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TRIAL OF A SLAVE IN BERBICE, FOR THE CRIME
OF OBEAH AND MURDER.

Return to an Address to His Majesty, by The Honourable House of Commons,
dated 29th of July 1822; for,

Copy of any Information which may have been received concerning the TRIAL
OF a SLAVE, for the Crime of OBEAH, in the Colony of BERBICE.

Colonial Office, }
14th May 1823. }

R. J. WILMOT HORTON.

PROCEEDINGS

Of the Court of Criminal Justice of the Colony

BERBICE,

On the Trial of the Negro *Willem*, alias *Sara*, alias *Cuffey*,
for Murder of the Negress *Madalon*;

AND ALSO,

The Trials of the Negroes *Primo*, *Mey*, *Kees*, and *Corydon*,
for aiding and abetting in said Murder.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
14 May 1823.

INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS.

Cause *M. S. Bennett*, Fiscal of the Colony R. O. versus the Negro *Willem*, alias *Sara*, alias *Cuffey*, of plantation *Buses Lust*;—and, the Negroes *Primo*, first driver, and *Mey*, second driver, of plantation *Op Hoop van Beter*.

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Berbice, }
14th January 1822 }

M. S. Bennett,
Fiscal, R. O.

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EXTRACTS

From the Proceedings on the Trial of a Slave, in Berbice,
for the Crime of Obeah, and Murder.

EXTRACT from the Register of Proceedings of the Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, Berbice:—Friday, the 14th September 1821.

(After Prayers.)

HIS Honor the Fiscal communicated to the Commissaries, that a report had been made to him, by a burgher officer of the river division, W. Sterk, of his having taken into custody and brought to town, a certain negro belonging to plantation Buses Lust, on information of him the said negro having, at plantation Op Hoop van Beter, been engaged with other negroes (some of whom were also in custody) in dancing the so called Minje Mama dance, which is strictly forbidden by the existing laws of the colony; and also that he, W. Sterk, had been given to understand that a negro woman named Madelon, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, had been denounced to the gang of that estate by the negro of Buses Lust as above stated, as a bad woman, and the cause of the death of several people belonging to said plantation; and that the said woman had either absented herself, or had been taken away from the estate; but that strong suspicion had arose that the woman had been made away with, and buried in the Bush. His Honor the Fiscal therefore requested that the burgher officer, Mr. Sterk, might make his deposition as to the circumstances that have come to his knowledge, in order that further proceedings may be instituted, if requisite.

Commissaries fiat.

William Sterk called, and deposition taken, and sworn.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

His Honor the Fiscal reports the attendance of the negro Vigilant, of Middleburg's Welvaaren; Willem, alias Cuffey, alias Sara, of plantation Buses Lust; and Frederick, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter; and requests they may be examined.

Commissaries fiat.

The negro *Vigilant* called, and examined.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

The negro *Willem* alias *Cuffey*, alias *Sara*, called, and examined.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

After which the said negro Willem was confronted with the negro Vigilant, who declared him, the said Willem, to be the person alluded to in his, Vigilant's, examination, as having been the promoter of the said Minje Mama dance.

The negro *Frederick*, of plantation Op Hoop Van Beter, called, and examined.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

After which Prayers were read, and the Court adjourned.

EXTRACT from the Register of the Proceedings of Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, Berbice.—Thursday the 20th September 1821.

(After Prayers.)

HIS Honor the Fiscal states, That in consequence of the preliminary inquiries, on the 14th instant, on the charge preferred by Lieutenant Sterk of the 2d company, 4th battalion, against the negro Willem, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and other negroes belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for dancing the Mackiesie or Minje Mama dance, and for conspiring against and taking away the life of the negro woman Madelon, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, he,

the Fiscal R. O. had addressed himself to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying authority to institute criminal proceedings and to cite witnesses, lays over memorial and appointment, reports the attendance of several witnesses, and requests they may be examined.

Commissaries fiat.

The negroes Baron, Adolph, Johanna, and Nassau, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, called in severally, and examined : and each and all of them declared their perfect ignorance as to the circumstances connected with the death of the woman Madelon of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, or of the Minje Mama dance having been practised on that estate by the negro Willem of plantation Buses Lust.

The commissaries then observed, that it appeared to them that the parties either implicated, or whose evidence might prove most material in the investigation of this case, were so numerous, that considerable expense and time would be saved, and the ends of justice be more likely to be obtained, by removing the sittings of the Court to the plantation where the offence is stated to have been committed ; in which suggestion His honor the Fiscal concurred.

After which Prayers were read, and the Court adjourned.

EXTRACT from the Register of the Proceedings of Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, Berbice :—Saturday, the 20th October 1821.

(After Prayers.)

READ a Petition presented by His honor the Fiscal to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying authority, &c. with appointment thereon, dated the 16th current.

(vide Appendix.)

After which the Negro *Baron* was called, examined, and deposed.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

The negro *Neptunus*, alias *Quashie*, called, examined, and deposed.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

The negro *David* called, examined, and deposed.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

The burgher officer, *W. Sterk*, confronted with the negro *David*, states *David* to be the man who informed him of his having been beat by the negro Willem, of Buses Lust, who also left a mark on his head by the stroke of a cutlass.

The negro *David* persists in not having disclosed any thing ; says the mark on his head was from the branch of a sand-koker tree striking him.

Negro *Apollo* called, examined, and deposed.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

Negro woman *Cornelia* called, examined, and deposed.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

Cornelia was further confronted with the man *Willem* of Buses Lust. Denies any knowledge of him.

Negro *Adolph* called, examined, and deposed.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

Negro *Kees* called, and examined. Denies generally all knowledge of the alleged matters regarding the woman *Madelon*.

After which prayers were read, and the Court adjourned.

EXTRACT from the Register of the Proceedings of Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice of the Colony Berbice :—Friday, the 26th October 1821.

(After Prayers.)

HIS Honor the Fiscal laid over petition presented to the Governor for the appointment of Commissaries, with appointment thereon.

His Honor reported that several witnesses in the cause versus the negro *Willem*, of plantation Buses Lust, cum alias, were in attendance, and requested they might be examined.

Commissaries fiat.

William

William Sterk called, examined, and sworn.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

David Milne called, examined, and sworn.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

The negro *Bartholomew*, of *Nomen Nescio*, called, and examined.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

The negro *Baron* called, and examined, and confronted with Mr. Sterk, the overseer, Mr. Milne, and the negroes *Bartholomew*, of *Nomen Nescio*, and *Frederick Op Hoop van Beter*, who all declared him to be the negro who had confessed to Mr. Sterk the circumstance relative to the woman *Madelon's* severe punishment by order of the negro *Willem*, of *Buses Lust*.

The negro *Vigilant*, of *Middleburgs Welvaaren*, called in and confronted with the negro *David* of *Op Hoop van Beter*.
(vide Fiscal's office.)

The negro *Adolff* called in, and examined.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

Prayers read, and Court adjourned till to-morrow 12 o'clock.

Thus done and minuted at the Court House, New Amsterdam. Datum ut supra.

EXTRACT from the Register of the Proceedings of Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, Berbice :—Saturday 27th October 1821.

(After Prayers.)

The negro *Munro* was called in, and examined.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

THE negro *Willem*, of *Buses Lust*, called in and confronted with *Munro*, who identified him as the person designated by him, *Munro*, in his examination as the *Attesta Sara*.

J. H. Lips called, examined, and sworn.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

Prayers were then read, and the Court adjourned,

Thus done and minuted at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, datum ut supra.

EXTRACT from the Register of the Proceedings of Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, Berbice :—Wednesday 31st October 1821.

(After Prayers.)

HIS Honor the Fiscal reported several witnesses in attendance, and requested they might be examined.

Commissaries fiat.

Negro *Adolff* called, examined, and deposed.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

Negro *Barron* called, examined, and deposed.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

Negro *Isaac* called, examined, and deposed.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

Negro *Frederic* called, examined, and deposed.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

Negro *Kees* called, examined, and deposed.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

Prayers were then read, and the Court adjourned till the morrow at eleven o'clock.

Thus done and minuted at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice.

EXTRACT from the Register of the Proceedings of Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, Berbice :—Thursday 1st November 1821.

(After Prayers.)

HIS Honor the Fiscal, in continuation of the proceedings of yesterday, reported certain witnesses in attendance, and requested they might be examined.

Commissaries fiat.

The negro *Fortuyn*, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, called, and examined.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

The negro *Willem*, of Buses Lust, confronted with *Fortuyn*, who states his knowledge of him.

The negro *Corydon*, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, called, and examined.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

The negro *Primo*, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, called, and examined.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

The negro *Mey*, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, called and examined.
(vide Interrogatories Fiscal's office.)

After which the Court adjourned until Saturday the 3d instant.

Thus done and minuted at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, datum ut supra.

EXTRACT from the Register of the Proceedings of the Court of Criminal Justice, Berbice :—Monday 14th January 1822.

(After Prayers.)

Michael Samuel Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony R. O.

versus

The negro *Willem*, alias *Sara*, alias *Cuffey*, a native of this } Prisoner at the bar.
colony, - - - - - }

The Marshal called the cause.

HIS Honor the Fiscal took his seat at the right-hand of his Excellency.

The doors of the Court were thrown open, and the prisoner placed at the bar in custody of the under-sheriff.

His Honor the Fiscal, R. O. files documents as per inventory L^a A. to J. J. declaration and demand, and concludes pro ut inscriptis.

The demand, and conclusion made and taken against the prisoner, was then read by his Honor the Fiscal.

After which the prisoner was asked what he had to say in his defence, and why the demand and conclusion of his Honor the Fiscal should not be admitted.

The prisoner declared he was innocent of the crime laid to his charge.

The prisoner was then remanded, the Court-room cleared, and the Fiscal retired.

His Excellency then placed the matter in deliberation, and after the same was duly weighed and considered, the Court were unanimous in the following sentence :

Whereas the negro *Willem*, alias *Sara*, alias *Cuffey*, a Creole, a native of this colony, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, situated on the east bank of the river Berbice, prisoner, here stands accused by his Honour the Fiscal, R. O. of treasonable practices, by deluding the minds of the negroes belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, also situate in this colony, from their obedience to the law of the land, and their proprietors, by dancing, or causing to be danced, on the said estate Op Hoop van Beter, the *Minje* or *Water Mama* dance, thereby conspiring with the drivers of said estate, and by the severe punishment inflicted by his direction, during the said dance, on the negress *Madelon*, a slave on said estate, causing her death :

And whereas from the evidence produced by his Honor the Fiscal, R. O. it clearly appears, and is fully proved, that he the said prisoner *Willem*, alias *Sara*, alias *Cuffey*, is guilty of the crime with which he stands charged :

And whereas the horrid crime of murder is strictly prohibited by the law of God and of the land, and as such ought to be severely punished : It is therefore that the Honourable the Court of Criminal Justice of this colony, proceeding to administer justice

justice in the name of our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, defender of the Faith, do find him the said prisoner Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, guilty of the crime with which he stands charged :

And do accordingly condemn him the said prisoner Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, to be taken back to prison, thence conveyed to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, there delivered into the hands of the public executioner, and in the presence of this Court to be hung by the neck on the Mangoe tree under which the negress Madelon was suspended during her aforesaid punishment, until he the said prisoner be dead, after which his head to be severed from his body, and stuck on a pole, to be placed on said estate Op Hoop van Beter, there to remain until destroyed by the elements, or birds of prey, and the body to be interred under the aforesaid Mangoe tree.

Finally :—The Court condemn the said prisoner Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, in all the costs occasioned by his trial and judgment, as also those of his arrest and detention.

Prayers were then read, and the Court adjourned until to-morrow morning at a quarter before ten.

Thus done and minuted at the Colony House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, ut supra.

Tuesday, 15th January 1822.

(After Prayers.)

M. S. Bennett Fiscal of the Colony, R. O. - - - Plaintiff.

versus

The negro *Primo*, head driver, and the negro *Mey*, second driver of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, situate on the west bank of the river Berbice - - - - - } Prisoners at the bar.

The marshal called the cause.

His Honor the Fiscal took his seat at the right hand of his Excellency.

The doors of the Court room were thrown open, and the prisoners, in custody of the under-sheriff, placed at the bar.

G. Scharwitz, interpreter in the English and Creole languages, was sworn.

His Honor the Fiscal, R. O. files documents as per inventory, L^a A. to J. J. declaration and demand, and concludes pro ut inscriptis.

The demand and conclusion made and taken against the prisoners was then read by his Honor the Fiscal.

After which the prisoners were asked what they had to say in their defence, and why the demand and conclusion of his Honor the Fiscal should not be admitted.

The prisoners declared they were innocent of the crime with which they stood charged.

The prisoners were then remanded.

The Court-room cleared, and the Fiscal retired.

His Excellency then placed the matter in deliberation, and after maturely considering the same,

The Court were unanimous in the following sentence:

Whereas the negro *Primo*, head driver, and the negro *Mey*, second driver, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, situated on the west bank of the river Berbice, prisoners at the bar, stand accused by his Honor the Fiscal, R. O. of aiding and abetting the negro *Willem*, alias *Sara*, alias *Cuffey*, belonging to plantation *Buses Lust*, in dancing or causing to be danced, on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, the *Minje* or *Water Mama* dance, of disrespecting and setting at nought the subordination due and owing to their proprietors, and subjecting themselves, (the drivers,) in presence of the gang of negroes over which they were placed, to the implicit obedience of the orders and commands of the aforesaid *Willem*, alias *Sara*, alias *Cuffey*, in the wilful and atrocious murder of the negro woman *Madelon*, belonging to the afore-mentioned estate Op Hoop van Beter; and whereas, from the evidence produced by his Honor the Fiscal, R. O. it clearly appears, and is fully proven, that they the said prisoners *Primo* and *Mey* were present aiding, abetting and assisting the aforesaid *Willem* alias *Sara*, alias *Cuffey*, in dancing or causing to be danced the *Minje* or *Water Mama* dance, at which the said negress *Madelon* was murdered :

And whereas such conduct on the part of the drivers having the charge of slaves cannot be tolerated, but on the contrary ought to be severely punished :

It is therefore that the honourable Court of Criminal Justice of this Colony, proceeding to administer justice in the name of our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, defender of the Faith, do acquit them the said Primo and Mey of the crime of murder, but find them guilty of encouraging the aforementioned Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, to visit plantation Op Hoop van Beter, and there dancing or causing to be danced the Minje or Water Mama dance, and aiding, and assisting and giving countenance by their example, to the slaves under their direction, to aid and assist in the punishment of the negress Madelon by which her death ensued :

And do accordingly condemn them the said prisoners Primo and Mey to be taken back to prison, from thence conveyed to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, there delivered into the hands of the public executioner, to be by him fastened to the tree on which the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, already condemned, shall suffer death, and with halters round their necks receive three hundred lashes each, then brand-marked, and degraded as drivers, afterwards to be worked in chains on the said plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for and during the term of one year next following.

