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FURTHER PAPERS

RELATING TO

SLAVES IN THE WEST INDIES;

(Demerara and Berbice:)

VIZ.

Further Return to an Address of The Honourable the House of Commons,
dated the 13th of April 1824;—*for*

COPIES OF THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Of the Fiscals of *Demerara* and *Berbice*, in their capacity of Guardians and Protectors of the Slaves; with their Decisions in all Cases of Complaint of Masters and Slaves, respectively, against each other; and the Punishments inflicted, or Redress given, in consequence of such Complaints;—from the 1st January 1814 to this Time:

AS FAR AS THE SAME RELATE TO

BERBICE.

(For Records of the Proceedings of the Fiscal of *Demerara*, see Paper N^o 66
of the present Session, page 17.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
23 June 1825.

LETTER from His Excellency *Henry Beard*, Governor of Berbice, to The Right Honourable Earl *Bathurst*, K. G. &c. &c. &c. inclosing one from Mr. *Bennett*, the Fiscal of Berbice, to His Excellency the Governor, with his Proceedings on Complaints :

- (1.)—Investigation Complaint of Nine Negro Men belonging to Mrs. Ibon Sanders, residing in Upper Berbice ;—1st February 1819 - - - - - p. 5
- (2.)—Berbice, March 18th, 1819 : Fiscal *v.* J. B. Goring, for selling Rum - p. 16
- (3.)—Fiscal's Office, Berbice, Friday July 4th, 1820 : Complaint of the Negro Woman *Julia*, belonging to William Carabin Mourant - - - - - p. 31
- (4.)—Fiscal's Office, Berbice, March 4th, 1822 : Investigation of a Complaint preferred by Five Negroes,—*Carol, Christian, Pompey, Alfred, Collin*,—the property of Mrs. Barnstide - - - - - p. 51
- (5.)—Berbice, July 10th, 1823 : Complaint of the Negro *Lambert*, belonging to Pl. Sandvoort. - - - - - p. 55
- (6.)—Examination of a Complaint preferred by the Negroes *Quashy, Sharp, Dick, Thomas* and *Spencer*, against Dr. *Munro*, their Owner - - - - - p. 67

V.

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATING TO

SLAVES IN THE WEST INDIES.

(BERBICE.)

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE EARL BATHURST, K.G.

&c. &c. &c.

Berbice, 19th February 1825.

MY LORD,

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions of the 14th June last, I now have the honour of forwarding to your Lordship, Copies of the Record of the proceedings of the Fiscal of this Colony, in his capacity of guardian and protector of Slaves, in cases of complaints of Masters and Slaves respectively against each other.

Your Lordship will perceive, on reference to the inclosed letter of the Fiscal, Mr. Bennett, that he has not been able to furnish so full and complete an account of his proceedings as the resolution of the House of Commons of April last requires, in consequence of his not having kept any minute or record of his proceedings previous to the year 1819.

I have strictly enjoined him to be more accurate and careful for the future; and should hope, that whenever a record of his proceedings may be again called for, they will be more precise and satisfactory.

I have the honour, &c.

(signed)

HENRY BEARD.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY H. BEARD, ESQ. GOVERNOR,
&c. &c. &c.

Berbice, 19th February 1825.

SIR,

IN compliance with your Excellency's command, I have the honour of forwarding Copies of Complaints of Slaves, made to my office, from the year 1819 to the end of 1823. It is with regret I am to state that I have not been able to comply with your Excellency's direction, by forwarding copies of such complaints since the year 1814. The discretionary power vested in the Fiscal of the Colony to decide summarily on the complaints of Slaves, had been exercised by my predecessors in office without keeping minutes of such examinations, and I continued that system until the arrival of your Excellency in this colony, as president, in the year 1819; and, on your recommendation, I kept a book of minutes, but without recording my decisions on the same, unless in such cases as appeared necessary to be investigated before Commissaries, or the full Court of Criminal Justice; the decisions in which cases are deposited in the Colonial Secretary's office. This book of minutes I considered merely as matter of self-satisfaction, without contemplating the probability of its ever being called for; and to this only the circumstance of my omitting to insert the result of my decisions is to be attributed. Since the application of your Excellency for copies of complaints of Slaves, I have been more particular in receiving the same; and I have added the decisions made by me on such complaints.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient and humble Servant.

(signed)

M. BENNETT,

Fiscal.

— (1.) —

INVESTIGATION OF SUNDRY COMPLAINTS OF NEGROES.

Berbice, 1st February 1819.

INVESTIGATION Complaint of Nine Negro Men, belonging to Mrs. Ibon Sanders, residing in *Upper Berbice*; investigated this day before his Honor the President, and the honourable Member W. Halder.

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EXAMINATION of the Negro *La Rose*:—Says, That the cause of his complaint is, that the gang of negroes belonging to his mistress are, 1st, not fed sufficiently; that they are not allowed more than six cakes of cassavie weekly, which is inadequate to their support. On being asked how he came in the good state he appears in, says, that they are generally supplied by the Indians. 2d, That they have no clothing: on inquiry says, that the gang received a jacket and a hat a year ago: it is after new year. For the last nine weeks had no allowance of fish; fish is given them only occasionally. They return from the Bush every Saturday evening; on the Sunday they get six cakes cassavie and nothing else, and return on the Sunday evening. No complaint of flogging.

Negro *Klaas*:—That they have no more than six cakes of cassavie weekly; that they are supplied by the Indians with food, but that the Indians are not tired of supplying them; that they return from the Bush on the Saturday evening; on the Sunday morning they are to reap cassavie till eleven o'clock, then go to procure firewood and carry plantain stools from an old field to a new one, with which occupation the day is nearly spent, and till three o'clock; that from the time of her husband's death they have had clothing but once of Mrs. Helder. States that Sanders died in 1814. He produces a bolt and two rings or shackles, with which the negro women are confined with often, the ancles and wrists crossways, by which means they are bent double. He was twice confined that way himself, by order of his mistress, for tying up shingles badly: he was so confined from evening till morning. They had fish only on Christmas days, and not since; tobacco and rum are given on holidays, and not otherwise. He and three others, when Mr. Sterk was there, went to complain of hunger; and she ordered them to be tied down to the and flogged with two drivers; it was on a Sunday; supposes he had sixty.

Negro *Comaad*:—States that he gets only six cakes cassavie, and having a wife belonging to his mistress, he has to give her the half of his allowance, say three cakes; the women never get any allowance, only occasionally a small piece of fish; if they steal or secrete any of the roots of cassavie, when preparing it, and detected, they get flogged, as was lately the case with his wife; that from being constantly wrought in the Bush, and beaten by the heavy rains, they have represented their uncomfortable case and situation to their mistress, requiring rum, and other refreshments of good food, but always had for answer she had nothing to give, and if they had any complaint to carry it to the fiscal; says it is a long time since they had clothing, twice since the death of their master; mistress came to town a little after Christmas, and had the gang called up and informed she could get no clothing for them; that they are made to reap cassavie, carry plantain stools, and fetch firewood on Sunday morning, which occupies the greatest part of the day, as it nearly dusk by the time they have sharpened their tools. Has been confined in shackles before and since his master's death, but that it is the common mode of punishment for the women.

Negro *Kees*:—That he gets only six cakes of cassavie, out of which he gives three to his adopted mother; that he and Tom got flogged for complaining that they had not sufficient food, his two hands tied one side of his neck and flogged with a bush rope, which happening to break, was flogged with the rope now produced, but making too much motion was tied down and flogged with the rope. The women have no allowance, and when they complain or murmur they are immediately fastened in the shackles. It is about two years since they had clothing. They are made to reap cassavie and get firewood every Sunday till late, the sun hanging before their work is finished.

Negro *Lubin*:—That the negro men are allowed only six cakes of cassavie, they get no fish, no rum, she does occasionally purchase fish, but it is not given to the negroes, but given for the purchase of plantains; get no clothing, upwards of two years since they had any; the children and women get no allowance; if any of the negroes complain of hunger their hands are tied to their necks, and flogged with bush rope; the women are frequently confined in the iron shackles. No Sundays are allowed to the negroes, they are made to reap cassavie, and procure firewood every Sunday until the greatest part of the day is spent; they have repeatedly complained to their mistress for want of food, clothing and other comforts, and were in the hope that their grievances would be redressed by her, and therefore

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therefore carried their complaints no further, but finding themselves disappointed they had at length come to town.

Negro Tom:—Complains that he is not sufficiently fed, nor clothed, and flogged as the others state, when any complaint is made to his mistress on the above subjects; that he gets only six cakes of cassavie a week, and his last clothing the year before; the women and children have no allowance, the former are constantly confined in the shackles for not performing a sufficiency of work, which they are unable to do from not being fed; Sunday is not given them, they are to reap cassavie every Sunday morning, and also to fetch firewood, which occupies them great part of the day.

Negro Sam:—Complains that they have only six cakes of cassavie for week's allowance, and when they complain to their mistress of this scanty allowance they are flogged; that they get no clothing like other negroes; the women and children receive no allowance; that the men share their scanty allowance with the women and children, and look to the Indians for support; that the women are generally confined in the shackles, and the men made to work the greatest part of Sunday in digging cassavie, and carrying plantain stools and firewood: 1817 last had clothes.

Negro William:—That they get only six cakes of cassavie a week; that his wife and children get no allowance whatever, that he is therefore obliged to give the greatest part of his allowance to them; if they complain to their mistress of this scanty allowance, they are flogged either with bush-rope or a rope's end, the women punished by confinement in the shackles. They do not get clothing like other negroes; the latest time they were supplied was in 1817: they got three ells of salemporis, a jacket and hat. No Sunday allowed; they are to reap cassavie Sunday morning, carry plantain stools and fetch fuel till late in the day. On being asked why he did not come to complain before, replied that they had always hoped their situations would have been made more comfortable, particularly as their young master was expected out; but now that he is come, and finding themselves more neglected by his mistress than before, they could no longer bear it.

Negro Adam:—That he is a driver, and had been deputed by the gang to represent to their mistress that they were not sufficiently fed and clothed; that his mistress, instead of affording redress, she had directed him to be confined in the stocks. Tom and Kees then stepped forward to expostulate, and they were both flogged with the bush-rope: Tom the most punished. He (the driver) was soon released from the stocks and sent to the Bush. The men are made to reap cassavie, carry plantain stools and fuel every Sunday, until a late hour. After this employment they have just time to sharpen their tools before dusk. The women and children get no allowance; Christmas the last time they had rum or fish. He gets a dram weekly on making a report of work done in the Bush. The women are frequently confined in the shackles; the last one confined was Acessie the cook, about four or five weeks ago. A considerable time since they got clothing; in 1817 they got a jacket, a hat, and three ells of salemporis.

Examination of Mrs. Sanders:—States that they get six cakes of cassavie, made from a basket full of the cassavie roots; that the cakes are very thick, and the allowance now is the same as they had fourteen years ago; that every negro gets half a bottle of rum weekly; at times only once a fortnight, when the rum is nearly expended; they get a salt fish, or an allowance of salt weekly; they have had no fish since new year, in consequence of her absence from home, and no one she could trust her keys with. Food is dressed every day for the children; no allowance is given to the four field women, in consequence of their allowing it to be eaten by the hogs; this withdrawing of the allowance was previous to Mr. Sanders's death. That the negroes are clothed yearly; one year a jacket, a hat, and three ells of salemporis; the women have osnaburgs and a hat, but no jacket or blanket. The negroes are obliged to bring home a basket of cassavie every Sunday morning, and firewood every Sunday evening, that they only have to go to the field to fetch it home; the cassavie is brought home to be prepared for next week's allowance; the task can be done in half an hour: the bringing the fuel is done on a Sunday evening, because the negroes prefer it.

INTERROGATORIES presented to the Honourable Commissaries of the Court of Criminal Justice, in a suit of Inquiry instituted in a Complaint preferred by Nine Negroes, the Property of Mrs. Sanders, against their said Mistress; the said Interrogatories to be put unto *Christian Philip Mackreel*, overseer of Mrs. Sanders.

1.

Christian Philip Mackreel, forty-two years of age, Protestant, Berbice, wood-cutter.

Art. 1.

Your name, age, religion, place of nativity and occupation?

2.

Yes.

2.

Are you not employed by Mrs. Sanders to superintend her gang of wood-cutters in Upper Berbice?

Cassavie,

3.

Cassavie, a basket full each man; the women no allowance; a pot is boiled at eleven o'clock every day, consisting of barley, rice, or plantains: they are more-over always in the house with their mistress.

3.

What food and what quantity is given to the men, women and children, belonging to Mrs. Sanders, weekly, to your certain knowledge?

4.

The allowance given to the negroes is the same as was issued previous to Mr. Sanders's death; the negroes were always satisfied to appearance, and I can declare I never heard them complain of any short allowance till Mrs. Sanders's late return from town.

4.

Is the quantity of cassavie, issued to the man gang, sufficient for their week's allowance, or have you ever known them to complain of insufficiency of food?

5.

On their complaint being made to Mrs. Sanders, she said, I cannot give you more this week, as no more is prepared, but next week you shall have a cake more: the negroes were satisfied; but Kees being impertinent, he received thirty-nine stripes with a carracarra bush-rope; he was laid down, and received them. The negro Tom was punished the same day, the driver Adam having complained to his mistress that he had absented himself from his work for three days, his hands were tied round his neck, and he got ten with a carracarra; but making too much motion, his mistress directed him to be laid down, and he received thirty-nine with the carracarra; more than thirty-nine is never inflicted; I count them myself always.

5.

On such complaint being made to Mrs. Sanders, have their grievances been redressed? or have two or more of these slaves not been punished for such representation? and if so, describe the manner, mode, and extent of punishment?

6.

Yes; early in the morning they go to fetch their allowance from the field: the driver Adam and four women reap it on the Sunday morning; they generally finish this at ten; sometimes, if they exert themselves, at nine o'clock; they then work their own provision fields; at five o'clock they return from their fields, each with a bundle of firewood.

6.

Do you not return with the negroes every Saturday (men gang) from the Bush? what work is required of the negroes on Sundays? when do they commence, and when complete the same?

7.

I came from Surinam with Mr. Sanders about two and twenty years ago, and have always remained in his service. The men get every year clothing, one year a jacket, a hat, and three ells of salemporis, the women four ells of osnaburgs, with a hat; next year a blanket, a hat, and three ells of salemporis; the house women checks; this year's allowance is not yet issued, but was brought up with Mrs. Sanders.

7.

How long have you been in the employment of Mrs. Sanders, and what clothing have been given to the men, women, and children, during such period.

8.

Mr. Sanders was in the habit of confining them in shackles when the men did not sow their task, but since his death the shackles have been thrown aside and are quit rotted.

8.

Is not Mrs. Sanders in the habit of causing her slaves, and the women in particular, to be confined in the shackles?

9.

I am ready to declare on oath, that I never saw her so confined, nor heard of it; the shackles were thrown in the river and found there by one of the negroes, and brought out, and it has ever remained in the hospital; the negro women are often confined in the stocks, but never in the shackles; and on returning from the Bush, I generally learn what punishment by confinement has taken place.

9.

Was the woman Accessie not confined four or five weeks ago in said shackles, if so, do you know what fault she had committed to deserve this punishment?

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10.

I have never seen or heard of any negro being so confined since Mr. Sanders's death.

10.

Have you, or have you not, seen other negroes, the property of Mrs. Sanders, confined in said shackles ?

11.

I have never heard of any.

11.

Relate the several instances that you know, if any, of the negroes belonging to Mrs. Sanders having been confined in shackles.

12.

In Mr. Sanders's lifetime I have seen them confined, their ancles and wrists crossways ; but in Mrs. Sanders's time I have never witnessed it.

12.

Describe to the court the manner in which negroes are confined in the shackles belonging to Mrs. Sanders, and now exhibited to you.

(signed)

M. S. Bennett,
Fiscal R. O.

Berbice, 2d February 1819.

13.

Yes, when the complaint was made of not having sufficient food, it was represented by Adam the driver. He was not confined that Sunday, it was the Sunday before ; ten negroes brought home 100 bundles of shingles in a week ; he was confined for about half an hour, no longer, but it was the Sunday previous to the complaint being made.

13.

Did not the driver, Adam, lately represent to Mrs Sanders that the negroes complained they had not sufficient food ; and was he not confined in the stocks ; and on what pretence ; how long confined ?

14.

The driver gets a bottle of rum every week ; each negro man half a bottle of rum, as long as there is any on the estate, it is seldom out ; the driver too gets a fish ; each of the men half a fish, if it be large, or a whole one, if small ; I lay out the allowance myself ; Mrs. Sanders purchases four bunches of plantains weekly, for which she gives a fish ; the women get half a fish once a fortnight or three weeks.

14.

What allowance of rum and fish is issued to the men, women and children. Is the fish not generally given by Mrs. Sanders to strange negroes for plantains ?

15.

Yes.

15.

Are you ready to make oath to your replies ?

The foregoing answers were repeated to the respondent, who declared perfectly to understand the same, to persist thereby ; and was willing, and did make solemn oath, that the answers so given by him were the truth and nothing but the truth.

(signed) *C. P. Mackreel.*

(signed)

Henry Beard, President,
W. Helder.

8th February 1819.

REPORT made to his Honor the President respecting the Negro *Hope*, saying to belong to Mr. Niewerkirk, on a complaint of A. Schlapfer.

EXAMINATION of Negro *Hope*, belonging to *J. G. Cloot de Niewerkirk* :—Says, That he was sent with a letter to town by his master, that he went to sleep at the colony house, knowing his master when in town to put up there ; that next morning, passing through the house, he saw two pieces of calico, a pair of ear-rings, and a red handkerchief in one of the rooms, and no person being present he took them ; that he left the house and was met on the road by a boy, who seeing the red handkerchief in his hand claimed it as his property, and on opening it, the said boy perceived the calico and ear-rings, which he, *Hope*, had tied up in the handkerchief, and took him to Mr. Schlapfer, who took him to the barracks. On being asked what induced him to take these articles, he replied, that seeing them, and no one present, he had taken them with the view of giving them to his mother on the estate.

A. Schlapfer examined, and indentified the articles as the property of *Henrietta Enderman*, his housekeeper ; that he was informed by the boy, his master ordered him to wait at the colony house till he came on Monday morning. I saw the ear-rings on Saturday night ; boy went away very early on Sunday morning. *Quamina*, belonging to *Dr. Leslie*, brought the boy *Hope* about nine o'clock this morning, and asked what he had in his lap to make it look so big, he said he was ruptured, *Quamina* pulled the lap open, and the handkerchief and two pieces of calico dropped out. *Henrietta* seeing some stolen articles on *Hope* went and

and examined, and found a pair of ear-rings missing, and on examining Hope's trowsers pocket the ear-rings were found in it; the boy Hope ran away, I pursued, and taking hold of him, he bit my hand; I called out to Mr. White for assistance, and having secured him I carried him to the barracks.

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8th February.

Complaint of the Negro *London*, the property of W. Kewley, against *Napier*, a pioneer, lately belonging to the garrison.

London says, a considerable time ago he took *Napier* to the fort in his small boat, and at *Napier's* request brought back to town again, from which time whenever he is met by *Napier*, he, *Napier*, asks him when he is going to pay him; that this demand was made again yesterday, when *London* said to him, " *Napier*, what do I owe you, I took you at your request to the fort and back again in my master's boat; I never purchased a bit's worth of tobacco or cassava, or any thing else from you, why do you continually make me ashamed by asking me for payment:" that *Napier* then seized him, tore his jacket, and cut him in two places with a knife; that his face being covered with blood, and being greatly alarmed, he ran away to the fiscal's office, and not finding him at home, he went to the barracks; the under sheriff sent me to Dr. Beresford's, where the wounds were dressed; I went with a dienaar to the doctor.

Napier examined:—Says, that *London* came up to him on the road on Saturday very drunk, and seizing hold of his jacket, wished to fight me; I refused, saying, you have owed me money a long time and had better pay me; *London* took hold of my trowsers, which he tore off, and took some money I had in my pocket, and two keys; we wrestled, and he fell among some pieces of wood and cut himself. He cried out " You have cut me with a knife;" I said, where is the knife? *Joe*, belonging to Mr. Lindner, was present.

Joe examined:—Says *Napier* and himself had brought sand from the Point; that on going out of the boat I saw *London* and another negro passing in a boat with grass; *Napier* called to *London* and asked him for a bit, I did not hear any answer; having taken up my oar, I went into our yard and said nothing of any dispute between them; *London* came some time afterwards in my master's yard to complain to Mr. Lindner respecting *Napier*, master called me and inquired the cause of this fighting, I replied, I knew nothing of it.

9th February.

Negro *Tommy*, belonging to William Fraser, complainant:—Says, he is a cooper by trade, and employed as such by his master on plantation Goldstone Hall; that on Friday morning last he went in the boiling-house for nails, and there saw another cooper, by name George, heading up sugars; complainant went to one of the casks and took a lump of sugar for the purpose of sweetening three gallons of hot water; did not hide the same, but proceeded with it in his hand from the boiling-house; was met by his master, Mr. Fraser, who inquired where he got the sugar, complainant informed him of his having taken it, and for what purpose, his master immediately ordered him to be laid down, tied to stakes, put two drivers over him, and one hundred lashes inflicted upon him; on inquiring how complainant knew that one hundred lashes had been put upon him, he said, that persons standing by had counted them was required to state the names of such persons, says, that Barbary, Shaw and Billy counted them, the overseer, lately come on the estate, was present; after receiving this punishment Mr. Fraser went to complainant's house and searched it, found in his tool chest a quantity of old nails, among which were also a very few new ones; Mr. Fraser went to the trouble of weighing them, there were fourteen pounds; accounts for having these nails in his possession, by stating that having been employed by Mr. B. Jeffery to cooper some casks, he according to his custom had kept all the old nails; that on his quitting Mr. Jeffery he had omitted to give these nails over; to this quantity, so procured, he was also in the custom of putting up any old nails which passed through his hand at Goldstone Hall; he had no particular view in keeping these nails; some few were occasionally used by him to repair his house, some in his work, when occasion required; and trusts from the quantity found in his tool chest, which was frequently opened to the view of other persons, that it cannot be construed they were selected and reserved for sale. Complains of not being sufficiently fed, nor clothed; has but one bunch of plantains a week. Says, he has belonged to Mr. Fraser about five years, during which period he has had clothing only twice; does not belong to plantation Goldstone Hall, but to Mr. Fraser. Exhibits his posteriors, few lashes appear, not more in appearance to sanction a supposition he had been punished beyond the limit of lashes prescribed by law. On this being represented to complainant, he said he had been favoured by the drivers, who threw the whips over him; names of the drivers, Tommy and Acawa. Says that after being flogged, Mr. Fraser had his buttocks washed with brine, and ordered to be locked up every night in the stocks; was confined Friday night, Saturday night, and all Sunday.

Presidency, 10th February.

Examination of *Samuel Willcox*, overseer on plantation Goldstone Hall:—States, that the negro *Tommy* was flogged on Friday for stealing sugar: *Tommy* came to me and asked for nails; I went with him to the store for the nails (the store is not in the boiling-house); after delivering the nails, and returning with him, I was met on my way to the boiling-house by another negro, who also asked for nails; I had therefore to return to the store. *Tommy*, I learnt from *Gift*, (a boy in the still-house), that *Tommy* had gone in the boiling-house.

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Gift gave notice of Tommy the cooper being in the boiling-house to Tommy the driver. Mr. Fraser met Tommy the cooper, and brought him to me with the sugar, asking me if I knew any thing of it. I said no; but supposed he must have got it out of the boiling-house during my absence. The sugar, I suppose, was about the quantity of half a pound, more or less. Mr. Fraser then ordered the drivers, Tommy and Acawa, to flog the cooper Tommy: he was tied down to stakes and flogged; to the best of my knowledge forty-one lashes were given; I counted them, there were neither more nor less than forty-one: he appeared much cut. I have seen negroes flogged before, but never with so much severity. He was released, and went about his work directly. Mr. Fraser then went, as I was informed, and searched Tommy's house to see if he could find any thing else: I learnt this from the driver who went with Mr. Fraser. The above-mentioned drivers returned with a box to the boiling-house door from Tommy the cooper's house. I saw a napkin, having about a pound or two of sugar, and some nails, old and new ones; about fifteen pounds weight of nails; I believe the old ones were the largest proportion. The coopers come daily for nails, and take as many as is deemed necessary for the work they have to perform. I never knew him to be guilty of stealing nails. I have heard from the drivers, Tommy the cooper was not to be trusted. Mr. Fraser, in consequence of finding these nails, directed him to be confined in the stocks at night till next Christmas. He was put in the stocks at night since the flogging. I believe he gets his weekly allowance as the other negroes, and they are all well fed. During my residence on the estate he has conducted himself with propriety; the negroes do not speak so well of him: they are never allowed to take sugar out of the boiling-house; they get molasses almost every Sunday. I do not know whether he was confined in the stocks on Sunday last or not; I believe I have not seen him on the estate since last Monday forenoon. I did not count the previous cracks of the whip; but the forty-one lashes, which I can correctly speak to, I counted as those which cut him on the bottom.

Examination of *W. Fraser*, proprietor of plantation Goldstone Hall:—I was amongst the carpenters on Friday, at the Stoke Holes, aback of the boiling-house; I saw Tommy passing with something in his apron: I asked him, "What have you got there, Tommy?" he replied, "nails." I said, "So many nails for you alone:" he replied, it was for himself and another. I requested to see them. After some delay or hesitation on his part, I took hold of the apron and looked into it, and found sugar and nails mixed together; I asked him where he got the sugar, and he said, in the boiling-house; the nails he had got for his work from the store, and not out of the boiling-house. I asked him who gave him the sugar? He said he had taken it. I observed, "Do you not know that you are not permitted to go into the boiling-house to take sugar? you also know, if I found you at such work I would punish you; had you come and asked me for the sugar I would have given it you: you also know I never forgive lying or stealing, and therefore I must punish you." The overseers and drivers were about the door, I ordered the drivers to flog him; they tied him to the stakes and flogged him, and in consequence of the fault he had committed I gave him such a punishment that I, as owner of that slave, considered myself in duty bound to do, always bearing in mind the laws of the colony with respect, and I gave him thirty-nine lashes.

February 10th, 1819.

