and on production of a certificate from the registrar of slaves of this Island, who is hereby required in all such cases, after making due search in his registry, to deliver the same, on payment of the requisite fees by the party or parties requiring any such certificate, that no return appears in his said registry to have been given in by the party or parties complained of, of any such slave or slaves as shall be by him or them named and described, it shall thereupon be lawful to and for the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in chief of this Island for the time being, and he is hereby empowered and directed to nominate and appoint by summary order some fit or proper person (having due regard to the choice or nomination of the party or parties interested and complaining) to take possession forthwith, as receiver of all such slave or slaves as shall be then unregistered, belonging to or in the possession of any such person or persons, to which any such unregistered slave or slaves may be attached or belonging: provided always, that such receiver so appointed as aforesaid, shall in all cases be subject to the future order of the court of Chancery, and shall not only enter into such security as is usually taken in cases of receivership, but shall also enter into further security in the sum of five hundred pounds sterling, to render to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in chief, a full and accurate return of all such slave or slaves of which he shall take possession, within thirty days after obtaining possession thereof. And the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor or civil Commander in chief, shall adopt such measures as to him shall seem expedient and necessary for effectually enforcing the due and prompt execution of any such order; and all and every justice or justices of the peace acting in and for the said Island, and all and every other His Majesty's subjects, shall be aiding and assisting therein, when directed for that purpose, by any justice of the peace as aforesaid, under and subject to the penalty of twenty pounds current money.

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21. And be it further enacted, That every such receiver so appointed as aforesaid, shall within thirty days next after obtaining possession of any such slave or slaves, render to the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in chief, a like full and accurate return thereof, as is hereinbefore required, for the purpose of registration, subject to a penalty of one hundred pounds sterling for every slave who shall be omitted therein; and which return, he the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in chief, shall direct and authorize the registrar of slaves for the said Island, to register and enrol in the registry book for slaves accordingly.

22. And be it further enacted, That from and after the first day of September next ensuing, any slave or slaves, not duly registered in pursuance of this Act, shall and may be prosecuted for non-registration, by any of His Majesty's subjects; and the same shall be condemned as forfeited to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, for the use of the government of this Island, for the purpose of divesting and barring all such property, right, title or interest whatsoever, which before existed or might afterwards be set up or claimed in or to such slave or slaves so prosecuted. And the attorney or solicitor general of this Island for the time being, shall at the instance of any such person or persons, and on production of the certificate of the registrar of slaves of this Island of the non-registration of any such slave or slaves, proceed by information *ex officio*, in the court of king's bench and common pleas of the said Island, for condemnation of such slave or slaves, for non-registration thereof; and upon filing such information a summons shall issue directed to the provost marshal of the said Island, or his lawful deputy, commanding him to summon the owner or owners, or person or persons in possession of, or claiming title to such slave or slaves so unregistered, to appear and answer the said information in the manner as is practised in cases of civil actions within this Island: And if such person or persons so summoned shall neglect to appear and to plead to such information or informations, at the second court after the filing of such information; or if such person or persons shall appear and plead to such information, or after the filing of such information, and a verdict or verdicts shall be given therein against him her or them, or any demurrer or demurrers, or other proceedings therein shall be determined against him her or them, judgment shall be given for condemnation of such slave or slaves as forfeited to His Majesty for the purpose aforesaid: And every person or persons so prosecuting for the non-registration of any slave or slaves, shall, upon condemnation of such slave or slaves as forfeited, be entitled to receive his full costs against the owner or owners, possessor or possessors of such slave or slaves, or such person or persons by whose neglect or default such slave or slaves was or were omitted to be registered.

23. And be it further enacted, That on such prosecution being proceeded in as aforesaid, the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in chief for the time being of this Island, shall make such order and regulations as to him shall seem meet and expedient for the safe custody, disposal, employment and support of any such slave or slaves so prosecuted for non-registration, under the authority of this Act, until final judgment therein shall be given.

24. And be it further enacted, That in all cases where any slave or slaves shall be finally condemned to His Majesty's use as aforesaid, under the authority of this Act, there shall be paid by the treasurer of this Island, or his lawful deputy, to such person or persons as give information of the non-registration of such slave or slaves as aforesaid, so as to lead to the forfeiture of any such slave or slaves, a bounty of one hundred pounds current money of this Island, for every slave that shall be condemned as aforesaid.

25. And be it further enacted, That in case any person or persons whatsoever shall be guilty of any false and wilful forswearing, in taking any oath under the proceedings of this Act, or shall unlawfully and corruptly procure or suborn any person to take any such oath falsely, he or she being thereof duly convicted, shall for every such offence, incur the pains and penalties inflicted by law on all such persons as shall commit wilful perjury, or shall procure or suborn any person to commit any wilful or corrupt perjury.

26. And be it further enacted, That all negroes or persons of colour arriving in this Island, and not having been before resident in the same, shall report themselves to the registrar of slaves within three days after their arrival, and produce certificates of their freedom, or give other satisfactory proof thereof; and in default thereof they

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they shall be dealt with according to the laws now in force respecting runaway slaves. ST. CHRISTOPHER'S.

Dated at Saint Christopher, this seventeenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, and in the fifty-seventh year of His Majesty's reign.

Passed the Assembly this thirteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and seventeen. } *Geo. Berkeley,* { Passed the Council this fifth day of May one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

John Hazell, jun.
Clerk of the Assembly.

Thomas Harper,
Clerk in Council.

Thomas (L. s.) Probyn.

Original RETURN of SLAVES. (A.)

Name and Description of Persons making the Return.	Names.	Sex.	Colour.	Reputed Age.	Country.	Usual Employment.
A. B. Proprietor - -	A. B.	Male.	Black.	Thirty.	Creole of St. Kitt's.	Field Negro.
C. D. (Attorney of E. F.) Proprietor - - - }	C. D.	Female.	Mulatto.	Twenty.	African, Congo.	
G. H. Executor of I. K. -						
	Total.					

(Signed) *A. B.* day of 181

Triennial RETURN of SLAVES. (B.)

Name and Description of Persons making the Return.	Names.	Sex.	Colour.	Reputed Age.	Country.	Usual Employment.	Number of Slaves last returned.	Increase.	Decrease.
A. B. Proprietor -	A. B.	Male.	Mulatto.	Forty.	Creole of St. Kitt's.	Carpenter		By births.	By deaths.
C. D. (Attorney to E. F.) Proprietor }	C. D.	Female.	Black.	Twenty.	African Gold Coast.	Field.		By purchase from A. B.	By sale to A. B.
G. H. Executor -									By manumission.
									By desertion.
	Total.						Total.		

(Signed) *A. B.* day of 181

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S.

Saint Christopher.

Published in the town of Basseterre, on Saturday the seventeenth; and in the towns of Old Road and Sandy Point, on Monday the nineteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Thomas Woodcock, Dep. Pro. Mar.

(A true copy.)

Thos. Harper, Colonial Secretary.

TOBAGO.

T O B A G O.

An ACT to oblige all Persons importing Negroes or other Slaves into this Colony, to produce a Testimonial relative to the Character of such Negroes or other Slaves.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it may happen that persons uninterested in the welfare of this Colony may import into the same negroes or other slaves sold and disposed of, from other Islands and Colonies, such slaves not being of fair and respectable character: And whereas nothing can be more prejudicial to the best interests of this Island than allowing such negroes or other slaves to be imported: Be it therefore and it is hereby enacted, by Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects his Excellency Sir Frederick Phillips Robinson, Knight, Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Major General of His Majesty's Forces, Captain General and Governor in chief in and over the Island of Tobago and its Dependencies; and the Council and General Assembly of the same, that hereafter (in addition to the report required by law to be made by the master or commander of any ship or vessel importing any slave or slaves into the Colony, to the collector or principal officer of customs or to the naval officer and to the Governor,) the owner or proprietor, or agent for the proprietor of any slave or slaves imported and intended to be landed in this Island, shall, before the master or commander of such ship or vessel presume to land such slave or slaves, make a report to two justices of the peace, one being of the quorum, of the name, age, sex and description of such slave or slaves so intended to be landed; and shall at the same time take an oath in writing, to be signed by him her or them, (which oath the said justices are hereby empowered to administer,) that such slave or slaves was or were not, and neither of them were sold or purchased as, or known to be, a negro or negroes, or other slaves of bad character, or transported, or ordered to be removed from such Island or Colony for any criminal offence, but that to the best of the deponent's knowledge and belief such slave or slaves was or were esteemed in the Colony or Plantation where, for the space of one year next before the time of such importation, such slave or slaves had resided, a person or persons of good, fair, and reputable character; and shall also in such oath declare how he or she or they became possessed of such slave or slaves, or from whom he purchased such slave or slaves; and having obtained a certificate in writing from the said justices of his having taken the oath hereinbefore directed, and given such certificate to the master of the vessel, such master shall then be at liberty to allow such slave or slaves to be landed, and the owner thereof may proceed to dispose of the slave or slaves in any manner to him seeming most fitting, which said affidavit or testimonial the said justices are hereby required to leave and deposit with the secretary of this Island; but if any master or commander of any ship or vessel shall import and land any slave or slaves without the certificate aforesaid, then he and every person aiding, assisting and abetting in the landing of such slave or slaves, shall be liable and subject to a penalty of one hundred pounds current money of this Island, for each and every negro or other slave illegally imported and landed, and such slave or slaves shall be committed to gaol by order of any two justices of the peace; and the owner of such slave or slaves, or the agent of such owner, and the master or commander of such ship or vessel, shall be liable for all expenses incurred in sending the said slave or slaves from this Island; which expense, together with the aforesaid penalty of one hundred pounds, or more, as the case may be, shall be recovered by warrant, under the hands and seals of two justices of the peace, directed to the provost marshal, or his lawful deputy, in nature of an execution issuing out of the court of common pleas on a judgment obtained therein; and in case the provost marshal or his lawful deputy shall not find sufficient property to satisfy the said warrant, then the

Clause 1st.

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the justices aforesaid shall commit the owner or owners of such slave or slaves, or the agent of such owner or owners, or such master or commander of such vessel, to the jail of this Island, until he she or they shall give a sufficient security for the discharge thereof, not exceeding three months, for each negro or other slaves so illegally imported and landed.

TOBAGO.

And whereas it may happen that the owner or proprietor of any slave or slaves sent here for sale, may not come with him her or them himself, or may not send any agent, but may consign him her or them to the captain of the vessel, or to some person in this Island; Be it, and it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all cases when the consignee of such slave or slaves shall produce to the aforesaid magistrates a certificate, under the hand and seal of the Governor, Commander in chief, president or chief justice of the court of common pleas of the Colony or Plantation from which such slave or slaves shall be imported, that such Governor, Commander in chief, President, or Chief Justice of such Colony or Plantation knew or had reason to believe that such slave or slaves were persons of good character, and specifying the other particulars required in the oath prescribed by the final clause of this Act; and having obtained from the said magistrates a certificate in writing that he has lodged with them such paper or document, under the hand of such Governor, Commander in chief, President or Chief Justice; and having given such certificate to the master or commander of the vessel, it shall be lawful for the master or commander to land such slave or slaves, and for such consignee to proceed to dispose of such slave or slaves in any manner that to him shall seem most fitting: And if he shall land any slave or slaves without the certificate aforesaid, then he shall be punished in the manner prescribed by the first clause of this Act, and the justices are hereby required to leave and deposit such testimonial or certificate as aforesaid with the secretary of the Island.

Clause 2d.

And be it and it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons, when an oath is prescribed by this Act, shall in such case swear falsely, he or they shall be subject to the pains and penalties of wilful and corrupt perjury by the law of England; and if any person or persons shall be guilty of forging any certificate purporting to be under the hand and seal of any Governor, Commander in chief, President, or Chief Justice of any Colony or Plantation, on conviction thereof, shall be adjudged guilty of felony within benefit of clergy.

Clause 3d.

Passed the House of Gen^l Assembly,
the twenty-third day of January
one thousand eight hundred and
eighteen.

(Signed) *E. Piggott*,
Speaker of the House of Gen^l Assembly.

(Signed) *James Wilcock*,
Clerk of the House of Gen^l Assembly.

John Robley,
President of the Council.

Passed the Council the twenty-third
January one thousand eight hun-
dred and eighteen.

Assented to this fourteenth day of January
one thousand eight hundred and
eighteen.

(Signed) *Samuel Hall*,
Clerk of the Council.

(Signed) *F. P. Robinson*,
Governor.

Duly proclaimed by me this twenty-sixth day of January one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

(Signed) *John Barnes*, D. P. M.

VIRGIN ISLANDS—TORTOLA.

TORTOLA.

An ACT for establishing a Registry of Negro and other Slaves in the Virgin Islands.

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient that an original registry of all the negro and other slaves within the Virgin Islands, shall be made, for the purpose of ascertaining the number, and identifying the persons of such slaves, and that in order to ascertain their progressive increase and decrease, periodical returns and registration be from time to time subsequently taken and made: And whereas the same will be the more effectually accomplished, by means of establishing a public registry, and fixing the manner in which returns of slaves shall be taken, and stated times for taking the same: We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Captain General and Governor

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Clause 1st.

Governor in chief of your Majesty's Islands of St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands, and the Council and Assembly of the said Virgin Islands, do pray Your Most sacred Majesty, that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, there shall be established in the road town of Tortola, a public registry for the registration and enrolment, in manner hereinafter directed, of the names and descriptions of all negro, mulatto, or other slaves who, at the time of the publication of this Act, or at any future period, shall be within the Virgin Islands: And that it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, his heirs and successors, or for the Governor or Commander in chief of St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands, by letters patent under the seal of the said government, to appoint from time to time, and at all times hereafter, a fit and proper person to discharge the duties annexed to the said office; and that the person and persons so to be appointed registrar, shall reside within the Island of Tortola, and shall not be at liberty to depart from thence, and remain for any longer space of time than ten days, without having previously obtained a licence or permission for that purpose from the Governor or Commander in Chief of the said government for the time being.

Clause 2d.

And be it further enacted, That the person so to be appointed, shall provide the necessary books, strongly and durably bound, for the purpose of such registry and enrolment, and shall therein enter and register as hereinafter directed, the names and descriptions of all the slaves in the Virgin Islands.

Clause 3d.

And be it further enacted, That on or before the expiration of ninety days next after the publication of this Act, every person who shall be resident in the Virgin Islands, and who shall be in possession of any slave or slaves within the same, either as owner, renter, parent, trustee, guardian, executor, administrator, agent, attorney, manager or receiver in chancery, or in any other right, character or capacity whatever, shall respectively make and deliver in, or cause to be made and delivered in to the said Registrar or his lawful deputy, at his office in the Road Town of Tortola, to be recorded, a list in writing in the form of the schedule hereunto annexed, and marked with the letter (A.) containing the names, sexes, country, or part of the world of which they are natives, colour, and reputed ages of all such negro and other slaves, mentioning at bottom in words at length, the total number of males and females; which list or return shall be subscribed by the person making the same.

Clause 4th.

And be it further enacted, That every person making and subscribing any and every such schedule or return, shall, previous to the delivery of the same to the said registrar or his lawful deputy, make and subscribe the following oath, either before the said registrar, who is hereby authorized to administer the same, or before one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said Islands, such oath to be annexed to the said return, and certified by the person before whom the same shall be sworn.

" I, *A. B.* Do hereby make oath, [*or, if a Quaker, affirm,*] That the above list or
 " schedule signed by me, and intended to be delivered to the Registrar of Slaves
 " of these Islands, for registration, in compliance with an Act, intituled, " An
 " Act for establishing a registry of negro and other slaves in the Virgin
 " Islands," contains a just, true and full account and return, in all respects, of
 " all the negro and other slaves belonging to or in the lawful possession of
 either as renter, parent, trustee, guardian, execu-
 " tor, administrator, agent, attorney, manager, or receiver in chancery, or in
 " any other right, character or capacity whatever, within the said Virgin
 " Islands; and that the said return is made to the best of my knowledge and
 " belief.

" So help me GOD."

Clause 5th.

And be it further enacted, That as soon as any such returns or schedules as aforesaid shall have been duly made and received by the said registrar, he shall proceed to register and copy the same with all convenient speed, in a fair, distinct and legible manner, in a proper book or set of books to be kept by him, precisely conformable to the said returns, which returns shall then be filed.

Clause 6th.

And be it further enacted, That no erasure shall on any pretence, or for any cause whatsoever, be at any time made in any of the said books of registry; but if any clerical error shall occur in the insertion of any name, description, or other particular therein, so that the same shall differ from the name, description or particular contained
 in

in the schedule or return from which the same was made, or if any other mistake shall occur in the making up and keeping the said books of registry, a line of red ink shall be drawn through any word or words improperly inserted, so as to leave the original word or words legible, and the correction thereof, by the insertion of any word or words which may have been erroneously omitted, shall either be interlined or written in the margin, and always, when practicable, by the same hand as the rest of the list or entry; and the registrar shall either under such word or words, or under a mark of reference there made to any interlineation, subscribe his name at length; but after the registry of original return of slaves shall have been completed and certified upon oath as hereinafter directed, no interlineation, insertion, or other correction of the registry of any such original return, shall on any account be made or permitted, except as hereinafter expressly provided.

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And be it further enacted, That an office copy, certified by the registrar, of the registered list or schedule of slaves belonging to any plantation, or to any particular owner or owners, shall, after the registering thereof, if required by the owner or owners, claimant or claimants, or party or parties who made the return of such list or schedule, be made and delivered to him her or them by the said registrar; and all persons shall have free liberty to inspect the said register books in the presence of the registrar or his assistant, for the purpose of ascertaining that all returns and lists or schedules by them or on their behalf delivered, have been accurately registered in manner aforesaid. Clause 7th.

And be it further enacted, That when and so soon as all the original returns or schedules to be delivered to the registrar of the said Virgin Islands pursuant to this Act, shall have been received and registered as aforesaid, the registrar shall give notice thereof forthwith to the Governor, or civil Commander in chief for the time being, or in case of his absence from the Virgin Islands, to the President of His Majesty's Council for the said Islands; and such Governor or civil Commander in chief, or President, shall thereupon notify to the inhabitants of the said Virgin Islands, in such manner as he shall deem most fit and effectual, that the registry of slaves is then really to be verified before him, but that the same will be kept open at the proper office for the inspection of all persons who shall have made returns of slaves for insertion therein, or who are desirous of such inspection, for the term of ninety days from the date of such notification, to the intent that all persons interested may be satisfied as to the accuracy of the said registry; and also that if any owners or possessors of slaves within or belonging to the said Virgin Islands, shall from any accidental or unavoidable impediment, until that time have omitted to return full and proper schedules or lists of their slaves unto the said registrar as by this Act required, they must immediately apply to the said Governor or civil Commander in chief, or in his absence the President of the Council of the Virgin Islands, who, upon satisfactory proof that such omission had not been wilful, is hereby empowered to make an order to the registrar for the admission and registration or correction of their returns or schedules, and which order the registrar is required to obey, so as every such new or corrected return may be registered in the said books in manner aforesaid, before the end of the said term of ninety days last before mentioned. Clause 8th.

And be it further enacted, That at the end of the said last-mentioned term of ninety days, the registrar shall proceed finally to close and authenticate the primary or original registration of all the slaves in the said Virgin Islands, which shall thenceforth be called the "Original Registry of Slaves of the Virgin Islands," in manner following; (to wit) in the said book, or in the last of any set of the said books, the said registrar shall write with his own hand in large legible characters, immediately after the last entry of the said returns or lists of slaves for the Virgin Islands, either on the same folio or page, or on the back of the last leaf containing the same, "Here ends the original Registry of Slaves for the Virgin Islands;" and the said registrar shall thereto subscribe his name and affix his seal of office, and below the said signature shall be written in like characters by the said registrar, the following affidavit:

" Before A. B. [inserting the name of the Governor or civil Commander in chief, or, in his absence from the Virgin Islands, the name of the President of His Majesty's Council for the said Islands,] personally appeared
 " C. D. [naming himself] the Registrar of Slaves for the Virgin Islands,
 " who

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“ who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, maketh
 “ oath and sayeth, That he the said *C. D.* hath carefully examined and
 “ compared all the preceding entries in this book [*or, in this set of books,*]
 “ contained in _____ pages, with all the different Returns of Slaves
 “ delivered to him, or, to his knowledge and belief, to any deputy, clerk
 “ or assistant by him appointed, and that he is enabled thereby to depose,
 “ and doth depose, that the preceding original Registry of Slaves of the
 “ Virgin Islands, is in all respects correct and faithfully made.”

Which Affidavit being subscribed by the said Registrar, shall be sworn to before the said Governor or civil Commander in chief, or, in his absence, the said President, who shall subjoin thereto the following certificate under his hand and seal:

“ I, *A. B.* [*inserting his name and title of office*] Do hereby certify, That the
 “ above Affidavit was duly sworn to before me, this _____ day of
 “ _____ one thousand eight hundred and _____ Witness
 “ my hand and seal.”

Clause 10th.

And be it also enacted, That within sixty days after the expiration of three years, to be computed from the time when such original registry shall be completed and authenticated as aforesaid, and within sixty days after every succeeding period of three years in times to come, every person residing in the Virgin Islands, who shall be in possession of any slave or slaves within the said Islands, either as owner, renter, parent, trustee, guardian, executor, administrator, agent, attorney, manager or receiver in Chancery, or in any other right, character or capacity whatever, shall make and deliver, or cause to be made and delivered to the said registrar, or his lawful deputy, at his office in the Road Town of Tortola, an account or return in writing, in the form of the annexed schedule marked (B.) of all the increase and additions to the former stock of slaves belonging to him her or them, or in his her or their possession, whether by birth, purchase, return of fugitive or absent slaves, or by any other lawful ways and means whatsoever; and shall also make and deliver, or cause to be made and delivered to the said registrar, or his lawful deputy, at his said office, another account or return in writing, in the form of the schedule hereunto annexed marked with the letter (C.) of all the decrease and deductions from the former number of slaves which did belong to him her or them, or were in his her or their possession, whether by death, sale, transfer, manumission or otherwise, within the period commencing on the day of the date of his her or their return or returns then before last made up, to the time of making the said returns by this clause prescribed: Provided always, That where an increase of the number shall have taken place without any decrease of the former stock, it shall only be necessary to make a return in the form of the schedule (B.) inserting below, “No decrease of the former stock of slaves hath taken place since the last Return.” And where a decrease of the former stock shall have taken place without any additions thereto, it shall then only be necessary to make a return in the form of the schedule marked (C.) writing below, “No additions to the former number of slaves have taken place since the last Return.” And when by the death of the owner or owners, or from any other cause, there shall have been, within the period to which such returns relate, any change of property in or possession of any slave or slaves from the owner or owners, possessor or possessors, under whose name or names such slave or slaves was or were previously registered, to any other owner or owners, possessor or possessors, such change of property or possession shall also be mentioned in the said periodical returns; and such returns shall also state in words at length, the whole number of male and female slaves then belonging to or possessed by the person or persons mentioned therein, and shall be subscribed by the person making the same; but when there shall have been no alteration since the return then last before made in the number or description of the slaves belonging to or possessed by the person for whom the return is made, or in the property thereof, it shall be sufficient to state the total number of slaves, male and female, and to add, “No alteration required by law to be specified, hath taken place since the last Return.”

Clause 11th.

And be it further enacted, That every person making and subscribing any such returns or return, shall take the following oath before the said registrar, who is hereby authorized to administer the same, or any one of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the Virgin Islands.

“ I, *A. B.*

“ I, A. B. do solemnly Swear, [*or, if a Quaker, doth affirm,*] That the contents
 “ of the return or returns [*as the case may be*] now by me made, are true, TORTOLA.
 “ and that the same contains [*or, contain*] to the best of my knowledge and
 “ belief, a full, fair and correct account of all additions to or deductions
 “ from the number of slaves belonging to or possessed by me and being
 “ within the Virgin Islands, whether by birth, purchase, return of fugi-
 “ tive or absent slaves, death, sale, transfer, manumission, or otherwise, since
 “ the original registration thereof, [*or, from the date of his her or their, or*
 “ my last return, *as the case may be*, up to the present day] and of the
 “ whole number of slaves now actually belonging to him her or them, or
 “ me, or in his her their or my lawful possession, [*as the case may be.*]
 “ So help me GOD.”

And be it further enacted, That the said registrar shall from time to time deliver Clause 12th.
 gratis to every person who shall apply for the same, printed blanks according to the
 forms prescribed in the schedules to this Act annexed, for the purpose of being filled
 up, and returned as hereinafter directed.

And be it also enacted, That any justice of the peace who shall certify any Clause 13th.
 affidavit or affidavits, as sworn to before him by any person or persons within these
 Islands, of any return or returns of slaves to be inserted in the original registry
 hereinbefore mentioned, or of any returns of the increase and decrease of slaves
 to be subsequently registered in pursuance of the requisitions of this Act, shall at
 the expiration of the respective times limited for swearing persons to such returns,
 attend before the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, or in case of
 his absence from the Virgin Islands the President of His Majesty's council for the
 said Islands, and make oath that all such affidavits by him certified, were duly sworn
 to before him by the person or persons subscribing the same, a certificate whereof
 under the hand of the said Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, or
 President of His Majesty's council, shall be delivered to the registrar, to be by him
 filed with the said returns.

And be it further enacted, That if any person who by this Acts is directed to Clause 14th.
 make and deliver a return of the slaves in his or her possession for registration as aforesaid,
 shall wilfully omit or neglect to do so, whereby such slave or slaves shall be
 omitted to be duly registered in the original or any subsequent registry pursuant to
 this Act, every such person so offending, shall forfeit for every slave omitted to be re-
 gistered as aforesaid, the sum of one hundred pounds sterling money, to be recovered
 and applied in manner hereinafter directed ; and in case the party so offending shall
 have possession of any such slave or slaves omitted to be registered as aforesaid, in the
 capacity of mortgagee, trustee, attorney, or manager for any other or others, or in any
 other right or character whatever, such person shall not only forfeit for every slave
 omitted to be registered as aforesaid, the said sum of one hundred pounds sterling
 money, to be recovered and applied in manner hereinafter stated, but shall moreover
 be liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every the person or persons who shall
 or may sustain any damage or injury by any such omission as aforesaid, and who
 besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, shall be entitled to recover
 against the party offending double costs of suit.

And whereas it may happen in some instances, that owners or possessors of slaves Clause 15th.
 within the Virgin Islands, at the time of the said first or original registration, or of
 any subsequent registration, may from accident or some unavoidable impediment omit
 to return the same for registration within the times herein respectively limited for
 that purpose, or that persons in possession of slaves not their own absolute property,
 may wilfully or negligently make such omissions, without the concurrence or consent
 of the absent owners or persons interested in such slaves : Be it therefore further
 enacted, That if any owner or owners, possessor or possessors of slaves within the
 Virgin Islands, shall at the expiration of the time last hereinbefore limited for such
 returns to be made, and for such original or subsequent registration to be completed,
 or at the time or times limited for the conclusion or completion of any subsequent re-
 gistration, have omitted to make the returns required by this Act of any such slave or
 slaves, and if such owner or owners, possessor or possessors, or any other person or
 persons who at the time of such omission, was or shall have since become the own-
 ers or possessors, whether in his own right or in the right of any other person or
 persons

TORTOLA.

persons, of any slave or slaves so omitted to be returned, shall previous to the time prescribed for making his her or their return next after any such omission or default shall have happened, apply to the Governor or civil Commander in chief of the Virgin Islands, or in his absence the President of the Council of the Virgin Islands, and prove to his satisfaction that such omission was not wilful, but arose from some specified accident, or other unavoidable impediment, or from the neglect or default of some person or persons other than the owner or owners of the said slave or slaves, or from some other cause which may appear to the said Governor or civil Commander in chief, or in his absence, the President of the Council of the Virgin Islands, as a satisfactory ground for complying with the request of the said party, it shall be lawful for the said Governor or civil Commander in Chief, or in his absence the President of the Council of the Virgin Islands, to order that such party or parties shall, on making his or their return next after such omission or default, to the said registrar, be at liberty to insert the names and descriptions, and all other particulars hereinbefore required, of and relating to all and every slave or slaves, the subject of any such former omission or default; and also in such return, such account as hereinbefore directed, of all additions to or deductions from the stock of slaves, in respect of which such return is made, which shall have occurred from the time of such omission up to the date of the said return, and such return, when duly made and registered, together with the cause of the former omission or default, and the date of the order for supplying the same, which shall be certified and signed by the said registrar, on the registry of such return in the proper book, shall from thenceforth be deemed and taken to be as valid and effectual for all the purposes of this Act, as if the matters therein contained had been duly returned and registered at the proper period.

Clause 16th.

And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons making any such original or subsequent return of slaves as aforesaid, in the Virgin Islands shall falsely and wilfully insert therein any name or names, description or descriptions of any slave or slaves belonging to or in the possession of him her or them, or any other person, or shall insert therein the names and descriptions of any pretended slave or slaves who doth not or do not in fact belong, at the time of making such return, to him her or them (except such slaves as hereinafter mentioned) every such person so offending shall forfeit for every slave or pretended slave so falsely returned the sum of one hundred pounds sterling money, to be recovered and applied in manner hereinafter directed: Provided always, that no person shall be liable to any such penalty in respect of any slave or slaves, which he or she shall prove to have been at the time of the return actually employed upon the plantation, or in the service of the asserted owner or owners, claimant or claimants to whom the same were represented by such return to belong, although he or she shall not be able to prove that the property in such slave or slaves was as was stated in the return, except when the prosecutor shall give evidence beyond the falsification of the return in point of property, to shew that the same was fraudulent or wilfully false.

Clause 17th.

And be it further enacted, That before the said registrar shall enter on the functions of his office, he shall take the following Oath, before the President in Council, who is hereby required to administer the same:

“ I, A. B. do solemnly promise and Swear, That I will not receive any return
 “ of slaves to be inserted in the Registry of Slaves for these Islands, without
 “ duly swearing the person making the same to the truth thereof, unless
 “ such return shall, by the certificate of a justice of peace of these Islands,
 “ appear to have been previously sworn to; and that I will not knowingly or
 “ wilfully make or permit, or suffer to be made any false or fraudulent entry,
 “ erasure or obliteration in the registry of slaves to be committed to my
 “ charge; but if any such false or fraudulent act shall become known to
 “ me, will immediately give notice thereof to the Governor or civil Com-
 “ mander in chief of the Virgin Islands, or in his absence to the President
 “ of the Council, and will in all respects faithfully and uprightly perform the
 “ duties of the office of Keeper of the Registry of Slaves for these Islands.
 “ So help me GOD.”

Clause 18th.

And be it further enacted, That if any registrar shall in the exercise of his said office, refuse or wilfully neglect to receive for registration any return, or to make any

any entry which he ought to make, according to the directions in this Act; or shall knowingly or wilfully, contrary to the said directions, or to the true intent and meaning of this Act, receive for registration any return, or make or cause or suffer to be made any entry which ought not to be so made; or in case any registrar shall wilfully make or knowingly permit or suffer to be made any false or fraudulent entry in the books of registry in his office, or either of them, or in any of the said accounts or abstracts hereby directed to be made out; or shall fraudulently erase, obliterate or alter, or knowingly permit or suffer to be fraudulently erased, obliterated or altered any entry which shall have been duly made in the said book or books of registry, the said registrar shall, upon conviction of any such offence, not only be liable to all such pains and penalties as ought by law to be inflicted on persons convicted of forgery, or fraudulently altering public records, but shall for ever forfeit his said office, and shall moreover be liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every person and persons who shall sustain any damage or injury by any such offence, who, besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, shall recover against such registrar double costs of suit; and if any deputy, assistant, or clerk of any registrar shall commit or knowingly permit or suffer to be committed any such offence as aforesaid, he shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to the like pains and penalties; and if any other person or persons shall wilfully make or cause to be made any fraudulent entry or erasure in the aforesaid books of registry or returns, or either of them, every such person or persons, on conviction thereof, shall be liable to the pains and penalties inflicted by law upon persons convicted of fraudulently altering public records, and shall furthermore forfeit for every such offence the sum of five hundred pounds sterling money, to be recovered and applied in manner hereinafter directed, and shall be moreover liable to the civil suits or actions of all and every person or persons who shall have sustained any damage or injury by such offence, who, besides full reparation for every such damage or injury, shall be entitled to recover against such person so offending double costs of suit.

And be it further enacted, That a certificate subscribed by the registrar of slaves of the Virgin Islands, or in case of his absence from the government with leave by his lawful deputy, certifying any copies or extracts from the books in the office, or the non-registration of any slave or slaves therein, shall be received in all courts, and by all judges, magistrates, and other persons in authority in the said Virgin Islands as sufficient evidence of the authenticity of such copy or extract, and a sufficient evidence *prima facie* of the matter so certified; saving nevertheless to the party or parties against whom such evidence is adduced the right of contradicting, impeaching, or correcting the same, by an inspection of and comparison with the original book or books of registry. Clause 19th.

And be it further enacted, That the said registrar shall, for his trouble of receiving and filing the aforesaid lists and returns so delivered in to him, and for transcribing the same into the necessary book or books as hereinbefore directed, and for giving one certified copy thereof, if required, be entitled to demand and receive from the public treasury of the said Virgin Islands, for the first year of such returns, the sum of one hundred pounds, gold or silver money, and for every subsequent year, the sum of sixty-six pounds like money, and shall likewise receive payment from the said treasury for the books and blank forms he is by this Act directed to provide. Clause 20th.

And be it further enacted, That from nine o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon every person may have access to the book or books so kept in the said registrar's office, and that the said registrar shall be entitled to demand and receive for every search, from the person making the same, the sum of three shillings, and shall, upon request being made by any person, within ten days after such request, deliver to such person a copy or copies of any such List or Schedule by him required, which shall be duly certified as a true copy, and for which the said registrar shall be entitled to receive from the person so requesting at the rate of two shillings for every ninety words, and six shillings for each certificate; and in case the said registrar shall omit or neglect any of the duties imposed on him by this Act, or shall take any larger or more fee or fees than are therein prescribed, he shall forfeit, on conviction of every such offence, the sum of one hundred pounds sterling. Clause 21st.

TORTOLA.

Clause 22d.

And be it further enacted, That in every action or suit which may be hereafter brought for the purpose of establishing the right of freedom in any negro or coloured person claimed as a slave by any inhabitant or proprietor of property in the Virgin Islands, a certificate of such registrar as aforesaid, shall in the first place be exhibited, or the original book or books be produced, or their non-production accounted for, to the satisfaction of the court before whom the said action or suit shall be tried; and in case the said certificate shall not be produced, or the said original book or books produced with the name and description of such person, respecting whom the question of freedom shall arise, inserted therein as a slave, or the non-production of the same accounted for to the satisfaction of the said court, the person or persons concerning whom, such action or suit shall arise, shall henceforth be reputed free.

Clause 23d.

And be it further enacted, That if it shall be made appear to the satisfaction of the Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, or in his absence, the President of the council of the Virgin Islands, that any slave or slaves has or have been omitted to be returned for registration in the original registry, or any triennial registry hereinbefore directed to be made, without any actual neglect or wilful default of the owner or possessor, or owners or possessors thereof, or that any slave or slaves, although duly returned for registration, has or have been omitted to be registered, through the negligence, inadvertency, or oversight of the registrar or his deputy, clerks or assistants, then and in either of such cases or events, it shall and may be lawful for the said Governor or Commander in chief for the time being, and he is hereby authorized and required to remit any penalty or penalties which may have been so incurred by reason of any such omission or default.

Clause 24th.

And whereas it is essential to the security and stability of West Indian property, that some precaution should be taken against the emigration of fugitive slaves from one Island to another, where their names being unregistered, they may acquire a virtual emancipation: Be it therefore further enacted, That every negro or person of colour, who shall at any time after the publication of this Act, arrive in the Virgin Islands, pretending to be free, but not being provided with any regular deed or instrument of manumission, shall, within the space of three days after his or her arrival, not having been before a resident and reputed free person in these Islands, appear before the Governor, Commander in chief for the time being, or President of His Majesty's Council of these Islands, and produce to him a certificate of his or her reputed freedom, under the hand and seal of the Governor, Commander in chief for the time being, or President of His Majesty's Council of some other British Colony in the West Indies, or other satisfactory proof of his or her freedom, under the penalty of fifty pounds, current gold and silver money of the said Virgin Islands, to be recovered and applied as hereinafter mentioned; and unless and until every or any such negro or person of colour, who shall have so arrived, shall be in possession of, or obtain such certificate or proof as is above required, he or she shall be and remain subject to every law or regulation which shall be in force in the said Virgin Islands, in any manner relating to slaves: Provided always, That nothing in this clause contained, shall extend or be construed to extend to any negroes or persons of colour who have heretofore been or shall hereafter be born free within the said Virgin Islands, or who have been generally hitherto reputed to be free therein.

Clause 25th.

And be it further enacted, That in case any person or persons whomsoever shall be guilty of any false or wilful forswearing, in taking any oath under the proceedings of this Act, or shall unlawfully and corruptly procure or suborn any person to take any such oath falsely, he or she being thereof duly convicted, shall for every such offence incur the pains and penalties inflicted by law on all such persons as shall commit wilful perjury or subornation of perjury.

Clause 26th.

And be it enacted, That all penalties imposed by this Act be appropriated as follows: one half to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, to be applied to the public use of these Islands, the other half to him who shall inform and sue for the same, and may be sued for and recovered in a summary way, by complaint or information in writing, before any magistrate, who, upon such complaint or information lodged, shall summon the party complained of, and also the witnesses, to appear before him and two other justices, one whereof shall be a judge of the court of common pleas, and on due proof made, either by confession or on the oath of one
credible

credible witness, may give judgment thereon; and if the said penalty be not immediately paid or secured to the satisfaction of the said justices, they may issue their warrant to distrain the offender's goods and chattels, which, if not redeemed in ten days, and the expenses of the distress paid, shall be publicly sold by the provost marshal or his lawful deputy; and the amount of such distress and expense, and also all costs of the said sale, deducted therefrom, and the overplus (if any) paid over to the person whose goods were distrained; and if sufficient distress cannot be found, the said justices may commit the offender to the common gaol of these Islands for the space of sixty days, unless the said penalties and expenses be sooner paid: Provided always, if any person shall feel himself aggrieved by any such conviction, such person may, on giving notice to the justices at the time thereof, of his her or their intention to do so, appeal to the Governor or civil Commander in chief of these Islands, who may, hear and determine the same in a summary way, and his decision of such appeal shall be final.

TORTOLA.

Dated at St. Christopher's, the twenty-second day of November, in the fifty-eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith; and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

Passed the House of Assembly, the sixth day of September one thousand eight hundred and seventeen. } *Mark D. French,* Speaker. { Passed the Board of Council, the eighteenth day of October one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

(Signed) *Jⁿ Allen,*
Acting Clerk.

(Signed) *W^m N. Allen,*
Clerk of Council.

(Signed) *Tho^s (Great Seal.) Probyn.*

Virgin Islands, }
Tortola. }

SCHEDULE (A.)

A LIST and RETURN of all the Negro and other Slaves, now resident and belonging to, or in the lawful possession of,

Given in by me, this day of one thousand eight hundred and

No.	Names.	Sex.	Country or part of the World of which they are Natives.	Colour.	Reputed Age.

SCHEDULE

TORTOLA.

Virgin Islands, }
Tortola. }

SCHEDULE (B.)

A LIST and RETURN of all the Additions to the original Stock of Slaves resident and belonging to or in the lawful possession of whether by birth, purchase, return of fugitive or absent Slaves, or otherwise, since the last Return

Given in by me, this day of one thousand eight hundred and

No.	Names.	Sex.	Country or part of the world of which they are Natives.	Colour.	Reputed Age.	By birth, purchase or return, and if purchased, of whom.

Virgin Islands, }
Tortola. }

SCHEDULE (C.)

A LIST and RETURN of all Deductions from the original Stock of Slaves resident and belonging to or in the lawful possession of whether by Death, Sale, Manumission, absconding or otherwise, since the last Return.

Given in by me, this day of one thousand eight hundred and

No. on original List, or subsequent Return.	Name.	Dead, manumitted, sold or absconded.	If sold, to whom.	Colour.	Date of Sale, &c.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence.

Copy of Circular Letter from Earl Bathurst to the Governors of the West India Colonies.

SIR,

Downing-street, 20th May 1816.

IN consequence of an Address which has been presented to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, by the House of Lords, I am commanded to signify to you His Royal Highness's pleasure, that you do, with as little delay as possible, furnish me with a Report, stating how far the laws passed for the abolition of the slave trade have been observed and executed within the Colony under your government, and what effects they appear to have produced in the general condition of the Colony, especially in the state of its Black population.

I am also to desire that you will transmit to me an account, showing the Increase or Decrease of the number of slaves since 1807; their present numbers; and, as far as the same can be done, their changes in the relative proportions of males and females, and of adults and children.

I have, &c.

Bathurst.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Cameron to the Right honourable Earl Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

Nassau, New Providence, 10th January 1817.

I HAVE the honour to refer your lordship to my Dispatches, No. 41, dated 16th September, relative to your lordship's commands, transmitted to me on the 28th of May, with respect to the observance of the laws for the abolition of the slave trade in this Colony, and directing me to transmit to your lordship an account showing the increase or decrease of the number of slaves since the year 1807, &c.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a Message of the Legislative Assembly on this subject, in consequence of a communication made by me of your lordship's commands; to which commands I shall pay the strictest attention.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *Charles Cameron.*

The Right honourable the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(In Governor Cameron's, of 10th January 1817.)

May it please Your Excellency,

IN answer to your Excellency's message of the 27th of November last, the House of Assembly humbly acquaint your Excellency, that the House will provide for the payment of the expense of any researches which your Excellency may be pleased to direct for the information of His Majesty's Government, respecting the due execution, in this Colony, of the laws for the abolition of the slave trade.

The mode heretofore occasionally adopted for ascertaining the extent and nature of the population of these Islands, having proved defective and unnecessarily expensive, the House have directed that a bill be prepared, and brought in, to provide by law for a regular periodical census of all the slaves in the Colony, to be compiled from returns of the holders of the same, under suitable penalties for non-compliance on their part.

By order of the House,

(Signed) *L. P. Kerr, Speaker.*

Correspondence.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Cameron to Earl Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

Nassau, New Providence, 16th September 1816.

I HAVE received the honour of your lordship's letter (circular), dated 20th May, and I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter from the attorney general, to whom I applied for the information your lordship wishes for. I shall lose no time in taking every step in my power to procure further information upon the subject.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Charles Cameron.

To the Right honourable Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

(In Governor Cameron's, of the 16th September 1816.)

SIR,

Nassau, 11th September 1816.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of the 6th instant, upon the subject of Lord Bathurst's letter to your Excellency of the 20th May last.

I have every reason to believe (and indeed to know) that the laws for the Abolition of the Slave Trade have been faithfully executed here.

Those laws do not seem to have had any material effect on our Black population, or otherwise upon the condition of the Colony in general.

The negroes increase so fast in the Islands, and agriculture has, for some years past, been at so low an ebb, that no recruits have been wanted from abroad, and heavy duties have been imposed on their importation from other Colonies.

The last paragraph of his lordship's letter may perhaps be a proper subject for a message from your Excellency to the House of Assembly in the next session; for without a new census of the population of the different Islands, (which will be a work both of expense and time,) I do not apprehend it will be possible for your Excellency to furnish Lord Bathurst with the desired information.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *William Wyllly.*

His Excellency the Governor.

COPY of a Letter from Lord Combermere to Earl Bathurst; with two Enclosures.

MY LORD,

Government House, Barbadoes, 3d Nov. 1817.

THE Returns of the slave population of this Island hitherto transmitted home having been found to be inaccurate, I have done myself the honour of forwarding to your lordship an account which, from the completion of the registration of slaves, is ascertained to be correct; and I am happy to say, exceeding, by nearly 6,000, the number returned by the clergy.

I also beg to call your lordship's attention to the classification of ages, from which it appears that more than half are under 20 years of age, and that 71,432 out of 77,273 (the total amount of that population) are natives of this Island.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) *Combermere.*

Right Hon. the Earl Bathurst, K. G., &c. &c. &c.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, 3d Nov. 1817.)

Registrar's Office, Bridge Town, 31st October 1817.

May it please Your Excellency,

HAVING, by the completion of the registration of the slaves, ascertained an accurate account of the population, I have the honour to enclose, for the information of your lordship, a statement thereof, amounting to 77,273, exceeding by 9,336 the number returned into the treasurer's office in the year 1815, and 5,987 more than were returned in 1816.

Trusting that it will be gratifying to your lordship and the country at large to know the ages of the population, I have selected all under one year, and from one to ten, and so on to the highest age; and I feel a pleasure in showing that of the

77,273

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77,273 total number, 39,658 are from twenty years down, and 71,432 of the general return are natives of this Island. Correspondence.

With the highest consideration and respect, I have the honour to be,

May it please Your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most faithful and obedient humble servant,

(Signed)

Conrade A. Howell, Registrar.

His Excellency the R^t Hon. Lord Combermere, G. C. B. &c. &c. &c.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, 3d November 1817.)

BARBADOES:—An ABSTRACT ACCOUNT of the SLAVE Population of this Island, with a Class of Ages, and Country, taken from the Registration Books, Anno Domini 1817.

PARISHES.	CLASS OF AGES.								
	Under 1 year.	From 1 to 10.	From 11 to 20.	From 21 to 30.	From 31 to 40.	From 41 to 50.	From 51 to 60.	From 61 to 70.	From 71 to 80.
ST. MICHAEL - - -	610	4,852	3,886	3,807	2,368	1,398	806	307	120
CHRIST CHURCH - - -	330	2,697	2,082	1,842	1,367	836	445	202	91
ST. PHILIP - - -	284	2,563	2,135	1,698	1,230	821	454	202	73
ST. JOHN - - -	181	1,438	1,200	973	726	511	268	115	40
ST. JOSEPH - - -	100	966	749	577	518	283	171	77	19
ST. GEORGE - - -	237	1,768	1,540	1,241	945	593	277	118	37
ST. JAMES - - -	131	921	808	608	584	404	223	104	34
ST. THOMAS - - -	195	1,272	1,116	977	776	449	253	97	25
ST. ANDREW - - -	98	852	697	642	480	326	167	82	42
ST. PETER - - -	227	1,552	1,306	1,131	848	551	317	142	39
ST. LUCY - - -	207	1,508	1,150	1,038	719	481	233	95	24
	2,600	20,389	16,669	14,534	10,561	6,653	3,614	1,541	544

PARISHES.	CLASS OF AGES.				Creoles of other Islands.	Africans.	Barbadians.	TOTAL NUMBER.
	From 81 to 90.	From 91 to 100.	From 101 to 114.	Ages at present unknown				
ST. MICHAEL - - -	34	5	—	—	312	2,252	15,629	18,193
CHRIST CHURCH - - -	19	1	1	2	4	680	9,231	9,915
ST. PHILIP - - -	11	3	—	1	5	724	8,746	9,475
ST. JOHN - - -	14	1	2	—	3	212	5,254	5,469
ST. JOSEPH - - -	5	1	—	—	3	160	3,303	3,466
ST. GEORGE - - -	4	2	—	—	8	384	6,370	6,762
ST. JAMES - - -	13	—	—	—	1	148	3,681	3,830
ST. THOMAS - - -	7	3	1	2	3	199	4,971	5,173
ST. ANDREW - - -	3	—	1	4	—	138	3,256	3,394
ST. PETER - - -	13	1	2	1	4	329	5,797	6,130
ST. LUCY - - -	9	2	—	—	2	270	5,194	5,466
	132	19	7	10	345	5,496	71,432	77,273

Under 1 year. - - - 2,600

From 1 to 10, inclusive 20,389

22,989

— 11 to 20, inclusive - - 16,669

39,658 say under 1 year, and from 1 to 20, more than equal to half the population.

31st October 1817.

Conrade A. Howell, Registrar.

Correspondence.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Maxwell to Earl Bathurst; with five Enclosures.

MY LORD,

Dominica, 16th August 1816.

IN compliance with your lordship's letter of the 20th of May, I have the honour to acquaint you, that I have made most particular inquiry how far the laws passed for the abolition of the slave trade have been observed and executed in this Colony; and I have the satisfaction to state to your lordship, that I have no reason to suppose that any infringement has taken place.

With regard to the effect they appear to have produced in the general condition of the Colony, and especially in the state of the Black population, I am not able to furnish your lordship with satisfactory information on this head; as it has not been the practice in this Island to register the births and deaths. The Colonial Act for the annual census merely exacts the aggregate number of male and female negroes, on whom a poll tax is levied in aid of the expenses of the colonial government; even this return does not embrace the whole period required by your lordship, owing to the destruction of the documents by the last hurricane in 1813.

It is difficult to form any correct judgment on the state and increase of the Black population, owing to a want of a register of births and deaths, and the repeated disasters which have occurred to this Colony: more particularly as the hurricane of 1813 laid waste the buildings, crops and provision grounds, which reduced the planter and his slaves to the utmost distress: many of the former, from embarrassed circumstances, were unable to purchase supplies and provisions, which were extremely scarce and dear. In consequence of these miseries their negroes were exposed to the inclemency of the weather, and forced to make a scanty meal on the wild and unripe herbs, which caused sickness and a most lamentable number of deaths, to the irreparable loss of the proprietors and detriment to the Colony.

In the return which I have the honour to subjoin, your lordship will perceive a great diminution in the number of negroes in the years 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816. I have endeavoured to account for the decrease by the number exported and manumitted, yet after deducting them, there still remains an unsatisfactory decrease, which I am inclined to think has not taken place entirely by deaths, as many slaves have been removed from this Colony clandestinely; and I am perfectly convinced that the population is far more numerous than stated in the last return under the Census Act. The legislature is about to remedy this defect by a new bill, which will embrace all the necessary particulars to ascertain the population correctly.

The slaves in this Island in general appear to be liberally treated and protected; and I think the legislature is inclined to adopt any measure for their amelioration that may be recommended by His Majesty's government, or experience may suggest.

I have the honour to be, &c.

To the Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

Charles W. Maxwell, Governor.

Enclosure,
No. 1.

(In Governor Maxwell's, of 16th August 1816.)

DOMINICA:—General RETURN of the SLAVE Population of this Island, agreeably to the Census taken by the Commissioners under the Census Act, for the following years:

	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Annual Decrease.	
Years 1807, 1808, 1809, } 1810, 1811 - - - }	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	Lost.
January - - 1812 - -	10,305	10,531	20,836	—	
— - - 1813 - -	10,255	10,563	20,828	8	
— - - 1814 - -	9,915	10,512	20,427	401	
— - - 1815 - -	9,177	9,684	18,861	1,566	
— - - 1816 - -	8,838	9,518	18,356	505	
Total Decrease, from January 1812 to January 1816				2,480	Slaves.

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All papers relating to the treasury office previous to the first January 1812 were deposited in the court house, and were lost on the 23d July 1813 in the hurricane, by the total destruction of that building; and the treasurer has no means of procuring a statement of the slave population for the years preceding 1812, agreeably to the order of his Excellency the Governor.

Correspondence.

The decrease of negroes between 1813 and 1815 was occasioned by the hurricane of the 23d July 1813, and the flood on the 25th August following, which destroyed the provision grounds, and a great mortality followed.

The decrease between January 1815 and 1816 arose from the number exported to properties in other Islands, otherwise there would have been an increase, as the treasurer is of opinion the number exported exceeded the decrease.

The treasurer cannot state the number of children, as no separate return was ever made of them, but included in the general one.

Treasury Office,
Dominica, 9th August 1816.

James Corlet,
Treasurer.

(In Governor Maxwell's, of 16th August 1816.)

PORT OF ROSEAU, DOMINICA:—RETURN of SLAVES exported from this Port to other British Colonies, during the years 1812, 13, 14, 15, and 1816, under Licences granted by the different Commanders in Chief for the time being, pursuant to the Act of Parliament 46th Geo. III, ch. 52, sec. 13.

Enclosure,
No. 2.

Years.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	
1812 - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	None.
1813 - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	None.
1814 - - -	91	66	157	
1815 - - -	211	184	395	
1816, to date	62	53	115	
	364	303	667	

The above are all that were regularly cleared for exportation; but we are aware that at least an equal, if not greater number, were taken away from the Island, and sold, under the cloak of their being domestics attending their masters, as more fully appears by copy of our correspondence with his Excellency Governor Ainslie on that subject, hereto annexed.

Custom-house, 4th August 1816.

J. Laidlaw, Collr.
James Corlet, A. Comp'r.

(In Governor Maxwell's, of 16th August 1816.)

Enclosure,
No. 3.

MR. LAIDLAW'S REPLY.

SIR,

Custom-house, Dominica, 8th May 1814.

I HAVE received Mr. Bruce's letter of this morning, desiring me to propose the most effectual means of remedying the evil complained of in the collector and comptroller's letter of the 5th instant.

In answer, I beg leave to suggest the following, as the most likely measures that occur to me to put a stop to the practice alluded to, *i. e.*

That your Excellency's secretary, or such other colonial officer as may be approved of by you, should be authorized, previous to a passport being granted at government office to take servants off the Island, to administer the under-mentioned oath to the person making application for such passport.

" Personally appeared _____ of the Island or Colony
 " who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of
 " Almighty God, maketh oath and saith, That the Negro named
 " _____ for whom he hath now applied for a pass, is truly and *bonâ*
 " *fidè*

4.—FURTHER PAPERS RELATING TO THE

Correspondence.

“ *fide* the domestic of this deponent, and is to accompany him [*or, her*]
 “ solely as such; and this deponent further maketh oath, that the said
 “ Negro is not carried away from the Island for the purpose of being sold,
 “ or for any other purpose whatsoever than that above mentioned.
 “ So help me GOD.”

This mode appears to me to be attended with but little trouble to travellers, and does not, in my opinion, interfere with the Act of Parliament.

His Excellency Governor Ainslie,
 &c. &c. &c.

I have the honour to be, &c.
 J. Laidlaw, A. Collr.

Enclosure,
 No. 4.

(In Governor Maxwell's, of 16th August 1816.)

DOMINICA:—NOTE of Manumissions, recorded in the Register's Office of the said Island, from the 1st day of January 1812 to the 7th day of August 1816; *viz.*

In the year 1812	-	-	-	42
— 1813	-	-	-	59
— 1814	-	-	-	54
— 1815	-	-	-	73
to 7th Aug' 1816	-	-	-	62

TOTAL - - 290

Dominica, 15th August 1816.

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct return,

Joseph Court, Act^s Reg^r.

Enclosure,
 No. 5.

(In Governor Maxwell's, of 16th August 1816.)

Copy of CORRESPONDENCE with Governor Ainslie.

SIR,

Custom-house, Dominica, 5th May 1814.

WE consider it incumbent on us to state to your Excellency a practice which has lately prevailed to a very great extent, and which if not immediately check'd, must in a very short time prove highly detrimental to the interest of this Colony; the practice here alluded to, is that of carrying away slaves to other Islands, under the cloak of their being servants accompanying their masters: The Act of Parliament allows two such domesticks for each passenger, but under this sanction we can possibly assert, these servants (as they are called) are in nine instances out of ten purchased here for the sole purpose of speculation; and we have not unfrequently known persons apply for permission to take off such servants, who to our knowledge do not possess a single slave, nor the means of purchasing one, but who merely go from Island to Island for the purpose of cloaking the property of others, and disposing of it for them.

As the intention of the Act was to allow persons travelling to take their servants along with them, *being truly and bonâ fide such*, without subjecting them to the inconvenience of going through all the forms required on removing slaves, and not for the purpose of speculation as before stated; we beg leave to suggest to your Excellency the propriety of adopting such measures as to you may appear best calculated for suppressing a trade, so directly at variance with the spirit and intention of the Act, and so injurious to the Island.

His Excellency Governor Ainslie,
 &c. &c. &c.

We have the honour to be, &c.

J. Laidlaw, Act^s Collr.
 James Corlet, Act^s Comp^r.

Governor Ainslie's Answer to the above.

SIR,

Government-house, 8th May 1814.

I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor to request you will propose the most effectual way of remedying the evil you complained of in your letter of the 5th instant.

John Laidlaw, Esq.

I am, Sir, &c.

Wm. Bruce, Sec^r.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Arthur to the Earl Bathurst.

MY LORD,

Honduras, 7th November 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's Dispatch of the 20th of May last, acquainting me, it was the pleasure of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that I should furnish your lordship, with as little delay as possible, with a report, stating how far the laws passed for the abolition of the slave trade have been observed and executed within the settlement under my government, and what effects they appear to have produced in the general condition of the settlement, and especially in the state of its Black population. And desiring that I will transmit to your lordship an account, showing the increase or decrease of the number of slaves since 1807; their present numbers; and, as far as the same can be done, the changes in their relative proportions of males and females, and of adults and children.

In obedience to these commands, I have the honour to report to your lordship, that from the year 1807, up to the year 1814, the abolition laws were not strictly enforced in this settlement.

The magistrates, who are merchants and wood-cutters, claimed some control over this trade, and even after the superintendent had forcibly deprived them of any influence therein, the misunderstanding which it occasioned led to some abuse of the abolition laws.

Moreover, the powers of the superintendent never having been defined, when he had taken upon himself all authority upon this head, he exercised it with great caution; and to this circumstance I ascribe the illegal traffic which was carried on by certain Jews in Jamaica with this settlement in slaves, and which was continued up to the period of my arrival in this country.

The measures which I adopted in seizing the slaves, clandestinely introduced in the month of September 1814, immediately after my appointment as superintendent, have put an entire stop to that disgraceful commerce, and I believe I may with the greatest confidence assert, that not one single slave has been brought into the settlement for sale since that period.

It is necessary, however, that I should observe that the orders contained in your lordship's Dispatch of the 9th July last, directing, in compliance with the suggestion of the lords commissioners of His Majesty's treasury, that I should forbear to make any other seizures until the general question as to the trade of Honduras is settled, will of necessity debar me from enforcing your lordship's prior commands regarding the Abolition Act, and un introduction of slaves for sale, because I have no means whatever of proceeding against the parties offending, but by seizure, there being no court in this settlement before which they could be brought.

With regard to the state of the Black population, I have the most heartfelt gratification in assuring your lordship, that it is scarcely possible it can be meliorated.

So great is the kindness, the liberality, the indulgent care of the wood-cutters towards their negroes, that slavery would scarcely be known to exist in this country, was it not for a few unprincipled adventurers in the town of Belize who exercise authority over their one or two slaves, in a manner very different from the great body of the community.

The steps which I have taken with one of those characters, as reported in my Dispatch to your lordship of the 21st ultimo, will, I have no doubt, be attended with the best effect; and I turn with pleasure from this unpleasant exception to the general features of the picture, which are so truly excellent.

Amidst all our difficulties in other respects, it is quite impossible, my lord, that any thing can surpass the treatment of the slaves, men, women, and children, in this country. The system adopted in most other parts of the West Indies, of allotting to each slave a patch of ground on which he is to raise food for himself and family, is here quite unknown.

All the slaves are most abundantly fed by their proprietors on the best salted provisions; pork, generally, at the rate of five pounds per week to each man, with yams, plantains, rice, flour, salt, and tobacco. Every slave has a moschetta pavilion, blanket, and shirt found him; also two suits of Osnaburgh annually. The men and lads work on account of their owners, five days in the week, for the Saturday's labour they are entitled by usage, which has become a law, to half a dollar, and the Sunday is entirely their own.

Correspondence.

The women are only employed in domestic purposes, and if they have young children, no work whatever is required from them by their masters; in fact, my lord, although I came to the West Indies three years ago a perfect Wilberforce as to slavery, I must now confess that I have in no part of the world seen the labouring class of people possess any thing like the comforts and advantages of the slave population of Honduras.

I regret it is not possible for me to transmit to your lordship any account showing the increase or decrease of the slaves since 1807, as the magistracy of this country have never taken a census of the population; but with the advantages I have enumerated, your lordship will easily conceive that the increase has been very great, as indeed, from a most minute investigation, I have ascertained to be the fact.

I shall, under the authority of your lordship's commands, now call for a census of the population of all classes; it will, however, I fear, from the circumstance of the slaves being employed in the interior, be some time before it can be correctly made up, but I shall not fail to transmit it to your lordship with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.

Geo. Arthur, Lieutenant Colonel,
Superintendent and Command'

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

Copy of a Letter from the Earl Bathurst to Lieutenant Colonel Arthur.

SIR,

Downing-street, 6th February 1817.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Dispatch of the 7th of November last, conveying to me the information required in my circular of the 20th May last, relative to the effects produced by the abolition laws upon the state of the slave population of Honduras, and the manner in which those laws have been enforced.

The statement contained in your Dispatch, of the general good treatment of the negroes and the humanity of their masters, could not fail to give me the greatest satisfaction; nor should I have thought it necessary to have addressed you upon the subject, had it not been to correct a misapprehension under which you labour, in considering the instructions which you have latterly received, to abstain for the present from making seizures of vessels on account of a breach of the laws of trade, as preventing your enforcement of the laws relative to the abolition of the slave trade, in cases in which an attempt should be made to violate them.

By a reference to the circumstances in which the instruction in question arose, I think you will observe that it could have no reference whatever to the slave trade, and that it does not prohibit you from using every means in your power for carrying into effect the general law of the empire upon this subject, which is applicable equally to British subjects, whether resident in a British colony or in a foreign country. The only ground for that instruction, was the legal doubt whether Honduras bore the character of a British colony, so far as to admit of enforcing in its harbour the prohibitory system with respect to navigation and trade, to which British Colonies are subject, and you were cautioned against enforcing this system until these doubts should be resolved. The illegality of the importation of slaves by British subjects, does not however depend upon the laws of navigation and trade; it is founded upon the provisions of special statutes, which prohibit the importation of slaves, and prescribe the penalties to which importers are to be subject.

Whatever doubts may exist as to other branches of Honduras trade, the trade of slaves by British subjects is at all events illegal, and you will in consequence continue to use the greatest vigilance in detecting such an illegal traffic, if it exists, and in applying to the offenders all the penalties which the law attaches to so great an offence.

I have, &c.

Lieut. Colonel Arthur, &c. &c. &c.

Bathurst.

TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES.

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Correspondence.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Probyn to Earl Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

Saint Christopher's, 25th November 1816.

I HAVE now the honour to transmit the census, which, conformably to your lordship's directions recently conveyed to me, has been taken of the Slave population of this Island.

I have not yet received the reports from the other Islands of the government. I hope, however, I shall be able to forward them by an early opportunity.

From all the information I have had it in my power to collect, I am inclined to think that there has been no infraction of the laws passed for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, in this Colony; or, indeed, in any other forming a part of this government; and the slaves in general appear to be contented and happy.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Thomas Probyn,

Captain General and Governor.

To the Right honourable the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(In Governor Probyn's, of 25th November 1816.)

In pursuance of a resolution of the Council and Assembly, entered into at their meeting on the 27th August last, "that it be referred to a Committee of both Houses to take the necessary measures for obtaining for his Excellency the Captain General, as speedily as possible, an account showing the Increase or Decrease of the number of slaves in this Island since 1817; their present numbers; and, as far as the same can be done, the changes in their respective proportions of males and females, and of adults and children, according to the requisition contained in Lord Bathurst's letter of the 20th of May last;"—Your Committee appointed for that purpose report as follows; viz.

That there having been no account taken of the number of slaves in the year 1807, they cannot ascertain the increase or decrease since that period.

That after the most diligent inquiry in collecting a census, on oath, of the present numbers of slaves in this Colony, by a member of the Council in each parish, they find that there are in the respective parishes the following numbers; viz.

	Adults.		Children.		TOTAL.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
In the Parish of St. George, Basseterre	1,113	1,154	636	523	3,426
- - - - - St. Peter, Basseterre -	789	888	510	564	2,743
- - - - - Trinity, Palmetto Point	463	438	260	234	1,395
- - - - - St. Thomas, Middle } Island - - - }	688	664	364	358	2,074
- - - - - St. Anne, Sandy Point	637	699	439	401	2,176
- - - - - St. Paul, Capisterre -	467	506	239	221	1,433
- - - - - St. John, Capisterre -	482	534	254	239	1,511
- - - - - Christ Church, Ni- } chola Town - - }	574	645	376	407	2,002
- - - - - St. Mary, Cayon - -	562	651	440	415	2,068
			Total		18,828

Making the total number of slaves in the Island eighteen thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight.

Correspondence.

That the changes in the respective proportions of males and females, and of adults and children, cannot be ascertained, as the last census of slaves that was taken, in March 1812, only specified the total numbers, and which were as follows; viz.

	Slaves.
In the Parish of St. George, Basseterre - - -	3,738
- - - - - St. Peter, Basseterre - - -	2,782
- - - - - Trinity, Palmetto Point - - -	1,543
- - - - - St. Thomas, Middle Island - - -	2,441
- - - - - St. Anne, Sandy Point - - -	1,997
- - - - - St. Paul, Capisterre - - -	1,588
- - - - - St. John, Capisterre - - -	1,511
- - - - - Christ Church, Nichola Town - - -	2,063
- - - - - St. Mary, Cayon - - -	2,222
Making a Total of - - -	<u>19,885</u>

Leaving a deficit of one thousand and fifty-seven slaves in four years and a half, being about one and a third per cent.

Your Committee, however, think it necessary to add, that as it possessed no means of enforcing returns from the inhabitants, possibly some few individuals may have omitted to give in the list of their personal negroes; but the committee is convinced the numbers kept back cannot but be small.

William Thomson, Chairman.

Basseterre, St. Christopher's, Committee Room,
18th October 1816.

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of Manchester to the Earl Bathurst.

MY LORD,

King's House, Jamaica, 17th August 1816.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your lordship's dispatch, marked 'Circular' of the 20th May last, conveying to me His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's command, that I should, with as little delay as possible, furnish your lordship with a report stating how far the laws passed for the abolition of the slave trade, have been observed and executed within this Colony, and what effects they appear to have produced in the general condition of the Colony, and especially in the state of its Black population.

Your lordship is pleased also to desire, that I will transmit to your lordship an account showing the increase or decrease of the number of slaves since 1807; their present numbers; and, as far as the same can be done, the changes in their relative proportions of males and females and adults and children.

In answer to that part of your lordship's Dispatch, which relates to the laws passed for the abolition of the slave trade, it is impossible that I can furnish your lordship with more conclusive evidence upon this subject, than was produced before a committee of the late House of Assembly in their last session; when the Admiral, the principal officers of the customs, and the Judge of the Court of Vice Admiralty, were solemnly examined, and their concurrent testimony proves that no violation of the laws passed for the abolition of the slave trade had taken place here; and as I arrived here soon after those laws were passed, and have travelled much in different parts of the Island, and had the best possible means of knowing the sentiments of the inhabitants on this head, if my opinion can add any weight to the respectable evidence which has been brought forward, I feel I should do them an injustice were I not to express my confident opinion and belief that not only no violation of the abolition laws has taken place here, but that there is no desire on the part of the planters to increase the number of their slaves by such means: and that whatever difference of opinion may have prevailed as to the question of the abolition of the slave trade whilst that measure was in agitation, I have reason to believe the good consequences of it are more generally felt and acknowledged in the improved habits and civilization of the Black population.

In regard to the effects which may be supposed to have been produced in the general condition of the Colony, and especially in the state of its Black population, my knowledge of the Island of Jamaica is limited to the period when the abolition of the

the slave trade took place. I am therefore unable, from my own personal observation, to make any comparison between the present state of the Black population with what it was antecedent to that time.

Correspondence.

I have very little expectation of being able to furnish your lordship with an account approaching to accuracy, of the real increase or decrease of the number of slaves since 1807, their present number, and the changes in the relative proportion of males and females, adults and children, although the tax on slaves usually forms here the principal source of revenue; the disposition to evade this tax, and the great number of persons who are possessed of only a few negroes, and who have been until lately entirely overlooked (particularly in the city of Kingston) afford no means of estimating the real number of slaves with any degree of certainty. And as to the changes in the relative proportions of males and females, adults and children, I have no hope of satisfying your Lordship's inquiries on this head.

Although I am aware, that what I have now stated to your lordship by no means embraces all the points connected with your lordship's inquiries, still I have thought it proper to fulfil your instructions, as far as I am enabled so to do, without waiting for such further information as I shall hereafter endeavour to obtain.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

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

Manchester.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Probyn to Earl Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

St. Christopher, 17th January 1817.

I BEG leave to refer your Lordship to the letter, No. 14, which I had the honour to address to you on the 25th November, a duplicate whereof is forwarded by the present conveyance, relative to the numbers and state of the slave population of this Island; and I now enclose the Returns from the Island of Nevis; and

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) Tho' Probyn, Cap' Genl.

To the Right Hon. Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(In Governor Probyn's Letter, 17th Jan. 1817.)

LIST of NEGROES and other SLAVES belonging to the Inhabitants of, and Plantations in the Island of Nevis, returned in the Secretary's Office, by order of his Honour the President.

Names of Plantations and Proprietors.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
Estate.—James Tobin, Stoney Grove	53	64	50	46	213
Edward Huggins the younger	24	39	27	18	108
John F. Bertrand and Children	1	2	-	1	4
Amos Herbert	-	-	-	1	1
George Abbott	11	6	6	5	28
Est.—William Phillips	-	-	-	5	5
Thomas B. Crosse	2	1	1	1	5
Robert Claxton	2	-	-	-	2
Joseph Jones, St. Paul's	4	4	3	5	16
Est.—Finlay Nicholson, St. James'	20	16	10	6	52
Joseph Lawrence	-	3	1	2	6
George Burdon	1	-	-	1	2
Charles Arthurton	1	2	3	2	8
Elizabeth Washington	2	2	1	3	8
Mary Butler	1	1	4	-	6
Nicholas Fyfield	1	-	-	-	1
Francis Branch	5	4	4	2	15

(continued)

Correspondence.

Names of Plantations and Proprietors.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
Thomas Liburd - - - - -	19	19	16	9	63
John Liburd (deceased) - - - - -	13	7	6	3	29
Est.—Josiah Hendrickson (deceased) - - - - -	3	10	8	7	28
William Huggins - - - - -	2	7	3	1	13
Est.—Geo. Webbe, Stoney Hill - - - - -	28	45	26	28	127
Est.—William Liburd (deceased) - - - - -	9	10	2	7	28
Edward Huggins, sen ^r - - - - -	154	161	54	46	415
Francis Galpine - - - - -	2	6	2	3	13
Elizabeth Huggins - - - - -	-	6	1	-	7
John Huggins, jun ^r - - - - -	-	-	1	-	1
James Salter - - - - -	-	2	-	-	2
Thomas J. Cottle - - - - -	57	54	17	23	151
Sally Webbe - - - - -	-	1	-	-	1
Martha Williams Hamilton - - - - -	244	288	116	165	813
Matthew Wallace - - - - -	12	15	8	4	39
Thomas Slaidar - - - - -	2	2	-	-	4
Charles Reap - - - - -	1	-	-	-	1
Sally Chivers - - - - -	-	1	-	-	1
William Slater - - - - -	1	-	-	-	1
Thomas Arthurton - - - - -	22	28	16	17	83
Joan Arthurton - - - - -	3	3	4	2	12
Daniel Levy - - - - -	1	4	-	-	5
Edward Jones - - - - -	-	1	-	1	2
Jenkin Powell - - - - -	2	-	-	-	2
William Jones - - - - -	-	1	1	-	2
Mary Richins - - - - -	-	2	5	2	9
Fanny Levy - - - - -	-	1	1	-	2
Patty Weekes - - - - -	-	1	-	-	1
Eve Broadbelt - - - - -	-	3	1	1	5
Peter Thomas Huggins - - - - -	42	60	37	21	160
Richard L. Hicks - - - - -	46	66	37	33	182
Peter Jeffreys - - - - -	47	49	21	33	150
James Lawrence - - - - -	1	3	1	1	6
George Podd - - - - -	-	1	1	1	3
Mary Gardner - - - - -	-	2	2	-	4
Est.—John Ward - - - - -	74	97	57	51	279
Est.—Joseph Jones (Lowland) - - - - -	22	27	7	4	60
Mary Weekes and children - - - - -	-	1	3	2	6
Amelia Smith - - - - -	1	2	-	2	5
Amelia Broadbelt - - - - -	-	2	-	-	2
Jane Smith - - - - -	-	1	-	-	1
Hester Smith - - - - -	-	3	-	1	4
James Scarbrough - - - - -	1	3	1	1	6
Isaac Mulzac - - - - -	1	1	-	-	2
William V. Hamilton - - - - -	53	81	38	46	218
Grace Mackermen - - - - -	-	1	-	1	2
Est.—William Scarborough (deceased) - - - - -	29	21	14	11	75
Robert Reap - - - - -	9	3	2	-	14
Joseph Herbert, jun ^r - - - - -	-	1	-	-	1
Joseph Herbert, sen ^r - - - - -	-	-	1	1	2
Samuel Sturge - - - - -	-	1	-	1	2
John M. Abbott - - - - -	1	-	-	-	1
Walter Nisbett (deceased,) Kadesbay - - - - -	22	23	10	4	59
William Powell - - - - -	1	-	-	-	1
Walter Maynard - - - - -	37	42	11	15	105
Messrs. Rawlins and Wilkes, Symonds - - - - -	69	67	46	29	211
Messrs. Rawlins and Wilkes, Webbs - - - - -	72	74	47	25	218
Sarah Wilkes - - - - -	2	7	1	2	12
Ann Burke, jun ^r - - - - -	-	1	4	1	6

TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES.

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Names of Plantations and Proprietors.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
Ann Burke, sen ^r - - - - -	3	4	4	1	12
Judith Scarbrough - - - - -	-	3	-	2	5
John H ^y Clarke - - - - -	70	83	37	45	235
William Bowim - - - - -	114	101	63	58	336
Catharine Murphy - - - - -	3	2	1	-	6
Mary Williamson and children - - - - -	-	2	1	1	4
Sarah Williamson - - - - -	-	-	-	1	1
Sophia Williamson - - - - -	-	-	-	1	1
Maria Nicholson - - - - -	-	1	-	2	3
Ann White - - - - -	-	2	4	2	8
Finlay Nicholson, Figtree - - - - -	45	31	17	27	120
Finlay Nicholson, St. Paul - - - - -	2	1	-	-	3
Eliza Nicholson and children - - - - -	-	6	5	3	14
John Handcock - - - - -	1	4	6	3	14
Grace Richardson - - - - -	5	7	2	2	16
William Burke - - - - -	4	7	3	5	19
Josiah W. Maynard - - - - -	54	45	21	30	150
William Pemberton and Family - - - - -	36	47	18	21	122
Samuel Lawrence - - - - -	40	58	47	31	176
Miss F. Lawrence - - - - -	2	7	6	4	19
Morton's Bay estate - - - - -	17	24	27	10	78
Shotto Archbald - - - - -	46	45	4	13	108
Est.—Walter Maynard (deceased) - - - - -	23	44	38	27	132
Mrs. Harpham - - - - -	-	1	-	-	1
Mrs. Ober - - - - -	-	1	-	-	1
Joseph Cruso - - - - -	1	-	1	-	2
Patty Weekes - - - - -	-	1	-	-	1
Felix Alvarez - - - - -	3	1	-	-	4
Francis Browne - - - - -	5	3	-	-	8
Shandy Bowrey - - - - -	1	1	2	1	5
Ann Huggins - - - - -	-	4	-	3	7
Catharine Amory - - - - -	-	1	-	-	1
Mrs. Davis - - - - -	1	1	2	1	5
Ann Frost - - - - -	-	2	2	1	5
Est.—Jn ^o Taylor - - - - -	39	51	37	46	173
James Daniell and family - - - - -	126	143	85	63	417
Thomas Powell - - - - -	15	12	8	5	40
Est.—Mrs. Hutton - - - - -	47	63	44	-	154
Walter Bucke - - - - -	1	4	7	-	12
Edward J. Wolfe - - - - -	2	4	3	5	14
William Lawrence - - - - -	56	38	-	-	94
Francis Bridgwater - - - - -	4	2	1	-	7
Elizabeth and Jane Harper - - - - -	3	3	4	1	11
William Hendrickson - - - - -	5	2	-	-	7
George Vaughan - - - - -	1	2	5	-	8
Rev ^d Samuel Lyons - - - - -	-	3	3	3	9
Peter Butler - - - - -	2	1	5	-	8
Lady Frances Stapleton, estate - - - - -	85	110	60	-	255
John H. Walwyn - - - - -	3	-	-	-	3
Rbenezer Stather - - - - -	2	2	1	4	9
Magnus Morton - - - - -	79	96	41	37	247
Thomas Marriner - - - - -	-	3	2	-	5
Thomas Marriner, jun ^r - - - - -	1	-	-	-	1
Anne Parris - - - - -	-	1	1	1	3
Adam Brodie - - - - -	6	10	10	12	38
John Griffin - - - - -	3	1	-	-	4
Richard N. Parris - - - - -	43	33	12	11	99
Henrietta Clacke - - - - -	1	6	7	3	17
John Hanley - - - - -	67	80	63	46	256

Correspondence.

Correspondence.

Names of Plantations and Proprietors.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
Buller Clanton - - - - -	26	40	33	25	124
John Brooks - - - - -	-	2	2	-	4
W. B. Frost - - - - -	1	3	-	2	6
Mrs. Mary Lawrence - - - - -	1	-	3	-	4
And. M. Crosse - - - - -	3	3	-	-	6
James Parry - - - - -	1	2	2	-	5
Parry and Evans - - - - -	3	-	-	-	3
W ^m Buckingham - - - - -	-	-	2	-	2
Richard J. Broadbelt - - - - -	2	-	-	-	2
Ann Bennett - - - - -	3	2	2	-	7
John Taylor - - - - -	4	-	-	-	4
Thomas R. Herbert - - - - -	2	-	-	-	2
Est.—Jn ^o Ede - - - - -	47	53	25	22	147
Est.—Jn ^o Mills - - - - -	51	41	22	13	127
John C. Mills - - - - -	16	18	5	14	53
J. W. Stanley and family - - - - -	3	3	4	-	10
James Stanley - - - - -	14	20	-	-	34
Total Amount - - - - -	2,477	2,853	1,549	1,311	8,190

LIST of SLAVES—*continued.*

Sarah Bennett - - - - -	2	2	1	-	5
Eleanor Charlotte - - - - -	-	-	-	-	1
Frederick John Huggins - - - - -	20	10	5	2	37
George Hobron - - - - -	-	-	-	-	6
Samuel Pemberton - - - - -	-	-	-	-	9
Harriot Slater and children - - - - -	-	-	-	-	8
Joseph Nicholson - - - - -	-	-	-	-	8
William Beck - - - - -	-	-	-	-	1
Josiah W. Daniell - - - - -	1	-	-	-	1
Est.—William Huggins (dead) - - - - -	-	-	-	-	5
Partfield Mills - - - - -	1	2	-	-	3
Elizabeth Stapleton - - - - -	-	-	-	-	5
Henry Cossin - - - - -	-	-	-	-	5
James Parris - - - - -	41	46	21	22	130
William Rape - - - - -	-	-	-	-	9
Robert Popplewell - - - - -	1	-	-	-	1
Thomas Higgins - - - - -	-	1	-	-	1
William Nicholson - - - - -	-	-	-	-	2
Robert Mitchell - - - - -	-	-	-	-	9
Francis Newton - - - - -	-	-	-	-	2
Est.—George Webb, Lower Ground - - - - -	-	-	-	-	212
John Hendrickson, carpenter - - - - -	-	-	-	-	14
Robert Washington and family - - - - -	-	-	-	-	15
Benjamin Depresse - - - - -	-	-	-	-	2
Joseph Hanley and family - - - - -	-	-	-	-	12
George Forbes - - - - -	-	-	-	-	92
Joseph H. Pemberton and family - - - - -	-	-	-	-	16
James Weekes - - - - -	-	-	-	-	132
Edward Brazier - - - - -	-	-	-	-	154
Francis Frith - - - - -	11	15	21	11	58
					955

The above slaves were omitted in the General List, but taken from the treasurer's books.

TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES.

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LIST of SLAVES in the Island of Nevis, as per List given in, in the following years, viz.

Correspondence.

In the year 1807	-	-	-	9,167
- - - - 1808	-	-	-	9,321
- - - - 1809	-	-	-	9,392
- - - - 1810	-	-	-	9,375
- - - - 1811	-	-	-	9,141
- - - - 1812	-	-	-	9,242
- - - - 1813	-	-	-	8,988
- - - - 1814	-	-	-	8,851
- - - - 1815	-	-	-	8,984
- - - - 1816	-	-	-	9,145

Copy of a Letter from Governor Probyn to Earl Bathurst; with two Enclosures.

MY LORD,

Saint Christopher, 19th February 1817.

I HAD the honour of transmitting to your lordship, under date of the 25th November and 17th January, the returns of the slave population of this Island and Nevis: and I now enclose an extract of a letter, and return, which I have received from the president and treasurer of the Virgin Islands, respecting the slave population there. And,

I have the honour to be, with great consideration and respect,

My Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

To the Right honourable
the Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) *Thomas Probyn,*
Captain General.

(In Governor Probyn's Letter 19th February 1817.)

Total number of negroes and other slaves within the Virgin Islands, as per returns taken in the different divisions, in the year 1805 - - 7,448

From 1805 until 1809, no taxes were imposed on slaves, in consequence of which no returns were taken.

Total number of slaves within the said Islands, per returns taken in 1809 - - - - 7,565

Total number of ditto within said Islands per return in 1810 - - 7,495

Total number of ditto per ditto in 1811 - - - - 7,410

Total number of ditto per ditto in 1812 - - - - 7,269

Total number of ditto per ditto in 1813 - - - - 7,212

No returns taken for the purpose of collecting taxes in the treasury since 1813.

Dear Sir,

The returns which were necessary for me to take, for the purpose of collecting taxes, do not enable me to give you more particular information relative to the increase and decrease of slaves in the Virgin Islands from the period mentioned, than the above extract from the treasurer's books will convey to you.

I remain,

Dear Sir, Your's, &c.

(Signed) *Wm. Geo. Crabb.*

The honourable Andrew Anderson, Esquire.

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of the report furnished me by Wm. Geo. Crabb, esquire, treasurer of the Virgin Islands.

Tortola, 3d February 1817.

(Signed) *Andrew Anderson.*

(In Governor Probyn's Letter 19th February 1817)

Extract of a Letter from the President of the Virgin Islands, dated Tortola, 3d February 1817.

Your Excellency's dispatches of 16th August and 19th September, requiring information, and a report how far the laws for the abolition of the slave trade have been observed and executed in the Virgin Islands, &c. are received.

Correspondence.

This much I can freely declare, that the laws respecting the slave trade and its abolition, have been most scrupulously observed here, as well from respect to the laws as from real inclination to do so.

In regard to an account showing the increase and decrease of the slaves since 1807, and distinguishing the sexes, I regret to observe that it has not been found practicable here, the return having been only made when a tax bill existed, with regard to numbers as objects of taxation. But that will be best explained by the enclosed copy of the report made to me, only three days ago, by the treasurer, which is all that could be procured.