Finally :—The Court condemn them the said prisoners Primo and Mey in all the costs occasioned by their prosecution, trial, and judgment, as also those of their arrest and detention, rejecting the further or other conclusion of His Honor the Fiscal, R. O.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony, R. O.

versus

The negro *Kees Logie*, driver on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, situated on the west bank of the River; and

versus

The negroes *Corydon* and *Allegro*, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter.

The Marshal called the cause.

HIS Honor the Fiscal stated that the negro *Allegro* was ill, and unable to attend and take his trial at the present session.

The Court direct that the negro *Allegro* be brought up for trial at the next session of this Court.

His Honor the Fiscal then took his seat at the right hand of his Excellency.

The doors of the Court were thrown open, and the prisoners *Kees* and *Corydon*, in the custody of the under-sheriff, placed at the bar.

His Honor the Fiscal R. O. files documents as per inventory L^a A. to J. J. declaration and demand, and concludes pro ut in scriptis.

The demands and conclusions made and taken against the prisoners were then read by his Honor the Fiscal.

After which the prisoners were severally asked what they had to say in their defence, and why the demands and conclusions of his Honor the Fiscal against them respectively should not be admitted.

The Prisoners declared they had related on their respective examinations all they knew.

The Prisoners were then remanded, the Court-room cleared, and the Fiscal retired.

His Excellency then placed the matter in deliberation, and after maturely considering the same, the Court were unanimous in the following sentences :

Whereas the negro *Kees Logie*, driver on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, situated on the west bank of the river Berbice, stands accused by his Honor the Fiscal R. O. of having aided, abetted and assisted, the negro *Willem*, alias *Sara*, alias *Cuffey*, of plantation *Buses Lust*, and the negroes *Primo* and *Mey*, drivers on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, in dancing or causing to be danced the *Minje Mama* dance, and during the same of inflicting such severe and cruel punishment on the negro woman *Madelon*, of said plantation, that her death ensued :

And

And whereas from the evidence adduced on the part of the prosecution it clearly appears that he the said prisoner Kees is guilty of the crime with which he stands charged :

And whereas such conduct on the part of drivers having the direction of slaves cannot be tolerated, but on the contrary ought to be severely punished.

It is therefore that the Honourable the Court of Criminal Justice of this Colony proceeding to administer justice in the name of our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, defender of the Faith, do find him the prisoner guilty of the crime with which he stands charged, and do accordingly condemn him the said prisoner Kees to be taken back to prison, from thence conveyed to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, and there with a rope about his neck fastened to the tree under which the aforementioned Madelon was suspended during her punishment aforesaid, and to receive *One Hundred Lashes*.

Finally :—The Court condemn him the said prisoner Kees in all the costs occasioned by his prosecution, trial and judgment, as also those of his arrest and detention, and afterwards discharged, rejecting the further or other demand of his Honor the Fiscal, R. O.

Whereas the negro Corydon, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, stands accused by his Honor the Fiscal, R. O. of having aided and assisted the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, in dancing or causing to be danced the Minje or Water Mama dance, and during the same, of inflicting, under the direction of him the said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, severe and cruel punishment on the negress Madelon, also belonging to said plantation Op Hoop van Beter, by which her death was occasioned :

And whereas from the evidence adduced on the part of the prosecution it clearly appeared, and is fully proved, that he the said prisoner Corydon is guilty of the offence with which he stands charged :

It is therefore that the Honourable the Court of Criminal Justice, proceeding to administer justice in the name of our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, defender of the Faith, do find him the said prisoner Corydon guilty of the offence with which he stands charged, and do accordingly condemn him the said prisoner Corydon to be taken back to prison, thence conveyed to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, and there with a halter round his neck to receive *One Hundred Lashes*.

Finally :—The Court condemn the prisoner in all the costs occasioned by his prosecution, trial and judgment, as also those of his arrest and detention, and afterwards discharged, rejecting the further or other demand of his Honor the Fiscal.

THE Honourable members, John Cameron and John Downer, attended by the Fiscal and the Secretary, were deputed to attend the prisoner Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, in the gaol, and to make him acquainted with the judgment of the Court; further, that execution would take place at plantation Op Hoop van Beter on Saturday next.

Prayers were then read, and the Court adjourned until to-morrow morning at ten.

Thursday 17th January 1822.

The Court resumed its sentences concluded against the following prisoners—

The negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey,
 The negroes Primo and Mey,
 The negro Kees, and
 The negro Corydon.

And the Court after signing said sentences, adjourned until to-morrow morning at a quarter before nine o'clock.

Friday 18th January 1822.

(After Prayers.)

The Prisoners, viz.

The negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey,

The negroes Primo and Mey, and

The negroes Kees and Corydon,

Were brought up before the Colony House, and the Secretary pronounced the several sentences against them.

After which the said Prisoners were delivered into the custody of the under-sheriff, to be conveyed into plantation Op Hoop van Beter, there to receive their several punishments.

Prayers were then read, and the Court adjourned.

Thus done and minuted at the Colony House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, datum ut supra.

Afterwards the Court proceeded to plantation Op Hoop van Beter to witness the execution of its sentences against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, the negroes Primo and Mey, and the negro Kees and the negro Corydon; where the said culprits received their respective punishments according to the several sentences.

Thus done and minuted on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, this 18th January 1822.

(True extracts.)

James Innes, Col^l Secretary.

APPENDIX.

A.—*Deposition, W. Sterk.*

Deposition of W. Sterk, commanding the 2d company 4th battalion Berbice militia, as taken before Commissaries of the honorable the Court of Criminal Justice, September 14th 1821.

I WAS informed on the 11th August last past, that a negro woman, named Madelon, had absented herself from the plantation Op Hoop van Beter on the 10th of September; it was whispered to me that the woman Madelon was killed by the directions of a negro, named Willem, Cuffy, or Sara, on an occasion of his having danced the Mouskie dance; that was also reported by a negro of Middleburg's Welvaaren, by name Vigilant, who had mentioned it to the manager A. H. Nooy; after which the said manager went over to Mr. Helmers, and informed him of it; they then went on the side line between Middleburg and Resolutie, and sent to call Mr. Hopkins; after Mr. Hopkins was arrived, Mr. Nooy asked said negro Vigilant if he could repeat, in presence of these two white men, those words which he had told him, which the negro then did. On the 12th September I went to Op Hoop van Beter in private clothes. After having settled some trifling affairs, I informed Mr. J. Helmers that I also came there as commanding officer of their company. Notwithstanding I was in plain clothes, I had no doubt but he would respect me as such; his answer was, Yes, with every respect. I then asked him if the woman Madelon, who had absented herself on the 8th August last, had made her appearance, his answer was, according to the best of my knowledge, "no." I then told him, that as officer, certain circumstances were whispered to me, and I wished to have from him the needful information thereon. I then said, I could now fairly inform you that I am acquainted with the whole affair; and I know you also to be in possession of the same information, and I am called upon, both by my oath and office, to inquire officially into the case. His answer then was, Something I have heard; but upon negro testimony I can make no dependence, as I have often experienced, without certain proof attached to the same. I then concluded my conversation with him in my official capacity, and said I should consider it my duty to report the matter to his Honor the Fiscal. I then, upon going home, called upon Mr. Nooy, and required of him to send me the negro Vigilant, which he did, and came also afterwards himself. I then asked the negro Vigilant regarding the matter in question, who gave me the same information as he had previously done to Mr. Helmers, Mr. Nooy, and Mr. Hopkins, and further stated, that the negro Willem was in the negro-houses of Hoop van Beter.

I then requested Mr. Nooy to remain a little longer, and afterwards told him I should see him home. I then went with him to plantation Resolutie, and called upon Mr. Hopkins; they both accompanied me to Middleburg, where I had directed ten of my people to meet me, and from thence we proceeded to Op Hoop van Beter, and had the house, where the said Willem was, pointed out by the man Vigilant before mentioned. In that house we found the man Willem, who we were in search of, and took both him and his wife into custody; after which I directed Mr. Hopkins to go and call up the manager, Mr. Helmers, to whom I made a requisition for the head-drivers and workmen of the estate, who were given up, and accompanied me to town.

Thus deposed in Commissary Court of Criminal Justice, at the Court House of this colony.

Wm. Sterk,

Commanding Officer 2d Comp^y 4th Battalion.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secretary.

B.—*Examination of the Negro Vigilant.*

Deposition of the negro Vigilant, of plantation Middleburg's Welvaaren, taken before Commissaries of the honorable the Court of Criminal Justice, September 14th 1821.

DEPOSES as to the frequency of the Minje Mama dance being performed at plantation Op Hoop van Beter, on Sundays. Was present on one occasion when it was danced, and saw a negro, whose name he does not know, denounced as a confoe man, and severely beat; the negro Willem, or Sara, appeared to be the principal, and promoter of the dancing as above stated.

Further states, that he can identify the negro who was beat as before mentioned; and also that he heard of a Congo woman having been severely beat until she fainted upon one of these occasions.

Thus deposed in Commissary Court of Criminal Justice, at the Court House in this colony,

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secretary.

C.—*Examination of the Negro Willem.*

Interrogatories presented to the honorable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice of the colony Berbice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the colony, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Cuffey, alias Sara, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, charged with having instituted and danced the Mousiki or Minje Mama dance, on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, and on suspicion of having murdered, or aided and assisted to murder, or otherwise destroy, the negress Madelon, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter.

Art. 1. Your name, and to whom do you belong?—They call me Willem; I belong to Buses Lust.

2. Are you acquainted with the negro Fortuin, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter?—No, sir.

3. Have you lately visited the said negro Fortuin on plantation Op Hoop van Beter.—No, sir.

4. When did you go there, and how long did you remain in his house?—On Tuesday night, the same night I was taken up by Mr. Sterk and the other two white men.

5. On what occasion did you go there; for what purpose; and by what conveyance?—I went to see my wife Johanna, with a small coriall.

6. Are you acquainted with the negress Madalon, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter?—No, sir.

7. Did you see any thing of this negress Madalon during your late visit on plantation Op Hoop van Beter?—No, sir.

8. Was there any assemblage of the gang of negroes on plantation Op Hoop van Beter whilst you was there;—No, sir.

9. If so, did this assemblage take place by day or night; for what purpose; and at whose house?

10. Did any dance take place, if so, who was the instigator or proposer of this dance?—No, sir, I never walk there self.

11. Have you any knowledge what is become of the negress Madalon?—No, sir.

12. You are accused of having repaired to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, there to have instituted or caused the Minje Mama dance to be danced; that on that occasion you caused the negress Madalon to be denounced as the bad person, or the one to whom was to be attributed the cause of the deaths of negroes on plantation Op Hoop van Beter; that in consequence of this charge the negress Madalon was severely beaten, or otherwise ill used, and from which ill usage she died; do you admit this charge; or if not, how do you refute the same?—It is not true.

Berbice,

14th September, 1822.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal R O.

Thus done and interrogated at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, datum ut supra.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Sec^y.

D.—*Examination of the negro Frederic.*

THE negro *Frederic*, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, called in and examined, and after considerable prevarication, and total denial of any knowledge regarding either the dancing of the Minje Mama dance at plantation Op Hoop van Beter, or of the ill treatment of the woman Madalon, or of her death; at length, after being expostulated with by the witness Vigilant, who pressed him to relate the truth, as he was really acquainted with the circumstances, he stated the following matter:

That on a certain evening, after the people had thrown their grass, and retired to the negro-houses, the woman Madalon was flogged by the negroes before the driver Primo's door, and at the same time pepper was rubbed into her private parts; that on the evening this took place deponent was watchman; that on going to his house to fetch something, he found the woman Madalon there tied up by the wrists; that on finding her in this situation he loosed her, covered her with his blanket, and conveyed her to his house; for so doing he was threatened by the negro Willem of Buses Lust that he also should be flogged. On the day following the woman Madalon went to her work, but was unable to get through her row, which was completed for her by the negro Quashee, at present a temporary driver, who also had her. Deponent did not see the woman flogged on the first evening.

That on the evening of the second day, viz. the day on which the woman Madalon had been assisted with her work by Quashie, he, the deponent, in consequence of the threats held out by the negro Willem of Buses Lust, hid himself in one of the negro-houses; that from the place where he was hid he saw the woman Madalon taken and tied up by the wrists to a mangoe tree, by the negroes Sango Kees, (a driver) and Adolff; in that situation she was flogged by order of the before-named negro Willem of Buses Lust, with sticks of the babba-tree; that the persons who surrounded and punished her were too numerous for him to distinguish the particular individuals who were striking her. That while being flogged at the mangoe tree the woman exclaimed she was dying; that she was then let down by the negroes Sango Kees, and Adolff, and dragged along farther towards a water-pit, they continuing to beat her as they dragged her along with fire-sticks and other weapons; that she was then tied up to a sand-koker tree, and there left; that the negro Adolff, towards morning, went to see the woman, and found her dead, which he reported to the driver Primo; that the three persons who tied her up went and loosed the body. That the negroes Mey, and Welcome also went to the place where the woman was lying on the ground, took up the body, and threw it in the grass to hide it; that in the evening of this day the driver Primo directed the negroes Baron, Isaac, Maandag, and him, the deponent, with his brother Apollo, to go and bury the body; that neither he, the deponent, nor his brother, went, but the three others did, without however taking shovels with them; that whether they did bury the body, or what became of it, the deponent declared not to know.

The negro Frederic further stated, that the negro Willem was the promoter and instigator of what had taken place with regard to this woman, that he had administered to the other negroes a drink, declaring that it would be the death of any one of them who should reveal what had taken place; he, the deponent, did not drink any of it.

Thus deposed at the Court House of the colony, Berbice, 14th September 1821.

In presence of J. Downer, Acts. Col. Secy.

E.—18th September 1821: *Appointment of Commissaries.*

To His Excellency Henry Beard, Esq. Lieutenant-governor of the colony
Berbice and its Dependencies, President of the Courts of Justice, &c. &c.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the colony, R. O.

Sheweth,

THAT your memorialist, R.O. has received information from W. Sterk, commanding officer of the 2d company 4th battalion Burgher Militia, that he had arrested and brought to town of New Amsterdam the negro Willem, alias Cuffey, alias Sara, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, situated in this colony, and the negroes Primo, Sango Kees, and Adolff, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, also situated in this colony.