Complaint of the negro *Bethune*, belonging to plantation Tain:—Says, that he purchased some Guinea-bird eggs, which he set to hatch in house; that Mr. Rich, the manager, broke the doors of the negro-house open in search of Guinea-bird eggs, which he said had been stolen from him; that on finding the eggs belonging to complainant, he, the manager, claimed them; that he represented to the manager that the eggs found in his house were old and nearly hatched, and that these missed by the manager were fresh lain ones. He broke one of my eggs, and it had a chicken in it. The manager told his, the complainant's children, that he would take the hen and eggs, and as soon as the chickens were reared, the manager would return the hen and keep the chickens for himself. I heard this myself. At night, when I came from the field with grass, the manager inquired if I had sat Guinea-bird eggs; I replied, yes. He asked me where I had got them; I said from Big Corts. The manager said they were his eggs, and ordered the driver Lubin to take complainant to the stocks; this was Friday night passed. Saturday I went to work, and was locked up again in the stocks at night; I remained in them all Sunday. Monday morning, went to work; Tuesday morning, when I came in for breakfast, the manager ordered me to be flogged; I was held down by four negro men, *Peter, John, Ross* and *Pitt*, and flogged by Lubin the driver. I received fifty lashes; I counted them myself; counts ten five times, and said that was the number of lashes inflicted upon him. Mr. Stacey, a carpenter working on our estate, was present. My countryman Charles counted the number of lashes also. Exhibits his posteriors, which appear to have evident marks of recent punishment.

February 10th, 1819.

Complaint of the negro *Scipio*, belonging to plantation Friends:—Says, that he complained last Saturday to the manager that he was sick, manager sent him to plant corn. Sunday morning complainant went to the manager's door again, and complained of a swelling in his knees; the manager drove him from the door, saying if he returned he would have him tied down and flogged. Monday I was sent to plant plantains aback; but not being able to work, from pain in my knee joints, I complained to the driver La

Rose,

Rose, who said he could not help it, I must go to the manager, but was fearful of doing so in consequence of the threat made yesterday. I therefore was backward in my work, which being perceived by the overseer Rose, at 11 o'clock he ordered the driver to give me eight lashes, which he did, with further orders, if I did not keep up with the other negroes, to flog me again. The driver La Rose a little time afterwards gave me two stripes with a carracarra. I desired him to examine my knees, and he would see I could not work; he replied, I cannot help it, it is the orders of the manager and overseer. About 2 o'clock that day I made my escape, and got as far as plantation Belle Vue, where I slept, and came to town yesterday forenoon to complain.

12th February.

Examination of *William Forsyth*, manager of plantation Friends:—States, that the negro Scipio came to complain on Thursday of pain in his knees; I gave him a dose of salts, and on Friday he returned to work. On Saturday he told me he had run a nail in his foot; I examined, but could perceive no traces of a nail having run into it. On Sunday morning he complained again, and fearful I might have been mistaken, I directed the overseer to make him wash his foot, and examine it carefully. He did so, and stated he could not perceive any thing; I desired him to put a poultice of cassavie, lest the negro's statement may be correct; this was done. Although I expected Scipio would go to his work the next morning, I did not give the driver any orders respecting him, nor did I direct him, Scipio, to go to work. On Monday morning, however, he went to the field; the overseer did not return to the buildings till evening, the gang having been employed aback. He inquired of me if Scipio had come home; I replied he had not. He, the overseer, then informed me; that finding Scipio had not dug the plantain holes sufficiently deep, as he had been repeatedly ordered to do, he directed the driver to give him six lashes, which were inflicted in his presence; and that on the negroes turning out at 1 o'clock, Scipio was absent. States, that the punishment alluded to was not inflicted in consequence of Scipio's not having performed a sufficiency of work, but because it was improperly done, and says that the driver La Rose, on being questioned on the subject, positively denies having flogged him with the carracarra of his own accord; denies the assertion of having sent Scipio on Saturday to plant corn, that article having never been planted on the estate since his having the management of the same.

After this examination, the negro Scipio was directed to attend, and having explained to him that, no truths tending, slaves were in all cases of grievances permitted to prefer their complaints, and that every attention should be paid thereunto, and the same redressed when so entitled, yet that the duty of the president, as well as the fiscal, was to punish false accusations of slaves against their owners and managers; and he, the complainant, having confessed that his complaint was made to the manager of having run a nail in his foot on Saturday, and again on Sunday, and admitted the means of relief resorted to by the said manager, he was directed to be flogged in the presence of the fiscal on plantation Friends, as an example to the gang of that estate.

Examination of *James Rich*, manager of plantation Tain:—States, that he lost some time ago a nest of Guinea-bird eggs, consisting of sixteen. On Friday last I missed another nest of twenty and odd; I then searched some of the negro houses, and found sixteen in the house of one of the estate negroes, but not the complainant's. I inquired if the hen and eggs belonged to him; he replied, the hen is mine, but the eggs belong to Bethune. In the evening I inquired where he got the eggs; he replied, I purchased them from Chance, belonging to Mr. Cort; I directed him to be confined at night. On the Saturday I went to Mr. Cort's, and having requested to see the negro Chance, I inquired if he had sold any Guinea-bird eggs to a negro belonging to Tain, named Bethune; he denied having sold the eggs, or having any knowledge of Bethune; he was cautioned by Mr. Cort to speak the truth, and he again repeated his assertion. I did not punish the negro on Sunday, nor could I do so on Monday, being obliged this day to attend militia duty. He was confined all Sunday in the stocks. On Tuesday, when they turned in at 11 o'clock, I directed him to be laid down, and thirty lashes to be given him; I did not inform him the reason of flogging him, as he was aware of the cause; I had told him, Bethune, on the Friday evening that I would ascertain from Chance if he had sold the eggs to Bethune, and if I found that he told me a falsehood, punish him; I told the negro Ned, in whose house I had found the hen and eggs, that they should remain there, but that I would take the chickens when they were reared. I have brought Chance with me.

Examination of *Benjamin Stracy*:—Being required to state any knowledge he had of a negro named Bethune, belonging to plantation Tain, being flogged on Tuesday last, he related that the negro was called from the negro house at breakfast on Tuesday morning, and Mr. Rich, the manager, directed four negroes to hold him down, and the driver to flog him; he, the negro Bethune, received twenty-seven or twenty-eight lashes to the best of my knowledge; did not count them; thinks they did not exceed thirty in number; no reason assigned to the negro why punished on Tuesday morning.

Chance admitted:—Denies all knowledge of Bethune; he, Bethune, says, this is not the negro Chance to whom he alludes; Chance declares his master has no other negro of that name.

February 15th.

Attended on plantation Friends this morning, and agreeable to resolve on the 12th instant, caused the negro, Scipio, to be punished in the presence of as many of the gang

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of that estate as could be conveniently collected, after explaining to Scipio, and other by-standers, the cause of inflicting punishment.

February 17th, 1819.

Re-examination of the negro *Joe*, the property of Mrs. Lindner, respecting the assault committed on London by the pioneer Napier :—States, that when last examined he had in some degree suppressed his evidence, fearful of consequences for having witnessed an assault. Relates, that on the day of the affray, he, the witness, had returned with Napier from the Point with a small punt load of sand, Napier being in the employ of witness's owner ; very shortly after they landed, Mr. Kewley's punt passed with the negroes London and Louis with grass ; Napier called out to London and said, " Come and pay me my bit ;" Napier made use of an uncivil and unkind remark ; I considered the two negroes in the grass punt had pursued their way ; I took up my oar and went into the yard, leaving Napier employed in taking the sand out of the punt with a shovel ; I shortly afterwards heard a noise on the road, and went out ; the fight was over ; London was coming from the water-side, and Napier's clothes were torn off, having on only the one half of his shirt, the other half lying on the ground ; London went towards the fiscal's ; Napier remained, and informed me that London had been fighting with him, and had torn his clothes ; I did not examine his trowsers ; Napier informed me that London, in the scuffle, had fallen on the pieces of bullet-tree (of which there are a good many pieces, belonging to Mr. Bone, lying at our water-side) ; he had nothing in his hands ; I solemnly do declare that I did not see Napier have or make use of a knife the whole of that day, and am confident that if he had one I must have seen it, as we were together the whole day, and we cooked our dinner and eat it together ; I did not see Louis after I returned from the yard, nor even Mr. Kewley's grass punt at or near our water-side, as I never saw it again, although I was the whole of that afternoon employed with Napier taking the sand out of the punt, and carrying it up in our yard.

Examination of the negro *Louis*, belonging to W. Kewley, regarding assault Napier and London :—Says, that on Saturday afternoon as he, witness, was returning with London with grass, and passed Mrs. Lindner's water-side, Napier, a black soldier, called out to London, and said, he had better pay him his bit ; London replied, I do not owe you a bit ; Napier said, never mind I will find you to-morrow. Witness and London proceeded on ; Napier busy, removing the sand ; after going a little way, London said, I will go and see what he will do by finding me to-morrow ; I replied, you had better not ; to-morrow, if any time we meet him, you may inquire ; London said no, and jumped out of the punt in the water, and went on shore. I got the punt alongside Mr. Otto's schooner, where I had to get something to take for massa ; on coming on board I saw Napier and London fight ; Napier threw London down twice ; I saw him fall ; I do not know how he got hurt, but there are a quantity of rock-stones lying where London fell ; I got one of Mr. Otto's people to go in the punt with me ; I saw no more of London that evening, nor did I see any thing of him till he was released from the barracks. London and myself carry bread to the fort ; we leave our punt at the fort, and go to cut grass. I went that day into Mr. Abensett's old cotton piece for grass ; on my return I found that London was in the punt ; he was drunk ; where he got the rum I know not.

A true copy from the President's office,

James Bone,
 Pres^t Sect^r.

Berbice, February 25th, 1819.

Berbice, 25th February.

Thomas Janzen v. L. C. Brandes :—Complainant states, that on Tuesday evening past, the 23d instant, I was taking a walk with John Munno and Lodewyk Coleman ; from Mr. De Vry's yard, we proceeded towards the colony negro houses ; on the road I saw Brandes beating my sister Sarah with a drawn sword ; Sarah had been Brandes's wife, but is not at present ; I went up to Brandes, and said, " Brandes, do not lick my sister in that improper manner with a sword ;" my sister had hold of the sword ; she let the sword go on my interference, and immediately Brandes turned towards me, and gave me a chop with the same weapon on my thumb ; I endeavoured to retreat backwards, but unfortunately fell ; Brandes then pushed at me with the sword, and struck me on the forehead ; he also kicked me whilst lying on the ground, and struck me several times with the blade of the sword, saying he had been waiting for me a long time ; I endeavoured to get up as soon as I could, and effected my escape by running ; he pursued, but could not overtake me ; I came to the fiscal, by learning he was at the President's ; I went thither, and from thence to the doctor's (Jeffery), to have my wounds dressed.

Deposition of *John Munno* :—I supped at Janzen's with Lodewyk Coleman on Tuesday evening ; we took a walk afterwards, intending to go to the colony negro houses ; when we came near to the house occupied by Brandes, aback of De Schiviers's, we found him beating Sarah, Janzen's sister, on the road with a drawn sword ; Janzen went up to Brandes, and putting his hand on the sword, said, " Mr. Brandes, do not beat my sister in this manner with a sword ;" I do not recollect hearing Brandes say any thing, but I saw him strike Janzen with the sword ; I saw him fall, and I saw Brandes strike him more than once or twice with the sword ; I did not reckon how often ; Janzen got up and ran away ; I got home before gun-fire.

Deposition of *Lodewyk Coleman* :—I supped at Janzen's on Tuesday evening ; John Munno was with us ; after supper we took a walk, intending to go as far as the colony negro

negro houses, where Janzen's sister Sarah lives; coming near to Brandes's house, we found him fighting or beating Sarah, Janzen's sister; Janzen went up to Brandes, and raising his hand towards the sword, said, "Mr. Brandes, do not beat my sister with the sword;" I saw Janzen fall, and Brandes gave him some wounds with the sword, and kicked him whilst on the ground; I heard Brandes say that Janzen was the man he had been waiting for a long time; Janzen rose, and ran away.

Declaration of *William Jeffery*, medical practitioner:—Says, that he examined the wounds of Thomas Janzen on Tuesday evening, 23d instant; found he had received a slight wound on the thumb of the left hand, and a scratch on the forehead, with some weapon, the edge not being very sharp; states further, that the wounds appeared slight, and likely to be healed up in a few days.

Brandes, on confession before the Court, convicted;—imprisoned for one month.

11th March 1819.

Alexander, Alcibiades, Utrecht, Noordwyk and Zealand, negroes, belonging to plantation Friends:—State, that they have been lately removed from plantation Den Arend, in Upper Berbice, to the Friends; that they are sent into the field before gun-fire; that their work is examined at eleven o'clock; the manager is never satisfied with the quantity of work performed, they are therefore obliged to work during their breakfast time, say from eleven o'clock till one; that a certain task is given, six feet of a canal, six shovels deep the whole width; that if a sufficient part of this task is not completed, they are each flogged with a carracarra, say each twenty-five. On being questioned to account why they are flogged at eleven o'clock, when a sufficient part of their task is not performed, when they have a certain portion allotted for the whole of the day, and for which, if not completed, they ought to be punished, they state, that an over-proportion is required because their task should be increased; state, that the women went to complain to Mr. Ross, the attorney, that no time was allowed them to get their meals; Mr. Ross sent them back, but the driver of the women-gang was sent for by him (Mr. Ross,) and confined in the stocks at Denitichem. Noordwyk explains, that if the task given in the morning is finished before dark, they begin to commence a new one; for this reason they are pushed in the morning, and are flogged at eleven o'clock. Inquired which of complainants had been flogged at eleven o'clock for not having sufficiently advanced in their work; Noordwyk says he never was; Alexander shows one stroke; on inquiring, it appears it was because he was not early enough in the field; Utrecht not flogged, Alcibiades not flogged, at eleven o'clock, but made to work during breakfast time; Zealand not flogged, but made to dig at trench at night till gun-fire. The negroes appear in a high state of health, and also in excellent condition. Alexander and Zealand bear evident marks of most severe punishment received on plantation Den Arend; the former stating that he had received his flogging from Mr. Mittleholzer, the latter from Vander Schroef, consequently some years ago.

Plantation Gelderland:—*Nettelje, Julia, Lea, and Mietje*, each with an infant in arms, complain that no time is allowed them to nurse their children; that during the crop an equal quantity of coffee is expected and required of them as from other women having no children, or of the men; that a similar task is given them in weeding grass with the rest of the gang, which they are not able to perform, in consequence of carrying their children on their backs; in the event of failing, they are beaten in his presence with the handle of the whip by the driver Esperance. Nettelje and also Mietje were flogged the day before yesterday by the carpenter La Fleur; they, with others, were weeding the dam; they had made a fire to drive away the sand-flies; they were seen by Mr. Toel, the manager, suckling their infants, he inquired if they had no work to do; they replied they had just taken their children up, who were crying; they were laid down and flogged, their coats were stained with blood. Mr. Toel took the fire up, and threw it in the trench. Julia was locked up in the stocks because she did not keep with the rest of the gang, and threatened to be flogged next morning; she is a young girl, with her first child. Lea complains that she is not allowed to suckle her child during her work; she was threatened to be flogged next day by Mr. Toel, at same time with Julia.

Jane, belonging to Mr. Bourmester, says her master gave her to his housekeeper Grace, who is constantly abusing and ill-treating her; she is often in the habit of kicking her, and beating her with any thing that comes to hand, sometimes with a fire-stick, sometimes with a piece of wood. Monday morning she was sent by Grace to look for wood; when she returned she took a piece of crab-wood she had brought, and beat her with it, and kicked her. Her master was not at home; she got breakfast for her mistress and a gentleman, Mr. Harvey. After breakfast, sent me for wood; I had just recovered from a fit of sickness, having had a blister on my belly, which was not yet healed; I felt faint, and was under the necessity of sitting down to recover myself. When I came home with the wood it was about 11 o'clock; as soon as I returned she began to beat and kick me, saying she hated to see me; a boy belonging to Mr. De George, named Alexander, saw when she beat me, and a girl named Sophia, belonging to Sue Austerhem.

Complaint of the woman *Minkie*, belonging to Thomas C. Jones:—Says, Mr. Jones took her out of the barracks on Tuesday; after I got home he sent me to Mr. Henery; he would not buy me. He sent me to another gentleman, I do not know his name, but he lives in town; they both said my master asked too much money for me, and sent me back. I begged for

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for a pass to look for an owner; he said no, he would put me down and cut my a—e, and would give me more than the law gives. I was then laid down and tied to three stakes, and Chance flogged me with a cart-whip; I got a severe flogging; I saw Mr. Layfield at his door with another gentleman, and Mr. Kerschner, the baker, saw it from his window. Mr. Jones bought me from Mr. Logie of Demerara. I have marks of severe punishment visible on me, old and recent floggings, all inflicted by Jones.

Berbice, 12th March 1819.

Complaint of *York, John, Lucas, George, and Azor*, belonging to J. P. Broer:—State, that they have been put to weed grass on Monday, each a bed; that they not being able to complete the task, they were flogged with the carracarras that evening, by order of C. Brumont, manager; La Rose, the driver, flogged them all. The work of Monday was left unfinished, and a new bed given on Tuesday; this was not completed, and they were again flogged with carracarras by La Rose. The work of Tuesday was left unfinished, and a new bed given on Wednesday; and that not being completed, they were again flogged in the evening with the same instrument and driver. That on Thursday morning their master came and inquired if their work had been finished; and being informed by the manager it was not, they were called up, and flogged with a tar-rope, which Mr. Broer had brought over with him; they were flogged by the negro Hope. At 11 o'clock they went and complained to Mr. Melville. That the unfinished work of the week they are obliged to finish on Sundays; they each get a bunch of plantains, with salt or fish.

Wrought on Sun-
 days; short pro-
 visioned.

Complaint of *Laurence* belonging to plantation Providence:—Complains, that the manager flogs and keeps him in the stocks on account of not making fire sufficient; that he was locked up in the stocks.

The manager examined, and states that the negro, after repeated admonition for not making fire, was flogged with about a dozen lashes, and locked up in the stocks for three nights; requests the negro may be examined; no appearance of any flogging visible; the complaint dismissed; the negro reprimanded to attend to his duty, and the manager prohibited from flogging or striking a negro with a horsewhip: manager's name M'Dumott.

Manager, a colour-
 ed man.

Complaint of *Cesar*, belonging to plantation Vrow Johanna:—States, that he is overwrought; that a double row is given to him, and if any remains undone, he is obliged to finish it at eleven o'clock; one bunch of plantains is given, and occasionally a little fish; not wrought on Sunday.

13th March.

Re-examination of the negro woman belonging to Thomas C. Jones, named *Minkie*:—Was confined in the barracks on the 14th November last past by her proprietor, Thomas C. Jones, on account of running away. I was sent to sell bread, and not having sold it, I ran away, fearful of punishment from Peggy, who does not like me. Peggy is housekeeper to Mr. Jones. I was absent only four or five hours; my master took me out of the barracks last Tuesday afternoon; he said he would send me to Mr. Henery's store to sell me; I was sent there with Chance, with orders to him, if Mr. Henery did not buy me, to bring me back. I was not bought; Chance was directed to take me to another gentlemen, whose name I do not know; the clerk said the gentleman was not there; I was taken home. I told my master I did not want to stop with them, but remain in the barracks till he sold me. He says, "you want to stop in the barracks do you; I will give you the barracks on your *arse*." I was laid down and tied to two stakes, and he observed he would flog, and then sell me. I was severely flogged with the cartwhip; Chance flogged me: exhibits her posteriors, which are covered with a plaister, by order of the doctor, and apparently lacerated to that degree, that the court judged it expedient to direct her not to uncover it; says, Mr. Kerschner, the baker, was at his window when she was flogged.

Examination of *William F. Rudder*, assistant to Messrs. John and James Beresford, practitioners of physic:—Says, that he attended the woman *Minkie*, yesterday, by order of Dr. James Beresford; that he perceived her posteriors to have been much lacerated; I applied a plaister to the parts as had been the day before prescribed by Dr. John Beresford, in consequence of the parts being inflamed; she appears to have been much flogged formerly; fresh scars are very apparent, and evidently inflicted by the whip.

Anthony Kerschner says, that he knows nothing of the woman being flogged, but that he heard the sound of the whip, and inquired of a white cooper who resides with Mr. Layfield, why he (Mr. Layfield) had been flogging one of his negroes? to which the cooper replied, it was not Mr. Layfield, but Mr. Jones.

Examination of *Thomas C. Jones*:—States, that he owned the woman *Minkie* for two years, during which period she has been absent one half of the time; I took her out of the barracks on Tuesday afternoon, and sent her to three persons who had applied to purchase her; they refused to do so. On her return she was so very extremely insolent, that I was under the necessity of flogging her. After telling her she should be flogged for her insolence, I was compelled by necessity to break her mouth previous to my having her lain down. I had thirty-nine lashes laid on her, and they were well inflicted. When I sent for her I had no intention of flogging her; but after sending her to three different persons for sale, and not succeeding therein, I told her that she had often deserved a flogging; to this she replied, "you cannot flog me, I have been in the barracks so long; and if you do flog me, it shall cost you plenty of money." I then directed her to be flogged, and
 that

that they should be well laid on, which was done. I gave her thirty-nine; it is the first time she ever was flogged by me.

To His Honor H. Beard, Esq. President of the Honourable Courts of Justice of the Colony Berbice.

Sir,

I had the honour verbally to report to you on the 13th instant that five negroes, the property of Mr. J. P. Broer, had been sent to me by the honourable A. Melville, a member of the honourable court of criminal justice, to whom they had preferred their complaints; 1st. That the task-work allotted to them, was more than they could perform; 2d. That the manager, Mr. Brumont, was in the habit of causing them to be punished with carracarras, and the proprietor, Mr. Broer, on one occasion with a tar-rope; 3d. That they were made to work on Sundays; and 4th. That they were not sufficiently furnished with provisions, or weekly allowance. In consequence of these complaints, I deemed it necessary to direct the return of said slaves, and intimated my intention to Mr. Broer of attendance on the estate, for the purpose of investigating the grievances complained of. I accordingly, yesterday, proceeded to the residence of Mr. Melville, and requested the favour of his joining me on this investigation, to afford me his advice, and to ascertain whether the quantity of work required by Mr. Broer of his negroes was more than customary or not, and he having kindly acceded to my request, we repaired to the estate or place of land cultivated by Mr. Broer.

The gang was called up, and the complainants directed to point out the work required to be performed by them, the said Mr. Broer, and his manager, Mr. Brumont, being present; this being done, it appeared evidently to us that the quantity of work, viz. the weeding of grass, and the state of the land where this work was to be performed, were considerably more than ought to be required.

The second complaint, that the negroes were flogged with carracarras, by order of the manager Mr. Brumont, was ascertained from all the negroes present; and Mr. Brumont, after some endeavour to deny this charge, confessed that they had been flogged with the said carracarras on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; the negroes also, one and all, declared that some had been flogged with a tar-rope, by order of Mr. Broer, on the Thursday morning, in consequence of not finishing their work on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, which was also admitted by the said manager, and ultimately by Mr. Broer.

The third charge, of being made to work on Sunday, was denied by Mr. Broer; the manager, being cautioned to state whether this charge was grounded on fact or not, said "that they had planted corn, and got hog and cow meat on a Sunday, until eleven o'clock."

The fourth charge, of not being sufficiently fed, was denied by the manager; he admitted that the negroes received but one bunch of plantains a week, but stated they were at liberty during the week to cut another bunch for themselves, and referred himself to the driver, La Rose, to prove this assertion, who greatly contradicted the same; the manager could not state that he had ever given any specific order to the driver to allow this privilege of cutting an additional bunch during the week, or point out any negro who was, or had been allowed to do so.

I therefore directed Mr. Broer to diminish the task of work imposed on his negroes, directed that each negro should be provided with two bunches of plantains a week, and two pounds salt fish (it having appeared that they had received only a very scanty occasional allowance); that the negroes should not be employed on Sunday, or no work whatever, save such as is directed by ordinance of the honourable court; and I informed him of my intention of prosecuting him for the several penalties he had incurred, on account of the charges preferred and proved against him; and lastly, I directed the negroes, that if the redress now ordered was not attended to, they should wait on the burgher officer of the district (to whom I should notify the orders given to Mr. Broer), and represent the same to him.

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

(signed) M. S. Bennett.

Berbice, 15th March 1819.

To his Honor H. Beard, President of the Courts of Justice of the Colony Berbice.

Sir,

I beg leave to state, for your Honor's information, that I attended on plantation Friends to investigate a complaint, preferred by five men, of being over-wrought by order of the manager, being punished at 11 o'clock in consequence of not having performed a sufficient task allotted them for the day, and for being sent to the field of a morning before gun-fire. I proceeded to the field where the whole of the men gang were employed, and directed the complainants to point out to me the work they complained of being unable to perform. They came out of a canal which they were then digging, and informed me that the task allotted them was six feet of a fourteen feet canal, five shovels deep; the manager, being present, stated that this account was correct. The complainants were called upon to point out the cause and time of being punished; and after a minute inquiry, it appeared that they had only been threatened by the driver that he would flog them if their work was not more advanced at 11 o'clock, but that none of them had been punished. One of them stated and exhibited the marks of a whip, and informed me that he had

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received it in consequence of being the last of the gang going to the field one morning. I directed to be informed whether they were made to go to the field earlier than the negroes on the neighbouring estates; and although the complainants asserted it was the case, it was denied by the gang and the drivers, who said their bell rang of a morning with Mr. Katz's. I was fully satisfied, from my own personal knowledge of the work performed by negroes when working with the shovel, that the task required by the gang of the Friends was by no means oppressive, and in many instances less than is generally required of slaves, particularly as they were not to make up any dam; and the complainants failing to prove the charge of ever having been flogged at 11 o'clock, in consequence of their work not being in an advanced state, or of being sent to the field at an earlier hour than the slaves of the neighbouring estates, I pointed out, that however anxious I was of acquitting myself of the duty of affording redress to slaves, on any grievance laid before me, so also my duty imposed on me the disagreeable task of punishing slaves absconding from their work, and preferring charges against their owners or managers which they could not substantiate, or charges which did not really exist; I proceeded to the unpleasant duty, and inflicted such punishment as I considered the nature of their offence merited.