The expediency of adopting measures for the general registration of the slaves will be duly attended to, in the bill for that effect now under consideration.

(Signed) *Andrew Anderson.*

Extract of a Letter from Major General Douglas to Earl Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

St. Lucia, 16th October 1816.

SINCE I had the honour to receive your lordship's circular letter of the 20th May 1816, I have anxiously endeavoured to procure the information necessary to enable me to answer it fully; but I am sorry to say, the total want of public records in this Island, and the apparent unwillingness of those who have been in office to give assistance on such subjects, have rendered it impossible for me to obtain from any certain authority, the particulars required.

From my own observation, and from general information, it would appear that the laws for the Abolition of the Slave Trade have been duly observed, as far as relates to the importation of Africans.

One of the consequences of the French Revolution, in this Island, was the abandonment of many valuable estates from want of population, and some very fine plantations have recently been forsaken, the proprietors having concentrated their slaves on other estates, which had also too few negroes to cultivate them; it is difficult, therefore, to say, in what degree the abolition has occasioned these measures, but it is certain that it has prevented that accession of cultivators which was required to restore the Island to the state of prosperity it was in at the commencement of the French Revolution.

The effects of the abolition of the slave trade are certainly favourable to the condition of the Black population, inasmuch as it is now more than ever the interest of every proprietor to preserve the health of his slaves, and particularly to cherish the rising generation, which was formerly very much neglected, upon the sordid principle that it was cheaper to buy slaves than to rear them.

In general the treatment of this class of the population is just and kind; but there are many instances of the reverse, according to the disposition of their owner, and some of very great cruelty; but these, I am happy to say, are not numerous.

The enclosed letter from the registrar of slaves will show your lordship that there are upwards of sixteen thousand in this Island; but that it would be impossible to distinguish males, females, adults, and children, without consuming a very considerable portion of time, which the registrar requires to complete his records already in arrear.

Under all these circumstances it is totally impracticable to estimate the probable increase or decrease, or the changes in their relative proportions of males, females, adults, and children, which I very much regret.

(In Major General Douglass's, of 16th October 1816.)

SIR,

Registry Office, Castries, 5th October 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter, dated 24th September last, requiring me, with as little delay as possible, to transmit the exact number of slaves in this Island, distinguishing males, females, adults, and children, to be forwarded to the Earl Bathurst, for the information of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

I had already begun to comply with the directions therein contained; but I now find that the undertaking would be attended with very considerable delay, and must necessarily retard the entry of the original returns in the registry books, which

which I am most anxious to complete, and which already has remained unfinished a very considerable time after the period fixed for its conclusion. Correspondence.

It is necessary I should account to your Excellency in what the difficulty consists, and how tedious an undertaking it would prove, to make out a list such as I am thus required to do. The Order in Council, under which authority I act, does not require the returns to be sent us in that form. For example, in the instances of families of slaves, the males, females, adults, and children, are so intermixed that it would require, to obtain this point, that each individual should be separated from the returns; and as there are upwards of sixteen thousand in these returns, the undertaking would be formidable. I therefore beg permission to suggest to your Excellency, whether, under all the circumstances I have stated, it would not be more desirable to continue the ordinary business of the registry for the purpose of its completion, before this exact return is required. But I beg most perfectly to explain to your Excellency, that this suggestion is not made to spare the trouble it might occasion us, as I assure you I should feel it my duty most cheerfully to comply at all times with your Excellency's orders.

As I am now on the subject of the Registry Office, I feel it necessary to state to your Excellency the delay that is occasioned in the duties of it by the want of a second clerk. I have again written lately on the subject to Lord Bathurst, stating that was alone that your Excellency wished for, his Lordship's authority to order a second clerk, for that you had on every occasion shown the utmost readiness, and evinced every desire to assist me, in putting into execution the Order in Council. The letter to which I allude was written previously to the death of Mr. Sands, the clerk I first employed; and I informed his lordship, that as I had, on my own responsibility, engaged a second, I hoped his lordship would order the arrears of salary to be paid, as well as the second clerk confirmed. The death of Mr. Sands, (although of late he had been constantly sick,) has again thrown us back; but as I have already paid a second up to his death, I do not consider myself called upon to be again responsible for another, more especially as Mr. Goulburn's letter to me of the 10th of October 1815, which Lord Bathurst enclosed to General Stehelin, (I believe) in June last, states, that the "expenses of the registry are to be paid by the Colony."

I have therefore no alternative but to endeavour to engage a second, reserving the issue of the salary being allowed until I hear from Lord Bathurst. I may perhaps be able to effect this, if your Excellency is convinced of the necessity of a second clerk being employed, and on that occasion would recommend such person to his lordship.

I have the honour, &c.

His Excellency Major General Douglas,
&c. &c. &c.

Richard Buckoll, Registrar.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. President Paul to Earl Bathurst.

MY LORD,

Government House, St. Vincent, 30th July 1816.

I HAD the honour of receiving your lordship's letter of 20th May last, desiring an answer to several queries, in consequence of an address from the House of Lords to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

I can say with confidence, that the laws passed for the abolition of the slave trade have been strictly observed and executed within this government; and the effects produced have, in my opinion, been salutary and beneficial. I can easily get from the treasurer's office the general Annual Returns of Slaves since 1807; but it is my duty to mention to your lordship, that I could not procure a statement of the changes in their relative proportions of males and females, and of adults and children, without an act of the legislature. The contents of your lordship's letter shall be communicated to that body at first meeting, and the proceedings thereon regularly transmitted.

The minds of slaves all over the British West Indies, are just now so much agitated and misled by absurd and unfounded reports from Europe, that the greatest caution and prudence is necessary to be observed in making any innovation.

I have every reason to believe that it is the earnest wish of the legislature of this

Correspondence. this Colony, to do every thing in their power to meet the wishes of His Majesty's Government.

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

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

Copy of a Letter from Mr. President Campbell, to the Earl Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

Tobago, 17th August 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's letter dated the 20th May, and although I cannot at present furnish the return required respecting the slaves, I hope soon to do so.

In the mean time I do myself the honour of complying with your lordship's commands, to report how far the laws passed for the abolition of the slave trade have been observed in Tobago, and what effects they have produced in the general condition of the Colony, and especially in the state of the Black population.

The uncertainty of the fate of this Island until the last peace, caused a general stagnation of affairs, as no credit could be procured from the mother country, consequently no great change has taken place since the abolition of the slave trade. The inhabitants seem quite reconciled to this measure; but the agitation of the Registry Bill in the House of Commons, under the idea of its ultimate object leading to a general emancipation, has been attended with the most painful anxiety, lest the same dreadful calamities should occur here as in Barbadoes, which, from the mountainous situation of the country, the smallness of the garrison and militia, might not admit of the same prompt measures as fortunately succeeded in the former Island.

I beg leave to enclose to your lordship the report from the Committee to the Council and Assembly, which was unanimously approved of, upon the present situation of this Colony, and I do most firmly believe the whole to be true. The 11th clause points out the situation of the negroes.

I had the honour to submit your lordship's letter to the Privy Council, who will again meet shortly for the purpose of giving me their assistance, to adopt the speediest and most effectual measures to enable me to procure the information regarding the return of the slaves; and I observe a sincere desire in the legislature to immediately adopt whatever may be recommended by His Majesty's Government, tending to the welfare of the slaves, not incompatible with the general safety, or the established usages in the mode of legislating.

I beg leave to remark to your lordship, that some explanation may be thought necessary as to the word 'extent' in the 2d clause, by which is meant, that if any illicit importation had taken place, (which is denied in the most unqualified manner in the first clause,) it could never have existed to any extent without detection, in consequence of the acts of the legislature rigidly enforced in this Island.

I have the honour to be, &c.

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

John Campbell,
President and Commander in chief.

(In Mr. President Campbell's, of the 17th August 1816.)

REPORT of the Joint Committee appointed by the Board of Council and the House of General Assembly of Tobago, upon the subject of the Registry Bill now pending in the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain.

THE Joint Committee of the Council and General Assembly, unto whose consideration was submitted the bill introduced into the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "A Bill for more effectually preventing the unlawful importation of Slaves, and the holding free persons in slavery in the British Colonies;" having carefully perused the same, and anxiously examined its application to the Colonies, and especially its interference with the internal and colonial legislature, under which we have so long subsisted, report to the honourable the legislative Council, and the honourable House of Assembly, as follows:

1st.—That the said bill assumes as a fact, and as the principal reason for its enactment, what, as to this Colony, your Committee feel themselves enabled most positively to deny; viz. that any slaves have been unlawfully imported into this Colony;

Colony ; or that any persons lawfully, or in any respect claiming and proving to be free, have been held in slavery, or treated as slaves ; and that the contrary is notoriously the fact : that no African or other slaves have been illegally imported into this Island since the abolition of the African slave trade, contrary to the provision of the Act for that purpose of the 47th of the King. That our late Governor Sir William Young, whose attention to the duties of his high office cannot be sufficiently praised, was so convinced thereof, that in his report to His Majesty's ministers on the address of the House of Commons of the 2d July 1811, praying for information on various points connected with the state of the population of the West Indies, and especially as to the seizures and prosecutions arising from any breach of the Act of the 47th of the King ; stated that, " The Act for abolishing the slave trade has " been so fully given effect to, as far as relates to Tobago, that not a single instance " is to be found on record in the Court of Admiralty, or other courts of the Island, " of any convictions, or even of any charge of breach of the law for abolishing the " trade with Africa for slaves ; nor have I even had grounds to suspect an attempt, " or even intention, to evade that law on the coasts, or within the Colony and its " dependencies." And your Committee further states, that no instance whatever exists (to their knowledge) of any free person, or any person legally claiming to be free, being held in slavery, or treated and used as a slave ; or are there upon record in any of the courts of this Island any transcripts of any proceedings in which any claim of that nature has been the matter of dispute. Your Committee therefore, with confidence assert, that as connected with the two principal reasons assigned for the necessity of such a bill, they do not in any respect exist, or apply to the Colony of Tobago ; which of itself is a cogent argument against it, exclusive of those other reasons, to which your Committee will now advert.

2d.—That under an Act of the colonial legislature for many years past, an annual return of all slaves is made upon oath by the proprietor, or his attorney or manager in his absence : that by those returns for a series of years, it appears, notwithstanding the improvements which have taken place in the treatment of all slaves, that still a small annual reduction of the total numbers has taken place, of itself a proof that illegal importation has not existed to any extent. But when your Committee consider, that these annual returns, (made upon oath, and subjecting the parties wilfully and fraudulently making a false return to all the penalties of perjury), are in general made by the attorney, or manager of an absent proprietor, without any motive of interest to act contrary to his oath or his duty ; and that in so small a society no fraud could, with any security, be practised without being discovered, as all the annual returns of the different estates and proprietors are, by act of the legislature, annually and repeatedly published in the public newspapers of the Colonies ; your Committee is convinced that the returns so made are strictly true, and do from year to year, and every year, contain a true and just account of all the slaves used and treated as such in the Colony of Tobago ; and that no other return is necessary or called for.

3d.—That your Committee is never disposed to question the authority of the Parliament of Great Britain to enact all such laws as may be necessary for the general public weal of the empire, and specially for all matters relating to the trade and navigation thereof ; to all which laws this Colony has ever most loyally submitted. But your Committee cannot but point out that the British free inhabitants of this Island have ever since the first settlement of the Colony in 1764, enjoyed of right, by the proclamation of His Majesty, a separate legislature, consisting of His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland, in Tobago represented by his Governor, a Council appointed by the King, and a General Assembly of the representatives of the people elected by virtue of letters patent of the King, dated the 9th day of April 1764 ; which separate legislature is expressly declared " to have " full power and authority to make, constitute, and ordain laws, statutes, and ordinances for the public peace, welfare, and good government of the people or " inhabitants thereof, and such others as shall resort thereto, and for the benefit of " us, our heirs and successors ; which said laws are not to be repugnant, but as " near as may be agreeable to the laws and statutes of this our kingdom of Great " Britain." The said letters patent reserve to the King, first, a negative upon all such acts of the Council and General Assembly by his Governor or representative of His Majesty within the Colony for the time being ; but also the said Acts are void if not confirmed, or at any time disallowed, or not approved by His Majesty, or by order of the Privy Council. That this Colony has now been for many years so

governed,

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governed, the original letters having invested all their fortunes, and exerted all their credit and industry upon the faith and promise held forth to the purchasers of the land of the Crown of Great Britain by His Majesty's proclamation of the 7th October 1763, and the 26th March 1764. Your Committee behold therefore with dismay, this commencement of interference on the part of the Parliament of Great Britain, not only in matters of internal regulation and police, and coming decidedly within those enactments for the public peace, welfare, and good government of the Colony, which the legislature of Tobago are of right allowed exclusively to exercise, but also imposing taxes, and inflicting pains, penalties, and forfeitures, upon the inhabitants, with respect to their property or conduct, contrary to the aforesaid proclamations, and contrary to the express declaratory law of the 18th Geo. III. chap. 12.

4th.—Your Committee feel assured that no sophistry of argument can pretend to establish that the tax per head for each slave held as property, as well Creole as heretofore imported, now within the Colony, for the act of registering the same; the numerous penalties, forfeitures, and disabilities created by this proposed bill; the fees of office to the registrar, commissioners and others, (no part being to be applied for the uses of the Colony) can be considered as coming within the Act of the 18th Geo. III. Chap. 12. under description of a "Duty expedient to be imposed for the regulation of commerce, the net produce of such duty to be always paid and applied to and for the use of the Colony, province, or plantation, in which the same shall be respectively levied, in such manner as other duties collected by the authority of the respective general courts, or general assemblies of such Colonies, provinces, or plantations, are ordinarily paid and applied;" which is the only limitation and purpose for which any duty, tax, or assessment whatever can, by the authority of the King and Parliament of Great Britain, be imposed in any of His Majesty's Colonies, provinces, or plantations, in North America or the West Indies. That the Act proposed is not only a violation of the 18th Geo. III. as respects the taxation, but is a violation and alteration of the laws now existing, passed by the legislature of Tobago, and confirmed by the King.

5th.—That it is not a vain alarm your Committee feel upon the above point, and to which they expressly desire to call your attention, for, exclusive of the door it opens of a precedent in future, of increasing the rate, imposing a new tax, and doubling the penalties and forfeitures, or creating fresh disabilities; it is notorious that those Colonies in our immediate vicinity, who have not been so fortunate as to obtain the blessings of a British constitution, and upon whom a registry of their slaves has been enforced, in all respects similar to that now attempted to be imposed upon us, have most loudly exclaimed, not only against the amount of the tax as being heavy and oppressive, but against the vexatious proceedings and arbitrary impositions of penalties and forfeitures, not submitted to, and found by a jury; but decided on, and assessed by the registrar, or persons in office appointed by the Crown, having an interest therein.

6th.—Without noticing many provisions of the bill, as to the requisites for registration, which are indecent, unnecessary, and improper, your Committee would be wanting in their duty, if they did not expressly object to that part of the proposed bill which allows a slave to be heard in evidence against his master to establish his own freedom; a point in which his own interest is the matter at issue; a system contrary to the laws of Tobago, every established practice of British jurisprudence, and inducing all the evils of perjury and subornation of perjury, besides destroying that domestic interest and paternal authority and attachment now subsisting between the master and his slave, by introducing an external jurisdiction between them, not to adjust and punish criminal offences, but to liberate the slave from all obedience to the master.

7th.—Your Committee cannot but observe, that the general impression upon reading the bill is, that it is contrary to law, and only a sufferance, entitling the master to no favourable consideration whatever, that slavery should exist at all; and that as far as it is to be allowed to continue, is to be regarded on the part of the master, as rather permitted as an indulgence, than recognised as the exercise of a legitimate right over a property legally acquired and possessed. The original inhabitants and settlers of Tobago, whose descendants we are, were never called upon to decide upon the abstract principle of whether slavery was legal or not. They found it established by law; and the trade in African slaves encouraged and carried on
under

under the laws and regulations of the British Parliament. The negro slaves acquired on the coast of Africa under the sanction of a British Act of Parliament, were brought by the British traders, in British ships for sale to Tobago; no law of Great Britain was violated by either the seller or the purchaser; but, in principle it was wrong, the wrong attaches on the Parliament and policy of Great Britain, and cannot be referred in any way to the settlers of Tobago, who only acted in conformity to the law, and promoted a commerce sanctioned and encouraged by the mother country.

8th.—Under that sanction and encouragement, and under the faith and promise of being protected in the enjoyment of it, this property has been acquired, and is now possessed; and however a superior power we have no means or desire to resist, may prevent our enjoyment, or deprive us of this part of our property, and without which all our lands, buildings and utensils are useless, your Committee do solemnly protest against the exercise of any such authority by the British Parliament, in which the inhabitants of this Island are not represented, and in which they possess no voice, either to deprecate the injustice of the measure or alter its provisions; but especially against any law imposing any tax, or inflicting any pains, penalties and forfeitures, to which by themselves or their representatives they have never given their assent.

9th.—What your Committee has hitherto stated may not be altogether peculiar to the Island of Tobago, but may equally apply to the neighbouring Islands, commonly called the Ceded Islands, and which were originally in 1764 established under the same government; but there are peculiar matters of high political moment, connected with public and national faith of Great Britain, as applicable to the laws and constitution and the property in Tobago, which it would be a manifest dereliction of duty if your Committee were to forbear to state: For, under the faith and promise of the King's paternal protection and the free enjoyment of a British constitution, a separate legislature formed of the Government, His Majesty's Council, and the representatives of the people, expressly authorized to make constitutions, and to ordain laws, statutes and ordinances for the public welfare and good government of the Colony, and of the people and inhabitants thereof, as set forth in the Proclamation of the 7th October 1763 and 26th March 1764, the original settlers purchased their land of the crown of Great Britain, and expended vast sums of money upon them, to the manifest extension and benefit of the trade, commerce and revenue of Great Britain. Various laws were passed which received the King's assent, were thus confirmed, became the law of the land, and the pledge of security of the property within it. During the disastrous contest commonly called the American War, the Island was (under a capitulation) severed by force of arms in 1781 from the British government, and was ceded to France by the treaty of Paris in 1783. For so deplorable an injury to the feelings and property of British subjects, no compensation or remuneration was ever given: by the capitulation, these laws and usages were secured to them till the peace; they were afterwards continued by the favour of Lewis XVI. but sadly changed and mutilated under their administration by a French military governor; many of the original settlers were ruined, but some survived the calamity to witness the restoration of the Island to its natural protection, in April 1793, when its original constitution and all its former laws and ordinances were restored by the express act of the King; and so Tobago remained until the Treaty of Amiens, when, without any condition as to its original laws or constitution, it was again returned to the dominion of France. That state of affairs was but of short continuance. The war, lately so happily terminated, placed it again under the power of Great Britain, by a capitulation of the 30th June 1803, in which the French Governor, General Cæsar Berthier stipulating for the inviolability of the property of every description of all the inhabitants, and the maintenance of the laws, constitution, and usages of the Colony, the same was granted by General Grinfield and Sir Samuel Hood, with this express declaration: "That the Island should continue to enjoy the same laws and constitution as it possessed previous to its last cession to the French republic." From that hour these laws have been the laws of Tobago. By that article of the capitulation, our properties, of whatever description, were respected; and by the 8th Article of the Treaty of Paris of 30th May 1814, by which Tobago is ceded to Great Britain, the national and public faith has been pledged to all the world, and to the inhabitants of Tobago in particular, to preserve them in the enjoyment of their properties of every description, and the exercise of their constitution as by law established. Without reserve your Committee declare

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declare that any infringement of such a capitulation, or such a treaty, by any violation either of the property of the inhabitants, or of the laws, usages, or constitution so secured to them, and which would be effected by this proposed bill, would be a breach of public faith towards the inhabitants of Tobago.

10th.—Your Committee had intended to abstain from noticing the proceedings and reports of a self-created body, calling itself the African Institution, assuming also an inquisitorial control over the inhabitants and property of the British West Indies: But it is impossible, on a report of this kind, not to remark, that the present employment of that body appears rather to be a regulated system of calumniating and abusing the British West India planter, than in attempting to improve and civilize the interior of Africa; that in one of their reports, entitled, "Reasons for establishing a Registry of Slaves in the British Colonies," published by order of that society, they assume as a fact, what has in no instance been proved, that illegal importations of slaves in generally carried on. Most assuredly that infringement of the law has not taken place in Tobago; and your Committee, in the absence of all proof upon the subject (for none is adduced) consider the general allegation as utterly false and unfounded.

11th.—Your Committee refers with confidence to the personal knowledge of every member of the two branches of the legislature, and of his honour the President, to bear testimony to the fact of the improvements which, within these few years, have taken place in the comforts and manners of the negroes; in confirmation thereof, your Committee refers to the public documents of the Colony to show how the annual reduction in numbers is now so much less than it used to be, that we may confidently hope, that instead of an annual reduction, we shall speedily obtain an annual increase. To the diffusion and increase of property among the negroes (generally evinced in their houses, their grounds, their dress, and their food;) the diminished practice of obeah, the infrequency of punishment, and the total relinquishment of all night-work upon the estates; your Committee believe that as much gradual improvement has been made, as the nature of our Black population, (a great portion of it yet consisting of imported Africans) admits of; other matters of amelioration of the condition of the negroes are in gradual advancement upon many estates, and will become general: But if any thing could more effectually prevent their beneficial attainment, it will be the attempt at direction in these matters by the African Institution, at once disgusting the master, and alarming him for the security of his property, and by rendering him discontented with his situation, alienating the slave from all sentiments of respect and affection to his master.

12th.—In proof that the practice of illegal importation of slaves is generally prevalent, it has been urged, and much relied on in the Report of the African Institution, that the price or value of slaves has not in any proportion increased since the abolition of the slave trade, as it was naturally supposed would be the case when that source of all future external supply was cut off. Your Committee feels confident that such an argument can be used only by persons who are utterly ignorant of the distresses and difficulties which pressed, without mitigation, upon all the West India interest, from the period of the abolition in 1807, until the end of 1812; during which period many estates were abandoned, and the negroes belonging to them furnished, at a low price, a supply for those few more fortunate proprietors who could make the purchase. Revenue and capital necessarily involve each other. What could induce a West India proprietor to increase his capital, and add to the numbers of his negroes, but at the cheapest rate, when the whole produce of their labour being insufficient to pay the current expenses of his estate, left him no revenue? Are the Reports of the two Committees of the House of Commons, who in 1807 and 1808 sat so many months on that painful subject, already forgot, in which it was proved, by the most conclusive evidence, that without immediate relief the utter ruin of the West India planter was at hand? The recent increase in the value or price of slaves, since the advance in the price of colonial produce, is of itself a proof that the former depression did not arise from a market over-stocked, but a want of purchasers of those already in the Colonies. Those now engaged in the West Indies may continue to purchase, and speculate in a species of property to which they are familiar, and in which they are already involved. But can it be expected that any new competitors for the purchase of West India property will be found; or that any persons of capital will engage in a pursuit, and invest their fortunes on a security, against which a society as powerful and persevering as the African Institution, (among whose directors are to be found many individuals as distinguished

distinguished by rank and virtue as by talents,) has ever evinced the most hostile intentions; and which, charging the possessors of this description of property with oppression and cruelty, has declared that emancipation has ever been, and still is, the ultimate object. While efforts so powerful, so earnestly, and so unremittingly pursued, are employed, not only to destroy this description of property altogether, but to render even the mere possession of it obnoxious in the opinion of our fellow-subjects, it is a matter of some surprise that it has not suffered a rapid depreciation, instead of maintaining even its present value; and it is to these causes, and not to the circumstance of slaves being supplied by illicit trade, that the objection so urged and relied on is to be referred.

13th, and lastly, Your Committee (if this Report be approved by the Honourable the Legislative Council and the Honourable the House of General Assembly,) recommend that the same, so sanctioned, be transmitted to Sir Arthur Piggott, our colonial agent, to be by him laid before His Majesty's Government and the two Houses of Parliament of Great Britain, as their sentiments and resolutions touching the matter in question; and praying that the said Bill may not pass into a law.

Tobago,
13th April 1816.

*Charles Hamilton,
William Brasnell,
George Robley,
Alexander Scott,
George Mitchell.*

Correspondence.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Woodford to Earl Bathurst; with three Enclosures.

MY LORD,

Trinidad, 23d Nov. 1816.

I HAD the honour to receive, on the 2d August, your lordship's circular letter of the 20th May.

To enable me to reply to the inquiries it contains, I deemed it expedient to require the Reports of the commandants of the quarters, whose long residence in the Colony, and acquaintance with its slave population, better qualified them to afford the information demanded than any other person.

I beg leave to enclose a copy of my letter to them; and having received their reports, I have the honour to state, for the information of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that they are unanimous in declaring,—

“ That there has been a general and faithful observance of the Acts of Abolition in this Colony.

“ That the cultivation of the Colony has declined since those Acts were passed.

“ That the labour of the slaves has in general been increased, for the purpose of enabling the planters to repair the losses sustained in their numbers and the depreciation of produce.

“ That the abolition has left a disproportion of the sexes in the slave population.

“ That the enactment of the laws of abolition has caused but little improvement in the treatment of the slaves, and no improvement whatever in their moral condition, while it has given additional insecurity to the planter, in consequence of the mistaken notions it has created among the negroes respecting its real and eventual purpose.”

I also annex a report of the commissary of population, and I beg to solicit your lordship's particular attention to that part of it which accounts for the difference between the number of slaves inscribed in the Population Returns previous to the registry, and the number returned in the office of the registrar of slaves since its establishment in the Colony.

From all the information I have obtained during my residence in the Island, I have no hesitation in confirming the report of that officer in this particular, and of declaring my entire conviction of the faithful observance of the laws of abolition in this Colony.

The registrar of slaves has furnished me with all the information that is to be collected from the records of his office since the period of its establishment.

Correspondence.

My experience of the West Indies does not enable me to offer to your lordship any further or more particular answer to the questions detailed; but I can venture to assure your lordship that whatever reluctance the slaves may feel or express in enduring the hardships of their present condition in the Colonies, I do not believe that any could be found who are willing to exchange their present condition for a return to their native country.

I have, &c.

Ralph Woodford.

To the Right Hon. Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure in Governor Woodford's of the 23d Nov. 1816.)

Enclosure,
No. 1.

Copy of Circular Letter addressed to the Commandants of the quarters of
the Island of Trinidad.

SIR,

Government House, 22d Aug. 1816.

HIS Royal Highness the Prince Regent having been pleased, in consequence of an address of the House of Lords, to signify his royal pleasure that I should furnish a report, stating how far the laws passed for the abolition of the slave trade have been observed and executed within this Colony; what effects they appear to have produced in the general condition of the Colony, and especially in the state of its Black population; I have to address myself to you, requesting you will inform me if within your knowledge any instance has occurred of slaves having been illegally and clandestinely introduced into the Island since the abolition of the slave trade; and also what effects have attended the abolition, either as regards the Colony or the slaves themselves, as far as you have been able to judge of the same. If your experience should not enable you to reply to the inquiries, I request you would assemble a meeting of such of the principal inhabitants as you may think most able to enable you to frame your report.

I am, &c.

(Signed) *Ralph Woodford.*

To the Commandants of the quarters.

(Enclosure in Governor Woodford's of 23d Nov. 1816.)

Enclosure,
No. 2.

SIR,

Port of Spain, 4th Oct. 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 21st August last past, enclosing a copy of a dispatch from Earl Bathurst, signifying the pleasure of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that a Report should be prepared, stating what effect the laws passed for the abolition of the slave trade had produced in the general condition of the Colony, and especially in the state of its Black population; the increase or decrease of the number of slaves since 1807; and the changes in their relative proportion of males and females, adults and children.

In obedience thereto, I have the honour to lay before your Excellency an extract of the Returns of the Slave Population, lodged in my office, from the year 1808 to 1811 (the return of the year 1807 could not be completed on account of the fire which took place in March of that year,) since which period the population returns have not included the slaves, as is decreed by the order in council of the 26th March 1812.

According to those returns, there is a decrease of 607 slaves from 1808 to 1811.

The difference observable in those returns, as to the number and relative proportion of adults and children, is owing to the following causes: The blank returns of population were sent to the commandants of quarters to fill up; no oath was administered, but the different columns of the blanks were filled up upon the declaration or returns of the planters. The Population Returns for the town of Port of Spain were sent to the Alcades de Barrios, who being removed every year from that office, and having their mercantile business to attend to, paid very little attention to the filling up of those blanks correctly.

In a state of general incorrectness they were sent to the commissary of population, to enable him to prepare, according to his instructions, the general annual returns of the population and crop of this Island. The negligence or evasion of the real numbers is to be accounted for by the following reasons: That the public roads of this Colony are generally kept in repair by the inhabitants in proportion to their respective numbers of slaves, both adults and children; that the requisition of
slaves

slaves for public works, particularly at the time when the enemy's squadrons were in these seas, was taken from the same proportion; and therefore in order to diminish their contribution, either for keeping the roads in repair or for public works, the planters, particularly those possessing great numbers of slave-children, never declared to the Commandants the real quantity of their slaves.

The proportion of males and females, from the year 1808 to 1811, is generally as 8 to 6; and that of adults and children, as 4 to 1.

The effects produced in the general condition of the Colony, by the laws passed for the abolition of the slave trade, is, that as negroes can no longer be procured as before that period, the planters have not been able to involve themselves in purchasing new negroes upon credit, and they are therefore more independent.

With respect to the produce of the island, there is an increase in the crop of cocoa, and a decrease in that of sugar, which may be better attributed to the irregularity of the seasons than to the effect of the abolition.

With regard to the condition of the Black population, more care is generally taken of them, both in health and illness, on account of the difficulty of replacing them; but notwithstanding great care is taken of children, yet a great many die before attaining the age of seven years, from illness peculiar to that age; consequently, the deficiency amongst the adults cannot be supplied by births, which must inevitably occasion a gradual decrease in the slave population, and which will most seriously be felt in the course of a few years.

As to the moral effect produced upon the negroes by the abolition, I am not aware of any improvement in that respect.

I have, &c.

J. E. Maingot, Commr of Population.

To his Excellency Governor Woodford.

(Enclosure in Governor Woodford's of 23d Nov. 1816.)

Enclosure,
No 3.

RETURN of the Slave Population of the Island of Trinidad, from the Year 1808 to 1811; extracted from the general Return lodged in the Office of the Commissary of Population.

Years.	Men.	Women.	Children.		Run away.	Total.	Decrease.
			Males.	Females.			
1808	10,189	7,429	2,168	1,987	122	21,895	—
1809	9,894	7,315	2,210	1,924	132	21,475	—
1810	9,477	7,011	2,128	2,012	101	20,729	—
1811	9,321	7,019	2,506	2,297	145	21,288	607

(A true Extract from the original.)

J. E. Maingot, Commr of Population.

Copy of Circular Letter from Earl Bathurst to the Governors of the West India Colonies.

(Circular.)

SIR,

Downing-street, 29th June 1816.

I AM commanded by the Prince Regent to transmit to you copies of Addresses which His Royal Highness has received from both Houses of Parliament, relating to the late insurrection in Barbadoes; and I am to signify to you His Royal Highness's pleasure, that you do take immediate measures for promulgating the said Addresses within the limits of your government, and for making known His Royal Highness's entire acquiescence in the sentiments therein expressed; as well as His anxious desire that such measures may be adopted as will effectually secure the important objects pointed out in the said Addresses.

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

Bathurst.

Correspondence.

Extract of a Letter from Major General Ramsay to Earl Bathurst.

Government House, Antigua, 7th September 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, as stated in the margin, by the Lord Hobart Packet.

29th June 1816.

Covers copies of addresses from both Houses of Parliament to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, relating to the late insurrection at Barbadoes, and for making known His Royal Highness's entire acquiescence therein, which has been complied with.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant General Sir J. Leith to Earl Bathurst ;
with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

Barbadoes, 9th September 1816.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the copy of a Proclamation, which I have issued, in conformity with your Lordship's instructions of the 29th of last June.

I have also made the communications directed by your Lordship's circular letter of the 28th of June last ; and I am happy to state, that a Bill is now before the House of Assembly of this Island for the registration of slaves ; which I have reason to believe will meet your Lordship's views on that subject.

I am happy further to add, that since my last letter the utmost tranquillity continues to prevail, and that there is every appearance of an abundant crop.

Earl Bathurst,
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for War and Colonies.

I have the honour to be, &c.

James Leith.

(In Sir J. Leith's Letter of 9th September 1816.)

BARBADOES. BY his Excellency Sir James Leith, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, Knight Commander of the Portuguese Royal Military Order of the Tower and Sword, Lieutenant General in the Army, Colonel of the 4th West India Regiment, Commander of His Majesty's Forces in the Windward and Leeward Charibbee Islands, Trinidad, and the Colonies of Demarary, Essequibo, and Berbice, in South America ; Captain General and Governor in Chief of Barbadoes ; Chancellor, Vice Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

*James Leith.*

WHEREAS I have received the commands of the Prince Regent to cause the immediate promulgation of the subjoined Addresses of both Houses of Parliament to His Royal Highness, relating to the late insurrection in Barbadoes, and to make known the Prince Regent's entire acquiescence in the sentiments therein expressed, I do hereby publish the same ; and I further call upon the Magistrates, as well as all persons possessing, or, in the absence of proprietors, managing slaves, to make a full communication thereof to every one of the slaves in this Colony, as to each may respectively appertain to do accordingly, by assembling the slaves in bodies on the estates to which they belong ; or in such manner as that this my Proclamation, with the resolutions thereunto annexed, and the commands of the Prince Regent, may be audibly read and distinctly explained to the slaves.

I am happy to think that tranquillity, order, and industry have resumed their former courses, and that neither the ignorance of any of the slaves, nor the wicked attempts of those who might mislead them, will again operate to the prejudice of the Colony, or to the injury of the slaves themselves, while the nature of their condition, having been clearly and publicly declared under the sanction of the unanimous voice of the Prince Regent and of the Parliament of the mother country, will prevent the recurrence of insubordination upon any unfounded pretence.

I have already pointed out to the slaves how impossible it would be that they should act with violence, without bringing down the severest punishment on those who should henceforward be concerned in any attempt to disturb the public tranquillity.

I now

I now avail myself of the occasion of making known the unanimous sentiments of the Prince Regent, and the Parliament of the United Kingdom, to give a solemn admonition to the slave population. I rely, however, with confidence on their future performance of their duty, in obedience to the law; by which also their own interests will be best promoted, and without which they themselves cannot be secure from personal danger.

Correspondence.

Copy of a Circular from Earl Bathurst, His Majesty's principal Secretary of State for War and Colonies; dated

(Circular.)

SIR,

Downing-street, 29th June 1816.

I AM commanded by the Prince Regent to transmit to you copies of Addresses which His Royal Highness has received from both Houses of Parliament, relating to the late insurrection in Barbadoes; and I am to signify to you His Royal Highness's pleasure that you do take immediate measures for promulgating the said Addresses within the limits of your government, and for making known His Royal Highness's entire acquiescence in the sentiments therein expressed, as well as his anxious desire that such measures may be adopted as will effectually secure the important objects pointed out in the said Addresses.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

To Lieut. Gen. Sir James Leith, G. C. B.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) Bathurst.

“ HOUSE OF LORDS.—Die Jovis, 27° Junii, 1816.

“ Ordered, *nemine dissentiente*,

“ By the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled,

“ That an humble Address be presented to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, praying that His Royal Highness would be graciously pleased to cause communications to be made to the Governors of the several Islands in the West Indies, of His Royal Highness's pleasure that they do take immediate measures to proclaim throughout the Colonies which they respectively govern, His Royal Highness's highest displeasure at the daring insurrection which has lately taken place in the Island of Barbadoes; to declare in the most public manner His Royal Highness's concern and surprise at the opinion which appears so falsely and mischievously to have prevailed at some of the British Colonies, that either His Royal Highness or the British Parliament had sent out orders for the emancipation of the negroes; and humbly to request His Royal Highness, that while His Royal Highness directs the most effectual measures to be adopted of discountenancing those unfounded and dangerous impressions, His Royal Highness will also be graciously pleased to recommend in the strongest manner to the local authorities in the respective Colonies, to carry into effect every measure which may tend to promote the moral and religious improvement, as well as the comfort and happiness of the negroes, and to make every necessary provision against any violation of the Abolition Acts under the facilities which may be afforded by the restoration or peace.

“ HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Mercurii, 19° die Junii, 1816.

“ Resolved, *nemine contradicente*,

“ That an humble Address be presented to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that he will be graciously pleased to cause communications to be made to the Governors of the several Islands in the West Indies, signifying His Royal Highness's highest pleasure that they do take immediate measures to proclaim throughout the Colonies which they respectively govern, His Royal Highness's highest displeasure at the daring insurrection which has lately taken place in the Island of Barbadoes; to declare in the most public manner His Royal Highness's concern and surprise at the false and mischievous opinion which appears to have prevailed in certain of the British Colonies, that His Royal Highness or the British Parliament had sent orders for the emancipation of the negroes; and humbly to request His Royal Highness, that while His Royal Highness directs the most effectual

Correspondence.

effectual measures to be adopted for discountenancing those unfounded and dangerous impressions, His Royal Highness will also be graciously pleased to recommend in the strongest manner to the local authorities in the respective colonies, to carry into effect every measure which may tend to promote the moral and religious improvement, as well as the comfort and happiness of the negroes."

"Ordered, That the said Address be presented to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, by such members of this House as are of His Majesty's most honourable Privy Council.

(Signed) " *J. Dyson*, Cl. D. Dom. Com."

Given under my Hand and Seal at arms, at Pilgrim, this 3d day of September, in the year of our Lord 1816.

By his Excellency's command,
Thomas Moody, A. D. C. and P. Sec.

God save the King.

Copy of a Letter from Lieut. Governor Bentinck to the Earl of Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

Berbice, 27th August 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's dispatch, bearing date Downing-street, 29th June 1816, enclosing copies of Addresses which his Royal Highness has received from both Houses of Parliament, relating to the late insurrection in Barbadoes.

In pursuance of His Royal Highness's commands, I immediately promulgated the said Addresses, and now enclose to your Lordship copy of the Proclamation issued to that effect.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

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

H. W. Bentinck.

PROCLAMATION.

BERBICE.

(L. S.)

H. W. Bentinck.

By his Excellency Henry William Bentinck, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in chief in and over the Colony of Berbice and its Dependencies, President in all Courts and Colleges within the same, &c. &c.

WHEREAS I this day received from the Right Hon. the Earl Bathurst, copies of the Addresses which His Royal Highness has received from both Houses of Parliament, relating to the late insurrection in Barbadoes; I have therefore, in conformity with my instructions, to promulgate the same, as I do by these Presents make the same known to the inhabitants of this Colony, by annexing the said copies of Addresses to this my Proclamation: And further, I do hereby signify His Royal Highness's entire acquiescence in the sentiments therein expressed; and His anxious desire that such measures may be adopted as will effectually secure the important objects pointed out in the said Addresses.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at the King's House, New Amsterdam, this twenty-third day of August one thousand eight hundred and sixteen; and in the fifty-sixth year of His Majesty's reign.

By Command,

F. White, Gov^t Sec^y.

God Save the King.

Copy of a Letter from Major General Murray to the Earl Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

Demarara, 30th August 1816.

I HAD the honour to receive your lordship's dispatch (circular) of the 29th June, with its enclosure, and have now the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy

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copy of a Proclamation issued by me, with a view to carrying the instructions contained in your dispatch into effect. A copy of my Proclamation has been addressed to every estate in this united Colony.

Correspondence.

The conduct of the negroes, and of the planters reciprocally here, are such as to give me great satisfaction, and I beg your Lordship to make favourable mention of them to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

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

I have the honour to be, my Lord,
Your most obedient humble servant,
Jn^o Murray.

(In Major General Murray's, 30th August 1816.

PROCLAMATION.

DEMERARY.

(L. S.)

John Murray.

By his Excellency Major General John Murray, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in chief in and over the united Settlements of Demerary and Essequibo, with their Dependencies, &c.

WHEREAS I have received orders from His Majesty's secretary of state for the colonies, signifying to me the pleasure of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that I should promulgate, in the most public manner, within the limits of my government, the following Addresses of the two Houses of Parliament to His Royal Highness; I do hereby publish the same accordingly.

* * * *

And whereas I am further commanded to make known His Royal Highness's entire acquiescence in the sentiments therein expressed, as well as His anxious desire that such measures may be adopted as will effectually secure the important objects pointed out in the said Addresses; I do hereby thus promulgate His Royal Highness's pleasure in this behalf, for the information of all the inhabitants of this united Colony.

* Here follow
the Addresses.

And in furtherance of His Royal Highness's most gracious intentions, I do strictly enjoin all proprietors, attornies and managers, and all other persons having the superintendence of slaves within the Colony, to cause this my Proclamation to be read and explained to the slaves under their direction, that His Royal Highness's high displeasure at the misconduct of the guilty slaves at Barbadoes may be fully known; and that any erroneous impressions which may possibly exist in their minds on a subject so important to the general safety and their own welfare may be effectually removed; assuring them at the same time of my satisfaction at their general good and peaceable conduct, which I shall not fail to represent in a favourable manner to His Royal Highness. And further, of my determination to continue such measures as may tend to promote their moral and religious improvement, as well as their comfort and happiness, agreeably to my own duty and the benevolent views of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and both Houses of the Imperial Parliament, in their favour.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at the King's House, George Town, Demerary, this twenty-third day of August one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, and in the fifty-sixth year of His Majesty's Reign.

(By his Excellency's command,)

R. Chapman, Gov^t Sec^y.

God save the King.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Maxwell to Earl Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

Government House, Dominica, 24th August 1816.

YOUR lordship's dispatches of the 28th and 29th of June reached me on the 18th instant, and I lost no time in complying with the commands of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, or the directions of your lordship, and I have the satisfaction of assuring your lordship that both branches of the legislature of this Island appear most earnest in their wish to meet the views of His Majesty's government, and to feel sensible of the protection which your lordship has afforded them; and I have no doubt their conduct will merit the confidence your lordship has been pleased to repose in them. I enclose their assurances to that effect.

433.

I have

Correspondence.

I have the honour to transmit a copy of the Proclamation also, issued in consequence of the command of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent; and I have the pleasure to acquaint your lordship, that the most perfect tranquillity and good order prevails among the negro population; who, I am informed, are more orderly and industrious than they have been for many years.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Charles Wm. Maxwell, Governor.

To the Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

(In Governor Maxwell's of 24th August 1816.)

DOMINICA.

By His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty.

L. S.

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS humble Addresses have been presented to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, by both Houses of the Imperial Parliament of the United Kingdom, praying that His Royal Highness would be graciously pleased to cause communications to be made to the Governors of the several Islands in the West Indies, of His Royal Highness's pleasure, that they do take immediate measures to proclaim throughout the Colonies which they respectively govern, His Royal Highness's highest displeasure at the daring insurrection which has lately taken place in the Island of Barbadoes; to declare in the most public manner His Royal Highness's concern and surprise at the opinion which appears so falsely and mischievously to have prevailed in certain of the British Colonies, that either His Royal Highness or the British Parliament had sent out orders for the emancipation of the negroes.

We do therefore, by and with the advice of our Privy Council of the Island of Dominica, publish this our Proclamation, declaring an entire acquiescence in the said Address, and our highest displeasure at the daring insurrection in the Island of Barbadoes, and our surprise and concern at the false and mischievous opinions that have prevailed in certain of the British Colonies, that orders had been sent out for the emancipation of the negroes; and in order to remove such dangerous and absurd opinions, we do hereby direct our Governors of the several Islands in the West Indies, to adopt the most prompt and decisive measures to support and enforce by all means in their power, the good order and obedience which have hitherto subsisted between the negro and his master; and we do hereby also further direct that the most effectual exertions be used for discountenancing all such unfounded and dangerous impressions as may have been so erroneously made upon the minds of the deluded slaves in our said Island of Dominica.

Given under the Great Seal of our said Island of Dominica at Government House, Roseau, this twentieth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, and in the 56th year of His Majesty's Reign.

Witness, his Excellency Charles W. Maxwell, Companion of the Most Noble Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Colonel in the Army, Captain General and Governor in chief in and over the Island of Dominica, Chancellor, Vice-admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c.

Charles Wm. Maxwell.

By his Excellency's command,

T. M. Williams, Secretary.

Copy of a Letter from Major General Riall to Earl Bathurst.

MY LORD,

Grenada, August 19th, 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's letter, (circular) of the 29th June, transmitting copies of Addresses to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent from both Houses of Parliament, relating to the late insurrection in Barbadoes,

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Barbadoes, and to state that your lordship's directions upon this head have been complied with. Correspondence.

I have the honour, &c.

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

P. Riall, Governor.

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of Manchester to the Earl Bathurst.

MY LORD, King's House, Jamaica, 6th September 1816.

I HAD the honour to receive your lordship's Dispatch of the 29th June last, enclosing the Addresses to the Prince Regent from the two Houses of Parliament. I immediately issued a Proclamation declaring His Royal Highness's entire acquiescence in the sentiments contained in those Addresses; and I am persuaded that this public declaration of the Prince Regent's commands will be attended with very beneficial effects, and remove from the minds of the slaves any impression which they may have received that the bill for registering them was connected with the question of their emancipation.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

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

Manchester.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Probyn to Earl Bathurst.

MY LORD, St. Christopher, 31st August 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's circular letter of the 29th June, covering copies of the Addresses from both Houses of Parliament to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, relative to the late insurrection at Barbadoes; and agreeable to your lordship's commands, have issued a Proclamation, making known the sentiments of His Royal Highness, and giving every publicity to the promulgation of the Addresses within the Islands under my government.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Tho. Probyn,

To the Right honourable Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

Capt. General.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. President Paul to Earl Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

Government House, St. Vincent, 26th August 1816.

MY LORD,

I HAD the honour of receiving your lordship's letter of the 29th June, enclosing copies of Addresses from both Houses of Parliament to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, relating to the late insurrection in Barbadoes.

I immediately sent for His Majesty's attorney general, and had a Proclamation framed on the contents of these Addresses, and which was duly published and distributed through the Government; this I trust will have the desired effect in removing from the minds of the slaves the unfortunate impressions they had received.

I enclose a copy of the Proclamation for your lordship's satisfaction; and

I have the honour to be, &c.

Robert Paul.

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

Correspondence.

(In Mr. President Paul's, of 26th August 1816.)

A PROCLAMATION.

ST. VINCENT. By the Honourable Robert Paul, President of His Majesty's Council, and Commander in chief for the time being in and over the Islands of St. Vincent, Bequia, and such other the Islands, commonly called the Grenadines, as lie to the northward of Carriacou, in America; Chancellor, Ordinary, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c.

(L. S.)

Robert Paul.

WHEREAS the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, have, by their humble Addresses to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, prayed that His Royal Highness would be graciously pleased to cause communications to be made to the Governors, in the several Islands of the West Indies, of His Royal Highness's pleasure that they should take immediate measures to proclaim throughout the Colonies which they respectively govern, His Royal Highness's highest displeasure at the daring insurrection which had lately taken place in the Island of Barbadoes; to declare, in the most public manner, His Royal Highness's concern and surprise at the opinion, which appeared so falsely and mischievously to have prevailed in some of the British Colonies, that either His Royal Highness or the British Parliament had sent out orders for the emancipation of the negroes; and humbly to request His Royal Highness, that while His Royal Highness directed the most effectual measures to be adopted for discountenancing those unfounded and dangerous impressions, His Royal Highness would also be graciously pleased to recommend in the strongest manner to the local authorities in the respective Colonies, to carry into effect every measure which might tend to promote the moral and religious improvement, as well as the comfort and happiness of the negroes, and to make every necessary provision against any violation of the Abolition Acts, under the facilities which might be afforded by the restoration of peace: Now, therefore, in obedience to the commands of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in relation to the premises, I have thought fit to publish this my Proclamation, hereby declaring His Royal Highness's highest displeasure at the daring insurrection which has lately taken place in the Island of Barbadoes, and His Royal Highness's concern and surprise at the opinion which appears so falsely and mischievously to have prevailed in some of the British Colonies, that either His Royal Highness or the British Parliament had sent out orders for the emancipation of the negroes.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Government House in Kingstown, in the Island of St. Vincent, this seventeenth day of August, in the fifty-sixth year of His Majesty's Reign, and in the year of our Lord 1816.

By his Honour's command,

D. P. Bernard, Secretary.

Copy of a Letter from Sir R. Woodford, Bart. to Earl Bathurst; with two Enclosures.

MY LORD,

Trinidad, 23d November 1816.

I HAD the honour to receive, on the 2d of August, your Lordship's circular letter of the 29th June, containing Addresses from both Houses of Parliament, relative to the insurrection of the slaves at Barbadoes, which I caused to be translated into French and Spanish, and with the original to be printed in the form of a proclamation; and having required a strict attention thereto on the part of the commandants, in a letter of which a copy is annexed, I have now the honour to report, that I have received their acknowledgments of having given the requisite publicity to the same.

I shall not fail to avail myself of any circumstances which may enable me to promote the benevolent views of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and the Imperial Parliament towards the slaves of this Colony.

I have the honour to be, &c.

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

Ralph Woodford.

(In Sir R. Woodford's of 23d November 1816.)

Correspondence.

(Circular.)

SIR,

Government House, 22d August 1816.

I HAVE herewith the honour to enclose copies of a Proclamation, and in the King's name to require you to cause the same to be promulgated in your quarter, in the most public manner; and you will in due time report to me that you are satisfied of the publicity required by the Proclamation having been given to the same.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *Ralph Woodford.*

To the Commandant of the quarter of _____

(In Sir R. Woodford's of 23d November 1816.)

TRINIDAD.

By his Excellency Sir Ralph James Woodford, Bart. Governor and Commander in chief in and over the said Island and its Dependencies, Vice Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c.

L. S.

Ralph James Woodford.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N.

WHEREAS His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, acting in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, has been graciously pleased to signify his royal pleasure, that the following Addresses, which His Royal Highness has received from both Houses of Parliament, together with His Royal Highness's entire acquiescence in the sentiments therein expressed, should be promulgated throughout this Island; the same are hereby proclaimed accordingly. And all commandants of quarters and proprietors or managers of estates are hereby required and commanded to explain and declare to the slaves of their respective plantations, this declaration of the royal pleasure.

" HOUSE OF LORDS.—Die Jovis, 27° Junii 1816.

" Ordered, *nemine dissentiente*,

" By the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled,

" That an humble Address be presented to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, praying that His Royal Highness would be graciously pleased to cause communications to be made to the Governors of the several Islands in the West Indies, of His Royal Highness's pleasure that they do take immediate measures to proclaim throughout the Colonies which they respectively govern, His Royal Highness's highest displeasure at the daring insurrection which has lately taken place in the Island of Barbadoes; to declare, in the most public manner, His Royal Highness's concern and surprise at the opinion which appears so falsely and mischievously to have prevailed in some of the British Colonies, that either His Royal Highness or the Parliament had sent out orders for the emancipation of the negroes; and humbly to request His Royal Highness, that while His Royal Highness directs the most effectual measures to be adopted for discountenancing those unfounded and dangerous impressions, His Royal Highness will also be graciously pleased to recommend in the strongest manner to the local authorities in the respective Colonies, to carry into effect every measure which may tend to promote the moral and religious improvement, as well as the comfort and happiness of the negroes, and to make every necessary provision against any violation of the Abolition Acts, under the facilities which may be afforded by the restoration of peace."

" HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Mercurii, 19° die Junii 1816.

" Resolved, *nemine contradicente*,

" That an humble Address be presented to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that he will be graciously pleased to cause communications to be made to the Governors of the several Islands in the West Indies, signifying His Royal Highness's pleasure that they do take immediate measures to proclaim throughout the Colonies

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Colonies which they respectively govern, His Royal Highness's highest displeasure at the daring insurrection which has lately taken place in the Island of Barbadoes; to declare, in the most public manner, His Royal Highness's concern and surprise at the false and mischievous opinion which appears to have prevailed in certain of the British Colonies, that His Royal Highness or the British Parliament had sent orders for the emancipation of the negroes; and humbly to request His Royal Highness, that while His Royal Highness directs the most effectual measures to be adopted for discountenancing those unfounded and dangerous impressions, His Royal Highness will also be graciously pleased to recommend in the strongest manner to the local authorities in the respective Colonies to carry into effect every measure which may tend to promote the moral and religious improvement, as well as the comfort and happiness of the negroes."

"Ordered,—That the said Address be presented to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, by such members of this House as are of His Majesty's Most honourable Privy Council.

(Signed) "J. Dyson, Cl. D. Dom. Com."

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Island, at the Government House in Port of Spain, on this twenty-ninth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, and in the fifty-sixth year of His Majesty's Reign.

By his Excellency's command,
George Martin, Acting Secretary.

C L E R G Y.

Copy of Circular Letter from Earl Bathurst to the Governors of the West India Colonies.

(Circular.)

SIR,

Downing-street, 7th April 1817.

I HAVE received the commands of the Prince Regent, to direct you to report to me the numbers and names of the livings established within your government, and the amount of the salaries which the local government may have assigned to them.

You will report also, whether there be churches and parsonages built in the respective livings, whether the incumbents reside upon their livings, and whether the churches are open to such of the Black population as may be desirous of attending at the time of Divine worship.

You will also state the amount of the fee, (if any) which is demanded on the baptism of slaves, and whether such fees be usually paid by the master or by the slaves.

Lastly, you will apply to the respective incumbents, for a return of the number of slaves who have become members of the Church of England within their pastoral care; and you will direct a triennial return to be made out by them in future, of the number of slaves baptised during that interval, as well as the number who may have become members of the Established Church.

In the execution of this instruction, you will not fail to give assurance to the incumbents, that it is not the wish or intention of the Prince Regent's government, to cast any imputation on their conduct, or to lay any ground for animadversion, although the report should not prove in all respects satisfactory.

The object of this instruction will be in a great measure accomplished, if it shall call the particular attention of the incumbents to the important subject to which the inquiry relates, and shall encourage them to a more active discharge of their duty.

It is the earnest wish of the Prince Regent, that at the time when sects of all descriptions are making such exertions for the conversion of slaves to christianity, the Church of England should not be reproached with inactivity and indifference; and His Royal Highness is well assured that the purity of its doctrines is better calculated than that of any other persuasion, to impress upon its communicants a strong
sense

sense of moral obligations, a cheerful submission to the laws, and that cheerful resignation to the will of Providence, which lightens the burthens of life, by rescuing affliction from the bitterness of discontent.

Correspondence

I have, &c.

Bathurst.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Ramsay to the Earl Bathurst ; with five Enclosures.

MY LORD,

Government House, Antigua, 6th August 1817.

I HAD the honour of receiving your lordship's circular dispatch of the 7th April, directing me to report to your lordship the number and name of the livings established within my government, and the amount of the salaries which the local government may have assigned to each, together with other information as specified therein.

In obedience thereto, I have not failed to obtain from the respective incumbents, such information on the various points called for by your Lordship, as I trust will prove satisfactory, keeping in view the existing local circumstances of the Colony.

In this Island there are six Parishes, viz.—St. John, St. Peter, St. Philip, St. Mary, St. Paul, and St. George, and five Rectors, viz. Rev. S. W. Harman, J. Caull, George Collins, Nathaniel Gilbert, and William Chadderton, one of which gentlemen (Mr. Caull) holds two livings.

In transmitting the accompanying reports of the several incumbents, I have only to add, that I consider them impartial statements; and it only remains for me to observe, that I have always found their pious labours indefatigably exerted to the conversion of slaves to christianity, and the best means of moral example invariably used by them to encourage the slave population to embrace the established persuasion.

I have the honour to be, &c.

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

Geo. William Ramsay, Governor.

(In Governor Ramsay's of the 6th August 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 1.

SIR,

Antigua, July 2d, 1817.

I HAD the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 21st ultimo, enclosing copy of a circular letter from Lord Bathurst, of the 7th April preceding.

In answer to the inquiries contained in his lordship's letter, I beg leave to state, that, as rector of the parish of St. John in this Island, I am allowed the annual stipend or salary of six hundred and sixty pounds annually, which is equal to three hundred and thirty pounds sterling money.

There is, as your Excellency knows, a very large and spacious church in this parish, kept always in complete repair; and I may add, that there are not many better parish churches in England. Independently of the pews which are appropriated to the white inhabitants, and those allotted to the free people of colour, there are in the aisles of the church convenient benches and seats, sufficient for the accommodation of at least two hundred slaves, set apart for their particular use, and to which they are invariably and indiscriminately admitted whenever desirous of attending Divine worship.

There is a very good parsonage attached to this living, in which I have constantly resided with my family since the commencement of the year 1808, with the exception of nine months only, during which time I was absent in England on private business. From the year 1803, when I was appointed to the living, to the year 1808, the parsonage was occupied by his Excellency the late lord Lavington, as a government house; and during that period I resided in the town, within the precincts of the parish.

During the last three years, viz. 1814, 1815, and 1816, there have been one hundred and sixty-eight slaves, adults and infants, baptised by me within my parish; and to the 1st instant in the present year, thirty-seven.

It has been the immemorial usage, long before I became the rector of it, and it still is the custom in this parish, for the rector to receive one dollar for the baptism

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of a slave; and another dollar is also paid to the clerk, who keeps the register. This fee is on many occasions paid by the master, but most commonly, I believe, by the slave. It is very frequently remitted, and in no instance, since I have been rector, has it ever been rigorously exacted, upon a representation from the parties that they were unable to pay it.

In this parish, as well as in the other parishes throughout the Island, the children of such slaves as have before become Christians themselves are regularly and very generally brought for baptism when young; and they afterwards either adhered to the Established Church, or attach themselves to the Moravians, or become followers of the Methodists. Even adults, to whom, at an early period of life, the rite of baptism may have been neglected, are often induced to offer themselves for that sacrament, when they have acquired a due knowledge of its importance from the religious instruction gained by a regular attendance upon Divine worship.

But with respect to actual and absolute conversion, it does not often occur. It may in some measure, however, afford an idea of the progressive improvement of the Black population within my parish, when I mention that upon my first appointment to this benefice the number of communicants did not exceed forty or fifty at most, and at present the number is never less than one hundred and sixty whenever the sacrament is administered. One half of the above number is composed of white persons, and the other half consists of free people of colour and slaves.

With the Moravians and the Methodists it is customary to keep a regular list of all slaves who become attached to their congregations, and they may possibly include the whole in the number of their converts; but as this is not the practice of the Established Church, I am not enabled to state, with any precision, the number of such slaves who have become members of the Church of England within my pastoral care. This can only be inferred, and not with any great degree of accuracy, from the number of those who have been baptised.

In thus disallowing the idea of conversion among the slaves generally, or to the full extent to which it may be deemed practicable by those who judge only from report, and not from actual experience of the many insurmountable impediments which oppose it, arising from local and very peculiar circumstances, I am yet willing and ready to admit, that much still remains to be done for the religious instruction of the Black population, and for their higher attainments in Christian knowledge. But while this is a subject of serious and sincere regret, deeply lamented, with respect to the lower classes of society, in every other part of the world as well as in the West Indies, I cannot but feel a satisfaction in reflecting that it is mine, as it must be the earnest wish and endeavour of all the regular clergy, as far as it can be effected, to obviate and remove it.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

Sam^l W^m Harman.

To his Excellency Major General Ramsay, Captain General
and Governor, &c. &c. &c.

(In Governor Ramsay's, of the 6th August 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 2.

SIR,

Antigua, July 2, 1817.

I WAS honoured with your Excellency's polite favour, enclosing a copy of Earl Bathurst's circular letter, and beg leave to answer it, agreeably to your Excellency's directions.

I have two livings in this Island, St. Peter's and St. George's parishes; they were originally but one parish.

The salary assigned by the local government is 360*l.* currency, or 180*l.* sterling to each of them, to which the vestries in the country parishes have for some time past voted 100*l.* currency, or 50*l.* sterling yearly, in addition to each.

There is a very good church on each of my livings, but no parsonage on either of them. There never was a parsonage in St. George's parish, of which I have been rector thirty-eight years; and that on St. Peter's was blown down in the great hurricane of 1754, and has never been rebuilt. I shall reside on an estate, which I was induced to purchase chiefly with a view of residence; it is in St. Peter's Parish, only half a mile distant from the church, and about two miles from St. George's parish.

The

The churches are open to all slaves, and they, with the free blacks and people of colour, form the greatest part of the congregation. The Black population is considered as attached to the Established Church, and is invited and entreated to attend divine worship; and the parochial clergy esteem them all as their parishioners, as more than half of their stipends are paid by the planters from a poll-tax on their slaves, and the vestry and rector are appointed their protectors.

I have baptised 339 slaves from July 1st, 1814, to this date, in St. Peter's parish, and 203 in St. George's in the same time.

If your Excellency wishes for it, I will give you their names, that of their owners, and the estates they belong to.

I never receive any fee or gratuity whatever for baptising any slave, black or coloured, nor for the baptism of any free negro, or person of colour, nor for a white, if brought to church.

I keep a register of all the slaves I baptise, and will certainly continue to do so. I will not fail to make a triennial return of them, as directed. But as we have no Africans imported, and therefore no heathens to convert, and as the slaves are by no means regular in attending Divine service, some coming on one Sunday and others the next, and they all are admitted who please to attend; I confess I am at a loss to ascertain any particular number who may be said to have become members of the Established Church.

I beg leave to assure your Excellency, that in obedience to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's wishes, I will not fail to exert myself in instructing the slaves, the ignorant part of my congregation, and in impressing on their minds the pure and simple doctrines of Christianity; in entreating them to continue in communion with the Church of England, by convincing them that its precepts are far better calculated than any other persuasion, to make them good and contented servants, to reconcile them to their lot in life, and to enable them to bear it with resignation to the will of God. By inculcating the necessity of due submission to the laws, and assuring them that by a faithful discharge of those duties which an inferiority of station makes necessary, they fulfil the character of true disciples of their Redeemer, and through his merits be partakers of that life and immortality he has brought to light by his gospel.

I have, &c.

(Signed) *James Caull, A. M.*

Rector of St. Peter's and St. George's parish.

To his Excellency Governor Ramsay,
&c. &c. &c.

(In Governor Ramsay's of the 6th August 1817.)

SIR, Parsonage House, St. Philips Parish, June 28th, 1817.

I HAD the honour to receive your letter on the 26th instant, and immediately gave it due attention.

As rector of the parish above named, I reside in the parsonage house whence I date this letter. From the local government I receive no salary; but from this parish I have a settled annual stipend of three hundred and sixty pounds gold and silver current money of this Island, to which there has been for several years, in consequence of the increased hardships of the times, and in consideration perhaps of my having a wife and a young and growing family, and not very adequate means for their support, as I depend principally on my benefice, an addition of one hundred and forty pounds, like current money. In this parish there are a church, and a chapel of ease, at both which I perform divine service on Sunday, in weekly succession, and both which are open to the Black population.

With regard to the fee received on the baptism of slaves, I beg leave to acquaint your Excellency, that on my collation to this benefice I made inquiry of the clerk of the parish what were the surplice fees, and I was informed, among other dues, that when a slave was baptised, it had been the custom for the incumbent to receive a dollar; and this has been in general continued since I have held this living; but I always christen every slave who is brought to me for baptism first, and the dollar, usually unapplied for, is then put down; sometimes it is paid by the owners, and sometimes I believe by the slaves: should a grown slave apply for baptism, I catechise that person very strictly, that I may know whether he or she is properly qualified for baptism, and if I find that slave to be very ignorant, or that he or she bears a

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bad character, I endeavour, by exhortation and instruction, to qualify such slave to be received into the faith of Christ's Church, and being so qualified, and not before, I administer to that person the sacrament of baptism.

If a slave being decently habited should make an application for gratuitous baptism, it is an invariable rule with me to grant this request.

Should a slave attend for gratuitous baptism dressed in an expensive manner, I should think it an unreasonable application, and in that case should expect the customary fee.

When a slave is sick and unable to attend the church or chapel for baptism, I visit that slave and perform the service at his own place of residence, for which a dollar is the usual fee.

I have examined the register of baptism, kept by myself in and for this parish, with great care, and I find, during the three last years, calculating from June 1814 to the date of this letter, that I have baptised two hundred and sixty slaves, and that within that space of time, two slaves were also baptised in this parish by the Reverend Nathaniel Gilbert, officiating minister.

With regard to the number of slaves who may have become members of the Church of England within my pastoral care, that is, within a period of fourteen years, I really am at a loss what answer to give. This is a very large parish; the chapel of ease at Belfast is four miles distant from the parsonage; no register has ever yet been kept on the subject, nor do I see how it could, since the same negroes who from fashion attend the Methodist and Moravian meetings attend also the regular churches and my chapel (which is the only chapel of ease in the Island;) it may not however be improper to add, that I have for many years zealously endeavoured after the usual Sunday duty, to impress on the minds of the coloured people, both slaves and free persons, a knowledge of the faith and practice of a true christian, and to qualify them for the better understanding of Divine service, by repeatedly explaining to them the meaning of the scriptural expressions.

I have, &c.

George Collins.

To his Excellency the Captain General.

Enclosure,
No. 4.

(In Governor Ramsay's of the 6th August 1817.)

SIR,

Gilbert's, July 2d, 1816.

IN answer to your Excellency's letter of the 21st June, which I had not the honour of receiving until Sunday last, I beg to state the following particulars:

In the parish of St. Mary there are two churches, at about six miles distance from each other, with a house in decent repair, situated at nearly an equal distance from both: the church is open to every one, and some slaves do actually attend. The salary appointed by the Government is 180 *l.* sterling per annum, and to this the vestry have voluntarily added 50 *l.*

It is not in my power to reside within the parish, on account of the duties of my estate, which is at a considerable distance, and requires my constant superintendence. This I have twice endeavoured to remedy by making an offer of the curacy, together with the whole of the emoluments, to some of my friends in England, and am now in daily expectation of an answer to these proposals.

I have never received any fee for the baptism of slaves, although I have occasionally, in cases of sickness, performed the ceremony at their own houses.

In the parish register kept by the late Reverend Mr. Wiston, there are no entries of any description from the 28th August 1810 to the 15th March 1815; I cannot therefore precisely state the number of baptisms that have taken place during the last three years; from the latter date, however, to the 19th May 1816, there were baptised by the Reverend Mr. Chaderton nine infants and one adult; and since that period to the present day I have baptised six infants.

I trust that the foregoing observations will be found to contain a satisfactory answer to all the queries proposed in your Excellency's letter.

I have the honour, &c.

Nathaniel Gilbert,
Rector of the parish of St. Mary.To his Excellency Governor Ramsay,
&c. &c. &c.

(In Governor Ramsay's of the 6th August 1817.)

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Enclosure,
No. 5.

SIR,

Antigua, Parish of St. Paul, June 24th, 1817.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of the 21st instant, enclosing a circular letter from Earl Bathurst, which conveys to you the commands of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that you would transmit to that minister, reports on certain particulars relative to the Established Church in this Island, and to the connexion of the slave population with that Establishment.

To facilitate your compliance with these commands of the Prince Regent, you call on me, in my individual capacity, to furnish my answers to the several queries contained in the letter of Earl Bathurst. To such of them, your Excellency means, I suppose, as can only be answered by the reports of each individual rector, presiding over the several parishes under your government, for with the number and names of livings, amount of stipends and residence of clergy, your Excellency, I presume, is too well acquainted to require any information on these heads from us. With your Excellency's requisition thus understood, I hasten to comply, and to Earl Bathurst's first question relative to the Black population, I beg leave to answer, that my church is always open at the seasons of Divine worship, to as many slaves as it can contain; but that in consequence of its smallness, it affords very little accommodation to that class of people, being almost entirely occupied by the whites and free persons of colour, who are invariably regular and punctual in their attendance.

To his lordship's next question, whether there be any *fee demanded* on the baptism of a slave, and what the amount, if any? I answer, that on my appointment to this living, I found that there was a fee, appearing to be established by immemorial usage, and amounting to one dollar; such a fee has occasionally been handed me by my clerk, but has never been *exacted*, whether paid by the master of the slave, or out of the slave's own pocket, I know not.

To his lordship's last demand, by which I am required to report the number of the slaves who may have become members of the Church of England during the period of my pastoral care, I may return two answers, the one affirmative, the other negative. If those who are entered into the christian covenant by the rite of baptism administered according to the form and order of our Church, are to be considered as put into a capacity of becoming members of that Church, as no doubt they are, then I can reply in the affirmative, that during the period of my residence on this living, which is fifteen months, I have received into the Church thirty-two such members, many of whom, it is possible, may, (when they come to years of discretion, if certain arrangements be made which do not now exist, and which are beyond the control of the established clergy,) attach themselves to our communion. But if I am asked, whether any converts have come over to me either from heathenism, or from the sectarian parties amongst us? I answer, not one; and for this very plain reason, because no attempts have been made by me to bring them over, in consequence of the limited state of our establishment, and the labours that devolve upon me in the care of my regular flock; circumstances which preclude all possibility of my affording the slaves of my parish any sufficient instruction.

Thus, Sir, have I endeavoured to answer, with all candour and precision, such of the questions proposed by Earl Bathurst as I conceive myself called upon to answer, and if some of my replies should not afford the satisfaction which might be desired, I must beg leave, with all humility, to say in my own justification, (and my remark, when it comes to be explained, will naturally extend to my brother clergymen,) that it is not my fault if the reports are not as favourable as could be wished. If the slave population is not properly provided with the means of religious instruction according to the ordinances of the Established Church, the fault rests not in us who are appointed to administer those ordinances, but it proceeds from local circumstances, with which the Prince Regent's government ought to be made well acquainted, and which it is utterly beyond the power of the regular clergy to alter or correct.— There are, Sir, many obstacles of considerable magnitude, which tend to exclude the slaves from our pastoral care: The first is, the want of room in our churches; taking my own church for example; after the regular congregation is accommodated, there is only *occasionally* a vacancy that would admit about thirty persons. Now the slave population in my parish amounts to three thousand seven hundred and eighteen souls; there is therefore a prodigious number, by this single circumstance, unavoidably excluded from attending the established worship on Sunday, which is the

Correspondence.

the only day they have in their power. But, suppose this impediment removed, and our churches were calculated to afford greater accommodation to these people; and suppose them either prevailed upon, or compelled, to attend our public services, still, Sir, I fear the result would fall very far short of the expectations of the Prince Regent's government. Let it be remembered, Sir, that the slaves are in a state of the grossest ignorance, that their minds are totally destitute of all cultivation; to crowd them into a church, therefore, without some previous preparation, would be a procedure equally useless and absurd. Our liturgy would be wholly unintelligible to them; and the addresses from the pulpit, which surely must be adapted in some degree to the superior information of our more enlightened hearers, would be to them as unedifying as if they were preached in a foreign tongue.

It must be obvious, therefore, that the ordinary system of instruction pursued in our churches, and the deficiency of accommodation in point of room, present great obstacles to the slaves deriving any degree of religious improvement from the regular clergy; and a little reflection will show, that it is absolutely impossible we should adopt any *extraordinary* measures for the accomplishment of this great and important purpose. Our Saviour's remark applies with peculiar force and propriety to us, in our situation with respect to the slaves: "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few." The slaves, in fact, abound to that degree, that the single exertions of the rectors in the several parishes, supposing them to be pressed with the most ardent zeal, could never be adequate to supply their spiritual wants, and attend to those of the white and free people of colour who constitute their regular charge.

If this class of people, Sir, are to be instructed by the established clergy, we must first undergo a thorough metamorphose; we must entirely alter our present habits and manners, and assimilate ourselves to the negroes. We must give a complete turn to the train of our ideas, and bring them down to a level with those of the slave. We must acquire new methods of thinking, of reasoning, and of expressing ourselves: and when we have effected this change, to make any progress in our work, we must go in continual and painful pursuit of reasonable opportunities to address these people: and we must altogether abandon the care of our present congregations, as it would be utterly impossible to attend to both, unless we were endued with those extraordinary powers which ceased with the first propagators of christianity.

It must be evident then, Sir, to any one who candidly considers these circumstances, that the project of attaching the slaves to the Church of England, can never be carried into effect by means of the established clergy at present existing in this country. I will venture to add, that it could only be accomplished by a distinct and separate establishment, by a sufficient number of ministers appointed, I had almost said educated, for the sole and exclusive purpose of instructing the negroes.

To admonish us, therefore, to engage in this cause, is only stimulating us to unnatural and unreasonable exertions, which must ever prove fruitless and abortive.

I will answer for myself, Sir, that impressed as I am with a firm belief of the truth of christianity, and with the deepest sense of the awful responsibility which I have incurred by becoming a minister of the gospel, there is no man more earnestly disposed to propagate its sacred doctrines among all orders and descriptions of people; and devoted as I am to our admirable ecclesiastical constitution, no churchman can be more hostile to sectarian influence. Had, therefore, the plan of uniting the slaves to the Church established been practicable, it would not now remain to be attempted in my parish.

I humbly trust, Sir, that in my professional character, I am neither deficient in zeal to stimulate me to activity, nor in courage to support and carry me through the most violent opposition, when I see the least prospect of success; but in a case like the present, where these principles must be prostituted and disgraced, where zeal would degenerate into enthusiasm, and courage into fool-hardiness; I have felt myself bound to remain passive; and, although I deeply lament the hard necessity which excludes these poor slaves from the advantages of our incomparable ordinances; yet, as I am conscious that I could make no successful attempt to remove the causes of their exclusion, I have contented myself with looking forward with hope to the arrival of some happy period, when due and effective arrangements may be made by superior authority, for the accomplishment of the most desirable end; and with praying the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth a sufficient number of appropriate labourers into his harvest.

I have ventured to submit the foregoing remarks to your Excellency's consideration, under the hope that you might improve upon them in your report to Earl Bathurst

Bathurst, and thus happily remove from the mind of the Prince Regent's government, any unfavourable impressions which it might have received relative to the established clergy under your jurisdiction, from any misrepresentations or wrong apprehensions of their conduct towards the slave population.

Correspondence.

To his Excellency Major General Ramsay,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
W. Chadertof.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Cameron to the Earl Bathurst.

MY LORD, Nassau, New Providence, 19th June 1817.

I HAVE received the honour of your lordship's circular letter of the 7th of April, directing me to afford you information relative to the number of livings and churches, &c. in this Colony, which commands will be immediately obeyed.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *Chas. Cameron.*

To the Right honourable the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Cameron to the Right honourable the Earl Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

MY LORD, Nassau, New Providence, 21st July 1817.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your lordship's information, copy of a letter from the Reverend William Hepworth, rector of Christ Church, written in obedience to your lordship's commands, conveyed to me on the 7th of April. In addition to the statement made very correctly by Mr. Hepworth of the expected arrival of a clergyman from England to fill the living of St. Mathew's, I have the honour to inform your lordship, that I have written to various private friends in England, who are competent to the task of selection, to assist me in filling the other livings of this government; and I have every reason to expect the most beneficial effects will arise to the Colony entrusted to my care, from the present management respecting the establishment of respectable clergymen in these Islands.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *Charles Cameron.*

To the Right honourable the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(In Governor Cameron's of 21st July 1817.)

SIR, Nassau, New Providence, 18th July 1817.

I HAVE received the honour of your Excellency's letter, enclosing the copy of one from Earl Bathurst, requiring information with regard to the livings established within your government. I believe the following will be found an accurate statement:—

Name of each Parish and Island,	Colonial Salary to each Incumbent.		House Rent.	
	Currency.	Sterling.	Currency.	Sterling.
Christ Church, Nassau, New Providence - - -	500	291 13 4	Has a Parsonage-house.	
St. Mathew's, Nassau, - - Ditto - - -	500	291 13 4	100	58 6 8
St. John, Harbour Island - - - - -	500	291 13 4	50	29 3 4
St. Patrick, Eleuthera - - - - -	500	291 13 4	50	29 3 4
St. Thomas, Turks Island - - - - -	500	291 13 4	50	29 3 4
St. David, Crooked Island - - - - -	150	87 10 —	50	29 3 4
St. Andrew, Exuma - - - - -	150	87 10 —	50	29 3 4
St. George, Caicos Islands - - - - -	150	87 10 —	50	29 3 4
St. Paul, Long Island - - - - -	150	87 10 —	50	29 3 4
St. Salvadore, Cal Island - - - - -	150	87 10 —	50	29 3 4

Correspondence.

The above salaries are subject to a deduction of five per cent. per annum, to be paid into a widow and orphan fund. Christ Church, St. Mathew, and St. John, have each of them a church; the former, as the above list will show, has a parsonage; all the other livings have the sums therein stated, for the purpose of hiring suitable accommodations for the respective incumbents.

Your Excellency has been pleased to appoint me to the rectory of Christ Church, which lately became vacant by the death of Doctor Stephen, and I am resident in the parsonage-house.

My former living of St. Mathew, by this appointment, is become vacant. You have given me the pleasing intelligence that a clergyman is very soon expected from England for the purpose of being inducted to St. Mathew. I beg leave to state that the churches are not only open to the blacks during Divine service, but comfortable seats are expressly allotted to them: in Christ Church four large pews under the organ-gallery, with the addition of benches along the aisles, are occupied by them. In St. Mathew's, a commodious gallery and seats in the aisles are entirely appropriated to the black population. By an Act passed last year, the clerk of each parish is entitled to receive two shillings, equal to fourteen pence sterling, for the entry of every birth and christening; and from inquiry, I understand that the master generally enables his slave to pay the fee. As to the number of slaves who have become members of the Established Church, I am, from the short time of my residence here, unable precisely to determine them. I have, however, carefully examined the register books of both parishes, and find that the number of adult slaves christened in Christ Church parish from the 1st July 1816 to the 1st July 1817, amounted to twenty; of children, to seventy-five. In St. Mathew's for the same period, adults, ten; children, thirty-one; these numbers may be taken as an average of former years; and I am humbly of opinion that those who by baptism have been received into the congregation of Christ's flock, may reasonably be reckoned members of the Established Church. As a surer criterion, I can most truly affirm, that whenever I have administered the sacrament the number of black communicants has been by no means inconsiderable; and I assure your Excellency, that no laudable endeavours shall be wanting on my part to reclaim those within my pastoral care who may have erred from the right way.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *Wm. Hepworth.*

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

Copy of a Letter from Lord Combermere to Earl Bathurst; with twenty-one Enclosures.

Government House, Barbadoes, August 20th, 1817.

MY LORD,

IN compliance with the directions contained in your lordship's letter of the 7th April, I have now the honour to transmit to your lordship herewith the returns called for, together with letters from the several clergymen, giving the required explanations upon those points which could not be included in the returns.

It is but justice to the respectable clergy of this Island, that I should state to your lordship, for the information of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that the duties of the church are most diligently and actively discharged; and I wish I could add, that the clergy met with that support and encouragement from the principal merchants and planters of Barbadoes, which it is no less their interest than their duty to afford the Established Church, particularly at a time when sects of all descriptions are making such exertions to the conversion of slaves.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

The Right honourable the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) *Combermere.*

TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES.

151

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20, 1817.)

GENERAL RETURN of the CLERGY of BARBADOES.

PARISHES.	RECTORS.	1. ANNUAL VALUE of the RECTORIES, in Barbadoes Currency.	3. Number of ACRES.	4. Number of WHITE INHABITANTS.					5. Number of FREE COLOURED INHABITANTS.				
				1812.	1813.	1814.	1815.	1816.	1812.	1813.	1814.	1815.	1816.
				St. Michael -	Rev. W ^m Garnett	1,200. 0. 0.	9,580	4,519	4,977	5,130	5,374	5,038	1,540
Christchurch	J. H. Orderson -	500. 0. 0.	14,310	1,565	1,572	1,596	1,601	1,618	65	67	69	77	82
St. Philip -	W ^m Als - - -	500. 0. 0.	14,757	1,269	1,200	1,280	1,221	1,392	125	155	154	142	147
St. John - -	W ^m Pindar - -	440. 0. 0.	8,619	1,175	1,186	1,208	1,237	1,246	76	93	94	96	100
St. Joseph -	John Gittens -	370. 0. 0.	7,923	1,061	1,078	1,105	1,114	1,124	80	80	79	85	89
St. Andrew -	W ^m Payne - -	425. 0. 0.	7,923	580	594	616	629	630	168	171	175	178	178
St. Lucy - -	W ^m M. Harte -	493. 0. 0.	8,407 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,015	1,024	1,039	1,043	1,058	34	34	35	35	35
St. Peter - -	Ja ^s Neblett - -	453. 0. 0.	7,922	1,338	1,344	1,367	1,371	1,379	230	232	237	238	240
St. James -	J. H. Pilgrim -	425. 8. 3	7,720	724	730	734	751	755	33	33	33	33	33
St. Thomas -	Geo. Maynard -	472. 10. 0.	8,500	798	801	812	816	835	70	70	71	74	76
St. George -	A. K. Thomas -	512. 19. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	10,795	869	889	893	928	945	108	107	106	110	94

PARISHES.	6. Number of SLAVES.					7. 1812											
						BAPTISMS.						BURIALS.					
						Whites.		Free Coloured Persons.		Slaves.		Whites.		Free Coloured Persons.		Slaves.	
	1812.	1813.	1814.	1815.	1816.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
St. Michael -	12,070	11,509	11,277	11,558	13,695	79	69	70	75	115	158	133	153	60	56	70	106
Christchurch	9,387	8,997	9,225	9,283	9,548	22	16	1	0	9	9	25	18	1	1	6	1
St. Philip -	9,181	9,070	9,208	9,434	9,354	20	26	3	3	11	9	32	51	5	1	-	1
St. John - -	4,992	4,874	4,761	4,945	5,196	6	9	-	1	4	7	19	21	1	1	2	1
St. Joseph -	3,162	3,049	3,239	3,508	3,594	15	12	1	5	3	4	20	12	-	1	2	-
St. Andrew -	3,209	3,087	3,115	3,194	3,268	14	13	1	3	3	2	7	11	-	1	-	-
St. Lucy - -	5,577	5,260	5,386	5,377	5,594	9	13	-	-	-	-	32	18	-	-	-	-
St. Peter - -	5,798	5,417	5,451	5,663	5,565	13	21	5	6	8	10	20	32	3	1	3	2
St. James -	4,248	4,221	4,218	4,079	4,166	12	18	-	-	2	3	5	9	-	-	-	2
St. Thomas -	4,555	4,221	4,406	4,404	4,635	12	17	-	-	24	31	14	17	-	-	2	2
St. George -	-	-	-	-	6,600	18	26	1	2	7	13	38	34	4	3	-	3

continued. PARISHES.	8. 1813.												9. 1814.											
	BAPTISMS.						BURIALS.						BAPTISMS.						BURIALS.					
	Whites.		Free Coloured Persons.		Slaves.		Whites.		Free Coloured Persons.		Slaves.		Whites.		Free Coloured Persons.		Slaves.		Whites.		Free Coloured Persons.		Slaves.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
St. Michael -	86	77	60	69	86	127	92	110	36	51	52	49	90	77	55	64	88	153	90	100	43	46	34	73
Christchurch	23	19	3	1	4	1	11	24	1	1	1	1	20	21	2	1	6	7	7	10	1	-	1	1
St. Philip -	15	17	6	7	2	2	16	16	6	2	-	-	22	18	2	3	9	10	14	22	-	2	-	1
St. John -	11	18	7	11	4	7	11	7	-	1	1	2	20	17	3	-	9	10	6	9	2	-	1	-
St. Joseph -	15	15	-	1	-	-	6	7	-	1	-	1	18	17	-	1	1	2	4	4	-	2	-	-
St. Andrew -	11	16	5	3	3	4	9	4	2	3	-	-	20	14	2	3	5	5	5	7	-	1	1	-
St. Lucy -	21	11	-	-	-	-	15	8	-	-	-	-	18	11	1	-	3	1	7	7	-	-	-	-
St. Peter -	23	11	2	4	7	3	16	12	1	3	1	-	24	21	3	5	4	10	13	9	1	3	-	1
St. James -	8	5	-	-	1	3	3	4	-	-	-	2	10	7	1	-	2	1	9	4	1	-	1	-
St. Thomas -	8	11	-	-	16	34	5	11	-	-	-	2	9	10	-	1	6	6	2	6	-	-	4	2
St. George -	15	12	4	-	6	7	16	19	3	-	3	1	16	15	1	-	13	11	12	13	1	2	1	1

PARISHES.	10. 1815.												11. 1816.											
	BAPTISMS.						BURIALS.						BAPTISMS.						BURIALS.					
	Whites.		Free Coloured Persons.		Slaves.		Whites.		Free Coloured Persons.		Slaves.		Whites.		Free Coloured Persons.		Slaves.		Whites.		Free Coloured Persons.		Slaves.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
St. Michael -	98	78	88	107	135	189	103	106	50	55	60	64	86	79	85	97	133	217	167	110	49	59	68	74
Christchurch	15	19	5	4	6	10	14	15	-	1	2	5	25	21	-	6	3	6	12	17	1	-	3	-
St. Philip -	19	13	1	2	4	3	13	10	4	4	-	1	28	16	5	-	1	3	20	22	2	1	-	-
St. John -	23	14	1	2	4	4	4	4	1	-	2	1	19	16	5	2	2	-	13	13	2	1	-	2
St. Joseph -	11	12	4	2	4	4	6	8	-	-	-	-	20	12	2	3	3	-	15	7	-	1	-	-
St. Andrew -	12	11	1	2	-	-	6	4	-	-	-	-	7	9	1	1	-	-	11	4	1	1	-	-
St. Lucy -	15	17	-	-	1	-	10	18	-	-	-	-	26	26	-	-	1	3	19	18	-	-	1	-
St. Peter -	15	16	4	2	4	14	11	16	3	2	1	2	27	25	5	1	3	4	24	20	4	-	2	2
St. James -	12	11	-	-	3	2	4	2	-	-	-	1	4	11	-	-	3	3	4	7	-	-	1	2
St. Thomas -	13	11	3	-	21	30	10	10	-	-	-	-	21	16	2	1	4	1	9	9	1	-	2	-
St. George -	19	17	3	9	17	22	15	25	2	2	4	1	23	15	-	-	13	22	30	20	1	-	-	4

(Signed)

Combermere.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20th, 1817.)