That your memorialist, R. O. has received the deposition of said W. Sterk, and the evidence of the negro Frederic, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, from which it appears that the said negro slave Willem, alias Cuffey, alias Sara, had proceeded to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, and had there performed or danced the Mackize, or Minje Mama dance, and that on that occasion the negress Madalon had been tied up by the wrists, several times severely beaten with calabash and fire-sticks, and otherwise maltreated; that she, the said negress Madalon, was left tied by the wrists up to a tree, during a night in the early part of August last past, where she remained till morning, when it appeared that she was dead, after which the body was buried.

That all these acts of cruelty were performed by order of the said negro slave Willem, alias Cuffey, alias Sara, in which he was assisted by the negroes Primo, Sango Kees, and Adolff, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter. And whereas it becomes necessary to institute an immediate inquiry into the premises, your memorialist, R. O. respectfully prayeth,

That your Excellency will be pleased to authorize the institution of criminal proceedings against the said slave Willem, alias Cuffey, alias Sara, as well as against the negroes Primo, Sango Kees, and Adolff, in as far as they may appear implicated, or accomplices of said slave Willem, alias Cuffey, alias Sara, with further authority to cite such witnesses as may be required; and lastly, that your Excellency will be pleased to direct the Colonial Secretary to convene a meeting of the Honorable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice to receive evidence in the premises.

And he will ever pray.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

(A true Copy.)

Charles Bird, Act^s Gov^t Secretary.

Granted, as prayed, with authority to cite witnesses, &c. Let Commissaries be summoned to meet at the Court House, next Thursday the 20th instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of taking evidence herein, and further to proceed according to law.

Henry Beard, Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c. &c.

King's House, Berbice, 18th September 1821.

By command, Charles Bird, Act^s Gov^t Secretary.

F.—*Examination of Barron.*

Interrogatories presented to the Honorable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice of the Colony Berbice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted versus the negro Willem, alias Cuffey, alias Sara, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, for instigating and dancing on plantation Op Hoop van Beter the Makizie or Minje Mama dance, and on the occasion conspiring with other slaves attached to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, and causing the death of the negress Madalon, also belonging to the said estate.

The interrogatories to be put unto the negro Barron of plantation Op Hoop van Beter.

Art. 1. Your name, and the estate you belong to?—Barron. Plantation Op Hoop van Beter.

2. Are you acquainted with the negro Willem, alias Cuffey, alias Sara, now present?—No; I do not know him.

3. Have you ever seen this negro on plantation Op Hoop van Beter?—I have seen him one Sunday on Op Hoop van Beter.

4. When did this negro Willem, alias Sara, come on plantation Op Hoop van Beter; by what conveyance did he come; at whose desire; for what purpose; and at whose house did he stop?—He was working at plantation Resolutie, and came over with several of his Mattees, and at sun-set they went away again. He was at the house of the woman Johanna. The negro Frederic also was in the same house, also Corydon.

5. Did the negro Willem, alias Cuffey, alias Sara, institute any dance on plantation Op

Op Hoop van Beter? if so, state the name of the dance; the manner it was performed; the purpose of this dance, and at whose house?—No.

6. Was there a negro woman named Madalon belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, and was she present at any of these dances?—There was a woman named Madalon. I know of no dancing.

7. What is become of Madalon?—I do not know. On the day before she was missing, when she went to her work, the driver asked her why she did not go to the hospital, seeing she was full of itch on her backside, and a boil on her thigh. She replied she preferred going to her work to going to the hospital, as there she got nothing but barley to eat. She went to her work, and performed it. The next day she was missing; the manager sent every where in search of her, but she was not to be found. She had her clothes on when she went to her work.

8. Relate circumstantially all the particulars that occurred to the negress Madalon; the charge brought against her; by whom such charge was made; the different punishments she received; the place where put in force; wherewith inflicted; who assisted in inflicting such punishments, and all and every circumstance thereunto relating?—Denies any knowledge of the circumstances to which the interrogatory refers.

Berbice, 20th September 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Thus done and interrogated at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, datum ut supra.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secretary.

G.—16 October 1821.—Appointment of Commissaries.

To His Excellency Henry Beard, esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony Berbice and its dependencies, President of the Courts of Justice, &c. &c. &c.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony, R. O.

Respectfully sheweth,

THAT your Excellency, having been pleased to direct a meeting of the Honourable the Commissaries of Criminal Justice, for the purpose of investigating a charge preferred against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and sundry other slaves belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for performing a certain dance on the latter mentioned estate, called the Minje Mama dance, which is strictly prohibited by colonial ordinance, and for conspiring against a certain negress Madalon, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, who it is reported did die in consequence of mal-treatment inflicted on her, it did appear to the honourable Commissaries that the investigation would be greatly facilitated if held on the estate where the dance was performed and the punishment inflicted.

Your memorialist, R. O. therefore humbly prayeth that your Excellency will be pleased to sanction a meeting of the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for the purpose of investigating the charges therein set forth, with authority in the Colonial Secretary to intimate this your Excellency's sanction to the honourable, and he, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony, R. O.

A true copy Charles Bird, Act^s Gov^t Sec^y Commissaries.

Authority is hereby granted to hold a Commissary Court of Criminal Justice on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for the purpose therein prayed; and the Colonial Secretary directed to summon Commissaries to meet there on Thursday next ensuing the date hereof.

Henry Beard, Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c. &c.

King's House, Berbice, 16th October, 1821.

By command,—Charles Bird, Act^s Gov^t Sec^y.

H.—23 October 1821.—Appointment of Commissaries.

To His Excellency Henry Beard, esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony Berbice and its dependencies, President of the Courts of Justice, &c. &c. &c.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony, R. O.

Respectfully sheweth,

THAT in compliance with your Excellency's commands on the memorialist, R. O.'s prayer, the honourable members of the Court of Criminal Justice, W. Kewley and A. Krieger, attended by the acting Colonial Secretary, did join your memorialist R. O. on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for the purpose of investigating charges preferred against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and sundry other slaves, for dancing the Minje Mama dance, and other mal-practices committed on said latter estate :

That several of the negroes were examined on the above subjects, from whose answers it appeared to the honourable Commissaries that the slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter had preconcerted and agreed upon a certain statement, declaring their total ignorance of the subjects of inquiry : That several of the said slaves had, previous to the meeting of the Commissary Court, been examined by William Sterk, Commanding officer of the Burgher Militia in that district, in presence of the Overseer of the estate, and other witnesses, when the said slaves gave full and satisfactory information of the mal-practices exercised on plantation Op Hoop van Beter.

Your memorialist, R. O. now prayeth your Excellency will be pleased, de novo, to direct a meeting of the Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, at the Court House, for the purpose of further investigation, with authority to convene said commanding officer of Militia, William Sterk, the Overseer, and negroes present at the examination, for the purpose of confronting the negroes of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, and the other slaves, or other persons residing on said latter-mentioned estate as your memorialist, R. O. shall deem meet to interrogate on the subject of complaint, with authority to inflict such punishment as the law will admit of on such persons who shall be found prevaricating, and evincing a disposition to elude and frustrate the ends of justice.

And your memorialist will, as in duty bound, ever pray, &c.

Berbice, 23d October 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

A true copy, Charles Bird, Act^s Gov^t Sec^y.

Granted, as prayed. Let Commissaries be summoned to meet at the Court House next Friday forenoon, for the purpose of proceeding in this investigation.

Henry Beard, Lieutenant-Governor, &c. &c. &c.

King's House, Berbice, 23d October 1821.

By command, Charles Bird, Act^s Gov^t Sec^y.

I.—*Examination of David Milne.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, by that occasion conspiring with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter to take the life of the negress Madalon, belonging to said property.

The questions to be put unto David Milne.

Art 1. Your name, age, religion, place of nativity, occupation, and place of residence?—David Milne; 21; Presbyterian; county of Murray; overseer on plantation Nomen Nescio.

2. Are

2. Are you acquainted with the negroes Barron, Adolff, David and Cornelia, now present?—I know Barron.

3. Were you present when these negroes were examined by Lieutenant Sterk, on plantation Nomen Nescio?—I was present when the negro Barron was examined.

4. Did you hear the substance of this examination; if so, relate the same circumstantially to the court?—On the negro Baron first being called he refused to give a decisive answer to any question that was asked. After Mr. Sterk striking him on the side of the head he said he would tell him the whole truth. [In answer to a question from the Fiscal, as to whether Mr. Sterk struck the negro more than once, evidence answered in the negative; it was with his open hand;] then the negro Baron confessed that he was the person who cut the woman Madalon from the tree, and that he was one of five, [naming the five negroes of which Adolff was one,] the other three I do not recollect, who brought the woman behind a dam, and concealed her; a quarrel arising amongst these five, they returned, and told the driver *in Creole*, You have sent us five negroes to bury the body, and if afterwards it comes to the knowledge of the white people you will put us forward to bear the blame, and you will remain behind, or concealed.

The driver then said it did not come to the ears of other whites in the neighbourhood; that the manager himself knew, and said he must find some person capable of finding out who it was that was the cause of the death of so many Creoles on the estates. The negro Baron further said, that on the next day he met the driver on the walk, and the driver said to him, Yesterday you refused to bury that body, to-day we have done it ourselves. On Mr. Sterk inquiring further, he, Baron, said he did not know whether the driver took more people out of the field, or buried it himself. I heard how the body of the woman Madalon was disposed of, but whether it was in evidence from Baron, or that I heard it from any other negro of Op Hoop van Beter, I cannot positively state. I heard that the body was tied into a small Coriaal and sunk with weights in the river.

5. Are you ready to make oath to the truth of the answers given by you?—Yes, I am.
Berbice, 26th October 1821. *M. S. Bennett*, Fiscal, R. O.

The interrogatories, with the deposition in answer, were then read to the witness, who confirmed the same by his signature and oath.

Dav. Milne.

Thus done, interrogated and sworn to at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, the 26th October 1821.

John Cameron,
A. Krieger.

In presence of J. Downer, Act Col^l Sec^y.

J.—*Examination of the negro Bartholomié.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, by that occasion conspiring with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter to take the life of the negress Madalon, belonging to said property.

The questions to be put to the negro Bartholomié, belonging to plantation Nomen Nescio.

Art. 1. Your name, and to whom do you belong?—Bartholomié; I belong to plantation Nomen Nescio.

2. Are you acquainted with the negroes Baron, Adolff, David and Cornelia, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, now present?—I know them all.

3. Were you present when these negroes were examined by Lieutenant Sterk, on plantation Nomen Nescio?—Yes.

4. Did you hear the substance of this examination? if so, relate the same circumstantially to the court.—I heard what Baron told Mr. Sterk.—Deposes to having heard the negro Baron state, in reply to Mr. Sterk's question, after Mr. Sterk had struck him, that he would tell the truth. That Baron said, he and others had been sent to bury the body of the woman, which they did not do. That

on the following day, when returning from his work, he met the driver, who told him that they had buried the body without his assistance, and put the estate in order, or to rights again. The driver further told him, that he had sunk the body in a small coriall with weights. Mr. Sterk, after having examined, directed me to take the negro Baron and wash him, which I did, and while with him, Baron said, "We have got into a bad scrape." Witness knows nothing further relative to the business.

Thus truly interpreted by G. Schwartz, Sworn Int.

Thus done and interrogated at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, the 26th October 1821.

John Cameron,
A. Krieger.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secy.

K.—*Examination of the Negro Baron.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, by that occasion conspiring, with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter, to take the life of the negress Madalon, belonging to said property.

The questions to be put unto the negro Baron.

Art. 1. Your name, and the estate you belong to?—Baron; Op Hoop van Beter.

2. Are you acquainted with W. Sterk, the negroes Bartholomié and Adolff, now present?

3. It is in evidence before the Court, that you confessed to each and all the foregoing persons, that the negress Madalon had been tied up to a tree on plantation Op Hoop van Beter; that she had been flogged with sticks; that she died whilst tied to the tree; that you had cut her down, and had been directed by the driver, with some other negroes, to bury her; that you assisted to drag the body some little distance, but declined burying the body; that the next day the man driver told you in the Middle Walk, that what you declined to do yesterday he had done to-day; that the body of the negro woman Madalon was laid in a coriaal, and sunk with weights. You are now required to confirm this statement, personally, to the court?—Deposes, that after the woman was dead, the driver, Primo, directed him, with Isaac, Maandag and Frederic, to go and bury her; Frederic and Maandag did not go; he and Isaac dragged the body a short distance, and left; the driver Primo told him, when coming from his work in the evening, You have refused to bury the woman; we have done it. States Willem of Buses Lust was the person who brought this bad business on the estate [the man Willem confronted with Baron, who declares him to be the person whom, as above, he has mentioned as the cause of all the bad business]. With regard to the woman Madalon, corroborates the testimony of Frederic, as to her having been tied up at Frederic's door; as to his having loosed her, and being threatened by the man Willem in consequence of his doing so. Further states, that on the second evening she was flogged before the negro Frederic's door, which is close by the driver Primo's. She acknowledged she had been guilty of the death of several persons, that took place after she had been punished; she was subsequently brought to the Mangoe tree, and tied up by the hands, so that her toes could just touch the ground; before she was tied up she fainted from the excess of punishment, when the negro Willem, alias Sara, said it was only a sham. I did not see her removed from the Mangoe tree, but heard the driver Kees' voice, when passing to the said koker-tree, saying, *Come along, so long you have been the death of several people, I can't help you.* On the following morning, when the driver sent me to bury the woman, I found her lying on the ground under the sand koker-tree, dead. Says, two persons besides Willem helped to flog the woman Madalon, their names are Corydon and Allegro. The drivers, Primo and Mey, were present at both evenings the woman was punished, but

but the driver Kees having much to do with the Logie work, was only present the second evening. States that the drivers, Primo and Mey, when they thought the punishment or flogging was becoming too serious or severe, came and drove the people away who were punishing the woman.

When this man, Willem of Buses Lust, first came upon the estate, he inquired for the driver's house, where he remained till the evening, when he made acquaintance with the girl Johanna, whom he had afterwards for his wife. The driver at whose house he was, was the head driver Primo. When he, Baron, saw the body in the morning, the marks of the punishment were very visible; she was rather advanced in years, but otherwise a healthy woman; and his opinion is that the death of the woman was occasioned by the punishment and subsequent suspension to the tree.

Berbice, 26th October 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal.

Thus done, examined and deposed, at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, the 26th day of October 1821.

*John Cameron,
A. Krieger.*

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Sec^y.

L.—Confrontation of Negroes Vigilant and David.