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

(signed) M. S. Bennett.

— (2.) —

Berbice, March 18th, 1819.

Fiscal v. J. B. Goring, for selling Rum.

EXAMINATION of negro *Gerrit*, the property of Mr. Huinsma:—Says, that on Tuesday he was sent by his mistress to look for plantain skins for a cow; that on passing the house of Edward Rawlins, he told me if I would take a flask and a guilder, with a scrap of paper, to Mr. Wills's, and bring it back with rum, he would pay me. I took the empty flask, and delivered it, with the money and scrap of paper, into Mr. Wills's hand; he filled the flask with rum and gave it back to me. I was proceeding with the rum and scrap of paper to Edward Rawlins's when I was met by a dienaar, who took me, with the flask of rum and scrap of paper, to the barracks.

Evidence of *Christian Alfone*, of the dienaars of justice:—Says, that last Tuesday afternoon, about four o'clock, being at the back dam and near to Mr. Wray's chapel, I saw a boy with a flask: on coming near to him and perceiving my intention of stopping him, he endeavoured to escape; I however seized him, and on examining the contents of the flask, I found it was rum; I therefore took him to the barracks. The witness identifies the boy *Gerrit* now present, who also states that the dienaar now before us was the one who took him to the barracks.

Evidence of *Edward Rawlins*, free man of colour:—States, that he saw the boy *Gerrit* on Tuesday last, and told him if he would go to Mr. Wills and bring him a flask of rum he would pay him on his return. I gave him a flask, a scrap of paper and a guilder; this was to pay for a bottle of porter I had in the morning. I had three days before purchased and paid five gallons of rum, but the jug I had would contain only four and a half gallons, and I told Mr. Wills I would send for the balance.

Henry Wills states, that a boy called upon him a few days ago with a pass (which he lays over) for half a gallon of rum; remainder of five gallons sold for cash to Edward Rawlins some days ago. A guilder was also sent in silver money, in payment of a bottle of porter that was had that morning. I delivered the rum to the boy.

The boy *Gerrit* again called in, and desired to state what he had received from Edward Rawlins to deliver to Henry Wills:—States, that he got the empty flask, one two-bit paper, and two one-bit papers, also a small scrap of paper which was taken away from him by the dienaar. The pass delivered into court by Wills (to show that the half gallon was the balance due on five gallons) was shown to *Gerrit*, and he positively denies having received that paper; that he got the money as described, the scrap and flask taken by the dienaar, and nothing else.

Edward Rawlins admitted in court, and being confronted with *Gerrit*, who positively denied having received the paper laid over by H. Wills, and being exhorted by his Honor the President in tender of oath, whether the paper laid over by H. Wills had been sent by him, Edward Rawlins, with the boy *Gerrit* to H. Wills, or if it had been given after the boy *Gerrit* had been taken up, he declared it was given after *Gerrit's* commitment, but on the same day.

April 8th, 1819.

Examination of the negroes *Avanturer*, *Sam*, *Wilhelmina Avanturer*, *Betye*, and the children *Ordinance* and *Anna*, belonging to Robert Elwes, complainants.

Negro *Avanturer*:—States, that his owner ill-treats his children, and principally that the housekeeper *Fanny* is also very severe against them. That Mr. Elwes never gives any allowance

allowance to these children; and that when the mother brings now and then something for them, Mr. Elwes's housekeeper throws it away. That he, the complainant, gets only one bunch of plantains a week and a small piece of salt fish, and no more; that he is obliged to work, as well as all the other negroes, on Sundays till four o'clock, P. M.; that since his master bought him he never had a Sunday for himself; and that they are generally treated very indifferently. Adds further, that even on holidays they are obliged to attend more or less to their work.

Negro *Sam*:—States, that he only gets one bunch of plantains and a small piece of salt fish a week; that he is obliged to work every Sunday till four o'clock, P. M.; that even the last holidays he was obliged to be out on his master's services; also, that in case of sickness very little attention is paid.

Wilhelmina:—States, that she is the mother of the girls Betye, Anna, and the boy Ordinance, all present; and that her daughter Philipintze stopped home; that all the above-mentioned children are in service of the house; that their master, and principally his housekeeper, the negro woman Fanny (a slave), treats her children very badly; that in case one of them is sick, and she the complainant brings it something to eat, the same is thrown away under great abuse by said Fanny; that the children never get any allowance of food nor any clothing, (they being all naked, with the exception of a little piece of cloth for decency's sake, the one girl being between eleven and twelve, and the other between eight and nine years of age;) that their master, as well as the said Fanny, is continually in the habit of licking them with bush-ropes, of which the children exhibit the marks; that Fanny lately cut her child Betye with a knife on her finger, occasioned by her flying in a passion on account of not cleaning the knives as quickly as she ordered. The complainant states also, that she is obliged to work every Sunday till four o'clock, after which she (as well as all the negroes) is obliged to cut grass for the horse, and procure firewood for their master's kitchen; that she gets only one bunch of plantains and a small piece of fish a week as her allowance; that she got only since her master bought her, three and a half ells checks, and three and a half ells osnaburgs, and *nothing for her children*; that a few days ago the girl Betye was ordered by her master to take the dung away near the bridge, for which purpose she took something to remove it with, but was peremptorily ordered to remove the dirt with her own hands. Finally, the complainant adds, that in case of sickness of herself as well as her children, their master cares very little about them. After repeating the above to the mother as well as the girls, they stated the same to be the truth, and that they could add more to it; principally that the boy Ordinance lingers very much, occasioned by the continual ill-treatment of their master and his housekeeper Fanny; also that their master says he does not like them at all.

Avanturer, alias *Quamina*:—The complainant, a boy of eight or ten years of age, says that he is also one of the house boys; that Fanny sends him early in the morning to milk the goats; that in case he does not go quick enough, she comes out and licks him, as well as his master, pulling him often in a cruel manner by the nose, and pinching his ears most inhumanly; that he gets no regular allowance of provisions, but lives only upon what he is able to get; that his master uses him to mind the horse, clean his shoes, burn the coffee, and more of the like business; that his master never gives him any clothes, and that when sick, after taking salts or other purge, he is obliged to perform his same task.

N. B.—The other complainants being present at the statement respecting ill-treatment in sickness, say that generally they are forced to work after taking physic.

Finally, the complainant proves by many old marks on his back and posteriors that his statement is not at all incorrect, and that he has often been severely dealt with.

April 14th, 1819.

Negro *August*, belonging to plantation Niewen Hope, states, that having been confined in the colony gaol by order of the fiscal, for carrying plank on a Sunday, although prohibited by the fiscal from so doing,

and being released on the Monday morning, he returned on a Sunday, the plantation Niewen Hope after taking in the plank; that his master, having heard of this occurrence, had him taken up the day he came home, and confined in the stocks day and night from that time till last Sunday morning. The negro complains of stiffness in all his joints.

Sir,

Berbice, 17th April 1819.

I have the honour to report for your information, that I attended on plantation Leldenrust for the purpose of investigating the complaint of the negroes *Avanturer*, *Sam*, *Wilhelmina*, *Avanturer*, *Betye*, and two children belonging to Mr. Elwes, the present proprietor of said property, and found the complaint of their working on Sundays corroborated by all the negroes on the said estate. The negroes appeared healthy and well cased, but they were very much dissatisfied with the conduct of the negro woman Fanny, a slave of the property, but a favourite house-servant of the proprietor's. The negroes also complained of being flogged with carracarras, and produced a bundle of them, which were kept in readiness for service, when required.

The manager and proprietor, Mr. Elwes, admitted that they were occasionally employed on Sundays until 11 o'clock, but solely to work their own ground. I therefore prohibited him from insisting on their doing any work on Sundays, (save such as stated in the court's ordinance),

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ordinance), unless it was land given them as their own, the produce of which to be considered as their exclusive right, and by no means to assist towards the maintenance of the slaves. I also prohibited the further use of the carracarra in presence of the gang, and directed that if these orders were not punctually obeyed, they should cause the same to be represented to the next burgher officer, whom I should request to attend to their representation.

His Honor H. Beard, Esq.
 President.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
 Your Honor's obedient and humble servant.

Sir,

18th April 1819.

I have the honour to report that I repaired to plantation Schepmoed, an estate situated on the east bank of the river, in consequence of representations made me by Lieutenant Jifkins, of the 3d company 4th battalion, that the negroes of that property having been called up by the manager to receive their rations of beef and salt-fish on Easter Sunday, had refused to take the same; and that he had been required to attend in his official capacity to inquire into the cause of their refusal.

That on the performance of this duty he had received gross insult, and witnessed much spirit of insubordination amongst the people. He therefore requested my attendance to inquire into the endeavours made by him to give them relief in the cause of grievance they asserted to experience.

On my arrival on the estate, I required the attendance of Lieutenant Jifkins, and having caused the gang to be called up, the said Lieutenant made the following report:—

“ That the gang of negroes having refused to take their rations, he had been called on; that he examined the rations laid out, and found for each grown negro 3¼ lbs. of fish, a piece of pork, a hand of tobacco, and two pipes, (the fish he had weighed). That on inquiry why they objected to the rations, which appeared rather abundant, he was informed by the negroes that this was to last for a fortnight. This statement being corroborated by the manager, he the lieutenant stated his opinion that it was insufficient, diminished the allowance of fish ½ lb., and directed that the negroes for the future should be allowed weekly, instead of every fourteen days by order of the attorney, Mr. Swaving; and therefore requested the lieutenant would represent this alteration to said attorney; that he, the said lieutenant, speaking to two of the negroes who had been spokesmen on this occasion to go with him to Mr. Swaving, in order that the case may be decided at once.

Berbice, 8th May 1819.

Complaint of the sambo girl *Betsey*, belonging to Mr. J. F. Obermuller, inhabitant of this town:—Says, that she was washing a frock her mother had sent her a few Sundays ago; her mistress seeing her so occupied, took the said frock from her. Complainant stated it was hard; she never gave her any clothes, and now that she was washing her frock she should take it away; her mistress went and complained to her husband that complainant had been insolent; her master flew in a passion, and kicked her on her belly so that she could scarcely draw her breath; the next morning, or morning after, her mistress saw her with a jacket, and tore it off her, saying she did not wish her to wear a jacket, or appear dressed; she, the complainant, again stated the hardship she experienced in having her clothes torn off her, as she, her mistress, never gave her any; mistress again complained to master that complainant was impudent; master had her flogged with a rope; her brother Jacob flogged her; she gave her mistress no cause of complaint; she never will allow them to have any thing decent. She says, that for the least trifle she and her sister are locked up in the stocks, sometimes for three weeks, and fed with only two plantains a day; her mistress had her sister locked up for a fortnight, saying that she had made the bed improperly, thereby causing the child to fall; her sister denied it; she was locked up in the stocks.

Saturday 15th May.

Examination of *Emanuel Le Gendre*, private in the 4th battalion of the 60th Regiment, stationed in Fort St. Andrew:—States, that he and one Chater (also a private) went this morning from the Fort St. Andrew to town for the purpose of selling buttons, to lay in some stock for their use on board, as they intend daily their departure from this colony, both being provided with passes from their officer; that on coming in town, they went in the back part of the same, and passed by a house; were called in by a coloured man, being desirous of buying buttons; that after looking at them, he said he should like them, but that he had no money to pay, offering two glasses of brandy for the payment, which they took and drank; upon which Chater, feeling in his pocket, found a bit, and also gave that for a glass of brandy: further, that said coloured man asked Chater whether he could play, and being answered in the affirmative, he (Chater) and the coloured man began to play with cards, the former losing in the beginning a few dollars, but regained this afterwards; upon which the coloured man offered firstly to play for two bottles of brandy, and afterwards for a pair of which Chater gained, both, but returned the same to him; upon which the coloured person took out a silver watch, offering Chater, if he would put two joes against the same, then he would play also for it, which Chater accepting, he also gained the same, (the coloured person stating this watch to be his property); on the point of Chater and Le Gendre leaving him, he began to quarrel, saying he did not understand

understand the play, and wanted the watch back; which Chater refusing to return, the coloured man called for his master, who coming out, abused them very much; upon which Le Gendre told him not to abuse or to push a soldier; after which the coloured man's master went to Lieutenant Brady, who, upon their passing there, called them in, and demanding the watch in question, took the same into his custody: states further, that Boussin was present when the coloured person's master abused and pushed Chater.

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19th May.

Heard a complaint of the negro *Greenock*, belonging to plantation Cotton-Tree:—States, that he was not well fed; that the plantains given them were remaining in their houses, and quite yellow; that the manager was constantly in the field. The appearance of the negro indicating that he must have been well fed, and the further complaint appearing that the manager performed his duty towards his employer and frivolous, he was directed to receive fifty lashes; which were inflicted in my presence in the market-place same day.

Berbice, 22d May 1819.

Complaint of the negroes *Brutus*, *Goodluck* and *Ambrose*, belonging to plantation Cotton-Tree, West Coast:—That they are not allowed time for breakfast; that they sleep in the field, work in said place till gun-fire, and then have to cut grass, and go to the field before cock-crow; that they are confined in the stocks, and not allowed to go out even for the common calls of nature; that they went to their master, Mr. Katz, to complain, and he flogged them; the plantains given them for allowance rot in their houses, not having time to eat them. Inquired what work they do at eight o'clock at night; reply, Cut canes.

Mr. W. W. Kernon, the manager of the estate Cotton-Tree, being in attendance, denies the charges preferred:—Declares that the negroes are allowed from eleven o'clock till one every day to get their breakfast; that they are turned out between five and six o'clock, just at day-break, and turn in at dusk in the evening; after which they cut or bring the grass which they, according to the general customs of negroes, have cut at noon. That Cotton-Tree estate is in sugar; that whenever they cut canes the tops are brought home instead of grass: denies the charge of cutting canes till eight, as very improbable; first, from the dread of the negroes cutting themselves; secondly, from the fear of cutting a field of canes improperly. Says, that *Goodluck* and *Ambrose* having run away about three weeks ago, on being taken up they were confined in the stocks at night; and positive they never were confined in the day, as that would be a loss of labour, and no punishment to an idle negro. *Brutus* was placed watchman over them, and the three have been absent from the estate since Tuesday evening, to the best of my recollection. Refers himself to the overseers of the estate for proof of the above assertions, and to Mr. Katz, the proprietor, who frequently visits the estate, and would not sanction any oppression of his slaves.

The negroes being admitted, and inquired when they absented themselves from the estate, *Brutus* says they left the estate on the evening, and went to N° 2; took a small punt and came over at night. *Goodluck* prevaricates, saying that they took the small punt from N° 2, but the tide turning against them at breakfast-time, they got to the mouth of *Carye*, and remained there all day. They intended to go to the master; but being afraid, did not go: they slept in the punt all night, and came to the fiscal next morning; say yesterday, Friday morning.

The charge preferred by the negroes being contradicted by the manager, and the negroes prevaricating as to the time of quitting the estate, I directed the attendance of one of the overseers of Cotton-Tree; and he having attended about two o'clock on Saturday the 22d, he, to my inquiry, gave the following information, declaring himself ready to affirm the same by solemn oath:—*Thomas Kelley*, overseer on Cotton-Tree, declares, That the negroes are turned out between five and six o'clock, or a quarter past five; that the bell is regularly rung at eleven o'clock to turn in, and at one to turn out; that he has known some of the negroes work at breakfast-time, but by order of the driver; that the manager has in his presence reprimanded the driver for so doing, and on one occasion punished him; that he never knew the negroes work after dusk; that two of complainants were ordered to be locked up every night for three weeks, for running away twice; that neither of them ever was locked up during the day, to his knowledge, for this above crime; could not have been confined without his knowledge, he being field-overseer. That he read the list of negroes to throw grass on Tuesday evening past; that *Brutus* on that occasion not bringing grass, he inquired the cause of such neglect, and was informed he was employed confining *Goodluck* and *Ambrosius* in the stocks; that some time after, but on that very evening, the driver came and reported *Brutus*, *Goodluck* and *Ambrosius* had absconded, which he (the overseer) communicated to the manager.

Found complaint of the negroes unfounded; for which, and for absenting themselves from Tuesday evening to Friday morning, directed each seventy-five lashes; inflicted Monday morning, 24th.

Sir,

May 24th.

I have maturely investigated the complaint preferred by three of your negroes attached to plantation Cotton-Tree against their manager, Mr. Kernan; and having found their complaint without foundation, I have deemed it my duty to order the said three slaves to be exemplarily punished at the public market-place, which was done this morning in my presence. I have endeavoured, and I hope succeeded in impressing on their minds, that as

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much as it is my duty to attend to any complaint of negroes, and to cause redress in all cases of oppression, so also it is my duty to inflict punishment on all slaves who prefer false and ungrounded complaints against their employers; and I have moreover pointed out the duty incumbent on a slave, in the event of a supposed grievance, to represent the same to the proprietor, their master, previous to the immediate application to my office.

I feel pleasure in stating, that I have every reason to believe that the punishment inflicted on them has been deserving. In returning them to plantation Cotton-Tree, I flatter myself it will be unnecessary for me to state that the manager is to receive them again in favour; resting satisfied that the punishment inflicted by me has been and is proportionate to the offence committed.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

(signed) *M. S. Bennett,*

Honourable W. Katz, Esq.

Fiscal of the Colony.

May 27th.

Examination of the negro *Utrecht*, belonging to Plantation Friends:—The deponent says, that some time ago he had a very violent diarrhoea, which made it almost impossible to him to do his field work; that in consequence he applied to the manager of the Friends for physic, but he sent him back to work again; that his sickness increasing, he went *de novo* to the manager, who treated him as before, upon which he applied to Mr. Ross, the attorney, for redress, who, instead of administering to him the necessary physic to cure his distemper, gave him a flogging, and sent him back to the Friends, the manager whereof frightened him so much, that he, although almost unable by sickness and the consequence of the flogging, went nevertheless to the field; when coming home at breakfast time, he was called for to take physic, upon which, he being confident that he should be lodged in the stocks, went to complain to proper authority, for the purpose of seeking mitigation of his unhappy fate.

States further, that the manager acts in the mean time as physician also.

May 27th.

Examination of the negroes *Nelson, Milton, Simon, Ned, Cupid, Trim* and *Jack*, belonging to plantation Rose Hall.

Negro *Nelson*:—The deponent, speaking for all the complainants, states as follows: That they all were engaged by the manager to gin cotton for himself on their Sundays, for which he promised each *f. 3* a day; when, after working three Sundays, and receiving no payment, they declined to continue with this work. On demanding the payment, the manager called the driver to give them a d—d good payment.

That they got this year for their allowance each, a small blue salemporis cap, and one jacket, blanket and hat; and that N° 1, an estate belonging to the same proprietor, had checks and osnaburgs added to their allowance; he, the deponent, stating that all this had been on the estate for their use too, but that the manager disposed of the same for his private use and benefit.

That they are obliged to bring every evening after their work an uncommonly large sized bundle of grass (the measure whereof the deponent deposits herewith), and that when the measure is not full they are obliged to search for more grass in the dark.

That in telling his master the hardness of the service, he flew into such a passion that he broke one of his (complainant's) teeth. That in coming in the negro houses at night after their work, and inquiring after their things, the manager, when hearing this, takes them up directly and lodges them in the stocks; adding further, that in case they are not satisfied with him, they may go and complain where they please.

Complaint negro *Utrecht* of plantation Friends.—*W. Ross*, attorney, having been heard on this complaint, states:—That the negro, *Utrecht*, did inform the manager that he was sick, but on examining him it was found that he was shamming; the manager directed him to go to the field. The next day he complained again to the manager; but, without waiting his orders whether he was to go to the hospital on *Demtichem* (there being no hospital on the Friends), he, *Utrecht*, came of his own accord. I inquired whether he had a pass from the manager, it being a rule not to admit any patient from the Friends without an order from the doctor, or a pass from the manager; *Utrecht* replied he had not, but was sick. I called the hospital mate, a well-informed and confidential man of colour, and desired that complainant should be examined. The mate, after feeling his pulse and examining his tongue, &c. stated that nothing was the matter with the negro, and then went to the hospital and brought the hospital book, from which it appeared that the negro *Utrecht* had been discharged by order of *Dr. Beresford* two, or at farthest, three days previous to his coming to plantation *Demtichem*. Finding this a mere pretence, and likely to occasion others to endeavour also to impose on myself and the manager, I directed the driver to give the negro *Utrecht* twenty-five lashes, which were inflicted in my presence. I directed him back to the Friends, but have never seen or heard of him since. This was the 4th or 5th of May.

Captain J. G. Clout de Nieuverkirk, Burgher Militia.

Sir,

I beg leave to enclose you copy of a complaint preferred by seven negroes, attached to plantation Rose Hall, against their manager. Mr. John Cameron, part proprietor of said property,

property, informs me that he has received a letter from the manager, Mr. Sutherland, stating that one or two of the complainants had received a few lashes, which he suspects to be the occasion of their quitting the property; and the driver of the estate, who is at present in town, denies any knowledge of the cause of their coming to complain.

As it is probable the complaint is unfounded, and that the detention of the negroes, and requiring the attendance of the manager, may be attended with inconvenience to the estate, I have to solicit you to attend on Rose Hall, and investigate the complaint; and if the grievance does exist to afford redress, or if unfounded, direct such punishment as the case may appear to require.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient and humble servant.

Berbice, 27th May 1819.

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Plantation Recumzigt, Berbice, 2d June 1819.

Investigation of a Complaint preferred by *A. J. Glasius*, Esq. Proprietor of the above Estate, against part of the Gang for insubordinate Conduct on Whitsunday past, on the occasion of Clothing and Rations being delivered the Gang on the above day. This investigation held in presence of the honourable William Helder, member of the court of Criminal Justice.

Complaint of *A. J. Glasius* :—States, that knowing Sunday was the only day on which slaves are allowed to dance at the ensuing holidays, he intentionally omitted to have coffee picked, as great part of Saturday evening and Sunday morning would be taken up in washing and putting it away. He also directed the drivers to omit bringing home fuel on Sunday morning, but directed that some of the negroes should get grass, and as Monday was a holiday, but not a dancing day, fuel should be brought home then. The negroes all appeared satisfied: they each received a dram at the overseer's house, and four large flasks of rum to take to the negro-houses with them, as customary in holiday-time. The evening and great part of the night were spent by them in dancing. On the Sunday morning, about half-past six, I directed the overseer to give the negroes their rations, namely, a tierce of beef, fifty stockfish, half a cask of barley, each a hand of tobacco, two pipes, and salt: the drivers to have rations, and the men three ells of osnaburgs, the women five, and the house people six, and the children one and a half ells. Jackets, hats, &c. had been given last Easter. After the rations were laid out, the overseer called on me, and inquired whether I would be present myself; but breakfast being on the table I declined doing so, after ascertaining from him that every thing was laid out as had been directed by me. About half an hour after, the overseer with the drivers came up, and informed me that after eighteen or twenty negroes had received their allowance, and on its coming to the turn of negro August to receive his, he had taken up the osnaburgs, and, after examining it, had exclaimed, "Is this the osnaburgs we are to receive? I will not have it;" that his example had been followed by most of the others, and particularly by the negroes Conraad and Virtus. I inquired again if the quantity I had directed had been cut off; and in order to satisfy myself the better, I sent for it, measured it, and found it full three ells; the same quantity I have ever given since I have resided on the property, a period of sixteen years. I ordered the drivers to go to August, and direct him to come to me; the drivers returned, saying he refused to do so. The overseer then went to the negro-houses, to direct August to come to me to account for his conduct, and explain the cause of his refusing the osnaburgs. The overseer, however, returned, saying, August, on his coming up, cried out, "Come, my lads, let us be off;" and he was immediately joined by five-and-twenty others, who proceeded on the estate towards the back. They took the beef, fish, barley, tobacco and pipes, and went off.

I inquired in the evening of the drivers if the negroes had returned, and was informed a few had. The next morning the drivers informed me that the rest also had returned during the night. As soon as the insubordinate part of the gang had quitted the negro-houses with a shout, I gave notice to the burgher captain of the same, and requested he would apprise the fiscal of it. The fiscal attended on the estate on the Monday morning, and having directed six to be confined in the stocks for examination, he cautioned the gang to return to duty and attend to the orders that should be given them; after which he quitted the estate and the six ringleaders remained in confinement.

Mr. Glasius produced the journal of the estate. It appeared osnaburgs and checks had been served to the gang May 1815.

Osnaburgs and checks December 1815, on account of getting no jackets.

December 1816, jackets and hats.

Ditto 1817, double allowance, 586 ells osnaburgs, and 427 ditto checks, in consequence of no jackets.

January 1819, jackets and hats.

May —, osnaburgs, which great part of the gang objected to.

The osnaburgs refused by the gang was examined and found of an excellent quality, and a few pieces taken out of the heap were measured and found to contain three ells, five ells.

The negro *August* being admitted, states, that he is not the only one that refused to take the osnaburgs; that they received no clothing since Mr. Staal's time, about five years ago; that their master constantly tells them that when his ship comes he will give them checks and osnaburgs; that lately jackets and hats had been given them on account of the arrival of their

Staal's adm.

88 jackets, 88 hats.
Rec^t Schlarhorst.

Admitted.

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their young mistress, but no checks nor osnaburgs; and therefore seeing so small a quantity given last Sunday, he with some others got dissatisfied and refused to take it. Denies having been sent for by his master on Sunday; but confronted with the overseer B. Dorr, the latter declared that the drivers having been sent for to call August, and returning without him, he went and met them, inquired why he did not come; the drivers stated that August positively denied; he the overseer therefore went himself, and they were then just going away; he reported it to the proprietor.

The head driver *William* states, that he received orders from his master last Sunday to go and bring August. He went to the negro-house, and seeing August, acquainted him with his master's orders. August replied "I will not come, for he will lock me up in the stocks." Returning from the negro-houses he was met by the overseer and returned with him, August, whilst a number of others then went off. The driver was then questioned respecting the delivery of osnaburgs, checks, jackets and hats; states that osnaburgs, checks, jackets and hats had been yearly furnished them; sometimes jackets and hats, at others, osnaburgs and checks.