Correspondence.

Enclosure,
No. 2.

MY LORD,

Bridgetown, July 2d, 1817.

IN compliance with your lordship's instructions conveyed to me in your circular letter of June 20th, I have to report, that the colonial stipend is £.300 per annum, Barbadoes currency, to the rector of each parish. The church in this parish is large, and kept constantly in good order, but there is no parsonage house, and the vestry, therefore, make an annual allowance for the rent of one.

The church is not only open to the black and coloured population, but every possible accommodation is provided for them. There are eight pews set apart solely for their use, and benches are placed in all the aisles and galleries for them, which, together, will accommodate about three hundred persons, and they are on most Sundays fully occupied.

No fee is demanded on the baptism of slaves; but the owner generally gives something, according to his ability or discretion. When, however, the owner is absent from the Island, or the slave lives apart from his master, as is sometimes the case in Bridgetown, the fee, if any be given, may perhaps come from the slave himself; but it is in that case very trifling, and if the parties are unable to give any, the duty is done gratuitously.

In answer to your lordship's last query, I have the honour to enclose, in duplicate, a list of slaves baptised in this parish in each year, from January 1st, 1791, to June 30th, 1817, a period of twenty-six years and an half, during which time I have been the rector, amounting in all to 4,901; and I shall not fail to make to your lordship similar returns every three years.

I have to observe, that all these slaves who have been baptised may be accounted members of the Established Church, for we have no sectaries in this parish. There is indeed, in Bridgetown a meeting-house for Westleyan Methodists, but they never gained much ground, and have for some time been so much on the decline as not to have had any resident minister for the last three or four years.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

His Excellency Lord Combermere.

(Signed) *W. Garnett.*

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20th, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 3.

MY LORD,

Bridgetown, August 5th, 1817.

AGREEABLY to your lordship's request, I have the honour to state to you, that the average amount of the value of this living, for the last ten years, has been about £.1,200 per annum, Barbadoes currency, including the colonial stipend of £.300 currency, fees, &c.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

His Excellency Lord Combermere.

(Signed) *W. Garnett.*

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 4.

MY LORD,

Parsonage House, Christ Church, June 23d, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's official letter of the 20th instant, and, in obedience to your lordship's commands, I have to state, that the colonial stipend to every rector is 300 £. currency per annum, one half of which is payable by the churchwarden of the parish from a parochial land-tax, and the other half from the public treasury. There is to this parish a comfortable parsonage, and a large and respectable church, both kept in repair at the parish expense. Divine service is regularly performed every Sunday, and the church doors are opened for the admission of coloured persons of every description; and the average number of coloured persons attending each Sunday is from twenty to twenty-five, who conduct themselves during service with great decency and propriety. I have never demanded any fee for the baptism of slaves; and, except in very few instances where I have been paid by the owner, it has with me been a gratuitous duty.

Correspondence.

The number of slaves baptised for the last three years, is as follows:—In 1814, baptised 13; in 1815, 16 baptised; in 1816, 9 baptised; and in the present year, to the 2d day of this month, 26. I feel it my duty, my Lord, to afford the slaves all the instruction in my power, in the plain practical duties of Christianity; and I believe it is from the constant and regular attendance of the established clergy to their parochial duties, that sectaries have gained so little footing in this country. But much as the clergy may wish to instruct slaves in their religious duties, little can be done unless proprietors of plantations will co-operate with them in their labours. And I am happy to state, that in this parish, on some plantations, a plan is about to be adopted which I hope will be generally followed, and I trust will be ultimately beneficial.

I have the honour to be, respectfully, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient humble servant,

His Excellency Lord Combermere. (Signed) *T. H. Orderson.*

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 5.

MY LORD,

Christ Church, August 4th, 1817.

IN answer to your lordship's inquiries of the 2d instant, concerning the value of the living of Christ Church, I have to state, that the colonial salary throughout the Island, to each rector, is 300*l.* currency per annum; in addition to which, fees and other contingencies, render this living equal, communibus annis, to 500*l.* currency per annum. I have the honour to be, with great respect,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

His Excellency Lord Combermere. (Signed) *T. H. Orderson.*

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 6.

MY LORD,

St. Philip's Parsonage, July 27th, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's letter of the 20th of last month, and regret much that I have been hitherto deprived by extreme illness of the power of sending a reply to the several queries contained in it.

From this government I receive an annual stipend of 300*l.* currency, equal at the present rate of exchange to 200*l.* sterling.

The parsonage has lately undergone a complete repair; and the church is in a state of good preservation.

The doors of the latter building are always open during Divine service, to such of the coloured people of this vicinity as are desirous of offering up their adorations to the Almighty; and I have the gratification to observe, that the spacious gallery set apart for their accommodation, is completely filled on every festival, and that part of the congregation on every Sabbath day is composed of people of that description.

Believe me, my Lord, during the short period of my ministry, both at St. Thomas's and in this parish, my most zealous exertions have at all times and on all occasions been made for the religious and moral instruction of the slaves within my pastoral care, of whom, in no single instance, have I either demanded or accepted a fee for baptism; and the partial success that attended my labours among them in the former place, as you will perceive by a reference to the enclosed return, is an event in my professional life to which my memory often recurs with undiminished satisfaction.

If I have not been equally successful since my translation hither, the failure is not, if I at all know myself, to be accounted for by my abatement of zeal in the cause of piety and virtue, but is rather to be attributed to those disadvantages which almost always attend a stranger on his first entrance into office, as well as to the late insurrection, which has unsettled the minds of the slaves, and in a great degree put a check to that friendly intercourse which it had been my study to establish between them and their pastor.—With sentiments of the highest respect,

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient humble servant,

(Signed) *William Als.*

Annual amount of the fees, about 100*l.* currency.

Annual rent of the glebe, from 75*l.* to 100*l.* currency.

Annual stipend, 300*l.* currency.

} Value of the Living,
£. 500
Currency.

Certified by *William Als.*, Rector.

Correspondence.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, Aug. 20, 1817.)

MY LORD,

St. John's Parsonage, June 25th, 1817.

Enclosure,
No. 7.

IN answer to your letter desiring to be informed of the amount of my salary, and also with respect to the fees for baptising slaves, and the seats in my church appropriated to their use, I have the honour to acquaint your lordship, that the salary is 300*l.* a year, besides 140*l.* arising from the fees, present, and glebe, to which is attached a very good parsonage; that I have never received a fee for baptising a slave, and that there are two pews, besides the aisle, set apart for the use of such black persons as are desirous of attending Divine service. The slaves baptized in this parish since the month of January 1814, when I became rector of it, amount to sixty-two. Your lordship's directions relative to the triennial returns shall be obeyed. I am extremely happy to hear of the Prince Regent's anxiety for the advancement of Christianity in this part of the world, according to the doctrines of the Church of England, which I trust I shall be always anxious to propagate, and which are undoubtedly the best calculated to make every class of mankind rationally, soberly, and substantially religious.

I have the honour to be, with great respect,
Your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant,
(Signed) *W. L. Pindar.*

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, Aug. 20, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 8.

MY LORD,

July 19th, 1817.

I AM honoured by your lordship's letter of the 20th June, communicating His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's commands that I should report to your lordship the colonial stipend of my living; whether there be a church and parsonage attached thereto; whether slaves are admitted into the church during Divine worship; what fee is demanded on the baptism of a slave, and from whom; and, finally, the number of slaves baptised within my cure.

The stipend assigned to this living, as to others, by the colonial government, is 300*l.* per annum.

There is both a church and a parsonage attached to the living.

The pews of the church are open, as far as I am informed, to every colour and description of rational and accountable beings. Occasionally, Divine service is attended by a few slaves, and their conduct upon such occasions is always marked with attention and decorum.

With regard to the value of the *fee demanded* on the baptism of a slave, and from whom, I feel quite unable to give your lordship a satisfactory answer, having never even thought of *receiving* one. The parish of St. Joseph is one of the smallest in the Island; the majority of the inhabitants are far from being even comparatively wealthy. If, therefore, a just consideration for their circumstances makes me indifferent as to fees from the white and free coloured population, your lordship will infer that I cannot be very eager after fees from slaves. They are admitted, my Lord, to baptism, both as infants and adults, not only without a question as to remuneration, but with every facility that can operate as an inducement to others to follow their example.

I was inducted into the living of St. Joseph on the 26th of November 1815; and from that period to the present I have baptised nineteen slaves, a small proportion, certainly, compared to their numbers; but, my Lord, the Church has no power to compel, it can only invite and receive them, and that I have always felt satisfaction in doing.

His Royal Highness's concern for the doctrines and discipline of the Established Church must in these times be highly consolatory to every reflecting mind.

Your lordship's directions with regard to the triennial return of slaves baptised within my cure shall be faithfully obeyed.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) *J. H. Gittens, Rector of St. Joseph's.*

Correspondence.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, Aug. 20th, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 9.

SIR,

Aug. 4th 1817.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 2d inst., communicating his Excellency the Governor's wishes to be informed of the value of my living arising from fees, &c., as well as the salary which the local government has assigned to it, from the year 1811 up to the present period.

The stipend assigned to the living, by the local government, is 300*l.* per annum.

With regard to the fees arising from the living, I am at a loss to guess at their value; but I should think that if they were ever so rigidly exacted, they would not exceed 20*l.* per annum.

It has been usual, on the 25th of March, for the vestry of the parish to make the rector a present of a sum of money, as a mark of their kindness and good will.

In November 1815, I was inducted into the living of St. Joseph. In March 1816, the vestry made me a present of 50*l.*; and in March 1817, they were good enough to present me with 100*l.*; but as the latter present was made from particular considerations, I think I should state the usual present, from the year 1811, at 50*l.* per annum.

These, Sir, are all the emoluments that I am aware of, arising from the living.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) *J. H. Gittens*, St. Joseph's.

H. F. Greville, Esq. P. Secy.

Enclosure,
No. 10.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20, 1817.)

St. Andrew's Parsonage, July 12th, 1817.

May it please Your Lordship,

THE local government assigns me the salary of three hundred pounds currency per annum, half of which is paid by the treasurer of the Island, and the other by the parish. An annual present is given by the vestry, which varies. There is a church and parsonage attached to my living, both of which are kept in repair at the expense of the parish. The church is open to any of the black population that are desirous of attending at the time of Divine worship; very few do attend. As I do not take fees, I cannot answer your lordship whether the master or slave pay. I have been rector of the parish fourteen years, and ninety-three of the slaves have become members of the Church of England. In the years 1815 and 1816 none were baptised, although in those years they were looking forward to their emancipation, consequently it was to be expected many would have wished to become christians. It gives me pleasure that no imputation can be cast on us, as there is only one Methodist meeting-house in the Island. I can assure your lordship that I am zealous in the cause of religion, and nothing has been wanting on my part, nor ever shall be, in promoting the pure doctrines of the Established Church.

I remain, with respect,

Your Lordship's very humble servant,

To His Excellency Lord Combermere, (Signed) *W. M. Payne.*
&c. &c. &c.Enclosure,
No. 11.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20, 1817.)

SIR,

St. Andrew's Parsonage, August 4th, 1817.

IN my letter to his lordship, dated the 12th of July, I informed him that the local government assigned me the salary of three hundred pounds currency per annum, one half of which was paid by the treasurer of the Island, and the other by the parish; also, that there was an annual present, which varied. From the year 1811 to this time, the vestry have given me the liberal present of one hundred and twenty-five pounds currency, annually. There is a glebe of fifteen acres, ten of which might be cultivated. I take no fees, in consequence of the liberality of the vestry, therefore the actual amount received is 425*l.* currency.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your humble servant,

To H. Greville, esq. P. Secy.

(Signed) *W. M. Payne.*

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20, 1817.)

Correspondence.

MY LORD, St. Lucy's Parsonage, Barbadoes, July 28th, 1817.

Enclosure,
No. 12.

IN obedience to your lordship's directions, in your circular No. 1. of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your lordship, that the salary assigned to me by the legislature of the Island is 300*l.* currency per annum. Both a church and parsonage house are attached to my living; and the church is always during Divine Service, open to such of the black population as are desirous of attending public worship. Some of them are in the habit of attending, particularly on the festivals of our church, and one is a regular communicant at the sacrament table.

I have been rector of this parish not quite two years, during which period I have baptised a few slaves, at the instance, (with the exception of one) of their respective proprietors. I demand no specific fee for the performance of the ceremony, and when a fee has been tendered, I am of opinion that it has been oftener than otherwise paid by the master. With respect to that part of your lordship's letter which requires a report of the number of slaves who may have become members of the Established Church within my pastoral care, I can only say, that as there are no dissenting meeting-houses of any denomination whatsoever in this parish, nor a single sectary active in disseminating the principles of his sect in any part of it, I presume that such slaves as have been baptised continue in the same manner as the lower classes of our white population, members of the Established Church.

I am fully aware of the importance of the christian religion to the improvement and consolation of man; and I may venture, I trust, to add, that every man of enlightened mind in this Colony would be anxious that his slaves should be, for their sakes as well as his, not only almost, "but altogether" christians. And I do hereby pledge myself to your lordship as willing and ready to concur in the adoption of any plan, which may be considered practicable and expedient, for extending to this numerous class of our fellow creatures the blessings of that religion of which I am a preacher, and of that establishment of which I am a member.

I have the honour to be, with unfeigned respect, my Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient, and very humble servant,
(Signed) *W. Harte.*

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20th, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 12.

MY LORD, Barbadoes. St. Lucy's Parsonage, August 7th, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your lordship, with many apologies for a delay altogether unavoidable, the several returns which your Excellency was pleased to require of me in your circular of the 26th June.

Your lordship having directed, in your last letter of the 2d instant, that I should inform you "of the amount of my living, arising from fees, &c. as well as the salary assigned to me by the local government, from the year 1811 up to the present period," I am, in reply thereto, and in addition to my last communication, to inform your lordship, that I was inducted into this living on the 2d of December 1815; that up to the 31st of December 1816, I received surplice fees to the amount of 10*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* currency, and from that period to the present, to the amount of 52*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* The vestry of the parish have made me a present of 100*l.* currency in each year. The glebe consists of between three and four acres of land.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,
Your Lordship's obedient and humble Servant,
(Signed) *W. Harte.*

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20th, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 14.

Barbadoes, June 24th, 1817.

REPORT of the Reverend James Fowler Neblett, Rector of the parish of St. Peter.

THE local government has assigned me 300 *l.* currency per annum.

A church, chapel, and parsonage are attached to the living, and the church is open to such of the Black population as may be desirous of attending at the time of Divine worship.

Correspondence.

No fee is received from persons of any complexion who are baptised in church or chapel, nor is any fee demanded of slaves who are baptised in their own houses, but that which is sometimes presented (I presume in consideration of my trouble in waiting upon them in their own habitations) is 12 s. 6 d. or 10 s.

They are baptised at the request of their owners, and it is sometimes offered by the owner, and sometimes by the slave, but cannot undertake to say it was given by the owner, although I so suppose.

I have been rector of this parish one year seven months, in which time I have baptised in church, chapel and their own dwellings, nineteen slaves, for fifteen of whom I received no fee. They are introduced into the church or chapel and interred in the same manner as the whites and free coloured people in the church or chapel yard.

(Signed) *James F. Neblett*, Rector of St. Peter.

Parish of St. Peter, Barbadoes, August, 5th, 1817.

I was appointed rector of this parish November 20th, 1815.

The local government assigns me 300 l. currency per annum. The vestry of the parish present me with 50 l. currency per annum. My fees since the 20th of November 1815 to the 31st of December 1816, amount to 111 l. 3 s. 9 d.

(Signed) *James Fowler Neblett*, Rector.

Enclosure,
No. 15.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20th, 1817.)

MY LORD,

St. James's Parsonage, June 25th, 1817.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 20th instant, and hasten to furnish your lordship with the information required therein.

The stipend assigned to me as rector of the parish of St. James is 300 l. per annum, Barbadoes currency. To this, as well as to every living throughout the Island, there is a church and parsonage, kept in decent repair at the expense of the parishioners; and the church is equally open to all classes without any respect of persons or distinction of colour. Commodious seats are expressly appropriated to the use of such slaves and free people of colour as may be desirous of attending at the time of Divine worship; and I beg leave to assure your lordship, that my humble endeavours have not been wanting to induce such persons to fill them: their attendance is, however, I lament to say, very irregular; on some Sundays I have seen from thirty to forty, but generally not so many.

During my ministry, which embraces a period of fourteen years, I have admitted to baptism eighty-nine persons, adults and infants, from among the slave and free-coloured population of the parish. No fee is demanded for the baptism or burial of a slave either from master or slave, and when at any time offered by the latter, it has been refused.

Allow me, my lord, before I conclude, to express my thorough conviction of the infinite importance of affording the means of religious instruction to the whole mass of the slave population, and of the awful responsibility attached to those who enjoying the light of the gospel themselves, do not exert their best endeavours to diffuse its inestimable blessings to all around them; and whilst I lament with shame and confusion, the little success which has hitherto attended my feeble efforts, permit me to assure your lordship of my readiness to *devote myself* to the furtherance of any *plan* for the attainment of this great object, which, by admitting a wider field for exertion, may afford the promise of a nobler harvest to the labourer in the vineyard.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, my Lord,

Your Excellency's very faithful and most obedient humble servant,

To his Excellency
the Right honourable Lord Combermere,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) *John T. Pilgrim*.

Enclosure,
No. 16.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20th, 1817.)

SIR,

St. James's Parsonage, 4th August 1817.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of the 2d, expressing "his Excellency the Governor's desire to be informed if the amount of my living, arising from fees, salary, &c. remains the same as in the year 1811, and to be informed of any variation."

variation." In a letter which I had the honour to address to his Excellency on the 25th of June, I stated that my fixed stipend was 300 *l.* a year, Barbadoes currency, equal to about 200 *l.* sterling. In addition to this, I am accustomed to receive from the liberality of my vestry, an annual present, which varies according to circumstances: this I consider as perfectly distinct from the stipend, as it lies with the vestry to continue or withhold it at their pleasure. This present was 50 *l.* per annum from 1811 to 1815, the last year it was 100 *l.* My fees have varied within this period from 23 *l.* to 43 *l.* per annum, and I receive annually 30 *l.* for the rent of my glebe. The precise value of my living from 1811 to 1816 is as follows:

Correspondence.

	£.	s.	d.	
In 1811	-	-	-	} Barbadoes Currency.
1812	447	1	3	
1813	403	18	9	
1814	410	19	3	
1815	405	11	6	
1816	423	1	3	
	461	17	6	

I trust that the within Statement will be deemed satisfactory; and,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) *John T. Pilgrim.*

To H. F. Greville, Esquire, P. Secretary.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20th, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 17.

MY LORD,

St. Thomas's Parsonage, June 24th, 1817.

IN obedience to the Prince Regent's commands, conveyed to me in your lordship's circular of the 20th instant, I proceed to answer the queries which it contains, with as much brevity and precision as the subject will admit; and I shall be very happy in supplying any deficiency which the present report may labour under.

The stipend assigned me by the local government is three hundred pounds currency per annum, to which the vestry are at liberty, under the sanction of the governor, to make such addition as the parochial funds can afford, and as they think their rector deserves; this contingent addition to my stipend has been invariably one hundred pounds currency.

The church attached to this living is capable of containing about two hundred persons, and is not only accessible to coloured persons, free and slaves, without distinction; but every encouragement is held out to them, by the proper attention which is paid to their accommodation: the seats appropriated to them are ranged on the outside of the pews along the aisles, and are capable of holding many more than those who generally attend Divine service, except on the festivals, when the number of coloured persons almost equals that of the white. How many of them are baptised or reside in my parish, I cannot undertake to state, as but few of them are personally known to me.

The parsonage allotted to me as a residence, is a spacious and comfortable dwelling, and reflects credit on the vestry, by whose orders it has been rendered so.

No fee is demanded on the baptism of any person at church; but when called upon to baptise coloured children in private houses, I have demanded the fee of fifteen shillings, the payment of which has been always evaded under the plea of present inability, with the promise of future amends. And I hope that I need not assure your lordship, that I have never pressed it; as the case has hitherto occurred to me, with a single exception, when the parent has availed herself of meeting me at a neighbour's house, whither I have been called on a similar errand. If slaves were baptised under the like circumstances, I should hold the owner answerable for the same fee.

I regret exceedingly that I cannot make a very flattering report of the number of coloured persons baptised during my ministry in this place; within a period of twenty-two months, there have been fifteen christenings, only one of which was that of an adult; in him alone was it an act of choice to become a professor of christianity. There have, indeed, been many applicants to be admitted within the pale of the church, but all of them so lamentably deficient in the most ordinary qualifications prescribed to them, that I could not conscientiously comply with their request, especially as they had not the remotest prospect of being better instructed in their

Correspondence.

their duty. I trust that your Lordship will coincide with me in opinion, that a compliance under such circumstances, would be degrading my function, by incurring the guilt of misleading those who of all others are the least capable of guiding themselves.

The charge of inactivity and indifference, will never, I humbly trust, be substantiated against those members of the Established Church who compose the parochial clergy of this Colony; and the cause of their failure in disseminating the pure doctrines of the gospel amongst those who most want its consolations, must be sought elsewhere than in their supineness or negligence: First, in the extreme ignorance, debasement, and depravity of those on whom they are inculcated; secondly, in the want of intercourse, and in the great distance necessarily subsisting between two classes of society, so totally dissimilar in habits, manners, and opinions: and lastly, where there are good principles, in the want of leisure to cultivate and improve them. What better success pretenders to greater sanctity might have in alluring the simple, and captivating the unwary, I presume not to divine; but, unless the soil undergo some preparation by early culture, and ignorance the mother of prejudices be in some degree subdued, the seed of religious knowledge is liable to be choked ere it spring up, and the pearls of divine truth to be trampled under foot. These obstacles may be removed, by eradicating from their minds malignant tempers and vicious propensities, by nurturing them with amiable virtues, and furnishing them with that instruction which they can easily comprehend and readily apply; by teaching them how to estimate themselves; by showing them what link they form in the chain of society, and convincing them, that the happiness of the community is inseparably blended with their own.—Then may we with confidence look forward to the day, when the savage manners and brutal excesses which now deform so large a part of the moral creation, “shall not be so much as named among us,”—when regularity shall take place of disorder—docility of stubbornness—industry of sloth, and probity of low and malicious cunning. With my earnest prayers to Heaven that this godlike object may be speedily attained, and in the hope that your lordship will pardon the freedom with which I have delivered my sentiments,

I have the honour to subscribe myself,

Your Lordship's faithful and obedient servant,

(Signed) *George Forster Maynard.*

To his Excellency the Governor.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, Aug. 20, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 18.

SIR,

St. Thomas's Parsonage, Aug. 4th, 1817.

I FEEL great concern at having unintentionally given you the trouble of applying to me a second time on a subject in which I personally declared to his Excellency the Governor my earnest desire to give him the fullest satisfaction; and I have now to request you to assure his lordship, that from that cause alone has proceeded the delay of which he complains.

On the receipt of his lordship's last communication through your hands, four gentlemen of the vestry kindly offered me their assistance in obtaining an accurate census of the population of this parish, and I expect that in a few days I shall be enabled by them to transmit to his Excellency the required return.

Supplementary to the answers to his lordship's first queries, I have the honour to subjoin the following statement, for his further information:

	Currency.
Stipend assigned me by the local government, per annum	- £. 300 — —
Average amount of surplice fees, per annum - - -	- 50 — —
Rent of 21½ acres of glebe land, per annum - - -	- 22 10 —
Contingent addition made by the vestry - - -	- 100 — —
	<hr/>
Profits of this living, per annum - - -	- £. 472 10 —

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

George F. Maynard.

To Henry Greville, Esq. P. Secy.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, Aug. 20th, 1817.)

Correspondence.

Enclosure,
No. 19.

MY LORD, Barbadoes, St. George's Parsonage, June 30th, 1817.

YOUR circular letter, No. 1, dated June 20th, 1817, signed by your Excellency; and another, No. 2, dated June 26th, 1817, signed by your private secretary, have directed me to furnish you with a statement of several matters respecting the parish of St. George. In obedience to your directions, I enclose a list of the number of baptisms and burials in St. George's during the years 1812, 13, 14, 15, 16, from January 1st to December 31st in each year. Agreeably with a direction given to the clergy by Lord Seaforth, certificates, similar to the one enclosed, have been annually sent to the governor or president: a triennial certificate in future, as you directed, will probably be more convenient to the rectors.

Being advanced in years, and almost a stranger in the parish, I must beg leave to decline the arduous task of ascertaining its population; and to refer your lordship's direction to our vestry or colonial representatives, who are undoubtedly the most competent persons for obtaining the requested information. But probably our rector, on his return, which is weekly expected, will undertake the business, or put it in a train of being satisfactorily performed by others.

Each parish in Barbadoes has a church; the local government has assigned to each rector 300*l.* Barbadoes currency, per annum; half the salary to be paid out of the public treasury of the Island, and the other half out of the parochial taxes by the vestry, who have also a discretionary power to add a present to the rector, not exceeding 100*l.* per annum. A convenient handsome parsonage, and a glebe of 56 acres, are attached to the living of St. George's parish. The annual amount of its rector's fees may vary, I conjecture, from 80*l.* to 100*l.*

No fee is demanded in this parish for baptising a slave, when the office is performed in the church or parsonage; but when the minister's attendance at the house of owners of slaves is required, a fee of three dollars is expected from the owner, though not often exacted. During the time of my curacy, from last July, only four dollars for two slaves baptised at their owners' houses have been received; and even in this instance I should have remitted the fees, had I not been accountable for them to my employer.

There is no slave in St. George's who is a regular member of the Church of England. Our church has been always open for the black people, whenever they choose to attend Divine service; but the slaves very seldom come willingly into church, except when they attend the funerals of their owners or friends. Many of the slaves are willing to be baptised, but apparently from no other motive than to be buried in the churchyard.

I rejoice in your assurance, that it is the earnest wish of the Prince Regent that the Church of England should not be justly reproached with inactivity and indifference; it may be in his power, under the Divine blessing, to prevent or remove such a reproach by the future wise and pious counsels of his government. Every humane, liberal, and powerful effort must be made by the powers that be, to eradicate those inveterate prejudices which never fail to discourage religion and improvement in every quarter of the globe in which the debasing system of slavery has been long established. Nothing can be done successfully for promoting religion among the slaves, without the general concurrence, approbation, authority, and co-operation of their owners, induced and encouraged by the mother country, to which they are so loyally attached. All attempts of the most zealous and active clergymen of the Church of England would be ineffectual, if unsupported by the laity around them, and by the ruling powers of the Island.

Our excellent church liturgy cannot be very useful to ignorant creatures who are unable to read. Schools must be instituted for the instruction of the rising generation, who may thus be prepared for their entrance into the Established Church, and may become instrumental in teaching and converting their unlearned relations. Other means for civilizing and improving the latter may also be devised. But I humbly ask your Excellency's pardon for having so long occupied your attention; and respectfully subscribe myself,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) *Joseph Hutchins.*

To his Excellency Lord Combermere.

Correspondence.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20th, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 20.

MY LORD,

St. George's Parsonage, 4th August 1817.

YOUR letter of the 2d instant, and which I have just received, shall receive due notice, as soon as it is practicable to gain the necessary information respecting the real population of the parish of St. George, of which I am at present the rector. And as the vestry are to meet together to-day, I should imagine that the most authentic intelligence can be gained through the co-operation of the churchwarden who collects the taxes.

The poorer class are probably more immediately under my own knowledge, and whose number I will particularly collect; having also lately received for them the sum of 45*l.* sterling, being the recent donation of a late deceased female parishioner.

I am afraid your lordship will find a diminution in the population of the White male inhabitants of this Island, should you be pleased to refer to the returns during a few years past, of the different militia regiments. It is however only a surmise on my part, as I cannot speak on the subject with certainty.

With respect to the income of the living, it is thus; viz.

	£.	s.	d.	
Rector's salary	300	—	—	a year
A Present on the 25th of March	100	—	—	
(Mine was this year 100 <i>l.</i>) but it is a gift, and therefore optional.				

The Fees as received from my Substitute during my absence, and to whom I allowed 100*l.* a year,—

	£.	s.	d.	
3 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> (coloured persons.) Baptisms	27	—	7½	} 82 19 4½
Burials	38	11	3	
Marriages	17	7	6	
				482 19 4½
Rent of a part of the Glebe, due 1st September, for the accommodation of the militia of this parish	30	—	—	

In cash 1817. TOTAL - - £. 512 19 4½

The *Glebe land*, consisting of between fifty-six and fifty-seven acres, having some land of my own adjoining it, and cultivating it at present with my own negroes, and grazing also cattle thereon, it will be impossible *exactly* to specify its emoluments, but it may possibly be *let* altogether, as it varies in its soil and value, at *twenty* shillings an acre; and if so, it may be computed at 56*l.* 10*s.* currency a year, which is 512*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.* per annum, including the present of 100*l.*

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient and very humble Servant,

(Signed) A. K. Thomas.

(In Lord Combermere's Letter, August 20th, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 21.

MY LORD,

St. George's Parsonage, August 16, 1817.

FINDING that the Reverend Dr. Hutchins, who officiated in my absence, had not sent to your lordship the account of the population of this parish, I lost no time after my return to obtain the necessary information; and now beg leave to enclose the list according to your lordship's directions, and strange however it may appear, many of the parishioners are averse to send in their respective accounts.

In looking over the amount of *burials* during my absence, I find that three or four soldiers from the barracks near me were interred in the church-yard. Your lordship will allow me therefore to observe, that although as rector of this parish, I may be disposed to give up my own fees, I have no right to require either the clerk or the sexton to do the same; the latter indeed makes a separate demand for digging the graves, when he is obliged to *hire* negroes, or make his own slaves do that office. And with respect to the baptisms of soldiers' children, when they are brought to the church

church I officiate gratis, as hitherto I have always done, to all white or coloured persons who come or are brought there for that purpose.

Correspondence.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient and very humble Servant,
(Signed) *A. K. Thomas.*

Copy of a Letter from Major General Murray to the Earl Bathurst, with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

Demerara, 9th August 1817.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's dispatch (circular) of the 7th April 1817, and in obedience to your instructions, to state in reply,

That there is only one living of the Church of England within my government, namely, that of George Town, with a salary of 8,200 guilders per annum attached to it, 3,200 of which is paid out of the King's chest, and 5,000 out of the colonial chest.

There is a church, for which the congregation is of late become too large, and yet I must observe that it is scarcely ever crowded. The Colony would not however be disinclined to erect a new one in due time, nor do I think any opposition would be made to building a parsonage, which there is not at present; the incumbent Mr. Straghan resides in George Town, is exempted from town taxes, and the church is open to people of all colours during Divine Service.

Mr. Straghan states, that he attends on Mondays at the church to christen any slaves who present themselves, properly recommended, of whom, and for which, he demands no fees; but when at the desire of a planter he visits his estate for that purpose, the fee which is offered by the master is accepted.

There is a Dutch clergyman upon the same establishment as the English one, and his flock has permission to assemble in the English church; there is a Scotch church nearly complete, by private subscription, and a pastor expected from Scotland, who will also be upon the same establishment of income.

It is much to be regretted that there are not any other establishments of the national church in a Colony affording so wide a field for religious instruction, which in every point of view is so important; I think this a favourable period to bring about so desirable a state, and therefore, in the hope of being instrumental to promoting the benevolent views of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent and His Majesty's government, as well as to the procuring so great a blessing for the inhabitants, I humbly avail myself of the opportunity to offer some observations, the result of my local knowledge and limited experience founded upon the actual state of the Colony.

This I conceive would admit of, and requires, the formation of five additional parishes, for the boundaries of which, it would be desirable to take the opinion of the Court of Policy. From a few miles eastward of the town to Abary Creek (the boundary between us and Berbice) might constitute one; both sides of the Demerary River from a short distance above the town, another; from the termination of this one, on the west bank to the highest settlements on the eastern bank of the Essequibo, a third, including Fort Island; the Islands of Leguan and Wakenaam in Essequibo River might be properly united in one parish, and a fifth might embrace the western bank of the Essequibo, and what is termed the Arabian Coast to Pomeroon, perhaps including Tiger Island and some others on the left bank of the Essequibo.

The endowments are the next objects to consider. I am led to suppose that the proprietors would give effect to some such arrangement with universal satisfaction; and as liberality is really a leading feature of their character, I feel convinced that they would readily assent to any reasonable, individual, parochial, or colonial contribution. Each parish, perhaps, should provide a glebe and parsonage, together with proper places for the performance of Divine Worship, in the first instance, until it be determined from what funds the churches are to be supplied, for it does not appear that it would be judicious to retard an establishment so desirable, by waiting for the erection of churches, as suitable buildings are to be found on the different estates, and experience will be found the best guide to selecting the sites of churches; it will perhaps be found necessary that the ministers should officiate in more places than one within their respective parishes.

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I will venture to assure your lordship, that the Court of Policy will be found disposed to make a liberal provision for the incumbents; for although I fear that the King's chest could not contribute much, yet it presume I might afford all practicable assistance towards such an institution. In my estimation, an income of 500*l.* per annum, including fees, would be the smallest which, considering the enormous rate of living here, could be assigned for a clergyman, in support of that respectability and comfort due to his sacred character and functions, exclusive of a house and glebe, to enable him to provide for the education of his children and his own maintenance in old age, which every man who expatriates himself and braves a treacherous climate for the public good, has a right to expect.

Very much of the success of such an establishment must depend upon the selection of well-qualified ministers; a great zeal will be necessary to enable them to make head against the sectaries they will find themselves in practice opposed to, but this must be tempered with discretion, in a community where the condition of the different classes of society, manners, customs and ideas, are so different from those of European countries; a conciliatory disposition, which, in the outset especially, can accommodate itself to what does not involve a dereliction of principle, will be found necessary to bring about the beneficial results we here anticipate.

The appointment of catechists under the control of the several clergymen, might, I think, be advantageously employed in instructing the slave population in the elementary principles of true religion; but this must be a subject for future consideration, when the establishment I have now had the honour to propose, shall have been under your lordship's consideration. I have only to apologise for this obtrusion of my ideas upon the subject, and to assure you, that I shall be happy to be employed in executing your lordship's commands in any way that you may deem most advisable, to the best of my ability.

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Reverend W. G. Straghan, in reply to the queries contained in your lordship's Dispatch of the 7th April.

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

I have, &c.

Jno. Murray.

* The original of this dispatch not having been received, and the duplicate of which this is a copy, not containing the enclosure here referred to, it is necessarily omitted.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Maxwell to the Earl Bathurst; with Two Enclosures.

MY LORD,

Dominica, 1st July 1817.

IN reply to your circular of the 7th April last, I have the honour to transmit to your lordship the reports of the Reverend H. C. C. Newman, and the Reverend L'Abbé Piron, on the subject of it. I have to observe, that as most of the inhabitants of this Colony are Roman Catholics, the greater portion of the slaves are baptised in that faith. I have directed L'Abbé in future to register all baptisms, in order to furnish the triennial return, as desired by your lordship.

I have the honour to be, &c.

To the Right honourable the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

Chas W. Maxwell.

(In Governor Maxwell's of the 1st July 1817.)

SIR,

Dominica, 30th June 1817.

THIS Island is divided into ten parishes, namely, St. George, St. Paul, St. Joseph, St. Peter, St. John, St. Andrew, St. David, St. Patrick, St. Mark, and St. Luke. The only living is that of St. George, to which is annexed a salary by the Colony of 1,000*l.* currency per annum. There is no protestant church. Divine service is performed in the court-house in the town of Roseau, and is open to all classes of persons, white, free, and slaves. There is no parsonage house; but I have constantly resided in the parish of St. George since my first appointment to the cure of it in the month of July 1809. The fee for the baptism of a slave is eighteen pence; for registering the same, eight shillings and three-pence; and for a certificate, if required, also eight shillings and three-pence currency; which fees are usually paid by the masters. I have baptised altogether 697 children slaves, and 339 adult slaves, who are become members of the Established Church; and I am

happy

happy in being enabled to add, from the authority of their owners and managers, that they are much improved in their morals and behaviour since their initiation into the Christian faith.

Correspondence.

I have, &c.

H. C. C. Newman,
Rector of the parish of St. George
and Town of Roseau.

To his Excellency Governor Maxwell,
&c. &c. &c.

(In Governor Maxwell's of the 1st July 1817.)

MONSIEUR,

1^r Juillet 1817.

JE dois vous informer que l'église est ouverte tous les jours, pour tous les fideles en Jesus Christ, sans distinctions de classes ou conditions ; et que plusieurs esclaves y se rendent ; specialement les Samedis et Dimanches, les Samedis pour se conférer et baptiser leurs enfans ; et les Dimanches pour assister à la messe, et predication du Saint Evangile, ce qui fait le bon ordre des ateliers.

Les Samedis on baptise les esclaves, les quels on paye pour chaque, de tout temps, quatre escalins ; mais je ne peux dire si ils sortent de la poche du maitre ou des esclaves.

Quant au nombre des esclaves qui ont été baptisés par moi, il est impossible de le produire, vu qu'on ne tiene les registres pour les esclaves dans les Colonies, et c'est la pratique que j'ai trouvé. On baptise tous les Samedis, tantôt cinque, huit, dix, dix-sept, &c. par ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur Ainslie. On ne demande qu'un billet de permission de leur maitre.

C'est tout ce que je peux informer dans ce moment en vertu de l'ordre de son Excellence.

M^r j'ai l'honneur d'etre, &c.

L' Abbé Piron.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Riall to Earl Bathurst ; with three Enclosures.

MY LORD,

Grenada, September 5, 1817.

IN obedience to your lordship's direction of the 7th April last, I herewith transmit the different reports required from the clergymen holding livings within this government.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) *P. Riall*, Governor.

(In Governor Riall's Letter of September 5th, 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 1.

SIR,

Carriacou, August 15th, 1817.

EARL Bathurst's letter to the Governor, the receipt of a copy of which I have the honour to acknowledge, comprises so many points of inquiry, that the information which his Excellency has directed you to request of me has required some research, and much patient thinking ; yet the chief difficulty which has occurred to me is the necessity of compressing my ideas within the limits of a letter. The original designation, I apprehend, of this Island (of Carriacou) by the French Government, which settled it, was, for two parishes ; the eastern part of it, named (or to be named) St. John's ; the western St. Peter's : but from some obstacle to the completion of the design, arising perhaps either from the poverty of infant settlements, or decrease of population, the plan was abandoned, and the parish now comprises the Island of Carriacou, from which the parish takes its name, and three smaller Islands, distant from it from one to five leagues. The salary assigned to it by the local government is, at the present rate of exchange, (two hundred and fifteen per cent.) exactly three hundred pounds sterling.

There has been no church in the parish since my presentation to it, in the year 1802. Immediately previous to that event, an unfinished wooden building was purchased for my reception, for the sum of about a hundred and fifty

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pounds sterling : and fifty pounds more were added towards its completion. The lower part of this house being the most decent and convenient place for public worship, was fitted up at my own expense for, and appropriated to, that purpose. The Black population have equal access to it with the White. There is a piece of land, of about six acres, adjoining the town of Hillsborough (a group of five or six houses;) but not contiguous to the church-house, which was bequeathed to the Roman Catholic Church, by a person of this Island, to defray the charge of saying masses at stated times for his soul; but on account of the purpose of the bequest it was taken away, and it has been transferred to the Church of England. This piece of land, after deducting about an acre for a block-house and play-ground for the garrison (if there should ever be one,) remains attached to the church; but in order to repress discontent at this assumption, which I had some reason to suspect, it is at the service of any poor persons, of either communion, indiscriminately, to erect huts upon; and is now the greater part of it thus occupied. If aught done by the living could benefit the dead, the blessings of so many destitute beings would be more availing than the prayers of a Roman Catholic priest! Non-residence is never thought of. From the unhealthiness of the town, I was under the necessity of removing to the glebe, distant from it about three miles, and situated in a pleasant, cool valley, open to the eastern breeze, a circumstance the most conducive to health in the West Indies. The parsonage cottage was, however, so decayed and ruinous, as not to afford shelter without the wretched contrivance of placing vessels to catch the rain as it ran through the tattered roof, (it having been built for the accommodation of the first Roman Catholic priest, on the settlement of the Island.) Governor Maitland granted me about fifty pounds sterling to keep it from falling, for it was rotted off its legs, and tumbled at every breeze. It has lately been repaired, or rather rebuilt, within these few months, the legislature having voted five hundred pounds currency for that purpose about three years ago; but from some adverse incidents the object of the donation was unavoidably postponed. In the interval the price of the materials has been so augmented by public occurrences, that the sum has fallen short of the expense by a hundred and fifty pounds. Probably the legislature, if his Excellency would have the condescension to interpose, would not object to supply the deficiency; and indeed three hundred pounds sterling cannot be deemed an extravagant price for a parsonage-house. A horse-stable was necessary: I have added one at an expense of about fifty pounds sterling; this cannot be objected to as a *superfluity*. There is yet no kitchen of any description, but how to obtain one I know not, nor is it less difficult to conceive how it can be dispensed with: a negro house, the only one which the glebe possesses, I have put up at my own expense; this, however, I do not notice with a view to remuneration, and if requisite, I will cheerfully pay the extra charge already incurred; and also add a kitchen, alike indispensable; but I know there are some gentlemen of the legislature, and believe there is no exception, who would consider such excessive frugality derogatory to the Colony. No fee whatever on the baptism of slaves, has been ever, on any pretence, demanded or received by me: on the contrary, I enjoin the negroes to bring their children to me for baptism, in season and out of season, as the exigency of the case may require; and frequently do baptise them at all hours at the parsonage, as well as at the times appointed for Divine service at church. It is impossible to state with any degree of precision, the number of slaves who have become members of the Church of England since my ministry here, unless it be by supposing them attached to it at their baptism; which is, in almost every instance, during their infancy; and may, I believe, be fairly computed at half the population, or about two thousand. The rest are called Roman Catholics, and indeed some of the rites of the papal church are so analogous to some of their own pagan superstitions, that it is rather surprising the negroes are not generally proselytised by it. Their attachment to any religion is, I doubt not, strong; estimating the vigour of their principles by their practice, christianity seems to have in general but feeble hold of their hearts. Their attendance at church is very occasional. When I remonstrate, they reply, that if they come to church they must starve, for Sunday is the only day they have to cultivate their gardens; the plea is so reasonable that I cannot oppose it; but I heartily wish their masters would deprive them of it, by allowing them one day in each week to labour for themselves. They have no idea of sacrificing their present interest or pleasure to their duty, and are always ready to make their ignorance an excuse for their vices. If they have no time for instruction, ignorance is unavoidable. I have commenced my list of names and dates, mothers' names and places of abode, in order to a triennial return of baptisms.

It

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It could not but be painful in the extreme to any clergyman conscious of his duty to be suspected of remissness. As to the conversions so brilliantly described by some of the sectaries, I much doubt whether they are not in many instances illusory ; that much good has been done by them, I willingly believe, and trust that Providence will accept all those who with simplicity of heart, are labouring for the melioration of the most abject variety of the human species ; but from the means of information which I once had of the accounts transmitted by the Methodist Society in Grenada, to their president, the late Rev. Doctor Coke, with whose esteem I was honoured, and from opportunities, of which I availed myself, to compare those accounts with the actual subjects of them ; I had sometimes cause to lament, that what the Missionaries mistook for conversion to christianity, was only the fleeting effect of curiosity, or that temporary admiration which novelty excites in frivolous minds. Their preachers, with a zeal that did them honour, spared no pains, and actually, by the friendly violence of their exhortations, "rending with tremendous sound their ears asunder," *compelled* many to come in to them ; but it was soon discovered that, to use a striking scriptural allusion, "there was much grass in the place." Many who paid them that prompt lively attention, which seemed to indicate moral energy, but who yet languished and withered away under those trials which our Saviour has announced to all who will invariably adhere to him. I hope this amplification will be allowed ; some of the matter of this letter, I am aware, may seem extraneous, but it is closely connected with the subject, and necessary to elucidation. That means may be found to facilitate the conversion of the negroes, I have no doubt ; but our excellent liturgy is totally beyond their comprehension ; and were we to address our congregations in language which the negroes could only imperfectly conceive, there is no person of any erudition, or even of a moderate understanding, who, unless his patience were supported by his piety, would bear to hear us. To human beings whose moral feelings and intellectual faculties have been suspended for ages unknown, and at length almost exterminated by an execrable system of oppression ; under which, in order to endure existence, it was necessary to suppress every generous sentiment, to stifle every tender emotion, to forget they were men—every consideration that the horror of their situation can suggest, and the benevolence of the christian religion inspire, is certainly due ; and I trust that those habits, which African despotism has induced, will be soon annihilated by the liberal policy of a humane and an enlightened age and nation.

In my humblesphere, I have endeavoured, and will endeavour, as opportunity can be found, to perform the amicable office which Earl Bathurst has described in his lordship's most beautiful conclusion.

Allow me to assure you of the most respectful consideration of,
 Sir, your obedient humble servant,
 (Signed) *William Nash.*

Lieut. Col. Wilson, Sec.

(In Governor Riall's Letter, September 5th, 1817.)

Enclosure, No. 2.

REPORT made by the Reverend Benjamin Webster, Rector of the United Parishes of St. Patrick, St. Andrew, and St. David, in the Island of Grenada, to his Excellency Major General Phineas Riall, Governor, &c. &c. &c., 31st July 1817.

LIVINGS.

By the Clergy Acts at present in force, and passed by its legislature in the months of December 1807, and March 1813, the Island of Grenada is divided into two benefices or cures ; the first of which comprehends the united parishes of St. George, St. John, and St. Mark ; the second those of St. Patrick, St. Andrew, and St. David, as shown in the annexed map.

SALARIES.

The government of the Colony assigns to each rector, or incumbent, of the above-mentioned benefices, an annual salary of 660*l.* of Grenada current money, which, at the present rate of exchange, is equal to 306*l.* 19*s.* 6½*d.* sterling money of Great Britain ; and these are paid half-yearly by the public treasurer of the Island.

CHURCHES and PARSONAGES.

There is not a church, chapel, or parsonage, in either of the parishes of St. Patrick, St. Andrew, or St. David. In the parish of St. Patrick, Divine service is solemnized in

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in a room which forms the upper part of a public building, termed a court-house, erected for and appropriated to the public purposes and uses of the parish, and situated in the market town of St. Patrick.—In the parish of St. Andrew, Divine service is performed in a similar room, of a similar building, in the market town of Grenville, in the parish; the lower parts of these two mentioned public buildings, serve as places of confinement, or parish gaols for delinquent slaves.—In the parish of St. David, a small building is rented from the proprietors of a central sugar estate in the parish, by the legislation of the Island, and appropriated to the performance of public worship, and other public uses of the parish. These three places are open to all descriptions of persons desirous of attending public worship, whether white, free, or slaves.

RESIDENCE.

There being no parsonage in either of the parishes composing the second benefice, an allowance is made to its rector by the local government, of 100*l.* current money of the Island (which is, at the present rate of exchange, equal to 46*l.* 10*s.* 2½*d.* sterling money) to enable him to provide himself with a dwelling-house; and he accordingly rents a small one in the parish of St. Patrick, in which he resides, with a wife and family.

BAPTISM of SLAVES, and FEES.

It is recommended to slaves, and they are encouraged to bring their children to the places of public worship for baptism; and that office, public or private, is ever readily and willingly performed by the minister of the Established Church, gratis; no fee being expected, demanded, or paid by slave or master.

It has hitherto, however, been the practice of the officiating Roman Catholic priests, who have no public establishment or stipend, to exact fees from slaves for church offices performed for them.

A GENERAL RETURN of the Baptisms of Slaves, performed and registered in the united Parishes of St. Patrick, St. Andrew, and St. David, in the year 1816.

PARISHES.	Adults.			Children.			GENERAL TOTAL.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
St. Patrick's - - -	8	9	17	45	38	83	100
St. Andrew's - - -	7	1	8	19	22	41	49
St. David's - - -	1	1	2	4	4	8	10
GENERAL TOTAL -	16	11	27	68	64	132	159

A GENERAL RETURN of the Baptisms of Slaves, performed and registered in the united Parishes of St. Patrick, St. Andrew, and St. David, from the 1st of January to the 30th of June, in the Year 1817.

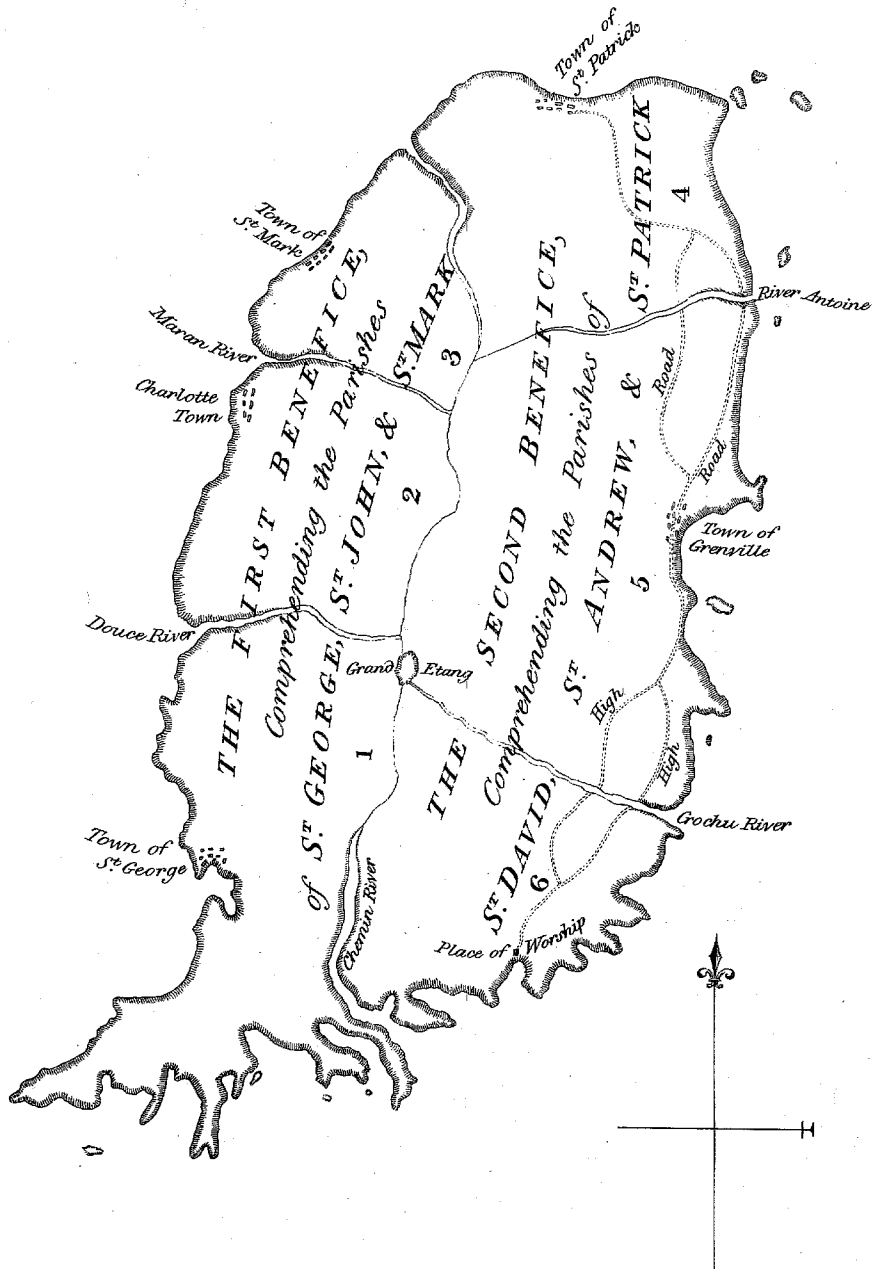
PARISHES.	Adults.			Children.			GENERAL TOTAL.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
St. Patrick's - - -	7	3	10	30	32	62	72
St. Andrew's - - -	6	4	10	13	9	22	32
St. David's - - -	-	-	-	4	1	5	5
GENERAL TOTAL -	13	7	20	47	42	89	109

The adults baptised, are Africans imported into the Island during the existence of the slave trade.

Map of the
ISLAND OF GRENADA,

Divided into two Benefices,
and Six Parishes.

1817.



SLAVES, MEMBERS of the ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

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Although the number of slaves who occasionally attend public Divine Service in the course of a year may be considerable, yet not more than five or six in a parish do actually attend oftener than six times in the course of that period of time, and can therefore be strictly considered members of the Established Church of England.

SUNDAY is the general public MARKET DAY in the different parishes throughout the Island, and almost the only one on which slaves have an opportunity of bartering the produce of the provision grounds allotted to them by their masters, for other commodities which they may require during the week ensuing, or vending them, and expending the amount received for them, in purchasing articles from the stores or shops of merchants. These markets are generally at their height during the performance of Divine Service, and being holden on the Sabbath day, little attention or respect is shown by slaves to the religious duties of the day.

PERFORMANCE of DIVINE SERVICE.

By the Clergy Acts of the Island, mentioned in the first part of this report, the Rector of the 2d Benefice is required to perform Divine service, on the first Sunday of each and every month, in the parish of St. David; on the third Sunday in each and every month in the parish of St. Patrick; and on the remaining Sundays in each and every month, in the central parish of St. Andrew. Divine service is moreover performed in either the parish of St. Patrick or St. Andrew, on the public festival and fast days observed by the Church of England, particularly on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Ascension Day, and Christmas Day.

The distances between the several places of worship in the different parishes, forming the second benefice, are as follow :

From the town of St. Patrick, in the Parish of Saint Patrick, to the town of Grenville, in the parish of St. Andrew, by the public high road traced in the annexed plan, is ten and a quarter English statute miles - - -	} Miles. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$
From the town of Grenville, in the Parish of St. Andrew, to the place of worship in the parish of St. David, is eleven and a quarter English statute miles - - - - -	} 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
From the town of St. Patrick in the parish of St. Patrick, to the place of worship in the parish of St. David, is twenty-one and a half English statute miles - - - - -	} 21 $\frac{1}{2}$

(Signed) *Benjamin Webster,*
Rector of the united parishes of St. Patrick,
St. Andrew, and St. David.

(In Governor Riall's Letter, 5th September 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 3.

SIR,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of the 6th instant, enclosing a copy of a communication from Earl Bathurst to his Excellency the Governor, requiring information on certain points of the protestant establishment of this Island.

By a colonial law passed in December 1807 the parishes of St. George, St. John, and St. Mark, were united and formed into one benefice, and since that period I have been the incumbent constantly residing on my living, and performing the duties in person from the day of my induction.

The stipend allotted is 600*l.* currency, or about 306*l.* sterling payable from the treasury of this Island.

In the town of St. George there is an excellent church, with a commodious parsonage attached; there is also in the parish of St. John a small church with a parsonage house lately repaired. In the parish of St. Mark there is no church or place for the performance of Divine worship, as the land appropriated for this purpose has been, with the glebe, taken possession of by the proprietor or renter of the neighbouring estate; and in a suit which I instituted for their recovery a few years back at a very considerable expense, I was unsuccessful, but to this subject I shall have the honour to solicit his Excellency's attention at a future period.

The churches are open at all times during Divine service to such of the Black population as are desirous of attending, but I regret to say they are comparatively few,

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few, as the major part of the free coloured inhabitants and slaves have been brought up in the Romish persuasion.

No fee of any description is demanded or taken for the baptism of slaves, or the performance of any clerical duty required by them, by any minister of the protestant establishment in this Island.

By the return which I have the honour to enclose, you will see the number of adults admitted into our church, as well as the number of infants baptised.

I shall, in compliance with your direction, furnish the triennial return required.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) *Francis M^cMahon*,
Rector of St. George's, St. John's
and St. Mark's.

St. George's, Grenada,
July 28th, 1817.

RETURN of Slaves baptized in the united Parishes of St. George, St. John, and St. Mark, in the Island of Grenada, from the 25th day of March 1808 to the 25th day of March 1817.

Years.	Men.	Women.	Infants.
1809	37	60	42
1810	6	20	35
1811	3	15	28
1812	8	19	36
1813	13	6	42
1814	3	1	53
1815	20	18	22
1816	4	17	92
1817	13	11	15
	107	167	343

TOTAL - - - 617.

(Signed) *Francis M^cMahon*,
Rector of the United Parishes of St. George,
St. John, and St. Mark.

JAMAICA.

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of Manchester to the Earl Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

King's House, Jamaica, 30th May 1817.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your lordship's dispatch of the 7th ultimo, marked 'Circular,' and enclose, for your lordship's information, the number and names of the livings and incumbents, and the stipends allowed to them by law in this Island; and am to acquaint your lordship, that they all reside in their several parishes, and are in the discharge of their duty, with the exception of Mr. Simcocks, who has obtained my permission to go to Europe for the recovery of his health.

There are churches and parsonages in every parish, except the parish of Manchester, which has been very recently formed out of three other parishes; and contracts have been entered into for building a church and parsonage in Manchester.

The churches are all open to all persons, without any distinction of colour or class, who may be disposed to attend Divine worship.

I have

I have called upon the several incumbents to make a return to me of the number of slaves baptised within their pastoral care, and to furnish me with the amount of the fee which they may have demanded or received for baptising slaves, and have directed their particular attention to the other objects of your lordship's instructions.

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

I have, &c.

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

Manchester.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 30th May 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 1.

JAMAICA:—A RETURN of the Number and Names of the several Livings in this Island, with the Names of the Incumbents, and the Annual Stipend established by Law.

PARISHES.	INCUMBENTS.	REMARK.
Kingston - - - -	The Rev. Isaac Mann.	An annual stipend is paid out of the Public Treasury, of £. 240 to each rector, deducting therefore 10 per cent., which is reserved for the purpose of forming a fund for the maintenance and support of the widows and children of clergymen dying here. This annual stipend is over and above all surplice fees, and some parochial assistance for servants, &c. which varies in different places.
Port Royal - - - -	- - - Thomas Simcocks.	
St. Andrew - - - -	- - - A. Campbell.	
St. Thomas in the East	- - - John West.	
St. David - - - -	- - - W. A. Pownall.	
Portland - - - -	- - - P. Humphries.	
St. George - - - -	- - - Edward Marshall.	
St. Catharine - - - -	- - - W. V. Hamilton.	
St. Dorothy - - - -	- - - George Bridges.	
St. John - - - -	- - - W. J. Haswell.	
St. Thomas in the Vale	- - - W. G. Burton.	
Clarendon - - - -	- - - T. P. Williams.	
Vere - - - -	- - - G. C. R. Fearon.	
Manchester - - - -	- - - J. M. C. Trew.	
St. Mary - - - -	- - - Colin Donaldson.	
St. Anne - - - -	- - - L. Bowerbank.	
St. Elizabeth - - - -	- - - T. Stewart.	
Westmoreland - - - -	- - - Edmund Pope.	
Hanover - - - -	- - - D. W. Rose.	
St. James - - - -	- - - Henry Jenkins.	
Trelwany - - - -	- - - William Fraser.	

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of Manchester to the Earl Bathurst; with twenty-two Enclosures.

MY LORD, King's House, Jamaica, 23d October 1817.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your lordship the returns made by the several incumbents in this Island, relative to the fee, if any, which has been demanded on the baptism of slaves, and the number of slaves who have become members of the Church of England.

I have, &c.

To the Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

Manchester.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 1.

SIR, Montego Bay, St. James's, June 4th, 1817.

IN answer to the circular of the 26th ultimo, I beg you will have the goodness to state to his Grace the Governor, that in the course of thirty years, eleven of which were passed in Jamaica, I never have demanded a fee for performing any of the duties of my function, not even the legal fee on the baptism of slaves. When a fee is offered I take it, sometimes 3 s. 4 d. is given, sometimes more, and very often nothing;

Correspondence.
Jamaica.

I leave it to the option of the parties either to give any thing or to decline it. The fee is, to the best of my knowledge, paid by the owner of the slave.

The number of the slaves baptised by me in this parish, stands thus :

1814	- -	from April 14th	- -	86
1815	- -	- - - - -	- -	146
1816	- -	- - - - -	- -	1,123
1817	- -	to this date	- -	342
Total				<u>1,697</u>

Of these, all are of course members of the Church of England, though none of them are communicants. Many of them live at a great distance, and cannot therefore attend Divine service regularly; but such as do attend are instructed on Sunday mornings immediately after the congregation is dismissed. After prayers in the evening a discourse is delivered, or a lecture adapted, according to the best of my abilities, for the instruction of the slaves and people of free condition.

When my pastoral duties call me into the country, I embrace every such opportunity to speak to the slaves on the subject of our moral and religious obligations, as far as a short visit will permit. All this, however, will not have the desired effect on people of a very slow apprehension, unless the master, or some other person in his absence, take the trouble of instructing them from time to time; or a certain number of catechists be appointed for the distant parts of the parish under the direction of the rector. Our united endeavours, with the blessing of God, would I am persuaded be productive of much good to the slaves.

I feel satisfied that I have ever discharged the several duties of my office with the greatest activity I was capable of, and to the best of my abilities, and trust there will be no ground for the Prince Regent's Government to cast any imputation on my conduct, or to reproach me with inactivity or indifference in my profession.

I have, &c.

Henry Jenkins.

To William Bullock, esquire,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure,
No. 2.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

SIR,

Rectory, Vere, June 12th, 1817.

I HAVE the honour of acknowledging the receipt of your favour of the 26th ultimo. It has been an invariable rule on my part never to demand fees of any kind; what I have received have been voluntarily tendered. The amount of fees received for baptisms is as follows, for twenty-three slaves baptised on estates, two dollars a head; forty-four baptised in church, four bits a head; and for five also baptised in church, two bits a head, and for the remainder whom I have baptised, amounting to 285, I have received nothing as yet.

The fees for baptising on estates have been paid by the masters; but the four bits and two bits, I have understood, since your circular, have been paid by the slaves. Since my appointment the number of slaves admitted into the Church of England has been 357.

I have the pleasure of being, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

G. C. R. Fearon.

Enclosure,
No. 3.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

SIR,

Rectory, Hanover, June 10th, 1817.

I HAVE received the honour of your circular of 26th of May, to which I would have replied by the last post, but was absent from home on official duties.

I observe that it is the wish of his Grace the Governor to state to Earl Bathurst "the amount of the fee, if any, which is demanded on baptism, and whether such fee be usually paid by the master, or by the slave." In answer, I beg leave respectfully to assure his Grace that no fee is demanded on baptism, or for any duty performed by me in my parish. There is, however, a fee of 2s. 6d. for baptism, which was fixed at the last session, and I think in the curate bill; and there is an old law, which leaves it to the discretion of the magistrates and vestry to fix the rector's

Correspondence.
Jamaica.

rector's fees; but the gentlemen in the parish knowing the principle on which my several duties were discharged, thought it unnecessary to establish my fees. The principle is, that whenever I am called upon to officiate, whether at a short or remote distance, I obey the summons, do my duty, and afterwards leave it to the parties to remunerate me as they think proper; and I do with great pride and pleasure declare, that the fees have usually, nay I may say have always been paid by the master, and not by the slaves; I cannot take upon myself to say positively that I know of any instance of a slave paying for his baptism.

His Grace the Governor requires that I should make a return of the slaves I have baptised. I shall be able, by the first post after the 28th of this month, to forward a correct return of the number I have baptised the last three years, say from June 28th, 1814, to June 28th, 1817; and should his Grace require the number I baptised the preceding years, I shall cheerfully obey the orders and forward a correct list; and I shall hope to make a triennial return of every particular that is required of me, which may be satisfactory to his Grace and His Majesty's Government.

To William Bullock, Esquire,
King's House.

I remain, &c.
Daniel Warner Rose.

A RETURN, as copied from the Parish Register and the Estates Books, of Slaves baptised in the Parish of Hanover, Jamaica, by the Rev. Daniel Warner Rose, Rector, in the Years 1814, 1815, 1816, and up to the 28th June 1817; with the Names of the Properties, and Proprietors to whom they belong, and the time when they were baptised.

PROPERTIES, or PLACE of BAPTISM.	PROPRIETORS.	Number Baptised.	When Baptised.
			1814:
At Green Island	To various Owners	22	February 5.
- Bounty Hall	- D. Cameron, esq.	9	— 12.
- Ditto	- Mr. Ewar	4	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Various Owners	17	Ditto.
- Davis's Cove	- R ^d Dickson, esq.	36	April 2.
- Argyle	- John Malcolm, esq.	64	March 22.
- Burnt Ground	- J. H. James, esq.	120	— 23.
- Cousin's Cove	- R ^d Dickson, esq.	184	April 3.
- Ditto	- Mrs. Brown	22	Ditto.
- Grange	- J. Shalto Douglas, esq.	210	—
- Glasgow	- R. Wallace, esq.	177	— 30.
- Ditto	- Various Owners	33	
- Haughton Court	- Sir S. Taylor	28	July 16.
- Ditto	- W ^m Hudson, esq.	9	Ditto.
- Fish River	- A. Sharp, esq.	25	
- Lucea	- Sarah Dias	7	October 14.
- Ditto	- K. Gilmore	2	Ditto.
- Ditto	- J. Thompson	2	Ditto.
- Barbacan	- Miss Dehany	10	— 16.
- Province	- A. Gray and others	57	November 30.
- Harding Hall	- R. Allwood, esq.	4	December 27.
- Haughton Court	- Sir S. Taylor	9	
- Lucea	- W ^m T. Chambers	1	
			1815:
- Abington	- R. Vassal, esq.	184	April.
- Riley's	- S. Riley, esq.	28	May.
- Orange Bay	- — Blagrove, esq.	28	June 7.
- Campbelton	- — Gordon, esq.	187	— 9.
- Mr. Chalmer's	- Montpelier	4	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Fish River	4	Ditto.
- Ditto	- James Lawrence	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- G. Chalmers	1	Ditto.
- Lucea	- A. McCallum, esq.	2	August 25.
- Green Island	- Various Owners	11	September 8.
- Blue Hole	- Mrs. Sharp	116	December 11.
- Ditto	- Green Pond	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- B. H. H. Tharp	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- William Prince	1	Ditto.
- Chelsea	-	6	— 19.
- Argyle	- John Malcolm, esq.	175	— 21.
- Orange Cove	- William Allen, esq.	1	— 25.
- Round Hill	- Welcome Estate	5	November.
- Lucea	- Ditto	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Moses Levy	2	Ditto.

(continued)

Correspondence. Jamaica.	PROPERTIES, or PLACE of BAPTISM.	PROPRIETORS.	Number Baptised.	When Baptised.
				1816;
At Lucea	- - - - -	To Various Owners - - - - -	9	January 1.
- Green Island	- - - - -	- William Grant, esq. - - - - -	9	February 4.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Richard Quarrell, esq. - - - - -	7	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- James Thompson, esq. - - - - -	35	Ditto.
- Lucea	- - - - -	- Walker, esq. - - - - -	1	— 18.
- Esfort	- - - - -	- Various Owners - - - - -	5	— 27.
- Lucea	- - - - -	- Jacob Levy, esq. - - - - -	1	April 7.
- Cold Spring	- - - - -	- Various Owners - - - - -	11	— 16.
- Cascade	- - - - -	- Robert Gilpin, esq. - - - - -	23	— 22.
- Lucea	- - - - -	- Mrs. Younger - - - - -	5	— 28.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Bucknor - - - - -	8	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Success - - - - -	7	May 9.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Mr. England - - - - -	4	— 14.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- B. Samuells - - - - -	9	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- B. Hazell - - - - -	2	Ditto.
- Coventry	- - - - -	- Duncan M'Kenzie - - - - -	12	June 4.
- Newfound River	- - - - -	- Vassal, esq. - - - - -	223	June.
- Kendall	- - - - -	- David Edwards - - - - -	53	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Hugh Munro, esq. - - - - -	6	Ditto.
- Prosper Penn	- - - - -	- P. J. Miles, esq. - - - - -	20	July 16.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Richmond Penn - - - - -	1	—
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Various Owners - - - - -	20	—
- Haughton Hall	- - - - -	- J. H. James, esq. - - - - -	194	Aug. 22.
- the Rectory	- - - - -	- Welcome - - - - -	3	September 18.
- Lucea	- - - - -	- Ditto - - - - -	1	October 10.
- Elgin	- - - - -	- John Clarke, esq. - - - - -	2	November 2.
- Dunalva	- - - - -	- Various Owners - - - - -	11	— 13.
- Knockalva	- - - - -	- Neil Malcolm, esq. - - - - -	153	— 21.
- Retrieve, New Works	- - - - -	- Ditto - - - - -	257	— 25.
- Retrieve, Old Works	- - - - -	- Ditto - - - - -	238	— 26.
- Pell River	- - - - -	- Ditto - - - - -	275	— 28.
- Paradise	- - - - -	- Ditto - - - - -	327	— 29.
- Retirement Penn	- - - - -	- Ditto - - - - -	33	Ditto.
- Blenheim	- - - - -	- Ditto - - - - -	255	— 30.
- Lucea	- - - - -	- A. Anderson - - - - -	1	December 10.
- the Rectory	- - - - -	- Rev. D. Warner Rose - - - - -	5	— 11.
				1817:
- Lucea	- - - - -	- Mr. M'Callum, and others - - - - -	5	January 1.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Charles Cote - - - - -	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Richard Chambers, esq. - - - - -	13	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Haughton Court - - - - -	2	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Samuel Riley, esq. - - - - -	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Great Valley - - - - -	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Mr. Besly - - - - -	2	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Mr. T. Chambers - - - - -	1	Ditto.
- Church	- - - - -	- William Allen, esq. - - - - -	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Tryal - - - - -	1	Ditto.
- Lucea	- - - - -	- Miss Monteath - - - - -	4	January 6.
- Rose Mount	- - - - -	- Doctor Campbell - - - - -	14	— 18.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Mount Pleasant - - - - -	8	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Robert Chisholm, esq. - - - - -	5	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Miss F. Ritchie - - - - -	3	Ditto.
- Williams Field	- - - - -	- Nathan Forrester - - - - -	2	January 22.
- Endeavour	- - - - -	- Mrs. Lawrence and others - - - - -	75	March 11.
- Church	- - - - -	- Mrs. Ganison - - - - -	6	— 30.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Richard Chambers, esq. - - - - -	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Jn° Chambers, esq. - - - - -	-	Ditto.
- Lucea	- - - - -	- Alexander M'Callum, esq. - - - - -	66	April 5.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Lewis Grant, esq. - - - - -	46	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- J. M'Callum - - - - -	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Mr. M'Callum - - - - -	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- J. A. Kennedy - - - - -	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Lee and M'Callum - - - - -	4	Ditto.
- the Rectory	- - - - -	- Doctor Zink - - - - -	1	April 6.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Blagrove, esq. - - - - -	1	— 13.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Mrs. Myers - - - - -	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Sir S. H. Clarke - - - - -	2	April 20.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Great Valley - - - - -	1	— 23.
- Claremont	- - - - -	- James Campbell and others - - - - -	19	May 3.
- Hill Side	- - - - -	- John Stewart - - - - -	46	— 9.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- E. Stewart - - - - -	4	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Nancy Morrison - - - - -	8	Ditto.
- Ditto	- - - - -	- Joseph Hemmins - - - - -	13	Ditto.

Returns.] TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES. 175

Correspondence.
Jamaica.

PROPERTIES, or PLACE of BAPTISM.	PROPRIETORS.	Number Baptised.	When Baptised.
At Lucea	To Sarah Dias and others	6	1817: May 14.
- Ditto	- D. Birch	1	- 16.
- Ditto	- Mr. Isaacs	2	- 18.
- Ditto	- Dehany	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Mary Hill	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Henry Besly	1	May 23.
- Ditto	- Robert Besly	1	Ditto.
- Spital	- James Thompson	38	May 29.
- Ditto	- Ditto	7 in	the year 1816.
- Woodlands	- William Campbell, esq.	36	1817: June 6.
- Ditto	- Doctor Maxwell	3	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Welcome	4	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Friendship	2	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Round Hill	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Haddington	4	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Various Owners	9	June 7.
- Knapdale	- Neil Campbell	35	- 13.
- Ditto	- Miss Campbell	6	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Mrs. Campbell	18	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Donald M. Campbell	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Miss M. Smith	2	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Mrs. Bernard	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Margaret Stewart	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- E. Bowers	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- P. J. Miles, esq.	2	Ditto.
- Church	- William Allen, esq.	14	June 15.
- Rectory	- Miss Dehany	2	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Mrs. Chambers	4	Ditto.
- Fat Hog Quarter	- S. H. Clarke	248	June 19.
- Ditto	- Woodhouse	167	Ditto.
- Friendship	- Simon Knubly, esq.	63	June 20.
- Ditto	- Rose Dent	8	Ditto.
- Ditto	- S. Payne	2	1817: June 20.
- Lucea	- Rebecca Bigby	11	- 22.
- Ditto	- Gilmore	2	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Anne Allen	4	Ditto.
- Ditto	- David Grant, esq.	-	June 23.
- Richmond	- P. J. Miles, esq.	175	Ditto.
- Prosper	- Ditto	110	June 24.
- Bachelor's Hall	- Ditto	162	Ditto.
- Cacaon Castle Penn	- Sir S. H. Clarke	121	June 25.
- David's Cove	- Richard Dickson, esq.	17	- 28.
- Ditto	- Nelly Murry	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Mrs. Walker	6	Ditto.
- Ditto	- David Grant, esq.	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- J. Dickson	1	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Hugh Munro, esq.	46	Ditto.
- Ditto	- John Bell, esq.	4	Ditto.
- Ditto	- George Henry, esq.	13	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Mrs. Younger	9	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Miss Patrick	11	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Miss Thelwell	3	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Miss Worrell	3	Ditto.
- Ditto	- D. Ross	3	Ditto.
- Ditto	- Devoy, esq.	21	Ditto.
- Ditto	- M. Ewar	1	Ditto.

SUMMARY.

No. Baptised in 1814	852
- Ditto - in 1815	929
- Ditto - in 1816	2,206
- Ditto up to 28th June 1817	1,686
TOTAL	5,773

Daniel Warner Rose,
Rector of Hanover.

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

Enclosure,
No. 4.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

SIR,

Rectory, Clarendon, June 9th, 1817.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your circular of the 26th of May. In reply to it, I beg leave to inform you that, on my taking possession of this living, I found the fee, as established by custom, for baptising a slave, thirteen shillings and four-pence; I have however never refused, in any case whatever, to baptise a slave for less than this sum. So far from having refused, my custom has always been (and it is still the same) to attend wherever I was required, and, after performing my duty, to receive whatever was offered. In many cases less than the above sum has been presented and accepted: but in no case, within my recollection, has more been offered. The fee for baptising a slave having however been fixed by the legislature at its last meeting, at two shillings and sixpence, this sum, with a very few exceptions, is now regularly tendered. Of the slaves whom I have baptised since my appointment to this parish, the fees for baptising upwards of four hundred of them, have been paid or are to be paid by their masters; and of the remainder, few I believe, have paid for themselves; their masters having generally given them the whole or the greater part of the fees which they were to present to me.

The number of slaves baptised by me in this parish, since my appointment as rector of it, which took place on the 9th day of December 1814, is 1,088:

That is, from the 9th day of December 1814 to the 31st day of December 1814 inclusive, there were baptised	-	-	-	-	-	35	slaves.
In 1815	-	-	-	-	-	301	
In 1816	-	-	-	-	-	479	
And from the 1st of January 1817 to the 9th day of June 1817, inclusive	-	-	-	-	-	273	
						In all	<u>1,088</u>

Of these 1,088 persons, about one third were under, and the remaining two thirds above, the age of sixteen.

From the above statement, it appears that the number of slaves baptised in the year 1816, is greater by 178 than the number baptised in the year 1815; and the number baptised from the 1st day of January 1817, to the present date inclusive, is greater by sixty than the number baptised for the same period of time last year, (the number of slaves baptised last year being, upon an average, forty in each month) and nearly equal to the whole number baptised in the year 1815.

Having thus stated such facts as will, I hope, enable his Grace the Governor to satisfy the inquiry instituted by Earl Bathurst, as far as relates to the parish of Clarendon, I come now, Sir, to that part of your circular which encourages me to a more active discharge of my duty. Anxious as I have ever been, and I trust I always shall be, to discharge my duty conscientiously, still it must be a stimulus to me to know that I have the eyes and the superintending care of His Majesty's government over me; placed in a situation far above my merits, my only care is to discharge my duty in such a way as, if not to merit the praise, yet certainly not to deserve the censure of my superiors. As rector of a parish containing a population of 18,000 souls, and extending over a district of many miles, I have time but little more than sufficient, to discharge the common functions of my office, in burying, marrying, and christening and attending on Sundays my church, which is situated at least ten miles from my rectory; limited, however, as I am with respect to time, I have yet endeavoured to do all that I could. Within the last thirteen months I have twice made known to the principal proprietors and attornies in this parish, my readiness to attend on such properties for the religious instruction of the slaves, as they would permit me to visit; but I have not been able to obtain the consent of more than two of them. Happy, however, am I in saying, that I trust I have been able to do some little good, the number of slaves who attend Divine service on Sundays, having of late increased and still continuing to increase. Their desire of religious instruction is great, and to gratify it, I labour as much as possible after the service of the morning is over.

In this parish we are fortunately blessed with no diversity of religion. The triennial return as required shall be forwarded.

In

In conclusion, allow me, Sir, to assure you that every thing which can be done for the benefit of the slaves in my parish shall be done by,

Sir, with the greatest respect, &c.

Tho. P. Williams,

To William Bullock, esquire, &c. &c. &c.
King's House.

Rector of the parish of Clarendon.

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 5.

SIR,

Piddingham, St. Anne's, 30th July 1817.

IN making out the return of the numbers of baptised slaves, as recorded in the parish register, which, together with my replies to the inquiries of his Grace the Governor, I had the honour to transmit to you; two days ago I met with the names of a large family, whose condition had not been designated by me at the time of making the usual entries, as to their baptisms, but knowing that it was in my power to clear up the point, as to their being slaves or otherwise, upon my going down to St. Ann's Bay, I left a vacant space for the sum total of those *known to be slaves*, who were baptised during 1815. After the inquiry, it escaped me to fill up the blank, which I have ascertained should be filled up with the sum of 129.

My having omitted to name the condition, when recording the usual circumstances, for identifying at the time of baptism, has been owing, I apprehend, to the following cause:

It has sometimes happened, that when I have had no opportunity but in public to ask of parents a particular description of their children, I have, after taking down their names, requested them to give me upon paper what was requisite to be put into the register, and thus these descriptions have in some instances proved defective.

I have, &c.

William Bullock, esq. &c. &c. &c.

Lewis Bowerbank.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 6.

SIR,

St. Thomas's in the East, 4th June 1817.

I HAVE received the circular letter of the 26th ult. directed by his Grace the Governor to be sent to the several clergymen of this Island, requesting answers to the following queries:

What fee has been demanded for the baptism of slaves? Whether it has been usually paid by the master or by the slave? And what number of slaves have become members of the Church of England? To which I answer as follows:

The fee for the baptism of slaves in this parish, (before the late Act of Assembly) was 6s. 8d., but many paid less, 1s. 8d., 3s. 4d., 5s., such a sum as they could easily afford; and from those whose appearance indicated poverty, no fee was taken. It was seldom, indeed, that any one pleaded poverty, but when they did, their plea was admitted.

Masters have sometimes paid for their slaves, but in general the slaves pay for themselves. Whenever I have been consulted respecting this point, I have always advised, that at least the *able* adult slaves should be allowed to pay for themselves and their children, because I have not the least doubt of their ability. And because, though negroes are ready to take whatever they can get from their masters, yet they always value that *most* for which they pay their own money.

About 200 Black people attend the Church every Sunday, not exclusively, however, for most of them attend also the Methodist's chapel in its vicinity, some constantly, some transiently. And there are above 50 who have attained so much knowledge of Christianity as to be admitted to the Holy Communion; but of these very few are slaves. The fact is, in respect to slaves in general, that their knowledge of the English language is so very limited, that they can derive little or no advantage from their attendance in church. They are so conscious of this defect, that when I go to church for the express purpose of catechising them, very few will attend, and not one of these will utter a word but what has been put in his mouth.