The negro Vigilant, of plantation Middleburg's Welvaaren examined.

The negro Vigilant called in and confronted with the negro David, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, when he identified the said negro David as the man who in his presence had been punished on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, by order of the negro Willem, of plantation Buses Lust. David, on being questioned, denies that such a circumstance ever took place, or that he had confessed to Lieutenant Sterk his having been punished by order of said negro Willem of Buses Lust.

Thus examined at the Court House, Berbice, 26th October 1821.

*John Cameron,
A. Krieger.*

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secretary.

M.—Examination of Negro Adolff.

The negro Adolff, of Op Hoop van Beter, examined.

The negro Adolff states on his examination that the negro Baron did, on their way to town in the coriaall, the day they were brought to the Fiscal, say to him that he had confessed to Mr. Sterk his having loosed the woman's body from the tree where she was tied up, and that he had dragged the body a certain distance, but getting angry he left it. And also that the drivers had informed Baron of their having sunk the body in a coriaall with weights.

Thus examined at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, 26th October 1821.

*John Cameron,
A. Krieger.*

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secretary.

N.—Examination of W. Sterk.

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, by that occasion conspiring with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter to take the life of the negress Madelon belonging to said property.

The questions to be put to W. Sterk, Lieutenant of 3d Company 2d Battalion Burgher Militia.

Art. 1. Your name, age, religion, place of nativity, occupation, and place of residence?

residence?—Wm. Sterk; thirty-one; Protestant; Amsterdam; planter, Nomen Nescio.

2. Are you acquainted with the negroes Baron, Adolff, David, and Cornelia, now present?—I know them as belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter.

3. Were these negroes examined by you respecting certain charges preferred against the negro Willem of Buses Lust, and other slaves belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter?—They were, sir.

4. Was there any other person or persons present at this examination, if so, state their names?—At the examination of David and Cornelia my overseer was present at part of it. The overseer of Op Hoop van Beter was walking up and down in my gallery, and I questioned the said overseer, J. H. Lips, if it was the custom in Op Hoop van Beter that the negroes were punished on the back. The overseer of Nomen Nescio was present when I examined the negro Baron, as was also the negro Bartholomié, and at the investigation of Adolff, the negro Anton, also of Nomen Nescio was present.

5. Do you recollect the information you received from these slaves, if so, relate the same circumstantially to the court?—I recollect that David and Cornelia confessed to me that they were both flogged by the orders of the negro Willem, called also Attetta Sara. I can recollect the negro David saying that he was first flogged in the house of the negro Fortuyn, and that it was on his account the negro Fortuyn had brought the Attetta Sara on the estate, for they had blamed him as being one of the Obii people on the estate. That after he was flogged he was ordered to give payment to the said negro Willem for having flogged the Obeah work out of his head. That he then sent him three ells of Osnaburgh's; and that afterwards the said negro Willem being dissatisfied came into his house, and struck him with his own cutlass on the forehead, saying what he had sent him was not sufficient, and that Obeah people were not allowed to wear any thing of value.

I can recollect Baron saying he was named with some more to take away the body of the deceased woman. That after they had brought her to the front dam, there then arose a quarrel between them, which made that they did not bring the body farther than there.

I can also recollect that he said that the next day after having finished his work he met the driver in the middle walk; that the man driver then said, Me kiki, in Creole, What you have declined doing we have done without you; and said that the drivers had taken the body, tied it in a small coriall, took away weights out of the Logie, and sunk her; and that the place where they had buried her it must be a man to find it out.

The negro Adolff I can recollect saying nearly to the same purport. I can recollect Mrs. Sterk asking the negro Adolff how they could have committed so bad an act. He answered, We could not help it, the drivers have ordered it. Mrs. Sterk then replied, That work that the drivers ordered was not for your master. He then said, Yes, Mrs. but we were informed by the drivers that the manager knew of it. I, W. Sterk, then said, I do not believe it; recollect what you are saying now you will be obliged to say again before the Court. He, the negro Adolff, then said, that in consequence of there being so many deaths on Op Hoop van Beter, the drivers had said then that they should try to find out the cause of that, and that they could bring things on the estate in order, but that other white people must not know of it.

Cornelia I recollect telling me that after she had been flogged by order of Attetta Sara, with caracara sticks, he made her eyes turn, and she knows nothing of what passed afterwards on that occasion.

6. Are you ready to make oath to the truth of the answers given by you?—Yes, I am, if required.

Berbice, 26th October 1821,

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

The foregoing interrogatories, with the deposition in answer, having been read to the witness, he confirmed the same by his signature and oath.

William Sterk,

1st Lieu^t command^s 2d comp^y 4th battalion B. B. M.

Thus done, interrogated and sworn, at the Court House New Amsterdam, Berbice, the 26th October 1821.

J^r Cameron,
A. Krieger.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^l Col^l Secy.

O.—*Examination of negro Munro.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, by that occasion conspiring with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter to take the life of the negress Madalon, belonging to said property.

The questions to be put to the negro Munro.

Art. 1. Your name, and to whom do you belong?—Munro; Vrouw Johanna.

2. Were you acquainted with the negro woman Madalon, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter?—Yes; It was my wife.

3. When did you see this woman Madalon last, and in what state of health was she then?—On the Sunday I was there on Op Hoop Van Beter the whole day, and slept there that night, she was then quite well; [on the question being put, as to whether she had not a boil on her thigh, and was further labouring under the itch, or maracana on her posteriors, says she had neither the one nor the other.]

4. What is become of this negro woman Madalon?—Does not know; never saw her after the Monday morning as before stated.

5. Relate circumstantially to the Court all that you know on the subject of this woman's being missed from plantation Op Hoop van Beter, or that you may have heard from others respecting her; stating the name or names of the person or persons from whom you received such information?—I did not go to the estate to see my wife either on the Monday or Tuesday, but on the Wednesday a letter came to the Johanna, and the negroes informed him his wife was run away; went that evening to Hoop van Beter to inquire into the matter; found the negro Fortuyn on the bridge, as watchman, who told him he was not to go to the negro-houses; he however proceeded to the negro-houses, and found an old man David in the house where his wife had lodged, to whom he asked if he knew what had become of his wife, to which the negro David answered he did not know, as he was only a stock-keeper, and knew nothing of what took place in the field. On passing the house of the man David, he stopped to ask him if his wife Madalon had been punished by the manager, or the driver, or otherwise, he answered no; but as he was a carpenter, he did not know what took place in the field.

On the Sunday following he got a pass from his master, and went over to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, and went to Mr. Holmes to show my pass. Mr. Hellmers questioned me if I knew nothing of what had become of my wife? I told him no. I went from the manager's house to the negro-houses, when I found several of the men assembled, who were ordered by the man of Buses Lust, Monkesi Sara, to beat me for going to the manager's house first; a negro whose name he is unacquainted with, but whose bye-name is Koekoe, also the negroes Baron and Tom, interfered in his behalf. Fortuyn also said he had brought the Attetta Sara on the estate, and that he could not beat him, Munro, for nothing. The Attetta Sara said to me, You know I am here; my father is here; and my mother; how did you dare to go first to the manager's house? To which I replied, I went only to show my pass. I asked the Attetta Sara if he thought I ought to have brought my pass first to him, or if he could read it? On my going previously to the sick-house, a woman, named Agiba, asked me if I had found my clothes? I said, all but my jacket; she told me the Minje Mama had taken it. On the Minje Mama being taken up by Mr. Sterk, I got my jacket back, with the facing on the cuffs stripped off by the Minje Mama, I mean Cuffey of Buses Lust.

Here the man Cuffey, of Buses Lust was brought in and confronted with the man Munro, who recognized him as the person whom he has designated as the Minje Mama. Further states the Minje Mama dance was danced on Op Hoop van Beter on the Sunday evening, as before mentioned; he saw it. The man Cuffey, of Buses Lust was the Minje, and superintended the dance; if he was not there it could not be done.

Berbice, 27th October 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal R. O.

Thus done, interrogated and deposed, in the Court House of the Colony Berbice, this 27th day of October 1821.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secy.

John Cameron,
A. Krieger.

P.—*Examination of Negress Cornelia.*

Interrogatories presented to the Honorable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, and by that occasion conspiring, with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter, to take the life of the negress Madelon, belonging to said property.

The questions to be put to the negro woman Cornelia.

Art. 1. Your name, and the estate you belong to?—Cornelia, of Op Hoop van Beter.

It is in evidence before the Court, that you declared to Mr. Sterk, in presence of witnesses, that you had been flogged by order of the negro Willem, also called Alité Sara, on plantation Hoop van Beter, and that the marks were still visible on you at the time you were examined by Mr. Sterk. You are now required to give this evidence personally to the Court, and to state the reason of your being flogged, at what place, and by whom the punishment was inflicted, and every thing that occurred on plantation Op Hoop van Beter relative to the punishment inflicted on you?—The man Willem, came on the estate and asked if we were sick, if so, he could cure us? I said perhaps he could cure us; and as I was sick, he took three twigs of the cocoa-nut tree, and struck me on the head, and told me to go and wash myself. Further says, she found herself much better, and that this had helped to cure her. The man is called Willem, and Attetta Sara.

Berbice, 27th October 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Thus done and interrogated at the Court House of the Colony Berbice, this 27th October 1821.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^r Col^l Sec^y.

John Cameron,
A. Krieger.

Q.—*Examination of J. H. Lips.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, by that occasion conspiring, with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter, to take the life of the negress Madelon, belonging to said property.

The questions to be put unto the overseer of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, J. H. Lips.

Art. 1. Your name, age, religion, place of nativity, occupation, and place of residence?—Johannes Hendrick Lips; twenty-four years; reformed church; planter, residing on Op Hoop van Beter.

2. Have you any recollection of the negro woman Cornelia, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, being examined by Lieutenant Sterk, on plantation Nomen Nescio?—Yes, I was present.

3. Do you recollect the substance of the information given by this woman to Lieutenant Sterk?—Yes, I heard it; I heard the woman Cornelia, on being asked by Mr. Sterk if she knew any thing of what had happened on Hoop van Beter, she said no; on which the negro Frederick said that she had been punished by the negro Willem of Buses Lust, and that she had the marks on her; when she acknowledged it was true, and that the negro Willem had come to put the plantation in order, and had punished her and others of the estate's negroes.

4. Do you remember seeing any marks on the back of the negro woman Cornelia when examined by Lieutenant Sterk: did he make any remark to you thereon; if

if so, state the same?—Yes, I saw them. He asked me whether the woman had been flogged by Mr. Helmers; I answered no, he also asked the woman, who also said no.

5. Are you ready to make oath to the truth of the answers given by you?—Yes.

Berbice, 27th October 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal R. O.

The foregoing interrogatories, with the replies thereon, having been read to the witness, he confirmed the same by his signature and oath.

J. H. Lips.

Thus interrogated and sworn at the Court House in New Amsterdam, Berbice, the 27th October 1821.

John Cameron,
A. Krieger.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Sect^y.

R.—*Examination of the negro Isaac.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje-Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, and by that occasion conspiring, with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter, to take the life of the negress Madalon, belonging to said property.

The questions to be put to the negro Isaac.

Art. 1. Your name, and the estate you belong to?—Isaac; Op Hoop van Beter.

2. Are you acquainted with the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, now present?—I know him; he was working at Resolutie; belongs to Buses Lust.

3. Have you any knowledge of this negro being on plantation Op Hoop van Beter? Yes; I have seen him once on Op Hoop van Beter.

4. Relate circumstantially to the Court all the particulars that occurred to this negro woman Madalon; the nature of the punishment inflicted on her; by whose order, the place, time, and persons present?—Acknowledges his having been ordered by Willem to go and bury the body. He assisted Baron in removing her from under the sand-coker-tree to a small distance from the path, where they left her. States that Willem said it was of no consequence whether they had buried the body or not, as he would do that. He was Minje Mama; he had plenty of people to assist him; but who or what they were he did not know; admits further, having been present when the woman was flogged by order of Willem; she was flogged with the brush from the cocoa-nut tree, and calabash-sticks; she was beat severely; saw Willem strike the woman with a shovel; she fell down, and cried out, You are killing me; Willem said no, we are not killing you, but I will drive the bad story out of your head. The driver Primo, and Mey, were both present; the people attempted to speak to the drivers in favour of the woman, but they were not listened to. Willem prevented the People from interfering, and beat them if they attempted to speak. The drivers also said Willem came there to put the estate to rights. The Logie driver, Kees, was present, and tied the woman's hands, and ran up and down the path with her; Willem saying, that as she run along the bad thing would come out of her head. Kees also assisted in flogging her. Willem previously had punished negro David, and the woman Cornelia belonging to the estate.

In answer to a question, whether the woman did not cry out so that she could be heard by the manager or overseer, says, that Mr. Helmers, the first evening she was flogged, was returning from Middleburg's Welvaaren, and heard a noise; he sent the overseer to inquire about, but the first person the overseer met was Willem, who is a real Obiah man (Confou man), who took up some ashes from the fire and strewed them across the road, which prevented any body seeing farther on. The overseer approaching, he was met by the driver Primo, who on being questioned as to what was the occasion of the noise, said that it was nothing but the people rejoicing in consequence of having finished weeding the last field of heavy grass. On the second evening, when the punishment of the woman Madalon was commencing, Willem struck her with a shovel, when she fell to the ground almost senseless, and was not able to cry out. Willem was brought first to the estate by a

negro of Op Hoop van Beter, named Fortuyn; he had one of his wives sick, she had been two or three months with a sore on her foot, and Fortuyn said he must find somebody to help him to get her cured; does not know that Fortuyn was concerned with the drivers in procuring the punishment of the woman Madalon, but rather thinks not. On the first evening that the woman Madalon was flogged, she was previously in perfect health, and he, Isaac, considers that she died in consequence of the severe treatment she received on the second evening.

Berbice, 31st October 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Thus done, examined and deposed, at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, this 31st October 1821.

John Cameron,
A. Krieger.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secy.

S.—*Further Deposition of the negro Frederick.*

Further statement or deposition of the negro Frederick, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, before Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice of the colony Berbice, 31st October 1821.