Negro *Conraad*:—Says, that he has no cause of complaint, but that his master has been for many years promising them jackets, blankets, osnaburgs and checks; that they have had no clothing for years, and therefore seeing the quantity of three ells put out for them last Sunday after so many years disappointment, he with others had refused to take the osnaburgs, but had taken the beef, stockfish, pipes and tobacco. States, since Messrs. Schwiel's administration they have had no clothing. We got three ells checks and three ells salemoris from Mr. Staal. It appears from information of Mr. Glasius, that the estate had been released from sequestration about two years ago. A piece of Dutch osnaburgs was produced by Mr. Glasius, and he inquired of *Conraad* whether this osnaburgs had not been given to the negroes since his administration: denies it.

Negro *Virtus*:—Says, he took his osnaburgs, but seeing his mattys refuse to take it, he threw it down also. His master has continually amused them with promise of clothing, now for five holidays, but has given them nothing; has had no clothing since Mr. Staal's time.

Negro *Adonis*:—Corroborates the evidence of the above negroes as to promise and time of not having received clothing. Being confronted with the driver *William*, admits he received checks the last year of Mr. Staal's administration, 1816; admits he received osnaburgs another time, 1817; also that he had received a jacket and hat previous to this. Admits he lately received a jacket and hat, and that three ells of osnaburgs were offered him last Sunday.

Negro *Moy*:—Corroborates the former evidence respecting the promise and length of time they had had no clothing: says, he did not represent to his master that the quantity of cloth was not enough, because the others did; had no clothing for five years; other negroes get every year. The driver having a shirt of checks on, which he says was given him by his master, witness was called upon to state whether he had received any; says he got three ells of checks, a cap of which he now has on: a remnant of Dutch osnaburgs produced, and inquired if he got any of that; he says, he got three ells of the same: a lined jacket was also produced, which he also acknowledged to have got one of, also a hat; admits lately to have received a Dutch jacket and hat, holiday before last.

Negro woman *Jenny*:—States, that she refused to take the five ells of osnaburgs because it was not sufficient for a coat; admits that her master gave her three ells a few weeks ago on account of her having a young infant; one and a half ells were laid out new for the child; got six ells checks and six ells osnaburgs three years ago, three new years. Confronted with the drivers, it appears this was issued in December 1817; admits she got a lined jacket with a hat in December 1816, and a jacket and hat last Easter; the five ells osnaburgs laid out Whitsunday, but refused.

After examination of the complaint preferred by the proprietor and the defence and evidence of the negroes accused, the honourable member and myself took into consideration that it did not appear from the month of May 1815 to the 1st January 1817, that the negroes had received the clothing customarily given on estates. This having been represented to Mr. Glasius, he replied, that he was not amenable for the acts or intermissions of sequestrators of the estate appointed by the court; that his estate, *Recumzigt*, was released from sequestration in the month of June or July 1817; that he has on the estate, —43 men, 33 women, 15 boys, and 13 girls,—total 104: That he proves from his books that up to the present date he has delivered to his negroes, in December 1817, 586 ells osnaburgs, 427 ells checks, 88 jackets, and 370 ells of osnaburgs now to be issued, making together 1,383 ells of clothing, an average of 13 ells for negroes of every description for the space of 18 months, with one jacket and a hat. States, that if any proper representation had been made to him that his slaves required some little additional supply, it ought to have been duly represented; and if any grievance did exist and not redressed by him, they should have preferred it to the fiscal; but that insubordinate conduct of several of his slaves, and in particular that of the negro *August* and *Conraad*, were such during the late holidays as to create much uneasiness, and evince a spirit of disobedience which ought to be checked, to prevent a recurrence of such conduct; and therefore prays that an example should be made of the ringleaders. Mr. Glasius further proves, that 88 jackets and

and 88 hats were delivered to his negroes in December 1816 by the co-sequester, H. Staal.

Taking the above into consideration, and the negro August having during his examination evinced much disrespectful conduct, and it appearing from the evidence of the overseer that he was first to object and induce to refuse taking the clothing offered them, and that he also had positively refused to comply with the declarations of his master, delivered to him by the driver, and therefore guilty of insolent and unbecoming conduct; it was resolved, that the negro August should be exemplarily punished; and the negro Conraad, for disrespectful conduct in presence of the fiscal on Monday last, to receive a few lashes.

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His Honor H. Beard, President Courts Justice.

Sir,

Berbice, 3d June 1819.

I beg leave to represent, for your Honor's information, that I received, on the 30th ultimo, a letter from Captain Favre, of the Burgher Militia, stating that Mr. Glasius, the proprietor of plantation Recumzigt, had requested of him, by letter on Whitsunday, the assistance of a militia guard, in consequence of the insubordinate conduct of twenty-six negroes attached to his estate. In consequence of this information, I attended on the 31st on plantation Recumzigt, and learned that the said slaves had refused to receive the quantity of osnaburgs allowed them by their said proprietor; and that he was fearful they intended to quit the estate for the bush, and would probably endeavour to induce others to follow. Having confined six, represented as of the most unruly of these negroes, I returned to town; and yesterday, with the honourable A. Helder, member of the court of Criminal Justice, I again attended on plantation Recumzigt.

We examined the negroes confined by me on the 31st May, and found that they were very much dissatisfied with the quantity of osnaburgs allowed them, say three ells for the men, five for the women, and one and a half for the children; and although the honourable member and myself were of opinion that the quantity allowed them was not sufficient, we are nevertheless satisfied that the conduct of the slaves examined, and in particular that of the negro August, was highly reprehensible, and had evinced a spirit of insubordination by taking the osnaburgs served out to him, throwing it in the trench, prohibiting the other slaves from taking their allowance, and positively refusing to comply with his master's directions to attend and account for his reprehensible conduct. We deemed it necessary, for this unbecoming manner, to direct him to be punished in presence of the gang, as an example. The other negroes examined appearing sensible of their improper conduct, were dismissed, after being reprimanded for their past behaviour; and informed, that in the event of any grievance existing, it was the duty of the slave to represent and seek redress from his master, and if not succeeding, then to look for such redress from higher authority. The whole gang appeared satisfied with this argument; and the negro August, after punishment, acknowledged the impropriety of his conduct, and begged his master's forgiveness.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Honor's obliged and humble servant.

June 14th.

Complaint of negro *Philip*, the property of plantation Canefield Carye:—Says, he complains on account of being too much punished. The overseer goes to complain to the manager that I am drunk; and when I deny it, the manager orders me to be locked up in the stocks for four days. I am taken out of the hospital as sick-nurse, and put to work with the carpenters. I was sent to town with one of the overseers to fetch up jack-screws; the overseer went to breakfast at the Vendue Office, and I went to Maria Threefalls' to roast some plantains; when I went to the water-side, I found the boat was gone; I went home by land; I went to wait the boat at the trench-mouth on the plantation; when the boat came I helped Joe and Swart to land the things; at night I was put in the stocks; I was released in the morning; I was sent to the field, which I objected to, being sick-nurse; I went into the field, and wrought half a row, and I then left the work at nine o'clock; I came to town; I got here at eleven, and not seeing the fiscal at home, I remained at the Stelling; I slept at Mr. Nicolay's house; next morning I went to the fiscal.

John Cameron, manager of the plantation Canefield, being heard on this complaint, states, that the negro Philip has been often put in the stocks, on account of his being frequently drunk, and his very great neglect of the sick, which has often been represented by the doctors. I have often cautioned him for the above abuses, and I did once give him punishment with the whip, about two months ago. The overseers have often reported he was drunk; and when on inquiry I found it was the case, I had him locked up. The overseer has also complained he caught Philip receiving rum from the man attending the cane-room, by means of a phial, through the window railing. The account of his being absent when Mr. Richardson came for the jack-screws in town is correct, with this addition, that the overseer did send to Maria Threefalls' for him, but he was not there. The overseer waited for him as long as he thought the tide would admit of; and not finding him, he, the overseer, was under the necessity of helping to row the boat up himself. When he made his appearance on the estate, I forbore to punish him with the whip, but put him in the stocks for the night; and finding all endeavours to reform him fruitless, I ordered him

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to the field. The overseer reported to me that he would do nothing in the field; I did not notice it, but shortly after heard he had gone off. He bears a very bad character amongst the negroes, who accuse him of taking their fowls to procure rum.

Complaint frivolous and unfounded;—directed to be punished.

Berbice, 4th June 1819.

Examination of the negro woman *Rosetta*, belonging to plantation Beerenstein:—The complainant says she has nothing to say against the manager nor her owner, but that the driver *Zealand* is the person which made her go to town; that he is continually licking and cursing her, and even cut her with a cutlass once in the arm, which mark is very visible, and once knocked her with a cutlass in her teeth; that *Zealand* is the ruler of the estate, so that the manager has less to say than he; that *Zealand* has a washerwoman, and the use of the milk of the cows, (even tell to throw the same away), and that the manager has not the least authority to hinder him in his proceedings, he being allowed the use of every thing; that in consequence of some licks lately received from *Zealand* she left the estate, she hid herself a few days in the bush, went to the colony hospital and miscarried there; the sick-nurse *Elias*, with *Mooalla*, *Mandrienna* and *Betze*, being witnesses to this occurrence; which miscarriage she attributes to the several misbehaviours of *Zealand* against her.

Rosetta objects to the witnesses brought in by *Zealand*, as the one is his boy, and the other his assistant driver; says the remainder of the gang will substantiate her declaration.

Berbice, June 4th, 1819.

Examination of the negro *Zealand*, belonging to plantation Beerenstein:—Says Saturday week they were employed in loading plantains in the punts; that he, as driver of the estate, directed the good bunches to be taken out for sale, and the bad ones to be brought home for plantation use; that on this occasion he told *Rosetta* to take a bad bunch, which she put in the punt, out of the same; that the woman turned her head to him; upon which he, observing her to look very red in the eyes, asked her why she looked so; to which she gave him a very cross and disgusting answer; which vexing him, he went up to her with a thin piece of bush-rope, telling her not to be insolent, and licking her at the same time with this said instrument of correction on her mouth, stating, that as her mouth was so bad the same only deserved to be punished. Upon which *Finch*, sitting there at that time, directed him to put her in the stocks; upon which she pushed at *Finch*, who, standing, threw, by the consequence of her pushing, a negro in the trench. Afterwards he laid hold of her and put her in the stocks, but requested from *Finch* to release her again, to which he consented; and after which she made her way to town.

June 4th, 1819.

Examination of *Jack*, also of Beerenstein, a witness in the case of driver *Zealand*:—Says, that he saw *Zealand* strike *Rosetta* with the bush-rope on her mouth, so that it made the blood come out, and swelled the lips. Says further, he never saw *Zealand* strike *Rosetta* with a cutlass. Lastly, states that he never saw *Zealand* lick *Rosetta* but only on the occasion of loading plantains Saturday week.

Examination of *Primo*, also from Beerenstein, and witness for *Zealand*, driver of said estate:—Says, that he saw *Zealand* strike *Rosetta* with a carracarra on her mouth till the blood came out of the same; says, never to have seen that the driver ill-used the woman with a cutlass; and further states, that on the occasion of loading plantains on Saturday, it was the first time he ever saw *Zealand* to strike *Rosetta*.—Direct attendance of manager, *Dr. Beresford*, and other witnesses called by her.

Berbice, June 4th, 1819.

Examination of the negro woman *Laura*, belonging to plantation N^o 6., *Cauje Creek*:—The complainant, with a child at the breast, states, that her master don't allow her to nurse her child in a proper way; that she has not the liberty to take her child to the field, (which is very young), to give it now and then the breast, but is obliged to leave it with an old woman at home; that when she steals from her work to go to her child, and the manager or overseer discovers her, they flog her directly; that once the driver assisted her to go to her child, for which he was punished and locked in the stocks. Says to have brought this child with great pains in life; it being of a weak constitution, requires, of course, maternal attendance; and as she is not allowed to provide fully for the same, she requests, therefore, assistance in obtaining this natural favour.—Direct attendance of manager.

Richard White, manager of plantation *Reliance*:—States, that when he was first appointed manager of the estate, it was his intention to erect huts in the field for the women suckling their children; but this was objected to by *Mr. Nieuverkirk* and *Cameron*, the proprietors, desiring the children to be placed with nurses; that there are four nurses to attend children; the women with young children are allowed until half-past six o'clock in the morning; they come in at half-past ten, go out at half-past one, and return at half-past five; and which hours are never attended to in going out. Denies the driver ever to have been punished, as stated. Says, that his attention to children is proved from having raised twelve children on the estate in two years.

Berbice, 4th June 1819.

Thomas Keen versus Thomas:—States, that the negro Thomas, whom he hires from the agent of the Winkle department, absented himself some time previous to the late holidays; was absent eight days; during which time he went about shoeing horses (he being a smith) on his own account. There is a positive order that no smith shall take tools out of the shop; this order, however, paid no respect to. Mr. Gaymer, clerk to the Winkle department, met Thomas with his tools in a bag, a bottle of porter, and a loaf of bread; on inquiry where he was going? Thomas replied he had been sent by me to shoe Mr. Williams's horse. He shod horses for several persons; some paid him in money, others gave him porter, wine, &c. After he had been absent eight days, I was informed by the other smiths that he, Thomas, was lurking about the shop, he having sent to call two of them. I went out, and, speaking to him, directed him to come to me; this he refused, and walked off. I directed two men to go and seize him; he ran towards the river, and threatened to drown himself if pursued. He jumped into the river: I went there myself, and directed the workmen to follow him in a boat; they did so, but as often as they came up to him he would dive and remain so long under water that I became alarmed. At length, being exhausted, he was taken. He was entreated to surrender, but would not. After he was taken I sent him to the barracks, and solicit now that he may receive a punishment.—Directed to be flogged at Mr. Keen's foundery.

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Beerenstein Complaint.—*Rosetta v. Zealand.*

John Beresford, medical practitioner, and attendant of the hospital belonging to the Winkle department, being questioned whether it was to his knowledge that the woman Susetta had miscarried in the hospital during her late confinement, states, that he was requested by Mr. Scott to examine the said woman, who had complained that she had miscarried in consequence of the ill-treatment experienced from Zealand; that he, the medical practitioner, had examined the said woman Susetta very minutely, and could not discover any appearance of miscarriage which she stated had occurred a few days before; and finding nothing the matter with her, he reported her fit for work.

Examination *Elias*, cause Rosetta, alias Susetta; witness doctor of hospital:—Says, that Rosetta has been in the hospital four or five weeks ago; she came from the estate to complain no physic was given her; she was put in the stocks by Mr. Scott's order; she was examined by the doctor, but he ordered no physic; she one morning showed me a pot half full of blood and water; she said she had miscarried; the appearance was of a thick substance; I directed her to put it up carefully till the doctor came; she put it under the hospital; it was destroyed by the pigs; doctor never saw it; I never told him, because it was made away with by the pigs, and she did not because she was in the stocks; she had been about a week in the stocks when this occurrence took place; I never knew she was pregnant.

Mandorina, witness cause Rosetta:—Says she was in the hospital at the time Susetta was there; saw a pewter pot, which had blood in it; Susetta said she had passed it; I did not examine it; Susetta did not say in my hearing she had miscarried; being sick, I paid little attention; the doctor came there every morning; it was never told to him.

Mocalla, witness cause Rosetta, or Susetta:—Says, Susetta, or Rosetta, was confined in the stocks whilst I was sick in the hospital; I understood one day that she had miscarried; I saw a pot which she showed to Elias, the hospital black doctor; I did not examine it, being sick; the doctor did not attend this day; I heard Rosetta say she had miscarried; I saw her clothes; there was blood on them, and I believe she did miscarry; neither this, nor former witness, knows how long Rosetta had been confined when this occurrence took place.

W. Scott, agent, having heard the above evidence, states that the woman Rosetta, alias Susetta, came to him to complain against the manager; that she reported she had absconded in consequence of ill-treatment received from Zealand, and had miscarried during the short stay he made in the bush, for which reason he, agent, requested Dr. Beresford to attend her; states further, that she has a complaint of the bladder.—Reprimanded.

Plantation L'Espérance, 10th June.

Complaint *Jonas versus Grade*, manager:—States, that two women, named Diana and Cornelia, were in the hospital, having small sores in their feet; complainant is sick-nurse, and occasionally employed as house-servant; the said women were directed by the manager to go to the negro-houses to split leaves; the overseer, seeing one of them he conceived able to go to the field, sent her there; manager saw her in the field with a piece of rag round her foot, and observed, as the coffee crop was coming in he was wishful of no sores being on the estate; directed me to confine them in the sick-house till well; I told them of this, and they absented themselves.

There was also a woman named Roosje; she was employed in the Logie picking coffee; she was big with child; wanted one month of her time; the manager sent the overseer to see her; she with the others were coming on; the overseer informed him that they were not picking enough or well; and the manager, standing at his window up stairs, directed the driver Zindeg to flog them; the driver did this with his whip doubled; whether they were flogged so by the manager's order I do not know, but he saw it; the woman Rosa

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was flogged either on Friday or Saturday, I am not certain; Sunday she complained of pain in her belly and back, and Sunday night I think she miscarried; the doctor of the estate came to visit and attend her next day, and directed physic; she remained some weeks in her house.

In consequence of my not bringing the two women above stated, the manager directed I should be locked up in the stocks every night; he went to town, and the overseer put me watchman at the water-side; the manager came home the evening I was placed there, and inquired who was watchman; I answered it was I, Jonas; he inquired who put me watchman; I informed him it was the overseer; he directed me to call the overseer; on the overseer's coming, he said, "Did I not direct that Jonas should be locked up in the stocks every night? take him, and do so now." On hearing this order, I availed myself of the darkness of the evening and started off, and went to town to seek redress, not knowing what I had done to deserve this punishment.

Evidence of the woman *Rosa*:—States, that she was sent by the manager's order to pick coffee in the Logie. The complainant represented to the manager that she was too big to stoop. The manager directed her to comply with the order; she went to pick coffee on her knees. At eleven o'clock their work was examined, and the driver Zondag directed to flog them by the manager; this was done with the whip doubled. When Zondag the driver came to her, he said to the manager, this woman is rather big with child; the manager replied, "Give it to her till the blood flies out." I was flogged; the whip broke, and I was flogged with carracarras, this happened on a Friday; I was sent to the field on Saturday. I told the driver I could not work, as I had pains in my loins; he directed me to go to the manager. I went to him; he sent me to the hospital; I remained there a day. The doctor examined me, and said there was nothing the matter with me, and sitting down was not good for me. I went to the field, and was put on a row with another to help. On Sunday evening I miscarried; I was five months gone with child; the labour was hard. The midwife had to force it; the child was dead; one eye was out, the arm broken, and a stripe visible over the head, which must have been done with the double whip. The doctor came to attend me on Monday morning; the child was not seen by him; it had been buried. He prescribed for me. The child was seen by Ariaantje, Claritje and Marianna. I was assisted by my sister Claritje; the regular midwife did not attend me, as I was taken suddenly. She was sent for however, and saw the child; it was buried by Marianna.

Evidence of *J. H. Eenhuys*, assistant surgeon to Dr. Westervild, practitioner of and medical attendant on plantation L'Espérance:—States, that he visited the woman *Rosa* early in the morning on the 14th March; she informed him she had miscarried that evening before I examined and prescribed for her. A few days previous to this occurrence I saw *Rosa* in the sick-house; she was pregnant and complaining; I thought between three and four months gone. I experience that many miscarriages arise from the women taking no exercise and contracting lazy habits; and thinking this was her case, I directed her to take exercise. I did not see the child, it was buried. I believe I inquired if she had been delivered of the after-birth, and being informed by an old woman, the midwife, I directed something for her and went away.

Evidence of the negro woman *Marianna*:—States, I was sent for in the night to come to *Rosa*, who was taken in labour, (trouble had come,) I went; she was not yet delivered. I assisted another woman to deliver her. The child's arm was broken; one eye out, bruised and sunk in the head; it was a fine male child, quite formed; in every respect perfect. Thinks the child was more than five months from its perfect form and appearance. Claritje and George reported it to the manager that Roosje had miscarried, and as he gave no directions respecting it I buried it. The child was seen by the father and the two other women, Claritje and Ariantje. The woman Roosje told the doctor the state the child was in. He replied, "I suppose you have been eating green pines." Roosje denied it, saying it was from the flogging she got.

Evidence of *Ariaantje*:—States that Roosje is her sister, witness was called in the night by Claritje to come to Roosje, who was in labour. I went, and found her in said state; I got there before Marianna was present. When the child fell, the child was a male, perfect; the arm broken, the eye out, the head broken and bruised. After the miscarriage I went away. Being asked why it was not mentioned to the manager, the doctor, or the burgher officer, she says it was not her business.

Evidence of *George*:—States he is husband to Roosje; corroborates her evidence as to the flogging she received, and the expressions made use of by the manager to the driver about flogging her. This happened on a Thursday; Sunday night she miscarried. The child was a male, perfect; it was born dead; the arm was broken, one of the eyes out, and the head bruised. States this to have been occasioned from the blows his wife received from the driver Zindeg with the doubled whip. Reported this miscarriage to Mr. Grade, the manager, who told him to bring it. Did not mention to him the state it was in. Roosje did give this information to the doctor, the little one; he replied, "You must tell a lie: you have been eating green pines I believe." Inquired why he had not gone to complain either to the burgher officer or fiscal; says he was cook; and therefore could not leave his work.

Evidence of the driver *Zondag*:—States, that the women were put to pick coffee; a certain quantity was to be got, which did not take place. The overseer told me by order of the manager, Mr. Grade, to range the women out on the drogery planker: I did so. The manager came out, and told me to begin and flog them, from one to the other; I began and went on till I came to the woman *Roosje*. I observed to the manager, "This woman is pregnant:" the manager said, "Go; that is my business." I did so; she did not get more than the rest. I did not flog *Roosje* with a carracarra; it had broken before I came to her: she received her punishment with the whip doubled; she miscarried a few nights after this punishment took place. The punishment was inflicted at eleven o'clock, breakfast time. I did not see the child. *Claritje* told me the state the child was in. The question being put to him, "Whether the manager, on his (the driver's) representation that *Roosje* was pregnant, had made use of the expression, "Never mind; flog her till the blood comes?" He replied, "Yes."

Evidence of the negro woman *Claritje*:—States that she is elder sister or shipmate of *Roosje*; that she was sent for at night to *Roosje*, who was taken in labour. The child was born dead; it was a male, perfect. *Marianna* was there; *Ariaantje* also. The arm was broken, one eye was bruised and hurt; it could be seen it was done with the whip; and the head broken. The father reported the death of it. Manager said to bury it: the father dug the grave. *Marianna* took it out. Reason she did not tell the manager of the state the child was in was, because she thought *Marianna* would have done it. *George* mentioned it to Mr. Grade: does not know what he said.

George again called in, and inquired whether he had mentioned to Mr. Grade the state the child was in; said, he told Mr. Grade the arm was broken, and that it was in consequence of the flogging she got. Mr. Grade said, "It is a lie." Says the overseer was present; the manager asked him how it was his wife had miscarried: he replied, it was from the flogging you gave her. Manager says, "You lie; I did not flog her." The overseer said, "I did not either." I then observed, "If neither of you did, who did then?" Says his wife has had seven children for him, and never miscarried before.

Examination of *Justus Von Steiniss*, overseer of plantation *L'Espérance*:—I was present when the women were ranged out on the drogery; they were flogged by *Zondag*. Mr. Grade said, if they did not pick coffee enough, he the (driver) should be confined in the stocks. I saw him punish some of the women. Mr. Grade was not present. I did not hear *Zondag* say any thing to Mr. Grade respecting this child having a broken arm. Never said any thing to him himself.

On inquiry, the manager states that *Jonas* absented himself from the estate on the 30th of April last.

The negro *Adam* denies making use of the expression stated by the manager. Says that Mr. Grade came home whilst they were drinking rum, and seeing him refuse half a dram given him by a woman, remarked, "If I had not been here, you would have drunk that." He then began to say that in *Heytmeyer's* time they got only a small piece of fish; that *Heytmeyer* had run the estate in debt, and that he (the manager) was now paying those debts; that it was only through his exertions that the estate was not sold. Tells a long tale of his former services, but not in the least relating to the subject now under investigation.

Lieutenant *Jifkins*:—States, that he received a letter from Mr. Grade, requesting his attendance to inquire into the conduct of the negro *Adam* for insolence; that not being able to leave home he directed the man to be confined in the stocks; that he attended next day, and found the man had not been confined in the stocks. Directed his attendance, but learned that the driver *Adam's* hat and whip were in the house, but he had gone. On hearing Mr. Grade speak to the negro, and inquired whether he had any complaint, and the negro said, "No," I inquired whether *Adam* had been so insolent, and he said "Yes; and what reason he had for so being I do not know."

J. F. Obermuller, attorney of plantation *L'Espérance*:—States, that the negro *Adam* came to him in town to complain, that the manager coming into the field accused him of all the negroes not being employed in the field, but some in their provision fields; that he denied this, and in order to convince him of the contrary he would crack his whip and call them all up. On this Mr. Grade became so very vexed that he said, "Never mind, I'll pay you for this." That seeing Mr. *Jifkins* coming to the estate next day he thought he was to be flogged, and therefore came to prefer his grievance.

Lieutenant *Jifkins* states, that living in the neighbourhood, he is acquainted with the character of the negro *Adam*; that the negroes on the adjoining estates, and of *L'Espérance* in particular, are in great dread of him; and the present complaint having remained uninquied into for some time, feels confident that no negro on the property dares give evidence against him.

The overseer *Steiniss*:—States, that he was present; and is ready to depose, that the expressions and general conduct of the negro *Adam*, on the evening complained of, was most insolent.

Examination of the negro *Louis*, of plantation *Friends*:—States, that it is the regular custom on the estate to give a task of work in the morning; that on the 11th instant he

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and all the other negroes were digging; that he and the remaining gang employed for this work got their task fixed; that the driver, La Fleur, was continually hurrying him, upon which he observed, that as it was so early in the day, he ought not to hurry him *alone*, as he, as well as any other, would finish the task in proper time; which remark was taken up by the driver as an insult to him, whom he punished directly by licking him with a bush-rop, which made him (Louis) make more remarks, upon which the driver called four men to give him a flogging; which to escape he ran away, and came to report such behaviour to his Honor the Fiscal. States further, that the driver always points at him, although he never gave cause for such dealings.

Plantation Demtichem, 17th June 1819.