How

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

How then, it may be said, are 26,000 slaves, (the number in this parish) to be instructed? This subject has frequently engaged my thoughts, and I cannot conceive any other mode than this: Let the young Creole slaves be taught to *speak and read*, and at the same time be instructed in the first principles of the Christian religion, in public schools established in different parts of the parish; and let *them* communicate what instruction they have received in their own way to their African brethren, by whom it is impossible for White people to make themselves understood.

I have only to add, that the triennial returns of baptisms, &c. required by his grace, shall be attended to.

I have, &c.

William Bullock, esq.

John West.

Enclosure,
No. 7.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817; with one Enclosure.)

SIR,

St. Ann's, 7th July 1817.

IN reply to your letter, which I have had the honour to receive, containing the inquiries of his Grace the Governor, I beg leave to present you, for his lordship's information, as to the parish of St. Anne, the following statement:

The fee for the baptism of a slave, has for many years past been nominally two dollars; finding such to be the case upon my succeeding to the living in December 1814, and believing, both from my own experience, and from every information I could collect, that it was as low in this as in any parish of the Island, it was continued by me, until the passing of the act of the last session of the legislature, which reduced it to two shillings and sixpence, since which time, no more has ever been received by me for the performance of this duty in the church.

I have used the word *nominally*, because in a great majority of instances, the amount of this fee has been considerably less, and because in cases where no voluntary remuneration has been made, no demands have ever been preferred by me.

When attending the different properties within my parish, for the purpose of baptising slaves, (and at least three fourths of my duty of this nature has been done in this way), it is the usual practice, and with my full concurrence, to have reference rather to the distance, the circumstances of the proprietor, and things of a similar nature, than to the numbers presented to be baptised. I apprehend, that upon these occasions, the average upon each slave may vary from five shillings to ten, and but seldom amount to the maximum above mentioned.

In cases where but two or three, or a very few slaves have been selected for baptism, and on this account it has been thought right to consult me as to the compensation expected, my answer always was, that I considered the customary fee to be two dollars, but that upon a reason being assigned, I should be perfectly willing to do the duty for whatever might be given me. Instances have occurred since my being a beneficed clergyman in Jamaica, where I have been requested to attend, for the purpose of baptising slaves, at the distance of from twenty to thirty miles from the rectory, where no remuneration has been given, and in these no fees have been demanded.

When called upon to a distance, since the passing of the Act before-mentioned, I have invariably mentioned the alteration that has taken place by law, relative to the baptising of slaves, but have not hitherto experienced generally a diminution from that compensation which I have before received.

With respect to his lordship's inquiry whether the fee has been paid by the master or his slave, I think I am warranted in the assertion, that it is almost always paid by the master or his representative. For when called upon to visit any property, for the purpose of baptising, the summons invariably proceeds from him; any conversation as to compensation, when it has taken place, has always been with him, and it is through his hands that this compensation is most usually made. With regard to those who have come for this purpose to the church, it is usual with them to bring a letter from the proprietor or his representative, requesting me to baptise the bearer, in which case I have always considered the master as paying the fee. It has, however, sometimes happened, that the slaves have at the church pleaded poverty, in which case the duty has been invariably performed for nothing. In general, however, the candidate for baptism at the church pays the fee upon the conclusion

of

of service, as a thing generally known, and as a matter of course, without any explanation as to the source from whence it is derived.

Correspondence.
Jamaica.

It has been under the impression, that there exists no invariable rule upon this head, that since my holding preferment in Jamaica, I have frequently stated it to be my earnest wish, that the vestry of my parish would, upon inspection of my register, or after taking some eligible method of ascertaining the amount of a reasonable compensation, affix what they might consider a proper annual sum to the Rector, in lieu of his receiving any fees for the baptising of slaves, reserving only to myself the right of rejecting such as should appear to me improper objects of baptism; this proposition, though individually approved of by many, has never received such encouragement, owing, I believe, to its being considered so unprecedented as to induce me to submit it to the consideration of the magistrates and vestry.

As to the number of slaves who within my pastoral care, may be members of the Church of England, no data, I apprehend, exists, from which it is possible to draw an accurate conclusion, the only ones indeed that I am aware of, upon which a conjecture may rest, are the returns which will accompany this, of all slaves recorded in the parish register to have been baptised between the 1st of January 1794, and 1st July 1817, together with the partial attendance of this part of our population on Sundays at the parish church. It may however be right to add, that there are here no dissenting chapels or meeting houses, as far as I am able to learn; and that it is my belief, that the bulk of christian slaves within the parish, have not even heard of the divisions of our church, but that in having been baptised, and in professing themselves to be christians, they consider themselves as necessarily forming a part of the established Church of England.

For their reception a part of the parish church is set apart; but, when compared with their numbers in the aggregate, it is necessarily small indeed; small, however, as it is, it is by no means generally filled. I have been accustomed, since my coming to the living, for three Sundays successively, at Christmas and Easter, to draw the attention of my parishioners to that Act of the legislature, which states, that it is the duty of the rector to catechise, gratis, all persons who will attend at the church for this purpose; and I have availed myself of the same opportunities, to assure all proprietors and masters of slaves, that were there any who were desirous of having their people instructed in the elements of the christian faith, at the same time that they were prevented by some serious cause from sending them to the church, that I would readily and gratuitously attend upon every favourable opportunity (provided an invitation from the master to do so, together with a reasonable notice, should be given me). The Sunday afternoon's duty commencing at one, or a quarter past, it has been my object more particularly to appropriate to the lower classes of our population. It consists of the service as prescribed in our liturgy, to which the decalogue is added, together with a lecture (as far as it is in my power) adapted to the understandings and situations of my auditors.

I will take care, in obedience to his grace's commands, that in future a triennial return shall be made of all slaves baptised. And here I beg leave to state, lest it should appear extraordinary to the Duke of Manchester, that so few, comparatively speaking, should have been baptised in this parish since the commencement of the year, that an idea very generally prevails throughout St. Ann's, that the baptising of slaves previous to the 28th June, might occasion great confusion in registering them according to law, and would be the cause of additional expense.

In reply to the remainder of your letter, I can only add, that I have ever considered it no less my duty than I have felt it to be my most earnest wish, to promote, upon the grounds stated by his Royal Highness, as far as my exertions and my very limited influence can effect it, the promulgation of our most holy religion, in that pure form that has been by law established.

I have, &c.

To Wm. Bullock, esq.

Lewis Bowerbank.

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

(In the Rev. Lewis Bowerbank's, of 7th July 1817.)

A RETURN of the Number of Slaves, and of those supposed to be Slaves, that have been annually baptised since 1st January 1794, as taken from the Register of the Parish of St. Anne, up to 1st July 1817.

1794	- - 22.—Of these it is uncertain what number have been slaves, <i>their condition</i> , further than that they were black, or of colour, not being particularized in the register.	1804	- - 101, of these 57
1795	- - 19, of these 2	1805	- - 22, - - 4
1796	- - 51, - - - 9	1806	- - 69, - - 59
1797	- - 45, - - - 1	1807	- - 51, - - 39
1798	- - 74, - - - 8	1808	- - 40, - - 25
1799	- - 109, - - - 26	1809	- - 71, - - 40
1800	- - 68, - - - 1	1810	- - 87, - - 58
1801	- - 55, - - - 12	1811	- - 97, - - 59
1802	- - 15.	1812	- - 117, - - 87
1803	(No parochial duty of any description recorded during this year.)	1813	- - 3, - - 3
		1814	- - 56, - - 38
		1815	- - 132, - - —
		1816	- - 321, - - 317
		1817	- - 297, - - 297

Lewis Bowerbank,

Rector of the Parish of St. Anne.

Enclosure,
No. 8.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

MY LORD DUKE,

Portland, June 10, 1817.

IN obedience to your Grace's commands, I have the honour to reply to the several queries of your Letter, as follows :

Query 1st.—The amount of the fee paid for baptism of negroes, and whether paid by the owner or negro?

Answer.—The amount of the fee is 2s. 6d. Ja. curr. ; it is paid by the negroes.

Query 2d.—The number of slaves baptised in this parish from 1805 to 1817 ; the period for which I have been rector, and the number of those of the Church of England?

Answer.—Since the passing of the Curates Bill.

I have baptised upon an average 50 or 60 every Sunday ; so that, with what were baptised previous to the passing of the said bill, the great majority of the negroes in this parish are become Christians, and in a very short time all will be so. There cannot have been less than 800 baptised, all of whom have certificates.

My church is by no means capable of holding the number of negroes and free people of colour who attend every Sunday, more particularly so, on account of much space being taken up by the military (there being no chaplain to this garrison,) in consequence of which many are deprived of the power of even standing in the church, and are obliged to crowd round the doors and windows on the outside.

I shall be careful to obey your Grace's commands respecting a triennial return of the negroes. I beg leave to say, that as there are no sectaries in this parish, of course the negroes cannot attend any sectarian place of worship.

With the greatest respect, I have, &c.

Philip Humphrys, Rector of Portland.

To his Grace the Duke of Manchester.

Enclosure,
No. 9.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of 23d October 1817.)

SIR,

Falmouth, Trelawney, June 3d, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter of 26th ultimo, and in reply to it to inform you, " That for baptising slaves, registering the same, and granting a certificate thereof, the rector of each parish is entitled to a fee of 2s. 6d." This fee has been paid to me sometimes by the master of the slave, sometimes by himself.

Of late there has been an increasing disposition among them to receive baptism ; and within the last twelve months, nearly 3,000 of their names have been registered. Some of the slaves resident in this town and its vicinity, occasionally attend Divine service ; but none of them can be deemed members of the Established Church, farther than their having been received into it in baptism.

In all cases when they come before me to have that sacrament administered, it has been my earnest endeavour to explain to them the principles of the Christian faith, their duty to God and to man, and the awful nature of the obligations taken upon them in baptism.

And I indulge an humble hope that my labour has not been altogether fruitless.

I have pleasure too in acknowledging a readiness in their masters to encourage the dissemination of religious instruction among them.

I have, &c.

Wm. Bullock, esq.

Wm. Fraser.

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's, of the 23d October 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 10.

SIR,

IN pursuance of the orders contained in your letter, I beg leave to forward to you the enclosed statement, in answer to the several questions asked. In it I have perhaps exceeded your instructions, from the desire of furnishing, to the best of my ability, the information required by Earl Bathurst from his grace the Governor ; for having held this appointment only five months, the number of negro slaves actually baptised by me, would be very inconsiderable, and afford a very vague idea of the state of christianity in the small parish beneath my care ; I have therefore extracted from the register the number of negro slaves baptised here during the last ten years.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

To Wm. Bullock, esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Geo. W. Bridges,
Rector of St. Dorothy.

The number of negro slaves who have become members of the Church of England by baptism in this parish during the last ten years, is 130. The fee prescribed by law for the baptism of slaves, is 2s. 6d. currency, and is, I believe, universally paid by the proprietor.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of 23d October 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 11.

SIR,

St. Andrew's, 19th June 1817.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your circular letter, and shall with perfect candour and unreserve furnish the returns therein required, as well as every other information which may appear to me to fall within the scope of his Grace's inquiries.

The number of slaves baptised in this parish each year during my incumbency, is as follows :

Years:	Number of Slaves baptised:
1814 - - - -	121
1815 - - - -	589
1816 - - - -	499
From 1st January to 15th June - 1817 - - - -	823

With respect to the fees paid to me, I can speak with precision only of those I have received for baptisms performed at church ; because when I have baptised slaves on plantations, there has been usually some other duty performed, and a general fee presented for the whole, or when the fees have been separately presented, I have only kept a memorandum of the general sum. For the last two years, however, I have baptised very few slaves elsewhere than at church. Of 823 baptisms since 1st January this year, 786 took place at church. I have indeed encouraged this practice by every means in my power, on account of the greater solemnity and impression which it imparts to the baptismal service, and as affording me at least one opportunity of urging their Christian duties on the slaves baptised.

From the time of my coming to this parish until the passing of the late Act, regulating the fees for the baptism of slaves, the fee expected and pretty regularly paid,

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

paid, was a dollar for the rector and half a dollar for the parish clerk. Since the operation of the new law the whole fee paid has been in most cases, but never exceeded, 3s. 9d.; in some cases 2s. 6d.; in the former case I have received 2s. 6d.; in the latter 1s. 8d. the remaining third going to the clerk, agreeably to long usage in this parish of Kingston.

In fixing the rector's fee in the first instance at a dollar in this parish, I followed a precedent established by myself in Kingston; and although the fee may be thought large when compared with that which is now established by law, yet it was regarded at the time as a reduced and moderate rate; for the general understanding before then was, that the clergyman was entitled to 1l. 6s. 8d. for each baptism, although it is true he seldom received so much.

To the inquiry of his Grace, whether the fee be usually paid by the master or the slave, I am unable to give a very decided answer. The applicant for baptism always produces a paper of permission or recommendation from his master; who in some cases makes himself responsible for the fee; more frequently the fee is paid by the slave himself to the clerk on receiving the certificate of his baptism; but even in this case, there is reason to believe that it is often given to him by the master along with the permission to be baptised.

To his Grace's inquiry with respect to the number who have become members of the Church of England during my incumbency, I am still less able to give a satisfactory answer, considered as a distinct question from that as to the number baptised. The administration of baptism according to the forms, and by a clergyman of the Church of England, I would fain hope is in general regarded as establishing a bond of union with our church; yet I acknowledge there is ground for the distinction implied in his Grace's inquiry, since I believe most of the converts made by the Methodists and other sects apply for baptism to the regular clergy. In this parish I have no reason to think the Methodists have made much progress, especially among the plantation slaves: but I am sorry to say that a description of fanatics have for some years been gaining a considerable footing among them, they call themselves, I believe, *Baptists*, and perhaps have originally sprung from that sect, but having been for many years left to the sole guidance of self-constituted black preachers, have run into the wildest extravagancies, and have occasioned much injury to our slaves, and uneasiness to their masters. As some regular Baptist missionaries have lately come to the Island, it is to be hoped they will labour to arrest the progress of this pernicious fanaticism, and to correct abuses of so baneful a tendency among those who profess to be of their sect. Of the slaves baptised by me in this parish, I have reason to think numbers had been misled by the fanatics; but I trust that in general they considered their baptism as putting an end to their connection with them.

A leading object of his Grace's inquiries appears to be to ascertain the means employed by the parochial clergy for the conversion and religious instruction of the slaves throughout the Island: I will now therefore shortly state what has been done by me for this purpose during my incumbency in this parish.

As far back as 1798, I think, a law of the Island was passed, enjoining the parochial clergy to establish catechisings on the Sunday afternoons, at the parish churches, for the benefit of such slaves as might attend. This measure, it is within my knowledge, was at different periods attempted in this parish by my predecessor, but found, as I believe was the case in every other parish, of little benefit, and always abandoned from the non-attendance of those persons for whose use it was intended.

In 1815, the ecclesiastical commissaries and others of the clergy in this part of the Island, having for some time remarked many indications of a growing disposition for religious instruction among the slaves, conferred together and solicited the opinions of the other clergy throughout the Island, as to the most practicable and efficient measures which could be adopted by the parochial clergy, for the moral and religious improvement of the slaves in their respective parishes. As the result of this inquiry I attempted the two following plans of public instruction in this parish.

1st.—Having previously, by printed notices distributed through the parish, intimated my intention of commencing a course of Sunday afternoon discourses adapted for the lower orders, and earnestly solicited the countenance and assistance of masters in promoting the attendance of their slaves; I began a course of such instruction in February 1816 and have since that time continued it without interruption: occasionally considerable parties have attended from the neighbouring estates; but upon the whole the attendance has not been very encouraging, and has borne no proportion whatever to the slave population even of the nearest estates; I have used every

every endeavour to render my language and illustration as plain and intelligible to them as possible; and I trust, that to those who have attended, my attempts have not been altogether fruitless.

2d.—But as it was obvious, from the extent of the parishes and other circumstances, that the benefit of a Sunday lecture, however successful, could reach but to a very small portion of the slave population of the country parishes, it was thought that considerable advantage might accrue if the clergy were permitted occasionally to visit the plantations on week days, and to address religious instruction to the slaves thereon, assembled together for the purpose. It was imagined that a desire for religious knowledge might by this means be awakened and kept alive among the slaves, and that they might thus be prompted to seek for instruction by a more frequent attendance at their parish church.

Entering into these views, I solicited and obtained the permission of several of the proprietors of the larger estates, or their resident representatives, to visit the slaves under their care; which I accordingly did, and on every occasion my addresses were listened to by the assembled slaves with a serious and becoming attention. But before I had proceeded far with this plan, I found that it was regarded by some as an innovation of questionable utility, and I thought it wiser to defer the further prosecution of it, until the result of the investigation, to which the honourable House of Assembly was pledged, should be known. In consequence of that investigation both the above plans of public instruction have now the sanction and support of law, and I trust will be carried into effect by the clergy, with a success which will more than compensate for the great accession of labour which will devolve upon themselves. I deeply regret that circumstances connected with my private concerns have hitherto prevented me from resuming the visitation of the plantations in my parish, but I trust at an early day to engage again in this part of my pastoral duty.

What effect these measures have had, or may hereafter produce, either in my own district or elsewhere, I will not venture to appreciate. There are certainly many difficulties and obstacles which lie in the way of a general and efficient propagation of religion among the slaves. The most that can be hoped or desired is, that these obstacles shall be gradually and silently removed, and that our slaves shall be led by slow but sure steps to greater attainments in the knowledge and practice of pure religion. That this progressive improvement in the religious condition of the slaves, as well as in their general civilization, has been going on for years, must I think be admitted by every candid and attentive observer. I pray to God that no rash attempts to precipitate that improvement may disturb the safe and silent, but certain and effectual operations of time.

I have many apologies to offer for extending this letter to so great a length, and have the honour to be, very respectfully, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

William Bullock, esquire.

Alexander Campbell.

(In His Grace the Duke of Manchester's of 23d October 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 12.

MY DEAR SIR,

Rectory, Westmoreland, 8th July 1817.

YOUR obliging favour of the 4th instant, I received in the due course of post, and I thank you for your very friendly concern for my welfare; I never doubted it, but it sometimes happens that "to be out of sight, is to be out of mind." I am happy that my case is not so unfortunate an one.

In compliance with your request I forward to you the returns of slaves baptised in the parish of Westmoreland for the last ten years.

I had some difficulty in forming the return of slaves baptised in this parish *prior* to my presentation to this benefice, the method of keeping the parish register being less explicit and less clear than the mode I had adopted in the parish of Vere, and have strictly pursued in Westmoreland, yet I send a return of the slaves baptised by my predecessor, corresponding, I trust, with the plan recommended by you, though it may not be so correct as I have reason to believe it should have been, for I am confident some hundreds of slaves were baptised within the period of the last ten years, that do not appear in the Westmoreland parish register.

I further send you the return of slaves baptised by me in St. Elizabeth, Vere, and Clarendon, after my presentation to Westmoreland, but prior to my taking possession of the rectorship, faithfully made out; and I may venture to assure you, that not a

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

single slave baptised by me in this parish has been omitted in the return that accompanies, or rather follows in succession the first and second return of slaves.

If, my dear Sir, what I now hand you should be as correct as a man of your judgment shall approve, or shall answer the end and expectation of those in power at home, I shall be gratified.

If you will do me the favour to assure me, by return of post, that you think what I have taken some pains to prepare, is likely to answer the object of the inquiry made, I shall not only feel much obliged to you for such marked attention, but highly honoured.

Believe that I am always, with high consideration and esteem,

My dear Sir,

Your obliged and faithful humble Servant,

Edmund Pope.

William Bullock, esquire.

Number of the Slaves baptised by the Rev. Thomas Stewart, Rector of Westmoreland, in the following years.

In the Year	Slaves.	In the Year	Slaves.
1807	15	1812	56
1808	85	1813	29
1809	60	1814	78
1810	55	1815	29
1811	72		
		TOTAL	479

Number of Slaves baptised by the Rev. Edmund Pope, L. L. D. Rector of Westmoreland, in the following years.

In the year	- 1815	- - -	178 Slaves in different parishes.
Ditto	- 1815	- - -	13 Ditto in Westmoreland.
Ditto	- 1816	- - -	506 Ditto.
Ditto	- 1817 to 8th July	- - -	981 Ditto.
		TOTAL	1,678

A LIST of Slaves baptised, with the Names of the Proprietors, and those of the Properties, by the Rev. Edmund Pope, L. L. D. since his appointment of Rector to the Parish of Westmoreland, in the Parishes of Saint Elizabeth's, Vere, and Clarendon, previous to his taking possession of the living of Westmoreland; at which Parish he did not arrive until the 22d of November 1817, from indisposition, and other unavoidable causes.

The following Negroes, the property of Stephen Denton, esq. of Green Vale, in the parish of St. Elizabeth's, have been baptised.

Patrick Denton,
William Wilson,
Thomas Grey,
Joseph Tindal,

Edward Coley,
Mary Blair,
William Clarke,
Betsey Powell,

Ann Green,
Samuel Lewis,
Eliza Colin,
Thomas Denton,

Robert Ellis,
Frederic Boswell,
Eleanor Richardson,
Sophia Denton.

The following Negroes, the property of Thomas Powell, esq.; of Ballynure Plantation, in St. Elizabeth's, have been baptised.

Elizabeth Smith Powell,
Mary Ann S. Powell,
Frances Powell,
Ann Smyth,
Jenimy Powell,

John Smith,
James Powell Smith,
Edward Powell,
Samuel Powell,
Caleb Powell,

William Powell,
George Powell,
Henry S. Powell,
Robert Smith,
Eleanor Smith,

Nancy Baker,
Samuel Powell,
Alexander Smith,
Louisa Smith,
Mary Smith.

Correspondence.
Jamaica.

NEGROES NAMES.	Proprietors Names.	Names of Properties.	Remarks.
Harriott Morgan -	Hugh Reed, esq.	Bloomfield Plantation, Vere.	
Cordelia Bruce -			
Maria Reed -			
James F. Savery -			
William M ^c Cornell -			
Clarissa Harlow -	George Reed, esq.	Retrive (Vere.)	
John Edwards Reed -			
Celia Brown -			
William Reed -	Miss Dawburn -	of Clarendon.	
Henry Edwards -			

The following Negroes, the property of Robert Crawford, esq. of Vere, have been baptised.

Charlotte Crawford, Leah Crawford, Nancy Crawford,	Johannah Crawford, Allen B. Crawford, Colin Crawford,	John Crawford, Thomas Charlton, William Hewitt,	Charles Junor, Edwardes Jeffery, Adam Crawford.
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Maria Reed,
Mary Ann Reed. } The property of John Reed of Vere.

The following Negroes, the property of Stephen Denton, esq. of Green Vale, in St. Elizabeth's, have been baptised.

John Coley, Peter Blair,	George Thomson, Henry Holding,	Peggy Blair, Ann Tindall,	Peggy Denton, Betty Blair.
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TOTAL Number of Slaves baptised - - - 178.

A LIST of Slaves baptised, with the Names of the Proprietors, and those of the Properties by the Reverend Edmund Pope, L. L. D. since his appointment of Rector to the Parish of Westmoreland on the 15th September 1815, to,

NEGROES NAMES.	Proprietors Names.	Names of Properties.	REMARKS.
Patrick Chambers -	Doctor Tho ^t Ritchie.	of Lucea (Hanover.)	} Baptised in 1815, 13 Slaves.
Frances Grant -			
Helena Buchannan -	Richard Buchannan.		
Richard Johnson -	Ju ⁿ Will ^m Gillin -		
Richard Cohall -	William Hewin.		
George Scott -	Ju ⁿ Campbell, esq. -		
Ann Meggs -	Ann Stone -		
Queen Ann Lewis -	Mary Lewis -		
Susan Robertson -	Charlotte Carnegy -		
Mary van Horne -	Lewis van Horne -		
Barnet Browne -	- - - ditto -		
Christian B. Williams -	Mary van Horne -		
Mary Riddle -	Thomas Riddle -		
Ann Gooden.			
Jane Blake -	Susan D. Robinson -	Savannah la Mar.	
Mary P. Woollery -	Mrs. Ant ^y Tomlinson-	Culloden Estate.	
Robert Woollery -			
Jacob Ambersly -	- - - ditto -	- - ditto.	
Elizabeth Craig -	John Graham -	Three mile river Estate.	
Robert Hudson -	John Malcolm, esq. -	Argyle Estate.	
Mary Williams -	Susannah Crawle -	At the Mint Estate.	
William Murchie -	David Murray, esq. -	Bath Estate.	
Mary Wilson -	William G. Walcot -	Glenislay.	
Richard Watt -	Rich ^d Watt, esq. -	Georges plain Estate.	
Mary Blackmore -	Mrs. King -	Kingswood.	
Sarah B. Howard -	Mrs. Brown, senior -	At Hatfield.	
Frances Betterton -	Mrs. Price -	Savannah la Mar.	
Ann Hawkins -	Mary Ruddle -	- - ditto.	
Emma Fitzallan -	Thomas Bird, esq. -	Kirk Patrick.	
Matilda E. Robertson -	- - - ditto -	- - ditto.	
Amelia G. Wright -	Rose Campbell -	At Bath Estate.	

Returns.] TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES.

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NEGROES NAMES.	Proprietors Names.	Names of Properties.	Remarks.	Correspondence. Jamaica.
Thomas Cumming -	Adams Robertson & Co.	Darlston Pen.		
Jane Williams -				
Henry M. Baker -	Matt ^r Atkinson, esq.	Dean's valley, D. works.		
Andrew M ^r Farland -				
Cha. Clarke Fergusson -	James Fergusson, esq.	Cliffden.		
Alexander Fergusson -				
James Fergusson -				
Sarah Fergusson -				
Catherine G. Fergusson -				
Margaret Fergusson -				
M. A. J. Fergusson -				
Jean Hooper -				
Mary Fergusson -				
Richard Bowen -				
Ellick Gardiner -				
James Gardiner -				
William M ^r Gruther -				
Eliza T. M ^r Gruther -				
Samuel Torrent -				
Elizabeth Johnstone -				
Rebecca Palmer -				
Margaret M ^r Gardiner -				
Sarah J. M ^r Gruther -	Mary Johnstone -	Cragbannock.		
Frances J. M ^r Gruther -				
Daniel Johnstone -				
Sarah Johnstone -	C. & A. Cunningham, esq.	Cavin Curran.		
Eliza Johnstone -				
William West -	Charles Cridland, esq. -	Negril Bay.		
John Cunningham -				
Adam Cunningham -				
David Gowdie -				
Eliza Cunningham -				
Charles Cridland -				
Margaret Ford -				
Jane Eliza Jones -				
Margaret Johnson -				
Jane Bernard -				
Mary C. Reckord -				
Jane M ^r Reckord -	Elizabeth Brooks -	Duckford.		
Amelia B. Reckord -				
John Hunter -	Bonella Johnson -	Woodlands.		
Joseph Myrie -				
Thomas Jackson -	William Reckord, esq.	Westland's Estate.		
Richard B. Myrie -				
William Reid -	Dennis Reid, Esq. -	Nonpareil Estate.		
Richard Johnson -				
Fanny Johnson -	Sarah Johnson - -	Cragbannock.		
Mary Johnson -				
Samuel Gyles -	Mary Bedward - -	of Negril Bay.		
France John -				
James Ricketts -	Estate of Phillip van } Horne - - - }	- - Ditto.		
Ju ^o W. Wellington -				
Ann Wollery -	Mary Myrie - -	Groveland.		
Elizabeth Myrie -				
John Jones -	Daniel Carpenter -	Providence Estate.		
Frederick Wallace -				
Frances Williams -	John Jones - -	Mount Ayrey.		
	Rachel Myrie - -	Savannah la Mar.		

The following Negroes, the property of George Reid, esq. and belonging to Nonpareil Estate, have been baptised.

William C. Reed,	Joe Williams,	Valentine John Davis,	Alick Jones Shaw,
Adam Myrie Williams,	Philemon Caroline,	Mathew Johnson,	William Nelson Reid,
George Brown,	Abraham Reid,	Thomas Lewis,	Donald Reid,
Damon Q. Leach,	Tom Reid,	Francis Reid,	Thomas Henrigues,
Benj ^r Sinclair Reid,	John Reid,	John Jones,	Pompey Jupiter,
Dennis Reid,	Quarrell Reid,	Jonathan James,	Myrie Reid,
Jacob Ferris,	Paul Breton,	Rowley Ricketts,	Edward Hancock,
Peter Campbell,	Quaw Myrie Reid,	Pitt Chatham,	Robert Ed ^d M ^r Kenzie,
Dick Samuels,	Patrick Blucher,	James Froome,	James Tarnish,
Robert Reid Leach,	Thomas Reid,	Herbert Jones,	Major Quarrell,
John Ricketts,	William Wollery,	Malcolm Reid,	Frederick Samuells,
Dick James,	Jack Reid,	Augustus Goodin,	Primus Reid,
Edward Shaw,	Charles Reid Sinclair,	Richard Fuller Jones,	Sam Jackson,

(continued)

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

Negroes belonging to Nonpareil Estate.—*continued.*

Benjamin Jackson,
Leicester C. Reid,
Henry Q. Reid,
David Samuells,
Edward Reid,
Catherine Millar,
Charlotte Reid,
Sarah R. Irving,
Eleanor Ferris,
Sarah Reid,
Vassal Reid,
Betty Reid,
Polly Reid,
Jeanetta Reid,
Liddy Reid,
Jane R. Bedward,
Judy Myrie Reid,

Betty Myrie Reid,
Rachel Reid,
Lucy Vassal Reid,
Mary Reid,
Gatty James Reid,
Agnes Ferris Reid,
Christian Q. Campbell,
Lucretia Myrie,
Myrie Reid,
Queen Jarratt,
Jenny Clayjohn,
Frances A. Reid,
Nancy Reid,
Eleanor Reid,
Rosa Campbell,
Leonora Reid,

Elsey Reid,
Catherine Reid,
Julia Reid,
Pastora Reid,
Bella Reid,
Frances Amelia Brown,
Catherine Reckord,
Mary Ann Williams,
Anny Reid,
Louisa Reid,
Maria R. Goodin,
Margaret Reid,
Sophia Reid,
Peggy Reid James,
Alicia R. Sinclair,
Rachel M. Nelson,

Susan R. Sinclair,
Lydia Campbell,
Eliza Jones,
Daphne M. Reid,
Mary Thomas Jones,
Sukey Reid,
Luna Quarrell,
Rebecca A. Jones,
Jeanette Reid,
Delia M. Reid,
Bessy Reid,
Sarah Campbell,
Francis Reid,
Violet R. Williams,
Amelia Quarrell,
Eliza Myrie.

The following Negroes, the Property of Martin Williams, esq. and belonging to Seven Rivers Estate, have been baptised.

My Lord Williams,
William Mighty,
Sam Barrett,

Eliza Elizth Williams,
Margaret Williams,
Cynthia Williams,

Rebecca Williams,
William Paul Jones.

Jenny Williams,
William King.

The following Negroes, the Property of Martin Williams, esq. and belonging to Old Hope Pen, have been baptised.

Jack Williams,
William Hepburn,
Julius Williams,
William Hill,
Martin W. Gale,
Kitt Davis,
William Campbell,
Robert Davidson,
John Williams,
Pero Williams,
William Daley,
Richard Barrett,
Billy Williams,
John Campbell,
Edward Williams,
William Dawes,
William Smallen,
William Brown,
William Parkinson,
William Hylton,
William Beckford,
Thomas Williams,
William Plymouth,
Benjamin Kerr,
William Blake,
Tom Barrett,
Richard Williams,
William Samuells,
William Pummell,
William Forrester,
James Stephens,
William Wollery,
Robert Wollery,
George W. Stephens,
Robert Stewart,
Richard Holmes,
Jemmy Vincent,
Jack Roden,
Johnny Vincent,
William Myrie,
William Clarke,
George Gallemore,
William Wellington,

William King,
Samuel Barrett,
Daniel Campbell,
Cæser Davidson,
Geo. Goodwin Barrett,
William Barnard,
William Linds,
John Potter,
Thomas Blake,
Martin Clarke,
Edward Williams,
Rayues B. Waite,
John Myrie,
William Pedro,
Henry Plummer,
William English,
Nicholas Williams,
William Lewis,
Catherine Williams,
Ann Brown,
Abba Williams,
Eleanor Hill,
Elizabeth Clarke,
Eleaour Campbell,
Frances Beckford,
Sarah B. English,
Robin W. Gale,
Elizabeth Williams,
Mary W. James,
James Williams,
Jane Madocks Williams,
Jane Williams,
Mary Williams,
Geo. W. Brown,
Geo. W. Richards,
Mary Williams Ellis,
Amelia Williams,
Robert William Stone,
Jack Beckford,
Charles Myrie,
Sarah W. Myrie,
Ann W. Samuells,
Billy W. Gale,

Tim W. Wollery,
Susannah M. Williams,
Frances H. Williams,
Sarah Williams,
Margaret Williams,
Catherine Williams,
John G. Williams,
Ann Williams,
Hannah Williams,
Julianna Williams,
Polly Williams,
Henry W. Gale,
Adams W. Gale,
John H. Williams,
Isaac Williams,
Rebecca W. Stephens,
James English,
Mary W. Vincent,
Maria Williams,
Mary G. Williams,
Richard Myrie,
Martin G. Williams,
Joe Williams,
John Fray,
Sally Williams,
Isabella Williams,
Rosauna Williams,
Mary Ann Williams,
Oliver H. Williams,
Sarah W. Williams,
Eliza Harris,
Letitia Harris,
Christiana Williams,
Charlotte Dawes,
Rachel Stephens,
Mary Ann Stephens,
Cynthia Stephens,
Tom Dawes,
Jane S. Williams,
Eleanor Barrett,
Margaret Parkinson,
Peggy Williams,
W. M. Intosh Parkinson,

William M. Parkinson,
James C. Parkinson,
George B. Parkinson,
Sarah Parkinson,
Mary Barrett,
Joe Barrett,
Betsey Barrett,
Windsor Barrett,
Thomas Barrett,
Edward Barrett,
Doll Williams,
Cecilia Campbell,
Kitty Williams,
James Roden,
John Roden,
Margaret Wollery,
Hugh James,
Eliza Wollery,
Geo. H. Williams,
Henry W. Plummer,
Polly Williams,
Maria Price,
Louisa Williams,
Susannah Williams,
Polly Davis,
Fanny Williams,
Colin Williams,
John H. Williams,
Edward Colins,
Fanny Page,
John Ball,
Solomon Williams,
Eleanor Williams,
Catherine Williams,
Eliza Campbell,
Eleanor Hackett,
Francis Phipps,
Jane Phipps,
Tom Ralph,
Frances A. Williams,
Peggy Spencer,
Sarah Williams,
Ann M. Williams,

Negroes baptised belonging to Old Hope Pen—*continued.*

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

Sarah P. Williams, Sophia Williams, Anna Williams, Peggy Taylor, Sylvia Taylor, Ann Goldring, William Providence,	Ann Hughes, Mary Reynolds, Sam Chambers, Eliza Malcolm, Kitty Reynold, Ann Stephens,	Upham Williams, Fanny Burton, Mary Brown, Neil Campbell, Ann Steel, Rosey Trail,	Partinia Williams, Mary Dawes, John Thomson, Maria Dawes, Catherine Dawes, Charles Dawes.
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NEGROES NAMES.	Proprietors Names.	Names of Properties.	Remarks.
Ann P. Robertson -	Mary P. Robertson -	Truro.	
Robert Pinnock -	Philip Pinnock, esq. -	Shaftston.	
John Scott -	Hutchinson Scott, esq. -	Lenox Estate.	
Ann Creenen -	Margaret Watson -	Montego Bay.	
Robert Green -	James R. Tomlinson -	Lousiana.	
Susannah Tomlinson	George Tomlinson -	Savannah la Mar.	
William H. Brooks	Elizabeth Brooks.		
Eliza Brooks -			
Eleanor Callendar			
James Callendar	Hutchinson Scott, esq.	Hopeton Pen.	
Jane Callendar -			
Judy Lion -			
Agnes Snape -	- - Ditto - -	- - Ditto.	
Clementina Snape			
Margaret Senior	Mary Senior -	Belmont.	
William Samuells	Abigail de Leon -	Of Kingston.	
Mary Dawes -			
Frederic Collin -	Sarah Callendar -	At Hopeton Pen.	
Elizabeth Collin			
Ann Callendar -	Jean Monteath - -	Savannah la Mar.	
Eliza Wollery -	Teresa Langer -	- - Ditto.	
Teresa Langer			
Susan T. Langer			
Mary Tait -			
Ann Tait -			
Harriott Tait -	John Tait - -	- - Ditto.	
Maria Tait -			
Jane Tait -			
Isabella Campbell			
Amelia Campbell	Tabitha Campbell - -	- - Ditto.	
Piñess Campbell			
Elizabeth R. Crawl	Susannah W. Forbes -	Smithfield.	
Elizabeth Forbes	John Campbell, esq. -	Bog Estate.	
Alfred Callender			
William Hamilton	Christian Tomlinson -	Culloden Pen.	
Jean J. Wollery -			
Catherine M'Callam	W. Hilton, esq. -	Porns (Clarendon.)	
Elizabeth T. Wollery	John Moore, esq. -	King's Pen.	
Frances S. Johnson			
Ann Jane Moore	Samuel James Venner -	Savannah la Mar.	
Mary Saunders -			
Amelia Tavaries	Sarah Turner - -	- - Ditto.	
Henrietta Tavaries	Samuel James Venner	- - Ditto.	
Elizabeth Turner	Mary Turner - -	- - Ditto.	
Frances Venner -	Jane Sharpe - -	Content.	
Margaret Turner	John Wedderburn, esq.	Spring Garden Estate.	
Jane Pringle -	James Grant - -	Morgan's Bridge.	
Ann Stephenson -			
Eliza Lennan -			
James Price -			
Richard Price -	Jarratt Price - -	{ Rose Hall, near Little London.	
William Price -			
Robert Lyon -			
Sarah Lyon -			
Mary Ann Price			
Hester Lyon -			
Jane Lyon -	Martin Williams, esq.	Seven Rivers Estate.	
William Bayley			
George Beckford			
Samuel Williams			
Lavinia Samuells	- - Ditto - -	Old Hope Pen.	
Williams Robertson			
William Wagstaff			
Peter H. Williams			
Mary White -			
Mary Plummer			

(continued)

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

NEGROES NAMES.	Proprietors Names.	Names of Properties.	Remarks.
Maria Irving - -	James Irving, esq. - -	Campbleton (Hanover.)	
James Shelwall - -	Helen M'Intosh - -	Goodins Pen.	
Bonella Hambersley - -	Sarah Hambersley - -	Retirement.	
Patience Rawlins - -	Mary Carey - -	Savannah la Mar.	
George Marshall - -			
Peter Marshall - -	Elizabeth H. Robertson - -	Ditto.	
Elizabeth H. Pitt - -			
Edmond Taylor - -	Ann Ramsay Case - -	Gazebo.	
Adam Scott - -	Ann Richardson - -	Ditto.	
John Hay - -	Ann Ramsay - -	Savannah la Mar.	
Mary Myrie - -	Elizabeth Case.		
Grace Chambers - -			
Jeremiah Case - -	Jeremiah Case - -	Ditto.	
William Case - -			
Richard Bevas - -	Catherine Wright - -	Ditto.	
James M'Wright - -			
Charles James Graham - -	David Finlayson - -	Ditto.	
Dianna R. Case - -			
Robert Davidson - -	Walter, Murray, esq. - -	Dundee Estate (Hanover.)	
Thomas Warren - -			
Thomas Gilchrist - -	John Dobson, esq. - -	Chilton.	
Thomas Bowen - -			
Eliza M'Farlane - -	Edward Bartley - -	Montego Bay.	
Mary Williams - -			
Francis Fox - -	Mary Malcolm - -	Ditto.	
Edward Bartley - -			
Charlotte Williams - -	Alexander Mair - -	Mair Hall.	
Eliza Murdoch - -			
John Price - -	Jane Mair - -	Ditto.	
William Murray - -			
Eliza Frazer - -	Sarah Mair - -	Ditto.	
Edward Grant - -			
Susan Kerr - -	Anne Mair - -	Ditto.	
Adelina James - -			
Hector Fraser - -	William Mair - -	Ditto.	
Philip Scarlett - -			
Joseph M'Farlane - -	Nelly Mair - -	Ditto.	
Charles Sindale - -			
Jane Mair - -	James Marshall, esq. - -	Barryside.	
Hugh Fraser - -			
Mary M. Gordon - -	Hannah Brownreny - -	Of Ditto.	
Mary Hamilton - -			
Sarah Birkett - -	Richard Hemmings - -	Golden Spring.	
Wm. James Hemmings - -			
Richard Hemmings - -	Frances Bannerman - -	Savannah la Mar.	
Elizabeth Reid - -			
Rebecca Campbell - -	Elizabeth Russell - -	Ditto.	
Louisa Bannerman - -			
Elizabeth Bannerman - -	Ann F. Russell - -	Ditto.	
Mary Bannerman - -			
Rosetta Bannerman - -	John Wedderburn, esq. - -	Mount Edgcombe Pen.	
Patience Russell - -			
George H. Russell - -	- - Ditto - -	Ditto.	
Camilla Russell - -			
Rebecca Millar - -	Tabitha Campbell - -	Savannah la Mar.	
Ann Romans Arthur - -			
Sarah Romans Arthur - -	Elizabeth Reynolds - -	Farm.	
Maria A. M'Nish - -			
Ann Rattan - -	Elizabeth Munro - -	Savannah la Mar.	
Sarah Russell - -			
Charlotte R. Campbell - -	Samuel H. Curling - -	Ditto.	
William B. Munro - -			
John C. Spencer - -	Sarah D. Bell - -	Ditto.	
Elvira Wellesley - -			
Mandace Myrie - -	Samuel H. Curling - -	Ditto.	
Margaret Hayward - -			
John Gale James - -	Lewis Van Horne - -	Ditto.	
Frances W. van Horne - -			
Mary A. van Horne - -	William Jones - -	Tabolski (Hanover.)	
Thomas James Browne - -			
Frances Campbell - -	William Jones - -	Duckpond.	
Morgiana Barton - -			
William Jones - -	Heirs of Lewis Van Horne.		
William Jones - -			
Eliza Beckford - -			

Baptised in 1816. —506
Slaves.

Returns.] TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES.

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NEGROES NAMES.	Proprietors Names.	Names of Properties.	Remarks.	Correspondence.
				Jamaica.
Lydia Hazell - -	William Best Hazell -	Chester Hill (Hanover.)		
Charles Jones - -				
Eliza Jones Pearson -				
Sarrah Dennison -	Frances Jous - -	Chibucto.		
William Pearson -				
Jane Gibson - -				
Thomas Parkinson -				
Richard Parkinson -	Heirs of Matthew Par-	White Hall Pen.		
Elizabeth Parkinson -	kinson - - -			
Eliza Myrie - -				
Robert James Grant -				
Elizabeth Sam ^l Jones -	John Cridland - -	{ Comfort Hall, Negril Bay.		
Mary Jones - -				
Sarah Wollery - -	Mary Myrie - -	Little Grove.		
Myrtilia Hines - -				
Henrietta Lewis - -				
Amelia Bruce - -	Mary Ann Godfrey -	Negril Bay.		
John Wellington - -				
James Graham - -				
Eliza Bedwood - -				
Margaret A. Bedward -	Mary Bedward.			
Nassau Gordon - -				
Richard Davis - -				
Sarah Ellice - -	G. R. Johnson, esq. -	Berry Hill (Manchester.)		
Sarah Millar - -				
Ann Williams - -				

The following Negroes, the Property of George Robert Johnson, esq. and belonging to Springfield Estate, have been baptised.

Henry Conran,	Constant Service,	Ned Graham,	Mary W. Johnson,
Robert Stewart,	Robert Ricketts,	John Henry,	Hagar Johnson,
William Dickson,	Richard Price,	Cuffer Johnson,	Ann Davis,
Hardtimes Gale,	Joe Williams,	Lord Westmorland,	Cassandra Grant,
James Barrett,	Thomas Ogle,	John Rod,	Margaret Nottice,
Thomas Maxwell,	Romulus Reid,	Edward Myrie,	Amulus Clarke,
Jacob Williams,	Dugald Campbell,	John Hunter,	Eliza R. Johnson,
Major Roberts,	Charles Reckord,	Quashie Bendless,	Mary Rodney,
Cudjoe Gordon,	James W. Johnson,	Jonathan N. Johnson,	Nancy Williams,
William Grant,	Joseph Sheppard,	Thomas Williams,	Sarah Thompson,
George R. Johnson,	Davis Broddie,	William R. Johnson,	Pat Johnson,
Robert Tomlinson,	Henry Franck,	Emillia Williams,	Joan Dickson,
Prince Edwards,	Henry Samuells,	Susan Johnson,	Lucy Johnson,
Daniel Roberts,	Ned Sinclair,	Ann W. Johnson,	Jemimah Johnson,
Brutus Forrest,	Romulus Reid,	Mary Hylton,	Susannah Johnson,
William R. Johnson,	Noble Ricketts,	Juno Williams,	Elvira Henry,
Benjamin Goodwin,	Thomas Jackson,	Mary W. Johnson,	Margarett Pearce,
Richard Johnson,	Robert Johnson,	Mary Johnson,	Helen Pearce,
Quashie Dakens,	Richard Samuells,	Charlotte Johnson,	Cicily Pearce,
Punch Allen,	Stephen Ricketts,	Catherine Williams,	Nelly Goodin,
Major G. Johnson,	Prince Wm. Davis,	Frances Johnson,	Frances Roberts,
William R. Johnson,	James Jourdan,	Betsey Porter,	Christian Williams,
Chester Barnes,	Duke Wellington,	Anna Price,	Mary Williams,
George Bedwards,	John Johnson,	Rachel F. Johnson,	Julian Williams,
Hector Myres,	Robert Johnson,	Maria Wheatley,	Esther R. Johnson,
George Johnson,	John Murie,	Hellen J. Barrett,	Eliza A. Piper,
Dugald Campbell,	Duke Manchester,	Mary B. Johnson,	Sarah C. Johnson,
Samuel Hylton,	Nich. Pearson,	Camilla Davis,	Nancy Purnell.
Robert Lynch,	Maxwell Brutus,	Sarah Henry,	

The following Negroes, the property of the heirs of Jacob Johnson, esq. deceased, have been baptised at Springfield Estate.

Thomas Williams,	Alexander Johnson,	Jacob Johnson,	William Johnson,
James Graham,	David Delany,	Governor Brandy,	Robert Brown,
Lewis Gordon,	Thomas Johnson,	James Duckworth,	Robert Johnson,
Richard Dickson,	Robert Johnson,	John Thomas Nottice,	Emma Gilpin,
Thomas Henry,	Prymus Gardner,	Thomas Hackett,	Ann Williams,
William Ricketts,	Dundee Dorsell,	General Blucher,	Eliza Williams,
Joseph Pipe,	York Ricketts,	Billy Johnson,	Sarah Tomlinson,
Peter Gale,	Robert S. Johnson,	Mingo Wright,	Catherine Johnson,

(continued)

Correspondence.

Negroes baptised at Springfield Estate—*continued.*

Jamaica.

Nancy Pearson, Amber Johnson, Barbara Johnson, Catherine Johnson, Eleanor Johnson, Thisbe Lynch, Queen Ellice, Sarah Johnson, Susannah Hill, Lydia Myrie, Jeannie Murray, Ann Tomlinson, Mary Reid, Frances Johnson, Rabia E. Johnson, Eleanor Johnson, Catherine Johnson,	Susannah Johnson, Sarah Porter, Bina Johnson, Grace Scarlett, Maria Little, Frances Barnes, Amelia Johnson, Chloe Philpots, Mary Ann Davis, Elizabeth Ricketts, Rosa W. Underwood, Katey Thompson, Juno Pope, Peg M. Johnson, Eleanor Ellice, Bonella Williams, Rosa Johnson,	Mary Johnson, Katey Ferris, Laura Knight, Bell Reid, Sarah Archer, Abby Bearley, Chloe Williams, Catherine Vassal, Price Ricketts, Spite Johnson, Maria Johnson, Violet Brown, Margaret E. Dickson, Ann Johnson, Sarah H. Johnson, Elizabeth Little, Becky Morrise,	Peggy Campbell, Jean Myrie, Prudence Johnson, Anna Ricketts, Abby James, Elsey Duff, Eliza Reid, Annah Frances, Christian E. Johnson, Bunna Johnson, Celia E. Johnson, Maria E. Jourdan, Henrietta Hylton, Venus Dawes, Rachel Williams, Sarah Johnson, Frances Johnson.
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The following Negroes, the property of George Robert Johnson, esq. and belonging to Berry Hill, Manchester, have been baptised.

Robert Johnson, William Samuells,	Lucy Searjeant, Mary Bradford,	Eleanor Johnson, Jean Lewis,	Elizabeth Plummer.
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The following Negroes, the property of Elizabeth Violetta Porter, and belonging to Retirement, have been baptised.

Richard J. Porter, Andrew Porter, Thomas Porter, Edward Porter,	James Johnson Porter, Thomas Johnson, Samuel Ryley, Eleanor Stewart,	Violetta Porter, Josephine Johnson, Maria Johnson, Elizabeth C. Johnson,	Catherine Johnson, Catherine Ryley, William.
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NEGROES NAMES.	Proprietors Names.	Names of Poperties.	Remarks.
Susan Johnson - -	Sarah Johnson - -	Crackbannock.	
Carolina Miller - -			
Alex. William Clarke - -	Sarah Johnson, jun. - -	- - Ditto.	
Eliza Johnson - -			
Edward Johnson - -	Ann Johnson - -	- - Ditto.	
Elizabeth Brown - -			
William Tomlinson - -	James Rob ^t Tomlinson	At Springfield Estate.	
Wallace Tomlinson - -			
Arthur S. Tomlinson - -			
Guy B. Tomlinson - -			
Robert Tomlinson - -			
Samuel Barrett - -			
Eliza Brown - -			
Jean Tomlinson - -			
Isabella Tomlinson - -			
Price A. Tomlinson - -			
Fidelia A. Tomlinson - -			
Rachel Johnson - -			
Lucretia Wood - -			
Eleanor G. Johnson - -			
Mary Knight - -	Joseph F. Barham - -	Mesopotamia Estate.	
Elizabeth Foot - -	Helen M ^c Intosh - -	Savannah la Mar.	
George Sangster - -	James B. Delap - -	Mount Eagle Estate.	
James Dalay Willson - -	Sarah Willson - -	Savannah la Mar.	
Ann Willson - -			
Frances Case Willson - -	Anthony Touzalin - -	- - - Ditto.	
Thomas Martell - -			
Thomas Touzalin - -			
Henry Russell - -			
Catherine T. Russell - -			
Fidelia Russell - -	Jane Martell - -	- - - Ditto.	
Diana Johnson - -			
Mary Ricketts - -			
Margaret Darhood - -			
William Darhood - -	Heirs of J. Ochterlony - -	- - - Ditto.	
Charles Foucher - -	George Foucher - -	- - - Ditto.	
Henry Touzalin - -	Stephen Touzalin - -	- - - Ditto.	
Susan Hawkins - -	Mary Johnson Ricketts - -	- - - Ditto.	
Abigail Dawes - -	Ersella Martell - -	- - - Ditto.	

NEGROES NAMES.	Proprietors Names.	Properties.	Remarks.	Correspondence. Jamaica.
Rose Hewitt -	Elizabeth Hewitt -	Savannah la Mar.		Correspondence. Jamaica.
Elizabeth Foot -	Sarah Foot -	- - - Ditto.		
Eliza Foot -				
Eleanor Cook -	Catherine Wright -	- - - Ditto.		
Eleanor Webster -	John Eoot -	- - - Ditto.		
Catherine Graham -	Eliza Graham -	- - - Ditto.		
Ann Chambers -	Grace Chambers -	- - - Ditto.		
Emma C. Tomlinson -	Dorinda Cleaver -	- - - Ditto.		
Louisa T. Cleaver -				
Alex. C. Tomlinson -				
Ralph Tomlinson -	Phillip Pinnock, esq. -	Shaftston.		
Ufarnia Cleaver -	Jane G. Tomlinson -	Savannah la Mar.		
Ann Spencer -	Eliza Davidson -	- - - Ditto.		
Elizabeth Gordon -				
Samuel Medley -				
Margaret A. Simpson -				
Sarah Williams -	Sarah Rolph -	Little London.		
Jane Wollery -				
Ann Rolph -				
Frances Rolph -				
Eleanor Medley -				
Jacob Rolph -				
Maria Williams -				
Richard Medley -				
James Reynolds -	John Swaney Stone -	Hope Wharf.		
Jean Reynolds -				
Catherine Williams -				
Mary Thomas -				
Mary Ann Graham -	Mary Rolph -	Little London.		
Ann Reynolds -				
Felicia Rolph -				
Henrietta S. Rolph -				
William Campbell -	Lewis Campbell -	Little London.		
William English -	Samuel Williams -	Industry (Little London)		
Geo. B. Wilson -	Sarah Willson -	Savannah la Mar.		
Francis Lock -				
Robert Buchastle -				
James Camboe -				
Rachael Cole -				
Mary S. Archer -				
Abigail S. Singleton -				
James Johnson -				
Thomas Bawn -	Elizabeth H. Robertson -	- - - Ditto.		
Daniel Willson -				
George Stewart -				
Richard Clarke -				
Ann Ford -	Margaret Clarke -	Thorn Hill.		
Joseph Ponel -				
Francis Tomlinson -				
Hugh Gunning -				
William Donn -	Doctor Thomas Ford -	At Lenox Estate.		
James McLeod -				
Ann Donn -				
Margaret Tait -				
Henry Thomas McNeill -	John Tomlinson, esq. -	Savannah-la-Mar.		
Stephen Baker -				
Eliza Dent -				
Jane Dent -				
Ann Atkinson -	Hugh Gunning -	Shaftston.		
Thomas McNeill -				
James G. Hedley -				
	Francis L. Beckford -	Petersfield Estate.		
	William Lawson -	- - - Ditto.		
	Matthew Atkinson, esq. -	At Dean's Valley, D. Works.		
	Thomas McNeill -	- - - Ditto.		
	James Hedley, esq. -	Catadupa (St. James's.)		

The following Negroes in the possession of William Fairclough, esq. as Trustee, and belonging to Dean's Valley Water Works, have been baptised.

William Miles,
Alexander Stewart,
Thomas Higginson,
Benjamin Blake,
Thomas Coote,
Alexander Reid,
William Higginson,
John Thomas Watson,

William Hedley,
Richard Blake,
John Hedley,
Robert Grant,
Rodney Hedley,
Alexander Murray,
William Duncanson,
William Fairclough,

John Higginson,
Robert Cope,
John Sharpe,
James Rose,
Colin J. Higginson,
James Campbell,
Charles McNish,
John Kentish,

Dober D. Blake,
Richard Campbell,
Richard Quarrell,
John Petgrave,
John S. Higginson,
William Lewis,
William Myrie,
Robert Campbell,

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

Negroes baptised belonging to William Fairclough, esq.—*continued.*

William Blake, William Forbes, John Plummer, James Cahoon Grant, Thomas Hedley, Samuel Knight, John Shand, Henry M'Donald, Alexander M'Neil, Nicholas Blake, Kent Fairclough, William Beckford, William Goodwin, Julius Parkinson, Alexander Murray, Amelia Beckford, Anny M'Neil, Maria Knight, Rebecca Distin, Eliza Fairclough, Catherine Quarrell, Mary Ann Blake, Susey Williams, Sarah Kelly, Carolina Hedley, Charlotte B. Fairclough, Christian Bean, Frances Fairclough, Kitty Hedley, Margaret Beckford, Susan Sharpe, Charlotte Quarrell,	Ellen Quarrell, Mary Blake, Betsey Dillon, Louisa Hedley, Eliza M'Neil, Juilett Hedley, Sophia Higginson, Mary Loche, Frances Hedley, Fanny Hill, Maria Hedley, Mary Blake, Bonny Houghton, Catherine Beckford, Jane Reid, Eliza Sharpe, Polly Johnson, Mary Reid, Margaret Faskin, Eliza M'Nish, Betsey Blake, Eleanor M'Fairclough, Jane Hedley, Hannah B. Fairclough, Susan Fairclough, Nancy Whitter, Jane Kentish, Bunchy Beckford, Mary Spence, Mary Williams, Susan S. Hedley, Anney Blake,	Bessey Noble, Sarah Hedley, Maria Fairclough, Sabina Blake, Sophia Wastern, Isabella B. Fairclough, Ambah Hedley, Betty M'Neil, Phoebe, Christian Campbell, Molly P. Blake, Fanny Foot, Mary Malcolm, Kitty Foot, Lydia Whitter, Becky Kentish, Harriot B. Sharpe, Phillis Campbell, Mary Kirdell, Sarah Kentish, Molly Foot, Hannah Hedley, Richard Grant, David Forrester, Robert Barnes, Andrew Fergusson, Alexander Hill, Alexander Fairclough, Joseph Beckford, Barnes Wedderburn, Hervine Hedley, James Cunningham,	William John Beckford, Hitt Senior, James Hedley, Lordon Walker, Thomas Green, William Beckford, Samuel H. Patrick, John T. Higginson, Andrew Evans, Tommy Williams, Robert Smith, Nathaniel M'Neil, Ann M'Nairen. Rebecca Hedley, Elizabeth Fairclough, Betsey Higginson, Maria James, Frances G. Higginson, Catherine Reid, Cecilia Sharpe, Catherine Barnes, Elizabeth Stewart, Eliza Myrie, Hannah Blake, Joan Fairclough, Pusey Higginson, Betsey Hedley, Prunella T. Hedley, Gusta Hedley, Queen Ann Hanson, Susau Higginson, Eliza Hedley.
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The following Negroes, the Property of Mrs. M. B. Tharpe, of
been baptised at Dean's Valley Water-works.

have

William Lawson, Benjamin Tharpe, Thomas Tharpe, John Quarrel, Richard Tharpe, Henry Tharpe, Thomas M'Neil, William Tharpe, Joseph John Tharpe, Thomas P. Tharpe, Samuel M'Gee, Peter Tharpe, Peter Lascelles,	Jessey Williams, Clarey Tharpe, Eliza Robson, Flora Williams, Alcey Quarrell, Betsey W. Tharpe, Charlotte Quarrell, Rosey Tharpe, Jennett Tharpe, Kitty Tharpe, Maria Tharpe, Nelly Tharpe, Mary Goodwin,	Amev Tharpe, Princess W. Tharpe, Mary Ann Tharpe, Sarah Tharpe, Julian Williams, Thomas Murray, Donald M'Donald, John Deans, Williams Williams, James Green, Joseph Mac Donald, William Goodwin, Ronald M'Donald,	John Dobson, Agnes M'Nairn, Jane M'Donald, Jane Williams, Susan Tharpe, Mary Tharpe, Glove Williams, Fanny Williams, Jane Kentish, Rose Quarrell, Ann Quarrell, Susan Hedley.
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NEGROES NAMES.	Proprietors Names.	Names of Properties.	Remarks.
Sarah Scott - -	Estate of William Scott, deceased - -	Cave Westmorland.	
Helena Scott - -	Estate of John Scott, deceased - -	- - Ditto - -	

The following Negroes, the property of Sir Simon Haughton Clarke, Baronet, and belonging to
King's Valley Estate, have been baptised.

William Clarke, James Birthright, Rowland Hill, Robert James, Robert Clark, James Reid, William Gavin, Hugh Brice, William Simon, Simon Gordon, William Wallace, Lewis William, senior, William Blair, David Black,	Robert Houghton, Richard Quarrell, Patrick Truro, Peter Brown, Julius Clarke, Edward Benham, James Shalto Douglas, Joseph Brissett, Lewis Burt, Adolphus Moor, John Marshall, Dick Simon, Henry Salmon, Simon H. Clarke,	Jemmy Clarke, Thomas H. Clarke, John Smith, Robert Nevin, Smallen Clarke, John Roach, Billy Burnett, John Andrew, Sam Reckord, Alexander Fraser, Lewis Roach, Bob Pearl, David Clarke, James Ewart,	Thomas Ramsay, Sam Clark, Abiam Smith, Thomas George, Anthony Gilbert, John M'Donald, James Galloway, Walter Ewart, Abram Clarke, Thomas Green, Francis Jackson, James Peterkin, Duncan M'Kenzie, Billy Moss,
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Negroes baptised belonging to William Fairclough, esq.—*continued.*

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

Andrew Reddie, Robert Daley, Myas Williams, Peter Beckford, Ellis Clarke, James Clarke, Walter Murray, John Rose, James Simou, Thomas Yates, James Black, David Williams, Patrick Spence, David Fisher, Dick M'Kay, Morrison Dawkins, John Ledmore, General Reckord, James Galloway, John D. Clarke, Robert Forbes, James Forbes, Sanday Gardner, Thomas Ramsay, Alexander Fraser, Samuel F. Clarke, Jonh Salisbury, Billy Irving, Abram Galloway, Major Falconer, Julius Herring, William Green, James Bruce, Lewis Williams, Richard Staple, William Smith, James Dennett, Philip A. Cleygion, Simon Bell, Cleygion Clarke, John Stewart, Malcolm Clarke, John Clarke, Thomas Grant, Mercury Simon, James Cormell, John Dow, Jacob Johnson, Sam Whittacar, William Cooper, Bob James, George Simon, Samuel Delaroach, Edward Knubley, In ⁿ Delaroach, Cleygeon Hugh, Simon Knubley, Duncan Gardner, Thomas Harvey, Hugh Brodie, Alexander Cleygeon, Robert Williams, Thomas Yates,	Raby Williams, Alexander M'Callum, Duncan Campbell, Duncan Cameron, John Hogdone, Simon Wallace, Duncan Fyfe, John Malcolm, John F. Campbell, William Johnston, George B. Simon, Penderend Simon, James Miller, Malcolm Stewart, John P. Williams, Oliver Herring, Hugh Cleygeon, Colin Tennant, Sandy Miller, Simon Yate, Cupid Forbes, Frederick Clarke, Thomas Salmon, Neil Martin, Catherine Wallace, Susan Clarke, Ellison Clarke, Isabella Brown, Catherine Clark, Eliza Knubley, Maria Willson, Peachie Herring, Jewell Clarke, Rachel Clarke, Rebecca Bell, Sarah Cleygeon, Mary Shaw, Rebecca Wright, Catherine Cleygeon, Joan Clarke, Diana Williams Clarke, Jenny Clarke, Tibby Simon, Cornelia Knubley, Mopsey Knubley, Cleon Galloway, Selima Williams, Catherine Houghton, Amelia M' Almon, Margaret Penderend, Isabella Galloway, Ann Simon, Shearer Clarke, Bessey Knubley, Susan Galloway, Sally Falconer, Barbary Cleygeon, Amelia James, Phenis Finlay, Milley J. Clarke, Catherine Henry, Bunchey Gardner, Isabella Wilkinson,	Frances R. Clarke, Mopsey Knubley, Bonella Simon, Sarah Grant, Bonetta Williams, Margaret Vanhome, Margaret Stewart, Pamelia Johnson, Juicy Cleygeon, Susan Gardner, Jemina Dawkin, Frances Williams, Henrietta Cummings, Clarissa Houghton, Liddie Spence, Bessey Herring, Leonora Lawrence, Henney Clarke, Eliza Marey, Pamelia Johnson, Myrah Cleygeon, Sophia Wright, Henney Clarke, Augustus Wallace, Rosey Clarke, Lucretia, Jemima Spence, Pamelia Knubley, Rebecca Smith, Fanny Cunningham, Rosa B. Birthright, Elsey Gardner, Pamelia Fraser, Duchess Pendroft, Sarah Salmon, Mary Galloway, Eliza Richie, Cornelia Galloway, Clementina Salmon, Phoenix Clarke, Elvira Gardner, Ellison Beckford, Jessemina Hemmings, Pusue Galloway, Lucinda Clarke, Frances Knubley, Ann Leslie, Minerva Clarke, Jenny Simous, Pinkey Cleygeon, Tarisa Clarke, Nancey Steel, Abby Lion, Bella Reid, Amelia Falconer, Betty Cleygeon, Kitty Clarke, Agnes Cummings, Sophia Spence, Elizabeth Williams, Susan V. Wright, Ann Pitgrave, Frances Clarke,	Memmy Clarke, Peggy Campbell, Eliza Darkin, Bessy B. Clarke, Sylvia Gardner, Queen Salmon, Tibby Williams, Maria Henry, Christian Knubley, Balma Cleygeon, Tibby Gardner, Damsel Gardner, Kitty Ricketts, Dorothy Goodwin, Helena Fergusson, Kitty Anderson, Susan Knubley, Rina Dawkins, Thama Knubley, No Service to Simon, Nell Clarke, Bessy Anderson, Sally Willson, Sarah Williams, Mackie Clarke, Lucy Gardner, Nanny Williams, Elvira Clarke, Bessy Knubley, Mary J. Clarke, Mary Burt, Flavia Clarke, Molly Torrent, Harriot Cleygeon, Catalina Williams, Mary Timbran, Bessy Gardner, Susau Penrine, Lady Simon, Sarah James, Harriot Cleygeon, Helen Cleygeon, Ann Clarke, Jane Cleygeon, Kitty Galloway, Rebecca Williams, Maria Williams, Elsey Houghton, Princess James, Pamelia Galloway, Pinkey Garduer, Bunchey Knubley, Christian Shaw, Jean Daley, Eliza Wilkinson, Mary Miller, Rosa Clarke, Helena Wright, Maria Smith, Martha Roach, Amelia Blair, Frances Sandcroft. TOTAL - - 307.
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The following Negroes, the Property of Mr. Charles Edkins, of Gazeabo Settlement, have been baptised.

Robert M'Donald, James Fyfe, Adam Gifford, George Dillon, William Edkins, William Benjamin, John Flemming,	Edward Smith, David Walker, William Judge, Charles Edkins, Mathew Crawford, Thomas James, Robert Hogie,	Donald M'Donald, Agnes Edkins, Jane Foot, Ann Hozie, James Pierce, Judith Cope, Eliza Foot,	Mary M'Donald, Mary Gifford, Dorinda Fyfe, Elizabeth Edkins. TOTAL - - 25.
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Correspondence.
Jamaica.

The following Negroes, the Property of Mrs. Margaret Roach, of the Cottage Settlement, have been baptised.

Amelia Roach, Cornelia Roach, Julian Roach, Mary Frances White, Maria Roach, Eleanor Roach, Jane White,	Catherine Hogarth, Ann Roach, Margaret T. Roach, Marian Roach, Eliza Roach, Frances Hogarth, Rachel Roach,	Lewis C. Wright, William Wollery Roach, James Roach, Wm. Hogarth Wallace, Alexander Stewart, Geo. White Roach,	Robert Hogarth, Daniel Jones, Amelia Roach, Elizabeth C. Roach. TOTAL - - - 24.
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NEGROES NAMES.	Proprietors Names.	Names of Properties.	Remarks.
Margaret Mac Faden Ann Morrison - Catherine Morrison - Jane Morrison -	Margaret M'Faden -	Content.	
William Johnson Beck John Williams - Mary Johnston - Wm. Ricks Johnston -	Dolly Muffett - Mary Rolph - Richard Meyler, esq.	Of Little London. - - Ditto. Meylersfield Estate.	
Eliza Archer - James Roach - Margaret C. Roach - Margaret A. Roach - Ann Archer -	John Archer Roach -	Cottage.	
John Archer Roach Anthony C. Roach	Margaret Roach James Ross Roach	Ditto. Ditto.	

Baptised to date in 1817 - - - 981 Slaves.

Enclosure,
No. 13.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of 23d October 1817; with one Enclosure.)

SIR,

Kingston, June 3d, 1817.

YOUR letter of the 26th of May reached me but yesterday, and I hasten, for the information of his Grace the Governor, to reply to the points contained therein, relative to the parish of Kingston.

No fees have ever been demanded by me on the baptism of slaves; a compliment, however, is generally made, but varying so much, as to render it difficult to average; as near as I can calculate, for all baptisms of slaves, within the *church*, at their masters *houses*, or in their own *yards*, taking them one with another, it may average from five shillings to six shillings and eight-pence currency for the rector; and from one shilling and eight-pence, to three shillings and four-pence to the clerk; each slave receives a printed certificate with reference to the public register book, where his name, his age, his owner's name, and the date of baptism is inserted.

Whether this fee is paid by the master or slave, generally speaking, I know not; every applicant to me for baptism, brings a note of approbation or recommendation from his master. Kingston and the country parishes differ materially in this particular, as on estates great numbers are baptised at the same time, whereas in Kingston they are individuals from different owners.

I subjoin the number of slaves that have been baptised, and received as members of the Church of England, since my incumbency, to the 31st of December 1816 inclusive. I shall duly make the triennial return in future, as required.

The zeal and activity of the officiating clergyman in Kingston, is greatly checked, and his labours rendered Herculean, by the smallness of the parish church, which is not only crowded in the pews and aisles, but frequently the windows are blocked up by the lower class of people standing in the church-yard.

The enlargement of the church was considered so absolutely necessary, that about two years back a plan was drawn out and approved of, contracts for the execution of the work entered into, and 5,000 *l.* actually raised by a parochial tax, and the like sum agreed upon to be advanced the following year for the above express purpose; but I am sorry to say nothing as yet has been done.

My discourses on Sunday evenings I endeavour as much as possible to adapt to the lowest capacities; during Lent on each Wednesday I have given lectures on the church catechism, and on the Liturgy; and catechised the children of every denomination

Returns.] TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES. 197

mination from the various schools in the city, the number of children that attended varied from three to four hundred.

Fully aware of the great blessings attending on the inculcation of the simple and pure doctrines of the Church of England, as a minister of that church, my first wishes and strongest exertions always have been, and ever shall be employed for its prosperity.

I have, &c.

Isaac Mann.

To William Bullock, esquire,
&c. &c. &c.

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

(In the Reverend J. Mann's of 3d June 1817.)

NUMBER of SLAVES baptised and received as Members of the Church of England, from the 22d December 1813, to the 31st December 1816.

	No.		No.		No.
1813: December	- 41	1815: January	- 222	1816: January	- 205
		February	- 115	February	- 118
Total	- 41	March	- 141	March	- 127
		April	- 106	April	- 92
1814: January	- 137	May	- 89	May	- 124
February	- 98	June	- 80	June	- 95
March	- 72	July	- 88	July	- 103
April	- 128	August	- 66	August	- 115
May	- 105	September	- 80	September	- 94
June	- 92	October	- 88	October	- 76
July	- 98	November	- 101	November	- 52
August	- 75	December	- 244	December	- 171
September	- 53				
October	- 100	Total	- 1,420	Total	- 1,379
November	- 77				
December	- 218				
Total	- 1,253				
		1813	- - - - - 41		
		1814	- - - - - 1,253		
		1815	- - - - - 1,429		
		1816	- - - - - 1,379		
		Total	- - - - - 4,102		

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 14.

SIR,

Manchester, 11th June 1817.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular of the 26th May, which did not reach me till Saturday last, otherwise it should have merited my earlier consideration.

To the subject which his Grace the Governor has been pleased to direct my attention, I shall endeavour, as far as in my power, to afford the requisite information, relying at the same time upon the liberality of his Grace, should my mode of communication prove deficient, either in perspicuity or form.

During the period of which I have been the incumbent of this parish, the opportunities afforded me in my professional pursuits, enable me to speak, I trust, satisfactorily, in regard to the manner of remuneration usually adopted.

In bestowing the blessings and benefits of christianity on the slave population of this district, it has been the constant rule of my life to steer clear of that spirit of parsimony unbecoming the clerical character; and I can with much truth aver, that I have never demanded any fee in the discharge of this or any other part of my professional duty.

I feel further gratified in reporting, for the information of his Grace the Governor, that the complimentary douceur usual upon such occasions, has been almost invariably presented by the manager or proprietor of such slaves. Upon consulting

Correspondence.
Jamaica.

the register of this parish, I find, that from the 22d day of September 1816, to the 17th day of May, in this present year, that 472 slaves have been admitted within the pale of the Christian Church, the former period having been the commencement of my ministerial services.

In laying such information before his Grace, I cannot refrain from observing, that the parish of Manchester labours under a great disadvantage, and one particularly unfavourable to the progressive improvement and instruction of its slave population, in the principles of our holy religion; I mean the want of a church, or other parochial building suitable for public worship.

Thus circumstanced, with a view, at the same time, to acquit myself of every semblance of dereliction from duty, and to meet the wishes of every class of my parishioners, I have set apart my own residence for the reception of every denomination, one day in seven. I have at all times evinced my readiness to attend to the moral and religious instruction of the negro and other slaves, upon their respective properties, and when called on for this purpose, I have found them to embrace with alacrity the profession of our faith, when simplified to the level of their weak capacities.

With the concurrent aid of masters and owners of slaves, I doubt not that the clergy of the Established Church will not be wanting in furthering the ends of conversion, and of aiding that numerous class of their fellow creatures in the attainment of those sacred truths calculated to promote their temporal and eternal interests.

Under the auspices of a government so well calculated to guard their best interests, and to point out the channel through which their tenets may be most usefully diffused, I trust that the clergy of this Island will evince their zeal in that common cause of humanity, the conversion of the heathen to christianity: and to the furtherance of such meritorious views, I also trust that the proprietors of slaves will step forward to aid the ends of conversion through the ministers of the Established Church.

If I have not fully embraced the views which the inquiry of his Grace has set on foot, I shall, Sir, deem it a particular mark of your condescension, by informing me wherein I have been remiss; or whether it was your desire to have a nominal list of all slaves which have been baptised within the period of my return; and I have only in conclusion to request, that if I have in any manner deviated from the subject of his Grace's investigation, your goodness will offer such excuse for me as may, if deserving, palliate the pain of censure.

I have, &c.

William Bullock, esq. &c. &c. &c.

W. W. Hill,
Rector of Manchester.

Enclosure,
No. 15.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

SIR,

Rectory, St. Mary, 4th July 1817.

IN compliance to the requisition made by his Grace the Governor, to be informed by me relatively to the baptism of slaves, and their conversion to christianity, in the parish of St. Mary, I will in the best manner I can, briefly and accurately give the information desired.

During fourteen years of my incumbency, from 1801 to 1815, the number of slaves baptised could hardly be estimated at one hundred persons annually.

Towards the end of last year, a great anxiety was manifested, and which at present continues, for baptism both by the slaves and by their proprietors.

No compulsion, I believe, has been exercised by the master; all has been voluntary on the part of the slave.

"The negroes having freely thrown away their African superstition and prejudice."

The population of my parish may be twenty-four thousand slaves. I can assume to say, five thousand have already been baptised. Preparatory measures for the speedy baptism of the whole, are now adopting. Much I apprehend will be accomplished by the middle of September. I therefore solicit to be allowed until October to transmit my general return. The fee is now established by law at 2s. 6d. for each slave, and is paid in my parish by the proprietary.

Some very few peculiar exceptions cannot be contemplated as otherwise.

I am

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I am desirous of discharging my duty most fervently; I am not indifferent, yet I profess but little. I deem some partial tuition should be granted to the negro population, to impose on their mind the necessity of a rational conduct, also their moral and religious duties.

I am assured this important subject now deeply engages the attention of many just and benevolent proprietors.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

To William Bullock, esq.

C. Donaldson.

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 16.

SIR,

Mor. Bay, 18th June 1817.

THOSE slaves who, having been baptised, attend regularly the Established Church, and on account of their good character and knowledge of the christian faith are admitted to a participation of the holy communion, I consider as *members of the Church of England*.

And of such in this parish there are about ten in number.

I am, Sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

William Bullock, esq.

John West.

(In His Grace the Duke of Manchester's of 23d October 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 17.

SIR,

St. George's, June 6th, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular of the 26th ultimo, directing me to state the amount of the fee, if any has been demanded by me, on the baptism of slaves, and whether the same be usually paid by the master or the slave; as also to make a return to his Grace the Governor of the number of slaves that have become members of the Church of England within my pastoral care. The amount of the fee as established by the legislature is *2s 6d.* which I have in some instances received from the negro, but in many others the fee has been promised by the overseers, or those concerned for the estate. The slaves that have been baptised by me in the parish of St. George's from January 1st, 1816, to May 31st, 1817, inclusive, are in number 676; and as the greater part of these have been baptised since the last act of the legislature, called the Curate Bill, has been promulgated, there is every prospect that in the triennial return I shall next have the honour to transmit, there will be very few in this parish who will not have availed themselves of baptism.

I have, &c.

To William Bullock, esquire.

Edward Marshall.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817; with one Enclosure.)

Enclosure,
No. 18.

SIR,

Spanish Town, June 10th, 1817.

HAVING duly received your letter of the 26th May, I beg leave, for the information of his Grace the Governor, to reply to the points contained therein, as far as they relate to the parish of St. Catherine, of which I have been rector since the 23d day of December 1813.

I have always preferred trusting to this disposition of individuals, who have wished their slaves to be baptised, to making any charge on the occasion; and a compliment of *5s. or 6s. 8d.* is generally sent by the owner, with his written permission for the slave to be baptised; and no slave in this parish, during my incumbency, I have good reason to believe, has been baptised at his own expense.

When called to baptise slaves on an estate, the owner or overseer is always present, and from him the usual compliment is received. Very few of my parishioners having yet availed themselves of the Act passed in December last, establishing a fee of *2s. 6d.* for the baptism of slaves, each slave receives a printed certificate, corresponding with the entry in the parish register, of the date of baptism, his name, his age, and his owner's name.

I subjoin the number of slaves that have been baptised, and received as members of the Church of England, between the 1st of January 1776, and the 31st December 1816, and shall not fail to make the triennial returns in future as required.

Correspondence.
—
Jamaica.

The hours of Divine service are ten in the morning and three in the afternoon ; and I have always the satisfaction of seeing a crowded church ; so much so, that the magistrates and vestry contemplate the erection of two galleries.

The number of slaves who attend service in the afternoon is considerable, and I endeavour to adapt my discourses to their capacities.

Deeply impressed with a due sense of the blessings society derives from a zealous recommendation of the pure and simple doctrines of the Church of England, my cordial wishes have always accompanied my strenuous endeavours to encrease the number of its members.

I have, &c.

William Bullock, esq. &c. &c. &c.

William Vaughan Hamilton.

(In the Reverend W. V. Hamilton's of 10th June 1817.

NUMBER of SLAVES in St. Catherine, baptised and received as Members of the Church of England, between January 1st, 1776, and December 31st, 1816.

1776 - - - - 16	1790 - - - - 12	1804 - - - - 94
1777 - - - - 14	1791 - - - - 18	1805 - - - - 90
1778 - - - - 12	1792 - - - - 24	1806 - - - - 110
1779 - - - - 9	1793 - - - - 44	1807 - - - - 50
1780 - - - - 12	1794 - - - - 45	1808 - - - - 85
1781 - - - - 15	1795 - - - - 41	1809 - - - - 109
1782 - - - - 38	1796 - - - - 41	1810 - - - - 155
1783 - - - - 31	1797 - - - - 40	1811 - - - - 88
1784 - - - - 7	1798 - - - - 33	1812 - - - - 113
1785 - - - - 10	1799 - - - - 90	1813 - - - - 72
1786 - - - - 15	1800 - - - - 58	1814 - - - - 351
1787 - - - - 7	1801 - - - - 86	1815 - - - - 175
1788 - - - - 10	1802 - - - - 103	1816 - - - - 508
1789 - - - - 12	1803 - - - - 54	

Enclosure,
No. 19.

(In His Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

SIR,

St. Thomas's Vale, 5th June 1817.

IN obedience to his Grace the Governor's command, conveyed to me by your letter of 25th ult. I beg leave to submit to you the following statement, for his Grace's information.

The number of slaves of all descriptions baptised by me, (since my presentation to this benefice in September last,) is 835 ; such a number may appear very great, as it may be supposed that all these could not, within so short a period, be duly prepared to receive this solemn rite. It is therefore allowed, that most of the candidates were indeed extremely ignorant, as well of the vows required, as of the benefits received in that sacrament. It being however a notion prevalent amongst the slaves, that they may not come to church unless baptised, (that day excepted on which they present themselves for baptism,) I have been induced, after suitable admonitions, and always by the approbation of their masters, to admit them into the christian church.

No fees for the baptism of slaves have either been demanded or received by me since my residence here. The *masters*, or their attorney, have in every instance come forward to pay them.

Inasmuch as there are not to my knowledge any dissenting chapels, or meeting-houses, or preachers of a different persuasion within this parish, all those slaves who are baptised may in some sense be termed members of the Established Church. The church is always well attended by slaves and free people of colour, hence we may conclude, that many who reside at a great distance from it, will be induced to join in Divine worship, when chapels or buildings for that purpose shall be erected in different parts of the parish.

His Grace may be assured, that it will ever be my study so to discharge the sacred duties of my profession, that the piety of our excellent church may not be sullied

sullied by my ministry : and although in the course of it I may fall under censure, yet I trust that my faithful and sincere endeavours to promote the cause of religion will shield me from the reproach of sloth or indifference.

Correspondence.
Jamaica.

I am, &c.

William Bullock, esq. &c. &c. &c.

W. G. Burton,
Rector of St. Thomas's Vale.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 20.

SIR,

St. John's, 13th June 1817.

IN answer to your letter containing a request that I would furnish his Grace the Governor with every information as to the baptism of slaves in this parish, I subjoin an annual account, extracted from the register of christenings since my presentation to the living. The fee which was customarily received when I first came here for baptisms, was two dollars, but I never demanded any thing from those who came to the church for that purpose ; I am not aware that any of the proprietors, with the exception of Sir Rose Price, ever paid for the baptism of their slaves, as it has been customary for the overseer to collect the fees from the respective slaves.

His Grace will observe, from the annually progressive increase in the number of baptisms, that Christianity may be presumed to be gaining ground among the slaves in this parish. I was presented by his Grace on the 20th June 1811 : During the remainder of that year were christened :

	Slaves :	Free :
1812 - - - - -	19 - -	1
1813 - - - - -	28 - -	20
1814 - - - - -	27 - -	4
1815 - - - - -	52 - -	16
1816 - - - - -	82 - -	16
1816 - - - - -	147 - -	34
Up to the 1st June 1817 - - - - -	129 - -	2
	484	93
At Worthy Park, during the years 1815, } 1816, and 1817 - - - - - }	104	
Total - -	588	

I have, &c.

W. J. Haswell.

To William Bullock, esquire,
&c. &c. &c.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 23d October 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 21.

SIR,

Rectory, St. David's, September 13th, 1817.