DEPONENT states, that while the woman Madalon was being flogged, Willem struck her with a shovel across the back, which made her fall down, and exclaim she was dying, to which Willem replied, It was all sham, and continued to flog her, and said he was God Almighty's toboco, or child, and should make her get up again; that they further tied her to a tree, where Willem again flogged her, when he, Frederick, interfered, and was driven away by Willem, who said nothing could happen to the woman. She was removed from under the tree where she had been flogged, to a sand-koker-tree where she died. At gun-fire Willem went to the spot and found the woman dead; the people went to their work afterwards as usual, and at eleven o'clock the driver named him, Apollo, Isaac, Baron, and Angus, to go and bury the body; Apollo and Isaac only went, and waited some time, and finding no one come to their assistance, they (when Willem, who had come over from plantation Resolutié, and said it was of no consequence, he had plenty of people, whom they could not see, to assist him, and that he would know what to do with the body,) went away, and did not know what further became of her.

The negro Baron here also stated, that when the woman Madalon was being flogged, he spoke to the driver Primo that it was going too far, when the driver desired him to hold his tongue. That he, the driver, would make a report to the manager. Confirms Frederick's statement with regard to the circumstances that took place, both at the woman's punishment, and afterwards to the time they left Willem with the body. Again repeats, that the driver Primo told him, that as he, Baron and others, had refused to bury the body, he had done it or got it done.

Thus deposed in Commissary Court of Criminal Justice at the Court House, Berbice, datum ut supra.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secretary.

T.—*Examination of the negro Allegro.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, first Fiscal, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, and by that occasion conspiring with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter to take the life of the negress Madalon, belonging to said property.

The questions to be put to Allegro.

Art. 1. Your name, and to whom do you belong?—Allegro, of Hoop van Beter.

2. Are

2. Are you acquainted with the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, now present?—Yes; I know him.

3. Have you ever seen this negro on plantation Op Hoop van Beter; if so, how often was he there; for what purpose did he come on the estate; and at whose house did he stop?—I have seen him on Hoop van Beter; I do not know for what he came on the estate at Johannas' house.

4. It is in evidence before the Court, that the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, was brought, or came of his own accord, on the estate to put it to rights; that several of the negroes were flogged by his, Willem's, order—amongst others, the negro woman Madelon; that she was beaten several times with calabash-sticks, and that you were one of the persons appointed to inflict on her; do you admit this evidence, or do you deny it? if so, how do you refute it? and you are now called upon to relate all the particulars that occurred to this negro woman Madelon?—Knows only that the woman died on the estate, but how she came by her death he does not know. Willem called him to go help flog the woman, but he did not go; he saw the woman flogged, but did not help; saw the woman tied to a tree. I saw Willem strike the woman with a shovel, with the flat part of the shovel. I was in the gallery of my house, and saw it; says Willem called himself (Abdie Toboko) God Almighty's child.

Berbice, 31st October 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Thus done and examined at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, 1st November 1821.

*John Cameron,
A. Krieger.*

In presence of J. Downer, Acting Col^l Secy.

U.—*Examination of the negro Corydon.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, and by that occasion conspiring with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter to take the life of the negress Madelon belonging to said property.

The questions to be put to the negro Corydon.

Art. 1. Your name, and the estate you belong to?—Corydon, of Op Hoop van Beter.

2. Are you acquainted with the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, now present?—I do not know him; I do not know his name.

3. Have you ever seen this negro on plantation Op Hoop van Beter; if so, how often; for what purpose did he come on the estate; and at whose house did he stop?—I have seen him once at Hoop van Beter; I do not know for what he came; he came on a Sunday to walk.

4. It is in evidence before the Court that the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, was brought or came to the estate to put it to rights; that several of the negroes were flogged by his order, amongst others, the negro woman Madalon; that she was several times beat with calabash-sticks, and that you were one of the persons appointed to inflict the punishment: You are called upon to state whether you admit this evidence or not, and to state to the Court all the particulars that occurred relative to this woman Madalon?—Knows nothing regarding the circumstances set forth in this interrogatory; heard only that Madalon had run away.

Berbice, 31st October, 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Thus done and examined at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, the 1st November 1821.

*John Cameron,
J. Krieger.*

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secy.

V.—*Examination of the negro Adolff.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, and by that occasion conspiring with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter to take the life of the negress Madalon belonging to said property.

The questions to be put unto the negro Adolff.

Art. 1. Your name, and the estate you belong to?—Adolff; Op Hoop van Beter.

2. Are you acquainted with the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, now present?—

3. Have you ever seen him on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, if so, how often; and where did he stop there?—Denies having been present at the punishment of Madalon, he being confined in the hospital; but the man Willem, who said he was sent by God Almighty, came to the hospital. His child was sick, and his wife and another child were also in the hospital with him. Willem directed the children to be brought out, which they were by himself and his wife, and were washed by Willem, who took off two bits that were tied round the neck of one of them.

4. By your examination before the Court, on the instant you stated that you had been informed by the negro Baron that the negro woman Madelon, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, had been flogged by order of the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey. That she died, and that he with others were directed to bury her. From evidence collected, and now before the Court, it appears that you were also present when this negro woman was maltreated. You are, therefore, now required to state circumstantially to the Court all and every thing that occurred relative to this woman Madalon?—Subsequently, on being confronted with Baron and Frederic, acknowledges to have been present when Madalon was flogged. States Corydon and Allegro to have been employed to flog her. The flogging was ordered by Willem of Buses Lust. Willem brought and identified by Adolff. The woman was flogged before the door of Frederic's mother's house, with the broom from the cocoreta-tree, and with sticks from the baba (calabash) tree. Willem was also flogging the woman with the other two. Professes to have seen nothing further.

Berbice, 31st October 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Thus done and examined at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, this 31st October 1821.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secretary.

John Cameron,
A. Krieger.

W.—*Examination of the negro Kees.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, and by that occasion conspiring, with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter, to take the life of the negress Madalon, belonging to said property.

The questions to be put to the negro Kees.

Art. 1. Your name, and estate you belong to?—Kees; belongs to Op Hoop van Beter; is Logie driver.

2. Are you acquainted with the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, now present?—I know him, his name is Willem of Buses Lust.

3. Has this negro been in the habit lately of visiting plantation Op Hoop van Beter; if so, by whom was he brought to the estate, for what purpose, and at whose

whose house did he stop?—Yes; is a Confou man; he came of himself; in the house of the girl Johanna.

4. Were you at a meeting of the slaves of plantation Op Hoop van Beter? if so, where was it; and for what purpose; and was it at the instance of any particular person?—No; I was not there; Willem made the people dance the Makisi dance, and beat me the following morning for not being present at the dance.

5. Were any of the negroes of plantation Op Hoop van Beter flogged? if so, by whose order, and wherewith?—Willem flogged David, and the woman Cornelia, and the man Simon, with the broom from the cocoa-nut tree.

6. It is in evidence, that by order of the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, the negro woman Madalon, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, was severely flogged several times with calabash-sticks; that she was tied up by the wrists to a tree, her toes nearly touching the ground, where she was left. That she died that night; and that you were present, and assisted in the foregoing proceedings: You are called upon to state if this information is correct; or if you deny it, to refute the same by evidence?—Willem directed me to flog the woman with the broom from the cocoa-nut tree, and I flogged her. Willem made me hold her hands, which were tied, and run up and down the path with her; he was not present when she was flogged with calabash-sticks. I was not present when she was struck by any person with a shovel. Before he ordered me to run up and down with the woman, he, Willem flogged her, after tying her hands. After running up and down with her, I brought her back to Willem, and went to my house to get my supper. I saw no more of the woman Madalon. The following morning the women were ordered to remain at home to put out coffee; when the driver Mey came and told me the woman was missing. I saw the woman Madalon's body after she was dead, under a sand-koker tree, close to the dam. I heard Willem tell Madalon she was the bad woman who caused so many strong healthy people on the estate to become sick. The woman did not acknowledge to him that she was the bad person who made the people die. [In answer to a question as to whether he could not have acted more correctly in reporting the business to the manager than taking a part in it, says he was too much afraid of Willem, from the severe punishments he inflicted upon them; and exhibits marks, which he states to be the scars, or remains of flogging he had received from Willem.] Says, Willem, on the people refusing to bury the body grew angry, and drove them away; saying he had people of his own who could do it; but whether he, Willem, buried the body, or threw it in the river, he, Kees, does not know.

Berbice, 31st October 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R O.

Thus done, examined and deposed at the Court House, New Amsterdam Berbice, this 31st October 1821.

In presence of J. Downer, Ac^s Col^l Sec^y.

John Cameron,
A. Krieger.

X.—*Examination of the negro Mey.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate; and by that occasion conspiring, with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter, to take the life of the negress Madalon belonging to said property.

The questions to be put to the negro Mey.

Art. 1. Your name, the estate you belong to, and how employed?—Mey; Hoop van Beter; driver.

2. Are you acquainted with the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, now present?—I know him.

3. Has this negro been in the habit of visiting plantation Op Hoop van Beter? if so, by whom was he brought to the estate, and for what purpose?—Not at all; I saw him two Sundays on Op Hoop van Beter, and the night he was taken up.

4. Did a meeting or assembly of the slaves of plantation Op Hoop van Beter take

take place at which this negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, was present? For what purpose was the meeting? Was the Minje Mama dance performed? Were you present? State the names of other persons present, and the name of the person who instituted the dance?—I have not seen any thing of the kind. The Minje Mama dance was not danced on the estate.

5. Were any of the negroes of plantation Op Hoop van Beter punished by order of any slave? if so, state the names of those punished; for what cause; wherewith; to what extent, and by whose order?—No; Willem did not order any of the negroes to be flogged.

6. Was the negro woman Madalon punished by order of said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey; for what purpose; by whom; wherewith; were you present; to what extent was this punishment; on what charge, and by whom was it preferred?—I have not seen any thing of it.

7. It is in evidence before the Court, that the negro woman Madalon, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, was flogged by order of the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, at several times in your presence. That this punishment was inflicted by the negroes Corydon, Allegro, and Kees, by order of said Willem, with calabash-sticks; that she fell to the ground exclaiming, "I am dying." That application was made to you to direct the punishment to be lessened, but to which you paid no attention; that she, Madalon, was tied up to a tree, her toes just touching the ground under a tree, where she died; that you and the said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, directed the negroes Baron, Isaac, and Adolff, to bury her; on their refusal, you and the said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey did so. You are called upon to confess this charge, or if you deny it, to support such denial by evidence, or other satisfactory circumstances?—I was not there; I was sick; I know nothing about the business.

8. Are you not aware, that as driver of the estate it was your duty to prevent this woman or others from being flogged, and to have reported the proceedings of the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, to the manager?—If I heard or seen any thing of it I should have reported it; I am only under-driver, and all reports are made to the head driver.

Berbice, 1st November 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Thus done and examined at the Court House, Berbice, this 1st day of November 1821.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^e Col^l Secy.

John Cameron,
A. Krieger.

Y.—*Examination of the negro Primo.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, and by that occasion conspiring, with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter, to take the life of the negress Madalon belonging to said property.

The questions to be put to the negro Primo.

Art. 1. Your name, the estate you belong to, and how employed?—Primo; Hoop van Beter; man, or head driver.

2. Are you acquainted with the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and now present?—I know him; I have seen him two Sundays on Hoop van Beter, and on the night he was taken up by Mr. Sterk.

3. Has this negro been in the habit of visiting plantation Op Hoop van Beter; if so, by whom was he brought to the estate, and for what purpose?—I have seen him only the three times I have before mentioned, and, as driver, I could not allow him to come to my house; I do not know who brought him; I do not know what he came for, or to do.

4. Did a meeting or assembly of the slaves of plantation Op Hoop van Beter take place at which this negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, was present; for what purpose was this meeting? Was the Minje Mama dance performed? Were you present? State the names of other persons present, and the name of the person who instituted the

the

the dance?—I do not know of any meeting; the Minje Mama dance was not danced on the plantation.

5. Were any of the negroes of plantation Op Hoop van Beter punished by order of any slave? if so, state the names of those punished; for what cause; wherewith; to what extent, and by whose order?—I have not seen any negro flogged on the estate by order of Willem or any other slave.

6. Was the negro woman Madalon punished by order of said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey? for what purpose; by whom; wherewith; were you present; to what intent was this punishment; on what charge, and by whom was it preferred?—No.

7. It is in evidence before the Court that the negro woman Madalon, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, was flogged by order of the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, at several times in your presence; that this punishment was inflicted by the negroes Corydon, Allegro, and Kees, by order of said Willem, with calabash-sticks; that Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, struck the said woman with a shovel; that she fell to the ground, exclaiming, "I am dying." That application was made to you to direct the punishment to be lessened, but to which you paid no attention; that she, Madalon, was tied up to a tree, her toes just touching the ground under a tree, where she died; that you and the said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, directed the negroes Baron, Isaac and Adolph, to bury her; on their refusal you and the said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, and the driver Mey, did so: You are called upon to confess this charge, or, if you deny it, to prove your denial by evidence, or other satisfactory circumstances?—(As before.)

8. Are you not aware that as driver of the estate it was your duty to prevent this woman or others from being flogged, and to have reported the proceedings of this negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, to the manager?—If I had seen it I would have reported it.

Berbice, 1st November 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Thus done and examined, this 1st day of November 1821, at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice.

In presence of J. Downer, Act_g Col^l Sec.

John Cameron,
A. Krieger.

Z.—*Examination of the negro Fortuyn.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, by *M. S. Bennett*, Fiscal, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on the said latter estate, and by that occasion conspiring, with other slaves of said estate Op Hoop van Beter, to take the life of the negress Madelon, belonging to said property.

The questions to be put to the negro Fortuyn.

Art. 1. Your name, and that of the estate you belong to?—Fortuyn; plantation Op Hoop van Beter.

2. Are you acquainted with the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, now present?—I know him.

3. Has the aforesaid negro been in the habit of visiting plantation Op Hoop van Beter?—No; only two times when he was taken.

4. By whom was this person Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, brought to the estate, and for what purpose?—Nobody brought him; he came of himself.

5. Was he not brought by you to plantation Op Hoop van Beter for the purpose of curing a sore which your wife had on her leg, or foot?—No, he was not; I never brought him on the estate.

6. By what means did you expect he was to cure the sore on your wife's leg, or foot, and what means did he employ?—It is false what the negroes have told of me.

7. Was this negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, employed by any other slaves on plantation Op Hoop van Beter for any purposes; if so, relate by whom he was employed, and what was done?—I do not know of any negro employing him.

8. It is in evidence before the Court that the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, was brought to plantation Op Hoop van Beter by your desire; that he instituted

tuted and performed the Minje Mama dance; that several of the slaves were flogged by his orders, amongst others, the negro woman Madalon; that she was severely flogged two evenings, one after the other; that she was then tied up by her wrists to a tree, her toes just touching the ground; that she died the second evening from the severe flogging she received, and that her body, in consequence of some of the negroes refusing to bury it, was made away by the drivers of the estate, Primo and Mey, and the aforesaid negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey: It is now presumed, from the circumstance of your having brought this man to the estate, that you are a party concerned in the murder of this negro woman Madalon; and you are therefore called upon to confess this charge; or, if you deny it, to prove from witnesses, or other satisfactory circumstances, that you are innocent of the charge?—Denies generally all knowledge of any of the circumstances which this interrogatory relates to.