W. Ross, attorney, plantation Demtichem, complainant, against the negro *Hans*, belonging to Beerenstein, on charge of Obiah.

Gabriel, a girl about nine or ten years of age, daughter of Isaac and Nancy:—States, that she was employed in her father's house on Monday night boiling plantains, by direction of her mother; that whilst so occupied, La Rose and Amsterdam came to her, and took her to January's house, where she saw a strange negro, who she knew was named Hans, having seen him formerly at Buses Lust; he told me not to cry; if I did, he would flog me; he then took a piece of salemporis, and put it over my head; he told me that if I saw any thing, I should die; he directed Lindsay Harry to take me on his shoulders; Hans, Amsterdam and La Rose went to Frederick's; we were joined by my father; they called Frederick's wife to open the door; Frederick was in the stocks; the door was opened by Pompadore, Frederick's wife; we went in, my eyes still blindfolded; the piece of salemporis went over my head; I held the pot in my hands, being on the back of Lindsay Harry, the salemporis descending over the pot. She was taken off Lindsay Harry's shoulders, and sat down on a small bench; Hans went and lay down on Pompadore's bed; he lay on the bed till the people had done grinding coffee; all the people came to Frederick's house; Hans then got up, took the pot from me, and gave it to my father; Pompadore did not see that I had the pot in my hands; it was so covered with the salemporis she could not see it; nobody spoke to me; the pot, when I received it, had nothing but a little water in it.

The overseer, *Boaz*, states:—That the negroes being employed grinding coffee, he had missed the two carpenters, La Rose and Amsterdam, who were working at the Friends that day, but still one employed to grind coffee. The driver said, "Perhaps they are not yet come from the Friends;" with which answer I was at that moment satisfied. I make particular inquiry for the carpenters at work at the Friends.

W. Ross, attorney of plantation Demtichem:—States, that on Sunday forenoon the negro Frederick, the head carpenter, and a man of good character, came crying to the overseer, Mr. Boaz, to complain that the negroes were breaking open his house, and digging up the ground, accusing him of being a poisoner, and consequently that poison must be secreted in the house; the overseer immediately proceeded to the negro yard, and brought the drivers January, La Fleur, Benjamin and Frederick up to the door; the driver January commenced justifying himself by stating, that several sudden deaths had lately taken place on the estate, and that he, with others, had sent for the negro Hans, who was a good negro, and with whom he was acquainted, to find out the cause of these sudden deaths; immediately on hearing that it was with the knowledge of the drivers that this man had been sent for, I declined further investigation, directed them to be locked up in the stocks; and reported the circumstance to the burgher officer and the Fiscal. It appeared that the minds of the negroes must have been greatly agitated, they having thrown themselves on the ground, biting the grass, tearing the earth with their hands, and conducting themselves like maniacs. I had this information from Mr. Boaz, the overseer; did not witness it myself, being confined to my room from indisposition. On Tuesday I had information from the girl Gabriel that the negro Hans was in the negro house; I went there with the overseers, but could not find him; yesterday morning the same little girl pointed out to the overseer, saying, "The man that gave me the pot is now passing;" the overseer came and reported it to me; I directed him immediately to follow him with some of the negroes; William, the stable boy, went; the overseer succeeded in bringing him to me. States, that the minds of the people were in such a state of ecstasy, and conducted themselves as possessed to that degree as to attract the attention of three gentlemen passing, who came in and inquired the cause of this uncommon agitation, just as Frederick was reporting the circumstance to the overseer.

Evidence of *S. Boaz*, overseer of plantation Demtichem:—States, that yesterday, having received orders from Mr. Ross to take the negro Hans from the public road, he pursued him with the stable boy, William; who, on coming near to Hans, and being desired to seize him, had declared he was afraid to do so. In consequence of this information I went and took hold of the man, who made an attempt to get away; but not being able to run as fast as I, I seized and brought him to the attorney. I received orders to take him to town, with numerous articles found on his person; I did so; and took him to the Fiscal, who directed one of the dienaaren of justice to take him to gaol. When Hans was brought to the door he had on a shirt and trowsers. Mr. Ross directed one of the carpenters and head cooper to undress him; they hesitated, till peremptorily directed to do so by Mr. Ross. The articles were found secreted in his dress, and he had in a handkerchief *f. 50* in money. All the articles, money, &c. were given over at the gaol.

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Evidence of *Frederick*, head carpenter :—That on Saturday night he was wakened by the head driver January, who told him to come to his house. On arriving there he found all the men, women and children before January's house. January said, that so many deaths had occurred that he had sent for a man to put every thing to rights; this man was Hans. January then took a ram's horn from above his door and poured a little rum in it, and drank it, saying "that he wished to have the bad people off the estate, and every body must listen well." Hans sang his country song; January drank a second time out of the horn, (witness never saw the horn before,) a bottle of rum was on a table and also a wine glass. Hans pushed the latter off the table and broke it: January got vexed, saying, "this is the second glass you have broken." I said, "never mind, don't get vexed, as you sent for the man; if you want a glass I'll give you one." I sent for one; January directed a dram to be given to the officers. Hans, after singing some time, said he wanted a young girl; he had placed a white feather in the head of all the children. He took a girl named Eve, and lay down on the ground, the girl next to him. She was, however, much alarmed and cried. He then took the girl Gabriel, and she also lay on the ground with Hans. He then got up and said, "these children should point out the persons who administered poison on the estate." He began to sing a country song, and every one must join in chorus. He told January that as he had come to set things right on the estate, every body, big and little, must contribute a bit. The gun fired and I went away.

After grass and fuel had been thrown, the people assembled again at the house of January. Hans told me the driver had engaged to collect this money, but as you are the head man of the estate, I have more confidence in you. You must collect this money, and as soon as I receive it you will see what I shall do for all of you. I said it could do; but why was January not the fittest person, he being the driver and the person who had sent for him. Hans replied he had more confidence in me. The negroes then began to contribute; Hans and January went to another house, leaving me to collect. I received the money; also La Fleur and Benjamin. A sufficient sum having been collected about eleven o'clock, Hans and January joined us. I delivered the money to January; the paper money separate from the silver. He said, "Hans, here is your money." A handkerchief was also contributed; Hantz laid the money in the handkerchief; they went in the open air: Hantz had a tub of water brought, a bundle of wild canes, and also grass; he put the grass in the water and sprinkled their faces; every body was directed to dance, and Hans joined. The negroes became as if crazy; some threw themselves in the mud—others jumped; they that were the most turbulent were flogged with the wild canes by Lindsay Harry, by order of Hans, and recovered; others more furious and not recovering from the stripes of Lindsay Harry, Hans struck with a bamboo, and they immediately recovered. He asked me if I was afraid; I said no, but I did not like this sport. He took me round the ring formed twice. He went in the house and drank twice; a circle was again formed. Venus was quite as a crazy person and could not recover the effects, for which she had been struck with the cane and bamboo, but not so as to cure her effectually. She danced in the circle, and coming up to me said, I was the bad man on the estate. I said to Bernard, because we are the eldest on the estate, and that such things were never practised by us, that they want to remove me. He said, "be silent; let us see what is to come." Venus ran out of the circle and said "come, and I show you where the poison is hid." Hans sat on the ground leaning against a table. January went to raise him; he said "stop, stop, let me rest, my eyes are turned." I asked Venus "why do you say I am the bad man, and how do you know it?" She replied, "I see it from the water that has been sprinkled over my face and eyes." They then all followed Venus, shouting and making a noise; they went to my house, threw down two casks of water, broke down my kitchen and fowl-house, and dug up the earth with shovels. Venus said, "it is not here, it must be in the house." I opened the door, they went in. I said, "stop, let some go in; I will give you room." I put my box, hat, &c. on one side, and said, "take care, the poison you look for must be found openly and not by pretence." Benjamin ripped up some of the boards; they dug, but found nothing. Venus said "my eyes are not well washed; I did not accuse the head carpenter, but London." I said, "No, you accused me, and brought the people here; this is not London's house, but mine." Venus then said, "let me go to Hans (who had remained at London's house) to get my eyes properly washed." I said "no; I have been accused, and must insist, as my house has been broken, that this business shall be found out, or I know what to do." Venus then went to Hans and was followed by the gang, and I went and reported this occurrence to the overseer. Says, that Hans, in selecting the child, said it must be the girl who had lost her mother, and Eve was brought to him, but she being so very much alarmed, he said he must have another; if no other child was to be found who had lost its mother, a twin child would do as well. Gabriel was therefore brought to him. When I went to complain, Hantz was removed by some of the negroes to another house.

Evidence of the negro woman *Venus* :—Says that the driver January directed that nobody was to quit the estate; every body must come to his house. I went there, and saw Hantz. January said, every body must bring money and give it to uncle Frederick: every body gave money; I gave two bits (having a child). Hantz said, he would pull off all the poison that was in the ground, which made the people on the estate die so suddenly. A tub of water was brought by Linsey Harry; a handful of grass was put in the water by Hantz,

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and he stirred up the water: some wild canes also were brought by Harry. Hans sent him. Every person stooped down, and Hans washed their head. They danced first: Hans sang the dance called Water mamma dans. My head began to turn, as if I were mad; don't know how occasioned this: the first dance she ever saw, whose heads turned in such a manner that they fell to the ground. Were flogged with the wild cane first; if not recovered he flogged them with a carracarra, and put guinea pepper in their eyes which he chewed. All this was done to me, but I could not recover. Had not, nor ever does drink rum. I could see and hear every thing, but was exactly as if I were crazy: I recovered a little after this last. Is not aware that she accused Frederick as the bad man. Hans said he would make a little child find where the pot of obiah was hid: did not see the pot. Does not know she took the people to Frederick's house; if I did I am not aware of it. I know I was there, but I am not aware what I did. I was in hysterics; constantly laughing, although nothing was said to make me laugh. Afterwards I went from Frederick's house to January's, where Hans had remained: I went there by myself; he was putting his money in a little packall: I stood at the door, he said that something must go out of my head. He chewed some wild cane and put it in my mouth, and I recovered. I returned to Frederick's house. Do not know of any conversation passing between Frederick and myself. I went again to January's house, and found Hans lying on the floor, apparently in a fit; he was shaking and trembling very much. January told Hans he saw the overseer coming. Hans got up; some one held his hand, and he went into the chamber.

Evidence of *Pompadore*:—Says that Isaac came to her on Monday night, and told her to open Frederick's house. She inquired why? He said "Never fear." He came in with Hans, La Rose, and Amsterdam. They lighted a lamp. Linsey Harry had the child Gabriel on his shoulders; a piece of salemoris descending from her head, and covering a pot she held in her hand. Nothing in the pot but water, that I saw. The lamp was lighted, and Hans showed every one present nothing was in the pot but a little water. Hans made Isaac and Amsterdam dig a hole, and he made the child sit on a bench next to the hole, the salemoris hanging over. Hans went and lay on her bed, the hole was near to it: when he got up, he ordered Amsterdam to take the child up, the salemoris still hanging over her head and shoulders, and carry her to the hole. Hans took the salemoris off the child's head, and then the pot appeared to contain a ram's horn, some fluid, and the bones of some animal. The child fell to the ground immediately as the pot was taken out of her hands; and Hantz said, "See the child is dead." After the child had lain a little it recovered. Did not see any thing administered.

When Hantz lay on the bed, and the child sitting near the hole, all the people were present. Hantz said, the horn, &c. came out of the hole; nobody saw these things come out of the hole.

June 26th, 1819.

Complaint of negro *Brutus*, belonging to plantation Providence, against manager:—Says, that he is watchman of the plantain-walk. Manager told him he was to take two negroes with yaws, and a little boy also with that disease, in his house; complainant objected in consequence of never having had yaws; slept some nights in the open air, then built himself a small hut on the plantain-walk, and covered it with dry leaves. Manager observed it, and said, "Come here, I'll show you where to make a house on the road." He put up a stick to show me where the spot should be. He told me to make the yaws negroes dig a drain near the spot; the negroes said they could not work in consequence of being so completely filled with that malady. I told this to manager; he said, "Lick them." I said if I flogged them with my whip and held it, I shall get yaws too; I am afraid of it. The manager wanted my daughter Peggy; I said "No." He followed her; I said "No." He asked me three times; I said "No." He took Rule's wife, and, after having her a few nights, left her; therefore I refused. Manager asked me Friday night; I refused. Saturday morning he flogged me; it was not for my work. This thing it hurt me, and I come to complain.—Direct attendance of Peggy.

Peggy being sick, *Aqueshaba* her sister attended:—Says, that manager sent aunty Grace to call Peggy, and to say if she would not come I must. We said, daddy said must not go; I was too young. Grace left us and went to daddy; shortly afterwards she returned and tried to coax me to go, but I would not as my daddy had forbid it. Grace went and told manager; manager sent to call Fanny; Fanny went. The manager was up in his room; and all of us, the creoles, got orders to be watchmen at manager's door. I was watchman, Peggy, Jenny, Frankey, and many more.

Monday, June 28th, 1819.

Examination of the negro *Jack*, belonging to C. E. Gernon:—States, that he formerly belonged to Mrs. Brose; that at the time the negroes of Mr. Brose were to be sold, he requested Mr. Gernon to purchase him, which he did. That at the time Mr. G. bought him, he, Mr. G., told Mrs. Gernon, in his presence, that he had bought the negro Jack, whom he did not at all like. His master used him in the beginning to saw; but his hand, through hard work, being unable at that time to go on with it, he was released from sawing. That his master bought cows from Mr. Pauds, some of which he sold to Mr. Kewley; remaining seventy-six in number, which he, with also a quantity of sheep and goats, is obliged

obliged to mind *alone*. That every morning his master licks him for not bringing milk enough, and that for the least trifle he is ill-treated. He requested his master several times to sell him, but for an answer received, that as he was his property he would do with him as he pleased. And as he could not expect any alteration in his hard fate from his master, so he resolved to lodge complaint in the proper place.

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Berbice, Friday, 4th July 1820.

COMPLAINT of the negro woman *Julia*, belonging to William Carabin Mourant :—Complainant says, that Mr. Mourant bought her some years ago; that she lived with him as housekeeper, and brought three children for him, of whom two are since dead; that her master on leaving this colony left her with Mr. Abensetts, and took her only remaining child Kitty with him to Holland; that during his absence, Mr. Abensetts (although she has been sick for a length of time) ordered her to mind cattle, and treated her sometimes very badly; that since her master's return to this colony, who brought her daughter Kitty again with him, he behaves very unfatherlike towards the girl, she being obliged to attend on Mrs. Mourant and her children, to perform all menial services, and to receive for this nothing but the severest treatment; that on representing this as a mother to the father (her master), he, as well as Mrs. Mourant, threatened to sell her in this colony, and to remove the child with them to Surinam.

That this being her only remaining child of the three which she had for her master, it naturally affects her exceedingly; that she has no relation whatever in the colony, and should not at all like to be sold without her child, she consequently addresses herself to his honor to gain redress in this grievance.

July 14th.

Complaint of the negro *Bob*, belonging to plantation N° 49, Courantyn Coast; owner, Mr. Kewley :—Complainant says, that almost three weeks ago, the manager Austin met him in the morning whilst going to the field, and without giving him the least provocation called the driver King to lick him, which had been of such a nature, that he had been obliged to lay down some days, and on recovery thought proper to report this proceeding to his honor the fiscal.

Complainant's back has yet the visible marks of this treatment.

Complaint of the negro woman *Nancy*, with her children *Judith* (a girl from fourteen to fifteen years of age), *Sam* and *John* (twins), about a year old, all belonging to John Layfield :—Complainant says, that her master ill-treats them exceedingly, not only in the day-time, but even at night, by burning their houses, and also walking out with a cutlass to attack any one he meets at night.

That last Sunday, in the afternoon, whilst the stock-keeper, Will, drove the cattle home, he observed to her that one cow remained behind, and requested her to go and drive it towards the rest; that she had some trouble in turning the cow, which her master observing, he ran up to her, and cursed and beat her; that she escaped nevertheless from him, and endeavoured to run away; that her master lay hold of the negro Will's whip, and outrunning her turned the whip round her throat (the marks thereof still being visible), trying to strangle her; that she tried to release, but should very likely have been cut had not the above mentioned negro, Will, come to her assistance.

That in consequence of this, and former bad behaviour, as well to herself as children, she takes the liberty of addressing herself to the magistrate to seek redress.

Monday, 17th July 1820.

Complaint of the negro *Benjamin*, property of L. C. Abensetts :—States, that he formerly belonged to Mr. Mourant, who, on leaving the colony, left him in possession of Mr. Abensett's housekeeper; on his (Mourant's) return lately from Holland, he took complainant in his service and took him to Nickerie, where complainant believes Mr. Mourant has purchased an estate or land. On Mourant's going to Nickerie again on Friday last, he directed complainant to get his things ready to go with him; complainant refused, saying he was accustomed to this colony, requested to be sold here on being informed by Mourant that he was still his property but refused to go to Nickerie, on this his master (Mourant) became very much displeased, directed him to be locked in the stocks with both feet until his return, appointed in three weeks.

Complainant conceiving himself aggrieved prefers his complaint.

25th July 1820.

Complaint of the negroes *Warren*, *Frank* and *Sauncho*, belonging to plantation Smithson's Place, East Coast Canal.

Negro *Warren* :—States that he is a punt man; that he complained to the manager for rope to tie the punt, the manager told him to get bush rope, he did so. Coming to town

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in the punt, he stopped at the entrance of the canal with another punt man, who had also a punt under his care, waiting the tide; there it rained very heavily, and complainant with the other man went to Mr. Fraundorf's to warm themselves, and to roast some plantains. On their return to the punt, complainant found his punt had broken the rope and gone adrift; finding a coriall tied there, he untied and went in search of his punt, Mr. Nieuwerkirk's negroes had (at Reliance) taken it up. The other punt man had informed the manager my punt had drifted, and that I was gone in search of it; the manager came up in the other punt with Harry, Bush and Harrison, and found me in the Reliance punt. On our return the manager said we were to pay six guilders for taking up the punt; this was Monday week. I had no money, and the manager laid me down and flogged me. Next morning went to town, waiting the wash of water. Mr. Nieuwerkirk's punt was coming to town, when they found mine adrift, and they have taken it to Reliance, where it yet remains. The manager told me on Sunday last I was to go and bring the punt, if I did not I was not to return, or something to that effect, and having nothing to pay for the punt I come to complain.

John M'Kay, manager of Smithson's Place:—States, on Friday week in the evening I directed two punts early next morning to drop down to the canal mouth; one to go for plantains to New Forest, the other to come to town to receive stores from on board the *Amelia*; the complainant belonging to the punt that was to come to town, Harry being punt captain. On my coming about half way to the canal mouth, I met Harrison, one of the punt's men, coming to inform me that Warren had let the punt drift; Harry also came up about that time. I took the other punt with Harry and two others, and came to town. I found on coming to the canal mouth the punt had been very improperly tied, insomuch as to attract Harry's notice. I found Warren in Reliance punt, they had taken up oars and were on their return to the estate. The overseer was in that punt; the overseer required payment for taking the punt. I took Warren in our punt, and came to town, bringing the coriall with us. Warren had taken up a coriall some time ago, and informed me of it; I told him it was very well, and at that time stated to him and other negroes, that any reward they got for taking up any craft was their own; but that, in like manner, I was determined they should pay for taking up the punt whenever it drifted. I brought this to his recollection in the punt. On the Saturday evening I told him I should not put a hand upon him, but he was to bring the punt next day. I would give him a pass and a hand if he required it also, bringing to his mind Mr. Nieuwerkirk had given him nine on Easter for dancing there. I gave him a pass on Sunday morning to go to plantation Reliance; he did not return that evening. On Monday he made his appearance about noon; he brought a pass from Mr. Matheson from town to go to Reliance. Tuesday morning I inquired of him why he had gone to town; he made me no answer. I called the driver and gave him eight or nine lashes for going to town. He was all the week at work, and I reminded him several times that he was to bring the punt home. On Sunday morning I called him, and told him I was going to send a punt up the creek, and could spare no hands as I was about shipping sugar, but would give him a pass to go and look for the punt; he said he would return presently for it, but I have not seen him from that time till now.

Harry, head puntman of plantation Smithson's Place:—States, that the punts were sent to the canal mouth; that the two puntsmen, instead of minding the punts, went to roast plantains at a house belonging to Mr. Fraundorf. It has been a custom with our master, that if our punts drifted, the puntsmen were made to pay for them. I have paid for taking up my punt; I have, as head puntman, made Bush pay for it, as I had made him watchman. I know that the manager gave Warren a pass to go and look for the punt; on Sunday morning he did not bring the punt. I have understood he was flogged, but was not present, being puntman. I heard the manager last Sunday ask Warren if he was going to look for the punt, for he wanted her to go in the Bush; Warren said, yes, I am going; but he has not been on the estate again. This is the first time I have seen him since Sunday.

This complaint proving groundless, the complainant directed to be punished.

Tuesday, August 1st, 1820.

Complaint of the negro woman *Rosie*, belonging to Mary Richards:—Says, that her mistress treats her very ill; that although sick and swelling, she is obliged to work; that her mistress licks her very much; that she is also badly fed and clothed.

Mary Richards, her owner, says, that if she treated her ill, she would, in the condition as she is in, have been dead a long time ago; that as she herself is obliged to work, she expects that her slave shall work too.

Friday, 18th August 1820.

Examination of the negroes *Sam*, *Louis*, and *David*, belonging to Mrs. Sanders, complainants:—Negro *Sam* says, that his mistress is very bad; that the work is daily increased, so that they are unable to perform their task given them: That the last holidays, when they got three days to dance at home, their mistress obliged them to work so hard afterwards as to complete the work lost in the dancing days: That his wife, named *Adjuba*, was locked up lately in his mistress's house for six days, her allowance being only one plantain daily, (complainant exhibiting some of their plantains); and that the very pot in which she got water to drink, was to serve her, by her mistress's order, as a *necessaire*:
That

That his young master is very good, but his mistress is of too cruel a nature; that their allowance is very little, and that they get no clothing at all scarcely: Finally, begs that he may be sold elsewhere, as he is not able to bear it any longer there.

Negro Louis:—Says Mr. Hyneman bought him when very young, and sold him to Mr. Sanders; that from both of these masters he never was ill-treated; but since the death of Mr. Sanders his mistress treats them with cruel barbarity sometimes; that every negro is obliged to bring home twelve bunches of shingles, although other negroes bring but six weekly. That their mistress keeps them the whole Sunday employed with all sorts of trifling works: that they get only three cassavie cakes a week, with a little bit of salt fish: Finally, that they get hardly any clothes; wishes therefore rather to be sold than remain with such a cruel mistress, as certainly all of the negroes one day or other, after so much suffering, will run away in the bush.

Negro David:—Says, that he is cow-minder to his mistress; that lately one of the cows got sick, for which his mistress ordered the driver to tie him up as fast as he could, which caused dislocation at the time, and under which he is still suffering, (complainant looking rather sickly and having the marks of his flogging still visible on his posteriors); that he there received 150 lashes from Andries by his mistress's order, who afterwards locked him up in the stocks in such a way that both feet and hands were fastened; that his mistress says, because he is cow-minder she gives him no Sundays, neither any allowance whatever. Requests to be sold.

Negro Carolus, from plantation Sandvoort:—Says, that he is sick and swelling, and that he cannot work as much as other negroes, although willing enough; that the manager of the estate, when he complains of his sickness, licks him instead of helping him; that even yesterday he was twice licked; that he requests redress might be given him.

Negro Quintius, of plantation Providence:—Says, that he is employed generally in carrying canes in the punt; that the manager is so hard against him as to allow him hardly any time to eat, although he does so much as he can; requests therefore redress might be given him.

Tuesday 29th August 1820.

Examination of the negro woman *Nelly* and her child, belonging to Susannah Stirk;—complaining.

Complainant says, that her mistress behaves very cruelly to her, although she has a child of three weeks only; her mistress nevertheless licks her, and tears her clothes from her body, leaving her now and then quite naked; her mistress saying that she is a bad woman, therefore wishes to be sold with her two children.

Examination of the negro *Louis*, from J. A. Delinert:—Says, that long time ago his master told (while lingering under sickness) that he would sell him as soon as he recovered; that lately as he was sent up to his master after having been some time here in town, instead of finding treatment to keep a sick person, he was several times punished; and as he is now more recovered than he ever expected to be, so he requests now his master will keep his word and sell him, as he told him so long ago.

Examination of the negro *Peter*, belonging to J. A. Delinert:—Says, that he gets nothing to eat but corn, and that as he is an old man he is scarcely able to eat this corn; that lately he went into his master's rice field, where he took a little rice, which the driver observing, reported this to his master, who searched his house and took all the corn away, which, as his allowance, he had lain up for a length of time; that the driver is so severe, the people are scarcely able to keep it out with him, he (the driver) often saying that he does not care whether the people hang or drown themselves, or whether they run away in the bush.

September 8th, 1820.

Examination of the negro *M'Gregor*, belonging to plantation Goldstone Hall:—Says, that he is employed on the estate in the boiling of sugar; that for the last two days he was sick, he represented the same to the manager, who gave him a glass of bitters, and sent him to his work again; that this physic having no effect upon him, he was met by the manager in the boiling-house, who asked him why he stood so easy there? upon which he told him as before that he was sick; whereupon the manager ordered the driver to give him a flogging; after which the manager told him that in case he did not go to his work directly he would give him a second flogging; further, that the manager is generally very severe, and principally against sick people, which he, when they complain, drives always away; the flogging happened at about three o'clock yesterday.

Thursday, 5th October 1820.

Examination of the negro *Peter*, belonging to P. Nicholson:—Complainant says, that at the time his master bought him he told him at Vendue (even in the presence of the fiscal) that he could not work at a task-gang; that his master (Mr. N.) told him then that he had an estate; that nevertheless his master, soon after purchasing him, sold his estate, and employed him, with others, in a task-gang, for the purpose of cutting fuel for the brick-making business; that he tried to do his best to please his master, but although working sometimes till first cock-crow, without going to rest, he nevertheless could not succeed; that he once, going to the fiscal to complain, was lain hold of at the Canje Ferry, and

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and received from his master one hundred and fifteen lashes with the whip, and who sent him to plantation Lonsdale to work on a task-gang, with strict orders to keep him to close work; that he being very willing to work, but totally unable, his back being much lacerated, that nevertheless the manager of the task-gang (Nixon) forced him to work, and as this was fully impossible to him on account of his still suffering very much, he received by order of the manager (Nixon) again a new licking, which hurt him so much that he crawled, bad as he was, to town to complain, his posteriors being then in a bad condition, as plainly appears by the evident marks of the whip on the same.