I BEG leave to apologize for not having sooner replied to your official communication, dated so long ago as May 26th. The cause has been owing to my not having been able, through indisposition, to get access to the parish register. The fee which I have been in the habit of receiving for the baptism of adult slaves was 3s. 4d., and for children 1s. 8d. ; and I believe, in general, they have paid it themselves ; but I beg leave to mention, that I never took any fees until about June 1814, except on a few solitary occasions, although I had been the incumbent of St. David's for three years ; and when I did begin, it was, I can truly say, with a very trembling hand. For the last twelve months I have received only 2s. 6d. from those who paid ; but I always gave the negroes to understand, that if they were unable to pay the fee, that it should be no obstacle to their being baptised. I have made a constant, nay invariable practice, of instructing them as well as lay in my power, in the true nature of the Sacrament, as likewise that of genuine religion. Since my induction to the living (June 20th, 1811,) to the present period, I have baptised, as appears by the parish register, upwards of 2,000 negroes and coloured persons. In answer to the latter part of your communication, I beg leave humbly to assure his Grace the Governor, that I have endeavoured upon all occasions to enlighten the negroes' mind, by explaining, in the plainest and clearest manner possible,

Correspondence.
Jamaica.

possible, the true nature of christianity; and his Grace may depend, that I will never remit my exertions, when my health, (which is frequently very indifferent,) will allow me.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) *Aug. Wm. Pownall.*

To William Bullock, esq. &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure,
No. 22.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of 23d October 1817; with one Enclosure.)

SIR,

Rectory, St. Elizabeth, 9th June 1817.

I ATTEND to your respected circular of the 26th of May, and in compliance with the contents thereof, must first premise, that I have never, during my ministry, made any demands of fees from any classes of persons whatsoever; whatever is offered is accepted, and no questions ever asked. With respect to slaves, it is generally understood, and I believe is for the most part the case, that the master pays the fees for them; and the amount varies in all the distinctions that may be made between a pistole and two shillings and sixpence, these being the highest and lowest sums with which I am acquainted, in this part of the business. At the same time I must observe, that whenever I know, or have reason to believe, that the fee comes out of the pocket of the slave, the acceptance has been, and always will be by me, invariably declined. The number of slaves that have been admitted into the bosom of the Established Church, has been, during my incumbency here, 172, as will appear by the enclosed return. As I have never hitherto considered it as absolutely necessary to mark the distinction of "Slave" in the register book, but only colour, &c. when it can be ascertained, this number may possibly be not exactly correct; it is, however, very nearly so; and I shall always hereafter be more exact in that point, and attend punctually to the triennial returns, agreeably to his Grace's commands. I have also to observe, that as the clergyman has no other resource for information, but the account that is given him, often by illiterate and ignorant people, it cannot well be expected that the register should be in all respects correct; I shall not fail, however, to remedy this in future, as far as lies in my power; and I beg leave to add, that you may assure his Grace, that I shall not relax from the most ardent exertions to promote the valuable results, which will arise by a steady compliance with the latter part of your letter; and that it will always be my pleasure, as well as duty, to give every information in my power to satisfy the wishes of his Grace, and the intentions of the Prince Regent's Government.

I have, &c.

To William Bullock, esq. &c. &c. &c.

Thomas Stewart.

(In the Rev. T. Stewart's of 9th June 1817.)

A RETURN of SLAVES baptised in the Parish of St. Elizabeth, from the 8th day of November 1815, to the 8th day of June 1817, both days inclusive.

Date.	N A M E.	Colour.	Date.	N A M E.	Colour.
1815 :			1815 :		
Nov. 8.	Eliza Johnston -	Black.	Dec. 6.	Sarah Cleanth -	Black.
	Ann Thomson -	Ditto.		Robert Morrison -	Ditto.
— 14.	John Shirvy -	Quadroon.		Ann Picard -	Ditto.
	William Hodges -	Black.	1816 :		
	Wm. Henry Godfrey -	Mulatto.	Jan. 4.	Robert Calamb -	Samboe.
	Richard Williams -	Samboe.		Sally Myers -	Black.
	Morgan Van Horne -	Ditto.	Feb. 15.	Mary E. Griffith -	Samboe.
	Elsy Goodin -	Black.		Francis Mitchel -	Black.
	Emma Wright -	Samboe.		Eliza Harriott -	Ditto.
— 26.	James Mackintosh Fry -	Black.	— 25.	Sarah Morgan -	Mulatto.
Dec. 6.	Joseph Cole -	Ditto.	Mar. 2.	Jane Colhoun -	
	Samuel Barrett -	Ditto.		Cicilia Bony -	
	Francis White -	Ditto.		Susan Lord -	
	Amelia Lewis -	Ditto.		Thomas Linton -	
	Elizabeth Taylor -	Ditto.		Bathshea Linton -	
	Maria Bartlett -	Ditto.		Robert Linton -	
	Francis Heath -	Ditto.		William French -	
	Elizabeth Powell -	Ditto.		Robert Woollery -	
	Sylvia Facey -	Ditto.		David Stephenson -	
	Susanna Mysia -	Ditto.		Jane Ellis -	

Returns.] TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES.

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Date.	N A M E.	Colour.	Date.	N A M E.	Colour.	Correspondence.
						Jamaica.
1816:			1816:			
Mar. 2.	John Ward.		April 2.	William Clarke	Black.	
April 7.	Thomas Smith -	Black.		Peter Vassall -	Ditto.	
May 5.	Ann Smith -	Ditto.		Penelope Foster -	Ditto.	
June 10.	Mary Mitchel -	Ditto.		Helena Foster -	Ditto.	
— 15.	Thomas Dunkley -	Ditto.		Evelina Watt -	Ditto.	
	Elizabeth Blake -	Ditto.		Susannah Daly -	Ditto.	
	Eliza Rob -	Ditto.		Ann Palmer -	Ditto.	
July 5.	Elizabeth Dixon -	Ditto.		Henry Malcolm -	Ditto.	
	Catharine Gale -	Ditto.		Thomas Garston Foster -	Ditto.	
	Margaret Crispe -	Ditto.		Mary Brest -	Ditto.	
	Thomas Eying -	Ditto.		John Maxwell -	Ditto.	
	John Fair -	Mulatto.		William Poyser -	Ditto.	
	Hugh Wallace -	Black.		James Dunkeley -	Ditto.	
	Thomas Henderson -	Ditto.		John Gowdy -	Ditto.	
	George Stewart -	Samboe.		Isabella Picart -	Ditto.	
	William Wallace -			James Dobb Alison -	Ditto.	
	William Myers -	Black.	April 4.	James Hendricks -	Ditto.	
	Catharine Hylton -	Mulatto.		Eleanor Hendricks -	Ditto.	
	William Hill -	Black.		William Alwood -	Ditto.	
	Eliza Williams -	Ditto.		Philip Berry -	Ditto.	
	Elizabeth James -	Ditto.	April 27.	Margaret M'Farlane -	Ditto.	
Aug. 18.	James Powell -	Ditto.		Maria Hart -	Ditto.	
	Eleanor Coke -	Ditto.		Susannah Williams -	Ditto.	
— 24.	Sarah Williams -	Ditto.		Edward Kerr -	Ditto.	
	William J. Sim -	Mulatto.		Ann Smith -	Ditto.	
	Hannah James -	Ditto.		Ruth Williams -	Ditto.	
	Patrick James -	Black.		Francis Channer -	Ditto.	
	Alexander Kean -	Samboe.		Jane Barrett -	Ditto.	
	Hannah James -	Ditto.	May 11.	John Planter Bruce -	Ditto.	
	Jane James -	Black.		John Bruce -	Ditto.	
	Charles Shakespear -	Quadroon.		Jane Robertson -	Ditto.	
Oct. 13.	Thomas Brunside -	Black.	June 1.	Elizabeth Lockhart -	Ditto.	
Nov. 1.	George Munro -	Mulatto.		Amelia Forrest -	Ditto.	
	Jane Wright -	Black.		Sarah Glasgow Bawn -	Ditto.	
	Susan Rankin -	Mulatto.		Hester Montiforo -	Ditto.	
	Thomasina Ewing -	Ditto.		John Upham -	Ditto.	
	Edward Allen -	Black.		Eleanor Williams -	Ditto.	
	Robert Dickinson -	Ditto.		Francis Upham -	Ditto.	
	Eliza Manning -	Ditto.		Letitia Powell -	Ditto.	
	Henry Gale -	Ditto.		Joanna W. Doyles -	Ditto.	
	Margaret Rankin -	Ditto.	— 8.	Robert Smith -	Ditto.	
	Catherine Wright -	Mulatto.		Richard Smith -	Ditto.	
	William Woolley -	Ditto.		William Martin -	Ditto.	
	John White -	Black.		Rebecca Williams -	Ditto.	
	Prince William -	Ditto.		Francis Royal -	Ditto.	
— 17.	Thomas Watson -	Ditto.		Clarissa Smith -	Ditto.	
	Isabella A. Mulling -	Ditto.		Francis Johnston -	Ditto.	
	Catherine Eliz. Bennet -	Ditto.		Sarah Smith -	Ditto.	
Dec. 22.	Amelia Jones -	Ditto.		Catharine Royal -	Ditto.	
	Rosetta Jones -	Ditto.		Richard Daly Williams -	Ditto.	
	George Jones -	Ditto.		Thomas Mudge -	Mulatto.	
	Ann Jones -	Ditto.		James Hutchinson -	Black.	
— 29.	Charles Miller -	Ditto.		Rebecca Brown -	Ditto.	
1817:				Thomas Watson -	Ditto.	
Jan. 1.	William J. Bennett -	Samboe.		Jane Campbell -	Ditto.	
Feb. 16.	William Dennis -	Black.		Eleanor Forrest -	Ditto.	
	Francis Brown -	Ditto.		Sarah Campbell -	Ditto.	
	John Palmer -	Ditto.		Mary White -	Ditto.	
Mar. 23.	William Coke -	Ditto.		Henrietta Smith -	Ditto.	
	Ann Barrett -	Ditto.		Susannah Vassall -	Ditto.	
	Eliza Powell -	Ditto.		Margaret Campbell -	Ditto.	
	Margaret Coke -	Ditto.		George Little -	Ditto.	
April 2.	Eliza Bantin -	Ditto.		John Watson -	Ditto.	
	Sarah Bantin -	Ditto.		Samuel Browne -	Samboe.	
	William Hutchinson -	Ditto.		Ann Watson -	Black.	
	Susannah R. Hutchinson -	Ditto.		Elizabeth Little -	Ditto.	
	Philisiana Watkins -	Ditto.		Charlotte Williams -	Ditto.	

TOTAL - - - 172.

Thomas Stewart, Rector.

Correspondence.

ST.
CHRISTOPHER'S.

Copy of a Letter from his Excellency Governor Probyn to Earl Bathurst ;
with eleven Enclosures.

MY LORD,

St. Christopher's, August 30th, 1817.

WHEN I had the honour of receiving your lordship's circular dispatch of the 7th April, I wrote to the several incumbents within my government, enclosing copies thereof, and desiring the required report to be made to me for your lordship's information.

I now beg leave to transmit the answers which I have received. They are so full and explanatory, that I shall add no more than the expression of my belief, that these reverend gentlemen discharge the sacred duties of their office with propriety and talent.

I have, &c.

To the Right Hon. the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

Tho. Probyn,
Capt. General.

Enclosure,
No. 1.

(In his Excellency Governor Probyn's of the 30th August 1817.)

SIR,

Rectory St. Peter's, St. Kitts, July 4th, 1817.

I HAD the honour to receive on the second instant your Excellency's letter of the 29th ult. together with a copy of a dispatch from the Right honourable Earl Bathurst, under date the 7th April 1817.

It was with great self-gratulation that I perused his lordship's letter addressed to your Excellency, conscious of having in a great measure anticipated the wishes of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent and His Government. My churches have ever been open to the Black population, and in the course of my long ministry, I have been invariably solicitous to instruct them in the principles and doctrine of the christian religion, and to impress on their minds their moral duties as connected with their happiness here and hereafter. The better to effect this purpose, near two years ago I formed a plan, which I immediately put into execution, of delivering to my Black congregation, after I had dismissed the other part, a discourse or lecture, more suited to the capacities and manner of the former, convinced that the sermons which are generally preached to the more enlightened and better informed of the community, had little or no chance of being so understood as to make a proper impression on the minds of the negroes. It is with the most sincere pleasure that I report to your Excellency, for the information of His Royal Highness's ministers, that my plan has been attended with the highest advantages to my Black congregations. My churches, and especially that of St. John's, are generally crowded by them, and they listen, apparently with great delight, to my instructions and admonitions, and as far as I can judge, with resolutions of amending their conduct, and becoming sincere christians. My parish of St. John is at a much greater distance from the capital than is that of St. Peter, and the negroes are more tractable and docile. They acknowledge with grateful warmth my pastoral labours; I am devising a plan to collect them more frequently. This I can easily effect at St. Peter's, my church in that parish being close to my parsonage. But I shall find some difficulty in adopting this plan at St. John's, there being no parsonage there, and that parish being at some distance from my place of residence. The docility of the Negroes there, will in a good measure compensate for the want of frequent meetings. It is impossible, at present, to say what is the exact number of the negroes in my parishes who are members of the Established Church. It was my wish, and a part of my plan, to insert in a book, to be kept for that purpose, the name of every negro and coloured person, whether slave or free, who attended my churches; but I found this to be very difficult, as they did not attend at the appointed times to give in their names. I will again make a trial, and in general adopt such plans as bid fair to meet the wishes of His Royal Highness and His Government on this head.

The stipends of our clergy are by law fixed at 16,000 lbs. net of sugar from each parish; the amount of which, in money, must always depend on the price of this article in England. It is fluctuating, and too often affords but a small income to maintain their families, extravagant as are all the necessaries of life in the West Indies.

A local law authorises the vestry of each parish to regulate the fees of the incumbents.

incumbents. The out-parishes of this Colony are guided in this respect by the regulations of the vestry of St. George, Basseterre, the capital. And the fee for the baptism of Negroes has been, for time immemorial, invariably fixed at two dollars. In my parish of St. Peter, (the first living to which I was presented,) early seeing the inconvenience of the negroes paying for their own baptisms, I convened my vestry and other inhabitants, and proposed to them to receive a barrel of sugar (250lbs. net, and worth about 3*l.* sterling) from each estate, for baptising and burying its slaves. This some acceded to, and others objected. About eight plantations pay the barrel of sugar. This is, no doubt, a remuneration very inadequate to my labours, but such as I am satisfied with, having made the proposition many years ago.

It is my intention to keep in future a book for the insertion of baptisms and burials of slaves in both my parishes, apart from the usual register. In St. Peter's, I have not hitherto been so minute as to insert the names of slaves baptised and buried from the estates which pay the barrel of sugar, supposing that the proprietors and managers of those estates have kept a register of their own. In St. John's, where the negroes themselves pay for their baptisms and burials, I do not think I have omitted a single name.

I believe I have replied to all the points contained in Earl Bathurst's dispatch, and your Excellency may always be assured of my readiness to adopt every plan for promoting the wishes of government in the instruction and general amelioration of the slaves and other black and coloured inhabitants of my parishes.

I have, &c.

William Davis, Rector of St. Peter,
Basseterre, and St. John, Capisterre.

To his Excellency Tho^s Probyn, esq.
&c. &c. &c.

P. S. I take occasion here to observe, that if government would relinquish the duty of 4½ per cent. on the shipment of our stipends, it would add something to the comforts of each clergyman. Such a boon would be gratefully acknowledged.

(In his Excellency Governor Probyn's of the 30th August 1817.)

St. Christopher, St. Paul's, Capisterre, August 11th, 1817.

Enclosure,
No. 2.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 29th June, which did not reach me until the latter end of July; and in answer to the inquiries therein made, I beg to state to your Excellency, that I hold the two contiguous parishes of St. Ann, Sandy Point, and of St. Paul, Capisterre, the separate salary of each of which livings as established by the law of this Island, is sixteen thousand weight of Muscovado sugar,

In each of these parishes there is a church, and in the parish of St. Paul, Capisterre, where I reside, there is a parsonage. In the parish of St. Ann, Sandy Point, there is not one. In both of these parishes the churches are open, and pews allotted as well to the black as to the White population.

The fee for baptism as fixed by the vestry of each parish, is two dollars for all persons, without distinction of colour; by the slaves this fee is very seldom paid, and when it is, I consider it as coming from the person who has the direction of the property to which the negro is attached.

The number of slaves who have been baptised by me from the eighth day of September 1812 to the 10th day of August 1817, (the time during which I have held these livings) amounts to four hundred and thirteen.

When convinced of the purity and superiority of the doctrines of the Established Church of England, it is not less my endeavour than my wish to impress upon the minds of all committed to my charge, those duties of morality, loyalty, and obedience, which alleviate the burthens of labour, and banish discontent, by a religious and cheerful resignation to the all-wise dispensations of Providence.

I have, &c.

Lewis Brotherson Vercheld.

To his Excellency Thomas Probyn, esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Correspondence.

St. Christopher's.

Enclosure,
No. 3.

(In his Excellency Governor Probyn's of the 30th August 1817.)

SIR,

St. Kitt's, 9th August 1817.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, and to apologize for this late answer to your Excellency's circular letter. Agreeably to the requisition therein contained, I beg leave to report to your Excellency, that I hold two livings in St. Christopher's, the united parishes of St. Thomas, Middle Island and Trinity, Palmetto Point; the salary assigned by the local government to each, is 16,000 lbs. of sugar: churches are built in the respective parishes, but a parsonage only in the parish of St. Thomas, where I reside; both churches are open and accommodation of pews afforded to such of the Black population as are desirous of attending at the time of Divine worship. The several vestries regulate the minister's fees; one dollar is allowed for the baptism of a slave, payable, I consider, by the master only, (if at all required.) On the master's application I have freely baptised, and never taken payment from the slave for the performance of this or any duty. The number of slaves amounts to nine hundred and twenty-four who have been baptised by me in the course of six years, during which interval I have been incumbent of the livings above stated.

Permit me to assure your Excellency of my prompt attention to any further commands you may deem proper to give on the subject.

Sensible of the tendency of Christianity to promote the temporal and eternal happiness of mankind, persuaded also of the superiority of the doctrines of the Church of England over every religious sect, my earnest endeavours will be directed to influence the conversion of the labouring class of society to the Established Church; and to impress on its communicants the important duties which the Christian dispensation enjoins.

I have, &c.

Edward Brazier.

To his Excellency Thomas Probyn, Esq.

Cap' Gen' and Gov' in chief, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure,
No. 4.

(In his Excellency Governor Probyn's of the 30th August 1817.)

SIR,

St. Christopher, July 10th, 1817.

IN compliance with your Excellency's letter of the 29th June, I have the honour to transmit to you the following statement:—

I am the incumbent of two parishes in this Island, namely, St. Mary, Cayon, and Christ Church, Nicholatown, and constantly reside in one of them. The salary allowed by the local government, is sixteen thousand weight of sugar for each parish: the price of sugar is precarious; but I think five hundred pounds sterling for the two parishes, may be considered as nearly the value.

There is a church in each parish, generally kept in good repair at the expense of the parish; the churches are open during Divine service to all persons, without distinction of colour or condition. The fee for baptism is sometimes paid by the master of the slave, he allowing the incumbent a barrel of sugar annually, for baptising and burying the slaves of his plantation, whatever may be the number. When paid by the slave, the fee is two dollars; but this is seldom demanded, and seldomer received. I speak only as to the parishes of which I am incumbent.

In each of the above-mentioned parishes, there are about three hundred christian slaves, some of whom attend Divine service very regularly, others are induced to follow the methodists, whose doctrine and form of worship have, as I have been informed, many allurements for the illiterate and uninformed, for those who will not be at the trouble of thinking, and those who cannot.

From the knowledge your Excellency must have of what is passing in your government, I may hope you may be enabled to assure the noble Secretary of State, Lord Bathurst, that while various sects are exerting themselves in converting slaves to christianity, the clergy of the Church of England cannot justly be reproached with inactivity or indifference; that would indeed be a shameful dereliction of their duty, when they must be so fully convinced of the justice of the observation of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, "that the purity of its doctrines is better calculated than that of any other persuasion to impress upon its communicants a strong sense of moral obligations, a due submission to the laws, and that cheerful resignation to the will of Providence, which lightens the burthens of life, by rescuing affliction from the bitterness of discontent."

I have, &c.

*Joseph Barnes.*To his Excellency Governor Probyn,
&c. &c. &c.

(In his Excellency Governor Probyn's of the 30th August 1817.)

SIR,

St. Christopher, July 28th, 1817.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Excellency's letter of the 27th ult., with a circular one enclosed from the Right Hon. the Earl of Bathurst, dated the 7th of April, and in compliance with your Excellency's directions, now return every information I am able, on the different points specified by his lordship.

The established stipend attached to the living of St. George, Basseterre, of which I am the incumbent, is 600*l.*, to which sum is to be added the amount of the surplice fees, with an allowance of 150*l.* for the annual rent of a house, (no regular parsonage having been built,) the whole amounting to about 1,000*l.* current money per annum.

My residence is in the parish where a church is erected, and in which Divine service is performed once on Sundays, the morning prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays, and on some other particular occasions throughout the year, at which times free access is allowed to every part of the Black population who are desirous of attending.

The baptismal fee demanded for a slave is two dollars, a regulation established by the vestry; and with regard to the payment of which, the proprietor on some occasions makes himself responsible, and on others the slave.

It is almost, I imagine, a thing impracticable to afford your Excellency any thing like accurate information relative to the number of slaves who may have become members of the Established Church. From a reference made to the parish register, from the month of September 1812, (the period of my induction to the living,) to the present time, I think I may state, that the number of slaves baptised during that interval, amounts to between three and four hundred, infants and adults included. But what proportion even of those are now members of the Established Church, can scarcely be ascertained, as many, on their application to me to be made christians, were probably adherents to the persuasion of the Moravian and methodist missionaries, and others may have since become so.

I beg leave to assure your Excellency, that every attention will be paid to the directions for a triennial return of the slaves baptised during that period, and likewise to every other point connected with His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's instructions.

I have, &c.

To Governor Probyn, &c. &c. &c.

J. J. Kerie.

(In his Excellency Governor Probyn's of the 30th August 1817.)

SIR,

Charlestown, Nevis, July 9th, 1817.

I HAD the honour of receiving your Excellency's letter, dated the 29th of June, in which your Excellency requires me to furnish you with full information on all the subjects mentioned in the circular which your Excellency has received from the Right honourable Earl Bathurst, a copy of which your Excellency has enclosed to me in your letter; a task which I will endeavour to perform as far as I am personally concerned.

Your Excellency already knows that I hold the living in the parish of St. Paul's, Charlestown, in this Island. The salary assigned by an insular act to my living, in common with all the livings in this Island, is sixteen thousand pounds of sugar per annum. By the same act, two thousand pounds per annum is settled on the person keeping the parish register, which appears to have been formerly done by the parish clerk; but as this duty is now very properly transferred into the hands of the incumbent, two thousand pounds of sugar is usually paid to him; but the payment of this depends upon the will of the vestry. It is, however, scarce possible for me to state what may be the yearly average of my stipend, as it ever must depend upon the quality of the sugar paid by the planter, and the price of that article in the English market: the sugar of the clergy is of course shipped, subjected to all the duties and expenses of the sugar shipped by the planter. Another circumstance which renders it quite impossible for me to state, with any accuracy, the amount of my salary, is, the very great irregularity of the payments made in this parish to the clergyman. I have held this living for five years, and the accounts for the two first only have been closed. It will appear from this statement, how inadequate the local salaries of the clergy are to the maintenance of a family, in a country where the necessaries of life are purchased at so extravagant a rate.

Correspondence.

St. Christopher's.

Enclosure,
No. 5.

Enclosure,
No. 6.

Correspondence.

St. Christopher's.

There is in my parish a church capable of holding, I think, about three hundred persons, with tolerable convenience. There is also a small parsonage house, in which I constantly reside. Since my induction to the living, my church has not only been open to the Black population, but I have used every means in my power to induce them to frequent it: that I have not succeeded as well as I could wish, I must both confess and lament.

The fee which may be demanded by the clergy on the baptism of any person, whether free or a slave, is eighteen shillings currency; but it has been my practice ever since I held this living, to administer this sacrament to all slaves, and many free coloured persons, gratuitously, therefore I cannot, with certainty, state whether the fee is paid by the slave or master, but I believe that there is no established custom; when the master requires the performance of the office he pays the fee, but when the slave voluntarily offers himself it may be demanded of him; such also has been my practice with regard to the burial of slaves.

It would be difficult for me to state how many of the slaves in my parish have become members of the Church, for though I have invited them to come to me, to give me their names for insertion in a book, which I intended to keep for that purpose, I have not been able to induce them to do so; but I will renew my efforts on this head, and trust I shall be more successful. At the end of this letter I will add the number of slaves which I have baptised and buried for the last three years, all of which I have inserted in my register.

Having used my earnest endeavours to promote religious views and an attachment to the Church of which I am a humble minister, among all classes of people, I rejoice to find that the Prince Regent's Government is so desirous of calling the attention of the clergy in the Colonies to this important subject, and of encouraging them to a more active discharge of their duty towards the slave as well as the master.

I have, &c.

To his Excellency Governor Probyn,
&c. &c. &c.

Daniel Gateward Davis.

Number of Slaves baptised, from 1st January 1814, to 1st January 1817	-	48
- Ditto - - Burials for the same time	- - - - -	30

Enclosure,
No. 7.

(In Governor Probyn's Letter of the 30th August 1817.)

SIR,

Nevis, July 7th, 1817.

IN compliance with the directions contained in your Excellency's circular of the 29th ult. I beg leave to state, that the annual stipend allowed me as rector of the parish of St. George, Gingerland, is sixteen thousand pounds weight of sugar.

I have further to inform your Excellency, that there is a church in this living, but no parsonage; two thousand pounds weight of sugar being added to the salary in lieu thereof; I however reside in my parish.

The church is on all occasions open to the slave population, and a part of it appropriated solely to their accommodation. With regard to the fee on baptising a slave, former usage has entitled us to a demand of two dollars; which, as well as the burial fee, I have ever considered it the part of the master to pay; but I have very seldom been offered, or received, any fee for either since my presentation to this living (in June 1815.) I have baptised thirty-seven slaves. I am unable to make any satisfactory return to your Excellency of the number of slaves in my parish who may be accounted members of the Established Church, from the circumstance of many of them attending at one time the service of the church, and at another the dissenters' chapel. Impressed with a deep sense of the extreme importance and necessity, at the present time, of those exertions in behalf of our excellent establishment, so earnestly and justly recommended by Earl Bathurst to our consideration; the clergy of these Islands cannot fail to regret the insuperable obstacles that exist (under the present system) to any beneficial result from their labours for the advancement of religion among the slaves; though at the same time I humbly trust we shall not be found to have left unperformed any part of our ministry, which circumstances have permitted us to fulfil.

Before I conclude, allow me to entreat your Excellency's attention to the very inadequate stipend assigned for the maintenance of incumbents holding single livings. There exists no record, to my knowledge, of any augmentation having taken place in

in their value since the earliest period of their establishment. The mode of payment is also evidently objectionable and leads to transactions highly derogatory to the clerical profession.

Correspondence.
St. Christopher's.

To his Excellency Thomas Probyn, esq.
Captain General, &c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
John Hutchinson Walwys.

(In his Excellency Governor Probyn's of the 30th August 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 8.

SIR,

Nevis, July 16th, 1817.

I HAVE this moment had the honour of receiving your Excellency's letter of the 14th instant, requesting an explanation of a paragraph contained in my reply to your circular of the 29th ult. and lose no time in furnishing you with an elucidation of the same.

"The insuperable obstacles" to the advancement of religion among the negroes, I humbly conceive to exist in the gross state of ignorance in which the far greater part of them are living, together with the total want of any system of instruction, or any means by which that ignorance may be dispelled, and their minds prepared for the reception of religious truth. Need I add, that so long as these impediments to the growth of Christianity among the slaves subsist, they are in a perfectly unfit state to derive any benefit from the labours of the clergy.

Your Excellency will please to observe, that Earl Bathurst intimates, that it is on the exertions of the clergy that the wished-for improvement in the above-mentioned class depends; it is, however, evidently superfluous to exhort (as he has done) to "a more active discharge of their duty," those who, however zealous in the cause, know to their heart-felt regret (awfully responsible as is the office of a minister of the Gospel) that their endeavours will be unavailing.

To this inability to promote the desired end (with the present means of so doing,) my observation, which has been noticed by your Excellency, related.

I am, &c.

To his Excellency Thomas Probyn, esq.
Captain General, &c. &c. &c.

John Hutchinson Walwys.

(In his Excellency Governor Probyn's of the 30th August 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 9.

SIR,

Charlestown, Nevis, 10th July 1817.

I WAS duly honoured with your Excellency's letter of the 29th June last, enclosing one from Lord Bathurst. In reply to which, I beg leave to state, that in the year 1804 I was inducted to the two livings of St. Thomas, Lowland, and St. James, Windward, in the Island of Nevis: each parish contains a church, with a few acres of glebe land, but no parsonage house; and I am under the necessity of residing in town, nine miles distant from my Windward church. There is an annual stipend of 16,000lbs. weight of sugar allowed to the rector, by each parish; and 1,500lbs. of sugar in lieu of a parsonage house; when I am obliged to pay an annual rent of 70*l.* sterling, or 140*l.* currency, for my house in Charlestown. The sugar which I usually receive is of inferior quality. Fees are seldom or never paid by either master or slave; and if the negroes (as requested) will bring their children to the parish church on Sundays to be baptised, no fees will be required for baptism. Very few negroes indeed can be induced (though invited) to attend Divine worship in the churches. The number of negro and other slaves baptised by me, during the last three years, amounts to about one hundred and sixty-five, men, women and children. In future, I will be more particular, and note down in a book the names of such slaves as I can persuade to attend either of my parish churches.

I hope this information will satisfy your Excellency for the present; for the future, I trust it will be in my power to furnish you with a more full and particular account of the number of slaves that I baptise, of such also as I bury, as well as of such as attend either of the parish churches of St. Thomas, Lowland, or St. James, Windward.

I have, &c.

To his Excellency Thomas Probyn, esq.
Capt. General, &c. &c. &c.

Samuel Lyons.

Correspondence.

St. Christopher's.

Enclosure,
No. 10.

(In his Excellency Governor Probyn's of the 30th August 1817.)

SIR,

Nevis, July 9th, 1817.

I HAD the honour of receiving your letter of the 29th ult. enclosing one from Lord Bathurst, dated the 7th April. In reply to the questions proposed to you by his lordship, I beg leave to observe, the annual stipend allowed me as rector of the parish of St. John, Figtree, is 16,000 lbs. of sugar. There is no parsonage attached to the living, but the vestry allows 1,500 lbs. of sugar, which is said to be worth 66*l.* currency, (but which, when turned into money, is not half of that sum,) for the rent of a dwelling house, and 2,000 lbs. of sugar more for keeping a register of baptisms, marriages, burials, &c. The whole of the sugar, what with loss in meeting, shipping, and selling, it has never in any single instance, during the five years I have held this living, upon which I have constantly resided, given me with the strictest economy a bare maintenance. The church is open to the Black population, as well as to that of the Whites, there being nearly half of the pews in it appropriated to the use of the negroes and free people of colour, and there is no distinction. The fee for baptising a slave is, I have hitherto understood, two dollars, and I imagine ought to be paid by the master, but is very rarely or never paid by either of them. The last question asked by his lordship is, the number of slaves who have become members of the Church of England within my pastoral care. This I conceive is a question difficult to answer strictly, as they frequently go to the Methodist chapels after the church service is over. I have, however, baptised ninety-eight of them since my presentation to this living by his Excellency Governor Elliott. When, as his lordship observes, "sects of all descriptions are making such exertions for the conversion of slaves to christianity, the Church of England is not backward in endeavouring to do the same;"—I humbly conceive, however, her members, like other denominations of christians, ought to be made independent as to their means of support, to enable them to do the same more effectually, which would afford a pleasure inferior to but few, which could possibly be experienced by them.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

Joseph H. Pemberton.

To his Excellency Thomas Probyn, esq.
Captain General, &c. &c. &c.

(In his Excellency Governor Probyn's of the 30th August 1817.)

SIR,

Tortola, July 24th, 1817.

IN obedience to his Royal Highness's commands, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the return required, conformably to the instructions contained in the letter from the Right honourable the Earl Bathurst.

The Virgin Islands government is composed of but one living, and is formed into one parish, denominated St. George's; the salary to the clergyman is six hundred and fifty pounds currency per annum, in which is included one hundred pounds for a parsonage house; there is but one church, which is erected in the road town of Tortola, and one clergyman; the church is open on Sundays twice a-day, in the forenoon and afternoon, for the reception of both white and coloured persons, as many as choose to attend Divine worship: for the latter there is a certain part of the church allotted them.

The fee for baptising each slave, as established by the vestry, is one dollar, which is as frequently paid by the slaves themselves as by their owners.

During my residence in Tortola from February 1816 to the present time, I have entered, as members into the Established Church, thirty-one slaves.

I hope the above answer may be satisfactory to your Excellency, and shall be glad to afford any other information from time to time as may be required.

I have, &c.

William Elms,
Rector.

To his Excellency Thomas Probyn, esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure,
No. 11.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Robinson to the Earl Bathurst.

Correspondence.

TOBAGO.

MY LORD,

Tobago, June 24th, 1817.

IN reply to your lordship's letter of the 7th April 1817, I have the honour to state, that there is but one clergyman of the Church of England in the Island, his salary is 750 *l.* currency, which at the present rate of exchange is equal to about 300 *l.* sterling.

There is a church building in Scarborough, which by contract ought to be finished on the first of October next. There is a small chapel at Courland, made out of a house purchased by the inhabitants of that neighbourhood, where the clergyman does duty one Sunday in each month.

There is not any glebe house, but there is a small tract of land in the vicinity of Scarborough that was intended for a parsonage.

I have delayed inquiring minutely into this, until the expiration of the term limited by the Treaty of Paris for the adjustment of French claims, as there is some nicety in the question till then.

Divine service is at present performed in the court-house in Scarborough and is open to all.

There is no fee demanded upon the baptism of negroes.

The present incumbent has not kept a register of the number of negroes baptised by him, but in a short time he will be able to furnish me with a correct return, and for the future, there shall be a regular statement, of which a biennial return shall be transmitted to your lordship.

I am endeavouring to bring the Colony to a limitation of the hours allotted to marketing on Sundays, which, if effected, will, I verily believe, tend more towards the cause of morality and religion than any thing hitherto attempted in this Colony. I consider what is called the established Sunday custom of the Island, as a wanton and injurious profanation of the Sabbath: I say injurious, because those slaves who remain after eleven or twelve o'clock under pretence of settling their marketing, only spend the whole in dissipation before they leave the town; whereas if they were compelled to clear the market at a certain hour, they would be sure of a fair price for their articles, they would go either home or to church, and the public would be benefited by paying no more than a fair price for provisions.

The name of the present incumbent is William Sloane Wilson, but we have no army chaplains; that clergyman performs the duty at present, and receives the military salary.

I have, &c.

F. P. Robinson,
Governor.

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

Copy of a Letter from Sir Ralph Woodford to Earl Bathurst; with five Enclosures.

TRINIDAD.

MY LORD,

Trinidad, 10th February 1818.

I AM at last enabled to transmit to your lordship a general abstract of the returns required by your lordship's circular of the 7th of April, of the number of slaves on estates that have received baptism, which as I believe it to be correct, I pray may be laid before His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in obedience to His Royal Highness's commands.

If the returns of the quarters showing the numbers on each estate, be also required, they can be furnished in a short time from the original, from which the general abstract is taken.

I have thought it unnecessary to call for returns of unbaptised personal slaves, as I believe the negroes of that class have been generally made members of the christian church. Those that have not may be considered as incapable, from natural ignorance, of learning those parts of the profession of the Christian faith, a knowledge of which is considered by the Church of Rome as indispensable, in an adult presented at the baptismal font. Children are now I believe universally baptised at an early age, and the sponsors are very generally attentive to the duties they undertake to perform; many slaves were baptised in other Islands.

Correspondence.
Trinidad.

I communicated to the protestant minister such parts of your lordship's letter as related to him more particularly, and I herewith enclose a copy of Mr. Clapham's reply.

In complying with the remaining instructions of your lordship's signification of His Royal Highness's commands, it is my painful duty to observe that there are no establishments for the clergy in this Island.

When the cedula of 1783 was issued, the King of Spain declared his intention of giving a fit salary to the priests, and exempted his new subjects from tythe, which until now has never been paid, and the priests have continued on the same salary of 400 dollars, which sum will not enable any person to live decently in this country, it is the wages of the poorest negro mechanic. There are indeed some fees, but those which are the most profitable are seldom paid: they arise from the long ceremonies of costly funerals, which the relations of a deceased person require, but for which they are afterwards very unwilling to pay.

Having found the Reverend Don Joaquim de Aristimãno at the head of the catholic church, I have only to bear testimony to his labours and to his disinterestedness, as to those of the Friar José de Ricla, by whose joint efforts the greatest improvement in the religious devotion of the middling class of people has been effected. I have personally taken every opportunity in my power to countenance and support their laudable endeavours, but the erection of churches and chapels is as indispensable as the better payment of the clergy; and although it may be for the general colonial interest of Great Britain that those expenses should be defrayed by each Colony, yet as the King of Spain promised to erect them at his own cost, I would submit to your lordship if it would not be just and equitable for His Majesty, who has preserved to himself all the Spanish King's rights and privileges, to carry into effect the declared intention of his Catholic Majesty to erect churches and parsonages and to endow curacies with proper stipends: the people here have acquired many advantages in the security of their property, &c. from being placed under the dominion of Great Britain, but they have lost those of a free trade, which, at the present moment of general tranquillity from foreign enemies, are felt too sensibly to be forgotten.

If His Majesty's government shall be pleased to consider the claims of this Colony upon the subject of your lordship's inquiries in a favourable light, I would recommend fixed salaries to be given to the priests, in proportion to the extent in distance, as well as in population, of their respective parishes, and that the fees now received should be paid, not on account of the curate, but of the church, as a fund for its maintenance, improvement and repair.

I have the honour to enclose the returns of the parishes already designated by fixed limits, as well as the general return of all slaves that appear to have been baptised in the Catholic churches, with a translation thereof.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,
Your Lordship's faithful and obedient Servant,
Earl Bathurst, K. G. &c. &c. &c. (Signed) *Ralph Woodford.*

Enclosure,
No. 1.

(In Sir Ralph Woodford's Letter, 10th February 1818.)

SIR,

Trinidad, July 12th, 1817.

IF I am rather later than may have been expected in answering your Excellency's letter of June 24th, I have to state, that it has proceeded neither from inattention nor inactivity. I have perused the letter often and considered it with care; the first impression by it revived and suggested various ideas about the slaves and about the dissenters, and the interest and alarms with which they agitate the world; but as the arranging and pursuing such ideas would lead me into a longer discussion than might be expedient, I think it better to confine myself entirely to the duties immediately required of me.

For the past, a most unfavourable account only of the baptism of slaves can be given, and I am afraid that it will continue to be so until the new church is finished: The future triennial returns I shall be quite prepared to make, should I live long enough and retain this rectory, and at any rate I shall endeavour to enable my successors to make them satisfactorily. By examining the registers I could for many years past ascertain the number of slaves baptised by me; and the negroes in general consider themselves to be members of the church from whose ministers they have received baptism, whether they ever attend a place of worship or not, which indeed cannot always be in their power. But that would not enable me to answer the question

question of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's government, as to the "number of slaves who have become members of the Church of England within my pastoral care." The whole number of all the congregation is generally small, and of the black and coloured part of the congregation I have never supposed it necessary, nor could it always be easy, varying as they do in number and sitting somewhat promiscuously, to distinguish between the bond and the free; but I hope when the new church is finished that this difficulty will be removed.

For some years of the first part of my incumbency, I required no fees for the baptism of slaves, although no exemption was made for them in the docket of fees given to me when I was persuaded to remain in this Colony; afterwards several reasons induced me to accept them, but only at half the sum paid for a free person; the fee, when paid, is usually paid by the master, whose permission I always think it proper to be given to me, or by the sponsors, and is not paid by the slave, except perhaps in some few instances when the slave is rich enough to pay it as well as the master, or chuses to do so; or when his feelings might be hurt if he were not allowed to pay it; but I am not aware that any slave has ever wanted, and certainly none was ever refused baptism by me, on account of the fee; if the master declines paying it and the slave says he cannot, no fee is ever required; but I do not make this exemption merely in favour of the slaves, many, perhaps most of whom, though certainly not all, appear to me to be as happy, and with reason, or at least with the means of being so, as the labouring class of any other country. If any free person, white or black, or of any intermediate colour, applies to me for any spiritual service, and declares he cannot pay the fee, no fee is required, and if he only asks for time, that is always granted, but the indulgence is not always remembered; it is true indeed that I do not think it right to lower the fee, but it is sometimes diminished when credit is requested, for then it is sometimes paid only in part and sometimes not at all.

With regard to the "vast exertions made by the sects of all descriptions for the conversion of slaves to christianity," that is a matter that has not come much under my immediate observation. From my first residence in this Island, I made a scrupulous resolution never in any manner to interfere with, or give umbrage to, the old established Roman Catholic Church, the members of which compose a very great majority of the inhabitants. Some years afterwards, when the methodists and other dissenters introduced themselves into the Colony, I thought it right to exercise the same forbearance towards them, and have done so, except when officially called upon for my opinion about their claims, or when I found it necessary to repel their bold invasions of the rights of the church, for my own sake, and for that of my successors. How many slaves therefore they may have converted, if any, and how many attend their meeting house, I do not know, and I have good reason to think, that were I to ask the question of them, they would decline to answer me; but it is said, that their meeting houses have large congregations, compared with that of the Established Church. Admitting this to be the fact, I cannot consider it as being very alarming, because I hope it is only temporary; without producing other arguments, which might possibly be construed to be invidiously advanced: it may be sufficient to advert to a single circumstance, and the consequences that naturally followed.

It is an unquestionable fact, that for seven years, during my pastoral care, that is, from my first entering on the duties of it, till some little time after the dreadful conflagration of Port of Spain in 1808, in which, with other public buildings, the protestant church was unfortunately destroyed, there was not a single methodist or other dissenting teacher or preacher in this country: their employers soon saw the vacancy, and sent them to take possession of a harvest, and they have been successful in collecting congregations, not of the newly converted heretic and heathen, and the slave, but of those persons who before had regularly attended the English Established Church; amongst whom, indeed, were many of the Church of Scotland, and all of whom, as far as I know, would have been content to continue their attendance, not however including some later arrivals: they are called Missionaries, and though laymen, they assume the epithet of Reverend, and wear, some of them at least, the clerical habit; and they have built chapels, and fix their regular and general residence in the town: these things also are in their favour, because they conformed the understandings of the lower classes, and even to more cultivated minds, the open practice of so many distinct forms of worship, is more like the polytheism of ancient Greece and Rome, than the legitimate interpretation of Divine revelation. Whereas, for some little time after the dreadful calamity of the fire, I had no place for

Correspondence.

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public worship, and the service of the church has since been removed to six different rooms, none of which could be rendered sufficiently commodious for the purpose. And people accustomed to study and comfort in this relaxing climate, readily persuade themselves to avoid every degree of uneasiness in kneeling and sitting during the long continuance of our morning service; many tell me that they will return, and many others say they will attend as soon as the new church is finished; and I incline to think that that sort of example will induce others to attend, who now apparently spend their Sundays in business or amusement; but I do not think it likely that owners, unless they attend themselves, will generally require or recommend the attendance of their slaves.

After all, I may be mistaken in my opinions; but when I see the general temper of the British nation departing so far from the, at least prudent, maxims of the Church of Rome, with regard to uniformity of public worship; when every madman, or every enthusiast is allowed, without the sanction or the approbation of his superiors in knowledge and in prudence, or some regularly constituted authority, to entice others into his delirium, or his enthusiasm—and religious enthusiasm is infectious; and dissatisfaction, arising from a thousand sources of temper and of habit, lends its powerful aid to apostacy; when he forgets that toleration, as to his private opinions, is generously as well as properly allowed him, but ought to be confined to his private opinions; when he thinks he has a right to make the Holy Scriptures yield to his private interpretation, and to persuade others to imbibe his notions;—all these things considered, my decided opinion is, that although such people may make nominal Christians, they are more likely to make them dangerous subjects; and that this danger, in these countries, is greatest amongst the slaves.

I beg leave to repeat, that I am conscious that I may be mistaken in my opinions; and I am diffident enough to wish to confine them to myself, had I not thought that your Excellency's letter required the statement of them.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant,
His Excellency the Governor, (Signed) *J. H. Clapham.*
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure,
No. 2.

RETURN of Churches and Parishes in Trinidad.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

		£. Sterl.	
Port of Spain	Rector, Rev. J. H. Clapham	800	-- The church building. No parsonage or glebe.

CHURCH OF ROME.

		Salary in Dollars.	
Port of Spain	Curate, Rev. J. Aristimuno	500	--- The church a decayed wooden building. The foundation of a new one laid; no parsonage or glebe.
	One assistant, Rev. Dr. Creighton	400	
	Sacristan, Rev. Cornelio Yanze	200	
San Josef; comprising St. Joseph's Valley of Maraccas, Tarigua and Arouca.	Curate, Rev. T. Montenegro	400	--- A new church nearly finished; no parsonage or glebe.
	Sacristan, ——— Caraballo	150	
San Juan; comprising Santa Cruz, Aricagua and Cimaronero.	Curate, Rev. Friar Recta	400	--- A small room hired for a church; no church or parsonage house or glebe.
St. Rose of Arima; comprising Arima, the Indian Mission, and Guanapo.	Curate, Rev. Reyes Bravo	400	--- A thatched church built by the Indians; a house built by the Indians; no glebe.

Returns.] TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES.

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CHURCH of ROME—*continued.*

		Salary in Dollars.	
Savannah Grande	Curate, Rev. Juan Atea	400	--- A thatched church built by the Indians; a house built by the Indians; no glebe.
San Fernando	Curate, Rev. Juan Atea, ad interim	400	--- A small decayed wooden church; no parsonage or glebe

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Note.—A Sum of 50 dollars is allowed to each church annually, for the expenses of the communion.

In the churches people of all classes are indiscriminately admitted. The quarters of Diego Martin, Carenage, Chaguaramas, Couva, Carapechaima, Savanetta, Pointe a Pierre, South Naparima, Oropuche, La Brea, Guapo, Yraois, Cedros Hicacos, Toco, Mayaro, and Guayaguayare, are without any spiritual assistance.

The only places susceptible of English churches would be the quarters of Couva and Cascajal, that are settled by English protestants, and the new settlements of the American refugees.

RALPH WOODFORD, Governor.

(Translation.)

Enclosure,
No. 3.

RETURN of Slaves who have been Christened, according to the Roman Rituals, in the Five different Parishes established in this Island of Trinidad to windward; which is respectfully presented to his Excellency the Governor, in obedience to his Order of the 24th June last.

Port of Spain, 5th August 1817.

PORT OF SPAIN: Curate ad interim, Rev. Fr JOSEPH de RICLA.	ST. JUANS de ARICAGUA: Curate, Rev. Fr JOSEPH de RICLA.	ST. JOSEPHS de ORUNA: Presbyter Curate, D ⁿ THO ^s MONTENEGRO.	ST. ROSE of ARIMA: Presbyter Curate, D ⁿ PEDRO JOSEF REYES.	ST. FERNANDO in NAPARIMA: Curate, Rev. Fr JUAN de ATEA.
Number of slaves baptised during the time the above-mentioned priest serves this parish, from 1st May 1816. 275.	Number of slaves baptised during the time the above-mentioned priest serves this parish, from 14th February 1814. 160.	Number of slaves baptised during the time the above-mentioned priest serves this parish, from 1st April 1815. 72.	Number of slaves baptised during the time the above-mentioned priest serves this parish, from 15th September 1786. 360.	Number of slaves baptised during the time the above-mentioned priest serves this parish, from 20th October 1815. 400.
Number of slaves baptised during the three last years, in this parish. 1,068.	Number of slaves baptised during the three last years, in this parish. 160.	Number of slaves baptised during the three last years, in this parish. 132.	Number of slaves baptised during the three last years, in this parish. 82.	Number of slaves baptised during the three last years, in this parish. 400.
Total of slaves baptised since the period the Registry of this parish was formed, which was in the year 1738. 11,483.	Total of slaves baptised since the period the Registry of this parish was formed, which was in the year 1786. 1,060.	Total of slaves baptised since the period the Registry of this parish was formed, which was in the year 1708. 2,688.	Total of slaves baptised since the period the Registry of this parish was formed, which was in the year 1786. 537.	Total of slaves baptised since the period the Registry of this parish was formed, which was in the year 1786. 4,400.

GRAND TOTAL - - - - 20,228.

The fee which is generally paid for each slave when christened, is six bits to the sexton, and three bits, or a wax taper, to the curate. These sums are never paid by the slaves, but by their owners or sponsors.

Slaves are admitted, without any distinction, to the ceremonies which are celebrated in these parishes, particularly during the grand festivals when the concourse is great, such as on Christmas, New Year's Day, Holy Thursday and Friday, and Corpus Christi.

Translated by P. Gellineau, S. Interpreter.

(Signed)

Fr J^s de Ricla,
Vicar ad interim.

Correspondence.

Trinidad.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of PLANTATION SLAVES baptised in the Island of Trinidad,
from the Returns transmitted by the Commandants of Quarters.

QUARTERS.	Number of Slaves.	Number baptised.	Number unbaptised.	By whom the Church Fees were paid.
Chaguaramas - - -	836	778	58	By the masters.
Carenage - - - -	691	677	14	The proprietors generally give a dollar for the purpose, but the sponsors jointly pay the curate's fee of 6 s. currency.
Diego-Martin - - -	1,221	1,182	39	
Mucurapo - - - -	175	170	5	
Maraval - - - -	439	433	6	Generally by the owners, occasionally by the sponsors.
Tragarete - - - -	198	179	19	Partly by the owners and partly by slaves.
St. Ann's - - - -	544	540	4	Generally by the proprietors, sometimes by the sponsors.
La Ventilla - - - -	297	297	-	
Cimaronero - - - -	275	272	3	
Aricagua - - - -	764	754	10	By the proprietors.
Town of St. Juan's - - -	51	51	-	Generally by the proprietors.
S ^{ta} Cruz - - - -	392	387	5	Paid by the masters.
City of St. Joseph - - -	89	87	2	By the owners and the godmothers.
Quarter of St. Joseph - - -	613	493	120	By the owners.
Carony - - - -	260	256	4	By the proprietors.
Maracas Valley - - - -	268	268	-	Generally by the sponsors.
Tacarigua and Arouca - - -	1,323	1,292	31	
Arima - - - -	306	305	1	By the owners.
Guanapo - - - -	241	241	-	
Foco and Cumana - - - -	138	97	41	
Mayaro and Guayaguayare	576	528	48	16 by the slaves, the rest by the ownr.
Hicacos - - - -	242	239	3	By the owners and godfathers.
Cedros - - - -	376	366	10	By the owners.
Yroao - - - -	99	93	6	By the owners and the sponsors.
La Brea and Guapo - - -	801	782	19	By the proprietors generally.
Oropuche - - - -	323	314	9	
South Naparima - - - -	2,340	2,305	35	By the owners or sponsors.
North Naparima - - - -	1,424	1,419	5	The greatest part by the owners, in a few cases by the slaves.
Point-a-Piedra - - - -	811	743	68	By the owners and sponsors.
Couva, Cascapal, Carapi- chaima and Savaneta - - -	2,354	1,940	414	Principally by the slaves, in some cases by the owners.
Chaguanas - - - -	393	337	56	By the owners.
	18,860	17,825	1,035	

RALPH WOODFORD,
Gov^r.

Correspondence.

Nassau.

MARRIAGE OF SLAVES.

Marriage of Slaves.

Copy of a Letter from Governor Cameron to the Earl Bathurst; with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

Nassau, New Providence, 12th July 1816.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your lordship's information, a copy of a letter I have received from the Reverend Dr. Stephen, rector of the parish of Christ Church, dated the 2nd May 1816, together with the opinions of the Attorney and Solicitor General upon the subject of its contents; and also a copy of a subsequent letter from Dr. Stephen, dated the 8th instant.

I have, &c.

Charles Cameron.

To the Right honourable the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(In Governor Cameron's of 12th July 1816.)

Enclosure,

Parsonage House, Nassau, May 2d, 1816.

May it please Your Excellency,

ABOUT two years ago, the owner of a slave had given consent to his marriage with a free woman, in writing, and had also given orders for the publication of their banns; but on being informed by a gentleman of the legal profession, that the marriage, if carried into effect with his consent, would amount, in the construction of the law, to a virtual emancipation, and that the slave might then claim his freedom, the banns were forbidden after they had been published two several Sundays, and the marriage of course was stopped. Astonished at receiving this information, and being forcibly struck with the mischievous consequences which must result from it, both to the morals of that class of people, and to the real interests of the community at large; at the same time, not conceiving it possible that an opinion fraught with such consequences, could be founded on any principle of the laws of a christian state, I conceived it my duty to make farther inquiry into the validity of this opinion, and, if possible, to have the truth or falsehood of it fully ascertained. At first I felt myself at a loss how to proceed; but having ever observed with pleasure your Excellency's solicitude for the interest and happiness of every class of the people under your government, and your readiness to promote it as far as it lies in your power, I resolved to take the liberty (a liberty which your Excellency was graciously pleased to allow) to trouble your Excellency upon the occasion, that through the interposition of your Excellency's authority, I might obtain the opinion of His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General on the two following questions: "Whether the marriage of slaves is, or is not, conformable to the principles of our laws? And, whether a slave, if married with his master's consent, could, on proof of that circumstance, ground a claim for his liberty?"

In giving your Excellency that trouble, and in endeavouring to obtain the opinion of the crown lawyers on these two questions, I felt myself the more concerned, as I considered them as questions of great moment; and because I had previously observed among that class of people a growing disposition towards regular marriage, and equal readiness on the part of their owners to give their consent; in consequence of which I had been called on to marry a considerable number of slaves, with the full approbation given in writing, and sometimes with the public countenance of their owners. And as I then neither knew nor suspected any legal impropriety in the case, or any danger that could arise out of it to the owners of such slaves, I considered it as my duty, (a duty which I imagined I owed to God as well as to the community) to promote so laudable a disposition, and when any marriage of the kind was proposed, to give it every facility in my power. Your Excellency will, in that case, readily conceive, how great my surprise and disappointment were, when I had the honour to receive, through your Excellency's hands, the following answer:

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Marriage of Slaves.

(Copy.)

“ Marriages are considered in our law as merely civil contracts. To make any contract valid, the party contracting must be of sufficient legal ability. But from the very nature of slavery, it is evident that no slave can enter into a valid contract. It follows, that a marriage between a slave and a free person is a mere nullity. But the consent of the owner would materially alter the case; and if sufficiently evidenced, may probably be considered as amounting to an emancipation.

“ New Providence, January 26th, 1814. (Signed) “ *William Wyllly.*”

“ I concur in opinion,
(Signed) “ *J. Armstrong.*”

“ Nassau, January 28th, 1814.”

Here, I beg leave to observe, that nothing is said respecting the marriage of slaves between themselves. The marriage between a slave and a free person is declared to be a mere nullity. But it is allowed, the consent of the owner would materially alter the case; that is, as I conceive it, the consent of the owner would supply the want of legal capacity in the slave to contract, and in that case, the marriage would be good in her.

So far I should have remained satisfied, and should have given your Excellency no further trouble on the subject, had not the concluding clause suggested a *civil inconvenience*, which if generally known to be even *probable*, though not *certain*, would operate as an effectual bar to all such marriages in future. Had, indeed, this *probable inconvenience* remained unknown, and unsuspected, no evil could have arisen from it; for it would never have entered into the mind of a slave, that by procuring his master's consent to his marriage, he could procure a claim to his own emancipation, and therefore would never have presumed to set up such a claim. But it now appears, that an apprehension of this supposed inconvenience has by some means or other got into the minds of the owners of slaves, and already begins to produce its natural effects. An instance of this kind occurred very lately. The owner of a female slave had given his consent in writing to her marriage with a free man, which, according to the above opinion, would have rendered it legal; he had also signified to me his earnest desire that the marriage should be solemnized, which it would have been in due course, had he not afterwards been informed that it would endanger his property in his slave, and on that information withdrawn his consent. Impressed, therefore, with a strong sense of the evils which must necessarily proceed from the prevalence of such an opinion, and being anxiously desirous that a stop may be speedily put to it, I feel it a duty incumbent upon me to trouble your Excellency once more upon the subject, and to offer such observations on it as occur to my mind, hoping your Excellency will have the goodness to pardon this farther intrusion, and to do in the case what to your wisdom may seem meet.

But here I wish it to be perfectly understood, that by the observations which I shall take the liberty to offer, I mean nothing disrespectful to the gentlemen, who, in their official capacity, and in obedience to your Excellency's commands, gave the above opinion; on the contrary, I entertain the highest respect for both, and am fully satisfied that in giving that opinion, they acted with perfect integrity, and stated the law as it stands, or at least as they understood it to stand. It is not so much the opinion of these lawyers as the law itself, or at least the propriety of it as it is there represented, on which I mean to animadvert. And here, though I am aware that it will appear presumptuous in me, who have never studied law, to attempt to controvert either the law itself, or the opinion of lawyers of the first respectability in the place; yet when the following considerations are properly weighed, candor, I hope, will allow that I have not done it on light grounds; and feeling as I do the importance of the subject, I am convinced that in making it I do not go beyond the line of my duty.

Marriage was instituted by God himself, as early as the creation of the first human pair, and while man was yet in a state of innocence. It has been confirmed by every subsequent dispensation of religion, and more particularly so by the christian. Although, therefore, human laws may, and indeed must regulate many things respecting it, in order to prevent disorder and confusion in society, yet it is impossible that they can have any right to set it aside, or to restrict any class of human beings from the use and enjoyment of it. It has been recommended, encouraged, and enforced, and the rights of it have been protected by law in every civilized nation since the earliest accounts of history. It promotes in the most effectual

effectual manner the increase of the species, and the rearing of healthy and well-educated children, and it contributes in a thousand ways to the happiness and prosperity of every society where it is encouraged, and its privileges duly respected. On the other hand, nothing can be more destructive of the peace and harmony of society, nothing more injurious to the increase of population, nothing more preventive of civilization and moral improvement, nothing, in short, can tend more to enervate the body, to enfeeble the powers of the mind, and render a man less fit for all the duties of life, (luxury and drunkenness alone excepted,) than that promiscuous and licentious intercourse, which always takes place between the sexes where marriage is discountenanced or by any other means obstructed. If any confirmation were wanted to support the position, that the illicit intercourse between the sexes is injurious to the increase of population, I need only refer to the letter of Dr. Porteus, a late bishop of London, addressed to the "Governors, Legislatures, and Proprietors of Plantations in the British West India Islands, printed in 1808." "In that large and valuable body of evidence," says his lordship, 'the Report of the Committee of Privy Council, appointed in the year 1788 to examine into the nature of the Slave Trade,' you will find it asserted by a great number of most respectable West India proprietors, and in a variety of official letters and papers laid by them before the committee, that one of the greatest and most fatal obstructions to the natural increase of the negro slaves in the British Islands, is the *promiscuous and unbounded illicit commerce of the two sexes*, in which the negro slaves are permitted to indulge themselves without check or restraint. This is a fact," continues his lordship, "universally admitted, that unless an effectual stop is put to this licentiousness of manners, the *increase of the native negroes by births* will never be sufficient to keep up that stock of negroes which the cultivation of the Islands requires."—To this nothing farther needs be added; it rests on the testimony of most respectable planters, and that testimony is given in the most solemn manner, and from their own knowledge and experience.

I know it may be said that every benefit of lawful marriage may be secured, and all the evils of promiscuous intercourse between the sexes prevented among that class of people, by encouraging them, and perhaps obliging them, to live in a state of concubinage, or of cohabitation without marriage; but are they really restricted to that state as matters stand at present? Are they in any respect restrained from the most licentious and illicit intercourse with one another, to which their own depraved lusts, and the prevalence of bad example, may prompt or impel them? Is there any thing in our laws encouraging them to enter into a state of cohabitation, or sanctioning that state when it is entered into, so as to prevent the parties from separating again and forming a new alliance of the same kind, whenever caprice, disgust, or any other circumstance, however trifling, may induce them to take such a step? Are they not, in fact, left entirely at liberty, without check or control, to follow in that respect the bent of their own inclinations? But indeed the very mention of cohabitation as a substitute for marriage, is a plain admission that marriage, under some form or other, that is, the union for life of one man with one woman, and the exclusive right to each other's fidelity, is indispensably necessary to the happiness of society. Why, then, that union should be denied the same sanction of law, and the same privileges, in one class of the people, that it receives in another, it would be difficult to explain on the principles of right reason, and still more so on those of divine revelation.

If it be said, that a slight alteration in our laws might easily remedy all these defects, I would ask, How could they be remedied, otherwise than by making a state of cohabitation in every respect the same as lawful marriage, except that it would be contracted without the sanction of a religious ceremony? Now, supposing this done, cohabitation would, in that case, become as much a *civil contract*, and would therefore be as much above the legal capacity of a slave to enter into it, as lawful marriage now is; and then we should be just where we were. The proposed *alteration* would be found to be no *amendment*. But allowing the law could be so altered as to allow slaves to contract for cohabitation, and to secure to that state all the rights of matrimony; why, in the name of common sense, may it not be so altered as to permit them to confirm that contract by the religious ceremony which constitutes lawful marriage? Why, in the name of humanity, should we reduce them to the necessity of living like brutes, as in fact they now do, when we can, with equal ease, allow them to live like men, and enjoy those religious rights which God, the Creator and Governor of the world, has freely bestowed on them?

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Though they are our slaves, they are God's free-men, and are entitled to all the benefits of the common salvation, which the Saviour of the human race has purchased for them as well as for us. Why, then, should we, by what I conceive to be an undue extension or misapplication of a principle in our law, compel them to live in a state directly opposite to the law of God? This is in fact reducing them to a worse condition, under *Christian masters*, than they are known to have been formerly, and indeed to be at this day, under some *Heathens*. History does not record a more horrible bondage than that of the Israelites in Egypt: It was the diabolical policy of their tyrannical oppressor to extirpate the whole Hebrew nation, and the method which he took to accomplish that infamous purpose, was to cause all their male children to be murdered as soon as they were born; yet it plainly appears from the history, that they were not prohibited from marriage. And even in our own times, "the Arabs," says M. Saugnier, "must be poor indeed not to have at least one negro slave. His sole occupation is the care of the herd. They are never employed in war; but *they have it in their power to marry.*"—See Saugnier and Brisson's *Voyages*, as quoted in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, under the word *Slavery*. It is degrading them still lower than persons of the same class were in the very darkest ages, under the feudal system, when despotism of the worst kind was fully established among the nations of Europe. It is true, that before the barbarous nations who invaded the southern provinces, and subverted the Roman Empire, embraced the religion of Christ, their slaves were not permitted to marry, but were only allowed to live together in *contubernio*, as it was called. But it is to be observed, that at that time they carried their tyranny over their slaves a great deal farther: they had the power of punishing them *capitally*, without the intervention of any judge. The same was the case with the ancient Romans. It is recorded of a Roman nobleman, that when any of his slaves displeased him he was wont to order them to be thrown into his fish-ponds to feed his lampreys. No wonder, then, if in such a state of things their slaves should be denied the privilege of marriage, as well as many other important privileges. It is also true, that for several centuries after those nations had made open profession of the Christian religion, such as it was then exhibited to the world, the absurd idea of denying their slaves the rites of lawful marriage still prevailed. But in time, when the nature of that religion began to be better understood, and its mild and equitable principles had acquired greater influence over the hearts and consciences of men, marriage was conceded to slaves, with only this restraint, that it should be contracted with the consent of their masters.—[See Robertson's *Hist. of Charles V.* Vol. I. Note ix. with the references thereto; Du Cange, voce *Servus*; and Polgiesserus, de *Statu Servorum.*]—Shall *we*, then, who live in the present enlightened age, when the principles of the Gospel are so much better understood, and ought for that reason to have a greater influence over our laws and institutions—shall we set up an abstract principle in our law, however just that principle may be in itself, in opposition to an institution of God, and out of deference to the former, set the latter aside? God forbid! It will certainly be admitted, that the laws of a Christian state ought to be conformable to the laws of God; or, at least, not contrary to them.

But it has been a misfortune to that description of people, of whom we are speaking, that when slavery was first introduced into the western world, men borrowed their ideas of that condition of life, not from reason and the principles of religion, but from the wretched treatment which slaves underwent among the barbarous nations who subverted the Roman Empire, that is, among Goths and Vandals; and from the same treatment which they have long continued to experience, with but little mitigation, under the tyranny of the feudal barons. Now allow me to ask, is that mode of treatment indispensably necessary under a state of slavery? Do we in fact find it to be so? Has not the condition of slaves in all the West India Islands been of late years greatly ameliorated, and some immunities and privileges granted them, which they never before enjoyed, without the least loss or inconvenience to their masters? Why then should we continue to act on the *Gothic* and irrational principle of denying them the privilege of lawful marriage? a privilege which, by those to whom it has been granted, has never been abused. Many marriages have been contracted by slaves, through the humanity of their owners; yet I have never heard of a single *civil inconvenience*, or indeed of an inconvenience of any kind, that has ever arisen from those marriages; nor is it likely that any inconvenience can arise in future from granting this indulgence to slaves, unless some evil genius should

should whisper in their ears, that upon the consent of their owners (without which I am of opinion they ought never to be married) they might ground a claim for their freedom. This might indeed produce mischief enough; but without this, I am confident no real evil need ever be apprehended; on the contrary, much good, it may reasonably be expected, must arise from allowing them to marry. A married slave feels a greater respect for himself, and is looked up to with greater deference by his fellow slaves; of course he has a strong inducement to behave himself well; he also feels himself more interested in having his master's approbation, is more afraid of being sold for any delinquency, and must for these reasons be more desirous and assiduous to please him. On these, and on a variety of other accounts, he will become more steady, more sober, more industrious, more civilized in his manners, and more disposed to the practice of all good morals. And from this view of the subject it may be safely concluded, that if regular marriages were more encouraged among that description of people, and more pains taken to instruct them in the principles and doctrines of the Christian religion, we might reasonably hope to see a very important change for the better in their manners and conduct. Their obedience would be more voluntary, and more the effect of principle, and consequently more advantageous to the interest of their masters, than any that could be extorted from them by the fear of punishment.

Here I might conclude my observations, trusting that what has been already advanced is sufficient to establish the reasonableness and propriety of what I have so earnestly contended for. But as a principle of our law has been stated by the crown lawyers to be decidedly inimical to the marriage of slaves, I hope I shall be pardoned, if I take the liberty to offer a few observations on this part of the subject likewise. The principle alluded to is this: "Marriages are considered in our law as merely civil contracts. To make any contract valid, the party contracting must be of sufficient legal ability; but from the very nature of slavery, it is evident that no slave can enter into a valid contract."

Judge Blackstone has stated the same principle in nearly the same words: "Our law (says he) considers marriage in no other light than as a *civil contract*." But it is to be observed, that he is here speaking only of the *civil law*, which takes but a partial view of the subject: for he immediately adds, "the holiness of the matrimonial state is left entirely to the matrimonial law: the temporal courts not having jurisdiction to consider unlawful marriage as a sin, but merely as a *civil inconvenience*." Now, were it true, that marriage is, in fact, no other than a *civil contract*, and were there no other laws in force respecting it, then the above principle, taken from the *civil law*, would be decisive of the question. But marriage is more than a *civil contract*, it is also a *religious contract*, founded on an institution of God. The *matrimonial law* also, which takes cognizance of marriage, is as much a part of the law of England as the *civil law*. It follows, therefore, that the *civil law* alone cannot determine the question in hand.

But taking marriage merely in a *civil* light, it may perhaps be found, that the principles of the *civil law* are not so decidedly against the marriage of slaves, as at first sight appears. Judge Blackstone says, "the law treats it as it does all other contracts: allowing it to be good and valid, when the parties at the time of making it, were, in the first place, *willing* to contract; secondly, *able* to contract; and lastly, actually *did* contract, in the proper terms and solemnities required by law." In general, all persons are able to contract themselves in marriage, unless they labour under some particular disabilities and incapacities: these disabilities, he states, are of two sorts, first, such as are canonical, as pre-contract, consanguinity, or relation by blood; affinity, or relation by marriage; and some particular corporal infirmities. The other sort are those that are *created*, or at least enforced by the municipal laws.—The first of these is a prior marriage, or having a husband or wife still living; the second, is want of age; the third, is the want of consent of parents or guardians; the fourth, is want of reason." In all these there is not the least allusion to slavery as creating a disability to enter into the marriage contract.

It will no doubt here be said, that these laws were intended only for the government of a free people, among whom slavery is unknown. This I readily grant; but it will be found, that these laws were in force before slavery, even in England, was totally abolished. For by the 32d Henry VIII. chap. 38, it is declared, that "all persons may lawfully marry, but such as are forbidden by God's law, &c. and that nothing (God's law excepted) shall impeach any marriage but within the Levitical degrees."* Now surely, it will not be said, that God's law any where prohibits the marriage of slaves; and that slavery was not totally extinct in England in the

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* See note at the end of this letter.

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time of Henry VIII. appears from a commission granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1574, for inquiring into the lands and goods of all her *bondmen* and *bondwomen* in the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, and Gloucester, in order to compound with them for their manumission, that they might enjoy their lands and goods as freemen.—[Kame's Sketches, B. I. Sk. 5.]—The same commission is also briefly mentioned by Dr. Robertson in his History of Charles V. Vol. I. Note xx. who refers to Rymer in his observations on the statutes, &c. p. 251. The primary intention of that statute probably was, to authorise the clergy to marry, which, till then, by the rules of a corrupt church, they were not permitted to do; but it authorises at the same time *all* persons whatever to marry, except such as are prohibited by God's law. And as there were at that time slaves in the kingdom, acknowledged as such by the law, (for those who held in pure villanage, which was not then abolished, were certainly slaves,) it follows of course that they also were authorised by that statute to marry.

But it plainly appears, I think, from Blackstone's Commentaries, Book II. chap. 6. where he treats of the origin of copyhold tenures, that villains were allowed to marry long before the time of Henry VIII; and that they were slaves to all intents and purposes as much as ours now are, appears from this, that "they were either *regardant*, that is, annexed to the manor or land; or they were in *gross*, or at large, that is annexed to the person of the lord, and transferrable by deed from one owner to another. They could not leave their lord without his permission; but if they ran away, or were purloined from him, might be claimed or recovered by action, like beasts or other chattels. They held indeed small portions of land, by way of sustaining themselves and families; but it was at the mere will of the lord, who might dispossess them whenever he pleased; and it was upon villain services, &c. and their services were not only base, but uncertain as to the time and quantity. A villain could acquire no property in lands or goods; but if he purchased either, the lord might enter upon them, oust the villain, and seize them to his own use." Villains then were certainly slaves, as much so almost as in the very worst times, except that the lord of the manor had not the power of life and death over them. But that they were allowed to marry, and that their marriages were held good in law, without exposing their proprietors to any risk of losing their property by giving their consent to such marriages, will appear, I think, beyond dispute, from the brief account that is given of the laws respecting them. "In many places a fine was payable to the lord, if the villain presumed to marry his daughter to any one without leave from the lord: and by common law, the lord might also bring an action against the husband, for purloining his property." It is clear, I think, from this, that the marriage was good in law, though contracted without the consent of the lord; otherwise it would have been declared *null* at once, without subjecting the parties to a fine; but this appears still more clearly from the following sentence: "In case of a marriage between a *freeman* and a *niese*," that is, a female villain, or "a *villain* and a *freewoman*, the issue followed the condition of the father, being *free* if he was *free*, and *villain* if he was *villain*; contrary to the maxim of the civil law, that *partus sequitur ventrem*." Here, the law, by determining the condition of the issue, certainly allows the marriage to be good, and by no means a mere nullity; and even this is farther confirmed by another law, viz. "that no *bastard* could be born a villain, because by another maxim in our law, he is *nullius filius*; and as he could gain nothing by inheritance, it was hard that he should lose his natural freedom by it." It was evidently, then, the interest of the lord to encourage, and even enforce marriage among his villains; and we may naturally conclude, that to avoid the fine, they were generally, if not always, contracted with his consent: yet it does not appear that a villain could, on proof of that consent, ground a claim for his emancipation.

As to emancipation, Blackstone adds, "that villains might be enfranchised by manumission, which is either *express* or *implied*: express, as when a man grants to the villain a deed of manumission; implied, as where a man bound himself in a bond to his villain for a sum of money, granted him an annuity by deed, or gave him an estate in fee for life or years. So also if the lord brought an action against his villain, except it was for felony, this enfranchised him." In all this there is no mention of marriage with consent of his lord, as amounting to a proof of implied manumission.

Here, then, it plainly appears, that there is nothing in our law (which is indeed the common law of England, except where it is otherwise provided by our own municipal statutes,) to oppose the marriage of slaves; nor is there any ground for that apprehension, which now very generally prevails, namely, that a slave may ground a claim of *implied manumission*, on proof of his owner's consent to his marriage

marriage. And indeed, in the opinion given by the crown lawyers, it is not stated as *certain*, but as merely *probable*. It is not an adjudged case; and therefore the opinion of its probability rests not in any precedent, but merely on a principle, which I hope it has been shewn from the practice of the law of England, does not reach the case. I am also perfectly convinced, that were the case to be actually tried, no jury in the West Indies would be prevailed on, by the force of such a principle, to give a verdict in favour of a slave's emancipation.

But it deserves to be particularly observed, and the observation ought to operate in their favour; that it is not with a view to any civil advantages, nor with any the most distant hopes of thereby obtaining their liberty, that slaves ever desire to enter into the marriage contract; but solely because such of them as have any sense of religion consider it as a religious duty which they are bound to observe; and perhaps, because they feel that it renders them more respectable, both among their own people and among their superiors. Ought we then to deny them this small boon? Ought we, as we freely allow them every other privilege of the Christian religion, to refuse them this one, which must be acknowledged to be a bounden duty, and fraught with many advantages both of a *moral* and political nature, merely because it may be attended with a *probable*, or rather, as I hope I have satisfactorily shewn, a *very improbable* civil inconvenience? But, supposing that inconvenience to be *certain*, it is nevertheless in the power of the colonial legislature to remove that obstacle; and from the opinion which I entertain of the men who compose it, I am convinced that were the matter properly represented to them, they would not hesitate to do so; indeed, I presume, a positive law to that effect, or some authoritative declaration publicly made, is now become indispensably necessary; for as the opinion, that the marriage of a slave, with his owner's consent, might be construed into a virtual emancipation, has gained considerable ground, that circumstance will not only prevent the marriage of slaves in future, as effectually as the most positive law against it that could be enacted, but may also lead to very disagreeable consequences among those that are already married. As a proof of what is here advanced, I need only state that at this moment there are no fewer than *three* couples eagerly desirous and impatient to be married, and whose masters declare they have no other objection to their marriage but what arises from the apprehension of losing their property. It is certainly time, therefore, to put an end to that objection; or if an end is not put to it, I may venture to predict that great discontents will arise among those of that class who have any sense of religion.

How this matter stands in the other West India Colonies, or what opinions are there entertained respecting it, I have not the means of knowing; but when I see the marriage of slaves so warmly and so unreservedly recommended by Dr. Porteus, late Bishop of London, in a sermon preached by his lordship before "The Incorporated Society for the propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," in 1783; and the same subject further pressed in an "Essay towards a Plan for the more effectual Civilization and Conversion of the Negro Slaves on the Trust Estate in Barbadoes, belonging to that Society," published in 1784; when I observe the same thing still farther urged and pressed, upon the strongest motives both of duty and interest, in the letter above referred to, and reflect that his lordship laboured to obtain every information in his power respecting the condition of slaves in the West Indies, and the means of their moral improvement: when I consider these things, I cannot for a moment suppose that he would have recommended the measure in so strong and unqualified terms as he does, without having ascertained from good authority whether the law allowed it. Add to this, that in one of the speeches lately delivered in Parliament, the proprietors of slaves in the West Indies are severely censured for their negligence in promoting and encouraging lawful marriages among their slaves. From all these considerations taken together, I cannot help thinking it is fair to conclude, that in Great Britain, where the principles of our laws must be perfectly understood, no idea is entertained of the illegality of the marriage of slaves, or of any danger that could thence arise to the property of their owners. It would be well, however, if this could be ascertained from competent authority, which indeed cannot be done but through the interest of your Excellency, which I am confident your Excellency would cheerfully exert, should such a measure, after a full consideration of the affair, be deemed expedient.

It is worth while to observe, and the observation certainly is much to the purpose, that the same prejudice, which now exists against the marriage of slaves, formerly existed against their baptism. It was for a long time imagined throughout the West India Colonies, and I have reason to believe in that part of America also which was then subject to Great Britain, that if a slave who had received baptism

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should afterwards be carried to England, he would immediately be free; which it is supposed would not be the case if he remained *unbaptised*. And from the supposed title of a baptised Negro to his freedom in England, it was natural for the proprietors of slaves, jealous as they must have been of their property, and not very intimately acquainted with the principles of law; it was natural for them to transfer the same ideas to the British settlements, and to suppose that a baptised negro would be equally entitled to his freedom there also, or at least that there was great danger of it. On this principle the baptism of negroes was long resisted. The principle itself is expressly noticed and completely refuted by Blackstone, in his Commentaries on the Law of England, Book I, ch. 14. The absurd prejudice against the baptism of slaves has now happily ceased; I hope, therefore, the prejudice against their marriages, when the subject shall have been duly considered, will also cease, and in time their marriages become as free and as common as their baptism now is; or if it shall still be found that the present obstruction to their marriages has a real foundation in law, that obstruction may be easily removed by a declaratory law allowing them to marry with consent of their masters, but securing the owner's property in them as well after marriage as before. And then, let the marriage of slaves be ever so great a nullity in the eye of the civil law—let it be granted to be in their case no *civil* contract; yet it will remain as much a religious contract, and be as binding on the parties in the eye of the Supreme Lawgiver as the marriage of freemen, whether white or black.

I shall take notice of only one objection more, which I have heard advanced, as it may possibly be urged on this occasion. The objection is briefly this: "Our female negroes set little value on the virtue of chastity, and very few of them know what it is in practice. In the case of adultery, the only remedy is divorce; but there is no power in this part of the world to effect such a remedy, should it at any time become necessary. The consequence is, that should a female negro prove unfaithful to her husband, no help would remain for him but to turn her out of doors; and then it would probably follow, that a new and an adulterous connection will be formed by both parties, more injurious to good morals than cohabitation between unmarried persons either is or can be. It is better, therefore (say the objectors,) to let things remain as they are."

This objection, with the inference deduced from it, reminds me of the observation of a *wag* on the state of marriage in Paris some time after the French Revolution:—"The Parisians," said he, "have made a new and wonderful discovery; they have found out an effectual method of preventing adultery, namely, by the men remaining batchelors!" To argue as is done in this objection, is the same as if some one zealous for the preservation of our seamen, should contend that they ought not to go to sea, because storms frequently arise, by which ships are sunk in the middle of the ocean, and useful members are thereby lost to the community.

But to consider the matter a little more seriously. How is it possible that our female negroes, in their present state of ignorance and depression, should set much value on a virtue which they find to be of little use to them, and the breach of which they scarcely know or conceive to be an offence against God? The fault, I am afraid, is ours. Were they better instructed in the principles of religion, and the duties which they owe to God, their neighbour, and themselves; and were they freely allowed, and properly encouraged, to enter into lawful wedlock; were proper laws also provided to punish every violation of the sanctity of that state, and those laws duly executed, they would then learn to set a proper value on the virtue of chastity; and a corresponding change in their manners in that respect, as well as in respect of every other moral virtue, would in time be the happy consequence. The little value, then, which is at present set on the virtue of chastity by female negroes in a state of slavery, instead of being an argument for denying them the rite of marriage, is one of the strongest that can be adduced for conceding it to them, and encouraging them to use it. After all, could the above objection to the marriage of slaves be admitted to have any weight, it must be allowed to have equal weight against the marriage of free people in this part of the world; for it is well known, that infidelity to their husbands is by no means unexampled among females of that condition, *white* as well as *black*, to whose husbands the remedy by divorce is equally impossible, and in case of a separation, the alternative of an adulterous connection on both sides is equally probable. An argument, therefore, which proves too much, is universally admitted to prove nothing at all. But it deserves further to be observed, that the supreme Lawgiver, who is *omniscient* as well as *omnipotent*, when he instituted marriage, foresaw all the abuses to which it would be liable, and all the crimes which, through the depravity of man, would arise out of it; yet he did not think

think proper, on that account, to restrict it to those only who might have a remedy in case of delinquency, but prescribed it equally to *all*, as the best means of preventing that vague, illicit and licentious intercourse, which never fails to take place between the sexes, wherever marriage is neglected or obstructed.

I have now trespassed too long on your Excellency's patience, but hope, from the knowledge I have of your wonted goodness, to be freely indulged with your pardon. I have endeavoured to show the importance of allowing to slaves the privilege of lawful marriage, both in a moral and religious point of view, as well as in respect of its advantages to society. I am well aware, however, that those who have not bestowed so much reflection on the subject as I have done, will not readily attach to it the same degree of importance. Men in this part of the world have long been accustomed to see slaves, and coloured people in general, living in that illicit and licentious manner in which they now do, and therefore are not struck with it so forcibly as they would be, were they to behold it for the first time. Familiarity with vice never fails to blunt the moral feeling. When men see any vice daily practised before their eyes without censure or control, especially if they fancy themselves any way interested in its continuance, they lose by degrees all sense of its turpitude and deformity. They cease to reflect on the consequences to which it leads, or to think how they may be either remedied or prevented; to apply this to the case before us:—Being long familiarized to the state in which negroes have been kept in this part of the world, I mean with respect to marriage, and accustomed to look on the numerous train of vices which necessarily arise out of it, with perfect indifference, people in general have learned to behold it without either horror or disgust. They seem never to reflect, though the thing is extremely obvious, and cannot fail to force itself on their observation, that this very circumstance (the licentious manners of the female negroes, arising from the difficulty of obtaining lawful marriage) is the grand instrument of corrupting the manners of the white population, by affording the male part of them the ready means of gratifying their most depraved appetites, without much degrading their character in the opinion of their fellow-citizens, and the natural consequence is, that marriages are thereby rendered less frequent, and the sanctity of marriage is less strictly regarded, even among *them*, than they would otherwise be.