Berbice, 1st November 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Thus done and interrogated at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, this 1st day of November 1821.

John Cameron.
A. Krieger.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Sec^y.

A. A.—Confrontation of the negro Kees.

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice of the Colony Berbice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony, R. O.

FOR the purpose of confronting the Logie driver of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, named Kees, with the negroes Baron, Frederic, and Isaac, for and on account of having aided and assisted other negroes of plantation Op Hoop van Beter to flog the negro woman Madalon, of said estate; to be severely flogged with calabash-sticks two successive evenings, and for sanctioning, by his presence, the said woman to be tied up by the wrists to a tree in such manner that her toes could just touch the ground, and leaving her exposed after such maltreatment under a sand-koker tree, where she was found dead the next morning.

Art. 1. By your former examination you have confessed, that by the directions of the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of Buses Lust, you flogged the negro woman Madalon with a broom of the cocoa-nut tree, and that you ran up and down with the said woman, she having her hands tied; for what purpose was this done?—She was accused by Willem, of Buses Lust, as being a bad woman, and the cause of the healthy people on the estate becoming sick.

2. Was this woman Madalon flogged more than one evening; if so, why?—I saw it on one evening only.

3. It is in evidence that you were present the second evening Madalon was flogged; do you deny seeing her beaten with calabash-sticks, and having yourself assisted to flog her therewith?—I did not see her punished with calabash-sticks; I saw her only flogged with the rods from the cocoa-nut tree; I struck her twice with the broom from the cocoa-nut tree, and no more, and then went to my house.

4. Do you deny being present when Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of Buses Lust, struck Madalon whilst her hands were tied, with a shovel, so as to cause her to fall to the ground?—I was not present.

5. Did you see the woman Madalon after she was dead?—Yes; I saw her after she was dead; I saw her the following day.

6. It is in evidence that you assisted to remove the woman Madalon to the sand-koker tree; if you deny this evidence, how do you refute the same?—No; I did not assist in removing her towards the sand-koker tree.

7. Are you not aware, as driver of the estate, your conduct is very reprehensible for allowing and countenancing a strange negro, whom you have in your former examination designated as a Confou man, to come on the estate to cause the Minje Mama dance to be performed; to direct several of the slaves to be flogged; to exercise his cruelty and severity on the negro woman Madalon, belonging to the estate to which you are attached, to that degree that she died in consequence thereof?—I am but a boy, and only lately been placed in the Droghery as driver; that the head drivers of the estate could have checked it, but I had not the authority; the man Willem did not come to me, or live in my house, he was in the house of Johanna.

8. Must

8. Must you not admit, by witnessing and secreting these acts of cruelty in the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, you have made yourself a party concerned, and worthy and deserving such severe punishment as the laws of the land prescribe against the perpetrators of such horrid crimes?—I did not consider that I ought to have informed the manager of what was going forward, as the head drivers did not mention it; I do not go to the field with the people, and have no authority over them.

9. Have you any thing further to say in confession of the charge preferred against you, or in justification of your conduct; if so, state the same?—I have nothing further to add, but that if not ordered by Willem, who also flogged me, I should not have beat the woman.

Berbice, 3d November 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Thus done and examined at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, this 3d day of November 1821.

John Cameron,
A. Krieger.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secy.

B. B.—*Confrontation of the negro Willem.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice of the Colony Berbice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony, R. O.

FOR the purpose of confronting the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of plantation Buses Lust, with the negroes Baron, Frederic, Isaac, and Adolff, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, on a charge preferred against said slave of Buses Lust, for causing the Minje Mama dance to be performed on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, professing himself to be an Obeah man; and for directing and causing, as an Obeah man, several of the slaves of said latter estate to be flogged, and amongst others the negro woman Madalon, with such degree of severity, that she, the said woman Madalon, was found dead the morning succeeding the evening she had been severely maltreated, on a spot where she had been left tied.

Art. 1. By your examination on the 14th September last past you stated you visited plantation Op Hoop van Beter on a Tuesday night, for the sole purpose of seeing your wife; do you still persist by this statement?—Yes, I do.

2. Did you visit the estate at the request of Fortuyn to cure his wife's leg; and were several of his children not brought to you to be washed?—No sir. [The negro Isaac confronted with Willem, repeats his former statement of Fortuyn having brought Willem to the estate to cure his wife Lucia. Negro Adolff brought in, confronted with Willem, declares his child was washed by Willem, who took away two bits that hung round the child's neck. Isaac also says several of the children were washed].

3. Have you any recollection of a negro woman on that estate stating she was the cause of the death of several negroes on the estate; do you recollect her name; was it Madalon?—No, sir.

4. Did you see any thing of this negro woman, Madalon, whilst you were on plantation Op Hoop van Beter?—Never saw or heard of her. [Isaac, Baron, Frederic, Adolff, and Kees, confronted with Willem; all of them declare him to be the man who ordered the woman, Madalon, to be flogged, and himself flogged her; and Kees declares Willem struck the woman with a shovel, which made her fall down; is the person who ordered him to flog Madalon, and struck him for not punishing her sufficiently.]

5. During your stay on said estate, did you ever assume any other name than that of Willem, or was any name given you by the negroes of that estate?—I was called Willem and Cuffey.

6. Were you ever called upon by any negroes of plantation Op Hoop van Beter to use your endeavours to discover the cause of the deaths of several of the negroes? [The negroes as above, Isaac, Baron, &c. deposed to his being called Sara, Mama, and Minje Mama.]

7. It is in evidence, that assuming to yourself the name of God Almighty's child, on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, you proposed discovering the bad thing upon the estate; that for this purpose the Minje Mama dance was performed; that you

caused

caused several of the negroes to be flogged; amongst others the negro woman, Madalon, whom you accused as having the bad thing in her head. That you directed her to be flogged one evening, and directed her hands to be tied to Frederic's door; that the next evening she was again flogged with calabash-sticks, by the negroes Kees, Corydon, and Allegro; that you struck her during her punishment with a shovel, which caused her to fall to the ground, and exclaim, "I am dying," to which you replied, It is a sham; that by your order this woman Madalon's wrists were tied to a mango tree, where she was again flogged, and tied up so that her toes could just touch the ground; that some of the negroes representing the punishment was too severe, you ordered them also to be flogged. That Madalon was removed from the mango tree to a sand-koker, where she was left tied till morning; when she was found dead. That Baron, Frederic, Isaac, and others having refused to bury the body, you, with the assistance of drivers of the estate, made away with the same: Do you admit this evidence? or if you deny it, have you any evidence to call to prove you innocent thereof, or other circumstances to represent tending to refute the testimony of the said witnesses?—Denies the whole of the circumstance; and in order to prove the whole is lie, he wishes that the people should be taken to the estate, and made to point out where the body is buried. The negroes Isaac, Baron, Kees, Frederic, and Adolff, all declare that the evidence given by them is true, and the circumstances have taken place as they have described.

8. Must you not confess your conduct on plantation Op Hoop van Beter to have been unjustifiable, and that the death of the negro woman Madalon is to be attributed to the severe punishment inflicted on her by your order, and that you are therefore deserving of the severe punishment which the laws of the land prescribe against the perpetrators of such crimes as those wherewith you stand charged?

Berbice, 3d November 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Thus done, examined, deposed, and confronted, at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, this 3d November 1821.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secretary.

John Cameron.
A. Krieger.

C. C.—*Confrontation of the negro Primo.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, of the Colony Berbice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony R. O.

FOR the purpose of confronting the negro Primo, head driver of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, situated in this colony, with the negroes Frederick, Baron, Isaac, and Adolff, for and on account of aiding, assisting, and abetting the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of plantation Buses Lust, to take the life of the negro woman Madalon, belonging to the former-mentioned estate, by permitting, and sanctioning by his presence, the said negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of plantation Buses Lust, to cause the said negro woman Madalon to be severely beaten with calabash-sticks on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, two evenings successively; for striking her the said woman Madalon with a shovel, on the second evening, and causing the severe flogging with calabash-sticks to be repeated; and, ultimately, tying her by the wrists to a mango tree, in such manner that her toes could just touch the ground, in which condition she was left; when on the morning succeeding this latter punishment, she, the negro woman Madalon, was found dead.

Art. 1. In your former examination you have denied any knowledge as to what has become of the negro woman Madalon. Do you recollect the day this woman was missing?—She was missing on a Wednesday evening.

2. Two evenings previous to Madalon being missed, did the overseer of the estate come to the negro-yard to inquire the cause of some disturbance heard by the manager? and did you not reply, The people were rejoicing the fields were weeded? was Madalon present; and was Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of Buses Lust, also there?—It was some time before Madalon was missing that the grass was weeding, and that I informed the overseer that the people were rejoicing for having got through it, was the cause of the noise he came to inquire about.

3. Have you any recollection of saying to the negroes of Op Hoop van Beter that

that Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of Buses Lust, was come to put the estate to rights?—No; I never said so.

The [negroes Frederic, Isaac, and Baron, were called in and confronted with Primo; when Isaac and Baron adhered to their former statement as to the drivers having said that Willem came to put the estate to rights; and further, that the threat held out to them, that if they revealed it to the Fiscal, or other white person, they should be hung, prevented them at first from telling the truth.]

4. Was the woman Madalon not accused by Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of Buses Lust, as a person who had the bad thing in her head, and did she admit this?—Never heard Willem say so.

5. Were none of the negroes of plantation Op Hoop van Beter flogged by order of the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey?—No.

[Again confronted with the negroes as above; who declared that the negroes of Op Hoop van Beter, young and old, little and big, were punished by order of Willem.]

6: Were the negroes David, Cornelia, and Madalon, flogged by order of said Willem?—

7. Do you persist in denying that Madalon was flogged two evenings previous to her having been reported absent? Was this punishment not inflicted in your presence by the negroes Corydon and Allegro, with calabash-sticks, by order of Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey—Did he not strike her with a shovel, so that she fell to the ground, exclaiming “I am dying?”—Did he not direct her wrists to be tied up to a mango tree, her toes just touching the ground, from thence removed to a sand-koker tree—and was she not found dead there the next morning?—The negroes are lying for me. [Isaac says he saw her flogged both evenings. Baron also saw the punishments both evenings.] I did not see Corydon and Allegro beat the woman.

[Isaac and Baron persist in their former evidence, that they saw those two men, Corydon and Allegro, punish the woman; and they further said, if Primo would take off his jacket, the marks would be seen where Willem had struck him with a whip, for interfering when the punishment became too severe.

Primo here took off his jacket, and his shoulder exhibited the mark of a stroke of a whip. Isaac says he was obliged to give three guilders; and that Willem also made his, Isaac's wife, when he was absent, also pay three guilders.

Primo says, he never saw the woman Madalon dead under a sand-koker tree.]

8. The Negro Baron and Isaac have deposed that when this severe punishment was inflicted on the negro woman Madalon the second evening, some of them spoke to the drivers, wishing the punishment to be remitted, but were drove away, observing, Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, was come to put the estate to rights, and they would make their report to the manager. If you deny this evidence, how do you refute the same?—

9. The negroes Frederick, Baron, and Isaac, have deposed, that the morning succeeding this severe punishment on the woman Madalon, she was found dead under the sand-koker tree; that they, with others, were directed by the driver to bury the body; do you deny this charge?—I did not send any of the people to bury the woman.

[Baron and Isaac persist in having been ordered by the driver Primo to go and bury the body.]

10. Baron, one of the said witnesses, has furthermore deposed, that having refused to comply with the above directions he was informed by the head driver that they had put the body away. You are now called upon to state what had become of the same?—[Baron here repeated his former statement as to the driver Primo having informed him that notwithstanding he, Baron, and others had refused to bury the body, they had done so; Willem was present, and said he had people enough of his own to do this work; that God Almighty had sent him.] Primo denies the truth of the assertions made by Baron in this instance.

11. Do you not confess that you have betrayed the trust reposed in you by permitting a strange negro to be harboured on the estate; to permit him to practise or institute a dance prohibited by law; to witness, and allow him to direct some of the negroes to be flogged, and one in particular, the negro woman Madalon, to be

severely beaten with a shovel, or other illegal weapons, to that degree that she died in consequence of this beating, and other maltreatment; and that by your witnessing and countenancing these proceedings of Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey of Buses Lust, you have made yourself a party to the horrid crime of murder?—Denies generally any knowledge of the circumstances set forth in evidence against him, and as to any culpability attached to him this witness.

12. Must you therefore not admit that you are deserving the punishment prescribed by the laws for aiding and assisting murder?

Thus examined and deposed at the Court House of the Colony, Berbice, New Amsterdam, 3d November 1821.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Secretary.

John Cameron.
A. Krieger.

D. D.—*Confrontation of Negro Mey.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Members of the Court of Criminal Justice of the Colony Berbice, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony, R. O.

FOR the purpose of confronting the negroes Frederic, Baron, Isaac, and Adolff, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, with the negro man Mey, second driver of said estate, on certain charge preferred against him the driver Primo, the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of plantation Buses Lust, and other slaves belonging to said plantation Op Hoop van Beter, as more fully stated in the interrogatories to be put unto said head driver Primo, and to which reference is had.

Art. 1. In your former examination you have denied any knowledge of what was done or become of the negro woman Madalon, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter; do you remember the day she was missing, and what was done in consequence of her supposed absence from the estate?—

2. Do you persist in denying that the negro woman Madalon was flogged in your presence, and that of a great number of the negroes of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, by order and direction of the negro man Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey?—I know nothing regarding the story of Madalon; fever caught hold of me the evening Madalon was flogged, and I went to lie down. [Confronted with the negroes Baron, Frederic, and Isaac, say that Mey was present when the woman Madalon was flogged]. Mey persists in denying any knowledge of Madalon being flogged.

3. Was the negro woman Madalon not accused by Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of Buses Lust, as the person who had the bad thing in her head on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, and that he would drive it out?—I never heard him say so.

4. Were none of the negroes of plantation Op Hoop van Beter flogged by order of the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, and, in particular, Madalon, David, and Cornelia?—David and Cornelia were both flogged with the broom of the coconut tree; I do not know that Madalon was beat by Willem; I do not know what David and Cornelia were beat for.