Saturday, 28th October.

Examination of a complaint made by the negro *Harry* against the negro *Quaco*, both belonging to the Winkle department:—Says that six or seven months ago he was hired out by Mr. Scott to Mr. Sutherland, the market-master; that one day he was sent by Mr. Sutherland to Dr. Beresford's to grind some coffee; that whilst employed in this the negro *Quaco* came at the market-place, and took a goat away in the pound; that Mr. Sutherland went to complain about *Quaco* to Mr. Scott; that *Quaco* came soon after this to him, (he being still at Dr. Beresford's,) who calling out "Da wa de matta;" to which he replied, "Yes, da me;" upon which the negro *Quaco*, lifting up a bamboo stick, gave him four blows on his side: that complainant then ran away to the hospital; that a few days after having been there he was hired out to Mr. Robertson; that after being there for a few months, he felt himself unwell, and went to the hospital, where he has been for these three months past, laid up with a pain in his side, occasioned from the licking received from the negro *Quaco* six or seven months, as mentioned at the head of this examination.

Wednesday, 15th November 1820.

Examination of a complaint made by the negro woman *Rosetta*, belonging to plantation *Beerenstein*:—Says that Mr. Deussen, the manager, is extremely severe; that as he himself has a considerable quantity of stock he does not allow them to keep a fowl, or any thing at all, killing whatever he finds; that they are very much flogged, badly fed, and ill-treated by him, which causes general dissatisfaction on the estate; that in consequence of this several negroes, *Elias Low*, *January* and others, ran away to town to complain; and as it is of no help to look for alteration in any other quarter but by the removal of said manager *Deussen* and the driver *Primo*, who, instigated by *Deussen*, treats them very cruelly, so she wished that her complaint might be investigated, being assured that all the people of *Beerenstein* will confirm the same.

Wednesday, 15th November 1820.

Examination of a complaint of the girl *Petronella* against her owner, *Alida Jones*, free negro woman:—Says, that her owner is daily flogging her, and although she does whatever she can she is not able to please her; that she is the only slave belonging to her, she having sold last week the last negro man she had over; that as she is not able to do all what her owner burthens her with, so she is very wishful of being sold: further, that her owner kept her and sold her mother, with two of her brothers, at public vendue, (Mr. Gaymer being purchaser of them,) telling her always that she would free her, but instead of that is cruelly ill-treated.

Theresius, the mother, being present, confirms the truth of this by a long narration.

Examination of a complaint made by the negro *Amsterdam*, belonging to plantation *Sandvoort*:—Says, that he is always affected with pains in his bones; that he has been employed lately in picking coffee, trying his best to fulfil his duty; but as he could not bring as much home as other people (who were healthy,) so the manager, Mr. Cameron, licked him with a horse-whip: that the manager curses him always, and when he goes to the hospital is driven away; that he is not able to work now, and therefore comes to complain.

Saturday, 25th November 1820.

Examination of a complaint of the negro woman *Sally*, belonging to Mr. Cameron:—Says her master left her with Mr. Arthur, manager of N° 4, *Canje*; that Mr. Arthur treats her shockingly ill; that she is constantly flogged by the driver, and also very badly fed; that her master, Mr. Cameron, who is living on the *Courantyn Coast*, seems to take no notice of her at all; that she is willing to do any thing, and is able to perform the work as a field woman, as well as any other; but she cannot stand the ill-treatment of Mr. Arthur, and therefore wishes to be sold.

Friday 1st December 1820.

Examination of a complaint of the negro *Frans*, belonging to plantation *Philadelphia*:—Complainant says that he is very willing to attend to his business, when healthy; that some time ago he was sent to plantation *Goldstone Hall* with other people, to work there; that they got very little food, and were hard wrought; that some time after being there, he fell sick, and wished to go to the manager, Mr. White, for physic, but was advised by the driver not to go to Mr. White, as he was very hard against sick people; he therefore went to the manager at *Philadelphia*, but finding no redress there either, he went up to Mr. J. Downer, who advised him to go to *Philadelphia* again, which he did; but was told by the manager that he did not care if he had been to the *Fiscal* or to Mr. Downer; but that he would get him flogged at *Goldstone Hall*; and as complainant was driven out of the hospital, although he addressed himself several times to the manager, and not being wishful of turning a runaway, he came to complain.

Complaint

December 2d, 1820.

Complaint of the negro woman *Anne*, belonging to plantation Rotterdam:—States, that her child January being sick, was sent to the hospital; it took an emetic; the attorney, Mr. Prass, went to the doctor for physic; the doctor sent twelve powders of calomel; the child took one of them; it was young, and could not walk; the physic affected it in that manner that it could neither suck nor drink water; I showed it to Mr. Prass, that the child could not support it; the child died on Monday night; the operation it passed, previous to its death, was so offensive that no one could stay in the room; says she has nothing further to say. She was then inquired of her motive of coming to complain, whether it was against the doctor, the attorney, or overseer; she replied, that she had represented it to Mr. Lens, the overseer, after giving the child two powders; had stated that was enough; but he had replied, "The attorney told me the child must take these powders, and therefore I must give them;" she thinks the overseer was to blame; and it being her only child, she feels the loss severely, which was her inducement to say the child had taken too much physic. Inquired how she knew it was calomel; replied, she saw the powder white and mixed with syrup, and afterwards from the effect; she had seen calomel mixed with syrup given to the cook, and it had salivated her, which made her think it was calomel; she thinks her child was affected on Friday.

Mr. G. Press, the attorney and manager of plantation Rotterdam, was then examined respecting the indisposition, treatment and death of the child January, and stated the child was brought to the hospital; and it being the doctor's visiting day, it was examined by him. The child appeared to me to have taken cold, oppression in the stomach and fever; the doctor prescribed; there is a prescription book in the hospital. I sent twice to call the doctor to visit this child between the appointed days of regular attendance, and both calls were immediately attended; some powders and a mixture were sent from town for this child, and the physic was administered as directed. On Sunday evening the hospital negro, Adam, informed me the child was salivated; I went to the hospital, and it did appear to me the child was slightly touched; I directed to discontinue the powders till next morning (it being the doctor's visiting day,) and continued the mixture; next morning the doctor attended; and although the appearance was but suspicious of the child being touched, the doctor approved of my discontinuance of the powders. I think the doctor directed the mixture to be given. The child died about midnight between Monday and Tuesday; the doctor saw the child fed with pap on Monday; the attendance of the doctor was very regardful, and every care was shown to the child. I understood from the overseer that the negress Anna, in the moment of grief, had exclaimed that the child died from being salivated, and that the whites (meaning the overseer and myself,) knowing it was calomel, ought not to have given it too much; I considered this expression to proceed from excess of grief, and therefore did not notice it.

Tuesday, 5th December 1820.

Examination of the negro woman *Mietje* and her child *Mars*, belonging to plantation Sandvoort:—Says that she is very willing to work when healthy; that she went yesterday morning sick to the hospital; that instead of getting physic she received a flogging, and being still sick she comes to town to complain.

December 6th.

Examination of the negro woman *Marencia*, belonging to the free black woman Sarah Bourgeois, and complaining against the free black man *Johannes De Vry*:—Complainant says that some weeks ago she sold to the free boy, Cyrus, one bit's worth of ginger, who gave her at the time two bits, she engaging to pay him the bit as soon as she could change the two bits; that she unfortunately lost the two bits, but that her husband promised her to pay the bit in question to Cyrus, and which she thought was all settled; but yesterday going about with her tray to sell for her mistress, she was met by Cyrus, who wished to take something out of her tray for payment of the bit above-mentioned, but was told by her that they were not her things she was selling, but she had bacobas of her own, of which she gave him a bit's worth out; that Johannes De Vry, being there also, took up a piece of paper from the ground, saying he also wanted a bit's worth of bacobas, but she refusing to take this paper, as being no money, he began to curse her, upon which she said that she had no business with him; he (J. De Vry) flew into a passion, threw her in a trench with her child, licked her very much, so that her eyes are both swollen; and swore, that if he had a knife in his pocket he would cut her throat, but looking and searching for a knife in his pockets could find none; after much struggling, and with the assistance of the free boy Cyrus, she was released from De Vry, although stripped quite naked, and her clothes torn to pieces; after this, she went away; many people witnessed the same, amongst others the woman of Mr. Croft, to whom she is hired out. De Vry went afterwards to her mistress Sarah Bourgeois, and treated her very ill, licking and pinching her in the throat.

Wednesday, 6th December 1820.

Examination of the free woman *Sarah Bourgeois*, preferring a complaint against the free man *Johannes De Vry* for assault, &c. &c.:—Says, that yesterday, being informed by the negro woman Beatta that Johannes De Vry was licking and ill-treating her slave, the negro woman Marencia, she immediately went up to said De Vry in the middle road (being then busy licking Marencia before the house, which Cyrus mentioned in the preceding examination,)

examination,) hailed, and going up to De Vry, told him to let her girl go unmolested (Marencia being there struggling with De Vry, and had an infant child in her arms); upon which De Vry, loosing the woman Marencia, flew up to her (Sarah Bourgeois), licked her also, and pinched her in her throat, calling her all kinds of bad names, cursed her, and swore that if he had a knife in his pocket he would cut her throat as sure as he lived; she being very much ashamed of this treatment went home after Marencia; all this happened in the presence of Mietje, Cohen, J. P. Broer, F. Brumont, and several other free people. Complainant says that she did not give him the least abusive language, or any thing of the kind to said Johannes De Vry; says further, that De Vry in her opinion was half intoxicated when he committed the attack upon her and her woman Marencia; finally, complainant says that Marencia's child, in consequence of the ill-treatment received yesterday, is unwell.

Saturday, December 9th.

Examination of a complaint of the negro *Cesar*, belonging to Favre and Linde:—Says that Mr. Linde, the acting person for this firm, is manager of plantation Meaw Johanna, in which place he (the complainant) acts as a field negro; that some time ago he was affected with the yaws very much, but which is nevertheless now on the decline; that he is able and willing to perform his duty, but is prevented by his complaint to do as much as another; that his master, Linde, continually licks and ill-treats him, and that his hard behaviour is the cause of his coming to town.

December 29th.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negro *Primo*, driver of plantation Beerenstein:—Says that the manager, Mr. Deussen, locked him up in the stocks during the whole of the holidays, because the negro Thomas ran away from the estate, which was not his fault at all; that the manager also ill-treated him very much, tore his clothes and licked him; that he comes to complain, wishing that the manager might be taken away, or that he might be elsewhere employed.

Negro *Bernard* from the same place:—States, that the manager ill-treats them very much, forcing them to hard work, and allowing them no breakfast time; that the manager sometimes, in a passion, breaks and demolishes their houses, so that they cannot keep it longer out with him.

Says, that the manager told him, that he had full power from the fiscal to do what he thought fit, and would act accordingly.

Negro *Lauw*, same place:—Says, that he has been four times at Mr. Walker's to complain about the manager, but that to the contrary the manager treats them worse than before; says, that he has no time for breakfast, but is forced to work from day-light till evening; that whenever the manager comes in the field, he always finds fault with something or other, saying that as he has full power from the fiscal to punish them, so he will act accordingly; says further, that if Deussen is removed every thing will go on well.

Negro *Hercules*:—Says, that the manager is in the habit of giving them task-work, which is so much that they are unable, but by the sacrifice of their breakfast time, to complete the same; that the manager is very bad and cruel, so that if he remains every thing will go on wrong; further, that the last holidays he would give him no pass to see his friends on other estates.

Negro *Primo*:—States, that the manager went with him in the bush to cut leaves, for the purpose of thatching the sheep-stalls and hog-pens of Mr. Deussen, the manager; that he was licked by the manager, which makes his hands still swell; that he has no breakfast time, and is cruelly ill-treated by the manager; says, that he never complained before, but is now compelled, hoping that he may get another manager to live with.

Negro *Ferdinand*:—The same statement as that of Hercules, with this addition, that the manager has full authority from the fiscal to punish them as he pleases.

Negro *Primo*:—Says, that the manager licks and ill-treats him, insomuch that he will not return to the estate if the manager be allowed to remain there, preferring punishment in town to ill treatment on the estate.

Negress *Susanna*:—Says she is sick, has a young child, and is nevertheless wrought as hard as any body else; that she is allowed no time to give her breakfast to her child, and is punished when the manager finds her with her child; that on her child being once sick, the manager locked her up, and forced a large glass of bark down the child's throat. Further, that Mr. Deussen says that he is authorized to act as he pleases.

Negress *Betsey*, (in a state of pregnancy):—Says, that Mr. Walker sent her on plantation Beerenstein to work, but not to be punished; that the manager keeps them to work from the morning early till dusk, without allowing breakfast time; that the state which she is in she cannot keep it out to fast a whole day; that one day she was sick in the morning, but was forced to go to her work; that whilst in the field, on the same day she got a severe fit, and the driver calling the manager to assist, who said he did not care if she died; and, lifting up a fofoe pounder, threatened to break her belly; that afterwards the manager went away, and she, recovering a little, cooked something to refresh herself; that the manager, on returning, took up the pot, and threw the eatables away, cursing and damning her, and saying that he had full authority to do what he pleased; that they are scarcely

scarcely allowed a sufficiency of plantains, as the manager has got so many hogs, sheep and goats, and only feeding on their plantains. Further, that he ill-treats them so cruelly, that they heartily wish he might be removed.

Negro *Lea*:—Says, that they are so overtaxed with work that they get no breakfast-time at all; that the manager ill-treats them very much; that all the plantains growing on the estate are almost wholly used by the manager's immense stock of hogs, sheep, &c. &c.; that nobody is able to please the manager but those alone working for his hogs, &c. &c. &c.

Negro girl *Zusetta*:—Says, that she is not able to do the work imposed on her by the manager; that when sick she is turned out of the hospital without being cured; that the manager hardly raises any food but for his hogs, &c. &c.; that he ill-treats them very much.

FISCAL'S OFFICE.

Tuesday, January 2d: anno Domini 1821.

EXAMINATION of a complaint preferred by the negro *Esterre* against his master, *Spangenburg*:—Says, that the very day after the holidays his master gave them so much work that they were unable to complete it, but obliged to leave some for the morrow; that their master gave them again the next day a new tax, in addition to the remainder of yesterday's, and, as it was an impossibility to finish it all, they were flogged. Says, that his master, who has been but a short time in this colony, and never was on an estate before, does not know how to deal with negroes, but lies always in trouble with them; that his former masters never were dissatisfied with him, but are not able to please Mr. Spangenburg: That they get no clothes or any thing for their holidays, merely a little addition of pork, and two pipes with some tobacco. Says further, that other negroes at present in town will confirm his truth of the above, and proves, by the state of his posteriors, that he has lately been flogged.

Examination of the negro *Samuel*, also preferring a complaint against his master, *Spangenburg*:—Complainant says, that they danced from Sunday evening till Tuesday night; that on Wednesday they went to work, but as some of the people were still insobriated, so the large task given them was not finished; that the next day their task was renewed, with the addition of the remainder of the preceding day; that he, acting as driver, told his master it was impossible to finish the same; that he (*Samuel*) himself being accustomed to the field work, could not accomplish it, much less the women; but that his master, who knows very little of negro work and treatment, insisted on the performance of the task given; that consequently the task was not finished, and principally the women were short in this; that the next day they (himself as a driver included) were all flogged; that the number of people working in the field consists of four men and three women, and that they are so overwrought by their cruel master that they are scarcely able to keep it out, which is the cause of their coming to complain, his master saying that he has no fear of fiscal or any one else, but that he will flog them when he finds it proper. The negroes at present in town with their master, if called, would attest this.

That they get nothing but a small piece of pork, a little fish, two pipes and some tobacco; nothing else; no clothes or any thing more; that they get also a week only a small bunch of plantains, and are generally very indifferently treated by their master.

Wishing, that as his master is a person who is always flogging them, and who knows nothing of the work, that he, with his wife and brother, might be sold, being assured that they would be able to please a reasonable master, who understands the working and treatment of slaves.

Tuesday, January 2d, 1821.

Examination of the negro, *Quamino*, complaining against his master, *F. Brittlebank*:—Says, that his master ill-treats him very much; that he was sold by Mr. Kyte to Mr. Brittlebank as cooper and carpenter, and that he is not able to pick as much cotton as field negroes; his master nevertheless flogs him when he does not bring as much cotton as other people.

Says, that some time ago many of them came to the ferry with the intention of going to town to complain, but were prevented by the ferrymen from crossing the Canje Creek; that the fiscal then came to the ferry and ordered three of them to be flogged, amongst which the complainant was one; that after flogging, the fiscal desired his master to dress his wounds well; but that, on the contrary, his master did nothing to them when he came home, but rubbed his back with brine and salt; that in consequence he has suffered very much by this neglect.

That his master is often in the habit of breaking open the doors and windows of their houses when they are absent, and generally behaves so badly towards his people, that he is obliged to come and complain. Says, that his allowance of provisions is well enough, but he gets no clothes at all.

January 3d, 1821.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negro *Sango* against his master, *F. White*:—Complainant says, that his master behaves very ill towards him; gives him no clothes, nor a single glass of rum on the holidays; that he gets very little allowance, and is continually

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tinually flogged by his master; and as he is incapable of pleasing him, he requests to be sold, as he is quite willing to do what he can.

Negro *Edmund v. F. White*:—Complainant says, that his master hired him out to plantation Providence, and that they are obliged to work there harder than on any other estate; that he gets no clothes, blanket, rum, or any thing, and his master is very hard towards him, which could be attested by more negroes from his master; so requests to be sold.

Negro *Conway v. F. White*:—States, that his master also hired him out on plantation Providence, and that they do more work and are worse treated than other estate negroes; that his master gives him no clothes, no rum; and as he, as well as others, is very cruelly treated, he comes to seek redress.

Friday, January 12th.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negro man, *Matt*, belonging to plantation Vryheid:—Says, that he has been for a long time troubled with a swollen leg; that he told his master that this, as well as his advanced years, prevented his working so much as young people, and principally that he was more incapable of performing his task in rainy weather than in the dry season; that nevertheless his master ordered him to perform the same task as others, and as he is by no means able to do what is required of him, he is continually flogged, which compels him to come and complain.

Examination of the negro *Victor*, from plantation Schumacher's Surt, complaining against his manager, *Sander*:—Says, that he was in the bush cutting wood, and his cutlass broke; that he asked his master for another, but instead of a cutlass got a flogging; that the manager, wishful of punishing him even more, brought him in the store for the purpose of tying him up there, but that he escaped and came to complain.

Monday, 22d January.

Examination of the negroes *Malhum* and *Phillis*, his (Malhum's) wife belonging to Mr. Copperthwaite.

Complainant *Malhum*, speaking for both, says, that their master takes them up in the bush to work in the dry season; that since they went up they had neither a Sunday nor a holiday; that their master wished to sell them to Mr. Galley, but not being able to accomplish this wish, he brought them down to town to sell at public vendue, but as he appraised them too high, they were not sold at vendue; their master, desiring again to dispose of them to Mr. Galley, and as they do not wish to be sold to Mr. G., neither willing to work in the bush any more with their master, they wish to be sold to some one else.

Examination of the negroes *John*, *Profit*, *Thomas*, *Bob* and *William*, preferring a complaint against their master, *William Forsyth*.

The negroes *John* and *Profit*, speaking for them all, say, that since their master bought them from Mr. W. Fraser, they have been employed in several task-gangs, as with Mr. Urlin, Mr. Grant, and Mr. White, in all which services not the least complaint was lodged against them; that lately they have been ordered by their master to work with Mr. Ross's task-gang on plantation Sandvoort; that they are very hard treated, getting scarcely an hour for breakfast or rest, and so much overloaded with work, that they are obliged to come and complain; and lastly, that they are willing to work, but not in a task-gang.

January 22d.

Examination of the negro *Woemdog*, belonging to plantation Nieuwenhoop:—Says, that there is a great deal of work on Mr. Calmers's estate; so much, as even scarcely time to allow them breakfast or rest; that on the top of this, the overseer (Rodaix) is very severe; that the other day, (last Saturday the 20th) his task was extremely hard; that in consequence of this he could not bring as much grass as ordinary; that the bunch of grass which he brought home was dirtied more or less by some accident, for which the overseer (Mr. Calmers being absent) would flog him, but he protested against this; that yesterday the overseer directed him to work in the garden, and as it was Sunday he refused; that they get only little provisions, and finally wishes to be sold.

Tuesday, 6th February 1821.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negroes *Opdam* and *Edam*, both belonging to plantation Normere Nescio.

Negro *Opdam*:—Says, that all the time he belonged to his former master, Mr. Van den Broek, he never had the name of being either lazy or unwilling to work; but that under the management of Mr. Sterk they are unable to please him. That Mr. Sterk is in the habit of giving uncommonly large tasks, and if a man be unable to finish the same he is then flogged; but if he performs it, then his task is augmented by the next day; that Mr. Sterk hides some of the provisions sent for them by Mr. Ross, which provisions and other things Mr. Sterk is in the habit of sending to his mother-in-law, Mrs. Sanders; that he is also very hard against them when sick, driving them continually out of the hospital,

pital, even so as to endanger their lives; that the negro woman Tansje, or Amba, although in a very bad state, and several times applying for redress, was nevertheless driven to the field to work, but fainted at her hoe, was carried home, and died suddenly; that the last holidays their whole allowance consisted only of a small piece of pork, which they represented to the manager, and went to complain to Mr. Ross; that instead of amusing themselves in this holiday, as other negroes did, they were flogged and ill-treated; that it is a long time since they received either hat, blanket, jacket, or any thing as other negroes receive on holidays.

Negro *Edam*:—Lodges the same complaint.

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Monday, March 5th.

Examination of complaints preferred by the negroes *Midas*, *Noach*, *Vrydog*, *Cryspin*, *Frederick*, *Philander*, *Samuel*, *George* and *Coridon*, all belonging to plantation *Itheca*, against their manager, *J. C. Wolff*.

Negro *Midas*:—Says, that when Mr. Wolff took over the estate it was full of grass; that he gave them 120 trees length to cut grass, on condition that as soon as the plantation was cleansed of grass that then he would lessen this large task; that after finishing this, Mr. Wolff put them to cut and trim sandkoker trees, and ordered them that each man should dig up an old two-foot trench, running along a whole field, and to do this in one day, each trench; that the driver reported in the evening that they had not been able to do this, on which Mr. Wolff ordered them all to be locked up, and gave them every one the next morning a flogging. Dr. Beresford was present when they were flogged. That the next day they got a new task, as on the former one, and also being unable to finish the same, the manager order them on coming home to receive no dram, (the overseer just being occupied to serve dram to the other gang), to lock them up again, and threatened to flog them the next morning; and as complainant says to be unable to finish the task, so he with others comes to complain.

Negro *Noach*:—States the same, with this addition, that he requests the work which Mr. W. gives them may be viewed, and that it is much harder than any other plantation negroes are wrought.

Vrydog:—As the above; that their former masters never gave them such large tasks; that the trench in question has not been dug up for several years.

Negro *Cryspin*:—States the same; adding, that although he wrought from morning till night without eating, he had not been able to finish the task.

Frederick:—The above; that he is strong and willing enough to work, but that he is unable to finish this task; that *Itheca* negroes have never been in the habit of complaining; but Mr. W., who is administrator and manager, is too hard against them.

Philander:—The same; that whilst cutting grass, he and several other negroes sacrificed their breakfast time to be ready; but that Mr. W. gives them now such work as they are unable to perform; an old trench filled up with sandkoker roots and other trees must be dug two feet broad and one shovel deep, by a whole field's length, and by one man alone in a day; is work never given them by any manager before; they always were employed in such work by two people.

Negroes *Samuel*, *George* and *Coridon* state the same; that this trench never had been dug up for eight years; that they never did such work before but by two people.

March 15th.

Examination of the negro *Andries*, belonging to Peter Nicholson:—Says, that whilst his master employed him himself he never heard any complaint about him, neither went he ever to complain, or intended to run away; but that since he is wrought in a job-gang at plantation Sandvoort, under Mr. Davies, he has cause of complaint, being very hard wrought, ill-treated, and badly fed by Mr. Davies; that few days ago he complained to him of having nothing to eat, upon which Mr. Davies ordered him to be flogged; but he escaped, and came to prefer this complaint.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negro *Martin*, from plantation Grant:—Says, that his master bought him from plantation Kert Bernad; that he has wrought under him in several jobs, and assisted to make the canal at the back dam of the town, that his master never found fault with, or ever licked him; that he has also had no cause of complaint whilst with his master; but since his master hired him out to work in a job-gang at plantation Sandvoort, of which Mr. Davies is the manager, he prefers the following cause of complaint:

That on Saturday he was almost unable, through pain in his neck, to finish his work, but nevertheless completed it; that last Monday he went in the morning early to complain to Mr. Davies to give him physic; that Mr. D., instead of assisting him, ordered Billy of Sandvoort, the driver, with four other negroes, to lay him down; that although he told Mr. D. he was never unwilling to work when well, he was, notwithstanding, flogged; Mr. McKenzie, the carpenter, was a witness to the whole; that after flogging, he told Mr. Davies that he would go to the fiscal to complain.

March 27th.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negro *Quick* against his master, *Nicholson*.—Says, his master bought him from Mr. Zeigler as a cooper; that he has always pleased his master, who put him to the field work as well as he could; that lately his master sent him to work on plantation Sandvoort under Mr. Davies; that Mr. D. gave him so heavy a task that he was unable to complete it; that he therefore went to his master, Mr. Nicholson, to complain; that he heard him, but returned him, with a letter, to Mr. Davies, who, after reading the same, gave him a flogging (the effects of which are still very visible on the back); after receiving the same, he told Mr. Davies that he would go to complain. Says further, that his master deals very indifferently with them.