With respect to slaves, men in general seem to think, that the present licentiousness of their manners, is a necessary part of their condition, although it obviously arises from two causes, neither of them necessarily connected with their condition; the discouragement of lawful marriage among them, and their ignorance of the principles and duties of the christian religion. This absurd, though prevalent idea, is the natural consequence of what I mentioned before,—of men's taking their notions of slavery from the treatment which that unhappy class of human beings underwent among the barbarous nations of the north of Europe, and under the government of Pagan Rome. When slavery was first introduced into this part of the world, had men turned their attention to the Mosaic code, under which slavery was permitted; or to the law and practice of England after the Norman Conquest, when villanage, which is but another name for slavery, universally prevailed; they would have seen, that slavery may subsist, and answer every useful purpose for which it was designed, without denying to those who were the subjects of it the privilege of lawful marriage. If any necessity then exists for denying them that privilege, it is entirely a necessity of our own making; and therefore, as it is contrary to the institution of God, unless we take effectual means to remove it, we ourselves must be answerable for it to the great Judge of all the earth. Whether the obstacles that stand in the way of their marriage arise from our own laws, or from a misconception of them, it is high time that they were removed, and I have shown, that this, if it should be deemed necessary, may be easily done, by a declaratory law made for that purpose. As then it may be so easily done, it ought no longer to be left undone.

Trusting that your Excellency will see this matter in the light in which I have endeavoured to place it, and will have the goodness to take such steps as in your judgment may seem meet, to put an end to the evil complained of, and thereby to promote the interests of religion and virtue, not only among that class of people more immediately concerned, but among all classes of the community;

I have the honour to be, &c.

John Stephen.

Note. When I wrote the paragraph to which this note refers, I was not aware that the statute of Henry VIII. there quoted was in force in this Colony. But by

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referring to Bahama Laws, Vol. I. p. 200, I find it expressly mentioned as one of those statutes of England, that are declared to be in force here. The statute itself may be seen at full length in Statutes at Large, Vol. II. p. 298. It does not indeed relate to the marriages of the clergy, as I then supposed; but was intended to rectify some other abuses relating to marriage, which prevailed under the popish domination in England.

John Stephen.

Parsonage House, Nassau, July 8th, 1816.

May it please Your Excellency,

THE answers returned to my letter of 2d May 1816, by His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General, which your Excellency has been pleased to submit to my inspection, I have carefully perused. I observe that the Attorney General "adheres in all respects to the opinion he formerly gave;" and that the new Solicitor General so far concurs in that opinion, as to say, that "contracts entered into by slaves (without consent of their owners) would be void; parties in that state being rendered incapable of entering into any contract whatever. And the same when either of the parties only being a slave, without such consent."

These opinions both rest upon this principle, "That marriage is considered in our law as being only a civil contract." Now the real foundation of marriage, and which renders it sacred and inviolable, is the institution of God. But after what I have already said on this subject in my letter of 2d May, I need only observe, that the principle on which these opinions rest, I conceive to be none other than one of those things which are called fictions in law, adopted in this case for the purpose of bringing the *civil* privileges relating to marriage, and the *civil* inconveniences to which the abuse of it is liable, under the jurisdiction of the *civil courts*. At best the principle is merely theoretical; and the opinions given upon it are founded upon the theory only, without regard to the practice, which is known to have prevailed in England when slavery was there authorized by law. But suppose we were ignorant or doubtful of that practice, the statute of 32 Henry VIII. sect. 38th, already referred to in my letter, and which is in full force in this Colony, as appears by Bahama Laws, Vol. I. p. 200, ought to set the matter entirely at rest, as the enactment of it is in direct opposition to the above-mentioned principle, and of course suspends that principle.

These gentlemen, however, seem both to admit, *indirectly* at least, that the marriage of a slave with the consent of his owner would be legally valid; and I have the happiness so far to agree with them in *practice*, that I have always required the consent of the owner, and have never married any slave without that consent. I am of opinion, also, that it ought never to be done, whether conformable or not conformable to law, on account of the many inconveniences which might arise out of it to their proprietors. The question, then, which remains to be decided, is, "whether the consent of an owner given to the marriage of his slave, could, on proof of that circumstance, be construed by the law into a virtual emancipation of the slave?" On this question the present solicitor general has given no opinion; and the attorney general, though he seems to think that such consent would be so construed, has yet expressed himself but doubtfully. A *doubt*, however, on that head, suggested to the owners of slaves, especially coming from so high an authority, must prove as effectual a bar to the marriage of slaves in future, as the most positive certainly could do. For no man will consent to the marriage of his slave, when he knows, or even apprehends, that he would thereby endanger his property. Of this we have already full proof from experience. The opinion expressed by the attorney general is now, by some means or other, widely circulated among the owners of slaves in this place, and an effectual stop has thereby been put to marriages amongst them for more than two years past; which stop must continue till all doubt on that head be removed. That, therefore, all apprehension on the subject may be *speedily* removed, must be the fervent prayer of every man who has the interests of religion and good morals at heart.

In pressing this subject, however, upon your Excellency, I trust your Excellency will do me the justice to believe, that I have no other end in view than the gradual improvement of that class of people, by cutting off all excuse for one of the worst of vices at present so prevalent among them, by putting it in their power to live virtuously, and by begetting among them a sense of religious and moral obligation. And this every man of the least reflection must plainly see, is a matter of infinite moment,

moment, not only to slaves themselves, but to every class of people in society where slavery is practised.

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To his Excellency Governor Cameron.

With the highest, &c. &c.

John Stephen.

SIR,

Nassau, 15th June 1816.

I HAVE perused Dr. Stephen's letter to your Excellency of the 2d ult. and I adhere in all respects to the opinion which I had the honour to give to your Excellency on the 26th January 1814.

I am, &c.

His Excellency the Governor.

(Signed) *Wm. Wylly.*

SIR,

Nassau, 4th July 1816.

I HAVE attentively perused Doctor Stephen's very long letter to your Excellency of the 2d May, and I concur in opinion with His Majesty's attorney general, and my late predecessor Mr. Armstrong, that from the nature of slavery, any contract entered into by them without the consent of their owner or owners, would be void, parties in that state being rendered by law incapable of entering into any contract whatever; and the same when either of the parties only being a slave, without such consent.

I have the honour, &c.

His Excellency the Governor.

(Signed) *William Martin.*

Copy of a Letter from the Earl Bathurst to Governor Cameron.

SIR,

Downing-street, 31st Nov. 1816.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch the 12th July, transmitting a copy of a letter addressed to you by Doctor Stephen on the subject of marriages between free persons and slaves, and the effect which such marriages produce upon the condition of the slave.

I have to acquaint you that, having referred the point to the consideration of His Majesty's law servants, it is their opinion that the ecclesiastical law has always held without distinction as to the consent of the owner, that slaves were not to be excluded from marriage either with free persons or slaves, and that their owners' claim to their services would not be effected thereby: and unless the principle advanced as the ground of the opinion transmitted in your dispatch, should appear to be established as the law of the Bahamas, by positive enactment, or by a custom recognized and sanctioned by judicial decision, this provision of the ecclesiastical law, which was adopted generally in Europe, may justly be applicable to the Bahamas.

With a view to the definitive settlement of this question, it is desirable, however, that you should transmit to me a statement of the existing laws on the subject in the Bahamas as derived from legislative or judicial authorities.

I have the honour to be, &c.

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

(Signed) *Bathurst.*

Copy of a Letter from Governor Cameron to the Right Hon. the Earl Bathurst ;
with two Enclosures.

MY LORD,

Nassau, New Providence, 10th March 1817.

I HAVE been honoured with your lordship's dispatch, No. 51, of the 31st November, relative to the marriage of slaves, and I have the honour to enclose, for your lordship's information, letters I have received from the judges and the attorney general here on this subject.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *Charles Cameron.*

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

Correspondence.

Nassau.

Marriage of Slaves.

Enclosure,
No. 1.

(In Governor Cameron's of 10th March 1817.)

SIR,

New Providence, 10th March, 1817.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of the 6th instant, covering a copy of one written to your Excellency, on the 30th November last, by Earl Bathurst.

Our colonial laws are silent upon the subject of marriages of slaves, and there being no spiritual court in the Colonies, we are of course but little versant in the ecclesiastical law, except so far as it has been adopted by statute.

The opinion which I had the honour to give to your Excellency, on the 26th January 1814, was merely that of a common lawyer; and I believe it is laid down by Littleton, Coke, and Blackstone, that while villanage prevailed in England, if a freeman married a niece without consent of her lord, she became free by operation of law; and that her lord might maintain an action against the husband for the loss of his slave or niece; and that was the ground of my before-mentioned opinion.

I have the honour to be, &c.

To his Excellency Gov. Cameron.

(Signed) *William Wyly.*Enclosure,
No. 2.

(In Governor Cameron's of 10th March 1817.)

SIR,

Nassau, New Providence, 6th March 1817.)

WE have had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of the 5th instant, enclosing the copy of a dispatch from Earl Bathurst, dated the 30th November 1816, on the subject of marriages between free persons and slaves, and requiring us to afford such information as may be necessary for His Majesty's government on the subject; and we beg leave to state, that the marriage of slaves with free persons or with slaves, is not prohibited by the enactment of any law of the Bahamas, or by any custom recognised or sanctioned by the decision of any court of justice in these Islands; and that of the several Acts of the Parliament of Great Britain, relating to marriage, the statute of 32d Henry 8th, ch. 38, only is in force within these Islands, by our General Declaratory Act.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *William Vesey Munnings,*
Peter Edwards,
John M'Cartney.

His Excellency Gov. Cameron, &c. &c. &c.

BERBICE.

Treatment of a
Female Slave.

5.—TREATMENT OF A FEMALE SLAVE.

Copy of a Letter from Earl Bathurst to Lieut. Gov. Bentinck; with
one Enclosure.

SIR,

Downing-street, March 17th, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you an extract of a letter which I have received, relative to the treatment experienced by a female slave, on one of the plantations lately restored to the Berbice Association.

If the statement contained in it be in any degree correct, not only does the person by whose order the punishment was inflicted, appear deserving of punishment; but the conduct of the fiscal also requires explanation, as to the grounds upon which he declined, or omitted to exercise, that right of interference in behalf of an oppressed slave, which is one of the main duties of his situation; you will therefore lose no time in requiring from him a detailed explanation upon this point, and ascertaining whether any complaint was either privately or publicly made to him on behalf of this negro woman at the time.

Although the time which has elapsed since this offence is represented to have taken place, may impede as effectual an inquiry into its circumstances as the case requires, yet it is of so much importance to mark the abhorrence with which such crimes are viewed, and the determination of His Majesty's government to punish such

Vide Letter from
Lieut. Governor
Bentinck of 26th
May 1817.

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such offenders ; that I have to desire that you will direct the fiscal to proceed immediately to the estate where this event is stated to have taken place, and to examine into all the circumstances connected with it, with a view to enforce such proceedings against the offenders as the law authorises.

You will not fail to report to me the proceedings of the fiscal in execution of these orders.

I have, &c.
Lieut. Governor Bentinck, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) Bathurst.

Correspondence.

Berbice.

Treatment of a
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Copy of a Letter from Lieut. Gov. Bentinck to the Earl Bathurst ; with
one Enclosure.

MY LORD, King's House, Berbice, May 26th, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's dispatch, bearing date 17th March last, relative to the treatment experienced by a female slave on one of the plantations lately restored to the Berbice Association ; and in pursuance of the commands therein given, I directed the fiscal in the manner desired.

Enclosed I transmit a copy of his honour's report, on which I have ordered, "*precedente informatio*." The same will now take a judicial train of investigation, the result of which your lordship shall be made acquainted with.

The Right Hon. the Earl Bathurst, I have, &c.
&c. &c. &c. H. W. Bentinck.

(In Governor Bentinck's of 26th May 1817.)

A FEW days ago, a poor woman of the name of America, at Sandvoord, has been cart-whipped in a most brutal manner. She is three or four months gone with child. According to several accounts, she got at least 150 lashes with two drivers. She was stripped naked, and had a lap put on, and tied to four stakes, with her belly to the ground. I am told that she is cut almost to pieces, and this must be the case, for I suppose she has not received a lash, nor slept a night in the stocks, since the commissioners looked over the estates. She is a soft, inoffensive, good working creature ; it seems the cause of it was as follows :

She has a little girl in the manager's house, who was formerly in our school. The manager's wife, the descendant of an Indian, by a white man, had put the churn at the creek side, and some how or other it got away, and was probably carried down with the tide. This child was blamed for letting it go, and the mistress had her severely punished with a tough bush rope. America came to the house when she heard of it, not to find fault with the woman, but to reprove her child, and to talk to her. The manager's wife got angry with her for coming to the house and talking there ; and probably considered it as an interfering with her authority, drove her away. Whether America answered again or not I do not know. It, however, ended in this severe punishment to the negro, and loss of many days labour to the estate ; perhaps of a child. The manager was from home two or three weeks, taking his pleasure up the creek with Swaving, as he had been a short time before with Mr. Hall, and of course the management of the estate was left with this coloured woman, and the overseer, who is well known to be one of the most drunken men in the Colony.

I saw out of my window poor America come limping from her wounds up to my house. I wish I could describe her looks and gestures when she approached us. She has been released from the stocks three days. We examined the wounds she had received on her buttocks ; her posteriors had been but one wound. We looked with amazement and pity upon the long furrows which the whip had made, and which were now scaled over, but which by the use of a pin, matter would have dropped. The sight was dreadful, I am persuaded no farmer would have permitted a servant to have cut up an indifferent horse, as this pregnant woman was cut up ; every stroke had cut deep and fetched blood. The tyrant, (for I can call him nothing else,) stands over the drivers with a stick in his hand to flog them, if they do not lay on severely. Only conceive for a moment, two strong men with heavy cart-whips corded, flogging a poor unfortunate pregnant woman, laid flat on her belly, stretched on the ground naked, with her hands and feet tied to stakes, receiving upwards of
150 lashes,

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150 lashes, with one driver on one side, and the other on the other. After which, she was taken, and both her feet made fast in the stocks for a fortnight or more, lying with her wounds upon a flat form of hard wood, in a state of pregnancy, and none of her friends permitted to give her any thing to eat. To put her into the stocks was necessary to prevent her from coming to the fiscal to complain. I wish I could present this naked spectacle, with her naked buttocks, and the drivers and their whips, and Mr. Overham standing over them with his bush rope, to Mr. Marryat and the House of Commons, and let them hear the clang of the whip for a quarter of an hour. The poor creature says she would have kissed his feet, or done any thing, but he would not hear a word. It seems, she hardly knew what she was flogged for, and he did not even tell in the store what she had said to offend Mrs. Overham, that I heard of. I heard that Mrs. Swaving said she talked, but what about I have not heard; and I will venture to say, had these ladies been examined separately, they would have had very different tales. What monsters they must be, to permit and encourage and witness such cruelty! America says she has not felt the child since she received this punishment. The law forbids more than thirty-nine lashes.

It is hereby ordered, that the fiscal do forthwith proceed to the estate Sandvoord, and duly examine into the circumstances hereinbefore related, and make a specific report to me in writing, on or before Thursday next.

King's House, Berbice,
6th May 1817.

(Signed) *H. W. Bentinck.*

By Command,

(Signed) *F. White, Gov. Sec.*

SIR,

Fiscal's Office, Berbice, May 8th, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to state, that in obedience to your Excellency's commands, I attended on Plantation Sandvoord, yesterday, accompanied by the Hon. J. Cameron and Capt. Farley, to investigate the circumstances of a severe flogging inflicted by order of the manager of Plantation Sandvoord, on a negro woman named America, belonging to that property.

From the evidence collected, copies of which I have the honour to enclose, I trust Earl Bathurst, as well as your Excellency, will be fully satisfied that the charge of severe punishment inflicted on the negro woman America, has never come either directly or indirectly to my knowledge, previous to my receiving your commands for its investigation; and I can only regret that Mr. Wray should have carried a complaint of severity, by an inhabitant of this Colony, before His Majesty's ministers, without previously making application to me in behalf of the object for redress, which my duty and inclination would, at a moment's notice, have induced me so readily to afford.

The short period allowed me for this investigation by your Excellency's order, precludes the possibility of examining the only white person said to be present, he residing some considerable distance up the river.

I shall, however, require his attendance and report my further proceedings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) *M. S. Bennett, Fiscal.*

His Excellency Lieut. Gov. Bentinck.

Plantation Sandvoord, May 7th, 1817.

Present:—Honourable J. Cameron, Member of the Court of Civil Justice; J. Farley, Capt. 5th Company, 1st battalion Berbice Burgher Militia; and M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony.

IN consequence of the commands of his Excellency Lieut. Governor Bentinck (emanating from an order of Earl Bathurst) to the fiscal of the Colony, directing him to repair on Plantation Sandvoord, to inquire into the circumstances of a severe punishment inflicted on the negro woman America, by order of the manager of this estate, as represented in a statement of the Rev. Mr. Wray; a copy of which was sent to this Colony by his Lordship; we, the undersigned, at the instance of the fiscal of this Colony, this day attended to assist him in his investigation, and received the following statement from Mr. Wray.

“That he (Mr. Wray) waited on Mr. John Downer, acting fiscal of the Colony, some time in November, to exhibit a complaint against some persons to him known, for disturbing him in the performance of worship; and to request he would send for

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for and admonish them, the persons named Schabner, Carruthers, and Jackson; that after laying this complaint he mentioned to Mr. Downer, that he had understood, negroes belonging to Plantation Sandvoord, had been severely flogged by Mr. Overeem; but, to the best of his recollection, he had not seen the woman at that time. He nevertheless mentioned to Mr. Downer, that he did not lay this complaint officially, and (as far as his memory now serves) stated, that as the fiscal was daily expected, and that in all probability the arrival of the packet would bring some certain news as to the state of the crown properties, he (Mr. Wray) did not wish any interference of the fiscal on this representation; he moreover observed to Mr. Downer, that he had been informed by many of the negroes, and by some of the overseers, that the slaves on the estates were made to work on Sundays.

“Mr. Wray adds, that his complaint had this good effect, that he shortly afterwards understood, the negroes were no longer made to work on Sundays, and has never since been interrupted by the two latter persons complained of.

“Mr. Wray farther declares, that he never made any complaint or representation to the fiscal of the Colony after his return from the Islands, respecting the punishment inflicted on the woman Amercia, but recollects observing to Mr. Wray, at the time he first saw Amercia, after she had received the flogging, “if Mr. Bennett was in the Colony, I would take her to him,” or words to that effect.”

This statement having been perused by Mr. Wray, he signed the same in our presence.

(Signed) *J. Cameron,*
J. Farley.

(Signed) *John Wray.*

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) *M. S. Bennett, Fiscal.*

EVIDENCE of the Reverend Mr. Wray, respecting the severe flogging inflicted on the negro woman named Amercia, belonging to Plantation Sandvoord.

I UNDERSTOOD on the 10th of November that a few days previous, the woman America had been severely flogged: this information I obtained from a gentleman, whose name I am not wishful to disclose, without his previous consent; that he heard in a store where Mr. Overeem was present, that a negro of plantation Sandvoord had been flogged for impertinence to Mrs. Overeem, this he (Overeem) had been asked, if he exceeded thirty-nine lashes, to which he laughingly replied, “I gave her a Dutch thirty-nine.” This information I obtained on the 23d; on Sunday morning the 24th, just previous to service, she came in, observing, that as she did not doubt we had heard she had been severely flogged, and apprehensive we may think she had done something bad, she had therefore come to assure us of the contrary. We then made inquiry of her, and examined her, and found her posteriors lacerated in a severe and shocking manner, and just beginning to heal up; did inquire the names of the drivers who flogged her, but does not now recollect, it however was not Jass. The woman had no pass, and therefore did not wait performance of service, but went away; the information obtained as to the cause and mode of punishment, Mr. Wray stated was the same as contained and represented in the statement sent out by order of Earl Bathurst, which he heard read. From her appearance I think she must have had a severe flogging, at least one hundred; I do not remember ever seeing more than one negro; who appeared to have been so severely flogged.

The overseers now on the estate, are not the same that were then on the property; either La Campagne, (since dead) or Dagerad, or Gouverneur, were overseers at the time; no free coloured persons then on the estate, to the best of his knowledge.

About three weeks before the punishment was inflicted, Mrs. Wray told Amercia she suspected she was pregnant, which she confessed. Mrs. Wray therefore desired her to wean a child which she was then nursing. A few weeks ago she sent to tell Mrs. Wray, the child was lost; she expressed it, the child dribbled away.

Mrs. Wray was sent to a hospital to study midwifery.

I believe what was meant by the above expression, which was communicated to Mrs. Wray, is, that the child is lost without being able to account for it.

Mr. Wray being asked which of the negroes he would recommend to examine as witnesses to the flogging inflicted on the woman Amercia, named *Jass, Louis*

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*Augustus, Volcenus, Christian, Rosetta, Flinkey, Amsterdam, Namia, Merderina.*Treatment of a
Female Slave.Evidence of the Negro *Jass* :

Says, the woman *Americia* had a dispute with her mistress, about her child, during *Overeem's* absence from the estate; that on his return with *Mr. Swaving*, *Mrs. Overeem* complained, and on *Swaving* quitting the estate, *Overeem* next morning had *Americia* laid down, her legs tied together to a stake, and the two hands to two others, and flogged by two drivers, (*Frikens* and *Christian*) not very certain of their names, and inflicted one hundred and seventy lashes, which he reckoned; he is in the habit of counting the number of lashes when a negro is flogged, and he not employed as a driver, but not at the suggestion or direction of any person. Says the woman was confined in the stocks in the hospital, and dressed by the doctor,—doctor's name *Amsterdam*,—*Americia* had young belly,—whether she has it now or not, does not know,—the woman was much cut up, but *Amsterdam* can give the best account of her situation.

He has no cause of complaint himself against the manager, nor has the people of the estate at present, although in the beginning he was struck; does not like to say any thing against the manager behind his back, but will repeat this evidence before the manager, and state that he did count the 170 lashes.—[*Gouverneur*, overseer, present.]

Evidence of the Negro *Amsterdam* :

States that he is doctor of the hospital, and had charge of the woman *Americia* after she had been flogged; she was very much cut up, and her posteriors lacerated; that he washed her every morning and night, laying fresh plantain leaves greased, on her buttocks for a fortnight at least; that she was confined in the stocks, but on her entreating the manager to relinquish this part of her punishment, she was released.

States farther, that he understood she was pregnant; some time afterwards *Americia* informed him, she felt her belly turn; he gave her some *Hoffinan's* drops, but does not know if, or when, she did miscarry; did not count the number of lashes, but the punishment was severe.

The negress *Americia* declares that she went one day to the waterside, where her eldest daughter was, who took care of one of the manager's children, and finding her crying, inquired into the cause, and learned that she had lost the churn in the river, and had or was to be flogged; that she began to scold her daughter, accusing her of negligence, and stated that instead of improving in the house with the white people, she became more dull; that her mistress misconstrued this reprimand to be insolence, and said on her husband's return (he being up the creek with *Mr. Swaving*, *Mrs. Swaving* on the estate) she would complain to him; that on *Mr. and Mrs. Swaving's* quitting the estate, next day *Mr. Overeem* directed her to be tied down in the manner described by *Jass*, and ordered all the old and sick people about the buildings to be called up to witness the punishment she was to receive for being insolent, because her child was flogged; that she endeavoured to explain, but was laid down and received 150 lashes, at least a severe flogging; that she was washed by *Amsterdam*, and remained in the hospital at least 14 days before she could go out; that she was also confined in the stocks, but loosened at her earnest request; says she was three months pregnant when she received the flogging, and miscarried on Christmas Day, whether from the flogging or not, cannot say, never mentioned it to the manager.

Evidence of *Christian Logie*, driver :

Says, he was present when *Americia* was flogged, but not employed himself; understood *Mrs. Overeem* complained to her husband, the manager, on his return from the bush, that this woman had been insolent; says she was severely flogged, but cannot say what number of lashes she received, only that she was confined in the hospital for two weeks afterwards; good many of the negroes were present; *Louis Augustus* and *Trigans* were the drivers who flogged her.

Evidence of the driver *Trigans* :

States that *Mrs. Overeem* complained to her husband, the manager, that the woman *Americia* had been insolent, for which reason she was flogged; that being employed to flog, he did not count the number of lashes; her buttocks were much cut

cut and all over blood; she was sent to the hospital, where she remained two weeks: the flogging was severe. America said she was pregnant, but witness, as well as former, does not know how or when she miscarried. Louis Augustus and myself flogged her; he is at present in the bush; says, if called before the manager, he would state that this woman was severely flogged, and received more than one hundred lashes.—[Gouverneur, the overseer, was present.]

Mr. *Overeem*, manager of plantation Sandvoord, states, that on his return with Mr. Swaving from the bush, some time in the middle of November, (as far as his recollection serves,) he was informed by his wife that the negress America had been extremely insolent to her, in presence of Mrs. Swaving and Mrs. Overshot (who corroborated this information;) that the day after his return he caused her to be laid down, and her hands and feet to be tied, and inflicted thirty-nine lashes; that after this punishment, she arose perfectly well, and went to the sick-house, where she remained eleven or twelve days, as a punishment, conceiving the punishment of thirty-nine lashes inadequate for the impertinent language she had made use of. She was washed with cold water after receiving the flogging, and previous to her going into the hospital; she was not locked up in the stocks in the sick-house.

This woman was not pregnant; she could not miscarry, if three months (or even a shorter period) pregnant, without the assistance or knowledge of the midwife or hospital man; the fifth day after she was punished she requested leave to go to the field, which I denied, ordering her to remain in the sick-house; the midwife nor hospital man, has never heard of her miscarriage, nor have I; it is customary to report to me whenever a woman miscarries: this woman, moreover, has a child now just beginning to walk; the child was at that period not twelve months old; I believe the child yet sucks.

Mr. Wray here interrupted the witness, stating he supposed the child now to be two years old.

Mr. *Overeem* says, that he desired the negroes, on Saturday, to leave off work as half past five to go for plantains, with orders that they shall all go and return together. On one occasion directed the Logie driver to give three lashes to each negro as they passed him, for remaining a considerable time after the others. I placed him at the bridge to give them the whip as they passed, and observing him to flog the most indifferent of the people, and only to crack the whip when the higher class of them were passing. I certainly took a *Carakara*, or bush-rope, and gave him a few stripes myself with it; I never did it before nor since.

The above evidence was taken before us.

(Signed) *J. Cameron.*
J. Farley.

A true copy of the original remaining in my office.

I attest,

(Signed) *M. S. Bennett,*
Fiscal of the Colony.

(In Governor Bentinck's of 26th May 1817.)

SIR,

Berbice, 19th May, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, that in obedience to your commands, I proceeded, on the 7th inst. to the estate Sandvoord, to institute an official inquiry into the alleged cruel treatment of a female negro slave of the name of America, attached to the said estate; and in order to give as much solemnity and effect to the investigation as the case would submit, from the suspension of the court of policy, (the ordinary criminal judges,) I associated with me the honourable J. Cameron, a member of the court of civil justice, and J. Farley, a captain of the burgher militia, as integrant member of the board of inquiry.

The objects of the inquiry, from the nature and tendency of Earl Bathurst's letter, seemed to us to be two-fold: 1st, Whether there had been a neglect of duty on the part of the fiscal; and, 2d, Whether the female slave in question had been punished in the severe manner as stated to the Right honourable the Secretary of State. For the satisfaction of your Excellency on these two points, the investigation has been directed.

In respect to the first branch of the inquiry, the Rev. Mr. Wray was called before the board, and requested to state all that he knew of any complaint made to the fiscal, in relation to the punishment of the said female slave, or in reference to any information given or communicated to the fiscal on the same subject by any other means, when Mr. Wray gave a detailed account of every thing within his know-
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ledge or belief, having the least bearing on the question. The substance of Mr. Wray's statement amounted to this:—

“That he had mentioned to Mr. John Downer, who had acted officially for the fiscal during a short temporary absence from the Colony; that certain negroes, as he understood, had been severely flogged by Mr. Overeem, the manager of Sandvoord, but that he begged Mr. Downer not to conceive that he was making any formal complaint on that head; on the contrary, he wished the affair to rest, either until the return of the fiscal or the receipt of directions from England for the regulation of the Crown property. That at the time Mr. Wray's representation was made, he had not even seen the female slave to whom the inquiry referred.

“That on the return of the fiscal to the Colony, Mr. Wray did not make any representation, or give any information to that office, on the subject of the punishment on the said female slave.”

The general character I have established and maintained within this Colony for many years, for the vigilant and merciful administration of the office of fiscal, will render it unnecessary for me to add to this exculpatory statement of Mr. Wray, any denial of my own as to my total want of knowledge of the circumstances connected with the sufferings of this unfortunate female; I shall content myself, therefore, with referring your Excellency to the first statement of Mr. Wray on this foremost branch of the inquiry, leaving said document to make its own impression on your Excellency, and on the mind of His Majesty's principal Secretary of State, if the same shall be so referred by your Excellency.

I have further the honour to inform your Excellency, that in pursuance of the second branch of the inquiry, the Board summoned before them the reverend gentleman just mentioned, and took down in writing the body of the information or evidence that he was able to afford in relation to the same. That such evidence of Mr. Wray was strong and impressive of the actual suffering of the woman, and of the severity of the means by which it was brought about, and although he was not an eye witness of the punishment of the said slave, he was nevertheless able to communicate to the Board such circumstances as to assist them most materially in their inquiry, by pointing out to their notice the parties, actors and witnesses in and of the punishment. That in consequence of the information just alluded to, the members of the Board called before them, not only the female negro slave herself, but the manager Overeem, certain drivers of the negroes attached to the estate Sandvoord, together with the negro doctor, by whose depositions, with the exception of Overeem's statement; it appears,

That the female slave (without entering into the detail of the transaction) received a severe punishment, greatly exceeding the measure of the law in a like case, whatsoever might have been the degree of the offence requiring it; that the punishment occasioned a great laceration of the parts on which it had been inflicted, and much consequent and subsequent suffering.

That at the time of the infliction of the punishment, the said female was in a state of pregnancy; though such circumstance might not have been known to the manager at the time; her state, however, would seem to have been apparent to more than one of the parties examined.

That it appears also from the statement of Overeem himself, that he did not think the punishment inflicted (severe as on all sides it is admitted by the negroes to have been) adequate to the supposed offence to which it was applied; and that to the flogging received by the said female slave was superadded, by his orders and authority, a confinement for eleven or twelve days in the sick-house, under the impression and name of an additional or aggravated punishment. All these facts, thus summarily set forth, (many of which will admit corroborating testimonies from parties not yet interrogated,) are sustained by the depositions substantially committed to writing, of Mr. Wray, of the negro Jass, Amsterdam, Christian, Tregan, America, and the statement of the manager Overeem; copies of which depositions are enclosed, for the better information of your Excellency in the premises.

These documents afford abundant ground, in my humble apprehension, for instituting a criminal proceeding against the manager of the estate Sandvoord, for the cruelty and oppression practised and exhibited against the said female slave; and it is my intention, with your Excellency's authorization, to institute such proceedings against him at the next session of the criminal court, when I trust to be able to collect some farther collateral proof, that may give weight and solidity to the statements depending on the evidence of persons *non sui juris*, as negroes are holden to be.

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If the prosecution ultimately fail, from defective proof, which I would not anticipate, it will not happen, I can assure your Excellency, from the want of zeal or energy on the part of His Majesty's fiscal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) *M. S. Bennett*, Fiscal.

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ORDER.—Having read the two several reports of his Honour, bearing date respectively the 8th and 19th May instant, and duly considered the matter therein contained and referred to, as annexed; *Fiat precedente informatie*, I do hereby appoint Thursday next, the 29th day of May instant, for the due taking thereof; and enjoin all persons who know, or can certify concerning the said matters and things related, to attend the summons of his Honour, and appear at the King's House, at ten of the clock in the forenoon of the same day, to be examined touching the aforesaid matters.

(Signed) *H. W. Bentinck*.

By Command.

King's House, Berbice,
24th May 1817.

(Signed) *F. White*, Gov^r Secy.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Governor Bentinck to the Earl Bathurst, K. G.; with one Enclosure.

My Lord,

King's House, Berbice, 24th June 1817.

WITH reference to my letter addressed to your lordship on the 26th May last, I now enclose to you the fiscal's further report, relative to the punishment of the negro woman America, on one of the plantations lately restored to the Berbice Association.

I sincerely regret the delay in this matter; had the informant presented his knowledge to me, it would have rendered the complaint more easy of remedy, and saved your lordship a great deal of trouble. But the lapse of time does not improve the testimony; and the present period of suspension of the judges of criminal jurisdiction, co-operates to render the whole exceedingly distressing; whereas, all the inconvenience might have been obviated, and substantial justice administered, if Mr. Wray had worked to that end, instead of transmitting his high-coloured statements, which I must confess to your Lordship I feel as injurious.

I have, &c.

(Signed) *H. W. Bentinck*.

To the Right honourable the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(In Governor Bentinck's of the 24th June 1817.)

SIR,

Fiscal's Office, Berbice, June 21st, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency, that I have collected further evidence in the charge against the manager of Plantation Sandvoord, for inflicting severe punishment on the negro woman America, belonging to that property.

As soon as the court of criminal justice is appointed, I shall confront the witnesses, and bring the cause before the court of decision.

I have, &c.

(Signed) *M. S. Bennett*.

His Excellency Governor H. W. Bentinck.

Extract of a Letter from Earl Bathurst to Lieutenant Governor Bentinck.

Downing-street, 11th August 1817.

I HAVE received and laid before the Prince Regent your dispatch of the 26th May, detailing the measures adopted for investigating the case of mal-treatment of a female slave, which I transmitted to you in my letter of the 17th March.

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I have, at the same time that I express His Royal Highness's approbation of the measures taken by you on the receipt of my dispatch, to convey to you His Royal Highness's assurance, that He sees no reason to impute blame to yourself or the fiscal for the delay which has taken place in the investigation of this transaction; considering it, however, most important, with a view to the welfare of the slave population, that statements of their mal-treatment should as early as possible be investigated by the competent authority on the spot (that being the only mode by which substantial justice can be administered,) I have to desire that you will admonish Mr. Wray of the extreme impropriety of his conduct, in not officially representing to the Governor, or fiscal, the mal-treatment of the negro in question, when he appeared at the same time to consider it of so aggravated a nature as to be the fit subject of a repeated representation to his correspondents in this country.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Governor Bentinck to the Earl Bathurst;
with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

King's House, Berbice, Oct. 3d, 1817.

I BEG leave to refer your lordship to my letters of the 26th May, and 24th June last, relative to the complaint against Overeem, of cruelty towards the female slave *America*.

I have the honour to enclose to your lordship a letter I have received from the president of the court of justice, accompanied with abstract of the notes his honour took at the trial of Overeem, and copy of sentence against said offender; likewise, a minute of the court's proceedings on contempt of one of the witnesses, named Gouverneur.

Trusting the determination of this case will be satisfactory,

I have, &c.

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

*H. W. Bentinck.*Enclosure,
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(In Lieut. Governor Bentinck's of 3d October 1817.)

SIR,

Berbice, Sept. 7th, 1817.

KNOWING the interest you feel in the case which has just fallen under the investigation of the court of criminal justice, I submit to you an abstract of my notes of the trial; together with the observations, which I considered it my duty to make, previously to the delivery of the court's sentence on Overeem, and one of the principal witnesses in the cause. I hope that the result, though it is not exactly what I anticipated, will have an useful and salutary effect.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

E. Samuel,

Pres' Court of Criminal Justice.

To his Excellency
Lieu' Gov' H. W. Bentinck,
&c. &c. &c.

Jacobus Overeem,

YOU have been found guilty, after a most impartial and patient investigation, of excessive cruelty towards the female slave *America*; by punishing her in a most unmerciful manner, for a supposed offence, which, according to your own statement of it, was of no heinous nature; the circumstances of which you have not been able to describe, and into the truth or falsehood of which you do not seem to have given yourself any pains to inquire: an alleged offence, giving credit to your own relation, which sprang out of parental solicitude, and laying claim, on that account, if it had been committed, to leniency and indulgence. So far from this circumstance having any weight with you in the diminution of the punishment, which you ordered to be inflicted on that unhappy woman, it appears to have been entirely overlooked; or only to have provoked additional injustice, or to have excited a greater degree of vengeance towards the sufferer.

From all the evidence worthy of belief on this prosecution, it is clearly and incontrovertibly shown, that this unfortunate female, supposed by the whole gang to be in a state to interest every manly heart about her, was brought to the stake by
your

your orders, and there fastened, without further form or ceremony, to the rings, for the purpose of being whipped; she herself soliciting the while, with reiterated cries and increasing energy, to be heard in her defence; to which cries you not only turned a deaf ear, but unfeelingly and most unjustly answered, that you would hear her after she had received her punishment. The description of the unrighteous judge, who punished first, and heard the culprit afterwards, "Castigatque auditque dolos," as given by an ancient poet, might have passed for a portraiture of the imagination, had it not been evidenced by your conduct, that the picture may have been drawn from life.

In this way you commenced this flagrant act of injustice; which ended not until after you had inflicted with insatiable cruelty, on the suffering body of this bound and unresisting female, one hundred and seventy lashes with the cart-whip; a measure of punishment far exceeding the limit of the law, and applicable only, after solemn inquiry before this court, to a most atrocious case.

You have attempted to prove (your conviction will show how unsatisfactorily to the court) that the amount of the stripes actually given, fell much short of the number mentioned. You have also endeavoured to shake the truth and consistency of the witnesses who have been examined against you, on several material points of their testimony, but you have every where failed; and the attempt has impressed the court with the idea, that whatever deed the heart shall have the wickedness to conceive, it is as little scrupulous about the expedients to be used to cloak it. Woe befall you, if in the hour of reflection on the guilt of which you have been convicted (which will undoubtedly arrive) you should feel in your conscience, that to the crime of cruelty, you have to answer before God for the still greater crime of subornation of perjury.

The history of your guilt would seem full and complete enough, on the statement already made, to justify the sentence about to be pronounced, without the narration of further particulars connected with it; but it is my duty and that of the court to show it in all its circumstances and colours. And in the discharge of this painful office, I feel myself obliged to say, that I have seldom heard or read of an act of cruelty more aggravated than yours; whether considered in relation to the object suffering under it, or the cold-blooded and barbarous circumstances attending it.

It is in evidence, that you not only refused to hear the unhappy woman, who had offended you; and that you inflicted the severe punishment I have described, without cause, upon her (I say, "without cause," because you have made none apparent to the court;) but that at the moment whilst she was fastening to the stake, you were intent only on selfish gratification; to be indulged and heightened, perhaps, by the pride of comparative station, or the sense that the victim to your supposed offended power was completely within your hands. You are described to have coolly and deliberately filled your pipe, to have sent for a light, and communicating it to the combustible weed, to have enveloped yourself in the fumes of tobacco, and your own swelling importance, during the long, long interval of the sufferings—the unjust sufferings of a weak and prostrate fellow creature, not allowing the selfish indulgence to be interrupted, until the wretched sufferer had received ninety-five lashes; when you took the pipe from your lips, to insult her in her sufferings, by reproaching her with her imagined but unsubstantiated offence, and then proceeded to finish the work of your barbarity, by ordering to be joined to the number of lashes which she had already received, seventy-five additional stripes; and you had afterwards the impudence to boast in European society, on being taxed with the infliction of an illegal punishment, that you had given a *Dutch thirty-nine*, thereby inferring, notwithstanding your attempt to pervert or fritter away the meaning of the expression, that you had fearlessly and unblushingly transgressed the letter of the law.

It is now for the abused and offended law of the Colony to assert its superiority, and to show by your example that it is not to be violated with impunity, by the lawless will of individuals; and the court, in this particular case, feel not so much difficulty in vindicating the law as excusing the lenity and moderation with which they are about to carry it into effect, so that they may not seem to be adjudging a punishment inadequate or disproportionate to your offence. But they would rather fail here, than in dealing out a more ample measure of correction, since such will yet remain in their hands to be drawn forth when the occasion unhappily may call for it.

The Court have been induced to mitigate the punishment which they would otherwise have decreed, from a supposition that it might have been possible that you were not acquainted with the pregnancy of *America* at the time when you punished

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punished her. They hope, for your own conscience sake, that this may actually have been the case. Some also of its members have considered the fact, of your never having been heretofore called before the court to answer to a charge like that which has been found against you, though you have been overseer or a manager of slaves for more than twenty years, a circumstance which ought to operate in your favour. And this consideration certainly has been allowed to prevail in the formation of the sentence which the court is about to award. They hope that it will still be marked enough, if you have any feeling or sentiment, to deter you from being guilty of a similar offence, and to prevent others from practising the like enormity.

The secretary will read the sentence, which was done in the following terms:

By the honourable Court of Criminal Justice of the Colony Berbice.

THE court of criminal justice having seen and examined the criminal demand made by M. S. Bennett, esq. fiscal of the Colony, *ratione officii*, against Jacobus Overeem, on a charge of cruelty towards the negro woman America, by having punished, in a wanton, unprovoked, and severe manner, the said negro woman America, belonging to plantation Sandvoord, situate within this Colony, in defiance of the laws enacted by the legislature for the government and management of slaves, and in violation of the principles of humanity:

And it appearing clear to the Court, after a most impartial and attentive examination of the depositions taken in the investigation of this charge, that this cruel and unjust chastisement upon the person of the woman America, was inflicted by order of the said Jacobus Overeem, and in his presence, and that therefore there does not exist a doubt of the guilt of the said Jacobus Overeem:

And it appearing further to the Court, when the said Jacobus Overeem was called upon to make his innocence manifest, that the only testimonies he could adduce were two white persons, at that time overseers on plantation Sandvoord, one of whom has prevaricated in the most gross manner, and rendered his testimony totally unworthy of credit, and the other has not deposed to any single point in favour of the prisoner, but has also swerved from truth; there can be no possible means left to the said Jacobus Overeem to prove his innocence of the crime with which he stands charged:

And whereas a crime of the nature of which the prisoner stands charged, is not to be tolerated in a land where justice prevails, but requires to be exemplarily punished, so as to deter others from the commission of like offences;—

So it is, that the Court of criminal justice of the Colony Berbice, proceeding to do justice in the name of our sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Condemn the said Jacobus Overeem to be confined in the common jail of the Colony for the space of *three calendar months*, and to pay a fine of *three hundred guilders*, together with the costs and expenses of this investigation, prosecution, and trial, and to remain in confinement till the same are paid.

Done in Court, and pronounced this 23d day of August 1817.

(Signed)

E. Samuel,

J. G. Cloot de Rewnerkirk,

A. Melville,

J. Paterson,

B. J. Schwieters,

W. Helder.

In presence of

R. C. Downer, Secretary.

NOTES of the President of the Court of Criminal Justice on the trial of Jacobus Overeem, for causing a negro woman of the name of America, belonging to plantation Sandvoord, to be most severely and inhumanly punished, by inflicting on her naked body, and at one and the same time, *one hundred and seventy lashes by the cart-whip*, contrary to the law of God and of the land.

PROSECUTION at the instance of the Fiscal, *ratione officii*.

In support of the charges, several native witnesses were called, and amongst these, the negroes *America*, *Jas*, *Louis Augustus*, *Volcanus*, and *Amsterdam*.

These uniformly agreed in their representation of the *time*, *place* and *circumstances* of the punishment inflicted on the negro woman in question, stating in substance, that she, *America*, was laid down and fastened to the floor, without a hearing, on an assertion of *Overeem* the manager, (who stood by at the time,) that she had been guilty of insolence towards his wife; that the drivers *Louis*
Amorustus

Augustus and *Volcanus* were ordered by Overeem to punish her, and accordingly did punish her with the cart-whip, and did not desist until they had inflicted on her body considerably more than one hundred lashes: That she was severely *whipped*, much cut and lacerated, and debilitated by the flogging, so much so that she was obliged to be assisted by the drivers to the hospital, whence she was brought in the first instance, to the place where she was punished.

America stated that she was pregnant at the time, and her account was substantiated by the evidence of Mrs. Wray, the wife of the Rev. J. Wray, as also by *Amsterdam* the native doctor, and Jas, who rendered his declaration under oath to the following effect:

That he, *Jas*, was present when *America* was brought out for punishment: That she wished to speak to the manager, but he refused to hear her until he had flogged her: That when he was going to punish her, he asked the woman why she had been saucy to his wife?

America said she had not been saucy; she, *America*, being only angry with her daughter.

On being asked, whether he saw that *America* was with child at the time?—The witness answered, “I as well as the other negroes and the manager knew she was with child, or had belly.”

Question.—Did she cry for mercy while they were flogging her?

Answer.—Yes, she did, but the punishment was not stopped in consequence.

Question.—How was the manager occupied during the punishment?

Answer.—He was smoking. As soon as the punishment began, he ordered the boy to bring fire to light his pipe.

Question.—What number of lashes did the woman receive?

Answer.—*I counted one hundred and seventy*; first *ninety-five*, when the manager asked *America* why she was saucy to his wife? she replied, “I was not so, I was only angry with my child.” He then gave her *seventy-five* lashes more.

(The evidence here shewed his ability to keep the tally of lashes, by reckoning numbers in regular succession.) He added, “I am driver of the estate.”

Question.—Have you ever been *christened*?

Answer.—Yes, by Parson Wray.

Question.—Do you understand the nature of an oath?

Answer.—Yes; I know that if I do not speak truth, I shall be punished hereafter.

Question.—Are you ready to make oath to the truth of your answers?

Answer.—Yes.

The witness concluded with saying,—“The woman, after receiving her punishment, was very weak, and was assisted to the sick house by two of the drivers.”—The testimony of *Jas* was received under oath.

Louis Augustus and Volcanus (otherwise called Tregan) deposed, that they were employed by Overeem in inflicting the punishment in question. The first said, that *America* received 170 lashes; for *Gouverneur*, on a question from Overeem, stated, that she had received that number; the punishment lasted for nearly half an hour; the latter, that she had received more than 100 lashes. The account rendered by *Jas*, *America*, and others, was corroborated by the evidence of the Rev. John Wray, who deposed, that he examined the person of *America* shortly after she had been punished, and more particularly the parts affected by the punishment, which appeared to him to have been much lacerated and wounded, as if from a very severe flogging.

He had never seen but one person in his life more hardly treated; that she must have received more than 50; and he had no doubt, from appearances, that she had received more than a hundred lashes.

The prosecution was further supported by the evidence of Richard Grimes, who stated, that the prisoner Overeem, in a conversation about the punishment of *America*, admitted in his (the witness's) hearing, that he had given *America* a *Dutch* 39, but did not explain what a *Dutch* 39 was.

On the Defence, it was not disputed that the woman *America* had been punished at the time and in the manner stated, but it was contended, and attempted to be proved, that she had been punished according to the letter of the law; that is, the punishment had not exceeded 39 lashes. To this end two European overseers, of the names of *Gouverneur* and *Schmidt*, were introduced as witnesses, who endeavoured to impress on the commissaries who examined them, that the punishment was confined within 39 lashes, and that these were inflicted by *Christian* and *Volcanus*, and not by *Louis Augustus* and the latter, as all the witnesses on the

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behalf of the crown had deposed; Gouverneur swore, that he counted the number of lashes given, and they amounted to 36 and no more; that she was punished *mildly*; that the punishment lasted about ten minutes.

In his second examination, the same witness swore, that he was *desired* by *Overeem* to count the number of lashes, that they might not go beyond the law; that when the woman had received 36 lashes, he acquainted *Overeem*, as directed, with the number given, who stopped the punishment.

Schmidt swore that he did not count the number of lashes given, but he thinks they were not more than 39; the punishment did not last more than five or six minutes; on re-examination he admitted that it continued for the space of ten minutes, and he did not think that the woman was much cut by the punishment.

Overeem, in his examination, stated, that it is the duty of *Managers* to count the number of lashes inflicted; that he himself counted them in the instance in question; that he does not know that overseers usually count them.

Gouverneur and Schmidt positively swore, that *Volcanus* and *Christian* were the drivers who inflicted the punishment. The first asserting that *Louis Augustus* (who was stated, on the behalf of the prosecutor, to have been actually employed on the occasion) was absent from the estate at the time, to wit, in the bush. And the second affirming that *Louis Augustus* was not so employed; but that, of seven drivers on the estate, he was sure that *Volcanus* and *Christian* were the drivers actually employed. But on Gouverneur being on another day confronted with the driver *Louis Augustus*, he stated, after much prevarication, that he (Gouverneur) then recollected the latter was one of the drivers who had inflicted the punishment on the woman in question. At the close of *Overeem's* examination, he insisted that *particular credit* was due to Gouverneur's testimony, on the ground that he, *Overeem*, and Gouverneur had been living on bad terms with one another; when it came out on his further examination, that he and Gouverneur had been together the day and night before; and it was admitted afterwards by Gouverneur, on his cross examination, that he had been confidentially and constantly employed by *Overeem*; and that when he left his (*Overeem's*) house, on the morning of his examination, he had borrowed and carried away with him a pair of pantaloons to put on for the occasion.

There were several other contradictory points of evidence, but of minor interest, between Schmidt and Gouverneur, which it is not requisite to advert to, since the court was clearly convinced, from the plain statement of the negroes, confirmed by the evidence of the Rev. J. Wray and Rich. Grimes, of the guilt of the prisoner, and which appeared only the more palpable by the contradictory and evasive evidence offered on the behalf of the defendant.

Overeem was sentenced to imprisonment for three months, to pay a fine of three hundred guilders, and condemned in the costs of prosecution, and to be further confined until the same should be paid.

The prevarication of Gouverneur was so striking as to induce the court, after sentence, to commit him for contempt.

Jacobus Gouverneur.

THE Court has ordered you to be attached and brought thus summarily before it, to answer for a glaring contempt, committed in the body and before the face of the court; and being so committed it is impossible for you to repel or deny it.

You have been guilty of gross and bold prevarication in almost every particular of your evidence; which appears to have been offered, and calculated certainly to defeat the justice of the case, in which your testimony was brought forward, as well as to delude and deceive the court; this was particularly evidenced by the contradictory and evasive testimony you gave respecting the communications and connection you had with the prisoner *Overeem*, previously to your last examination, and on the day and night immediately preceding the same; and which circumstance became of more importance to the cause, from the attempt of *Overeem* to claim an extraordinary character for your evidence, on the alleged ground of existing ill-will, misunderstanding, and consequent want of communication between you and him, the prisoner; when so far from that being the case, it is in proof, by his and your admissions, that you were in the habit of frequent intercourse, that you was on constant and confidential employment by him; and when it also appears in evidence, that you had dined, slept at his house, and proceeded thence to your examination, bearing under your arm a part, possibly, of the wages of perjury.

You also *Jacobus Gouverneur* have shamelessly shewn yourself unmindful of the solemnity

solemnity of an oath, sworn in the presence of the Almighty, and in the face of this court, by falsely and wickedly swearing to that which you knew to be without existence, and affirming other matters as facts, which had no foundation but in the deceit of your own heart, with a view to prevent justice, which this court is bound to administer to every suitor that requires it at its hands. You attempted to take away the faith and credit due to the witnesses of the crown, by contradicting a main fact, which they were bound to support, namely, the hands which inflicted the punishment on *America*, by swearing that one of the parties whom the witnesses for the crown stated to have been employed in punishing that unfortunate woman, was not so employed; and by further swearing, which you yourself afterwards confessed to be false, "that he was absent at the time particularised from the plantation, and was then engaged in the bush," a circumstance that you must have known to be untrue.

On a crime so palpable and so barefacedly committed, and committed without any reproach of conscience, in the very sanctuary, as it were, of the temple, in defiance of the commandment of God, and in circumvention of justice, there would seem no need of investigation, as no circumstance is wanting to make out and manifest the offence, and no possible palliation of it, since the offence is admitted out of your own mouth; yet if you have aught in possibility to urge in your behalf, the court will afford you an opportunity of defence against this more aggravated crime. There is no necessity to enlarge on an offence which is so obviously base, a crime seeking to poison the very fountains of justice, and to make the refreshing waters thereof flow in an impure and polluted course; to shake the confidence of man in man, and to make the administration of justice insecure by introducing doubts in the bosoms of the judges, and all producible testimony; and more particularly on that of European evidence.

The court, in order to show its abhorrence of the crime of which you stand convicted, in the presence of the court and the country, and with a view to punish the guilt thereof, to deter others from falling into the like peril, has come to a sentence which designates its detestation of a crime so flagrant and so detrimental to society, which is,—“That you be committed to the custody, of the marshal, for contempt; and that the fiscal be ordered to prosecute you for Perjury at the next ensuing session.”

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6.—MALTREATMENT OF NEGROES.

Copy of a Letter from Earl Bathurst to Lieutenant Governor Bentinck.)

SIR,

Downing-street, April 24th, 1817.

IT is with great regret that I have again to call your attention to the further representations which I have received of the maltreatment of the negroes on the estates lately belonging to the crown, in the Colony under your government.

Uniformed as I am, at the present moment, as to the degree of credit which ought to attach to these representations, it is only in my power to direct you on this as I have already done on former occasions, to call upon the fiscal of the Colony to inquire into the circumstances which are stated to have occurred, and to report the evidence which he may be able either personally to afford, or to procure from others, as to the facts at issue.

You will also take this opportunity of acquainting the fiscal, that as the most material part of his duty is that of watching over the conduct of slave proprietors, and punishing those who may be guilty of undue severity towards these negroes; His Majesty's government look to him in the first instance as responsible for any acts of cruelty the perpetrators of which shall not be brought to immediate punishment; you will at the same time inform him that this heavy responsibility is attached to him under the idea that he possesses under the Dutch law, the requisite authority and legal power to correct and punish abuses of this description; but that if he apprehends his present powers to be inadequate to such a purpose, there will be no difficulty in investing him with such a further degree of authority as may be considered by himself and the president of the court of justice, necessary for enforcing among the planters a humane and proper treatment of these slaves.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) Bathurst,

Governor Bentinck.

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Negroes.Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Governor Bentinck to Earl Bathurst;
with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

King's House, Berbice, June 26th 1817.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your lordship, the fiscal's report on the matter contained in your dispatch, bearing date April 24th, 1817.

With respect to the alleged cruelty by Mr. Cooper, I trust the statement of facts made by his honour will prove satisfactory.

And with relation to the adequacy of the fiscal's power, I concur in opinion of its perfection, and that he ought to be made responsible in the first instance, for if he bestowed but ordinary vigilance, an act of cruelty can hardly escape his information, which he has only to present to the judge, for the requisite provision, previous to formal accusation or charge.

Not only his responsibility should claim the exertion of his power; but as he has a portion of all fines imposed by the municipal rules for prevention of acts of cruelty, he cannot be said to want inducement to activity.

I have, &c.

To the Right Hon. Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.(Signed) *H. W. Bentinck.*Enclosure,
No. 1.

(In Lieutenant Governor Bentinck's of the 26th June 1817.)

Minute on Earl Bathurst's dispatch to Lieutenant Governor Bentinck, dated
April 24th, 1817.

THE fiscal is directed to inquire into the alleged cruelty, and in case he find any evidence thereof, to prepare same before his honour the president of the court of justice. And further, if the fiscal apprehend his present powers to be inadequate to repress the cause of these frequent complaints, highly disreputable to the authorities in the Colony, let him present the matter, specially stated, unto the president, to the end that such powers may be devised for enforcing a humane and proper treatment of the slaves.

(Signed) *H. W. Bentinck.*

King's House, Berbice, 5th June 1817.

By Command. (Signed) F. White, Gov^t Sec^y.

R E P O R T.

SIR,

Fiscal's Office, June 24th, 1817.

I FEEL much satisfaction in being able to report to your Excellency on the subject of Mr. Wray's representation, respecting the alleged cruelty of a Mr. Cooper towards his slave. The history of this case is as follows:—Mr. Wray informed me by letter on the 11th January, that he thought a Mr. Cooper, his neighbour, was murdering a poor negro woman, and that he could hear the blows in his house; and that Mrs. Lindner, on whose lot Cooper lives, went to the house to see what was the matter; from the dreadful screams of the woman, she thought somebody was dying.

On this information I deemed it my duty to make immediate inquiry, and dispatched the under-sheriff to the house of Mr. Cooper, to direct his attendance, and that of the negro woman in question. On the under-sheriff's return I was informed that Mr. Cooper was so much indisposed as not to be able to walk about the room, but that he, the under-sheriff, had brought the negro woman with him, as also the negro who had inflicted the punishment, and the instrument used on the occasion. The woman did not appear to be in very good health, her feet being completely filled with shigoes (a certain proof of her being an uncleanly subject;) the instrument appeared to consist of five or six cords of cotton, apparently the remains of the cordage of an English made hammock. I examined the negro woman's back, whereon she stated to have received the punishment, and I positively state that no marks were visible, although not an hour had elapsed from the time the complaint was made to me, till investigated.

I enclose a certificate from Mrs. Lindner, who appears to have been a witness to the flogging. It will not seem necessary for me to offer a single comment on this transaction.

* This enclosure
has never been re-
ceived.

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The circumstance of the sailors on board the shipping, hearing at times the punishment of negroes on shore, cannot appear strange when I state, that I recommend that punishments inflicted on negroes be as public as possible, and for that purpose they shall take place in the market-place, on the banks of the river, to prevent, from their notoriety, as much as possible, any improper or severe mode of punishment.

The miserable woman who is mentioned in the latter part of Mr. Wray's representation, I conclude to be the one already mentioned. Had Mr. Wray done his duty, in representing to me that Mr. Cooper (who has lately sailed from this Colony in the ship *Cecilia* for Liverpool) had inflicted on this woman a severer punishment, by nine lashes, than permitted by law, he would have afforded me an opportunity of evincing my readiness to punish him for the excess of severity.

With respect to the power and authority vested in me by the laws of the Colony, for suppressing any severity of proprietors towards their slaves, I beg leave to state, that it is in every respect adequate.

I have, &c.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal.

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Extract of a Letter from Governor Bentinck to Earl Bathurst ; dated King's House, Berbice, October 25th, 1817.

I HAVE deemed it prudent to request his honour the President of the Court of Justice, to furnish me with a report, for your lordship's information, of all judicial cases of any note coming under his cognizance. Thus your lordship will be enabled promptly to answer and check the progress of prejudice, and manifest to our countrymen, that although like them we have evil-doers among us, that like them we punish.

I have been more especially prompted to this measure by a recent decision in a prosecution of the Fiscal's, *ratione officii*, vs. J. Vander Brock, for cruelty to his slave Quashee, by working him with a heavy chain round his neck, for having complained that he had worked him on a holiday.

The judgment was, that the slave should be sold out of the power of his master, and be condemned in the costs.

Your lordship will receive more ample information from the President's report, which shall be forwarded the next packet.

(Copy of a Letter from Governor Bentinck to the Earl Bathurst ; with two Enclosures.)

MY LORD,

King's House, Berbice, 17th November 1817.

WITH reference to my letter dated 25th October last, I now enclose to your lordship a report of his honour the president, E. Samuel, bearing date the 15th November instant, together with the abstract of the pleading and evidence, and manner of proceeding on the trial of Johannes Vander Brock, lately convicted of oppression and cruelty towards the slave Quassie.

I have, &c.

H. W. Bentinck.

To the Right Hon. the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

(In Lieutenant Governor Bentinck's of the 17th November 1817.)

SIR,

Berbice, November 15th, 1817.

I HAVE now the honour to transmit an abstract of the pleadings and evidence, and manner of the proceedings, on the trial of Johannes Vander Brock, convicted at our late session, of oppression and cruelty towards the slave Quassie ; being, I believe, the last of the cases in the train of investigation, at the time of your Excellency's delivery over to me the chair of the criminal court.

You will perceive that the prisoner was acquitted of the first count of the indictment, "for working his slaves on *Whitsunday*," one of three great festivals for slaves in the year. But the acquittal did not proceed on the ground, as is explained

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in the few observations I threw out, previously to the pronouncement of the sentence, that the slaves in question had *not* been *worked* at the time mentioned, but that such work was substituted by the defendant in mercy, for punishment alleged to be due to the whole gang or body of negroes, for wilful neglect of their task-duty for several preceding days.

This interpretation of the work exacted on this occasion, was favoured by a majority of the court ; with whom, it is but justice to myself to say, I did not vote ; holding that the supposed justification, however specious it appeared in motive, could not serve in effect as a legal excuse, since it is in violation of a positive Divine command, and in opposition to an irrefragable moral principle, that none may do evil in the hope that good may come of it ; and since the work performed did not come within any of the justificatory causes described in the colonial regulations, under date the 10th day of November, 1810, and as set forth in the indictment, being not work of the *first and strictest necessity*, such as repairing broken dams or cokers, as therein allowed to be performed, and no other.

I had intended, on first impression, to have publicly protested against the sentence of the majority, on the foregoing and other legal grounds, but conceiving on reflection, that the court would be likely to challenge more respect towards its decisions, if they should appear unanimous, I forebore to mark my dissent, and rather strove to reconcile the sentence of the majority to the public judgment or opinion, by disclaiming the inference, which might at first view be drawn from it, that it had a tendency to sanction the execution of work on the Sabbath, as work *abstractedly* considered ; but that it was justified, or held to be justified in the particular case, on the principle of its being a substitution for corporal punishment for an aggravated case of negligence.

I will not say how far my observations had the desired effect, but they were offered most certainly with a view of conciliation towards the court, and rendering the sentence, not more palatable only, but more profitable to the public. I do not feel that it is necessary to offer further excuse to your Excellency, who must know how essential the means of moderation and conciliation are in the administration of business with numbers holding equal rights and responsibilities with and to each other.

The same remark will apply to the sentence of the court, on the second and third counts of the indictment, of which the defendant was declared guilty. The sentence as it stands, does not speak, all that I would have wished it to have done, to the public crowding the court. But as it directs, what from the beginning had been a favourable anticipation, I must own, with me, I was induced to agree to it, and did not desire to risk what the court seemed disposed to grant, by any attempt to carry the sentence further than what the moderate part of my colleagues might wish to extend it. If the condemnation of the party in the costs of the prosecution had been all that was awarded, the sentence would have fallen undoubtedly far short of what the occasion called for ; but when the taking from under the defendant's dominion or direction the services of his slave, by reason of the abuse of the master's power, is added to it, there would seem a sufficient signification of the court's discountenance of the defendant's conduct, and of the *use of chains*, at the mere will of the master, round the neck of abject and unfortunate inferiors, as a mode of punishment. Greater severity will fall with better effect hereafter, if a like case should occur after the display, in the present instance, of the court's lenity.

It would hardly seem necessary to observe to your Excellency, that the latter part of the sentence is built on the foundation of a celebrated rescript of Antoninus, mentioned in the first book of the Institutes, title 8, sec. 2.

The unhappy slave, as your Excellency will recollect, from the time of his first examination, was most anxious not to be recommitted to the care of his master ; and the latter in his defence, peculiarly opposed the slave's return to the plantation, unless under the declared displeasure of the court ; so that the sentence, under this consideration, would not seem to have been much in opposition to the wishes of either.

The prohibition of the *re-importation* of the slave into the Colony, was intended solely for his, the slave's protection, and for the prevention, under any possible plea, of his passing into the hands of any one in the Colony who might be connected with the defendant, formerly exercising the high office of temporary Governor, and possessed at the instant of extraordinary local influence, from long residence on the spot. In considering the future safety of the slave, I am afraid the sentence was not sufficiently cautious, for the preservation of his relative comfort, in so much as might be supposed to depend on domestic ties and obligations ; but let the court have disposed of him as it would, it must have equally struck, by the separation of him from the particular

particular soil, at his private comfort, so far as it might rest on attachments to persons and things around him.

It would, however, have been more desirable, that the sentence recorded by the acting deputy secretary, who officiated now for the first time, in the temporary absence of his brother, had been more carefully drawn up, and more particularly examined before the pronouncement of it, so that it might have been couched in terms more precise, and the members of the sentence so combined together, as to have excluded the possible perversion of the meaning of the sentence, as it regarded the slave, and as it has been attempted to be perverted by a practical scheme of the defendant; but which has been providentially frustrated in such a manner, as to leave a stronger impression on the public mind, of the principle and tendency of the sentence, than if it had been executed in an ordinary way. As I intend to address myself to the criminal court, at its next meeting on the subject, I shall at present avoid troubling your Excellency on that head, further than by conveying my sincere acknowledgments for the ready means afforded me, on my application to your Excellency, to protect the dignity and honour of the court from the contempt shown to it.

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I have, &c.

To his Excellency Gov. Bentinck,
&c. &c. &c.

E. Samuel,

President of the Court of Criminal Justice.

(In Lieutenant Governor Bentinck's of the 17th November 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 2.

NOTES, by the President of the Court of Criminal Justice of Berbice, of the proceedings on the trial of John Vander Brock, of this Colony, inhabitant, for working his slave Quassie, and other slaves, on Whitsunday, the 25th day of May preceding; and for cruelty and oppression used or exercised towards and on the said slave Quassie, by fixing a heavy iron chain, weighing twenty-two pounds weight, around his neck, and compelling him to wear the same night and day for the space of more than one week, and forcing him, the mean while, to do the ordinary work of a slave on his the said John Vander Brock's plantation. The Proceedings were commenced on the 9th of October 1817, and continued by adjournments to the 20th of the same month. The Prosecution was at the instance of the Fiscal, *ratione officii*.

The Indictment consisted of three counts.

The first charged the working of the negroes in question, at the time and on the day named, to be an offence against Divine commandment, and the ordinance of the acting governor and the court of policy, bearing date the 14th day of November 1810, whereby it was and is ordained, that no work shall be exacted of any negro or slave within the Colony on a Sunday or holiday, except in certain cases of necessity, set forth in the said ordinance; and the indictment then proceeded to state the work which had been imposed on the slaves to be the ordinary work of the plantation, and to negative that it was or could be taken as a work of necessity, excepted out of the general provision of the ordinance. The *second* count charged the defendant with having inflicted, or caused to be inflicted, a severe, immoderate, and illegal punishment, on the said Quassie, his slave, by causing a heavy chain to be placed and fastened about his neck, on Sunday the 1st day of June 1817, and causing the said chain to be worn night and day around the neck of the slave for one week and upwards, and until the same was taken off by the fiscal; for the alleged cause, that he, the said slave, had gone to complain against the said John Vander Brock to the burger officer, J. C. Swaving, for working him, the said slave, on Whitsunday. Which said act, to wit, "putting and continuing the said chain on and about the neck of the said Quassie, and for the cause and reason assigned, or for any other cause or causes, was and is an act of great cruelty and oppression, contrary to the *general* law established for the government of the Colony, and in contempt of the last-mentioned express ordinance of the governor and council, and as such, liable to be punished by the honourable court of criminal justice." The *third* count charged the working of the said slave in the chain for several days, as an act of cruelty and oppression generally, contrary to the common and express law of the land.

And the indictment concluded, that the said John Vander Brock should be fined on the first count of the indictment, according to the penalty of the ordinance;

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and that he should suffer such arbitrary and other punishment, on the second and third counts, as the court in its discretion should award; and should be further condemned in the costs of the prosecution.

The defendant, in his defence, did not deny either the fact of working the slave in question at the time mentioned in the indictment, or the placing the chain around his neck, or working him in the same; but attempted to justify himself on the first count, on the ground that the work had been substituted in the stead of punishment, to which the whole body of slaves on the plantation had rendered themselves liable from drunkenness the night before, and for neglect in not finishing their task-work; and as to placing the chain around the slave's neck, and working him in the same, and for the cause, which he admitted, being the same as assigned in the indictment, he knew of no express law against it; and that for this, as well as the slave's insolence towards him, he, the slave, was not treated more severely in the premises than he ought to have been.

The defendant put in a long written defence, by way of answer, on the record, which was suffered to be read and filed, though it appeared in the reading to be stuffed with a vast deal of irrelative statement and argument, not foreseen by the court when it was permitted to be filed. The defendant produced not a single witness; the nature, indeed, of his defence precluding the introduction of adverse testimony.

The evidence on the part of the Crown, on first count, showed; and, first, the declaration of Quassie:

That he and the gang of the negroes were worked on Whitsunday, from an early time in the morning to the middle of the day. This also was corroborated by the evidence of *Kurtius*, the manager, who left the slaves working at the last-mentioned time; the same witness also described the reluctance and refusal of the slaves to work.

To the 13th interrogatory put by the fiscal to the defendant,—

“Are you not aware that the working of negroes on Sundays and holidays in field-work, is contrary, not only to the law of God, but also of this court?”

Answer.—“Yes, I am well aware of it; but I thought that humanity, in this case, had a preferent right, instead of my flogging the whole gang, who had been drunk the night before.”

Now, in answer to a previous interrogatory, (the *third*,) Mr. Vander Brock having been asked why he had employed his negroes in digging cane-holes on Sunday, had answered—“Because they had not finished their task-work of the day before, and which they left undone in spite of the manager and drivers,” without a word of their being drunk.

And in answer to the fourth interrogatory, the defendant had distinctly admitted the work in question to have been done in consequence of previous orders given by him on *Friday*, which necessarily excluded that it could have been done on account of drunkenness, which occurred the day after the orders given.

Kurtius's evidence negatives by a natural inference, the circumstance of the drunkenness of the gang. It is to this effect:

Question.—“Was this negro (*Quassie*) not ordered by you, in common with the rest of the gang, to work on Whitsunday morning?”

Answer.—“They had not completed their work on the Saturday evening, and they were directed to finish it on Sunday morning.”

Question.—“What was the object in ordering this field-work to be done on Sunday?”

Answer.—“They were employed in holing for canes; none of the gang had finished their task-work on Saturday evening.”

And again, to the tenth interrogatory,—

“Mr. Vander Brock ordered me, if the negroes did not complete their task, they were to work on Sunday morning; each negro to hole thirty roods of land two and a half feet wide.”

So that the circumstance of the alleged drunkenness of the negroes would appear to have been an *after*-thought. But if it had been proved, it could not have afforded any justification of the act of working on the Sunday and holiday; for viewing the labour, *quasi* punishment, and *not* as work, it would only appear, in legal contemplation, as an aggravation of the breach of the Sabbath, and not an excuse for it.

Second and *third* counts.—The evidence on these counts, which were regarded by the Court as detailing one rather than two offences; and as describing only

only a continuing act of oppression, was most clear and satisfactory. It consisted of the declarations of Quassie and Rule, supported, in some particulars, by the testimony of Mr. Obermuller, and the examination of the defendant himself.

Quassie declared, that he and another slave of the name of *Rule*, belonging also to the defendant Vander Brock, went on Whitsunday to complain to Mr. Swaving, the burgher officer, of their having been worked whilst the slaves on other estates, as they represented, had been indulged in dancing on that morning.

That in consequence of making this complaint, he, Quassie, and Rule, were afterwards put in the stocks, by order of the defendant Vander Brock. The latter was, on the next morning, flogged, expressly on this account, as well as a driver, who had permitted him and Quassie to escape, without reporting their absence; and for the same reason, and so declared, the chain (which was exhibited, and weighed about 22lbs.) was placed around his, Quassie's neck, which he wore for about two weeks, and was obliged to pick coffee in it. When he was putting on the chain around the negro's neck, the defendant said, according to the declaration of Quassie, "You are a big man now, but I will soon bring you down to this." This, the latter remark of the defendant, as deposed to by Quassie, was distinctly corroborated by Mr. Obermuller, the sworn accountant of the Court of Justice.

The principal point, of the slaves' having been punished for *complaining*, was admitted by the defendant himself, as will appear by his answers to the interrogatories exhibited to him.

Question.—"Were or were not the *complainants* in question, (*i. e.* to Mr. Swaving,) and *who* by name, brought before you and severally punished for preferring such complaints, or how otherwise?"

Answer.—"The complainants were Quassie and Rule; yes, they were. They were punished for *absenting* themselves from the estate without leave, and *complaining*."

And by the answer to the following interrogatory:

Ans.—"I punished the man Rule with twenty-five lashes, and I spoke to Quassie; but for his impudence and high tone towards me, before the front of the gang, I hung the chain round his neck."

Mr. Vander Brock endeavoured, in his answers to other interrogatories, to impress the Commissaries, that the chain had been put on for insolence, such as to the 15th, 16th, and 17th interrogatories; which, with their Answers, may be noticed.

Fifteenth interrogatory.—"On what account was the chain put about his (Quassie's) neck?"

Ans.—"For having been insolent to the highest degree. Mr. Obermuller was present when he was so."

Sixteenth interrogatory.—"Had not the negro incurred your express displeasure by going to prefer a complaint against you to Mr. Swaving?"

Ans.—"Yes, undoubtedly."

Seventeenth interrogatory.—"Did you, or did you not, mention this on any other account for placing this chain on the neck of the negro Quassie on the day it was so placed, and more particularly to J. F. Obermuller?"

Ans.—"For his spirit of insubordination, I had warned him repeatedly that he would get this punishment. I may have mentioned this circumstance to Obermuller amongst others."

Mr. Obermuller, on his examination, declared, that the insolence of which he conceived the negro Quassie to have been guilty, was *after*, and not *before* the chain had been put on; that he did not see him before the chain had been fastened around his neck.

That the reason assigned by Mr. Vander Brock to Obermuller for punishing the negro Quassie was, his having gone to Abary to fish, and having induced one or two of his maties to go with him. The defendant mentioned this to Obermuller after they had returned to the house together, on the same day the punishment had been inflicted.

Vander Brock also admitted, that he had made the negro wear the chain by night as well as day, for the space of a week, and had compelled him to pick coffee in it.

The chain was shown to him, and identified to be the same that had been hung by his orders about the slave's neck.

As to the custom of placing chains about the neck of a negro, the defendant was thus interrogated by the twenty-second interrogatory:—

Correspondence.

Berbice.

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Negroes.

“ Have you ever seen a chain of that dimension and weight (the chain being shown to him) fixed round the neck of a negro or other slave? and if so, on what account, and by what authority?” Explain the same.

Ans.—“ Not at the *present* time; but *formerly*, certainly, when much severer punishment and heavier chains were put round negroes for slighter offences.”

On the pleadings and evidence detailed, a verdict was returned of “ *Not Guilty*” on the first count; and of “ *Guilty*” on the second and third counts, which were recorded in a sentence of the following tenor:—

“ The court, after hearing of parties, and investigation of the documents laid over in this cause, declare the defendant Johannes Vander Brock “ *not guilty*” of the first charge preferred against him by his honour the fiscal; and with regard to the second and third charges, the court consider the defendant has trespassed upon the regulations enacted by the Court of Policy, as to the mode and punishment of slaves; and the court, therefore, condemn the said Johannes Vander Brock in the costs and expenses of this investigation and trial, but reject the further demand of his honour the fiscal. The court further order and direct that the negro Quassie, belonging to Johannes Vander Brock, be retained in the custody of the marshal, to be sold within one month from the date of this sentence, from out of the Colony Berbice, for the behoof and benefit of the said Johannes Vander Brock; under the express stipulation and restriction that he, the negro Quassie, be not again imported into this Colony, under pain of such punishment as this honourable court in its justice may deem meet.”

Previously to passing the above sentence, the President shortly addressed the prisoner to the following effect:—

“ *Johannes Vander Brock*.—It is not without great emotion that the court can behold a gentleman of your years, rank, and respectability in our Colony, summoned to the bar, for the purpose of receiving the sentence of the court on several heavy and serious charges. But as no rank or respectability in life can save the possessor of it from the common demand and peril of a criminal charge; so neither can it excuse or exempt him from the consequences, when they arrive, of a criminal condemnation. In one way, however, these considerations may be allowed to act, without injury or prejudice to the cause of justice; which though it admit not of particular artificial privileges between men, may nevertheless allow some personal distinctions, arising out of better education and better feeling, to have a weight with them, as here; where the court presuming there cannot be any necessity of a lesson, would not inflict any unnecessary, because *unnneeded* pain, in expatiating on the nature, circumstances, and aggravations of the offences which have been found against you. The sentence of the court will be sufficient of itself to advise you of the light in which they have been obliged to view the acts which have given rise to the charges found; and such advice, it is confidently hoped, acting, as it should do, on a well-formed and ingenuous mind, will be enough to warn it from falling into similar error. The court, so far as you are personally concerned, would wish to conclude its observations here; but, as it has other interests to consult, not to be separated from the case before it, or the demand of justice as connected with it, it feels itself called on to explain, in as short a way as may be, some of the inducements to, and properties of the sentence it is about to deliver.

“ Nor can it be without satisfaction to your own mind to know, that the court have come to a conclusion on the first charge, (that alleges a breach and violation of the Lord’s day,) which absolves and acquits you of the same; *not* on the ground that the charge is *not proven*, *i. e.* as to the working of your slaves in the manner alleged in the indictment, but that the court, giving full credit to the circumstances of your defence, in this particular, have been induced to consider the labour imposed on that occasion, not as *work*, *quasi* work, and as ordinarily considered, but in the nature of a mild species of punishment, or a substitution for punishment, originating in a merciful and praiseworthy motive; and obviating (which the wayward negligence of the slaves would seem to have called for) the necessity of *corporal punishment* on the greater part of the gang: so that your acquittal on *this* count of the indictment, so explained, will not, and must not be understood as in contradiction of the letter of the law of the Colony; or in contravention of the spirit of the law of God: viewing the act, as the court has been pleased to view it, it cannot be supposed at variance with the Christian doctrine, or Christian spirit.

The court, if the law and its judicial duties and character could have admitted it, would have had equal pleasure in recording your acquittal on the remaining charges; but holding the facts stated in the indictment, and the law applicable to them,

them, to have been clearly and plainly made out, they cannot but conclude your guilt, on the second and third counts of the indictment. In coming to that conclusion the court have taken every circumstance of this unhappy case into their most serious consideration, and where they have thought that they could perceive an opening for a favourable construction of your conduct, they have not been slow to admit it. In taking a large and comprehensive view of this case, the court, in the end, has felt itself bound to say, that they see not any thing like a *justification* of your conduct in either of the particulars in which it is impugned; but some things which, for your own sake, they could wish to have been omitted.

“The court, however, has listened patiently to all the suggestions which have been made on your behalf; and being willing to believe, from these and other causes operating on their mind, that you have acted more on wrong judgment than wrong feeling, and which the court’s *sentence* is calculated to correct, it has been framed with an aspect, and it is hoped will have a tendency to the end proposed. In the weighing of offences and of punishment, the court would always wish to keep a steady hand; but if it at any time shake, they would hope that it may give a turn or impetus to the balance in favour of the defendant.”

Correspondence.

Berbice.

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Copy of a Letter from Earl Bathurst to Lieut. Governor Bentinck.

SIR,

Downing-street, February 1st, 1818.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your dispatch of the 17th November, enclosing a report of the president of the court of criminal justice, together with an abstract of the evidence and proceedings on the trial of Johannes Vander Brock, lately convicted of cruelty towards a slave.

I regret that the sentence of the court should have been so little adequate to the offence of the defendant as proved in evidence, and the more so, because the object and principles of the Court in passing it may be easily misunderstood, as implying a disposition to discourage similar complaints, and a reluctance to punish such offences; I am nevertheless disposed to acquiesce in the reasons which the president has assigned for not embodying his objections to the decision in a formal protest.

I must however call your attention, and that of the president, to some part of these proceedings, which, with a view to the prevention of future misapprehension and abuse, require particular observation.

In the first place, I cannot but consider that the plea urged by the defendant, of “having worked his slaves on the Sabbath, only in commutation of a severe punishment, which they had merited on the preceding day,” is one which ought not to have been admitted by the court, even if the truth of it had been more distinctly proved.

It is evident that the whole object of the ordinance, which prohibits labour on the Sabbath, is rendered altogether nugatory, if the master to whose discretion it must in many cases be left to decide upon the conduct of his slaves, and to affix the punishment which the offences merit, have permission to commute that punishment for labour on the Sabbath; and it is not too much to suppose that the prospect of such additional labour, would, in the avaricious and unfeeling, excite an eagerness to discover, if not to impute, offences which might otherwise have been overlooked or pardoned.

I have therefore thought it my duty to submit to the Prince Regent’s consideration, the necessity of some more precise legal enactment on this subject; and I have received His Royal Highness’s commands to instruct you to issue an ordinance prohibiting any proprietor of slaves from employing them on the Sunday, under the plea of its being a commutation of punishment; and requiring, under proper penalties, that in every case in which slaves may, under the existing regulations, be legally employed on the Sabbath in necessary works (such as repairing dams, &c.) notice of such employment, and of the necessity which has given rise to it, should within five days be given to the fiscal by the proprietor, or his agent or overseer.

With respect to that part of the sentence, which decrees the banishment of the slave from the Colony, I have to observe, that while I consider this as the part most likely to be misconstrued, (since it may be considered as a punishment on the slave) yet I entirely approve of the object, which, according to the president’s statement, it was intended to answer, namely, that of preventing the return of the slave to the master of whom he had so justly complained.

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The provision of the civil law to which Mr. Samuel has referred, is one which I cannot too strongly recommend to the adoption of the Court in all similar cases, for I am convinced that it is most inexpedient, not only with a view to the state of the slave himself, but also to the due authority of the master, and consequently to the tranquillity of the Colony, to replace any slave under the authority of a master who has been adjudged guilty of ill-treatment towards him. It is important, however, that this principle should not be misunderstood; and I am therefore anxious that some other mode than banishment should be adopted of effecting this separation.

I am aware that by disposing of the negro so situated to another proprietor within the Colony, there might be a chance that his former master might either regain possession of him, or obtain indirectly the means of influencing his treatment. The first objection might indeed be obviated, by disqualifying the master for ever from recovering possession of the slave; and with respect to the latter, no apprehension of that nature can apply to his being transferred to the government. I have therefore to desire that you will recommend to the consideration of the president of the court (who, I am happy to observe, has much at heart the due execution of the laws) this mode of disposing of the slaves, as one which would answer every purpose of effectual separation from their former masters, without imposing upon the slaves that abandonment of their family and connections in the Colony, which makes the leading objection to their removal from it.

I have only further to desire, that in all cases in which slaves may make complaints against their masters, of such a nature as to have required the interference of the fiscal, though they may not have been of magnitude sufficient to authorize a condemnation of the court, or be even brought under its cognizance, you should instruct the fiscal to make the subsequent treatment of those slaves, the object of his particular observation, for the space of twelve calendar months after such complaint shall be made.

Lieut. Governor Bentinck,
&c. &c. &c.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *Bathurst.*

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Governor Bentinck to Earl Bathurst, relating to J. Vander Brock, for ill-usage of slave; inadequacy of punishment, &c.; with two Enclosures.

MY LORD,

King's House, Berbice, 25th March 1818.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's dispatch, bearing date the 1st February last, relating to the sentence of the court of criminal justice in the trial of Johannes Vander Brock, for cruelty towards a slave.

I immediately communicated to the president the observations of your lordship on the inadequacy of the punishment to the offence, your approval of his honour's conduct, as also your suggestions, tending to a more humane disposal of the slave in case of separation from the master for ill-usage.

I have also instructed the fiscal as desired, and enclosed I transmit copies of the communication.

I shall as early as possible issue the ordinance directed by His Royal Highness, prohibiting the working of slaves on Sunday, by way of commutation for offence.

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

I have, &c.

H. W. Bentinck.

Enclosure,
No. 1.

(Enclosure in Lieutenant Governor Bentinck's Dispatch of 25th March 1818.)

Copy of Governor Bentinck's Letter to Fiscal, to instruct him in observation of treatment of slaves twelve months after complaint.

SIR,

King's House, Berbice, 21st March 1818.