5. Do you persist in denying that Madalon was flogged two evenings previous to her being reported absent; did this punishment take place in your presence by the negroes Corydon and Allegro, with calabash-sticks, by order of Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey? Did he not strike her with a shovel, so that she fell to the ground exclaiming “I am dying?” Were her wrists tied and hauled up to a mango tree by order of said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, so that her toes just touched the ground; from thence, after hanging some time, removed to a sand-koker tree; and was the woman Madalon not found dead there next morning?—To the whole of this interrogatory his answer is: I neither saw or know any thing about it. [Confronted with Baron, who confirms the circumstances detailed in this interrogatory, and says, the driver Mey was acquainted with the whole; and adds, that as driver on the estate he could not be ignorant of what was going on]. [Confronted with Frederic, who confirms the circumstance as detailed: states the driver Mey was present when the woman Madalon was flogged, and found fault with the man Willem for punishing the woman so severely; says the driver Mey was not present when the woman Madalon was tied up by the wrists to the tree, but that Mey was one of the persons who found the dead body the following morning under the sand-koker

koker tree.] [Isaac confronted with Mey], Isaac also confirms the circumstance detailed in this the 5th Interrogatory; says the driver Mey now present was perfectly acquainted with the whole matter; that as driver, who had the command over the people, it is not to be expected, now the case has proved a bad one, that he will confess the truth.

6. It is in evidence before the Court, that after the above-stated punishment had been inflicted on Madalon, on the evening and at night, that she was found dead next morning under the sand-koker tree, and that some of the slaves of plantation Op Hoop van Beter were directed to remove and bury the body by the drivers; do you admit this fact, or deny the same?—I do not know of the people being ordered to bury the body.

7. It is furthermore in evidence, that the said slaves having refused to obey this order, the body of the negro woman Madalon was put away by the drivers of the estate Op Hoop van Beter, assisted by Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey; do you admit or deny this evidence?—Knows nothing of it.

8. Do you not confess that you have betrayed the trust reposed in you as a driver, by permitting a strange negro to come on your estate to institute a dance prohibited by law; to witness and allow him to order some of the estate's negroes to be flogged; and to permit the negro woman Madalon to be so severely flogged by order of the said strange negro with calabash-sticks, and struck with a shovel to that degree that she died in consequence thereof; and that by your witnessing and countenancing these proceedings of Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of Buses Lust, you have made yourself an accomplice and party concerned in this horrid crime of murder?—The whole of it is lies; and I know nothing about it.

The question was put to the man Mey, as to whether he wished to call any of the people to prove his absence on the evening of the woman Madalon's punishment, or to disprove the statement made by the different evidences regarding this business?—Says he wishes to have his wife Juliana, and the man Tom, of Hoop van Beter, called.

Berbice, 16th December 1821.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Commissaries fiat.

Thus done and examined at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, datum ut supra.

In presence of J. Downer, Act^s Col^l Sec^r.

*William Kewley,
A. Krieger.*

E. E.—*Examination of the negro Tom.*

THE negro Tom, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, who was yesterday called upon by the negro-driver Mey, of said estate, to prove that he Mey had slept in his house on the night that the negro woman Madalon was flogged, tied up to the tree, and found dead next morning, was examined before the honourable Commissaries; and being questioned where he, the witness, had slept the night that the above transactions took place, he declared, that although he, the witness, has a room in driver Mey's house, that he, the witness, did not sleep in the house that night, but slept in the kitchen; that he cannot positively state that Mey was present at the flogging of Madalon, yet he presumes that he, Mey, must have been present, being a driver. Witness states himself to be the hospital-mate of the estate. That the negro Mey had complained of indisposition some days previous, for which he, witness, had given him medicine, but that he had recovered and gone to his field-work. Previous to the above transaction taking place, never heard that Mey had had fever, as stated by Mey. On being questioned if he was personally acquainted with any of the transactions that took place relative to Madalon, he, the witness, declares that he never witnessed any; but it is notoriously known on the estate that Madalon was flogged, tied up by order of Willem of Buses Lust, and the drivers of the estate, and that she died in consequence of mal-treatment and flogging:

That the negroes would not trust him, witness, to be present at any of these transactions, in consequence of being hospital-mate. Further states, that he, the witness, was in the hospital the night that Madalon was flogged; that he heard the blows inflicted on her, which he understood was done with calabash-sticks; and he knew to his certain knowledge that it was Madalon they were punishing, but did not go to the

the spot himself: he, the witness, states that Madalon, at the time she was reported by the drivers to be missing, had not a boil on the belly, nor the itch.

Thus examined at the Court House, Berbice, this 18th day of December 1821.

William Kewley.

A. Krieger.

In presence of R. Samuel, Sw. Clk.

The driver Mey was called into Court, and confronted with the negro Tom; and the testimony of Mey, yesterday, being explained to Tom, he denies any knowledge thereof, and persists, in presence of Mey, in the evidence already given in Court.

William Kewley.

A. Krieger.

F. F.—*Examination of the negress Juliana.*

JULIANA, belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, being examined as a witness on the behalf of Mey, and made acquainted with the statement of yesterday made by him, states that she recollects Mey refusing his supper, and complaining of fever and bowel complaint; that the next morning, to the best of her recollection, the woman Madalon was missing; but declares to have no knowledge of Madalon ever having been flogged by order of any negro, or tied up to a tree, and does not know at the present whether Madalon is dead, or run away.

She knows Willem of Buses Lust from having seen him at plantation Op Hoop van Beter twice on Sundays.

Thus examined at the Court House, New Amsterdam, Berbice, this 18th day of December 1821.

William Kewley.

A. Krieger.

In the presence of R. Samuel, Sw. Clk.

G. G.—*Examination of the negro Corydon.*

Interrogatories presented to the honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, of the Colony Berbice and its Dependencies, by M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony, R. O.

IN a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted against the negro Corydon, for aiding, abetting, and assisting the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of Buses Lust, and the drivers Primo and Mey, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, to inflict punishment on the negro woman Madalon belonging to the latter-mentioned estate, and from which punishment she the negress Madalon died.

The interrogatories to be put unto the negro Corydon.

Art. 1. Your name, and the estate to which you belong?—Corydon, and belong to plantation Op Hoop van Beter.

2. Are you acquainted with the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, now present?—I know him.

3. Has this negro been in the habit of visiting plantation Op Hoop van Beter?—He, Willem, had not been in the habit of visiting plantation Op Hoop van Beter, except at the time he was working on plantation de Resolutie.

4. By what name was he, Willem, generally known or distinguished by on said estate?—I knew him by no other name but that of Willem.

5. Was any dance or song made by this negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, on plantation Op Hoop van Beter?—I have never heard or seen of any dance on plantation Op Hoop van Beter made by the negro Willem.

6. Was there a negro woman named Madalon belonging to aforesaid estate; what has become of her?—I do not know what is become of her.

7. Were any of the negroes of plantation Op Hoop van Beter flogged or punished by order of this said negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey; and was Madalon not amongst the number?—I never heard or saw any flogging by order of the negro Willem, nor of Madalon either.

8. It is in evidence before the Court, that the negro woman Madalon was flogged two evenings following, by order of the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, in the presence of the drivers, and numerous negroes belonging to the estate; that the

second

second evening she was tied by the wrists to a mango tree, and hauled up so that her toes just touched the ground; that she was severely beaten with calabash-sticks, and that you were one of the persons who by order of the said negro Willem flogged her; that the said Willem struck her, the woman Madalon, with a shovel, which caused her to cry out, "You are killing me; I am dying?"—I deny the charge.

That she Madalon was afterwards dragged from the mango tree to a sand-koker tree, where she was left till morning, when she was found dead. You are now called upon to state whether this information is correct; if you admit the charge, or if you deny it, you are called upon to contradict it, either by evidence or other satisfactory explanation.

[On being informed that he is accused of flogging Madalon, on the evidence of several negroes, he wishes to be confronted with them; and being required to name any negroes who could prove his innocence of the charge, he says he has been already accused, and can call on no one.]

9. Are you not aware that by aiding and assisting to flog the negro woman Madalon, who died in consequence of such punishment, that you have made yourself a party concerned in the murder of the said negress, and that you are deserving the severe punishment prescribed against the perpetrators of this crime?—I deny having assisted; nor do I know that Madalon is dead.

10. Have you any thing further to state in confession or exculpation of your conduct, if so, state the same?—Nothing.

Berbice, 10th January 1822.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

Thus done and examined at the Court House, before the honourable the Commissaries, on the 11th January 1822.

Peter Fairbairn,
A. Krieger.

G. Schwartz, Interpreter.

Sworn before the Honourable Commissaries on the 11th January 1822.

In presence of R. Samuel, Sw. Clerk.

H. H.—*Criminal Demand v' negro Willem.*

DEMAND and Conclusion made and presented to His Excellency Henry Beard, Esquire, Governor, and the honourable the Court of Criminal Justice of the Colony of Berbice and its Dependencies.

In a case of Criminal Proceedings instituted by *Michael Samuel* } Plaintiff.
Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony, R. O. - - - - -

versus

The negro *Willem*, alias *Sara*, alias *Cuffey*, a native of this colony, } Defendant.
Prisoner at the bar - - - - -

THE Fiscal, R. O. states that the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, a Creole or native of this colony, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, situated on the east bank of the river Berbice, the property of Major General Murray, stands accused of treasonable practices, by deluding the minds of the negroes belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, also situated in this colony, from their obedience to the laws of the land, and their proprietors, by instituting and causing to be danced on the said estate Op Hoop van Beter the Minje Mama dance, and, as a result of this said dance, contriving, with the drivers of the said estate Op Hoop van Beter, and occasioning, the death of the negress Madalon, thereunto belonging:

That from the voluminous evidence regularly collected before the honourable Commissaries of this Court, and now respectfully submitted for the information of your Excellency and the honourable Court. It will appear that the prisoner at the bar had used every means to influence the minds of the gang on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, in the belief of his possessing supernatural power, thereby to subject them to implicit obedience to his orders, which orders it will be made hereafter to appear are in direct opposition to the laws of God, and of the land:

That the prisoner at the bar had frequently caused the Minje Mama dance to be performed, and on such occasions had proceeded to inflict corporal punishment on several of the negroes, and even on the drivers of said estate, thereby confirming in the minds of the gang his, the prisoner's, extent of power:

That the prisoner at the bar, who was acknowledged by the negroes of plantation Op Hoop van Beter as the Minje Mama, did on or about the 5th of August

last past, repeat the Minje Mama dance on said estate, for the purpose of putting the estate to rights, and detecting or finding out the bad person, or thing, by whose influence or actions the sickness of the negroes on the estate, and the deaths of the children, was to be imputed; and to prevent a recurrence of the evils complained of:

That on comparing the statement of the evidence collected, with the information laid by the burgher-officer, Lieutenant W. Sterk, to whose activity and zeal in detecting and bringing to light many circumstances in the horrid transaction about to be mentioned, the prosecutor R. O. deems it his duty now particularly to acknowledge to your Excellency and the Court.

It appears, that on or about the above-stated date, or the day after, the negress Madalon, attached to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, had been denounced or accused by the prisoner at the bar as the bad person or cause to which the deaths of the negroes of the estate was to be attributed; and assuming to himself the power and authority of punishing crimes, he, the prisoner at the bar, directed the said negress Madalon, in the evening, after the negroes returned from the field, to be tied by the hands to one of the negro-houses, where she was punished so severely, and otherwise inhumanly treated, as to prevent her from performing her usual daily task, (for which she had been heretofore distinguished) without the assistance of one of the negroes.

That on the evening of the next day, and presumptively the 7th of August, the prisoner at the bar caused and directed the said negress Madalon to be flogged again; that this flogging was inflicted with calabash-sticks, her wrists tied together, fastened to a mangoe tree, and suspended to that degree, that her toes barely touched the ground; that in such condition, the negroes Kees, Allegro, Corydon, and others, inflicted punishment on her with calabash-sticks, by order, and assisted by, the prisoner at the bar, in presence of Primo and Mey, drivers of the estate, and numerous other slaves. That after the punishment had continued for some considerable time, the prisoner at the bar, with a shovel, struck the negress Madalon (suspended in manner as afore-stated) on the back, which caused her nearly to faint, and exclaim, or cry out, "You are killing me," "I am dying," or words to that effect:

That the wretched state to which this unfortunate woman was reduced, far from exciting compassion in the mind of the prisoner at the bar, he exultingly exclaimed, We are not killing you, but I will drive the bad thing out of your head. It is all a sham. I can make you get up again; or nothing can happen to you. And the flogging was continued:

That on some of the negroes representing to the drivers, Primo and Mey, that the punishment of the negress Madalon was becoming too severe, the prisoner at the bar prevented the interference of such negroes, by flogging and driving them away:

That the negress Madalon was then loosened from the mangoe tree, and dragged along to a sand-koker tree, at some distance, where she was left exposed to the inclemency of the night; and at day-break on the following morning it appeared, to the utter astonishment of many of the negroes of said estate Op Hoop van Beter, that the negress Madalon lay dead under the said sand-koker tree:

That the drivers Primo and Mey directed the negroes Baron, Isaac, Frederick and others, to bury the body of said negress Madalon; and they, after some consultation having refused to comply with this order, fearful of involving themselves in difficulties; and it having been represented to the prisoner at the bar, he, the prisoner at the bar, declared, in hearing of several of the negroes, that it was of no consequence, as he had people enough of his own then about him, although invisible to others, who would execute his orders; the next morning it appeared the corpse had been removed, and it is presumed, by the prisoner at the bar and the drivers; and is supposed to have been tied down in a small coryaal, and sunk with weights in the river.

That although the *corpus delicti* has not been found, nor the charge preferred against the prisoner at the bar admitted or confessed, it nevertheless will appear evident to your Excellency, and the honourable Court, on examination of the negroes Frederic, Isaac, Baron, Adolff, Kees, Fortune, Tom, Vigilant and Munro, whose evidences have been carefully and regularly received by the honourable Commissaries of this Court, and on whose evidence this present indictment is grounded, that the statement now detailed is matter of fact; that several of the said witnesses knew and saw the negress Madalon in perfect health and strength on

Sunday the 5th August, or Sunday preceding the time she was reported by the drivers to the manager as being absent; that they saw the punishments inflicted, and saw her lying dead under the sand-koker tree on the Wednesday morning, or the morning after she had been tied up on the mangoe tree, and punished in manner afore stated :

That from all the afore-stated it must also appear that the prisoner at the bar has boasted professing supernatural power; that he has caused the Minje Mama dance to be performed on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, thereby estranging the minds of the negroes of that property from their obedience to the laws of the land, and of their owners or their representatives: That he has taken upon himself to rectify abuses, presuming to judge and prescribe punishments; and in the execution of such punishment on the afore-mentioned negress Madalon, to cause and occasion her death, thereby rendering himself (the prisoner at the bar,) guilty of the wilful murder of the negress Madalon :

That the power of taking away life is confided solely to regular constituted authorities; and that all attempts to assert such power by any individual can only tend to the subversion of all rule and subordination, particularly in instances as herein set forth.