Examination of negro *Sidney*, complaining against Mr. *Nicholson*, his master:—Complainant says, that he formerly was wounded by Mr. Mershart, and that since this accident he is not able to perform the same work as whilst with his former master (Ward); that nevertheless Mr. Nicholson sent him in a task-gang under Mr. Davies; that this Mr. D. is extremely cruel, and makes them work very hard, continually flogging them; that being unable to do what is demanded of him, and being besides badly fed and ill-treated, and unwilling to turn a runaway, he prefers a complaint.

Reply of *Thomas Davies*, manager of the task-gang belonging to Nicholson and Grant:—States, that the task given to the gang on plantation Enfield was five roods of the foundation of the dam for digging the trench, ten feet wide, this being the second clearing; that he quitted his work in the morning, and went to his master, informing him he had finished his task, but was flogged and ill-treated by the driver; that, on inquiry, it appeared the driver had given him only four lashes. He also informed his master the driver was intoxicated; he was absent two days; he brought a letter from Mr. Nicholson; the task had not been finished the day previous to his leaving the estate; and on my going into the field the morning he stated to Mr. Nicholson the driver had been drunk, I found it to be untrue. On his return I directed him to be laid down, and gave him from twenty-five to thirty lashes; he acknowledged the justness of the punishment.

(*Sidney*.)—States, that the negro *Sidney* came to complain that his arm was swollen; it appeared that he had tied it up very tight with a piece of string; I cut the string, finding the swelling occasioned from the tying, I put him in the stocks; on Saturday morning I released him; he brought my breakfast; I directed him to return; on my coming home, about four or five o'clock in the afternoon, I found him in the barraba, complaining of the belly-ache; I directed him home; he remained aback all night; next morning said he was very well; I considered he had been trifling with me, and ordered him to be confined that day in the stocks, (being Sunday); Monday morning I released and directed him to his work; I met him going aback; he met *Quick*; they conversed for some time; I continued my way aback; *Sidney* did not come to his work; they both went to the sick house; on my return in the afternoon, I found they had gone away; the gang receives weekly two bunches of plantains and two pounds of fish; sometimes one, two, and three drams, according to their work.

Reply of *J. Deussen*, manager of plantation Beerenstein:—I directed *Primo* to lock the negro *Thomas* in the stocks; *Primo* was confined in a chain, by permission of the fiscal; instead of putting his feet in the stocks, he laid them upon the same, and the next morning *Thomas* was off. I received the above information from the old negro man *Janzen*, and the negress *Lezetta*; they called up about four o'clock, and told me *Thomas* had jumped out of the window; the chain was locked in the stocks. Upon my taking *Primo* to task about this, he behaved with great impudence; this was during the holiday; I locked him up from nine o'clock in the morning till half-past three; I then released him, at the request of the gang; I never struck him, nor caused him to be flogged; he had on a shirt, but I deny having torn it. The day following the holidays he came, with all the people, requesting the day; this I refused. I told them to work part of the day; they refused; I, however, compelled some, by threatening to flog them. At night I gave them their rum, and found, in the morning, *Primo* had absented himself with them that came to complain.

With respect to *Bernard's* complaint.—*Bernard* being a carpenter, I never gave him any task, having none to give; he never wrought in the field; he attends to any repairs that are required, and therefore always jobbing. I am generally the whole day in the field, and never attend whether he takes a regular breakfast time or not. I show him what is to be done; and when he reports it finished, I give him new work.

(*Lauw*.)—Is a field negro; I give the field people just one half the task that is given on other estates; the task in weeding is from 7 to 8,000 feet; I give them 4,680; they that finish this get a dram; they that do not get none; if they do little or nothing of this task, which often occurs, they are confined that night in the stocks.

(*Hercules*.)—Is a field negro; has the same task, and the above answer refers to his case. I gave orders, during the last holidays, that none should go out without a pass; he never asked me for one, or I would have given it to him. The burgher officer recommended every manager to keep their gangs at home; this man went out at night, and did not return till third day; finding the negroes had gone to complain, he took the coriall belonging to the driver, and followed them.

(*Primo*.)

(Primo.)—Leaves have been cut for covering the cow and hog pens ; I once gave him six lashes, on the complaint of Primo, the driver, that he did nothing ; I deny ever striking him myself ; he has been swollen once ; the driver, Primo, brought him to me to show it me.

(Ferdinand.)—I solemnly declare never to have made use of the expression ; I never employed him more than one day in the field ; finding he was unaccustomed to this work, I put him to plant corn ; he joined Hercules in leaving the estate, and was with him absent three days ; he accompanied Hercules to town.

(Primo.)—Is an old man, whose employment is, with another man, to pull grass out of the trenches ; I have had him punished by the driver for not doing his work, once, twice, or thrice ; he has been punished since I have been on the estate ; he is often in the habit of absenting himself one or two days ; I have been obliged to pay for taking him up.

(Susanna.)—No task has ever been given her during two days she planted corn ; it being rainy weather I gave her and another woman a jacket to make : they took it to town ; I have never got it back. Once her child was sick ; I found it was costive ; I gave it a little rhubarb and sugar ; it was greatly relieved by it. I was directed by Mr. Walker to make her weed grass ; but having a young child, and the weather being very wet, I never put her to the hoe.

(Betsey.)—Mr. Walker sent her to be employed in the field ; she said she could not endure the sun and rain, being a house servant. I put her to split leaves ; refusing this, I put her in the stocks, and wrote respecting her to Mr. Walker. Next morning she requested to be allowed to go in the field ; she wrought one day with the hoe ; finding she did nothing I put her to plant corn. The day after the holidays she refused to work ; I directed they should breakfast at ten o'clock ; at eleven I said they should split manecool ; on going to the place where they were, and giving this order, she took her calabash of victuals and threw them away. The driver told me she had a fit ; I sent for a bottle of new rum, and throwing some in the driver's hands made him rub her temples ; when she recovered I told her to go home ; she did so. I told her at night to sleep in the hospital, and asked her if she had a blanket : she said she was well, and intended going to work next morning. That night she went away. Denies ever to have struck her, far less with the weapon she states : denies ever giving any other plantains to the stock than fallen ones. The cows belong to the estate, the sheep also ; the hogs are mine : I have a good many, large and small ones, about fifty ; I am allowed to keep them.

(Lea.)—Is a good working woman, one of the best disposed persons on the estate ; the task given her is the same as the former ones.

(Susette.)—Was employed in the field ; having but one person to cook, I took the mother of this girl to assist. I employed a woman in town to wash my clothes ; they were brought home by the woman, having her two children with her. This girl stole a chain from this woman, valued at two joes, which I had to pay for ; I therefore turned her out of the house.

Friday, March 30th.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negroes *Trim* and *Rose*, belonging to plantation N° 49, Courantyn Coast :—*Trim* says, that he knows very well that a negro is to work, he does his duty but cannot please the manager, Mr. Austin ; that the driver is continually finding fault with and licking him too much ; that when complaining about this to the manager, he gets for answer, "It is your master's work ;" says, that when negroes are sick and go to the manager, instead of giving them physic, he drives them away with a horse-whip.

Rose :—Says she lost her husband and child lately ; that the manager treats her very ill ; that the child whereof she was delivered died on the third day ; that the manager made her go to work too soon after her delivery ; that he locked her up at night in the stocks, and made her work in the day ; that she told Mr. Kewley, her master, repeatedly of the several ill-treatments which she received from Mr. Austin ; but as Mr. Kewley gives her no assistance, she is obliged to come and complain.

April 5th, 1821.

Examination of complaints preferred by the negroes *Junius*, *Brook*, *Abraham*, *La Fleur*, *Layfield*, *Turf*, *Bob*, *Sancho*, *Battera*, *Hercules*, *Warren*, *Tobol*, *Wilson*, *Solomon*, *Baggot*, *Cascot*, *Primo*, *Klaas*, *Scott*, *Coynin*, *Thomas*, *Juan*, *Bost*, *Tonna*, *Neptune* and *Primo*, belonging to plantation Hampshire ; owner, William Cort.

Junius :—Says, they get only one bunch of plantains a week, no fish, and are extremely hard wrought and ill-treated ; sometimes they get only twenty ears of corn a week ; gave the women an allowance of clothes, but nothing to the men. Their master never gives them rum, nor any dram at all : never are allowed to raise any fowls or other kinds of stock, their master lays hold of and kills them. When they are sick, negroes master, instead of giving them physic, licks them.

Negro *Brook*, and the other negroes say the same, particularly adding that their master ill-treats them very much, and feeds them badly ; say and add further, that their master after

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their own corn and other provisions were ripe, they were taken from them by him, and made use of to his own benefit. The corn earned by them was raised from that given them by their master as allowance.

March 12th.

Examination of the boy *Emanuel*, property of Miss Green, at present employed by Mr. Bell, attorney at law, as an evidence against the mulatto slave, *William*, belonging to Thomas C. Jones, suspected by Mrs. Smith of having broken into her house and stealing from thence sundry articles:—States, that on Tuesday morning witness was passing the alley where *William* lives, witness was carrying bricks; *William* spoke to him, wishing him good morning; witness stopped to speak to *William*; saw on his finger a gold ring, apparently three on each side, and in the centre wrought with hair; this ring attracted witness's notice; he took it off *William*'s finger and examined it; *William* then pulled out two breast pins, one had hair in it and a gold letter, the other had hair also, but no pin; the glass of one was broken; witness asked where the pin of one was; *William* replied, that it was broken; the pins belonged to his sister he said, the ring to a female; witness asked what female? *William* replied, I will not tell you; witness saw these articles again next day in the possession of *William*; witness heard that Mrs. Smith had sent to inform Mrs. Bell her house had been broken open and sundry articles stolen, amongst which were rings, breast pins, &c. &c. He then acquainted *Jemima*, Mrs. Bell's servant, he had seen these things in the possession of *William*; no person was with us when *William* showed the pins and ring to me.

William in reply states, that the boy *Emanuel* did pass the alley on the morning stated; that he *William* showed him a bottle of wine which he had opened in the night for Mr. Jones, who desired him to take it away as it was sour. *Emanuel* said, what is that? I replied, sour wine: *Emanuel* answered, I thought it was something better; they then entered into discourse. I showed him a breast pin, the pin of which being broken: *Emanuel* asked me whose it was? I said my sister's; *Emanuel* wanted it, took it out of my hand and ran away with it. I followed and overtook him at the middle road and retook the pin; denies having had a ring or another breast pin; says his two sisters were near when he was speaking to *Emanuel*.

Emanuel admits he took the pin out of joke and ran away with it; says the two sisters were in view, but not near to them when speaking; *Emanuel* says he went to Mr. Jones at eleven o'clock to-day; says *William*'s sister said the breast pin was her's; *William* denies having seen *Emanuel* on the Wednesday morning; *Emanuel* persists he did.

Evidence of *Arabella Jones*, free mulatto-girl:—States, after being told of the foregoing evidence of the boy *Emanuel*, she can affirm she never saw *William*, her half brother, with the ring before-mentioned; that she had a brooch, the pin of which was broken, which *William* took to get repaired; that she did see the boy *Emanuel* pass the alley they live in with a basket, but has no recollection of seeing him conversing with *William* but on Wednesday evening past, but knows nothing of any conversation between them; exhibits the brooch that *William* had, but returned her; can attest that she has not seen *William* in possession of the ring or brooch described by *Emanuel*. Her father, Mr. Jones, is at present confined with the gout; he had gout on Monday night; *William* did not attend him that night; he never stops with him during the night; *William* has a house in the yard, but does not know that he slept there on Monday night.

Emanuel called in, and the brooch produced by *Arabella*, showed to him; he indentifies it as one of the two brooches *William* had.

William called in, and on inquiry states, that he attended his master till late Monday evening; he was in the hall; Mr. Quin and Divain were there; after they went, and master went up, I went up to my room; the baker's boy (*Jem*) came into my room and stopped some time with me. I then went to sleep, after giving him at his request a little oil; there is nobody lives in the room with me. Says, that *Emanuel* came yesterday at eleven o'clock; I accused him of having informed some one that I had taken Mrs. Smith's brooch, ring, &c. as the scout had been that morning to search my house. He asked me who was my author; I said never mind, it must be you, for refusing to let you keep the brooch; what induced you to accuse me? He said, I accused you because you bear bad character; my sister and a negro man named Tom, belonging to Mr. Warde, were present; when I was taken up yesterday, I left Tom at Mr. Jones's.

Arabella examined:—States, that *Emanuel* came to *William* yesterday, inquiring if he had any silk shawls or jewels for sale, or if he knew of any one that had? *William* said, I hear you told Mr. Bell I stole at Mrs. Smith's, and inquired why he had accused him? *Emanuel* answered, after some conversation passing between them, because you bear a bad character.

It is to be observed, that *Arabella* has not seen *William* to have been able to hold any conversation since he was taken up yesterday about 2 or 3 o'clock, and that she gives this evidence from being desired to state whether she had seen *Emanuel* in Mr. Jones's yard yesterday, if he had any conversation with *William*, and if so, to state all the conversation she overheard between them; adding, moreover, that Mr. Warde's boy was in the room lying down, but does not know if he was asleep or not.

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Examination of the negro *Tom*, belonging to Mr. Warde:—Says, yesterday forenoon he was up in William's loft lying down, William was there also; a black boy, who now stands at the door, came up and sat down at the door: William and he began to speak; William said, he understood the boy had told some one that he had jewellery; the boy denied it, and inquired, who told you so? William did not tell him; they continued talking, and the boy said, people think you have these things.

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Wednesday, 16th May.

Examination of the negro woman *Susanna*, belonging to and in the employ of his Excellency the Governor:—States, that her daughter *Eliza* is hired out by Mr. Walker to parson Austin; that Mr. Walker ordered her daughter, as well as other young women under his charge, to sleep every night in his house; that during the time that her daughter has been hired out to Mr. Austin she came every evening to sleep at Mr. Walker's house, but that only on Monday night last she did not come; for which reason Mr. Walker arrested her last evening, kept her the whole night in confinement, and sent her this morning, with her hands tied, to the colony hospital, to put her in the stocks: That as a mother, the behaviour of Mr. Walker towards her daughter affects her very much; that Mr. Walker is in the habit of locking up several young women: That *Saunetye*, one of the girls sleeping every night in Mr. Walker's house, told Mrs. Walker of *Eliza's* absence the night before.

May 30th, 1821.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negro *Crawford*, belonging to Mr. George Sutherland:—Says, that he served his master a long time without ever being flogged; that his master lately became displeased with him, and had him tied up one morning and flogged, telling him after the flogging that he would get another punishment; for which reason he broke out of the stocks, and came to complain.

His master found fault with him for once leaving the windows open at night. He had always had his master's keys, never any thing missed; but his master accused him lately of having made away with some rum.

Mr. Sutherland, after reading the above, says this is all truth; flogged the boy for leaving the windows open and stealing spirits. The boy, after receiving the flogging, escaped; threatened to give him a second flogging, but had not the least intention of doing so, merely to frighten him.

Friday, 15th June.

Examination of the coloured girl *Magdaleentje*, and the negroes *Andries* and *Michael*, belonging to plantation *Beerenstein*, complaining against the Manager of the said estate.

Magdaleentje:—Says, that *Deussen*, the manager, is extremely severe against them, giving large taxes of work, which they are unable to finish, and when not completed he flogs them. Says, that last Friday they were sent to Mr. *Calmer's* place to break corn; that only, on Saturday evening at 12 o'clock, they came at plantation *Beerenstein*; other people were dancing already, near 8 o'clock; that the manager would flog her, and that, as she deserved no flogging, she comes to complain. The dissatisfaction is general on the estate, and more people will come to complain.

The manager is in the habit of taking the whip out of the driver's hand, and flogging us himself; his strokes are at random, and often very injurious, cutting away with the whip in all directions. Says, that although they are hard wrought, it is no earthly use whatever, as the hogs of *Deussen*, the manager, completely spoil every thing.

Negro *Andries*:—Says, that a week before the holidays he was sick, with a stiff-neck; went to the manager, who sent him to the hospital, and kept him there (although he desired to go out) till Saturday, without allowing him to go out, or permitting any body to come near him; that Sunday morning early he broke the stocks to go in the negro-houses to get something to eat; that in the mean time the manager came into the hospital, locked the same, and complainant, on his return, went through the window. Monday morning the manager found him in the hospital, asked him how he came in; said, through the window. Asked him who unlatched the staple of the stocks; replied, he himself, because he could get nothing to ease himself, nor could get any thing to eat, because nobody was allowed to come near him; manager said, because he did this (as it was now holiday) he should flog him on the morrow, (Tuesday). The staple was fastened again, and the complainant was put in the stocks with both feet. Monday night complainant broke the staple off again, hid himself till Thursday morning, took a coriall from his estate, and came down here this morning early. Says, manager is too hard against them; cannot keep it out longer.

Michael:—Says, that he was ordered to dig a two-foot trench, one and a half shovel deep, along the distance of twenty-four plantation trees; that as fast as he goes on, the hogs of the manager are spoiling his work; that sometimes he works as late as 8 o'clock to finish his job; that he has hardly time to breakfast; that he begged the manager for leave to go and see his mother, but could not gain permission.

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In the whole field, or on the whole estate, there are no plantains, the manager's hogs spoil the whole; the gang is extremely dissatisfied on account of the bad behaviour of the manager.

Monday, June 18th, 1821.

Examination of the manager *Deussen*, of plantation *Beerenstein*:—Says, there is nobody on the property who has a tax equal to negroes given them on other estates, as may be proved by Messrs. *Sterk* and *Calmers*: That he even favoured *Magdaleentje* with the assistance of a strong negro man, *Helmaker*, the best negro of the property, to finish her task; all people might finish their task by 11 o'clock if they wished, as they get no more than the half of an ordinary tax. Says further, that with regard to the breaking of corn on Mr. *Calmers's* place, they only broke four baskets a-day, and that the people could have, without any trouble, been at home at 12 o'clock on Saturday. Says, that as long as she has been with him she never received any flogging.

Deussen, manager, respecting the complaint of *Andries*:—States, when he first came on the estate was put to weeding grass; that instead of finishing his small tax, he scarcely completed one-eighth of the same, pleading his excuse of being troubled with a lame corn. Mr. *Walker*, who was present when he complained about this, told me that he (Mr. *Walker*) knew nothing about this, for which reason I put him then to pick coffee; that he then brought one or two hats full of corn, although other negroes brought a complete full basket of coffee. I then, after this, put him to dig, with the threat of punishing him if he did not fulfil his given task; he completed this task three days; but on the fourth, on account of complaining of a stiff-neck, I sent him to the hospital. This was on the 3d of June; on the 5th and 6th, after having administered the proper articles to his neck (although nothing was to be seen,) I asked him how he felt; he said he was not yet better. The 7th and 8th I saw him coming out of the field; I met him in the negro houses; asked him what he had to do there? On my questioning him if he were better? he replied, "No!" upon which I put him in the stocks for his better recovery; he remained in the stocks till the 10th; in the afternoon I ordered my boy to let him out to amuse himself, (then holiday); in the evening I desired him to go in the hospital again. On my going there also, I found that the stocks were injured and broken; *Andries* was not there then. The other morning, on my going into the hospital, I found him there; I asked him how he came in; said through the window; asked him who broke the stocks; said he did not know. To secure him well, I then put him with both feet in the stocks, until I had a new pair ready by evening; this was merely to inform me who broke or forced the other stocks; he then told me (whilst beating with his hands on the stocks,) that if I did not loose him, or would flog him, that then he would learn me something which I should remember; I took no notice of this, but ordered him to be put in the new stocks; the next morning the stocks and window were broke open, lock and staple gone, and prisoner absent.

Manager *Deussen* against the complaint of *Michael*:—Says, I ordered an old trench, one foot broad, one deep, and 240 or 250 feet long; other negroes have always done this, and I never heard any complaint about the same. Mr. *Walker* can judge about the other complaint himself, as he was on the estate, and has seen the whole. All diggers receive, every evening at six o'clock, a dram; complainant was always present there. On the 14th instant complainant *Michael* was watchman; instead of minding his duty, he took two people from the estate with coyars, and absented himself. I never punished, nor had any complaint against him, but that of absenting himself whilst watchman.

Friday, June 29th.

Examination of a complaint of the negro woman *Pucelia*, from the *Winkle* department, against *Leopold Cohen*:—Says, that last Tuesday, 12th instant, went past the house of *Cohen*, who called her in several times; upon which she went only in the railing. *Cohen* asked her who gave her the frock which she had on; she told him that it was hers; he repeated the question; I told him that I had it as a present; he came then at once out of his house, shut the gate of the railing, telling her she should not go away before she told him where she got the frock; I told him that I could not tell this; he struck me then five times with his hand; I then made the gate open and went away, after I had told him that I should complain about this to the fiscal. *Cohen* told her that she stole this frock from his house, it being one similar (he said) to those lately stolen from him.

Friday, June 29th.

Examination of the negro woman *Jacobina*, alias *Jacoba*, belonging to *L. C. Abbensetts*:—Said negro woman has been brought this morning to the fiscal's office, and after examination has been returned to her owner.

Friday, July 11th.

Examination of the negro *Prince*, preferring a complaint against his master, *Mr. John Layfield*:—Says, that till the holidays he wrought in the field; that after the holidays were over he went to the field again; that his master sent the negro man *Thomas* to the field to fetch him, the complainant, home soon in the morning; that he was put, by his master's orders, in the

the stocks; that after having been there for two days, his master came at night to him with a bayonet in his hands, sticking and beating him during the whole night with the same; *Hamlet* and *Thomas* were watchmen; his master ill-treated him very much, even took a gun and beat him so much with it upon his skull, that his whole head is still inflamed with the beating. Says, that he gets neither salt fish or any thing else, except a small allowance of plantains. Says, that the negro *Frederick*, also belonging to his master, has been cut in the head, jaws and mouth by his master, and was at the time when he left him in a very bad state; if he had not been so bad he would also have come to town to complain. The man *Will* was present; his master took a loaded gun, intending to shoot *Will*, but he ran away.

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July 21st.

Complaint of negro *Mourant*, the property of Mr. Quarless:—Says, that he alone is cook for creoles, for hogs; also butler, sick-nurse, hunter, &c.; that he has done every thing to please his master, but that it is impossible to succeed; that last Tuesday his master put him to so many things that he was unable to get the dinner in proper time: at half past four o'clock all was on the table. Mr. Quarless ordered him to sit at the table and eat this late dinner, and if he did not sit down then he should be flogged; complainant therefore ran away, hid himself in the bush on account of the search which Mr. Quarless made after him, and comes now to complain.

Complainant's wife *Jacoba*, and his brother *Bachus*, may prove the above; both these people are in a poor condition.

Wednesday, July 25th.

Examination of the negroes *Philip* and *Leander*, belonging to plantation *Bertingdigheid*, complaining against their manager *Luyken*.

Negro *Philip*:—Says, that their former masters allowed them to keep hogs; but that Mr. *Kneger*, nor the manager *Luyken*, will not permit them to keep hogs, although Mr. *Kneger* and the manager have a great quantity on the estate. The complainant says he has a few hogs which he keeps very close, not allowing them to go out at all; that last Sunday evening the manager ordered the overseer and the driver to kill all his hogs early the next morning; that he was awake when the overseer came for this purpose in his house, and requested him not to do this until he saw the manager: went there with the overseer, and requested the manager to give him leave to sell his hogs in town, who then told him that he would lock him in the stocks and should not allow him to go to work. Complainant refused to go in the stocks, as he had done nothing but as to ask him (the manager's) leave to go and sell his hogs in town, who told him if he wanted a pass to go to the fiscal to complain he might have one; he had stood a worse case at *Waakzaamheid* and came through it without loss, and did not care, he should give them a pass to go and complain. Complainant accepted of this offer; but not receiving a pass, went to town whilst the manager was in the fields.

Manager has a spite against complainant, although none of his former masters could find fault with him. Complainant is a mason, and often works at Mr. *Kneger*'s, who never has any thing; wrought every where, never had any trouble, but as soon as he comes on the estate the manager commences to go quarrel with him.

Leander:—Says, that Mr. *Luyken* seems to be placed on the estate for the purpose of punishing them; never had such a bad manager before. The manager says that he has orders from the attorney, Mr. *Kneger*, to punish *Philip* and myself in particular; but does not believe this, as Mr. *Kneger* is too just and good to give such order. Last Monday morning early the overseer came in his house, with two drivers, and killed in his fowl-house ten hogs: if they had been out this act might have been reasonable; but, in his own house, complainant conceives this deed to be very wrong. Complainant, whilst the drivers and overseers were employed to kill them, represented the unjustness of it; but they said it was in conformity with the manager's order. After they had done their work complainant went with them to the manager, and told him that he had no reason to point him out alone. Manager ordered him in the stocks. Complainant said he had done nothing to deserve this punishment. Manager insisted; and said, that if he wished to go to fiscal to complain he might, and would give him a pass. Complainant accepted of this offer, and waiting in vain for a pass went to represent his grievance in town.

Could have gone to Mr. *Kneger*, but did not, because the manager says that it is by Mr. *Kneger*'s express orders that he punishes them.

Complainant is the head carpenter on the estate.

Wednesday, August 1st, 1821.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negro woman *Jenny*, against her mistress, the coloured woman *Elizabeth Ann Sanders* alias *Elizabeth Atkinson*

Complainant says, that when her mistress bought her she hired her out to Miss *Kitty Beresford*. Complainant remained there for four months. The negro *Patt* was then sent to fetch her home by her mistress's order; as soon as she came into the yard she was tied up in the cooper's shop by *Patt*, and licked by *Betsey Atkinson* with a large bunch of keys; she accusing complainant of having made poison to kill her. Complainant was at that time pregnant for three months, and was so kicked and trampled on her belly by *Betsey Atkinson*, that as soon as she was locked up hand and feet in the stocks, and licked again on her back, she miscarried; this was almost half an hour after the punishment; Dr. *John Beresford* attended her when in this situation. Miss *Rosina Billot*, *La Rose*'s housekeeper, tied complainant's

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complainant's belly, and gave the requisite assistance in this case. All the negroes in the yard, as also her husband August, from Maria Tenmarch, are acquainted with what happened on this occasion. Complainant says further, that Betsey Atkinson accused her of having sent her child to steal several articles; was obliged to drink a parcel of clay taken from Griffin's grave, and mixed with rum, as a proof of her guilt, by her mistress's order. After drinking this, complainant got a paper to be sold; said the clay was dug by Mary, Ann and James; states that her child Philip is extremely ill-treated, and is never allowed to come near her. The child is exhibited; marks of severe flogging over the whole body. Says she receives a good allowance.