THE proceedings in the trial of Johannes Vander Brock and others, lately convicted of cruelty towards slaves, having been under the consideration of His Majesty's government;

I am

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I am desired by the Earl Bathurst to instruct you, that in all cases in which slaves may make complaints against their masters, of such a nature as to have required the interference of your office, though they may not have been of magnitude sufficient to authorize a condemnation of the court, or be even brought under its cognizance, that you make the subsequent treatment of those slaves the object of your particular attention, *for the space of twelve calendar months* after such complaint shall have been made.

I have to desire that you will carefully observe this instruction, and state to me your consideration as to the mode of receiving and attesting the veracity of such complaints of slaves; as also, the manner and degree of supervision you will be enabled to practice and bestow on the subsequent treatment of such slaves.

I have, &c.

H. W. Bentinck.

His Honour M. S. Bennett, Fiscal,
Berbice.

Correspondence.

Berbice.

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(Enclosure in Lieutenant Governor Bentinck's dispatch of 25th March 1818.)

Copy of Fiscal's Reply to Governor Bentinck's Letter, dated 21st March 1818;
observation of treatment of slaves subsequent to complaint.

Enclosure,
No. 2.

SIR,

Fiscal's Office, Berbice, March 24th, 1818.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 21st instant, instructing me, by desire of Earl Bathurst, that in cases in which slaves may make complaints against their masters, of such a nature as to require my interference, to make the subsequent treatment of such slaves the object of my particular observation for the space of twelve calendar months after the complaint shall have been made.

In reply therunto, I beg leave to assure your Excellency, that I shall pay immediate and due attention to this instruction, and shall from time to time report the result of my observance meriting your attention.

I have, &c.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal.

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

Copy of a Letter from Henry Goulburn, Esq. to Major General Murray.

SIR,

Downing-street, 22d May 1817.

DEMERARY.

LORD Bathurst has directed me to suggest to you, through the medium of a private communication, whether it might not be practicable to effect some amelioration of the mode of treatment of the slave population in the West Indies, by holding out honorary distinctions for those overseers or planters whose negroes might be adjudged, upon examination by competent judges at stated periods, to be, in point of comfort, health, and general improvement, in the best state. Although Lord Bathurst is aware that such an arrangement might be considered as degrading to the negro, and as recommending an attention to his comforts on an unworthy principle; yet if its results are likely to be as his lordship considers they may be expected to be, beneficial to the negro, he would not on that account hesitate to recommend its immediate adoption. At first, perhaps, the prize held out might be considered but little worthy of attainment; but it is difficult not to believe that, if fairly distributed for a few years, the candidates for it would afterwards become more numerous, and in such a case it would not be too much to look for a general emulation among the planters, and more especially among the managers and overseers, as to the condition in which their negroes should be found at the period of inspection. I am therefore to request that you would take this subject into your consideration, and report to me your opinion as to the utility of its adoption, and as to the nature of the reward which it may, in case of its adoption, be proper to hold out to the several candidates. A gold medal for the best gang of negroes, and silver medals for the second and third, are those which Lord Bathurst would judge most advisable; but he must leave it to you, from local information, to decide whether you consider any other mark of distinction more likely, by being a more desirable object, to call forth the exertions of the several overseers.

I have, &c.

Henry Goulburn.

To Major General Murray.

Correspondence.

Demerary.

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Negroes.

Copy of a Letter from his Excellency Governor Murray to Mr. Goulburn.

MY DEAR SIR,

Demerary, 1st January 1818.

I SHOULD long since have done myself the honour of replying to your letter of the 22d May last but for the difficulty I found myself placed in, of suggesting any method by which I might hope to assist in carrying into effect the benevolent project of Lord Bathurst therein communicated.

I know enough of the planters here now, to be able to say, that they are generally disposed to treat their negroes with the greatest kindness and consideration, at the same time that they are extremely jealous of any interference in the management of them, especially from the other side of the water; by every act of which they feel their humanity insulted, their authority enfeebled, and their properties and lives consequently endangered; so that my attention has been principally directed to endeavour to obtain the same result, without its appearing, in the first instance, to have been a measure of Government.

To this end I have, with the assistance of my friend Mr. Bagot, (late acting 2nd fiscal,) succeeded in establishing an agricultural society in Essequibo, of which I am an honorary member: its first meeting will be held on the 21st of the present month, and if Lord Bathurst should approve of my attempting, through the medium of such an association, to introduce his lordship's benevolent suggestions, I beg you will assure him that it will at all times give me the most heartfelt pleasure to be instrumental in doing so.

I should observe, that although the good appearance of slaves is an indication of good usage, yet the converse of this will not hold good; those estates will always have the best looking gangs which have most Creoles upon them; and this depends much upon the length of time that estates have been settled; the proportions between the sexes, and the local position and properties of the estate itself.

I am of opinion that more moral advantage to the slaves might be brought about by classing them according to their behaviour, than by almost any other method I can think of; distinguishing by better clothing, and any other little indulgence, such of them as seem emulous, and particularly inculcating respect for connubial fidelity. The libertinism of the females is inconceivable to the natives of colder regions; such as to support an assertion of Montesquieu, that the feelings of the sexes appear to be reversed in Guinea.

When the agricultural society of Essequibo is organized, I will not fail reporting to you, for Earl Bathurst's information, what assistance I think may be expected from its disposition. Should his lordship, however, give a preference to any other means of accomplishing his wishes, and will honour me with his commands, I shall be at all times ready to enter upon any course which his lordship's superior judgment may suggest.

I have the honour to be, &c.

*John Murray.*To Henry Goulburn, esq.
&c. &c. &c.

COPY of a Letter from the Earl Bathurst to Governor Murray.

SIR,

Downing-street, May 23d, 1818.

MR. GOULBURN having submitted to me a private letter which he had received from you, in which you announce the establishment of an Agricultural Society in Essequibo, and suggest the possibility of introducing, through its medium, a greater attention, on the part of the proprietors, to the treatment and condition of their slaves, I cannot but take the earliest opportunity of expressing my entire approbation of an institution, which I consider calculated, under judicious management, to produce the most important results; and to acquaint you that the Prince Regent, to whom I have submitted your communication on the subject, has been graciously pleased to express his willingness to bestow upon the institution any mark of His Royal Highness's protection which you may consider calculated to increase its credit in the Colony, and to encourage its exertions.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

Bathurst.

Governor Murray, &c. &c. &c.

Copy of a Letter from Lieut. Col. Geo. Arthur to Earl Bathurst ; with seven Enclosures.

Correspondence.

HONDURAS.

Maltreatment of Negroes.

MY LORD,

Honduras, 21st Oct. 1816.

I HAVE the honour to report to your lordship, that an inhabitant of this settlement, named *Michael Carty*, embarked by the last vessel which sailed for England, in order to obtain redress for the oppressive measures which he represents to have been exercised towards him by me.

I could not have conceived it possible that this inhuman wretch was so destitute of all sense of shame as to have taken such public means of promulgating his infamy; yet, as he has resolved upon it, I feel it necessary to transmit, for your lordship's information, the accompanying documents respecting him.

From No. 1 to No. 7.

By these papers your lordship will perceive, that this Carty was convicted before a special court, assembled for his trial, of having caused a poor young negro female, his property, to be stripped naked, and her hands being tied to her feet with tight cords, a stick was passed under her knees, and above the elbow-bend of her arms, a large cattle-chain was fastened round her neck with a padlock, and in this agonizing posture, exposed to the burning heat of the sun, was this wretched female tortured from morning until night, constantly, during that time, flogged with a severe cat by her inhuman master and servant, in the most wanton and barbarous manner: sometimes on her buttocks; at other times, being turned over on the stick, on her face and breasts.

Convicted of all this load of enormity; with the unfortunate young female before their eyes, lacerated in a manner the recital of which is shocking to humanity; her wounds festered to such a degree that her life was considered in the greatest danger; still this picture of human misery, and human depravity, could not rouse a Honduras jury to award such a punishment against the offender (whom they found guilty to the utmost extent) as bespoke their commiseration for the former, or their detestation of the latter. Fifty pounds, Jamaica currency, equal to about thirty-five pounds sterling, was the penalty deemed adequate to the crimes of the offender! a man in affluent circumstances, worth thousands of pounds; and the poor female was doomed to remain the slave of this cruel wretch, still more exasperated against her than ever.

In Jamaica, or in any of His Majesty's West India Islands, I am persuaded, the first measure with the jury would have been the emancipation of the poor slave; and being convinced your lordship would have approved my conduct, I had almost determined, in the name of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to have granted the poor slave her manumission; however, reflecting on the limitation of my instructions, I have not gone so far; but being decided on giving some public testimony of my abhorrence of the cruelty exercised by Carty, and of the conduct of the jury in so leniently visiting such an enormity against the laws, I required the magistrates to withdraw from this person the licence they had granted him to keep a grog-shop, considering him unworthy of any public countenance in this Settlement; and I further desired, that his being deprived of his licence, together with the circumstances attending his being deprived of it, might be entered upon the public records of the country.

This is the oppression for which Carty has proceeded to England to prosecute me in a court of law, and to make some representation to government! To appear before a tribunal of my countrymen, on such an occasion, will not alarm me; neither do I feel apprehensive that your lordship will consider that I have exercised the powers with which I am invested with oppression.

I am proud to say, that instances of this nature are very rare in this Settlement. The wood-cutters are distinguished beyond all other people in the West Indies for kindness and humanity towards their slaves; and it is only amongst the very dregs of this community, with characters like Carty, who having rapidly accumulated property, and acquired thereby dominion over their fellow creatures, exercise their authority with such wanton cruelty.

In this instance, my lord, I beg most earnestly to intreat that the circumstance may be noticed by your lordship's displeasure, with as little delay as possible; and I sincerely trust your lordship will admonish both the magistrates and jury, that it is their positive duty to visit cruelty towards a poor slave with the same severity as though it were exercised towards a freeman.

It will be for your lordship's judgment to decide, whether the poor female, in this case, should not be emancipated from slavery, and I most confidently hope, that the

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person Carty, who has notoriously practised inhumanity to his slaves, may be prohibited from again returning to become an inhabitant of the Settlement.

In my dispatches, I have, at length, pressed upon your lordship's attention the constitution of the bench and juries of this country; how impossible it is, when private interests and personal feelings so much interfere, that justice can be administered; and as the nature of this settlement is now under consideration, in a mercantile point of view, I trust the same wisdom may determine on some more efficient means for the internal administration of justice.

The Right Hon. the Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c. I have, &c.
(Signed) *Geo. Arthur*, Lt Col.
Sup^t & Comm^t.

Enclosure,
No. 1.

(In Lieut. Col. George Arthur's of 21st October 1816.)

GENTLEMEN,

Belize, Honduras, 6th September 1816.

I MAKE no question but that the inhuman treatment with which Mr. M. Carty has used his female slave, has struck you with the same horror which I have experienced on the occasion.

It is to me quite incomprehensible on what grounds the jury has visited this offender with a punishment so disproportioned to his crime!

Had Mr. M. Carty, in a moment of anger, mutilated this unfortunate creature, under the influence of passion, I should have esteemed such an act (horrid as it is) considering the infirmity of human nature, rather to be justified than the punishment which he deliberately inflicted on this poor creature; and if a jury is inclined, in this Settlement, to think so leniently of such a breach of the laws, and such an outrage on human nature, it is indispensable that I, as the representative of a Sovereign whose whole reign has been marked by instances of humanity, should stand forth to protect the oppressed, and, at least, to see their cruel oppressors do not escape with impunity.

My request therefore is, that you will immediately deprive Mr. M. Carty of the licence which he holds from you, as he is certainly unworthy of any public countenance; and I have further to desire that his being deprived of his licence, together with the circumstances attending his being deprived of it, may be entered on your public records.

(A true Copy.) I have, &c.
(Signed) *George Arthur*, Lieut. Colonel,
Super^t and Comm^t.
Geo. Conse, Lieut. R. A. Secretary.
The Magistrates, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure,
No. 2.

(In Lieut. Col. George Arthur's of 21st October 1816.)

GENTLEMEN,

Belize, September 13th, 1816.

ON the 6th instant I expressed my request that Mr. M. Carty might be immediately deprived of his licence which he holds from the Bench.

You will observe, that I did not call upon the magistrates to consider the propriety of this measure; I had weighed the matter well myself; and considering Mr. M. Carty unworthy of any public encouragement, until at least he had learnt to treat the property he had acquired with common humanity; I determined, by the exercise of that authority which is vested in me, to evince my abhorrence of such cruelty as he has been convicted of, and I must beg to be informed what occasions such an unnecessary delay in the execution thereof.

The Magistrates, Honduras. I have, &c.
(Signed) *Geo. Arthur*,
Lieut. Col. Super^t and Comm^t.

(A true Copy.)
Geo. Conse, Lieut. R. A. Secretary.

Enclosure,
No. 3.

(In Lieut. Col. George Arthur's of 21st October 1816.)

SIR,

Belize, Honduras, Sept. 14th, 1816.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 6th and 13th instant, the first expressing your abhorrence of the crime of which Michael Carty has been convicted, and requesting his being deprived of the licence he holds from

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from the public, for retailing spirituous liquors; and the latter signifying your surprise that the same has not been carried into effect.

We entirely coincide with you in viewing with the most marked abhorrence the crime for which Michael Carty has been tried and found guilty, and can never sufficiently execrate such inhuman conduct; but in this instance we felt much difficulty as magistrates, in adding further punishment to Michael Carty, than that already awarded by the jury, at the same time entertained no doubt that such authority was vested in you as the representative of His Majesty; but your communication of the 13th has removed the difficulty. We therefore, under your express authority and by your order, have disqualified Michael Carty from holding the licence in question, and we beg leave to enclose you a copy of our proceedings thereon.

We have the honour to be, &c.
 (Signed) *Marsh. Bennett,* *J. W. Wright.*
Thos. Paslow, *Thos. Frain.*
Wm. Gentle,

(A true Copy.) Geo. Conse, Lieut. R. A.
 Lieut. Col. George Arthur, Secretary.
 His Majesty's Sup' and Com', &c. &c. &c.

(In Lieut. Col George Arthur's of 21st October 1816.)

Copy of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Magistrates, held at Marshal Bennet's, of 14th September 1816.

AT a meeting of Magistrates at the house of Marshal Bennett, esq. on Saturday the 14th September 1816:

Marshal Bennett, esq.
 Thomas Paslow, esq.
 Thomas Frain, esq.

William Gentle, esq. and
 John W. Wright, esq.

Read a letter from His Majesty's superintendent, of date the 6th inst. wherein he expresses his detestation and abhorrence of the conduct of Michael Carty, lately convicted by a jury of cruelty towards his female slave, and requesting the magistrates would deprive him of the licence he holds from the public:—Also, one of date the 13th instant, on the same subject.

The magistrates, taking the same under their most serious consideration, concur in sentiment with His Majesty's superintendent, in viewing the crime of which Michael Carty stands convicted at the special court held the second instant, with the greatest abhorrence and detestation.

They do therefore, under the authority and by the express order of His Majesty's superintendent, declare the licence granted to the said Michael Carty for the retailing of spirituous liquors, null and void, and the same is null and void accordingly, and do direct that the high constable give the said Michael Carty notice of the same, that he may govern himself accordingly thereto.

Ordered, That the clerks of the courts do cancel Michael Carty's bond, by writing on the back, that his licence has been declared null and void this day by the magistrates, by order of His Majesty's superintendent.

Ordered, That the public treasurer do return to Michael Carty a proportion of the money paid by him for his licence for the year 1816, for the unexpired time in this year.

A true Copy from the Records, October 15th, 1816.

(Signed) *Geo. Westby,*
Ass^t Cl^k C^t.
 (A true Copy.) Geo. Conse, Lieut. R. A.
 Secretary.

(In Lieut. Col. George Arthur's of 21st October 1816.)

Enclosure,
 No. 4.

GENTLEMEN,
 Belize, 14th October 1816.
 I UNDERSTAND Mr. M. Carty sailed for England yesterday, for the purpose of taking legal advice on the subject of the treatment which he has received from the constituted authorities of this Settlement. I therefore consider it necessary to furnish

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furnish His Majesty's Secretary of State with all the particulars of the infamous transaction which has led to his disgrace, and have therefore to request that you will furnish me with certified copies of the evidence on which the indictment was founded against this person, for cruelty towards his female slave. The indictment, the proceedings, comprehending the evidence on the trial, together with the finding and verdict of the jury, also certified copies of my letters of the 6th and 13th ult. addressed to the magistrates, with their answer and proceedings thereon.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

Geo. Arthur,

Lieut. Col. Super' and Comm'.

The Magistrates, Honduras.

(A true Copy.)

Geo. Conse, Lieut. R. A. Secretary.

Enclosure,
No. 5.

(In Lieut. Col. Arthur's of 21st October 1816.)

SIR,

Court House, Belize, Honduras, Oct. 21st, 1816.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, requiring to be furnished with a copy of the proceedings at a special court held, on the 2d ultimo at the suit of our Sovereign Lord the King versus Carty Michael, and the subsequent proceedings thereon; we now beg leave to enclose you the same, excepting the evidence at the trial, which was not taken down on the minutes; but you have the examination of evidence on which the warrant was founded; and which was fully corroborated on the trial by these other of the witnesses, who also saw the unfortunate female slave laying naked on the ground, and tied in the agonizing posture as represented in the aforesaid testimonies, and whilst in that situation severely whipped.

And we have, &c.

(Signed)

*Marshal Bennett,**Thomas Frain,**John W. Wright,**Tho' Paslow.*Lieut. Col. Geo. Arthur,
His Majesty's Sup' & Comm'
&c. &c. &c. Honduras.

(A true Copy.)

Geo. Conse, R. A. Secretary.

Enclosure,
No. 6.

(In Lieut. Col. George Arthur's of 21st October 1816.)

HONDURAS, } At a special Court held at the Court House, Belize, River's Mouth,
to wit. } in Honduras, on Monday 2d September 1816.

MAGISTRATES present :

Marshal Bennett, esq.

Thomas Paslow, esq.

Thomas Frain, esq.

John W. Wright, esq.

JURORS sworn :

Peter C. Wall, foreman,

William Ord,

George B. Carter,

John Gray,

Archibald Colquhoun,

George Gibson,

Manfred W. Bowen,

John Living,

Bartholomew Coyle,

Samuel Burn,

David Thomson,

David Anderson.

1. { The King
versus
Carty Michael. } Bench Warrant.

For cruelly maltreating, beating, and brusing a negro woman slave, named Quasheba, his property.

Sworn :

J. B. Rabateau,

William Orgill,

Thomas Belisle,

Martha Slusher,

John M'Grigor,

John Myvell, junior.

The wench Quasheba was then brought up and viewed by the court and jury.

John

John Antonio Portall,
Domingo Grondona,
John Percy. } Sworn.

Correspondence.

Honduras.

The prosecution here closed, and the prisoner proceeded to call evidence.

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Sworn :
William Adams,
Bartholomew Coyle,
Alexander Kidd, | Thomas Gunhouse,
John W. Wright, esq.
Samuel Burn.

After which, he entered on his defence; and the court having given a charge to the jury, they retired, and returned into court with the following verdict :

The jurors find the prisoner guilty, and fine him fifty pounds, Jamaica currency, with costs.

Peter C. Wall, (Foreman.)

A true Copy from the records of the Court Proceedings at Belize, Honduras,
October 14th, 1816.

(Signed) *Geo. Westby*, Ass^t Clk. of the C^t.
and Keeper of the Records.
(A true Copy.)
Geo. Conse, Lieut. R. A. Secretary.

Copy of Warrant.

Honduras, (L. s.)

WHEREAS the magistrates have received information upon oath, that Michael Carty did, on or about the 27th instant, cruelly whip, maltreat, beat and bruise a negro woman slave, named Quasheba, his property, and did keep her confined in a cruel and unusual manner, by tying her and chaining her round the neck, against the peace of our Sovereign Lord the King.

These are therefore, in His Majesty's name, to require and command you to take into your custody the body of the said Michael Carty, and bring him before us, that he may be examined and dealt with according to law; and for so doing this shall be your warrant and authority.

Given under our hands and seals at Belize, in Honduras, this 30th August 1816.

Marshal Bennett, (L. s.)
William Gentle, (L. s.)
Thomas Paslow, (L. s.)
Thomas Frain, (L. s.)

To the High Constable.

(Signed) *Geo. Westby*, Ass^t Clk. C^t.
(A true Copy.) *G. Conse*, Lieut. R. A. Secretary.

Enclosure,
No. 7.

(In Lieut. Col. Arthur's of 21st October 1816.)

At a Meeting of the Magistrates at the Court House, Belize, River's mouth, in Honduras, Thursday, August 29th, 1816.

Present:—*Marshal Bennett*, *Thomas Paslow*, and *Thomas Frain*, esquires.

J. B. Rabateau came before the magistrates, and stated upon oath as follows :

The day before yesterday I was at Mr. Orgill's, about half past twelve o'clock, and I heard somebody was crawling in Mr. Carty's yard; Mr. Orgill told me it was Mr. Carty that was flogging one of his wenches, and which was the third time that day; I went from the house into Mr. Orgill's yard, with Mr. Orgill and Joseph Belisle, and looked into Mr. Carty's yard, and I saw a girl which Mr. Carty brought from Mrs. Burn's, on the ground, her two hands were tied to her feet, and a stick run under her knees and above the elbow bend of the arm, and laying on her back perfectly naked, and he, Mr. Carty, was flogging her with a cat; after flogging her some time on her buttocks, he came round and struck her ten or twelve stripes over her breast and face, and after his flogging her thus, he called another woman of his and made her

Correspondence.

Honduras.

Maltreatment of
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her hold one end of the stick, and he, Mr. Carty, took hold of the other, and he turned her from laying on her back over her head, when she fell nearly on her face, and then he flogged her again on her buttocks; after this I went away, and some time after returned, when I saw Mr. Carty flog the girl again in the same position and manner as before. I was then in company with Mr. Orgill, Joseph Belisle, Martha Sloasher, Jeremia Myvett, William Adams, and John M'Gregor, who all saw the same. After this, I went away, and about five o'clock returned to Mr. Orgill, and saw the girl fastened in the same position.

The magistrates then sent Mr. Brunton the high constable, and Mr. C. Bull the deputy marshal, to bring the girl Quasheba before them, and to direct Mr. Carty would attend, when the constable returned, and declared Mr. Carty said the girl should not come without a written order from the magistrates, and which was given, and the wench was brought up; and Mr. Carty having appeared before the magistrates, desired that Mr. John W. Wright might be sent for, the magistrates therefore directed the high constable to go for Mr. Wright, who returned and delivered the following message: "I will come then as soon as I can."

The magistrates and officers of the court then examined the woman Quasheba, who appeared to have been much flogged, and her wrists much cut, apparently from having been tied, and had a large cattle-chain fastened about her neck with a padlock.

Ordered, that the high constable to take the chain from the woman Quasheba's neck, and hold her in charge, and take proper care of her until to-morrow, when the magistrates will meet, and they direct the captain of the Spanish polacca, and others on board the said vessel will attend.

A true copy from the Records.

(Signed) *Wm. Hunt*, Keeper of Records.

At a Meeting of Magistrates at the Court House, Belize, River's Mouth, Friday, the 30th August 1816.

Present:—Marshal Bennett, Thomas Frain, and Thomas Paslow, esquires.

The Magistrates met agreeable to the adjournment.

John M'Gregor sworn, deposed as follows:

The other day I had occasion to go into Mr. Carty's shop, with a Spaniard, to see some crockery ware; as I went into the shop, he, Carty, was just coming in from the yard, with a cat in his hand; this was about eleven o'clock. I went away; about four o'clock in the afternoon, I was in Mr. Orgill's yard, and I saw the girl Quasheba tied in Mr. Carty's yard; she was quite naked, and tied with her hands to her legs, and a stick run under the bend of the knees and above the bend of the arms; he was flogging her.

William Gentle, esq. attended.

John Antonia Portall sworn; and John M'Gregor sworn as interpreter.

Deposes, that he saw the girl Quasheba when tied, and saw her being punished by Mr. Carty; that he sent his mate and the boatswain, who could talk English, to beg for the girl; that they went in and Mr. Carty said he would forgive her, but would put her in chains; and this was about half past four o'clock.

Ordered, that a bench warrant be issued against Michael Carty for cruelly whipping, maltreating, beating and bruising a negro woman slave named Quasheba, his property, and keeping her confined in an unusual manner.

The warrant was then issued; examined a bench warrant, the King *versus* Michael Carty.

J. B. Rabateau sworn:

Ordered, that the prisoner be bound over to take his trial at a special court to be held on Monday next the 2d of September, himself in the sum of 400 *l.* cash, Jamaica currency, and two sureties in the sum of 200 *l.* each, like currency, and in the mean time to keep the peace.

Ordered, that subpoenas be issued for the persons mentioned in J. B. Rabateau's evidence, and for John Antonio Portall, captain of the Spanish polacca, his mate and boatswain.

Ordered,

TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES. 259

Ordered, that Mr. Brunton, high constable, do keep the girl Quasheba in charge, and that he do call in Doctor Tompson to see if it is requisite to give her any medicine, and who is directed to examine the state of her body.

A true Copy from the Records,
(Signed) *Wm. Hunt,*
Keeper of Records.
Geo. Conse, Lieut. R. A. Secretary.

(A true Copy.)

Correspondence.

Honduras.

Maltreatment of
Negrees.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl Bathurst to Lieut. Col. Arthur.

SIR,

Downing-street, 12th March 1817.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st October, in which you acquaint me that a person named Carty had sailed for England, to obtain redress for the oppressive measures which he represents you to have exercised towards him.

The cruel conduct of this inhuman wretch could not fail to excite all those feelings of pity and commiseration which you so justly describe, and I immediately submitted your letter, with its several enclosures, to the consideration of the law officers of the crown, to know how far I was authorized to direct you to manumit the unfortunate woman. But they report that Carty is indictable only for the cruelty committed; that as she is *his* property, there is *no* power to take her away, consequently none for her manumission, unless indeed there be any law in Honduras which confers the power to manumit slaves under such circumstances; of which they are not aware.

I can therefore only express my concern that such a wretch should remain unpunished; but if you can suggest any mode in which he can be brought to punishment, I shall be most happy to attend to it.

Lieut. Colonel Arthur,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) *Bathurst.*

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of Manchester to Earl Bathurst; with two Enclosures.

JAMAICA.

MY LORD,

King's House, Jamaica, 21st June 1817.

I AM much concerned to inform your lordship, that a very horrid murder has been committed here, the details of which your lordship will find in the enclosed examinations. No return has as yet been made to the warrant issued for the apprehension of the offender. But I have taken every precaution to prevent his escape, by giving notice to the principal officers of the customs at all the ports of the Island, with a description of his person; and your lordship may rely upon my using every possible exertion to bring him to justice.

I should not, in any ordinary case, have troubled your lordship on such a subject, but as this is one of singular atrocity, and committed by a person possessing some property, I was desirous that, should your lordship have received information of it from any other source, you might be assured that the moment the matter was brought to my knowledge, I have done every thing in my power to preclude the possibility of this man's escape, although the improper conduct of the coroner, who resides in the vicinity of the place where the murder was committed, in not having an inquest held on the body of the slave, although the fact was made known to him by another slave of Mr. Ludford's; and the unaccountable ignorance or remissness of the chief magistrate of the parish, in not having issued his own warrant for Ludford's apprehension, instead of sending the examinations to the attorney general, have certainly afforded him time to screen himself from detection.

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

I have, &c.
Manchester.

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

Maltreatment of
Negroes.Enclosure,
No. 1.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of the 21st June 1817.)

The King *versus* Thomas Ludford.

Certified Copy EXAMINATIONS sent into the Crown Office, and of Mr. Attorney General's Directions thereon, and also a Certificate of the delivery of a Bench Warrant against Thomas Ludford.

Copy of the Examination of Mary Howel, a free woman of colour; taken on oath by me, Rowland Williams Fearon, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, touching the death of a negro man named Cuffee, said to be shot on Mount Labinos, the property of Thomas Ludford.

ARE you a christian? Yes.

Do you know the nature of an oath?—I do not exactly, never having taken one before, but believe I am to speak, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the truth.

Witness was then sworn.

Do you know Cuffee?—Yes, I do.

Was not Cuffee watching at a store near St. Jago Savannah?—Yes.

What was the cause of his removal?—Because he had stolen sugar and rum.

When he, Cuffee, was removed from the store, what was done to him?—He was confined in the bilboes sometime at noon and night, and at other times during the day.

When did this take place?—It was before Christmas.

Cannot you call to your recollection how long before, and how long after Christmas that he was kept in the bilboes? It was from the month of October or November to the time he died.

And when did that happen?—About two or three weeks before the Clarendon review, (review took place on 8 May)

Was it about two weeks before the review?—Yes, thereabouts.

Had he been flogged during the time he was confined?—Yes, he had been flogged.

How many times?—I do not know.

Do you not live on the place?—Yes.

Was he not flogged once a week?—Sometimes he was flogged twice a week, once a week, and at other times once in two weeks.

What kind of floggings were inflicted?—Sometimes severe enough, and sometimes trivial.

What do you call severe floggings?—By giving two dozen lashes.

Were there one or two drivers to inflict the flogging?—Only one.

When he received the floggings, was he able to walk or crawl about?—Yes, he could walk, but not upright.

After receiving the floggings, had he a negro to take him by the hand, to conduct him to the bilboes?—No, he had not; he always walked before a negro.

Was this done by orders of Mr. Thomas Ludford, and in his presence?—Yes, it was; and frequently I was present, and when not, heard him give the orders.

What is the number of lashes does he generally give to negroes, when they commit a crime?—Sometimes a hundred.

During the time Cuffee was confined, do you conceive he ever received a hundred lashes?—Yes, I do believe it.

When he was in confinement, did he get a sufficient quantity of food from his master for his daily sustenance?—No.

Was he locked up in a room?—No.

Can you recollect how many days previous to Cuffee's decease he had been flogged?—About two or three weeks.

Is there any white person living on Mr. Ludford's property?—No.

Can you tell me what Cuffee died of?—No; the watchman told me, and Robert Williams, that he had a pain in his stomach the night before.

Did you not see Cuffee brought out upon the barbicues a few days before he died, by a man named Edward?—No, I did not.

Did you not hear the report of a gun?—I did.

Did you not then immediately come out?—Yes, I did.

In whose hands did you see the gun?—In Mr. Ludford's hands.

Is not your room opposite the barbiques?—No; but I came out of another room, and walked through the hall to the entry, and seated myself upon the steps, and there met Mr. Ludford with the gun in his hands.

Did you see Cuffee immediately after the report of the gun?—Yes; he was walking back to the bilboes, and appeared lame.

Who carried him back to the bilboes?—Either the driver, Georǵe Mackenzie, or Edward.

Did you not inquire of Mr. Ludford, what occasioned him to fire off his gun?—Yes; Mr. Ludford said he was shooting.

Did you not see Mr. Ludford pushing Cuffee along to the bilboes with his gun?—No, not that I recollect.

Did you not say to Mr. Ludford, “take care, master Tommy, you have not a sin to answer for?”—Yes, I did.

What was the reason you said thus much to him?—Because she heard the report of the gun, saw it in his hands, and that the negro was taken back to the bilboes.

Had you any reason to suppose, or believe, Mr. Ludford had shot Cuffee?—Yes, I saw blood on his clothes, and by having the gun in his hands.

On what part of Cuffee did you see blood?—On his rump.

Did you hear Mr. Ludford call Edward to bring a pail or tub of water?—Yes, I did; it was a pail, and saw Edward with it.

From the time you heard the report of the gun, how long before was it that Cuffee died?—It was about a week after.

Did Mr. Ludford take any notice of Cuffee after he was confined, from the circumstance, you suppose, of his having been shot?—I never saw or believe he did, otherwise it would have come to my knowledge.

Did you not hear that Cuffee had been well peppered with shot, and if so, say from whom you heard it?—Yes, I did hear he had been shot, and was told so by Robert Williams, a free privileged man.

Was he present at the time Cuffee was shot?—Yes, he was sitting on his work bench.

How do you know that Robert Williams was sitting on the work bench?—Because when I came out I saw him there.

Did you not hear, or understand, that Cuffee died of the wounds, in consequence of the shot he received?—Understood from Robert Williams, that he believed he did die from the shot he received.

Do you think, consider, or believe, that Cuffee died of the severe punishment, together with the shot he received from the hands of Mr. Ludford?—Yes, I do think so.

What was Mr. Ludford’s conduct on the occasion of Cuffee’s death?—I told him he had better let some white person look at him.

What then was his answer?—Said there was no occasion to send for Mr. King or Mr. Anderson, for they were working on the road, but sent for Mr. Henry Burke.

Did he come?—Yes.

After Cuffee died in the bilboes, was he carried to the negro houses by the direction of Mr. Ludford?—Yes.

What did Mr. Burke do when he came?—He and Mr. Ludford went together with Robert Williams to the negro houses.

On his return what did he say?—Mr. Burke said he only saw two scratches like old flogging, and which appeared white.

Did you not hear that Alfred, the mate to Cuffee, had taken shot from the place where Cuffee had been wounded?—Yes, I understood that he had taken the shot to her father, Mr. Thomas P. Howell.

Had Mr. Ludford any idea, or did he express any wish for the coroner to see Cuffee after his death?—No; I did not hear him express any such desire.

How far does the coroner live from Mount Libanus?—I suppose from six to eight miles.

When Alfred run away, did not Mr. Ludford offer two doubloons to bring him home?—Heard him say to the Maroons he would pay them well to bring home Alfred; and believes he said he would give a doubloon.

Did not Alfred run away in consequence of the death of Cuffee?—He ran away the day after the death of Cuffee.

Did you not hear Mr. Ludford say, he would severely punish Alfred in consequence of making Cuffee’s death known?—Heard Mr. Ludford say he would punish

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Alfred

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Alfred well, because he had taken his name abroad, in saying that he had killed Cuffee.

Did Mr. Ludford's negroes appear discontented at the cause of the decease of Cuffee?—Said it might be so; but did not see or hear any thing of it.

Does Mr. Ludford punish his negroes very severely?—For a great crime; such as for running away, and stealing, he will give them 50 lashes, and perhaps more, and for lesser crimes they are punished but trifling.

In consequence of your living with him, did you ever advise him not to punish his negroes so severely?—I have done so repeatedly.

Did you never hear some one tell Mr. Ludford, that he had not punished Cuffee sufficiently?—Yes, from several gentlemen, who told Mr. Ludford that he ought to be taken to the chapel, and there tried by those competent.

Did you or did you not yourself say to Mr. Ludford, that Cuffee was not sufficiently punished?—It was always reported that she had used the supplies for the support of her family, and that as Mr. Ludford was constantly upbraiding her, she thought in justice to herself, that Cuffee should be further punished, by being carried before a magistrate.

Do you not think his first punishment was sufficient for the theft he had committed?—Yes, I do; but do not think it was sufficient to compensate for my character.

Did you ever see or know that Mr. Ludford hung up a girl by suspending her with a rope by the neck?—Yes, I did not see her, but heard her, the girl's name was Farme.

Did you not say to Mr. Ludford, when he had returned from the barbies with Cuffee before him, that "massa Tommy you will have a sin, because you shoot Cuffee?"—I did say so.

Did you have any conversation with Mr. Ludford at that time, on the subject of shooting Cuffee?—I was speaking harshly to him, and told him he should not do such things.

Taken and sworn before me, this } (Signed) *Mary Howell.*
13th day of June 1817. }

(Signed) *R. W. Fearon.*

Robert Williams, a free Black man, residing at Mount Libanus; was called in and sworn.

ARE you a christian?—Yes, I am, and I have obtained my privilege.

Do you know the nature of an oath?—Yes, I do, and that I am to speak the truth.

Do you know Cuffee belonging to Mr. Ludford?—Yes, I know him well.

Do you know the cause of Cuffee's removal from the store?—Yes, because he robbed the store and confessed that he did.

Upon his confession, what did Mr. Ludford do with him?—Mr. Ludford took him up to the mountains and put him into punishment.

What punishment did he receive?—He was flogged, a cattle chain put on, and was worked in and out of the bilboes.

How many lashes do you conceive he received at one time?—Did not reckon them, but from the length of time they were flogging Cuffee, believes to his conscience that he has received one hundred.

How many drivers were there to inflict the punishment?—At one time I saw the penn keeper, and the driver John Mackenzie.

How long did Cuffee's punishment continue before Christmas?—About a month and a half.

How long after Christmas?—He was released about two or three weeks, and then taken up and confined.

When Cuffee was in punishment how frequently was he flogged?—Heard Mr. Ludford say to the driver George Mackenzie, when he was leaving home, to flog Cuffee every Monday.

Did you ever hear or know that such orders were put into execution?—Cannot say.

Have you not seen or heard Cuffee's being punished at several times?—Yes, I have frequently, for that one crime.

Did you not see, on an early day after Easter, Edward bring Cuffee on the barbies?—Yes, I did.

For

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Jamaica.

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For what purpose was Cuffee taken there?—I was at my work bench, and heard Mr. Ludford call me, and went to him into the house, where I saw him with a gun in his hands; Mr. Ludford then said to me, that John Nalty knows nothing of Cuffee's robbing the store; after this he desired me to call Edward; I did so, and Edward came to him; Mr. Ludford then desired Edward to bring Cuffee, (who was at that time in the bilboes) to him in the house, which he accordingly did; after Cuffee's being brought, Mr. Ludford said, "you will not tell me what you have done with my sugar and rum, or who helped you to rob my store?" Cuffee then said, "master, what I took, I take and sell to buy victuals, as I was in a hard place, and nobody helped me." Mr. Ludford did not hear exactly what Cuffee had said, and desired Edward to relate it, which Edward did; Mr. Ludford then immediately ordered Edward to take Cuffee upon the barbicue.

What then took place?—I saw Mr. Ludford come out of the house with the gun upon his shoulder, and went towards the barbicue, and I went to my work bench.

How soon after you went to your work bench, that you heard the report of a gun?—In about ten minutes.

How far is your work bench from the barbicues?—Not very far, but the great house is between the two.

How soon after you heard the report of the gun did you see Mr. Ludford?—I saw him soon afterwards with the gun in his hands, sitting upon the steps with Mary Howell; but before he saw Mr. Ludford, and immediately after the report of the gun, Edward ran up, and exclaimed, at the same time clapping his hands, that his master had shot Cuffee.

Did you not see Mr. Ludford pushing Cuffee along with his gun at the time he was going to the bilboes?—No; I was so shocked that I did not observe it.

Did you see Edward taking Cuffee back to the bilboes, by Mr. Ludford's orders?—Yes, I heard Mr. Ludford desire Edward to take Cuffee back to the bilboes.

What state did you see Cuffee in, whilst going to the bilboes?—He was walking back with a towel tied round his posteriors, and upon which I saw blood.

Did you not hear Mr. Ludford call to Edward to bring him a pail of water?—No.

The towel Cuffee had on, did it not appear to have been just dipped in water and quite wet?—It was wet, and so was his frock.

Do you know if the water called for, was for the purpose of stopping the effusion of blood?—Does not know for what purpose it was wanted, but that Edward told him it was to prevent Cuffee from fainting.

Whilst Cuffee was in punishment, did he receive any sustenance from his master?—No, but believes he received support from his wife and mates.

Did you not see Cuffee after he was shot?—I did, for where he was confined in the bilboes it was near his shop.

Did you ever examine Cuffee's wounds?—I did not exactly examine them, but saw by chance on one of his buttocks, and on one of his arms, a wound or wounds resembling a gun-shot wound.

Did you ever see any shot taken from Cuffee's wounds?—No, but that Cuffee whilst in the bilboes, said look at the shot I have taken out, but did not take notice of them.

What state of health did Cuffee appear in at the time Mr. Ludford desired Edward to take him to the barbicues, and immediately previous to his being shot?—He appeared to be in good health, barring a flogging which had been given him about a week before, but was getting well.

Did you see Mr. Ludford send any person to dress his wounds?—No, not so long as I was on the place.

What! do you consider that Cuffee died of the wounds he received?—I do not know as to that; but in the afternoon, after coming from the coffee-piece to get some grog, I heard Mr. Ludford say to Cuffee, that if he does not tell him who helped him to rob the store, he would send him to half-way tree workhouse, and not let him go at all until he told him. Cuffee then answered, that it was himself and two to one belonging to Mr. Howell, and no person else. At noon next day, between eleven and twelve o'clock, Mr. Ludford sent to, when I and Edward were working, to come home; from asking the girl who was sent, heard that Cuffee was dead; on my going home Mr. Ludford said that Cuffee was dead, and that he had sent for Mr. Burke. So soon as Mr. Burke came, Mr. Ludford asked me to take a walk with them to the negro-houses, which I did.

Did you examine Cuffee yourself on going there?—No; but that Mr. Ludford

asked

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asked Mr. Burke to look at Cuffee, and to say whether he had died by flogging: to which question Mr. Burke said, "no."

Was he confined in the bilboes from the time you saw him being carried there with blood upon him, to the time of his decease?—Yes, from the time he heard the report of a gun until the time of his death, he has every reason to believe he had been constantly confined.

After going to the negro-houses, what state did you see Cuffee lying dead in?—I saw him with bloody water coming from his nose, and stopped up with cotton, and from his mouth was issuing froth.

Did it appear to you that he had been poisoned?—No, I don't think so.

Do you then suppose, and from your conscience believe, that Cuffee died of the wounds of which he received by a gun?—I do firmly, and to my conscience believe it.

Do you know Alfred, a negro belonging to Mr. Ludford?—Yes, I do; he is mate of Cuffee's.

Do you not know of his having run away in consequence of the death of Cuffee?—Yes; and understood that Alfred had gone away, saying, that as Cuffee had been shot, he would go and report it to head quarters.

Did you not know Mr. Ludford offered a reward of two doubloons for the apprehension of Alfred?—No, I never heard it.

After Edward had explained to Mr. Ludford (who at first did not understand) what Cuffee said, did not he, Mr. Ludford, and in your presence and hearing, say, that "if you Cuffee, do not tell me who stole the rum with you, I will pepper your arse well this day?"—I did hear Mr. Ludford say those words expressly.

What do you take to be the meaning of those words, by peppering his arse well this day?—By small-shotting him, no doubt; but really I had not the least idea of his doing so.

When you heard the report of the gun, did you not go on one side of the barbicue, and peep to see what had happened?—I did, and saw Cuffee lying on the barbicue.

Did you see Mr. Ludford; and in what position was he standing with the gun, and how far distant was he from Cuffee?—I saw Mr. Ludford about ten yards from Cuffee standing and fronting Cuffee, with the gun resting on his arm.

From the state you saw Cuffee lying in, and the position Mr. Ludford was standing, when you peeped by the side of the barbicue, do you not firmly believe that the contents of the gun (the report of which you heard) had been discharged at Cuffee?—Yes, I do.

Did you see Cuffee struggling?—No, I saw him lay still, and supposed he was dead.

Did not a Mr. Drummond visit Mr. Ludford soon after he shot Cuffee?—Yes, Mr. Drummond and Mr. Henderson came there, about a quarter of an hour after, and whilst Mary Howell and Mr. Ludford were sitting on the steps; and Mr. Drummond asked Mr. Ludford if he was keeping guard already.

The mark of
Robert Williams.

Taken and acknowledged before me, }
this 13th June 1817. }
(Signed)

R. W. Fearon.

(Copy.)

EXAMINATION of *Alfred*, a Negro Man Slave belonging to Thomas Ludford, of Mount Libanus. Taken before me, this 13th of June 1817.

RELATE what you know touching the death of Cuffee, belonging to Mr. Ludford. Examinant saith, that Cuffee was put as watchman at St. Jago, Savannah, at the store there, and that his master missing rum, asked Cuffee about it, and Cuffee confessed that he stole it; his master then put him into confinement for four months; after the four months he let him go.

Examinant saith, that Mary Howell told his master that Cuffee was not punished enough. That his master then took him, and again put him into confinement, and two weeks after Easter, (upon one Wednesday,) at four o'clock, his master ordered Edward to take Cuffee out of the bilboes, and carried him upon the barbicues. His master was then in the piazza.

Examinant saith, that on Cuffee's being carried by Edward to the barbicues, his master

master remained in the piazza, and that on Edward's being desired to go on one side, he then fired at Cuffee, first telling Cuffee to lift up his frock.

Examinant saith, That he stood on the lower barbique and saw it. After his master fired and shot Cuffee, examinant saw a good deal of blood, and heard his master call Edward to bring a pail of water, which he did, and it was thrown on Cuffee. His master then went round to the barbiques, and so soon as Cuffee came to himself, his said master put Cuffee before him; and on their arriving at the steps where Mary Howell was sitting,

Examinant saith, that his master then turned the butt of the gun, and struck Cuffee, on doing which, Mary Howell said, "Mass Tommy, you will have sin for answer."

Examinant saith, that Cuffee was then carried to the bilboes, and was never taken out until after his death. Saith that, during the time he was in the bilboes, examinant extracted ten shot from the wounds. Saith, that Cuffee was shot all over the small of his back, rump, and arms, and upon his side and thighs.

Examinant saith, that the night before Cuffee died, he said he could not live in consequence of the shot he received; that Cuffee complained constantly of a pain in his side.

Taken before me this 15th of June 1817.

(Signed) *R. W. Fearon.*

EXAMINATION of *Edward La Cruize Froth*, a Negro Man Slave, the Property of Thomas Ludford.

ARE you a christian?—Yes, I am.

Do you know the nature of an oath?—No.

(In consequence, the nature was explained.)

Sworn:—That he knows Cuffee very well, that Cuffee was watching the store at St. Jago Savannah. Saith, that Cuffee had stolen some rum, and upon confessing it his master sent him to the bilboes at Bell Plain. That from there he was taken to Mount Libanus and put into confinement. That during such confinement he was repeatedly flogged and kept in the bilboes, working Cuffee in and out.

Saith,—That a waggon chain was occasionally put on, and that the floggings were severe. Examinant saith, that on a Monday that his master ordered examinant to bring Cuffee in the house, and after doing so, his master then said to Cuffee, "if you do not tell me who stole the rum with you, I will pepper your arse well this day." Examinant saith, that his master then held the gun in his hands; it was a fowling piece; Robert Williamson was present at the time, when his master said that he would pepper his arse well. Cuffee said, "my good massa, I not take none and hide it, but the little I take, I swampt it for a little yam, yam as hungry was too much for me." Examinant saith, that his master not understanding what Cuffee had said, he, examinant, related it, by the desire of his said master. His master then ordered examinant to carry Cuffee up to the barbiques, and which was done, Cuffee then turned his face towards his master, when he was desired by his master to turn his back and look at the bread fruit tree, and lift up his frock, examinant immediately drew on one side, (say about 3 yards) when his master discharged his gun and shot Cuffee. Cuffee then dropt, and his master ordered examinant to get a pail of water, which he did, and it was immediately thrown upon him, saw blood upon his frock and appeared much wounded. Cuffee was then put before his master, and taken round the house, at the same time his master was pushing him along with his gun. Saw Robert Williams at the shop, and Mary Howell sitting on the steps, Mary Howell then said in examinant's hearing, "massa Tommy, you will have a sin because you shoot Cuffee."

Examinant saith,—That his master then ordered him to take Cuffee to the bilboes, which he did. That Cuffee never was released from the bilboes, from the time he was shot until his death.

Saith,—That until last year the negroes had never been served with clothing since the death of Mr. John Anderson; and examinant further saith, that no . . . have been on the mountain for some years, but that now and then, the negroes got some white salt. That no rum or sugar has been served at Christmas for the last two years.

Taken before me, this 13th of June 1817.

(Signed) *R. W. Fearon.*

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

Maltreatment of
Negroes.

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

Maltreatment of
Negroes.

I, Thomas Farquhar Hill, Clerk of the Crown for this His Majesty's Island of Jamaica, do certify that the above is a true Copy of the original Examinations, transmitted to my office on the 11th day of June 1817, and which I received on that day.

Given under my hand, this
19th day of June 1817.

Thos. F. Hill, Cl. Cr.

I, Thomas Farquhar Hill, Clerk of the Crown for this His Majesty's Island of Jamaica, do certify, that I did on the 17th day of June 1817, personally deliver to James Clark, Deputy Marshal, a Bench Warrant, which, on the motion of Mr. Attorney General, was issued against Thomas Ludford for the crime of murder.

Given under my hand and seal, this
19th day of June 1817.

Thos. F. Hill, Cl. C. L. G.

The following is a Copy of Mr. Attorney General's directions, marked on the original depositions.

“16th June 1817.

“ Upon these depositions Thomas Ludford is to be indicted for murder, and let
“ a Bench Warrant be prepared, that it may forthwith be issued against Thomas
“ Ludford, on a charge of murder. Let Mr. Fearon be written to, in order that he
“ may obtain the recognizances of Williams and Mary Howell to appear as witnesses
“ for the crown, on indictment to be preferred at the next grand court, against
“ Thomas Ludford for murder; and he should take the examinations of Drummond
“ and Burke, and also obtain their recognizances, and immediately transmit them
“ to the Crown Office.

(Signed) “*William Burge*.”

“Thomas Hill, Clerk Crown.

Enclosure,
No. 2.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of 21st June 1817.)

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Hill to Mr. Fearon.

SIR,

Spanish Town, 21st June 1817.

I AM directed by the attorney general to inform you, that he has received the depositions taken before you, on a charge against Thomas Ludford, of having murdered his slave named Cuffee. Those depositions appear to him completely to substantiate the charge. The attorney general directs me to state, that he considers it his duty, in such a case as the present, to express to you his decided sense of the inattention and unusual departure from the ordinary exercise of the functions of a magistrate, which marks the course of proceeding adopted by you on this occasion, in order that he might not appear, even by his silence, to give it an implied sanction, or lead you to suppose that it can be regarded with indifference by him. Although examinations of witnesses on the part of the crown ought to be immediately transmitted to the crown office, in order that prosecutions may be commenced on them, yet the magistrate who takes them, very imperfectly discharges his public duty, if he contents himself with merely ascertaining that a crime has been committed, and takes no steps to secure the person of the criminal, in order that he may be rendered amenable to the public justice of the country. For that purpose, he is empowered, and it is his bounden duty, to issue his warrant against the party implicated in any crime, by the examinations which have been taken. Upon these examinations, which establish so completely the crime of murder against Thomas Ludford, there ought not to have been the slightest hesitation on your part, in issuing your warrant for his apprehension, but no warrant was issued by you against him and a delay; which may be prejudicial to public justice, has been occasioned by your neglect; nor is this the only complaint which the attorney general has to make respecting your mode of proceeding in this inquiry. It is equally the duty of a magistrate to secure the appearance before the grand jury, and at the trial of all such persons as may be able to give evidence on the part of the crown, and for that purpose he is empowered, and his duty enjoins him to take the recognizance of such persons, and if they are unable or unwilling to find the necessary security, he is empowered to commit them. On the present occasion it does not appear that you have taken the recognizance of either of the persons whom you have examined, or taken any other steps to secure their attendance before the grand jury, and at the trial to give evidence. I am
therefore

therefore to acquaint you that such steps ought to be forthwith taken by you, and the recognizances immediately transmitted to the crown office, as it appears that Mr. Drummond and Mr. Henry Burke are, or may reasonably be expected to be able to give evidence in support of the prosecution: their examination should also be taken, and they should also be made to enter into recognizances to appear as witnesses before the grand jury, and at the trial of the indictment to be preferred against Thomas Ludford for murder. In order to prevent any objection being taken to the admissibility of the testimony of Mary Howell and Robert Williams, it is necessary, if they have not already obtained their regular certificates of their being privileged, that you should forthwith provide them therewith in the manner prescribed by the 55th Geo. 3, ch. 19.

Correspondence.
—
Jamaica.

Maltreatment of
Negroes.

I have, &c.

Tho. F. Hill, C. C.

The Hon. R. W. Fearon,
&c. &c. &c.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl Bathurst to His Grace the Duke of Manchester.

MY LORD,

Downing-street, 11th August 1817.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Grace's dispatch No. 136, in which you transmit to me the Examinations which have been taken in the case of a murder committed on a slave by a person of the name of Ludford; and while I entirely approve of the measures so promptly adopted by your Grace for the apprehension of the offender, I cannot forbear animadverting upon the criminal misconduct of the coroner in not holding an immediate inquest on the body of the slave, or expressing my regret and surprise that any magistrate should have been so ignorant or remiss as not to issue his warrant for the apprehension of a person charged with so great a crime.

It appears to me highly necessary to mark the sense which I entertain of such conduct, and I would therefore suggest to your Grace the expediency of adopting proper measures for the removal of the coroner, and for signifying to the magistrate that I have only forborne recommending his removal from the commission, under an impression that his conduct is to be attributed to ignorance of his duty rather than to a desire to defeat the ends of justice, but that any similar misconduct in future will not fail to disqualify him from acting in the capacity of a magistrate, and to call for the expression of His Royal Highness's severest displeasure.

I have, &c.

The Duke of Manchester,
&c. &c. &c.

Bathurst.

Copy of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of Manchester to Earl Bathurst.

MY LORD,

King's-house, Jamaica, 29th August 1817.

REFERRING your lordship to my letter of the 21st June last, on the subject of the atrocious murder which had been committed by a white man of the name of Ludford, on the body of his slave; I am now to acquaint your lordship, that there is the greatest reason to believe that he has escaped, and as I attribute this very much to the ignorance of the chief magistrate of Clarendon, in not immediately issuing his warrant for Ludford's apprehension, at the time the examinations were taken, I have thought it proper to remove Mr. Fearon from the chief magistracy of Clarendon, and have directed the crown officer to use every exertion to bring to justice the coroner for not having held an inquest on the body of the slave, and also any persons who may be found to have facilitated Ludford's escape from the Island.

I trust in a matter of such importance that your lordship will be of opinion that I was justified in dismissing Mr. Fearon, although in other respects he is a gentleman of respectability, and of some consequence in the country; but whether his conduct proceeded from ignorance or negligence, he is in either case unfit for so responsible a situation as custos of a very extensive parish.

I have, &c.

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

Manchester.

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

Maltreatment of
Negroes.

Copy of a Letter from His Grace the Duke of Manchester to Earl Bathurst; with two Enclosures.

MY LORD,

King's-house Jamaica, 22d October 1817.

I HAVE received your lordship's dispatch of the 11th August, No. 63, and am much gratified to find that the measures which I felt it my duty to adopt for the purpose of bringing Ludford to justice have met with your lordship's approbation.

Your lordship will have learned by my letter of the 29th August that I had removed Mr. Fearon from the chief magistracy of Clarendon, and my reasons for so doing, your lordship will find detailed in the enclosed communication which was made to him upon the occasion; and I have reason to believe that even in the parish over which he had presided, and which he represented in the Assembly, the necessity for this proceeding was generally felt and acknowledged. I am also satisfied it has already had the effect of producing greater activity in the magistracy of the Island.

With respect to the coroner, your lordship will see, by the enclosed report from the Attorney General, the difficulties which he has had to encounter in bringing Mr. Howell to justice, but you may be assured that every thing that the most indefatigable zeal can accomplish will be employed by the attorney general in prosecuting all persons who have been guilty of either negligence or wilful omission in the discharge of their duty as public officers, or who may have assisted Ludford in withdrawing himself from justice.

I have, &c.

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

*Manchester.*Enclosure,
No. 1.

(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of 22d October 1817.)

(Copy of a Letter from Mr. Bullock to Mr. Fearon.)

SIR,

King's House, 18th July 1817.

REFERRING you to a letter which I had the honour to address to you on the 21st ult., by command of his Grace the Governor, desiring to know your reasons for not having issued your warrant for apprehending Thomas Ludford at the time when the examinations were taken of two persons of free condition, accusing him of murder, I am now to acquaint you, that your reply to my communication was so unsatisfactory, that in an affair of so much importance, not only to the particular interests of this Island, but to the very existence of the Colonial system, his Grace judged it expedient that the whole circumstances of the case should be submitted to the consideration of His Majesty's Privy Council.

I am also to inform you, that his Grace has paid attention to what you have urged in your exculpatory statement; but he has in vain endeavoured to find any circumstance which can extenuate the great remissness which you showed in not doing the most common and obvious part of a magistrate's duty, at the time the examinations were taken, by issuing your warrant for apprehending Ludford, and binding over the parties examined to appear and give evidence at the trial.

Had there been any thing new or unusual in this matter, every allowance ought and would have been made for a gentleman situated as you were, and without the means of having recourse to legal advice; but in the present case, the course was plain and obvious, and your having omitted to adopt that course, must always be regretted as a singular exception from that prompt and active vigilance which is commonly displayed by the magistracy in pursuing and using every possible exertion to bring atrocious offenders to justice.

Under these circumstances, it becomes necessary that it should be known, that no consideration of station or character can be allowed to screen gentlemen holding situations of responsibility, from those consequences which ought to follow either their want of capacity for such employments, or their remissness in the discharge of the duties belonging to them. I am therefore commanded by his Grace to inform you, that he has been pleased to order me to prepare for his signature a new Grand Commission for the parish of Clarendon, in which your name will not be included.

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

R. W. Fearon, esq.

William Bullock.

TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES.

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(In his Grace the Duke of Manchester's of 22d October 1817.)

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

Maltreatment of
Negroes.Enclosure,
No. 2.

SIR,

Spanish Town, 12th October 1817.

IN obedience to the commands of his Grace the Governor, communicated to me by your letter of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report to you, for his Grace's information, the steps which have been taken by the law officers of the Crown, in consequence of your letter of the 12th August, for bringing to punishment as well Mr. Howell, as any persons who had assisted Ludford in escaping from this Island. Immediately on my receiving your letter of the 12th August, I desired the Solicitor of the Crown to obtain the evidence which I considered necessary to sustain the prosecutions, and I prepared a bill of indictment against Mr. Howell, both for his neglect as coroner, in not taking an inquisition of the death of the slave, and his concealment of the murder which had been committed by Ludford; and it would have been preferred to the grand jury of this county, at the present court, if the requisite evidence had been obtained, as the persons who were expected to be able to furnish any material evidence against Howell, did not reside in the vicinity of this town, but in the parish of Clarendon; the law officers of the Crown were necessarily obliged to rely on some magistrate of that parish for being supplied with it, and accordingly I caused application to be made to the present Custos of Clarendon, to take the examination of such persons as he considered could give any testimony, which would fix Howell with a knowledge of the death of the slave, and of the means by which his death had been occasioned. From the influence possessed by Mr. Howell, as the Colonel of the regiment of the parish, and from his family connections there, a degree of reserve and silence has been maintained by those from whom information might have been expected to have been obtained, which has rendered it very difficult to elicit the necessary evidence; one gentleman to whom the Custos had referred, and who, it was believed, must have been able to prove Howell's knowledge of the slave's death, and all the circumstances under which the murder was committed, died before it was possible for his examination to be taken. The only two persons who were inmates in Ludford's house were examined, and were in this town ready to go before the grand jury; but their examinations did not in any degree prove that Howell was apprised or knew of the death of the slave; and the other witness who would have supplied, as I had reason to believe, this defect, was from sickness unable to attend the court: under these circumstances, and more especially as the conviction of Howell was advisable, with a view to his removal from his office of coroner, I thought it better, in order that a prosecution carried on by His Majesty's government, should not be exposed to the possibility of its failing from the insufficiency of evidence, to defer sending the bill before the grand jury, until the next meeting of the court, when I expect to be completely furnished with the requisite testimony.

I have also the honour of stating to you, that I have instituted a prosecution against a merchant in Kingston, of the name of Sanderson, for having assisted Ludford in his escape from this Island; as the offence was committed in the county of Surrey, the trial cannot take place until the assizes for that county are held.

I have further to report to you, for his Grace's information, that the bill of indictment against Ludford was preferred to the grand jury and found.

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

William Bullock, esq.

William Burge.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl Bathurst to his Grace the Duke of Manchester.

MY LORD,

Downing-street, 5th November 1817.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Grace's letter, No. 144, of the 29th August, reporting that Ludford, who had been accused of the murder of his slave, had effected his escape; and that your Grace, attributing this circumstance to the omission of the chief magistrate of Clarendon, in not immediately issuing a warrant for his apprehension at the time the examinations were taken, had thought it proper to remove Mr. Fearon from his office in the magistracy.

I have to signify to your Grace the Prince Regent's approbation of your proceeding in the removal of Mr. Fearon, and of the measures adopted for bringing to justice

justice

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

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tice the coroner, for his great neglect of duty, and of those who might be found to have facilitated Ludford's escape from the Island.

I have, &c.

Bathurst.

His Grace the Duke of Manchester,
&c. &c. &c.

Extract of a Letter from his Grace the Duke of Manchester to the Earl
Bathurst; dated Jamaica, November 8th, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to inform your lordship, that the session commenced here on the 28th ultimo.

And I really believe there is a strong desire felt to consult the comfort of the slaves as much as possible; and if this object does not advance so rapidly as could be wished, it proceeds from no disinclination on the part of the proprietors, but from an apprehension of the consequences of too sudden a change in the habits and manners of the negroes, and which the events in Barbadoes have a tendency to increase.

Extract from a Report of a Committee of the Honourable House of Assembly
of Jamaica; presented the 10th December 1817.

MR. SPEAKER,

Report from Com-
mittee on State of
the Colony.

YOUR Committee, to whom it stands referred to inquire into and consider the present state of the Island with respect to its population, agriculture, and commerce; and to ascertain, as far as may be practicable, the effects which the measures adopted in the last session for the security of the Island, and for the further improvement of the condition of the slave population, have produced; and to report to the House any regulation or enactments which may, in their opinion, still be necessary for ensuring the general welfare and happiness of the Colony; have agreed to report,—

That, pursuant to the course pointed out by the House, they have taken first into their consideration, the state of the Island with respect to its population and agriculture, and they find those subjects so intimately connected with and depending on each other, that it would be difficult, and is unnecessary to separate them. The prospect which the present state of things holds out on those points, is most unsatisfactory; no improvement in agriculture, as it relates to the extension of it, can be expected when all sources of a supply of labourers are entirely cut off; and whilst the attention of the legislature is constantly directed to the diminution of the labour of the slaves by all possible means, it will be in vain to expect that the cultivation of the Island can be continued, even on its present scale, because we must anticipate for some years a very considerable diminution in the slave population, owing to the number of Africans which, in the course of nature, must gradually be extinguished.

It would have been very satisfactory to the Committee, had the returns of the Registry Act been in such a state as to have enabled them to show the number of Africans now in the Island, and the number of Creole slaves under fifteen years of age, because they are confident it would have proved to demonstration, on the one hand, the great care which has been bestowed in rearing children; and on the other, it would have anticipated and defeated those charges which, at some future day, may be urged against us for severity or improper treatment of our slaves, from the diminution in their number, which must necessarily take place, when it is found that a considerable portion of that population is at present composed of Africans, none of whom have been brought here since 1807, and whose ages, upon an average, when they arrived here, may be fairly estimated at twenty-four years.

The next object of the consideration of the committee, has been that which relates to trade; and they have had before them, and annexed to this report, a memorial of sundry merchants of the city of Kingston, to the honourable the Board of Trade. How far the objects sought to be obtained in that memorial are practicable, the Committee are unable to determine; but they consider them very proper subjects of representation to His Majesty's ministers, and the Island agent should be directed to use all his exertions to induce them to comply with the wishes of the Kingston merchants.

The Committee have great pleasure in doing justice to the complete protection which has been afforded to our trade and commerce during the present year.

Your

Your Committee have also considered the effects which have been produced by the measures adopted during the last session for the improvement of the condition of the slave population; the interval which has since elapsed, has been too short to admit of any particular effects having resulted from their operation.

Your Committee, however, are fully persuaded, that the tendency of those measures, and the spirit in which they were adopted, have produced a general effect of great importance, both as it respects the condition of the slaves and the public tranquillity of the Island.

The slaves are satisfied that their condition is of sufficient interest to engage the attention of those under whose authority they are placed, and that their comforts and personal security are the objects of protection. In availing themselves of the facility which has been afforded them in making their complaint of any real or supposed grievance, they have observed the attention with which it has been investigated, and the justice with which it has been decided. The increase which has taken place during the last twelve months in the number of proceedings, both civil and criminal, which have been instituted by or on behalf of slaves, is a fact which, accompanied as it has been by the greatest degree of subordination and good order on their part, may be referred to as the most decisive proof of their well-founded confidence in the justice of those to whom they appeal. This feeling, whilst it operates directly on their present condition, by lessening the possibility of their being exposed to injury without receiving redress, and by rendering them contented with their situation, is calculated to impart to them those principles which will enable them to estimate the benefits, to acquire the habits, and to practise the duties which belong to a more civilized state of society.

Your Committee attach great importance to this consideration, because it encourages the belief, that a foundation is laid for future measures of progressive improvement.

Every view which your Committee can take of the present and future condition of the slave population, confirms them in their opinion, that the improvement of their religious, moral, and civil state, can only be effected by gradual and progressive measures; and that any experiments which have a tendency to produce a sudden change in their present state, by the introduction of principles which are unknown to, and inconsistent with, the policy of colonial institutions, and the habits of the slaves themselves, would be as fatal to them as dangerous to the security of the Island. A due execution of those laws which have already been passed, a constant attention to the operation and effect of those laws, the adoption from time to time of those measures, and the application of those principles to their present condition, which such attention may suggest, can alone secure the accomplishment of this important object. Your Committee are therefore of opinion, that no alteration at present appears necessary in the consolidated slave law which was passed during the last session, but that further time should be allowed for the development of those effects which it is calculated to produce.

Your Committee, in examining the provisions of that Act, have discovered that inadvertently, and contrary to the known intention of the legislature, the 107th section is subject to a construction, which would have the effect of exposing slaves to, and exempting free persons from punishment for offences committed whilst the consolidated Slave Act passed in 1809 was in force. Your Committee deem it advisable that such a construction should be prevented, and for that purpose they recommend that a bill should be introduced declaratory of the intention of the said section to subject as well free persons as slaves to punishment for offences committed during the continuance of the former Act.

Your Committee have great satisfaction in calling the attention of the House to the very considerable increase which has also taken place in the number of slaves which have been christened during the last twelve months, and which appears from the returns made by the several rectors of the Island hereunto annexed. The increase, whether it be considered as leading to the total extinction of those superstitious prejudices which at present distinguish the negro character, and oppose so great an obstacle to their moral improvement, as manifesting the desire of the white inhabitants to afford to their slaves the means of receiving the benefits of christianity, or as evincing the disposition of the slaves to renounce the errors of a savage state, must be regarded as one of great importance. Your Committee lament that the additional means of religious improvement which were proposed by the Act passed last session for providing curates, have not hitherto been attended with success, as appears by an extract of a letter from the Bishop of London to his Grace the Governor, hereunto annexed, but there is still reason to hope that the stipend

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

Maltreatment of
Negroes.

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Jamaica.

Maltreatment of
Negroes.

fixed by that Act, and the disposition which is known to prevail amongst the principal proprietors, to give every possible encouragement to such clergymen as may be inclined to undertake the religious instruction of our slaves, may induce worthy and respectable gentlemen of that profession to come out to this Island. Your Committee, before they conclude this part of their inquiry, deem it proper to advert to the returns of slaves annexed to this report, made in pursuance of the Act passed in the last session, "for the more particular Return of Slaves, and the enrolment thereof." It will be found from these returns that the actual number of slaves in this Island greatly exceeds that which appeared on the tax-rolls, and from which alone any estimate of the slave population could be formed. The cause of this excess is familiar to all who are acquainted with the subject; and it would not have been necessary to have referred to it, were it not desirable that no pretext should be left for the unfounded clamour with which the honour and character of this Island have been assailed by that party in England, whose mischievous designs against the whole colonial system have led them to resort to every possible misrepresentation and construction of our conduct and proceedings. The tax-rolls never did, and never professed to contain an accurate account of all the slaves in this Island; it merely embraced those persons by whom taxes were paid. It is well known that there were many persons possessed of slaves who were in circumstances so indigent as to be exempted from taxation; there were others in situations so obscure as to be unknown. Nothing can more distinctly prove this fact than a comparative reference to the return of slaves under the late Registry Act, and the number stated on the former parochial returns; for instance, in the parish of Trelawny, which is composed generally of large properties, and of course the returns were more accurate, the difference in the number of slaves under the Registry Act and the ordinary parochial returns, is only 760, the number being under the former 28,497, and under the latter 27,738; whereas in the parish of Kingston, where the returns are made principally by persons possessing few slaves, the number returned under the Registry Act exceeds the parochial returns in 9,802, the former amounting to 17,959, and the latter 8,157.

The Committee therefore trust, that any irregularity in former returns will be sufficiently accounted for, when it is further considered how much it was the interest of persons in indigent circumstances to conceal the real number of their slaves, and when reference is had to the comparative statement hereunto annexed, of slaves on the rolls for the years 1809, 1811, and 1812, (no poll-tax having existed in 1810,) whereby it will appear, that although the returns for 1809 state the numbers to be 323,714, that for 1811 to be 326,830, and that for 1812 to be 319,912, when the over assessments for those years are deducted, the numbers will remain, for 1809, 316,989,—for 1811, 316,017,—for 1812, 313,123.

No. 1.

RETURN of the Number of SLAVES baptised in the under-mentioned Parishes, for three years preceding the 1st day of November in the present year; distinguishing the Numbers baptised in each of those years.

PARISHES.	1815.	1816.	1817.	TOTAL.
St. Catherine - - - - -	175	508	1,089	1,772
St. John - - - - -	86	145	132	363
St. Thomas in the Vale - - - - -	-	-	1,441	1,441
Clarendon - - - - -	229	528	528	1,285
Vere - - - - -	186	312	761	1,259
St. Mary - - - - -	290	636	7,847	8,773
St. Anne - - - - -	97	318	636	1,046
Kingston - - - - -	1,397	1,494	1,750	4,623
Port Royal - - - - -	29	12	58	99
St. Andrew - - - - -	549	469	1,915	2,933
St. Thomas in the East - - - - -	59	998	2,350	3,407
St. David - - - - -	740	247	941	1,928
St. George - - - - -	112	143	2,104	2,359
St. Elizabeth - - - - -	131	68	312	511
Westmoreland - - - - -	49	456	1,104	1,609
Hanover - - - - -	464	977	5,421	6,862
St. James - - - - -	146	1,123	1,994	3,263
Trelawny - - - - -	130	255	6,513	6,898

No Returns have been received for Saint Dorothy, Manchester, or Portland, and that for Saint Thomas in the Vale only embraces the present year.

Extract of a Letter from the Lord Bishop of London to his Grace the Governor,
dated March 4th, 1817.

Correspondence.
Jamaica.

No. 2.

I HAVE to acknowledge the honour of your Grace's letter of December 21st, 1816, in which you inform me that an Act has been passed by the House of Assembly, authorising the Governor to appoint curates to assist the beneficed ministers in promoting the religious and moral improvement of the slaves, and request my assistance in forwarding the views of the legislature on this important subject.

I can truly assure your Grace, that my inclination concurs with my sense of duty in prompting me to do all in my power to give effect to the wise and humane intentions of the Legislature in behalf of the slaves. But from the difficulties which, under the most favourable circumstances, I have always experienced in providing for the proper supply of distant missions, there is I fear little probability that the stipend of 215*l.* sterling, appointed by the law, will be found a sufficient inducement to clergymen, of such character as I could venture to recommend, to engage in a service of which the duties are necessarily laborious, and often injurious to health.

I will however exert my utmost endeavours, and if I do not succeed, your Grace, I am persuaded, will do me the justice to attribute the failure to no deficiency of zeal on my part, but to the reason above stated.

RETURNS from the Clerks of the Vestries of the several Parishes of this Island, by virtue of an
Order of the House.

No. 3.

PARISHES.	Number of Slaves returned under the Act for a more particular Return and Enrolment thereof.		
	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Trelawny - - - - -	14,133	14,364	28,497
Westmoreland - - - - -	11,047	11,612	22,659
Manchester - - - - -	7,961	7,116	15,077
St. James - - - - -	12,553	13,088	25,641
St. Elizabeth - - - - -	10,145	9,998	20,143
Portland - - - - -	4,118	4,066	8,184
St. Mary - - - - -	13,557	13,269	26,826
St. Thomas in the East - - - - -	13,430	12,992	26,422
St. Ann - - - - -	12,583	12,231	24,814
Port Royal - - - - -	3,816	3,401	7,217
St. David - - - - -	4,088	3,670	7,758
St. George - - - - -	7,218	6,422	13,640
St. John - - - - -	2,994	3,139	6,133
St. Andrew - - - - -	8,147	7,683	15,830
St. Dorothy - - - - -	2,697	2,608	5,305
St. Thomas in the Vale - - - - -	6,187	6,054	12,241
Kingston - - - - -	8,054	9,900	17,954
Hanover - - - - -	11,860	11,919	23,779
Clarendon - - - - -	9,612	9,785	19,397
Vere - - - - -	3,952	4,104	8,056
St. Catherine - - - - -	4,437	5,242	9,679
	172,589	172,663	345,252

Correspondence.

Jamaica.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Number of SLAVES on the Rolls for three years.

No. 4.

PARISHES.	1809.	1811.	1812.
	Committee Accounts.	— Votes.	— Votes.
St. Andrew - - - - -	17,762	17,796	16,570
St. Ann - - - - -	24,960	25,637	23,702
St. Catherine - - - - -	8,903	8,500	8,479
Clarendon - - - - -	20,180	20,702	20,228
St. David - - - - -	7,230	7,906	7,203
St. Dorothy - - - - -	5,085	5,277	5,130
St. Elizabeth - - - - -	24,261	22,123	22,180
St. George - - - - -	13,271	13,474	13,400
Hanover - - - - -	23,042	23,170	23,167
St. James - - - - -	25,283	24,917	24,970
St. John - - - - -	6,918	6,764	6,690
Kingston - - - - -	6,070	5,839	5,370
St. Mary - - - - -	26,139	26,241	25,711
Portland - - - - -	7,616	7,732	7,440
St. Thomas in the East - - - - -	26,655	26,807	26,291
St. Thomas in the Vale - - - - -	11,463	12,031	11,973
Trelawny - - - - -	27,762	27,960	27,950
Vere - - - - -	11,858	14,855	14,359
Westmoreland - - - - -	21,405	21,056	21,019
Port Royal - - - - -	7,851	8,043	7,980
	323,714	326,830	319,912
Number over-assessed and relieved - - - - -	6,745	10,813	6,789
Number for which Taxes were paid - - - - -	316,989	316,017	313,123

Over Assessments in the Years - - - - -	1809,	1811,	1812.
St. Andrew - - - - -	973	1,664	725
St. Ann - - - - -	1,106	1,908	527
St. Catherine - - - - -	1,123	1,043	1,148
Clarendon - - - - -	-	140	30
St. David - - - - -	26	753	258
St. Elizabeth - - - - -	474	411	552
St. Dorothy - - - - -	33	141	50
St. George - - - - -	80	3	12
Hanover - - - - -	45	49	39
St. James - - - - -	1,095	921	614
St. John - - - - -	290	280	534
St. Mary - - - - -	358	726	738
Portland - - - - -	50	214	54
St. Thomas in the East - - - - -	17	962	507
St. Thomas in the Vale - - - - -	445	706	404
Trelawny - - - - -	160	277	234
Vere - - - - -	417	526	287
Westmoreland - - - - -	53	89	76
Kingston and Port Royal - - - - -	-	-	-
Over-assessed, and afterwards relieved - - - - -	6,745	10,813	6,789

The roll for Portland for 1809, and those for St. George and St. Mary 1811, having been delivered to the solicitor for the Crown, to be made use of in actions against the collecting constables for these parishes, have never been returned to the receiver general, and after a diligent search in the office of the solicitor, are not now to be found.

Correspondence.

TRINIDAD.

Copy of a Letter from Henry Goulburn, Esq. to Sir R. Woodford.

SIR,

Downing-street, 22d May 1817.

Amelioration of
Treatment of
Slave Population.

LORD Bathurst has directed me to suggest to you, through the medium of a private communication, whether it might not be practicable to effect some amelioration of the mode of treatment of the slave population in the West Indies, by holding out honorary distinctions for those overseers or planters whose negroes might be adjudged, upon examination by competent judges at stated periods, to be, in point of comfort, health, and general improvement, in the best state.

Although Lord Bathurst is aware that such an arrangement might be considered as degrading to the negro, and as recommending an attention to his comforts on an unworthy principle, yet if its results are likely to be as his Lordship considers they may be expected to be, beneficial to the negro, he would not on that account hesitate to recommend its immediate adoption. At first, perhaps, the prize held out might be considered but little worthy of attainment; but it is difficult not to believe that, if fairly distributed for a few years, the candidates for it would afterwards become more numerous; and in such a case it would not be too much to look for a general emulation among the planters, more especially among the managers and overseers, as to the condition in which their negroes would be found at the period of inspection. I am therefore to request, that you would take this subject into your consideration, and report to me your opinion as to the utility of its adoption, and as to the nature of the reward which it may be proper, in case of its adoption, to hold out to the several candidates. A gold medal for the best gang of negroes, and a silver medal for the second and third, are those which Lord Bathurst would judge most advisable, but he must leave it to you, from local information, to decide whether you consider more or less any other mark more likely, by being a more desirable object, to call forth the exertions of the several overseers.

I have, &c.

Sir R. Woodford.

(Signed)

Henry Goulburn.

Copy of a Letter from Sir R. Woodford, Bart. to Henry Goulburn, Esq.

SIR,

Trinidad, 3d August 1817.

I HAVE not failed to consider with every attention the object of the communication with which you honoured me on the 22d May; and I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of Lord Bathurst, that however desirable the plan might be, which his Lordship's humane consideration of the negroes in the Colonies has suggested, I do not think that in this Island it could be carried into effect without a very considerable expense, much greater than his Lordship I am sure contemplates; while I must own, that I doubt if the distribution of the rewards to the different managers could be impartially or effectually made.

To proprietors of slaves, as to mankind in general, no incentive can be so great as their own interest. It is not in their power now to replace a slave whose physical powers are exhausted by a short service, therefore, the value of a slave of good character is greatly enhanced beyond the value of his ordinary appraisement, and proportionate efforts are made to keep up his natural health and vigour.

Managers are under the control of attorneys of estates, and overseers are subject to either, or to the proprietor, if residing on the spot. On these may depend the due apportionment of the labour of the strong and the care of the sick, but the subsistence, extra nourishment and comforts, depend generally on the proprietor or the attorney. The former, if he is out of debt, is generally liberally disposed towards his slaves, a disposition which, under the privilege granted under the law of supply in this Colony, is greatly indulged, even where the estate or the owner is much embarrassed. The attorney may indeed often find his account with the proprietor or mortgagee in lessening the quantum of supplies, to show his economical management; and Lord Bathurst is aware, that in this Island the supplies have a preference over mortgage debts and interest. If, however, the estate is unincumbered, the manager obtains all that he can, and sometimes more than he ought, from the attorney, if the latter is a merchant supplying the estate.

The "ordonnance" of General Picton requires $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of salt cod fish to be given to the slaves weekly. On all large estates, this is, to the best of my know-

ledge,

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Amelioration of
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ledge, obeyed; that is, 3 lbs. are generally given, and a half of Saturday to work their grounds; but the smaller French and Spanish estates prefer giving the whole Saturday to the negro, instead of the salt fish, and as the industrious negro can easily earn two dollars in making a basket of charcoal, he prefers it.

It however is liable to great abuse, and by giving the slave two days to himself in succession, they are often spent in idleness and debauchery. To rob his neighbour is therefore his only resource for subsistence for the following week. The negroes on sugar estates generally receive rum in the wet season and sugar in the dry, and a suit of clothes at Christmas. Where the land is good, it is the fault of the slaves if they have not extensive gardens. It is however acknowledged, that one of the most important duties of a planter, is to see that the negroes really work in their grounds at the times given to them for the purpose. The laborious negro spends his Sunday there, and easily realizes large sums for his industry.

The situation of estates, the soil, the length of time that has elapsed since the establishment of the estate, the mode in which the slaves were acquired, unite in forming good or bad gangs of negroes.

With the work of an estate well regulated, the negro houses well placed, the land affording good garden grounds, the proprietor at his ease, and the negroes established for a number of years, discontent seldom prevails; but where the reverse of these dispositions and advantages exists, and in the settlement of a new estate, the most indefatigable and humane manager, the most liberal proprietor would fail in showing a superior gang.

Of those estates that have been more immediately visited by me, as taken in execution for debts to the crown, not one of them would ever make a creditable appearance upon inspection, although they have not wanted any due allowances or proper indulgence, and that their superintendent is a very humane and intelligent planter. They have been formed of bad negroes purchased in other Islands, and thrown together without the common tie of having been shipmates at sea, or otherwise previously known to each other, and the situation of the estates is very unhealthy.

The comforts of the slaves depend upon themselves and their own industry, and their health, upon their own imprudences, or the quantum of work they are required to perform.

They can if they chuse, with very little trouble, amass much beyond the wants of the utmost ambition or profligacy, but the idle and drunken (of which there are many) will always be in poverty and in rags.

I have frequently known cases of negroes preferring to continue slaves, than with ample means to purchase their freedom, or even to accept it. With a humane owner the negro is most happy, and as a slave, and when sick, he always shares the fare of the owner's table.

The only mode I can suggest to further his lordship's benevolent views is, to re-establish the commissaries of population, as they were intended by Governor Chacon. Although no records exist of those required by their instructions, nor can I ascertain that they ever were carried into effect, I think they might be rendered useful for such a purpose as is proposed: and by blending it with agricultural improvements, (which are very much wanted, and worthy of the encouragement of His Majesty's Government,) the inspection and report of this officer would be more agreeable to the feelings of the planter, who would perceive in his superintending control and observation, that the prosperity of his estate was viewed by the Government, in combination with the happiness and comforts of his slaves. The rewards might, in such case, be given to the resident proprietor conducting his own estate, or the manager, for the best conducted estate in each division, and that will always include a healthy, well-disciplined and industrious gang of negroes. It would be necessary to extend the number of divisions of the Colony to about six, instead of three, as pointed out by the instructions.

I presume his lordship intends that this encouragement should apply only to sugar estates; for as the work on these, and on cocoa settlements, bears not any fair proportion, they would not admit of comparison.

Nothing can contribute more to the improvement of the negroes than the custom of evening prayers: it renders them submissive, orderly, and devout. The Spaniards invariably attend to this, and their negroes are much more obedient and well ordered than others. On the French estate, the Sunday evening is rarely passed over without prayers; but on the English it is seldom if ever observed. The prayers consist of the Lord's Prayer, Belief, Litany, and one for their master and themselves. It offers none of the objections of religious instruction and preaching

ing to negroes, which only teaches them to reason ill, and upon matters far beyond their comprehension. But upon English estates, the proprietor, if present, is often of a different religion; if absent, the manager (who is too often the only person known on the estate,) is not always of a character to be impressed with the importance of the custom.