And whereas the horrid crime of murder is strictly prohibited by the law of God; and that the laws of the land, in furtherance of the Divine command, order and direct that the perpetrators of murder, when detected, shall not go unpunished, but, to the contrary, severely punished, to serve as dreadful examples to others, to prevent if possible the committing of that heinous crime :

So it is, that the Fiscal of the Colony, R. O. making his demand in the name of our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, defender of the Faith, concludes that the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, be convicted by this honourable Court of the charges preferred against him, and condemned to be remanded to prison, from thence taken to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, there delivered into the hands of the public executioner in the presence of this honourable Court, to be hung by the neck on the Mangoe tree under which the negro woman Madalon was suspended, until he be dead; his head then severed from his body, and stuck on a pole, there to remain till destroyed by the elements, or birds of prey; the body to be committed to the earth under the afore-mentioned mangoe tree, or such other greater or more mitigated sentence as this honourable Court in their wisdom shall deem consistent with law and the circumstances of this case; with condemnation of the prisoner in costs of suit.

Berbice, 14th January, 1822.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

I. I.—*Criminal Demand v^s the negroes Primo and Mey.*

DEMAND and Conclusion made and presented to His Excellency Henry Beard, Governor of the Colony, and the honourable Court of Criminal Justice and its dependencies.

In a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted by M. S. Bennett, } Plaintiff.
Fiscal of the Colony, R. O. - - - - - }

versus

The negro *Primo*, head driver, and the negro *Mey*, second driver, of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, situate on the west bank of the river Berbice, prisoners at the bar - - - } Defendants.

The Fiscal, R. O. Plaintiff, states,

THAT the prisoners at the bar stand accused of aiding and abetting the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, in instituting and performing on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, the Minje Mama dance; of disrespecting and setting at nought the subordination due and owing to their proprietors, and subjecting themselves (the drivers,) in presence of the gang of negroes over which they were placed, to the implicit obedience of the orders and commands of the aforesaid Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey:—and finally, for aiding and abetting the said negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, in the wilful and atrocious murder of the negro woman Madalon, belonging to the afore-mentioned estate of Op Hoop van Beter.

That it is in evidence that the aforesaid negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, was in the habit of frequenting the said estate, and there performing the Minje Mama dance,

dance, on which occasion the children were washed ; several of the negroes punished ; nay, that even the head driver submitted to punishment from the said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey :

That it furthermore appears that the said prisoners at the bar, instead of maintaining the authority confided to them, by enforcing due subordination on the estate, and due obedience to an ordinance of the legislature of this colony, whereby the dancing of the Minje Mama dance is strictly prohibited, and of which prohibition they were sensible of, it having in former years been read and explained to the gangs of the different estates on the river, and also lately severely punished on a neighbouring estate :

They, the prisoners at the bar, permitted the said negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, to institute the said Minje Mama dance on or about the 6th day of August past, for the purpose of putting the estate to rights, and finding out the bad person through whose influence the deaths of several of the negroes on the said plantation Hoop van Beter was to be attributed :

That by encouraging, and moreover aiding and abetting, the said negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, in the several services required of them by him, they, the prisoners, prepared the minds of the negroes for a transaction of the most atrocious nature :

That the said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, having on or about the said evening of the 6th of August last past, denounced or accused the negro woman Madalon, as the bad person, or the cause to whom was to be attributed the deaths of negroes on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, they, the prisoners at the bar, in obedience to the orders of Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, consented, and were present at the tying up of the said negro woman Madalon to the door of a negro-house, near the driver's house ; that she was then and there beaten with sticks, and otherwise inhumanly treated, insomuch that she was not able to perform her task the following day without the assistance of another ; that the prisoners at the bar the next evening again permitted this unfortunate female to be severely flogged by order of the said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, with calabash-rods ; that she was moreover in their presence tied up to a mangoe tree by the wrists, and hauled up to that degree that her toes could scarcely touch the ground ; that she was in that condition barbarously flogged with calabash-sticks for a considerable time ; that they stood by and witnessed that the said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, struck the said negro woman Madalon, with a shovel, with such force, that she was heard to cry out " You kill me ; I am dying : "

That notwithstanding some of the better-inclined negroes represented to the prisoners at the bar that the punishment inflicted on Madalon was too severe, and required it should be lessened, they, the prisoners at the bar, turned a deaf ear to this remonstrance, and drove them away :

That the woman Madalon, after receiving the blow with the shovel, having become faint and exhausted, she was loosened from the mangoe tree by order, and from thence removed to a sand-koker tree, where she was left exposed to the inclemency of the night, and where she was found dead the next morning :

That the prisoners at the bar finding next morning that the negro woman Madalon was dead, instead of giving the earliest information to the manager of the estate of this circumstance, as their duty should have pointed out to them, imposed on him, by representing that the woman Madalon had absented herself, and that they were ignorant of what had become of her, and busied themselves in giving orders for the burial of the body ; and on the negroes to whom this service had devolved having refused to perform the same, they, the prisoners, with the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of Buses Lust, tied the corpse in a small coriall, conveyed it in the river, and there sunk it with weights :

That the foregoing statement is borne out by the evidence of the negroes Frederick, Isaac, Baron, Kees, Adolff, Vigilant, and Allegro, who were mostly eye-witnesses to the punishment, and who have severally deposed before the honourable Commissaries of this Court that they saw the negro woman Madalon lying dead on the spot where she had been dragged to the evening before ; and that they were fully satisfied, and of opinion, that she, the negro woman Madalon, died in consequence of the punishment and maltreatment she had experienced :

That although the prisoners at the bar persist in the obstinate denial of the facts afore stated, yet, from the corroborating evidence of several of the negroes attached to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, who have not only confessed that they were present, and witnessed the ill-treatment inflicted on the woman Madalon, but who,

also,

also, through the effects of fear of the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, which operated on the minds of all the negroes belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, they, the witnesses, had also assisted in inflicting punishment on Madalon, it must evidently appear to your Excellency, and the honourable Court, that the prisoners at the bar, by aiding, abetting, and assisting the said negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, are principals concerned in the wilful murder of the aforesaid negro woman Madalon :

And whereas murder is a most atrocious and heinous crime, and as such is strictly prohibited by the laws of God and the land ; and that it is directed that the perpetrators thereof shall not go unpunished, when committed and detected, in a land where the laws are enforced, and justice duly maintained :

So it is, that the Fiscal of the Colony, R. O. making his demand in the name of our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, defender of the Faith, concludes that the prisoners at the bar, the negroes Primo and Mey, first and second drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, situated on the west bank of the river Berbice, be convicted by your Excellency and the honourable Court of Criminal Justice of this colony, of the charges preferred against them ; and condemned by sentence to be remanded to prison, from thence taken to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, there delivered into the hands of the executioner, by him to be hung by the necks to the sand-koker tree under which the body of the negro woman was left the evening preceding her death, there to remain till dead. The bodies to be buried under the same, or such other greater or other mitigated punishment as this honourable Court shall deem meet, with condemnation of costs.

Berbice, 14th January 1822.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

J. J.—INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS, see p. 2.

K. K.—Demand and Conclusion vs the negro Kees.

DECLARATION and Demand made and presented to His Excellency Governor H. Beard, and the honourable the Court of Criminal Justice, of the colony Berbice and its Dependencies, By
M. S. Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony R. O. - - - Plaintiff.

versus

The negro Kees, Logie driver of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, } Defendant,
situated on the west bank of the river, prisoner at the bar - }

THE Fiscal, R. O. Plaintiff, states :—That the defendant and prisoner at the bar stands accused of aiding, abetting, and assisting the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, of plantation Buses Lust, and the negroes Primo and Mey, drivers of plantation Op Hoop van Beter, in inflicting such severe and cruel punishment on the negro woman Madalon, also belonging to the latter-mentioned estate, that the negro woman Madalon died in consequence thereof :

That it is in evidence, that the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, having come to the estate of Op Hoop van Beter, for the purpose of putting it to rights, and a certain dance, denominated the Minje Mama dance (which is strictly prohibited by local law) having been instituted by and with the consent of the drivers of the estate, the woman Madalon, a field negro belonging to said plantation Op Hoop van Beter, was accused by the aforesaid Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, as the person who had the bad thing in her head ; or in other words, the cause of many negroes and children dying on the estate : That she, Madalon, was in consequence tied up and flogged two evenings running : That on the second evening, the prisoner at the bar took an active part in the mal-treatment inflicted on this said woman, by flogging her severely with calabash-sticks, by order of the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, tying her hands together, running and pulling her after him, to cause the bad thing to come out of her head ; that she (Madalon) was then hauled up by the wrists to a mangoe tree to that degree that her toes could barely touch the ground ; that she was then struck with a shovel by the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, when she exclaimed, “ You kill me—I am dying ;” that she, Madalon, was loosened from the said mangoe tree, and dragged to a sand-koker tree, where she was left for the night, and was found dead there the next morning :

That the charge against the prisoner at the bar is grounded on the evidence of the negroes Frederick, Isaac, Adolff, and Baron, as also on the part confession of the prisoner, he having declared before the honourable Commissaries of this Court, that he, the prisoner, did, on being ordered so to do, flog the woman with cocoa-nut straws; that he ran up and down with her after her hands were tied, and that he did also see her dead the next morning under a sand-koker tree near the Dam:

That by this confession, the prisoner at the bar admits that the negro woman was murdered; but on his examination denies the criminality as far as regards himself, pleading in mitigation the influence of dread and fear under which he, the prisoner, as well as the rest of the negroes were, of the power possessed by the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, who was esteemed a great Obeah man, and the Minje Mama; and also the example set before him by the first and second drivers of the estate:

That the prisoner at the bar also admits his conduct to be reprehensible from the circumstance of withholding the death of the negro woman Madalon from the manager, a duty that was incumbent on him as the Logie driver, and consequently a person in whom confidence and trust was reposed:

That from all the afore-stated, it must be evident that the prisoner at the bar is guilty of the charge preferred against him:

And whereas the crime of murder is of that atrocious nature that the law of the land directs that not only the perpetrators of the same shall be severely punished, but also the abettors and aiders of this crime, as well as all those anywise therein concerned:

So it is, that the Fiscal of the Colony, R. O. making his demand in the name of our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, defender of the Faith, concludes that the prisoner at the bar be convicted by this honourable Court of the charge preferred against him, and condemned, by sentence, to be remanded to prison, from thence taken to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, there to stand with a rope round his neck fastened to the mangoe-tree under which the woman Madalon was suspended; to receive severe punishment by the whip, at the discretion of the honourable Court, and afterwards worked in chains on said plantation Op Hoop van Beter for the period of seven years, or such other mitigated punishment as this honourable Court in their wisdom shall deem meet, with condemnation of the prisoner in the costs of suit, &c.

Berbice, 14th January 1822.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

L. L.—*Demand and Conclusion v^s the negroes Corydon and Allegro.*

DEMAND and Conclusion made and presented to His Excellency Henry Beard, Esquire, Governor of the Colony Berbice, and its Dependencies, and the honourable the Court of Criminal Justice of the same.

In a suit of Criminal Proceedings instituted by *Michael Samuel* } Plaintiff.
Bennett, Fiscal of the Colony, R. O. - - - - - }

versus

The negroes *Corydon* and *Allegro*, belonging to plantation Op } Defendants.
Hoop van Beter, - - - - - }

THE plaintiff, R. O. states, That it is in evidence that the defendants, losing sight of the duty and obedience due to their proprietors, and submitting themselves to the authority of the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, did, on certain days between the 5th and 18th of August last past, aid, abet and assist the said negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, to inflict severe and cruel treatment on the negress Madalon, also belonging to plantation Op Hoop van Beter, to that degree that the said negress Madalon died in consequence thereof:

That from the evidence collected before the honourable Commissaries of this Court, and now laid over, it will appear that the negress Madalon had been accused by the above-mentioned Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, as the person to whom was to be attributed the deaths of the negroes on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, and that taking upon himself to punish her for the crime of which he had accused her, he, the negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, ordered her to be flogged two evenings successively; that it furthermore appears the negress Madalon was tied, the first evening, to the door of a house, where she was flogged:

That

That the next evening her wrists were tied together, and hauled up to a mangoe tree, to that degree that her toes barely touched the ground : That in this condition she was, by order of Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, severely beaten by the defendants with calabash-sticks ; that she was then pulled about, and ultimately struck by the said Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, with a shovel, when she exclaimed, “ You are killing me ! I am dying ! ” That she was then dragged to a sand-koker tree, near the Dam, where, being left exposed to the weather, she, the negress Madalon, dièd that night :

That this charge against the defendants is proven by the evidence of the negroes Frederic, Isaac, Adolff, Kees, and others, eye-witnesses ; who have also declared that they saw the negress Madalon dead under the sand-koker tree the next morning after being flogged the second evening ; and have declared, as their opinion and belief, that the negress Madalon died in consequence of the punishment inflicted on her ; and also the confession of one of the defendants, who admits that he had been directed by the aforesaid negro Willem, alias Sara, alias Cuffey, to flog her :

And whereas the conduct of the defendants is highly culpable, and deserves to be severely punished by order of this honourable Court, as an example to other slaves :

So it is, that the Fiscal, making his demand in the name of our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, defender of the Faith, concludes, That the negroes Corydon and Allegro be convicted by this honourable Court of the charge preferred against them ; and by sentence of the same, condemned to be severely punished on plantation Op Hoop van Beter, in presence of the gang, and, moreover, sentenced to work in chains on said estate for the space of three years, or such other sentence as the honourable Court shall deem meet, with condemnation of the defendants in costs of suit.

Berbice, 14th January, 1822.

M. S. Bennett, Fiscal, R. O.

TRIAL OF A SLAVE IN BERBICE,
FOR THE
CRIME OF OBEAH AND MURDER.

Return to an Address to His Majesty, by The Honourable
House of Commons, dated 29th of July 1822 : for,

COPY OF ANY INFORMATION

Which may have been received concerning the
TRIAL OF A SLAVE, for the Crime of OBEAH,
in the Colony of BERBICE.

Colonial Office, }
14th May 1823. }

R. J. WILMOT HORTON.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
14 May 1823.