The greatest benefit his lordship could confer on the negroes, would be to abolish night-work upon all estates, as I have stated in my report, No. 251: but this could not be done without some considerable indemnification to the proprietor, who is now quite unable to part with any proportion of his crop, so great is his debt, from the ruinous prices of his supplies for many years past, and the low prices that his produce at the same time sold for: but such an indemnification might be found in removing the present restrictions upon the sales and shipment of colonial produce; restrictions that were wise and beneficial when they were enacted, but are no longer necessary for the purpose of creating a mercantile navy. By throwing open the market for the shipment of produce, as well as for the importation of supplies, the government would soonest make the slaves happy by rendering the proprietors rich; and speculation in slaves being at an end, no harm would result. The British market would always obtain sugar in sufficient quantity to meet the demand, and the planter would have the best chance of obtaining the real value of the article that he had raised.

Any means that could be devised to induce the residence of a proprietor on an estate would tend, I conceive, to the improvement of the condition of the negroes, by keeping them under the personal observation of the person most interested in their preservation, and for whom they naturally feel the greatest attachment.

I shall be happy if this information is acceptable to Lord Bathurst, and beg you will believe me to be,

Henry Goulburn, esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) *Ralph Woodford.*

Copy of Letter from Henry Goulburn, Esq. to Sir Ralph Woodford.

SIR,

Downing-street, 1st Dec. 1817.

I TOOK an early opportunity of laying before Lord Bathurst, your letter of the 3d August, and his lordship has directed me to express to you the satisfaction which he derived from the full information which you had conveyed to him on the subject to which I had drawn your attention in my letter of the 22d May.

Lord Bathurst is perfectly ready to admit that there appear to be many obstacles to carrying to its full extent the idea which he had entertained of conferring rewards upon owners or managers of estates, according to the state of the slaves under their care; but he nevertheless considers, that though it may not be either practicable or just, for the reasons which you have stated, to make the mere condition of the slaves the criterion of the manager's merits, yet that much may be done by a system of rewards properly administered to ensure an increased degree of attention to the treatment and comfort of the negroes. His lordship entirely concurs with you, that it would be advisable to combine the object of agricultural improvement with that which he had more directly in view. Indeed he sees no objection, (if by that means a more favourable result might be expected) to making the cultivation of the estate the more direct, and the improved condition of the slaves the incidental object of the rewards to be distributed. For Lord Bathurst is perfectly aware that in many instances, the slaves have derived the greatest benefits from arrangements made merely with a view to improve the cultivation of the property on which they were employed. The steam engine, for instance, which has been latterly substituted on many estates for the cattle mill, has had the effect, if not of altogether abolishing the night-work so destructive to the health of the slave, of limiting to a very short period the season during which it was required; and your own experience will no doubt suggest to you many other instances of a similar advantage resulting from similar causes: with a view to carry these objects into effect, it does not appear to Lord Bathurst necessary to renew the powers given to the commissaries of population by Governor Charon. In the present state of Trinidad, it is scarcely to be expected that any set of men could be found adequate to the faithful performance of the

Correspondence.

Trinidad.

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Correspondence.

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laborious duties enjoined by those instructions; nor, if such were found, can they be expected to undertake them without a much larger degree of remuneration, than the means of the colonial government could under present circumstances afford. The mode therefore which Lord Bathurst would consider preferable in the first instance, would be to give a public and general intimation of the qualifications which should entitle the manager of estates to receive rewards, and to have the claims of the candidates investigated, either by yourself upon written certificates, or affidavits of the truth of the statements made in support of them, or by any reference which you might think it expedient to make to the local authority nearest to the estate of the claimant.

The qualifications for receiving a premium will be in a great degree to be suggested by yourself. I have explained the principle upon which Lord Bathurst thinks you should proceed, and he knows too well the interest which you take in the improvement of the Colony, and especially the condition of the slave population, to doubt the propriety of your suggestions. The increase of births among the negroes, the abolition of night-work, the introduction of mechanical improvements, which may otherwise diminish labour; the regular instruction of the negroes, or the practice which you so justly applaud of evening prayers, are all objects which might be the subject of reward. It will of course be necessary that the candidates should be classed, and that there should be as many classes as there are different modes of cultivation; so that in no case should a sugar estate be brought into comparison with a cotton, coffee, or cocoa plantation, or these with any but those of their own class.

Lord Bathurst is of opinion that the reward should be purely an honorary one. Medals of different values, according to the different degrees of merit, appear to him to be the best, being those which have been found to answer in this country, and being less expensive than any others which might be suggested: nor does his lordship think that more than three for each class will be required.

The mode of deciding the claims of the candidates remains for your consideration. All that is necessary on this head is, that the facts adduced should be satisfactorily ascertained, and you will be the best judge how this is to be effected.

I do not believe that it will be necessary for me now to trouble you with more than this outline of Lord Bathurst's views on this subject. As soon as you have given the subject the benefit of your consideration, it would be most satisfactory to his lordship, if you could, previous to promulgating it in the Colony, transmit a more finished sketch of the measure which you may deem it most advisable to adopt, the details of which can only be satisfactorily arranged in the Island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) *Henry Goulburn.*

BERBICE.

7.—INTERRUPTION OF DIVINE PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Copy of a Letter from Earl Bathurst to Lieutenant Gov. Bentinck.

SIR,

Downing-street, 11th January 1817.

IT is with much regret that I am to call your attention to the document enclosed, which contains a representation of the present state of Berbice most discreditable to the Colony, and in many parts reflecting severely upon the administration of its government. With respect to that part of it which relates to the altered manner in which the Crown estates have been managed since their restoration to the Berbice Society, I have thought it my duty to make a communication to his Excellency Baron Fagel, the ambassador of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands; but with respect to those parts which relate to the treatment of negroes, and the interruption which would appear from that statement to be given to the celebration of religious worship and the progress of instruction, I have to call upon you for an explicit explanation and report, in order that, if the fact shall in any degree correspond with the statement, measures may be taken for securing the freedom of religious worship, and for guarding the negroes against the arbitrary and oppressive measures which appear to have been adopted with respect to them. You will of course

course see the necessity of explaining at the same time the reasons which induced you, when applied to in the case of one of these negroes, who appears to have been improperly imprisoned, to decline any interference.

Lieut. Gov. Bentinck.

I have, &c.

Bathurst.

Correspondence.

—
Berbice.

—
Interruption of
Divine
Public Worship.

MEMORANDUM.

YOU will of course expect to hear that great changes are making in the Crown estates. Religious instruction has already been done away with, without the least ceremony or inquiry. The Missionary is prevented from going to Sandvoord, and the negroes from coming to town, and I hear that the chapel at Dankbaarheid is to be converted into a manager's house, and the school-room for a coffee logie. Some of the negroes are very much affected. We have reason to believe, that a complete revolution will very soon be made, and not a vestige of what has been done be left behind, except the plantain walks, and that all the benefit which the negroes will obtain, is that of having for a few years plantains.

If these should be given up, the Missionaries must of course return to England, as they cannot expect to be supported here. Indeed they meet with no encouragement to remain, except from the Crown estates. Neither white nor coloured people seem to care any thing about the Gospel, and the poor negroes appear to be afraid to come, or prevented by those over them, or the necessity of working for themselves on Sundays. I do not know what will become of this Colony, the people seem to grow in depravity and wickedness every day; the missionaries will be obliged to give up having worship in the evening. The guard has made the negroes afraid to come, and the white people behave in so infamous a manner, that we cannot worship in peace; and make use of such indecent and blasphemous language, that I should be ashamed to mention it. Last Sunday night, one of them wanted the drum to be beat to disturb us, which is often the case, but the man would not beat it, in consequence of which he damned the parson and his God. The Sunday night before, several came and attempted to throw a piece of wood in, among whom was, I hear, Dr. McLean and his partner, but they were prevented. Mr. Scott complained to the Governor, of the conduct of the guard in taking up the Winkell as they went from chapel; and his Excellency gave orders that they were to pass unmolested till half past eight; but two white men who were not on guard, took care shortly after to meet them, and break a stick over them, and bring them back to the guard, and declared some of them had not passes. A night or two after, a negro named George was taken up as he was going home, notwithstanding he had a pass; also at the same time a negro, who was beat by one of them with his gun; Tom, belonging to government house, whose pass was so arbitrarily taken from him, and who was put in gaol all night, has not been able to get one, (July 3d.) the civil Commissary has not had time to write one. He was about two weeks before he could get the other. A few days after this, George was taken up again between eight and nine o'clock, as he was going from his work with as proper a pass as could be written, and the moon shining as bright as possible; the guard, with Peter Grant at their head, took him and lodged him in gaol, upbraiding him with learning to read, and telling him that the Winkells were spoiling all the negroes in the Colony. He was imprisoned, and had his feet made fast in the stocks, among chained negroes, against all law, order, and justice. Mr. S. properly wrote to the Governor to request his interference, but he took no notice of it. Mr. S. then applied to Dr. Beresford, one of the principal officers, but after all, has been obliged to release him by paying the fine. What the Governor's motive could be in not answering Mr. S. or not taking notice of such a flagrant abuse of all law and justice, I am not able to say, except that he thought that all the property would be given up to the Dutch in three days, as he had ordered, and then they would give him no trouble; George is one of the most civil inoffensive young men in the Colony, as all know who are acquainted with him. He took up poor Tom and Gabriel a short time ago, in the same illegal manner, and tore their passes up.

Correspondence.

Berbice.

Interruption of
Divine
Public Worship.Copy of a Letter from Governor Bentinck to the Earl Bathurst ; with two
Enclosures.

MY LORD,

King's House, Berbice, May 26th, 1817.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's dispatch 11th January last, enclosing a document, said to contain a representation of the present state of Berbice.

Suspecting the source of this representation, and viewing its obvious tendency, I inquired of Mr. Wray, whether he knew any thing of the matter, and he confessed to me that the said memorandum had been framed by others, partly from letters written by him to Messrs. Macaulay and Walker; the former, secretary, and the latter, agent of the commission of Crown estates here; and partly from other letters; "as to the writer of which, Mr. Wray had nothing to say."

I pursued my inquiries of this gentleman, and endeavoured to obtain as much of his knowledge as I could, in order, if possible, to detect and punish the aggressors.

Having minuted the information, I referred it to the individuals respectively named; and their answers having come in, I have directed the fiscal to inquire further, and furnish me with his report and consideration on the subject.

I enclose provisionally a copy of my letter to his honour, also the reply; and I hope by the next packet to be enabled to furnish your lordship with the desired report.

I need not dwell on the temper and colour of this document of Messrs. Wray and others, manufactured, as it will appear, in England, as your lordship will, I am assured, do me the justice to believe, that had I been duly informed of any irregularities, I should have exerted my power to prevent their recurrence; but if Mr. Wray will confide all these to his own knowledge, and vent his imagination secretly to Messrs. Macaulay and Walker, or as it would appear, give imperfect accounts to the fiscal with earnest request to indulge the offenders

The case of the negro George, I find on reference to be briefly this: At the period of the insurrection in Barbadoes, it was feared that the influence of the misguided there, might extend itself to *this coast, which being continental* would not have been so easily, if at all, subdued.

It was therefore deemed prudent in the state of our population, that is, about 300 Europeans and 25,000 Africans, to be vigilant, and prevent any unseasonable intercourse, lest they should combine and endanger our safety.

Accordingly, a burgher guard mounted every night, made patrols through the town and the suburbs, with orders to arrest every slave found in the street after 8 o'clock at night, and place them in the custody of the under-sheriff, (gaoler) till the morning, when if nothing appeared against them, they were usually released on payment of gaol fees.

It was therefore incumbent on Mr. Wray as a good inhabitant, not to have placed his hours of instruction in opposition, but to have made them accord with the police of the town, more especially at a moment when the next night easily have laid us all in the dust; and if by detaining his hearers beyond the regulated hour at night, he caused their transgression of the rules laid down for the conservation of the Colony at that critical period, he has only himself to blame.

This was the case with George; he going from Mr. Wray's house to that of his wife, was found in the streets *an hour* after the time prescribed, with an inefficient pass, being one which might have been improperly applied; he was arrested and confined according to custom, and the next morning nothing appearing against him, he might have been released like others, on payment of the gaol fees (I believe 5s. 10d.) At the time this happened I was not in town. The agent Mr. Scott wrote to my secretary, who desired, as the conduct of the guard was impeached, a particular statement of all that had taken place, which he promised to present to me on my arrival in town. And Mr. Wray, *rather than* pay the expense attendant on the custody of George, (I cannot say with how much obstinacy and humanity,) suffered *the poor negro, whose transgression he appears to have been the cause of, to remain in gaol for two or three days.*

The whole will appear properly verified by the fiscal's report.

I have, &c.

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

(Signed)

H. W. Bentinck,

TREATMENT OF SLAVES IN THE COLONIES.

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(In Governor Bentinck's of 26th May 1817.)

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Berbice.

Interruption of
Divine
Public Worship.Enclosure,
No. 1.

SIR,

King's-house, Berbice, 22d May 1817.

I LAMENT exceedingly that the Earl Bathurst should find cause to address me, on the subject of the police of the Colony more immediately under your cognizance, and am still more concerned to find on investigation cause for complaint.

I transmit to you the information I have gathered, in consequence of his lordship's commands, and have to request your consideration, and report thereon, previous to my transmission of them by the present packet.

As a measure of prevention of the disgraceful proceedings developed, on my inquiry I must desire that you afford the assistance of the dienaars of justice to preserve order at Mr. Wray's chapel during public worship.

And further, that I may be well informed and enabled to provide for municipal regularity, I must require that you keep a journal of all matters daily occurring, and within the cognizance of your office, for my inspection.

I have, &c.

H. W. Bentinck.

His honour the Fiscal, Berbice.

(In Governor Bentinck's of 26th May 1817.)

Enclosure,
No. 2.

SIR,

Fiscal's Office, Berbice, 24 May 1817.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of the 22d instant, with the accompanying documents, which shall have my particular attention.

I shall forward your Excellency, with as little delay as possible, the required report; but I apprehend, from the length of the documents (96 pages) it will be impracticable for me for some days, to report on or to make the inquiries which probably may be requisite to enable me to give your Excellency the information you expect; and the more so, as I was not in the Colony at the period alluded to in the major part of the complaints laid by Mr. Wray.

I have, &c.

*M. S. Bennett, Fiscal.*To his Excellency
Lieut. Gov. Bentinck.

Copy of a Letter from Earl Bathurst to Lieutenant Governor Bentinck.

SIR,

Downing-street, September 6th, 1817.

I HAVE read, with great attention, the examinations which have taken place in consequence of the Memorandum which I transmitted to you in my dispatch, No. of the 11th January last; and it has given me great satisfaction to find, that the representations which were contained in that Memorandum are, generally speaking, either disproved, or shown to be exaggerated, or are capable of explanation.

You were no otherwise implicated in the allegations of that Memorandum, than by being exposed to an imputation of inattention in not interfering with your authority, had the instances of misconduct and oppression been as flagrant as they have been represented. Against the fiscal and his deputy the charges of neglect of duty are much more direct; and it is but doing them justice to say, that the result of the examination is a satisfactory vindication of their conduct.

From the time that the estates were given up to the company, Mr. Wray appears to have shown a decided hostility to its establishment; to have given a greedy attention to every complaint advanced against the managers; and, instead of adopting measures to procure redress, or ascertain the truth of the allegations, to have transmitted home very exaggerated statements, under the hope of creating here so unfavourable an impression of the company's conduct, as to lead to a restoration of the estates to the commissioners of the Crown.

He seems to have considered the end so desirable, that he did not think it necessary to be very scrupulous as to the means of accomplishing it. At the same time it must be admitted, that in the course of some of the transactions, he has had reason to complain, and that some of his statements are not without foundation.

He was not justified in stating that he was prohibited from giving religious instruction on the three estates. It appears, on the contrary, that he was expressly desired

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desired to do so, and the verbal message which conveyed a subsequent prohibition applied only to one of the three plantations, and came in so questionable a shape that he was not justified in acting upon it, even with regard to the only plantation to which it referred. But the contemptuous manner in which it is admitted that one of the messengers spoke of him, as a liar fit to be tarred and feathered (for Mr. Swaving does not deny that he intended to designate him in the general expressions he used on the occasion) might have given Mr. Wray reason to believe that he would not have been very cordially received on the estates. It must, however, be remembered, that these expressions were not publicly said until Mr. Wray had withheld his attendance, and could not therefore have occasioned his doing so.

Mr. Wray was justified in the assertion, that he had experienced frequent interruptions in the performance of Divine worship; but he was wholly unjustified in the blame he appears to have cast upon the fiscal and his deputy on this account. On the other hand, Dr. McLacklaine's vindication of himself was very indecorous and unmanly when addressed to a person of Mr. Wray's profession, as there is good reason to believe he was in company with the individual who made the disturbance, although he might not have been actively engaged in it. (It would have been more to his credit if he had made an apology for his want of consideration.)

I am happy to observe that the fiscal has taken measures to prevent the recurrence of similar outrages.

Although the guard was justified in taking up the man George, as he had not a proper pass, yet I cannot help observing that there has not appeared a sufficient degree of attention in explaining to Mr. Wray what is the form of the pass which would be considered as satisfactory, although he has repeatedly applied for it.

In the very last communication he is referred, in Mr. Bennett's letter, to the ordinance of the court of policy, as that which could furnish him with the requisite forms; but on looking at the ordinance which was transmitted home, I cannot say that it is so precise as to enable any one to make out such a pass as would secure the bearer against interruption; and as a proof of this, Mr. Bennett speaks of a lighted candle and lanthorn as one of the conditions, but it is one which is certainly not mentioned in the ordinance to which Mr. Bennett refers. It is not simply for the convenience of those to whom Mr. Wray may give passes, but for the general convenience of the inhabitants, that one regular form of pass should be established for negro night-walkers; otherwise there will always be much exaction and capricious arrests, of which I am assured Mr. Wray may have had at times reason to complain.

Lieut. Gov. Bentinck,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Bathurst.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Governor Bentinck to the Earl Bathurst;
with one Enclosure.

MY LORD,

King's House, Berbice, 23d June 1817.

WITH reference to my letter addressed to your lordship, bearing date 26th May last, relative to several complaints of the Reverend J. Wray, a duplicate of which is now enclosed, I have the honour to transmit the fiscal's report, which, I think on reading, will satisfy your lordship, that the reverend gentleman might have been more useful had he come direct to me with his information, instead of pursuing an indirect course, with a temper evidently desirous to make unfavourable impressions on your mind. I shall refrain from further observation on the conduct of this man, trusting in your lordship's justice.

I have, &c.

The Right hon. the Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

H. W. Bentinck.

Enclosure,
No. 1.

(In Governor Bentinck's of 23d June 1817.)

SIR,

Fiscal's Office, 20th June 1817.

IT is with much concern I have perused your Excellency's letter of the 22d May, in which you state to lament exceedingly that Earl Bathurst should find cause to address you on the subject of the police of the Colony, more immediately under my cognizance, and still more concerned, on investigation, to find cause to complain.

With

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With respect to the first charge contained in his lordship's letter, and referred to him by his Excellency Baron Fagel, I am of opinion, that it is neither his lordship's command, nor your Excellency's desire, that I should inquire into; but with respect to those parts which relate to the treatment of negroes, and the interruption given to the celebration of religious worship at Mr. Wray's chapel, I deem it my duty to state,

That the statement of the reverend gentleman, complaining of interruption in the celebration of Divine worship, is certainly correct. Complaints have several times been made to me, without mention of the names of any particular persons; but I feel confident he will do me the justice to confess, that I have endeavoured to suppress this indecorous conduct in some young men, by seriously reprimanding, in his presence, the persons suspected. More effectual measures I could not adopt, as the charge rested merely on suspicion.

I feel pleasure in now assuring your Excellency, that the compliance with your order to place constables at Mr. Wray's chapel, for the purpose of preserving order during public worship, will for the future prevent a recurrence of the interruption complained of.

The farther complaint of Mr. Wray respects the detention of George, and the preventing negroes attending chapel at evening by the militia guard. The public safety required the mounting of this guard, and its first duty was to secure all negroes whom they found about the streets after gun-fire at evening. The detention of the negro George, as well as many other slaves found in the streets after the hour prescribed by law, proved their vigilance, and that they acquitted themselves of their duty. The release of this negro would have followed the application to the fiscal, had it been made; his detention for some days in the prison, is consequently to be imputed solely to the negligence of the person in whose employ this slave was; nothing unlawful appearing in this detention of the negro George, nor any endeavours used by any individual of the guard, or other person, to protract his detention after being placed in custody of the under-sheriff. I must conclude by stating, that in my opinion Mr. Wray in this instance had no cause of just complaint.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Governor Bentinck,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) *M. S. Bennett.*

SIR,

King's House, Berbice, 6th March 1817.

THE governor requests your attendance at the King's House this morning, about 12 o'clock.

I am, &c.

The Reverend J. Wray.

F. White, Gov. Sec.

MINUTES of CONVERSATION

Between His Excellency Lieut. Gov. Bentinck, and the Reverend J. Wray.—
Thursday, 6th Mar. 1817.

1. HAVE the goodness to read this paper, and state to me your knowledge or ignorance of the author, and the person to whom it was addressed?

1. I am the author as far as relates to the information, and addressed by me to Mr. Walker, Mr. Macaulay, or both. I'll endeavour to furnish the date. They are of different dates as mentioned below, and I think it necessary to say, that I believe there is other information besides mine.

2. Is the paper you have just read your own construction, or framed by others from your information?

2. I am of opinion that it is framed by others, from my own information, and other letters besides mine.

3. Please state how and in what manner religious instruction is done away with, without the least ceremony or inquiry?

3. I am not permitted to go on the late Crown estates, nor the negroes to come to town.

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4. Who refused you admission on the estates?

4. Soon after they were restored, Mr. Overeem, manager, sent word by a negro, that I was not to go on Sandvoord, and that if I wanted the negroes, they were not to be called as usual.

5. Did the agent refuse?

5. No; on my complaint he promised to inquire into the conduct of the manager and let me know.

6. Have you since heard from Mr. Staal the agent?

6. No.

7. Have you ever attempted to go on the estates since?

7. No; I waited Mr. Staal's answer.

8. How are the negroes prevented from coming to town?

8. The negroes say, Mr. Overeem refuses to give passes, unless they swear not to come to me. I informed Mr. Scott, but never requested him, to the best of my knowledge, to mention it to your Excellency, conceiving it was not a matter for your interference.

9. Who told you that the chapel at Dankbaarheid was converted into a manager's house, and the school-room at Sandvoorst into a coffee logie?

9. Hawkesworth told me that the chapel was to be altered into a manager's house; and Overeem told Mr. Meadowcroft, that the school would be, as it has since been, made a coffee logie.

10. Who are the negroes by name so very much affected?

10. James the driver on Sandvoord, and Louis, Augustinus, Rosetta, and the principal attendants.

11. State your reason for believing that a complete revolution will be made, and plantains only left for the negroes?

11. The yaws children are running about, and the lying-in-women, instead of being attended in the common room, remain in their own houses.

12. Why cannot the Missionaries expect to be supported?

12. Because we have had hitherto no support, except from the Crown estates.

13. What are the instances of neglect of gospel, the depravity and wickedness, to induce your general complaint against the whole Colony?

13. The negroes have been made to work at Dankbaarheid on Sunday, of which I informed the fiscal, and I believe it is now discontinued.

Disturbance of public worship in the evening, by thumping of sticks on the planks, breaking of windows, and I have complained two or three times to Mr. Bennett and once to Mr. Scott as fiscals; but the offender escaped detection.

14. Who were the disturbers and blasphemers?

14. I don't know, but they were white people; I mentioned the circumstance to the fiscal.

15. Did you ever bring the matter of disturbance you complain of to the Governor direct?

15. No, but I informed Mr. Scott.

16. Who were the two white men who seized and beat the negro mentioned in your complaint, and at what time?

16. Mr. Carruthers and some American captain, about eight o'clock P. M. of which I informed Mr. Scott.

17. What pass had George when he was taken up?

17. He had a pass from Mrs. Wray, for a certain period of time.

18. You say the civil commissary had not time to give passes?

18. So the negroes informed me.

19. What

19. What reason have you to say the Governor took no notice of Mr. Scott's complaint ?

20. Please state the particular circumstances relating to arrest of George, and your complaint.

21. Who furnishes the Winkel negroes with passes ?

22. You are aware of the circumstances which caused the town guard, and of the necessity, from the calamities that took place in Barbadoes ?

23. Are you averse to the negroes dancing, is it inconsistent with your notion of religious duty ?

24. Have you any complaint to make, tending to induce a belief that the Governor don't attend to your presentments of irregularities ?

Please revise the foregoing minutes, and if you have either to add or diminish, or alter, please do so quickly, and let me be justified.

What was the reason you suffered George to remain several days in the gaol ?

19. I asked Mr. Scott several times, and he said he had no answer, so I paid the gaol fees and got my negro.

20. George was coming out of my house between eight and nine P. M. going home with a pass from Mrs. Wray to the Colony negro houses ; the pass was for a certain time, not for that evening only. He was seized and lodged in the barracks. I complained to Mr. Scott, and he wrote to the Governor, but not receiving an answer, I paid the fees and released him.

20. Mr. Nicolay used, but lately they have wished me to do so from chapel home.

22. Oh, certainly ! no person could object to it, I only complained of the conduct of the guard.

23. I cannot look on any negro dancing, (I mean riotously,) as a member of my church.

24. The instance of George's arrest is the only complaint I have to make ; I know of no other.

I have revised the foregoing minutes, and it appears, with the addition and explanation I have attached in my own hand writing, to be correct and in substance.

In order that your Excellency might deliver him without fees, and convince the guard of the impropriety of the arrest.

(Signed) *John Wray.*

The Reverend J. WRAY.

ADDITIONS to his Answers in conversation with His Excellency Governor Bentinck.

August the 1st, 1816.—I went to Sandvoord in the evening to see Mr. Meadowcroft the overseer, who was ill, and found all my suspicions respecting instruction realized. A new manager had come to take over the estate ; his name is Overeem, and when looking over the buildings with Mr. Meadowcroft, on coming to the school-room, when told its use, he observed that it would be used for that no more. The manager told the driver he might come to bid me good night, but after he had been with me two or three minutes in Mr. M's room, he sent for him, and asking him if I wanted the people as usual, and if I did, he was to tell me that Mr. Swaving had given orders that they were to come to church no more. The driver also said, that Mr. Swaving had told him the same. Mr. Meadowcroft confirmed all this. Mr. Swaving never made the least inquiry of me, nor I believe of Mr. Scott, what the negroes were taught, though I was in his company two or three days when the estates were given over.

September 6th.—In consequence of a letter which Mr. Scott received from Mr. Staal, in answer to one he wrote to him respecting me, I went, by the advice of Mr. Scott, to Mr. Staal, on the 29th of August, to converse with him on the subject. We were together I dare say two hours. He asked me several questions about Mr. Wilberforce and the Methodists ; and also about the African Institution, and if they

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they sent any missionaries out. He said he was not authorised to pay a part of the expense of the house in town, as there was a church at Dankbaarheid; I then told him that I understood from Mr. Hawkesworth the manager, who told me in our own house, that it was to be turned into a manager's house, &c. The manager mentioned the same to Mrs. Wray and myself, which she said she had from him. I also mentioned the conduct of the Sandvoord manager to him when I was on the estate, and that he told the negroes they were not to come nor to have passes. Mr. Staal said the managers had no right to say so, and that he would inquire into their conduct. He wished to put off any final arrangement till he heard from Holland, which he expected to do every day, as the society had not mentioned what the negroes were to be taught. I told him I supposed the same as before, and expressed a wish to go on the estates, lest the negroes should forget what they had learned. He said it would be best to go on as usual, and that he would see Mr. Swaving on the subject, and inquire into the conduct of the manager and write me the next day or the day after. Mr. Swaving came in at the time our conversation ended, but nothing was said on the subject. Mr. Staal did not seem to wish it. I have never heard a word from them to the present moment; at the time the estates were given over they promised to call in a day or two, but I have never seen them except when passing.

(September 6th,) Since this I have received information that the Sandvoord manager has taken all the children's books from them, and also from the driver and others. They are much distressed on this account; this has since been abundantly confirmed. This is *their way* of putting the wishes of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent and the Houses of Parliament into execution, in promoting moral and religious instruction among the negroes, which his Excellency the Governor proclaimed last week. I have again heard not only from the negroes, but also from white people, that several white people, among whom was Mr. Swaving, that when they were going up the creek as fishing, they on Sandvoord broke up some of the planks on which the reading lessons are pasted, according to Lancaster's plan. One of the managers mentioned this in town in the hearing of the person who told me, a gentleman on whose veracity I can depend; a second heard it in a party up the river from some of the people who were there at the time, they even mentioned the words written on the planks; these two gentlemen do not know each other, and mentioned it at different times. Many of the negroes mentioned the same circumstances, and said they were shocked to see the buckras breaking up God's words. Thus related and confirmed by different people of different colours, and neither seeing or hearing from Mr. Staal or Mr. Swaving as they promised, not to say any thing of the various reports I hear from time to time, I had every reason to expect that every thing was doing to banish religious instruction from the estates; and I believe the reason why it is not done openly and by writing is, because they had received instruction from the Berbice Society to continue my labours, and probably in the end would have blamed the negroes. I could not impute their resolution to his Excellency the Governor, as I never had an idea that he could interfere with private property. His Royal Highness's instructions say, "provided such assembly takes place with the permission of the overseer, attorney or manager of the estate on which such assembly takes place." I may mention the following circumstance as a proof of the above statement. One of the negroes, when he was called upon to part from his book, the manager on Sandvoord, said, "that the books had made the negroes in Barbadoes rise upon their masters to cut their throats, and take the country from them, and that books were going to be taken from the negroes every where." I am sure, however cunning we may suppose the negroes, they could not have made up such a tale as this if they had not heard it from him. I might also mention his conversation about Mr. Wilberforce as I did to Mr. Staal, whose name I will venture to say they never heard either from me, Mr. Walker, or Mr. Scott. His Excellency cannot be accountable for this.

No. 4.—Answered in No. 3.

No. 5.—Answered in No. 3.

No. 6.—Answered in No. 3.

No. 7.—I have not attempted to go on the estates, for the several reasons specified in No. 3; but I will mention another, viz. that I have received information from different quarters, in which I am certain that there was no previous concert; that Mr. Swaving said, if he caught me on any of his estates he would tar and feather me, or
horsewhip

horsewhip me by the way ; this is no negro information, and I thought it better to remain quietly in town till I heard from England. The negroes say, that the manager will not give them passes on a Sunday to come to town, except they will swear not to come to the parson. I know they would come if they were permitted ;—I refer here particularly to Sandvoord, as they were the most attentive, and had made the greatest progress.

No. 9.—Answered in No. 3. “ This has since been made a coffee logic.”

No. 10.—Not all the negroes on Sandvoord attended ; but those who did attend are greatly affected, especially the baptised negroes, and the candidates for baptism on all the properties.

No. 11.—After religion and morality were done away, which was the first and greatest revolution, we naturally expected that every thing would be changed very soon after the estates were given over. There is no doubt but the lying-in room on Sandvoord was turned into a corn depository, and the yaws house into negro houses for the manager's negroes ; it is to be observed that this house was just finished ; it was originally a back. The nurse has not been used. The sick house was made a complete prison of ; they were locked up, and not permitted even to go to a place of convenience, which Mr. Walker put up at the end of the gallery ; some of them would rather die than go in. The wife of the sick nurse had been poorly a whole week, but rather than go in went to the field and fell down sick. Another woman, a weakly subject, went into the sick house, but the overseer, while the manager and Mr. Swaving were up the creek, drove her out, in consequence of which she ran away in the latter end of October ; two or three negroes came into my yard in search of her ; she was afterwards found and put in chains and locked up in the sick house, but by some means or other got out in the night and came to town to the fiscal with her chain on. She was in my yard by day-light. I believe his honour sent her back, and the chain was taken off ; but in a few days she was taken up to Mr. Swaving's with the chain in the boat, which the manager said he would put on her. I believe she is there yet, but whether in the chain or in the stocks I do not know, or she might have been brought to the estate within the last few days ; the negroes of course do not know but his honour ordered it, and they are greatly distressed on this account. The lying-in hospital on Dankbaarhied was principally deserted ; I am told for want of comforts and attention, some of the children died of the locked jaw. Sunday work was established, particularly on Dankbaarhied, cutting canes and cording grass for several Sundays ; of this I spoke to his honour the acting fiscal, though not in an official manner. This I mentioned to a white person or two, which I believe had a good effect, for I have reason to believe it was done away with as far as it respects field-work. They were formerly allowed some time to work in their own grounds exclusive of the Sabbath, but there is no doubt this has been done away.

The whip has also been restored, particularly on Sandvoord ; a very inoffensive woman, apparently indeed very simple, came to me dreadfully cut up, after which flogging she had been confined in the stocks for about a fortnight, I suppose to prevent her coming to the fiscal's. I am told that he mentioned in town, with considerable *glee*, that he gave her a Dutch 39. Some of the circumstances I have learned from whites, and some from blacks, but all confirming in such a manner that I believe them to be true. It seems this woman was punished for something which took place when he was absent. He said in town it was for impertinence to his wife. She is a field negro. The negroes say that he gave her upwards of 100 ; and there is no reason to doubt but that she was pregnant at the time.

No. 12.—The missionary has hitherto received no support except from the crown, but, on the contrary, has met with opposition, as far as it could be shown, and means used to get him out of the Colony ; but I cannot blame his Excellency for this.

No. 13.—A general neglect of public worship, stores open, and axes and hammers going on every hand on the Sunday. The general sin of fornication, and, indeed, the total neglect of the Lord's day—all crying sins.—Negroes, no doubt, in town, carpenters, &c. are paid ; but it is an awful thing to a pious mind to see this from Sabbath to Sabbath—no doubt, in consequence of the stores being open on the Sabbath, many young men are prevented from attending public worship, and also many negroes. I might mention the market on a Sabbath, which must prevent buyers and sellers from coming to a place of worship ; the ridicule which is often made of religion ; whites so frequently disturbing our worship, in

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breaking our windows in the night, thumping the boards in time of worship with their sticks, and one night beating my servant, who went to invite them to come in, so that I was obliged to go out of my pulpit. I have complained three or four times to the fiscal, but for want of White evidence they could not be detected. Letters have been left in our chapel with the following language, "I hate negro parsons, I am your humble servant, the Devil." Several letters have been written in my name to respectable individuals.—When we were on Sandvoord, managers meeting together, drinking and revelling in the view of the negroes—surrounding our house in the middle of the night—upbraiding the negroes about religion—addressing Mrs. Wray in the most filthy and indecent language; and in such parties a magistrate appeared.—The time the militia were keeping guard, they manifested the most licentious conduct—drumming and singing in time of public worship, and, in consequence of our house being just opposite, we were sometimes dreadfully disturbed by them. It is not that I disapprove of the guard, but of the conduct of the people, and not merely of the militia, but of others that were with them; which was in my opinion more calculated to enrage the negroes than keep them in peace. I certainly did not apply to his Excellency respecting the conduct of the guard, as it was in a house set apart for that purpose, and I did not conceive I had any right to interfere with respect to disturbing public worship both here and in Demerary.—I attribute it in a great measure to the pamphlets of Mr. Marryat and others, and an inflammatory address against the methodists and other missionaries, subjects which they do not understand. I believe it was entirely in consequence of this that Mr. Tabbay's chapel in Demerary was broken open, and his house surrounded and his life threatened. In fact, some men went into Mr. Davies' chapel, and declared, that they neither cared for the Governor nor the fiscal, and we need not wonder that such inflammatory falsehoods about missionaries will have this effect on men who are unacquainted with their principles and motives, and will not be at the trouble to learn them.

No. 14.—I do not know them, but they were White people.

No. 15.—Answered in No. 13.

No. 16.—Mr. Craddees, a carpenter, and an American captain of the brig Hannah; this took place a little after eight, but within the given time of his Excellency, viz. half past eight, I went and proved they had passes, or they would have been put in the guard-house. I did not make any complaint except to Mr. Scott, under whose direction the negroes were.

No. 17.—George had a proper pass written by Mrs. Wray, I believe dated 27 June, for one month, to go from our house to the Colony negro houses.—It was a very moonlight night—another pass, written large, on purpose to give no trouble. He was taken up as he crossed from the gate to the public road—I believe it was July the 8th.—I applied to Mr. Scott the next morning, who told me he wrote to his Excellency.—George was some days in the gaol, but, as no answer was returned, he was released by paying the fees.

No. 18.—Three printed passes were taken from them by the guard and torn up; for some evenings Tom did not come as usual—he said since his pass had been taken away he had applied for another, but the commissary had not time to give him another—indeed they were afraid to come with one after this.

No. 19.—I inquired of Mr. Scott several times, and he said he had no answer; so the gaol fees were paid, and the mulatto young man George released.

No. 20.—Answered in No. 17.

No. 21.—Mr. Nicolay used to do it, but lately they have requested that I should do it, which I have done for some time from my house to the negro houses.—This gives the commissary no trouble.

No. 22.—I certainly could have no objection to the guard, but to their conduct.

No. 23.—Numbers of Christians disapprove of all dancing; and I believe it is generally disapproved of by the Moravians, Methodists, and other missionaries and ministers: and I cannot admit a person to baptism, or as a candidate for baptism or the Lord's supper, till he can renounce the pomps and vanity of the world, which he professes to do in baptism. Many riotings, quarrellings, &c. arise from dancing, particularly among negroes. I think there can be no controversy respecting the sin of dancing on the Sunday in any way.

No. 24. The instance of George is the only complaint I have to make. I think it due to his Excellency to state, that he has never interfered with my ministerial office, to my knowledge; and four or five of his Excellency's people attend regularly

larly when free from their work. On application, his Excellency gave orders that the negroes who attended chapel should be permitted to pass till half after eight: his Excellency was also pleased to become the patron of the Berbice Auxiliary Bible Society.

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DEAR SIR,

King's House, Berbice, 6th March 1817.

I SEND minutes of a conversation between his Excellency and yourself; please to complete, sign, and return the same as early as possible.

The Rev. J. Wray.

I am, &c.
(Signed) *F. White.*

DEAR SIR,

I CONCEIVE the answer given in the paper I have had the honour to receive from you respecting the different questions put to me, are not sufficient to explain my meaning; and if you would be kind enough to permit me to keep the paper till tomorrow, I will answer them in a way more satisfactory to myself, and I hope, also, with greater satisfaction to his Excellency the Governor.

I am your obedient humble servant,
John Wray.

DEAR SIR,

IT is with the intent that you should explain, in the fullest manner, that the papers were sent to you, and in order to enable his Excellency to report explicitly.

6 Mar. 1817.

I am, &c.
F. White, Gov. Sec.

DEAR SIR,

I HOPE the papers I have drawn up will meet with his Excellency's approbation: if he wishes any change, I shall be happy to do it, as far as my conscience will approve; and if his Excellency has any other question to put to me, I shall be happy to answer them as far as in my power.

I hope his Excellency will consider that it is my bounden duty to communicate every particular of my mission to the agent and secretary for the Crown property: they wish to know the improvement we make; and we certainly feel very anxious respecting what may befall them in future; we have nothing in view but the temporal and spiritual benefit of the negroes, and all that we require is, that we may go on unmolested: if the inhabitants can prove that we are doing that which will be injurious to the Colony, let them do it in a legal, and not in a _____ manner.

I intend to go down to Demarary with my family for a few days; should his Excellency wish me to answer any other questions, I hope to receive them from you.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient humble servant,

N. Amsterdam, 7th March 1817.

John Wray.

DEAR SIR,

New Amsterdam, March 8th, 1817.

AFTER what has passed respecting my servant being taken up, notwithstanding he had a proper pass, I think it right to say, that Mrs. Wray expected to be confined every hour, and was very much distressed, as it was not safe to send a servant to call a doctor; she mentioned the circumstance to Dr. Beresford, who very much expressed his disapprobation of their conduct, for had George gone to the Doctor's that evening, it would have been the same. After her delivery of twins, which was a few days after George was taken up, she was very poorly and the babies very weak.

Dr. Beresford said it would be very improper in their state, for the drums to be beat in the evening as usual, and the muskets to be discharged at five o'clock in the morning, just opposite her bed-room windows. Dr. Beresford very kindly offered to speak to the captain for the week. The next night, (Sunday 14th July,) the free mulatto man who beats the drum, came over and said he understood the reason of our not having preaching, was in consequence of the weakness of Mrs. Wray and the

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the infants, and that Mr. Fischer had ordered him to beat the drum as usual, but that if I sent over to him, he perhaps would dispense with it. I sent my compliments to Mr. Fischer to request him not to do it on account of Mrs. Wray's indisposition, but his message was, that he did not receive orders from me but from Mr. Bone, an answer which I am sure his Excellency would not have sent; you will easily conceive what annoyance their conduct must have been at this time, and it shows how little feeling they had. I will thank you to communicate this to his Excellency. George is a mulatto, not a negro.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient humble servant,
John Wray.

DEAR SIR,

King's House, 12th March 1817.

YOU say, on revising the minute of your conversation with his Excellency, that you believe there is other information besides yours; will you have the goodness to state the nature of the information which comes from others, and whether you can point out the author.

I am, &c.

The Rev. J. Wray.

F. White, Gov. Sec.

DEAR SIR,

12th March 1817.

ON reading over the letter a second time, it struck me that the former part of it was not my language, but at the same time it may have been formed from my information. As for any other person or author, I have nothing to say.

I am, Dear Sir,

F. White, esq. Gov. Sec.

Your very humble servant,
John Wray.

DEAR SIR,

I THANK you for the trouble you have taken in writing to the Governor; several of the Winkels have already passes, and all of course can obtain them if they apply to Mr. Nicolay; but several of the people attached to the Governor, are in the habit of attending, and I understand some of them applied for passes, and were refused by the commissary; if this be correct, they of course will be prevented from attending; this will also no doubt be the case with many of the town people whose masters do not interfere with their coming, but probably would not be at the trouble of giving passes; we must, however, make the best of it. I will try to begin at six o'clock. I hope you are well this morning.

June 2d, 1816.

I am yours truly,

J. Wray.

DEAR SIR,

Berbice, 2d June 1816.

THE Winkel negroes have for a long time been in the habit of attending Mr Wray's chapel on Sunday evening, and I have always taken care to see that they return quietly and orderly to their houses immediately after service is over, which is generally about eight or half-past eight o'clock. I should now not like to see them caught up and carried to the barracks by the guard, which I understand is established in town; on their coming out of the chapel therefore, you will oblige me, by letting me know whether I am to consider them as prohibited from attending the chapel, that I may inform them of it. Your early answer to regulate my conduct to-day, will oblige.

I remain, respectfully, Dear Sir,

F. White, esq. Gov. Sec.

Your obedient servant,

William Scott.

DEAR SIR,

King's House, 2d June 1816.

HIS Excellency considers Mr. Wray should make his hours of meeting accord with the general police of the town; but if that be found impracticable, any slave provided with a lanthorn and pass agreeable to law may return from chapel at any hour.

I am, Dear Sir,

Wm. Scott, esq.

Your's faithfully,

F. White.

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DEAR SIR,

I FIND the guard established in New Amsterdam have determined not to allow any negro to pass the streets at night, unless provided with a pass made out according to a form they have fixed on; and knowing there is no regular form ordered by the court of policy, I have to request that you will, as commanding officer in town, inform me what the form is.

Dr. Beresford.

I remain, Dear Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Wm. Scott.

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DEAR SIR,

I HAVE just received your letter, and in reply beg leave to observe that I am quite ignorant of any peculiar form which is required by the town guard with regard to the pass with which a negro ought to be furnished who travels after eight o'clock at night. I have understood from the commencement of the guard in town, that the old custom was to be kept in view, viz. that each negro who was obliged to travel after the above hours should be provided with a pass and lanthorn, but further I cannot answer, as my business is merely to receive the officer's reports and transmit them to the major.

Wm. Scott, esq.

I remain, Dear Sir,
Your obedient servant,

John Beresford.

SIR,

I HAVE just learnt that one of the Winkel negroes was taken up last night by the patrole which was under your orders. If so, you will oblige me by letting me know whether the negro had a pass or not, for if he had, I must apply to the Governor to know whether it be necessary for me to make application to the patrole every night for the form of a pass, there being none, I believe, fixed by the court of policy.

P. Grant, esq.

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Wm. Scott.

SIR,

THERE were two negroes taken up last night after eight o'clock by the guard under my orders; the one had a pass for one month, the other a perpetual one.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Peter Grant.

Wm. Scott, esq.

DEAR SIR,

New Amsterdam, Berbice, 23d June 1816.

I AM sorry to be under the necessity of again addressing you on the subject of the unnecessary interruption the crown negroes meet with in going to and from Mr. Wray's chapel in the evening.

In a letter of yours to me on this subject, you mention that the Governor wished Mr. Wray to adopt his hours of preaching as much as possible to the general regulation of the police of the town, and that if the negroes were provided with passes they should meet with no hinderance. I have now to state to you, for the information of his Excellency, that Mr. Wray never continues the evening service after eight o'clock, and that all the Winkel negroes are regularly provided with passes, notwithstanding which, the patrole stops them at the chapel door every evening, and they are frequently sent to the barracks, where I have to pay two dollars to get each of them released, because, forsooth, the passes are not made out in such a form as the patrole thinks proper. If this course of proceeding is to be continued, I must in justice to my constituents prohibit the negroes from going to chapel in future until I receive their instructions to regulate my conduct under such circumstances, as I feel hurt at having to pay away their money in so unjust a manner.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Wm. Scott.

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DEAR SIR,
THE Governor will be in town to-morrow morning, in the mean time I think it would be useful to state the names of the negroes arrested, the time, and the sum you paid for their release, in order that his Excellency may inquire into the conduct of the burgher guard, and afford redress.

I am, Dear Sir, yours truly,

F. White.

King's-house, 23d June 1816.

POINTS of INQUIRY to be answered by *J. A. Dehnert*, gaoler.

- 1.—IN case negroes are found out in the streets after 8 o'clock by you or your dienaars, how do you proceed?
1.—They are taken to the gaol, agreeable to the instruction of the honourable Court of Policy, and reported the next morning to his Excellency the Governor and his honour the fiscal.
- 2.—In case of arrest, where do you secure them?
2.—In the stocks of the Colony gaol.
- 3.—Why do you secure them in that place?
3.—The same being customary, and contained in my instructions.
- 4.—By whose order are such negroes usually released?
4.—By order of his Excellency or the fiscal; but with respect to negroes merely taken at night, and no charge made against them, they are released on application to me: this by order of fiscal, as a convenience to the owners of such slaves.
- 5.—During the period that the burghers mounted guard in town, were there many negroes placed by them in your custody?
5.—Yes.
- 6.—How did you proceed with regard to the negroes they brought?
6.—When they have been confined for twenty-four hours in the stocks, and not applied for, they are put to work for the Colony, agreeable to the regulations.
- 7.—How long do such negroes, merely night-walkers, usually remain in custody?
7.—That is uncertain, as some owners of slaves so brought in gaol come sooner than others; in general they are released next morning.
- 8.—What fees are paid on release?
8.—When they are taken out the next morning, is 1 *st.* 10; if longer detained, 4 *st.* for putting them in chains, and eight stivers for their food the first twenty hours after detention.
- 9.—Did not the burgher guard, in the month of July last, lodge in your custody a negro named George in the service of Mr. Wray?
9.—Yes.
- 10.—What was the cause assigned, and how proved?
10.—By the burgher guard; he was brought to the gaol for being found on the public road at night; he was delivered into my custody next morning.
- 11.—When was application made to you for his discharge, and by whom?
11.—On the morning of the 11th of July last, by Mr. F. Nicolay.
- 12.—What passed on such application? state every circumstance.
12.—Nothing else than Mr. Nicolay took the said negro out and paid the expenses.
- 13.—At what time was he released? state the day and hour.
13.—He was released on the 11th in the morning, the hour I cannot say exactly.
- 14.—By whom, and the fees paid for same?
14.—By F. Nicolay; 6 *st.* 14. the fees paid. I did not confine the man in chains as he was a servant, and no charge alleged against him; the additional charge of 16 *st.* for two days food was therefore made, and no objection offered by Mr. Nicolay.
- 15.—Was

15.—Was any objection made?

15.—No.

16.—Was the fiscal's interference desired?

16.—I do not know, the fiscal never mentioned any thing to me about this negro.

17.—State every circumstance of George's case?

17.—I can give no further information than that the negro George was taken up by the guard on the night of the 7th July; that he was delivered to me next morning, and on the 11th delivered to Mr. Nicolay, at his very first and only application.

(Signed) *J. A. Dehnert,*

New Amsterdam, 7th March 1817.

Under Sheriff.

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To his Excellency Governor Bentinek, &c. &c.

SIR,

IN answer to the questions put to me by your Excellency respecting the apprehension of the negro George by the burgher guard under my command, I beg leave to state the following facts, in contradiction to Mr. Wray's unfair and false representation of the transaction:

The negro was taken up, but not by the guard with me at their head, but by the patrol that went round the town; he had a pass from Mrs. Wray, but from my orders I was obliged to detain him until morning. Your Excellency will be convinced that Mr. Wray's representation is unfounded, when I inform you that there was no stocks in the guard-house to put both his feet into as stated, nor had I an opportunity of upbraiding or ill-using him, were I inclined, as the officers' room is quite distinct from the guard-room, and I can assure your Excellency that no one of the guard ill-used him; on the contrary, he was allowed to sleep the whole night unmolested.

The correspondence that has appeared in the Berbice Gazette, I trust, will show your Excellency what degree of credit is to be attached to Mr. Wray's representation.

From the strictness that was deemed necessary to be shown towards the negroes at the time, I hope your Excellency will approve of my conduct; and should it be deemed necessary, I will procure the certificate of the gentlemen composing the guard on that night to substantiate what I have said.

I have, &c.

Peter Grant.

N. Amsterdam, Berbice, 12 Mar. 1817.

POINTS of INQUIRY to be answered by R. M^cKenzie, Civil Commissary.

1.—HOW long have you been in office?

1.—I have been three years acting as commissary to the civil department of government in this Colony.

2.—What are the general orders of your department relative to the attendance of the negroes at chapel for public worship?

2.—I never received orders either to direct the negroes attached to the civil department to attend the chapel, or to prohibit them from so doing. They were informed by my predecessor Mr. Scott, now agent for the crown property in this Colony, that Mr. Wray was sent here for the purpose of instructing them, and they were at liberty to please themselves.

3.—What have you observed with regard to such attendance, is it desired, frequent; and what is the negroes' observation, within your knowledge?

3.—I have gone frequently to chapel in company with Mr. Scott, who is a regular attendant, and have seen more of the negroes attached to my department there than any of the other people belonging to government, the Creoles under parson Wray's immediate direction excepted; yet I have observed that even these were such as had wives, or other connection among parson Wray's domestics; the other negroes upon the whole appeared perfectly indifferent about attending the chapel, more particularly on holidays, when dancing, or any

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any *other amusement* offered. With regard to the negroes' observations on the attendance, I have never heard them make any.

4.—Mr. Scott once made Mr. Wray's complaint (stating the negroes in your department could not obtain passes for chapel) known to you; answer this, and refer to any orders I may have given?

4.—No passes were required for the negroes going to chapel until the news of the insurrection in Barbadoes arrived here, at which time the burghers of the town did the duty of guard during the night for a considerable time, when I was ordered by your Excellency to furnish the negroes attached to my department with passes whenever they wished to attend public worship, and such passes were accordingly given whenever asked for, on the respective nights of worship only, viz. Sundays and Wednesdays. When Mr. Scott made known parson Wray's complaint, I acquainted your Excellency that I had given passes on the nights of public worship, according to my orders, but that the want of passes complained of was owing to application every night, on pretence of visiting parson Wray, which I refused to grant, as I had no orders to that effect.

5.—In case the negroes belonging to or attached to the civil government are caught in the streets after eight o'clock, what is the consequence that ensues?

5.—Agreeable to the existing laws of this Colony (and I believe most of the other Colonies in the West Indies,) slaves of every description, taken up in the streets after eight o'clock without a pass, are sent to the barracks, and there to remain until liberated by their masters; in this case there is no distinction.

6.—Was not the negro Tom, in your department, once arrested; if so, at what time, when and how was he released, and how were the fees paid (if any)?

6.—The negro Tom, belonging to my department, was arrested one night with my pass, by a patrol of the burgher guard, and according to the lieutenant's report, who commanded the said guard, about half past nine o'clock; he was lodged in the barracks next morning, when he immediately released himself by paying the fees, say two dollars, which he preferred doing to its being known that he had deviated from the orders given to all the negroes who applied for passes, respecting their returning home from chapel, which were, "None of you must be seen in the streets after half past eight o'clock, or half an hour after gun-fire." Tom (immediately after being released) applied for a second pass, which he received, jointly with Cupido, then our driver, who also wished to attend chapel; but finding by this plan that they were always obliged to keep together, Tom made several complaints to parson Wray, respecting the grant of a pass without my knowledge.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

New Amsterdam, Berbice,
8th March 1817.

(Signed) *R. Mackenzie*, Commissary.

POINTS of INQUIRY to be answered by Dr. Beresford.

1.—DURING the time you held the appointment of adjutant, did you not receive the morning report of the town guard?

2.—Do you know of any complaint against the conduct of the guard, of a nature tending to disturb the evening service of the Reverend J. Wray?

3.—If so, please to state the particulars of the complaint, and how the same was disposed of.

In answer to the above, I declare, that as adjutant of the militia of New Amsterdam, I received the morning reports during the time that the guard was established. I never heard, in any way, that the evening service of the Reverend J. Wray was disturbed by the guard. It was observed by Mr. Wray at one time, that the negroes, when going home after evening service, were sometimes taken up and confined; and then his Excellency the Governor suggested the propriety of the negroes being collected after Mr. Wray had finished with them, and conveyed by one of the overseers to their houses.

(Signed) *John Beresford*,
late Adjutant of the 1st battalion Berbice Militia.

INFORMATION of the Reverend *J. Wray*.

“ A NIGHT or two after, a negro named George, was taken up as he was going home, notwithstanding he had a pass ; also at the same time, a negro was beat by one of them with his gun.”

16.—Questions to Mr. Wray.

Who were the two white men who seized to beat the negro mentioned in your complaint, and at what time ?

Mr. Carruthers and some American captain, about eight o'clock P. M. of which I complained to Mr. Scott.

To his Excellency H. W. Bentinck, Esq. Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Colony Berbice, &c. &c. &c.

The REPORT of John Carruthers, burgher and inhabitant of the Colony, in compliance with the commands of his Excellency the Governor, to be made on a certain answer of the Rev. John Wray, dissenting minister of the gospel, to question sixteen, sheweth,—

That one night after eight o'clock, your reporter was walking home in company with the captain of the British brig Hannah, (Mr. Landeg,) when they were overtaken by four or five negroes; being aware, from his situation of serjeant major of the militia, that negroes were not permitted to be out at that hour of the night, in a time like that, in such numbers together, your reporter demanded if they had passes, when one of them replied, yes, he had, but would not show it : after which, the party of negroes behaved in a very insolent manner, at once unprecedented and unusual for negroes to deport themselves ; on which your reporter thought it his duty to give them in charge of the burgher guard on duty that night.

That the assertion of the said Rev. John Wray, dissenting minister of the gospel, charging your reporter with having beat one of the negroes with a gun, is certainly a most irreverent untruth, which your reporter is extremely sorry to be under the imperative necessity of asserting against a divine of his long standing in this Colony.

Your reporter's situation in the militia, precluding him from the necessity of carrying a gun, it is therefore unreasonable to suppose, that your reporter, or even any other burgher, unless on duty, would be walking the town with a gun.

Having thus far shown the delusive nature of his Reverence Mr. Wray's information, your reporter has only to add, that he is ready to verify on oath, in the most solemn manner, the truth of this his report.

Your reporter has the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

Berbice, 12th March 1817.

John Carruthers.

SIR,

Berbice, 25th April 1817.

IN reply to the statement contained in a paragraph extracted from the evidence of Mr. Wray, as taken before his Excellency the Governor, and which is as follows :

“ Disturbance of public worship in the evening of thumping of sticks on the floor, breaking of windows, and I have complained two or three times to Mr. Bennett, and once to Mr. Downer as fiscal, but the offender escaped detection.”

The undersigned begs leave to observe, that during the period that he was filling the situation of acting fiscal, Mr. Wray did once make an official application to him, and that on the subject of the interruption he experienced in the performance of Divine worship, *and on that occasion the offender did not escape detection.* Mr. Wray pointed out the individual, but at the same time requested that it might not be made matter of public investigation, but the party be admonished not to repeat the offence.

In consequence of which, the undersigned in his official capacity summoned the person before him, and on his expressing contrition for the past, and a promise of not again being guilty of such a breach of good order, he was reprimanded and dismissed.

Trusting that the above will fully remove the impression which Mr. Wray's assertion (of the offender being allowed to escape without detection) was likely to produce,

The undersigned has the honour to be, &c. &c.

(Signed)

J. Downer, late acting fiscal.

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To his Excellency Governor Bentinck.

New Amsterdam, 16th May 1817:

YOUR Excellency honoured me some time since with an extract from a communication of parson Wray's, in which myself and partner, (D. McAuley,) were accused of having attempted to throw a piece of wood into the chapel, when he, (parson Wray,) was performing Divine service, but were prevented; immediately on receiving the above extract from your Excellency, I called on parson Wray, and requested him to give up the author of such a malicious report, which he declined, and said, not only one but several had seen us make the attempt; when desired to mention one of the several, that also he declined. I then conceived (as I do now,) that it was a mere fabrication, perhaps of his own, and told him it was a most palpable falsehood.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

Dan. M'Lachlan.

DEAR SIR,

King's House, 17th May 1817.

THE Governor requests to see you at the King's House, on Monday morning at ten.

Your obedient servant,

F. W.

Rev. J. Wray.

SIR,

New Amsterdam, May 19, 1817.

IN compliance with your request, I answer Dr. M'Lachlan's letter, with which your Excellency favoured me this morning. I shall make an extract from the remarks I put down shortly after that gentleman called upon me. I find that a few days after the Governor had conversed with me respecting my letter, his Excellency wrote to Dr. M'Lachlan. The doctor called upon me in a great rage, and swore dreadfully, and denied the charge. I asked him if he did not remember being at chapel in company with a gentleman from up the coast, he said "yes, with Dr. Balfour;" I also told him the very place where he stood, and the time he went away, viz. in the middle of the sermon, which he confessed were correct; I knew Dr. Balfour was with him, but I did not mention Dr. Balfour's name to see what he would say. I heard a day or two after it happened, that Dr. Balfour was in the company, and received a reproof for his conduct. He wished to know whether it was a free person or a slave who told me; I did not satisfy him in this, but I showed him the place where the person was standing, just in a gallery above his head. I told him that I could not say he was the person who attempted to throw the piece of wood, but that he was one of the party was certain. The person who was looking upon them from the gallery was a free woman from Demerary named Julieth Johnson, who came to attend Mrs. Wray in her lying-in. I myself saw them standing some time in the gallery looking through one of the windows, which they soon left and ran down the steps with violence, making a great noise. The free woman Julieth was in the gallery above, and on hearing the noise on the stairs, looked over the gallery, and saw one of the persons take up a piece of plank which was accidentally near the steps, and attempt to throw it into the house. Julieth addressed them, and asked them if they were not ashamed of themselves, and as being white men if they did not know better. Mrs. Wray was in her bed-room fronting the street, and on hearing the noise went to the window, and saw them pass the bridge and make a stand. She knows Dr. M'Lachlan and his partner, but not the others; we learnt however a day or two after, from a white lady, that it was Dr. Balfour to whose house he went afterwards, where he mentioned he had been at chapel. She reproved him also for some of his observations; Mrs. Wray sent Julieth down for the board, which on her speaking to them they threw into the garden. Had Doctor M'Lachlan come to me as a gentleman ought to have come, it is more than probable that I should have told him my authors. I heard the noise as they left; I believe I never said such a word to Dr. M'Lachlan, that several had seen him. It unhappily happens in general, that though we know the persons who disturb us, we cannot prove it, because they are seen only, either by slaves, or those who will not interfere, or are afraid to do so. Mrs. Wray, however, is not afraid to give her evidence in this case, if called upon, and indeed she gives it in this. There was no other disturbance that night, and it was the night that he and Dr. Balfour came to the chapel, and at the

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the time they went away that the noise took place, but I suppose he thought nobody saw him but slaves, whose evidence he knows could not be taken against him. This is a cover for their mischief,—it is only a negro story.

To his Excellency Governor Bentinck,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
J. Wray.

Correspondence:
Berbice.

Interruption of
Divine
Public Worship.

DEAR SIR,

LAST night as my servant George was going home about nine o'clock, one of the dienaars took him near Mr. La Rose's and lodged him in the gaol all night confined in the stocks, under the pretence that his pass was not good, because it was given from the 3d of March for a month. This morning they said it was not my hand-writing, and accused him of writing it himself. He told them his mistress wrote it, and begged them to let him go, they replied they would not, till his master sent money for him. My reason for troubling you with this, is merely to request the favour from his Excellency, to know whether the enclosed pass be a legal one or not. The dienaar had taken the pass from him. I told the person who went for him, *not to bring him without the pass*; in consequence of which it was sent, and the boy released without the fees.

Berbice, March, 13, 1817.

I have, &c.

J. Wray.

To F. White, esq. Gov. Sec.

PASS:

Pass the bearer George to the Colony negro houses, unmolested, for *one month* from date.

March 3, 1817.

Rebecca Wray.

Referred to the fiscal, for his honour's strict inquiry and report.

King's-house, Berbice,
March 13, 1817.

(Signed) *H. W. Bentinck.*

SIR,

Fiscal's Office, 13 Mar. 1817.

YOUR Excellency having desired me to inquire and report on a complaint made by the Reverend Mr. Wray, respecting the detention of his servant George;

I have to state, that the under-sheriff reported to me this morning, that a negro belonging to the Winkel department, had been arrested the last evening by the dienaars of justice, as being found on the road at nine o'clock; that being delivered into his custody, he was confined for the night in the stocks, as is always customary, and released this morning, on Mr. Nicolay's having engaged to defray the expense of his arrest.

The pass furnished the negro George by the Reverend Mr. Wray, and which he requests to be informed by your Excellency whether it is a legal one or not, is not conformable to ordinance of the court.

The ordinance requiring, that a negro walking the streets at night, shall be provided with a pass expressive of the service in which the slave is employed, or furnished with a pass and provided with a lighted candle in a lanthorn.

To this requisite no ignorance may be pretended, as this order of court has been lately republished and made known.

I hope, by the above detail, to have complied with his Excellency's wishes, and have the honour to be Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,
The fiscal of the Colony,
M. S. Bennett.

DR SIR,

King's House, Berbice, 14 March 1817.

IN reply to your letter of yesterday, after reference to his honour the fiscal, I am directed by his Excellency to enclose a copy of the Ordinance relative to negro night-walkers, for your guidance.

The Reverend J. Wray.

Yours obed^{ly},
F. W.

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PUBLICATION by his Excellency Henry William Bentinck, Esq. Lieutenant Governor of the Colony Berbice, and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c. And the honourable Court of Policy and Criminal Justice of the said Colony.

To all to whom these Presents may or shall come, Greeting.

Be it known,

WHEREAS it has been reported to us by the different burgher officers of this government, and others, that negroes belonging to the respective estates within the jurisdiction of this Colony, are in constant practice and habit of walking during the night from one plantation to another, and there assembling, in direct violation of the positive orders and ordinances made and provided by us against such transgressions: AND whereas we have lately seen the ill effect which arose from such irregular and reprehensible conduct; and being fully impressed with the urgent necessity now existing for a rigid observance of our ancient salutary regulations with regard to the conduct of slaves; as also that by the exertion of due vigilance, the recurrence of similar evils may be prevented, and a stop put to the frequent complaints made to us on the subject of the negroes appertaining to this government; WE do now hereby issue our orders and directions to all owners, proprietors or administrators of estates and negroes, as well as to the different burgher officers of the Colony, that no negroes under any pretext shall be allowed to proceed from one estate to another, or depart from the estate, property or place, to which he or they belong, or are working on, or proceed from the town New Amsterdam to estates without the precincts of the town New Amsterdam, unless provided with a written pass from their master, or persons having charge of them; which pass shall specify the name of the negro, of his owner, whither going, and the date when permitted to absent himself from the estate, and when to return.

And should, notwithstanding this our order, any negro or negroes be found on the public roads, or from off the estates to which they belong, unprovided with a proper pass from their masters, all the subjects of this government are required to aid and assist in securing such offender or offenders, and carrying them forthwith to the burgher captain of the division, or in his absence to the next senior officer *in loco*, in order that such negro or negroes found straying without a proper pass, may be punished, at the discretion of the burgher captain or senior officer *in loco*, by the infliction of any number of lashes not exceeding thirty-nine; and we in consequence declare as abrogated and made void by these presents, all such parts of any of our former proclamations whereby slaves arrested without a pass are required forthwith to be delivered to his honour the fiscal.

And we do hereby warn and caution all masters of slaves, proprietors and administrators of estates, to pay proper attention, and guard against any trespass of this our Proclamation, the penalty whereof we positively order to be fully enforced, without consideration of persons to whom the offenders may belong.

And in order the better to ensure due obedience to this our order, the burgher captain of each district shall be furnished with printed copies of this publication, that the same may be generally distributed throughout the Colony.

AND whereas we are informed that in disobedience of the existing orders enacted to the contrary, proprietors of negroes still permit the said negroes, when passing up and down the rivers and creeks of this Colony, to sing, shout or express themselves to other negroes on different estates, in certain songs tending to inflame and produce improper effect on their minds: And whereas such practice is not alone contrary to law, but is oftentimes productive of mischief; WE therefore absolutely and peremptorily forbid any owner, proprietors, administrators, or other persons having charge of negroes, from allowing their own negroes, or such as they have charge of, from singing, shouting, or making outcry in boats within the river and creeks of this Colony, under a penalty of one hundred guilders, which the proprietor, administrator, or person having charge of such negroes, shall pay to his honour the fiscal.

And should any slaves while in any-kind of boat, unaccompanied by any white person, dare to sing, shout, or raise outcry in manner as aforesaid, such negro or negroes shall be punished with any number of lashes not exceeding one hundred, which the fiscal, burgher captain, or senior officer *in loco*, shall arbitrarily inflict upon the offender or offenders on being brought before him for this purpose.

And

And we do hereby order and direct the fiscal of the Colony, and all other subjects of this government, to arrest, and to assist and aid in arresting, any and all negroes who may be found singing in boats; and we do further order such of the inhabitants of this Colony as may witness such misconduct, to report the same to his honour the fiscal, who is strictly enjoined to proceed against the offender or offenders.

Lastly, We order and direct that the pecuniary fine to be imposed on the transgressors of this our order, be divided as follows: one third to the fiscal, one third to the poor fund of the reformed church of this Colony, and the remaining one third to the informer.

Thus resolved, and enacted in our ordinary Assembly of the court of policy and criminal justice of the Colony Berbice, on the 6th day of July 1814:

Present, His Excellency Lieut. Governor H. W. Bentinck, president, and the honourable members John M'Camon, James Fraser, Peter Fairbairn, Geo. Munro, dempto the honourable member A. J. Glasius.—And published on the same day, present, his Excellency the Lieut. Governor and the aforesaid honourable members.

By command of the Court,

R. C. Downer, Sec.

Correspondence.

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SIR,

La Fraternité, 16th March 1817.

YOUR letter addressed to Mr. Swaving and myself, as agents of the Berbice Society, dated 14th March, only reached me this morning. I have attentively perused the documents thereby enclosed, and will lose no time in forwarding the same to Mr. Swaving. Mr. Swaving is quite up the river, and will be occupied to-morrow, and probably next day, in the disposal of plantation Hoorn at public sale. I therefore request his Excellency the Governor's indulgence for a few days in replying on the Rev. Mr. Wray's information, which I trust will in general be found void of truth, and to contain libellous and malicious matter.

I am, &c.

F. White, esq.
Gov. Sec. Berbice.

(Signed) *H. Staal,*
Agent to the Berbice Society

GENTLEMEN,

King's-house, Berbice, 14th March 1817.

I AM directed by the Lieut. Governor to transmit a dispatch from Earl Bathurst, with Memorandum enclosed, also Minute of conversation had with the Rev. Mr. Wray in consequence. His Excellency requests your attentive perusal and ample reply on this subject.

I am, &c.

Messrs. Swaving & Staal,
Agents of Berbice Society.

F. White,
Gov. Sec.

SIR,

Berbice, April 3d, 1817.

WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's order, accompanying a dispatch from Earl Bathurst, with an annexed Memorandum; likewise Minutes of a conference held between your Excellency and the Rev. John Wray, with his amplification thereon.

These documents we have perused with the greatest attention, and are unable to contain the expression of our surprise at their contents. We now take the liberty, both in obedience to the orders received from your Excellency, in vindication of our honour, and in observance of our duty, to return the following reply; limiting ourselves in the first place to a refutation of the Memorandum annexed to Earl Bathurst's dispatch, and in the next, to that of the different points reflecting on ourselves in the answers made your Excellency by the Rev. J. Wray, and in his amplification, and we trust that we shall in so doing, be able most fully to justify our conduct with your Excellency, and the British Government, at the same time lamenting that the manifold misrepresentations of the reverend gentleman should have been the cause of placing us under such necessity, in order to impeach the credibility of the Rev. Mr. Wray's assertions, from whom it appears these complaints originate. It might be unnecessary to go further than to refer His Majesty's ministers to the responses made by this gentleman to the questions entered on the

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minutes of conversation between your Excellency and him: from those responses it is clearly to be deduced, that Mr. Wray has thought proper to abandon religious instructions on the whole of the estates belonging to the Berbice Society, (formerly known as the Crown properties,) upon so shallow a pretext as that of having received a message by a negro from Mr. Overeem, the manager of one of those properties, purporting *that he was no longer to preach on plantation Sandvoord.*

On this ground does Mr. Wray, without troubling himself to make further inquiry from us, the agents, or even from the manager of the estate, who is said to have sent such message, secede from his attendance on either of the three plantations, and without form of investigation, accuses the agents of *having put an end without ceremony to religious instruction.*

Can it possibly be believed, if Mr. Wray were sincere in his mission, that he would have been satisfied with a message from the mouth of a negro, on so important a matter, and having such serious consequences attached to it, and that he would have abandoned his flock without requesting an interview with the agents, and endeavouring to prevail upon them to allow him to continue his good endeavours? or that the rev. pastor should not have thought it a primary and imperative duty to have addressed himself to the manager and to the agents, in order to ascertain the correctness of a communication so much at variance with their former entreaties, on their receiving over the estates from the crown agent Mr. Scott.

Will any reasonable person credit that, if Mr. Wray had the welfare of the negroes so much at heart as he pretends to have, that he would have abandoned the purport of his sacred mission on such a pretence? Is this like the character—the indefatigable zeal of a man employed as a missionary? Certainly not; and it cannot therefore fail to excite in our breast a belief, that his seceding from the performance of religious worship on the estates of the society, has been with a studied design, and that he was in hopes the accusations brought against us would be credited without investigation, and be the means of bringing the present agency into discredit—of paving the way for the removal of the agents of the society, and the re-establishment of the former commission, under which, at least his temporal means flourished. Mr. Wray cannot urge that a verbal message by a negro is ever considered of the least import officially, or that any man in his senses transmits through such a channel a communication of the least import, liable to have a determinate effect.

In refutation of the first heads of accusation, we beg leave to state, first, That no further changes have been made by us, in the management of the plantations restored to the Berbice Company, than such as were deemed absolutely necessary, which our duty both towards promoting the welfare of these estates, as well as the general tranquillity of this Colony, prescribed to us; such as the appointment of a more able and intelligent manager to plantation Sandvoord, than the one we found there, viz. Mr. Meadowcroft; having experienced, during the few days we were under the necessity of leaving the property under his control, his total incapacity to manage the estate, or the negroes under his charge. In less than one week's time he distributed amongst them a puncheon of rum, containing about one-hundred and twenty gallons, (whereas the largest quantity he could with any degree of propriety have given them, was eighteen or twenty gallons,) such excess causing many of the negroes to be wholly incapable of performing any labour. And we must add that Mr. Meadowcroft himself was not very temperate, being at times unable even to sit upright by nine o'clock in the morning.

Secondly, with regard to the statement of the rev. gentleman, that “religious instruction has already been done away with, without the least ceremony or inquiry,” we have to reply, that we fully admit the truth of the first part of the sentence, that religious instruction has already been done away with; but we most positively assert this to be wholly attributable to the rev. gentleman himself, and not to any impediments thrown in his way by us, as he asserts; and further, that “the missionary is prevented from going to Sandvoord, and the negroes from coming to town:” We must state that this is an invention, and wholly contrary to the fact; and which assertion, we conceive, can alone have been made by him, in order to instil into the minds of the British government an idea, that the inhabitants of the Netherlands are less religiously inclined than those of Great Britain, and by this means to annul the Dutch control over these estates, and reinstate himself and friends in the situations which to them were so lucrative. The reverend gentleman having been present at the transfer of these estates, must have heard our explicit declaration to the negroes, that it was *the desire of their present masters, the Dutch Berbice Society,* that their condition should by no means be deteriorated by this change, but that every
means

means should be employed to promote their welfare and comfort; our constituents alone expecting, that they on their part would do their duty to the utmost, within the limits of their abilities; and we further said, *in case the managers should in any way disregard these our instructions, that upon the negroes making their complaints to us*, they might rely upon having immediate justice done them. It therefore astonishes us that the rev. gentleman should have received complaints of which we are wholly ignorant. We likewise immediately declared to the rev. gentleman, that our instructions from the directors of the Berbice Society were, to make no other than the most necessary alterations, *and to request him to continue his religious instructions*; we dare even to call upon the rev. gentleman himself to deny the truth of these allegations, being well convinced he will not contradict us, as there were several persons of respectability present at the transfer of the estates, who can support our assertions.

3dly. The chapel at Dankbaarheid is still in the same condition as when transferred to us, and has never been employed for any other purpose, any more than for that of its original destination; if the reverend gentleman would have given himself the trouble to continue his attendance there, he would have found that no interruption would have been given him, or any impediment placed in his way—he might have experienced the same at plantation Dageraad had he attended there—the managers appointed by the agents for the crown, were continued by us on these two estates, and it is not therefore to be presumed that they are averse to religious instruction, should it even be imputed to the manager of Sandvoord: but it appears that the reverend gentleman interests himself alone about the negroes of plantation Sandvoord, and troubles himself but little with those of the other two plantations: we can attribute this alone to the circumstance of their situation being less convenient to the reverend gentleman than that of Sandvoord, and hold it therefore, as no very convincing proof of the zeal of the reverend gentleman for the cause which he professes to espouse.

The building called the school-room at Sandvoord has never been turned into a coffee logie, not even being fit for that purpose; we are, however, willing to admit that a parcel of coffee was placed there for a short time, during the late abundant crop, and want of room to house it, as it appeared that the reverend gentleman made no further use of it; but had the reverend gentleman been desirous of preaching at Sandvoord during such time, there were several other rooms perfectly at his service, which were equally well calculated for that purpose.

4thly. It is further stated by the reverend gentleman, “we have reason to believe that a complete revolution will very soon be made, and not a vestige of what has been done left behind, *except the plantation walks; and that all the benefit which the negroes will obtain, is that of having for a few years plantains.*”—We have reason to lament the incorrectness of this statement, for even at this period, there is an insufficient supply for the three estates, so that we have been under the necessity of purchasing provisions at a very great expense for plantation Dageraad, the other two estates being unable to supply the deficiency in plantains; with what truth can it therefore be asserted, that there was a sufficiency for several years to come? In the short time the estates have been under our administration, we cannot have so far neglected them as to have occasioned this deficiency; but we can, on the contrary, affirm, that we have not alone used our utmost endeavours to render the old plantain walks productive, but have also made a new one on plantation Dageraad, which is in a very promising state, and we flatter ourselves that the manner in which these estates are at present administered, will in time cause them to return to that productive state in which they were at an earlier period, every thing regarding the cultivation having been neglected, during the late administration, in the most shameful manner, and which could not have failed to occasion their total destruction, had they been continued under it: this is sufficiently well known throughout the Colony—the effects are still to be traced on the estates—and we can further substantiate our assertions by the inventories.

We flatter ourselves that what we now state to your Excellency, is a sufficient reply to the Memorandum annexed to Earl Bathurst's dispatch, and shall therefore now proceed to comment upon the different points reflecting on ourselves in the answers made your Excellency by the Rev. John Wray, and in his amplification.

1st. It must appear sufficiently evident to your Excellency, that we never prohibited the rev. gentleman from giving religious instruction on the estates transferred to us: so much the contrary was the case, that we beg leave again to repeat, we particularly requested him to continue his labours, only having solicited him, at

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a subsequent period, to employ the Sundays specially for that purpose, instead of coming during the night, (as was the case the only time the rev. gentleman, to our knowledge, visited Sandvoord,) or at other inconvenient times. The rev. gentleman does not, however, appear to have been over anxious to continue his labours, as a proof of which we beg leave to state, that in the conference between the rev. gentleman and the second undersigned, the answer he was in expectation of receiving related solely to the remuneration he was to receive for his labours, and respecting which we informed the rev. gentleman we had to await instructions from our constituents; as his religious instructions were now divided between the Crown property and the Society estates, the remuneration ought likewise, therefore, to be proportionate; and as a proof that we did not conceive it to be the intention of our constituents wholly to withdraw this share of the remuneration to be paid the rev. gentleman, we have to mention, that two negroes employed by him as domestics, the one belonging to plantation Sandvoord, the other to plantation Dageraad, were left with him, where they still continue to be.

2dly. The manager of plantation Sandvoord has most solemnly declared to us, that the accusation in Answer 4th of the conference with your Excellency, is wholly unfounded; and with respect to passes, that he never has refused giving one when applied to in a proper manner for that purpose, until within the last four or five weeks, and his reason for refusing them partially then was, that he had invariably found, for several weeks running, that on the Monday morning there were from 20 to 25 negroes sick in the hospital of those who had been to town the preceding day. We likewise beg leave to remark, that had it been the case that the manager constantly refused giving passes, the rev. gentleman has still to account for the manner in which he obtained his information respecting occurrences at Sandvoord.

We do not deny our knowledge of the circumstance, that the books of the negroes on plantation Sandvoord have been taken into the possession of the manager, but we are not aware that the rev. gentleman was on that account prevented from preaching to the negroes, or giving them religious instruction, as it is an indisputable fact that a person may obtain religious principles and become pious, although unable to read or write. We can further conscientiously say, that we never have destroyed either a book or any thing else upon which the word of God was impressed; and although we may not be particularly anxious to wear the semblance of piety, flatter ourselves we are sufficiently well known to be good christians and quiet citizens.

It is singular, although strictly the fact, that the negroes for which the rev. gentleman seems to have the greatest partiality, by name Louis, Augustinus, and Rosetta, are the laziest and most insolent on the estate; we have, therefore, most sincerely to regret that the rev. gentleman has not been more successful in his labours.

The reverend gentleman says he would not trouble your Excellency with his complaints respecting the revolutions, (changes we suppose he means) which had taken place on the three estates, conceiving it was not in your Excellency's power to interfere with private property. We are in the first instance not aware that any revolutions have taken place, or are likely to happen; and in the second, we must with the utmost deference remark, that we are ignorant from whence the reverend gentleman derives a power, which, according to his own statement, it must be concluded, is superior to that of your Excellency: if he has instructions from the British Government to superintend every thing that takes place on these estates, such power is wholly unknown to us, as Mr. Scott, notwithstanding our repeated solicitations, would never have the kindness to impart to us the instructions he had formerly received on the subject. We must, therefore, now humbly request to be informed by your Excellency, in how far we are in future accountable to the British Government in the administration of these estates, beyond what we ourselves or other persons are for other private property under our or their control, in order that we may be enabled to regulate our conduct accordingly.

We flatter ourselves that an equal degree of care has been bestowed upon the sick on the different estates, and beg leave to refer your Excellency to the testimony of Dr. Beresford on this subject, who attends at Sandvoord and Dankbaarheid: we can, moreover, state that it is perfectly well known that Dr. Beresford would not allow invalids under his care to be ill-treated, without making serious remonstrances against such treatment.

The weakly woman mentioned by the reverend gentleman is still at Mr. Swaving's, and that at her own request; we trust that her situation there is by no means insupportable. The manner in which Mr. Swaving treats the negroes under his control

control is well known in the Colony; had it not at all times been just and humane, there undoubtedly would have been complaints made against him during the number of years he has resided in Berbice, of which, however, there is not a single trace on record; for the truth of which assertion, he dares not alone appeal to the fiscal, but also to every Governor there has been at the head of this Colony during his residence in it.

Mr. Swaving denies ever having said that he would tar and feather or horse-whip the reverend gentleman, should he come upon any of the estates under his control; but admits that he has some recollection of having said in conversation that it was to be regretted, the punishment of liars and malicious persons, was not by law, tarring, feathering, and transportation to Botany Bay, as it is not however to be supposed that the reverend gentleman could conceive this to be applicable to himself.

If any labour has been done on plantation Dankbaarheid during the Sundays, it is entirely without our knowledge and consent; and we can alone lament that the reverend gentleman, who seemingly has taken the trouble to inquire into every thing going forward on the estates, should not have thought proper to apply to those persons from whom, had any grievances taken place, he might expect to have obtained the speediest redress, but apparently, have preferred withholding them from their knowledge, in order, if possible, to make use of them to the prejudice of the present agents.

The principal complaints of the reverend gentleman seem to be against the manager Overeem, and these no doubt are to be attributed to a quarrel which the wife of the reverend gentleman had with him respecting some pigs, and because the manager would not allow the cattle belonging to the reverend gentleman to proceed in ruining the estate still further, and from other trifling incidents, which we conceive it to be unnecessary to trouble your Excellency with a relation of.

To sum up the whole, we profess that we consider Mr. Wray's charges, such as did they relate alone to our private estates, we should deem wholly unworthy of notice; but we have trespassed on your Excellency's time thus far, that the individual accusations might be repelled, and that it might be seen what degree of credit ought for the future to be given to the testimony of the Reverend John Wray, and how unfit a person he is to give religious instructions.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

C. C. Swaving,

H. Staal,

Agents for the Directors of the
Berbice Association.

WE, the undersigned, do hereby Certify and Declare, That as much attention has been paid to the sick at Plantation Dankbaarheid and Sandvoord, since the administration of Messrs. Staal and Swaving, as at any other period since we had the medical charge of the said estates; our requisitions for necessaries for the hospitals and comforts for the sick, have been promptly attended to; and our instructions from the before-mentioned administrators have been, to let the sick want for nothing which was necessary for them. We have never known an instance where sick persons have been refused admittance into the hospital, or where they have been unnecessarily confined; on the contrary, the different managers have complied very readily with all our orders.

Given under our hands in New Amsterdam, this 2d day of April 1817.

(Signed)

John Beresford,

Tim^r R. Drayton,

Medical Practitioners for Plantation
Dankbaarheid and Sandvoord.

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