Complaint of negro *Sancho*, belonging to Thomas White:—Says he was sent to cut fire-wood at Edinburgh; was there nine days; cut two and a half cords. Massa sent to call me, and hired me to Mr. M'Kay; massa sent a boy to call me, I was rolling a cork, and said I could not come then; the boy said he could not go without me; I told Mr. Copperthwaite; he told the boy that as Mr. M'Kay was not at home, and as it was Friday, to let me stop till Monday. Mr. C. sent me the next morning to Mr. Bell's with a letter; missey saw and called me; massa gave me two kegs, and told me to carry them to Mr. M'Kay to get brandy; Mr. C. filled them; on a letter I brought from massa, I carried another; Mr. C. said, let this jug remain, as I have plenty for you to do; I then wrought all day and was flogged at night. Next morning early the driver came for me; massa directed I should be taken to Mr. Liddle's to be put in the stocks; I remained a whole day (Sunday) in the stocks. Monday morning I was taken to work with the rest of massa's people. Tuesday, Mr. Morrison ordered me to be lain down; I asked why? he said massa had directed him to give me thirty-nine lashes; I received them, but feeling hurt, as not having deserved punishment, I came to complain.

August 28th, 1821.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negroes *Amsterdam* and *Simon*.

Amsterdam:—Says, that Mr. Grant gave them when he was overlooking the job-gang at Philadelphia a reasonable task; but as soon as he was gone the overseer, Mr. Davies, altered the same and made it more: the work is so much, that sometimes they are obliged to work very late in the evening. Davies is extremely hard against him, licking him on every trifling occasion; gave him last Monday 25 rods of a dam, and as he was not able to complete this Davies flogged him very much; after flogging he told him that he would go to complain, which brought Davies into such a passion that he sent all the negroes after him to catch him, but he escaped and came to town to complain. Says they get enough to eat, but no time, on account of Davies's heavy tasks, to prepare the same. Complainant on showing his posteriors proves to have had of late a severe flogging.

Simon:—Says, that Mr. Davies is a very severe man; that some time ago he was sent by Davies with a letter to M'Kennie; he stopped there weeding and doing other work for a long time; that he was sent up to Mr. Dermott's by M'Kennie to fetch a coyior, and was ordered by M'Kennie to go to Calabash Creek to cut fuel; that complainant, as being a driver to Mr. Nicholson of the job-gang, went to Davies to ascertain if he was sold to M'Kennie, and got for answer, that if Mr. M'Kennie had the least cause of complaint against him he would be severely flogged. And as complainant, knowing that sometimes 100 lashes have been given by Davies's order, and not being able to ascertain who is his master now, he came to town, very wishful of being sold.

August 31st.

Examination of complaints preferred by the negroes *August*, *Dingsdog* and *Woensdog*, belonging to plantation *Nieuw Stoop*.

August:—Says, that Mr. Calmer, after he as well as *Dingsdog* and a woman were unable, ordered him to go in the stocks; that he did not go, but went into the field. Next morning, Mr. Calmer coming in the field with the head carpenter, *Pandour*, began to lick every one; on coming to his row, *Pandour* laid hold of complainant too, but was stopped by Mr. Calmer, ordering him, instead of being flogged, to be locked up in the stocks; and as complainant knows that this confinement in the stocks is worse than any flogging, because, when locked up, they are not allowed to be unlocked to go to ease themselves, but in such close confinement that they can scarcely walk when released. Complainant says, that their allowance is very good.

Negro *Dingsdog*:—Says, that he came only to complain that his master is in the habit of locking them up in the stocks for three or four months, without being at all allowed to go out; that his master lately found fault with and ordered him in the stocks; that he told his master then, that if he were to punish, to flog him then, instead of locking him up and making him lame; but as his master was not willing to comply with his desire and to flog him, so he came away to complain about the punishment of the stocks.

Negro *Woensdog*:—Says, that it is now the third time he has come to complain; that twice he has been flogged by the fiscal at the market; that he told the fiscal the last time he went, that in case his master troubled him again he would then come to complain also; that Mr. Calmer, the last time he brought him home, flogged and kept him in the stocks during three weeks; after which, on applying to his master for relief, instead of gaining it was severely flogged the next morning, and locked up in the stocks again; after having been there a long time he was severely attacked by the scurvy, and although he begged hard to

to be allowed to go out and wash himself, was refused; he grew so ill, that his master was afraid of losing him, and therefore released him; he recovered, although very visible marks remained on his back; whilst in the stocks, his master gave him nothing to eat; whatever he got was by favour of the negroes; he was not allowed to go out and ease himself, but lived in such a manner that it was impossible for any person to come near him; his master bought a chain and block at plantation Zudwyk merely for him.

After recovering from his illness, his master employed him in picking coffee; says, all the negroes on the estate were employed during five Sundays in picking coffee; his master was in the habit of flogging those who did not bring as much coffee as he was wishful of having; complainant was more than once flogged on this account; after having been employed for some time in this work, he and Martius (another lad) got a few words together in the field, for which the driver flogged them, and on coming home his master laid hold of Martius and began to kick him; complainant, seeing he should be served in like manner, told his master he had been already flogged, and consequently away he went.

Complainant further states, that he is convinced his master will flog him to death, or kill him by solitary confinement; his master threatened lately to sell him to Mr. Galley. Complainant says, if he returns to his master again, and not sold, that he will run away, and never more come back.

Complaint of *Quassic*, from Linde:—Complainant says, that some time ago Linde told him that he was to go and fetch crabs; upon which he said, that as he was still not very well (as his master had driven him out of the sick-house lately), that his legs were not in a fit state to go in the mud; that for this and many other reasons he begged his master not to send him for crabs; Linde told him, that he did not care for one or other, but that he should go. Complainant, as being unwell, on account of the bad state of his feet, to go for crabs, went next morning as customary and finished his task as well as any: as soon as the driver had made his report he received orders to arrest complainant and to put him in the stocks. The morning after the arrest complainant was tied up and received 160 lashes. M'Rae the driver, who flogged him, told him he had received 160; complainant went next day to town to complain, his back exhibiting full proof of a severe flogging. Says that last holidays, when all his master's negroes were dancing, he was sent to catch crabs; that he went away, and had (by drinking before he went away) the ill luck of upsetting his coryall; that he was saved by Kurtius at Bertendigheid from drowning; that he was brought there in the hospital, and next day received from his master 230 lashes with the whip; this was in presence of Sturk, the burgher officer; Primo and another negro gave the licks.

Says four men got one salt fish a week; have had no dram for a long time; no women on the estate at all. Plantains are served very well. Their master is extremely severe, and does not know how to manage negroes properly, and principally when they are sick. Complainant has been driven out of the sick-house. Complainant says, that Linde employed them during two Sundays in picking coffee.

15th October 1821.

Complaint of the negroes *Nassau, Peter, Preston, Carol, Annetta, Maritje, Madalon, Felice, Carolintye, Wilhelmina, Mandarina, Debra, Africa, Delia*, and several children, the property of Mr. Knight:—They state that Mr. Knight purchased them from Mr. Abensetts; that they have not been well used by him, however, rather than complain, they put up with much unpleasant humour from him; that within a day or two they heard Mr. Knight had sold the place, but he never having mentioned it, they took no notice of it; that about midnight last night, a punt came to the ferry from plantation Resolutiè, and on inquiry complainants learnt it was come to take them there to pick coffee; that they learnt this morning from Mr. Knight, that Nassau, Carol, five women now present, and two old women at home, were to go; Peter was to be hired in town, the others were to remain at the ferry as yet. Nassau, on this information, represented that it was a hardship, as they had been so long together, that they should now be separated and sent about as new negroes, and therefore requested that they should be sold, that every one might know to whom he belonged, and endeavour to please his master, which would be much preferable to going about, one day here, and another day there; that this representation was respectfully made, but that Mr. Knight flew in a passion and ordered him to be put in the stocks. On Nassau's saying that he would not run away, as he was not a new negro, Mr. Knight directed him to be taken out, and had his hands tied behind his back.

The proprietor of the above slaves, Mr. Knight, having been acquainted with the foregoing subject of complaint, denies the statement made; observing, that having disposed of his establishment at the ferry, he had hired out the negroes to plantation Resolutiè, property of General Murray; that the punt of the estate having come for some of them, he directed Nassau and some other slaves to get themselves in readiness, but as the hire of these slaves commences on the instant he did by no means hurry, being perfectly satisfied if they got there by Saturday next; that he had informed his slaves that as the establishment was to be given over on the 1st November, it was requisite some of them should remain to attend to the place till that period, when they were also to go to plantation Resolutiè; that with respect to the carpenter man, Peter, a friend of his requested the services of this man for a few days, for which purpose he told Peter he was to stop in town till the others went up; and that he had also this view, that if any repairs were required either to punts or landing-places, previous to his giving over the ferry, that he

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could have a carpenter to attend to those repairs without going to the expense of hiring one.

Declares to have explained all these circumstances to the negroes, who behaved extremely unruly, declaring they would not be hired out, but sold; imputing this conduct to the idle life they have led for some years, and knowing that on an estate they would have more active employment, they had refused to obey him.

The complaints proving vexatious the slaves were reprimanded, and directed immediately to comply with the reasonable and just commands of their master, on pain of being brought to town and exemplarily punished.

Complaint of *Ninney*, belonging to Dromgould:—Says, that some time (a few weeks) ago, I heard some one speaking to a child in our yard before I got up. On rising I looked out and saw Mr. Payne; I inquired what he wanted; he wished me good morning, and said, he came to inquire if little Judy, whom he had hired from Miss Betsey Lowe, was in our yard, as she had run away, and knew she was acquainted with our people. I said, I know she is not here; he said, it made him uneasy, as he would be blamed if any thing happened to her. I said, her mistress is very intimate with mine, and I am acquainted with her mother, therefore, if, during my going about town to-day with my tray, I should see or hear any thing of her, you may depend I will let you know; he thanked me kindly, and, wishing me good morning, left me. In the course of the day I was in the second Empolder, and happened to be walking with Miss Mary Dawes, and, coming opposite to the burying-ground, I saw this little girl Judy, and observed to Miss Dawes, she had run away from Mr. Payne, who had hired her from Miss B. Low, who being a friend of Miss Dawes, she observed, if she had any one to catch her she would have her taken up. At this moment James, belonging to Mr. Mathews, the tailor, passed us, having a rope in his hand to tie grass. I begged him to catch the girl, and carry her to Mr. P., who would give him something. As soon as Judy heard this she jumped into the grass and hid; the man and myself followed her. I told her to come out, and I would take her home and beg for her. She came to me, and Miss Dawes desired me to beg for her also. I proceeded towards Mr. Payne's with the girl. I saw his room shut up, and could not go in, not wishing to have any thing to say to his son. I was on the public road going to Miss Litty Tait's house; at this moment Kitty M'Pherson came to the door, and said, "There, did I not say that Judy was in Miss Drumgould's yard?" She repeated this twice. I then answered, Miss Drumgould's yard is no harbouring-place for runaways; you should have heard my message to Mr. Payne before you mentioned Miss Drumgould's name. She said, suppose I call Miss Drumgould's name, she is nothing so great; I replied, greater than you; her little toe is greater than your body twenty times over. She began to abuse me very much. I went into Miss Litty's house, and put down my tray, and stood up in the door. She went into Lewis's house, (Payne's son, I believe he is named Lewis); she talked some time with him, and then came out and said, "You, Nanny, what do you say?" (and, breaking past me, came into Miss Litty's house), and attacked me, pushing me out of the house. I came in again, and said, "Kitty, you are a fool; you say you are free, but you do not know the consequence of it." I can neither read nor write, but I know a slave may not strike a free person, nor a free person strike a slave more than one blow, and I am not used to fighting. Old Mr. Payne then came in and said, "Come, come, Miss Kitty, none of this," and took her out of the house. She returned, and, taking hold, endeavoured to push me out; I put my hand round her, and pulled her in the house. She then declared she would have me flogged in the market; I told her that was more than she could get done. She then threw herself upon me, which threw me down upon the chairs; she sat upon me, with her two knees upon my stomach; she endeavoured to choke me, and beat me severely; young Payne came in as soon as I was down, and said to Miss Litty, (who, I believe, would have come to my assistance), "Miss Litty, I desire you will not put a hand there, I will stand to all the consequences; Miss Kitty, give it to her good now;" and stood over us. When I was nearly exhausted, I cried out, "Miss Litty, mind if I am killed in your house, remember when the fiscal comes you state how all this happened." Miss Litty then came up, and, taking hold of Kitty, dragged her from me. Young Payne then said to Kitty, go, now you have beaten her enough, now go home. Lewis made most dreadful threats against me, standing over me with his fist bent and in my face; but Miss Litty came up to him and requested he would quit her house and go home. I went home: I was ill for some weeks, and showed the state I was in to several persons; but my mistress being in Demerara, and knowing the dislike she had of her name being mentioned in matters of complaint, I waited patiently till her return. I was attended by Dr. Werring in consequence of the beating I had received; my hand, which is more or less disabled from effects of yaws, has ever since been so painful from the blows I received on my shoulder, which was considerably swollen, that I am obliged to carry it in a sling. This happened the week the court sat over Mr. M'Intosh and Mr. Cartule; it was on a Thursday. Young Payne threatened, if ever he could catch me after dark, under fair eyes, I never should work for my mistress again. I was some days ago at Miss Rosina's house, and Miss Eliza Kyte was there; she told me, "Nanny, take care of yourself, don't go to the back-dam by yourself after six o'clock, for Lewis swears you never shall work for your mistress again." I said he had told me the same thing, and that I was very glad some one heard it beside myself. Miss Rosina said, it ought to be told to the fiscal.

Berbice, October, 16th 1821.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negro *Bellington*, belonging to W. W. King:—Bellington says, that he was a watchman over the plantain-walk, and his master gave him a hog to mind; and he told his master that he had no pot nor tub to give the hog victuals in, and his master told him to take his pot and boil it two or three times full for the hog, and then to take a calabash to give it in, and he did so. The hog threw down the water, and made the pen dirty and muddy; and his master came in the field and asked him why he did not pick dry ocoroes to carry to his house. He then called the driver and two men to put him down, and flogged him. He then told him to go and watch the plantain-walk, and he said, “Master, before I watch I had rather you put me in the field;” but his master said he would not put him into any field: so Bellington made his escape to complain to his Honor the Fiscal.

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October 23d.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negro *John*, belonging to Mr. Buttbank:—Says, that his master bought him from Mr. Kyte two years ago in good health; but since has had the leprosy, and also stiff fingers, not able to do any work, and his master is always ordering him to go and help dig trenches and weed grass, which he says is impossible for him to do, and also told him to go and gin cotton; and when he gins 15 pounds his master puts him in the stocks; then he sent him to dig 12 foot trench, two shovels deep, for a middle walk trench; and when they came in, there was not one who finished his share; he then took him and two others and flogged them, for which he made his escape to complain to his Honor.

October 23d, 1821.

Examination of complaints preferred by the negroes *Isaac* and *Umrowaart*, belonging to plantation Resolutie, against *John Hopkins*, manager:—State that their manager sent them to plantation Buser Lust to take three baskets of salt fish; and when they came to the plantation with it, the manager weighed the fish, and said that four pounds were stolen; they said it was delivered so to them; the manager sent the bass to search their pegalls and the punt, but he found none; the manager then stopped their allowance of fish, and ordered them to be put in the stocks and flogged, which (they said) before they were punished without a cause, they made their escape to complain to his Honor.

November 6th, 1821.

Complaint of the negro *Mark*, from plantation Resolutie:—States, he has been flogged severely by the manager, on account of complaining he was sick, three different times; once 12, another 39, and again 25 lashes have been inflicted; shows marks of severe flogging and much neglected.

Hopkins, the manager of plantation Resolutie:—States, that the complainant is a very bad subject, and exhibits a letter from his employer, General Murray, by whom the complainant is represented as a bad subject; that this negro was sent to pick coffee with the rest of the gang, but brought only half a basket; threatened if he did not pick full baskets, as he was an able negro and accustomed to field work, he should be punished; he picked a full basket next day; a day or two afterwards he brought only half a basket; the most indifferent negroes on the estate bring full baskets. Mark received eight or ten lashes. Next day he ran away and was absent a day and half; on being taken he received 39 lashes. The day after the overseer met him going to the field with his blanket; suspecting he wanted to be off again, he took the blanket from him and reported it to me; in the forenoon he came home with half a basket and complained he was sick; I examined, but found nothing the matter with him; I however sent him to the sick-house. When the negroes were going out, I sent both drivers to examine and see if he was sick, (he complained of no particular pain), the drivers came and said they found nothing the matter with him; I allowed him to remain. In the course of the afternoon I inquired if he was still sick; he replied, yes. In the evening I sent the drivers again to examine him; they found nothing the matter, and reported he was shamming: next morning I directed him to receive 25 lashes; he absented himself that day, and imputes the unpleasant state he now appears in to neglect, by his absence, as he only came to the barracks on Sunday.

Manager reproved for the three successive floggings;—negro faulty and neglected himself

Complaint *Barentje* and *Madalaine*:—Mr. Abensetts took me from Mr. Walker, I was at Mamma Lucia; Mr. Westrick came and said we were to work with him; I said “Have you bought us?” he said, “No; but I have hired you.” I said “No, if I am to be hired out, give me a paper, and I will look for some one to have me in town;” this was refused; the punt came for us. I therefore came to complain; my children are sent up the river.

Madalaine, the same complaint:—Wishes to be sold.

November 24th, 1821.

Examination of complaint preferred by the negro *Elias*, belonging to John M'Kay:—Says, that he was hired to plantation Resolution to pick coffee; two weeks after Mr. Hopkins, manager of said estate, discharged him, and sent him to his master; when he went home, Mr. M'Kay's housekeeper gave him some paper-money, and told him to go to Mr. Hopkins and change it; when he got to the plantation he gave the money to the overseer,

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and he gave it to the manager; he (manager) then came down to me and said, he stole the money which he had brought to him, for which the manager ordered him to be put in the stocks and then to be flogged; he was released and sent to pick coffee, and two days after he flogged him again without a cause, from which he got the fever; and not being able to undergo any work after that, so he came to town to complain to his Honor the Fiscal.

Berbice, 29th November.

Examination of a complaint preferred by negro *Michael*, belonging to plantation Resolution:—Says that he is a negro, and knows perfectly well that he must work for his master; he says that they work from Monday morning till late in the evening in picking coffee, and when he comes home between six and seven o'clock in the evening, instead of going home to get some victuals, he is always ordered to bring mud from one place to the other till twelve o'clock at night; also on Sundays they are ordered to work, and if they should refuse they would get flogged.

Philip's complaint; same place:—He states as above.

Thomas's:—Says he is an old man, and the work that the manager gives him to do is impossible for him to complete, from the weakness of his body and state; for which he is always punished, and kept continually in the stocks.

Two directed to receive seventy-five lashes.

December 24th, 1821.

Complaints of *Jack, Boast, Jem, Tancra, Trim, Harry* and *Peter*, property of M. Jeffray:—State, that they are ill used; that some time ago, on Saturday, after picking cotton till eleven o'clock, it was put out to dry; that on Sunday morning it was taken out again; in the evening master called the driver, and asked if the cotton was dry enough; driver said, "No;" massa said, "Never mind; I want the cotton ginned, and if they mash the seed I will cut their a—— at flog-time." The negroes told massa the cotton was too wet; he told them to pick cotton; we picked cotton all the week; Monday morning we picked cotton again, and till flog-time Tuesday; we were then put to gin again; what had formerly been ginned remained in the bags, and we were to fill them; we ginned till night; next morning massa weighed the cotton; he said he did not want forty-nine, he wanted fifty; if a single seed was mashed, he said he did not want that. Boast was flogged on account of the cotton having some of the seeds mashed. I said, "Massa, we told you the cotton was not good;" massa ordered me to be flogged; he said, as my bottom did not mind flogging, he would lay it on my back; massa said he was governor, nobody could come to his estate. He, Boast, has belonged to Mr. Jeffray about three years; was purchased from Mr. Ross, whom I have brought before you also; has a few appearances of stripes on his back, and marks of former heavy punishment. Jack never was flogged, but was promised. Jem has been flogged on account of ginning cotton, because the seeds were not dry; was flogged last Friday. On being asked why the recent punishment did not appear, says the driver knows we are in the right, and therefore does not punish us by cutting us; no cook is allowed us; we are obliged to dry our own cotton, and get our own victuals; we are constantly locked up in the stocks; and although the cotton is not dry, we must bring fifty pounds, and not a seed mashed. Tancra says, something is more than we are punished too much, we came to complain to you in Canje, and since that we have been worse off. I am a ginner, and get flogged because I do not gin cotton enough, and mash the seed; which he cannot help, because the cotton is not dry. I never got licked; I got punished for going to complain. He says he will not flog on the bottom, but cut the back; every time one gets flogged he says, "I put the licks on, if the Fiscal can take them off;" repeats statement of former ones. Trim:—Complaint same as that of the others; never got flogged this year on account of ginning. Harry:—The same as foregoing; never got flogged, but was just promised. Peter:—Stutters very much; his complaint the same; never flogged, but promised; his master says, "Put them in the stocks, to be flogged to-morrow."

Mr. Jeffray lays over a letter of complaint; and having heard the complaint of his negroes, denies the charges. Says he furnishes his negroes plentifully with food and clothing, and therefore considers himself entitled to their services; has brought his driver, Watson, with a sample of cotton they had ginned; that the negroes left the estate on Friday evening after work. On Saturday morning, on missing them, he sent for Mr. Thompson, his neighbour, and requested him to visit the work; he is ready to make oath to the state the work was in, and the convenience he has of drying cotton; says he is constantly with his negroes; seldom or never uses his whip, but in the constant habit of speaking and urging them to work. [The produced cotton is very bad, with a quantity of mashed seed in it. Negro Boast produces a sample of the cotton they are to gin; Mr. Jeffray declares the cotton sufficiently dry, and, to prove it, cracks the seeds, which appear plentifully so; represents Boast as a very bad subject, who has formerly been flogged by your Honor's orders.]

The driver, *Watson*, denies ever having known Tancra flogged on account of going to complain to the Fiscal. Watson declares the assertion of Jem, in saying he did not cut them in consequence of knowing they were in the right; he says, that on a former occasion he received orders from his master when he was vexed, and directed a negro to be flogged, that they should be burnt, but not cut.

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Berbice, March 4th, 1822.

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INVESTIGATION of a Complaint preferred by five Negroes, *Carel, Christian, Pompey, Alfred, Collin*, the property of Mr. Barnside.

Carel states, that they are employed as a task-gang to work on Mr. Krieger's little estate, Dankbaarheid, and under the orders of Mr. Luiken, manager of the neighbouring estate, Bertendigheid; says, Mr. Luiken, having sent some of his men from Bertendigheid in the bush to cut timber and leaves for covering houses, directed us the task-gang to bring grass for the mules, and fuel for the kitchen; we objected to this work, being a task-gang employed on Mr. Krieger's estate, and in no wise concerned with Bertendigheid; Mr. Krieger's people brought grass and fuel; in consequence of my refusing, Mr. Luiken had me locked up, with both feet in the stocks, on Monday evening; Tuesday morning I went to work; that night I was again confined in the stocks, where I remained till Thursday at 11 o'clock, when I was released and punished with a flogging,—the recent marks of which are still very visible, but apparently within the limit of the number of lashes prescribed by law, which he accounts for by having a thick skin;—I went to my work on Friday, and came to town on Saturday to complain.

Pompey states, I was sent by my master to work on Dankbaarheid, belonging to Messrs. Krieger and Prass, as one of the task-gang; we have no overseer, and therefore stood under Mr. Luiken of the neighbouring estate, and who also overlooked Dankbaarheid; Mr. Luiken called our driver (Cæsar,) and said, some of my men are gone to cut timber in Canje, and others up the river for sand, and as there are but few men remaining your task-gang must assist in bringing grass and fuel at night; Mr. Krieger's people were directed to do the same; we told our driver it was not customary to do this work; the driver said we must do it; when the estate negroes returned we should cease. The negroes have returned to the estate, and this work is still imposed upon us. Yesterday week we brought fuel early in the morning; Mr. Luiken said, we were to bring grass at night; we did so, but *Carel* that evening told Mr. Luiken it was hard upon the task-gang, who were not so well cared as other negroes, to be obliged to bring grass at night; Mr. Luiken ordered him to be confined both feet in the stocks. Tuesday evening we did not bring grass; next morning the overseer came to the field; called the head driver of Bertendigheid to flog us; this driver was employed on Dankbaarheid to learn us how to work; (Cæsar belongs to Mr. Prass); we have no driver of our own; the overseer directed the task-gang to be called up; we came out; he said I had strong eyes, and directed me to lay down; I inquired what I had done, whether I had neglected my work, or if I had been impudent? he said No, it was on account of not bringing grass; I was lain down, and received twenty-five lashes; the whole of our gang received twenty-five; there are thirteen of us, twelve men and one woman; she was also flogged; we were informed if we did not bring grass at night we should be flogged again; we went to Mr. Sterk to complain; on hearing us, he said, if it was only on account of bringing grass, we were right, he would protect us; he sent for Mr. Luiken; they were together from early in the morning till 11 o'clock; I was then called up, and he said, Mr. Luiken is your master, and you must obey him; I was lain down, and I received I believe fifty lashes; Mr. Sterk then told Mr. Luiken, take the rest home and flog them; you have my permission; they were flogged at Bertendigheid; the overseer was there, and assisted in tying the negroes to the stake.

Christian, belonging to Mr. Barnside, and employed in a task-gang on Dankbaarheid, belonging to Messrs. Krieger and Prass, corroborates the statement of the former witnesses; says, they willingly complied with Mr. Luiken's order to cut grass and bring wood whilst many of the men belonging to Bertendigheid were off the estate, but conceiving it an imposition on them after their return, they stated the same. We brought fuel yesterday week in the morning; at evening some of us objected to bring grass. Monday evening we brought grass, and then stated our objection; we were flogged, and received twenty-five lashes. I was one that went to Mr. Sterk to complain on Thursday morning early; Mr. Sterk said we were in the right, if it was only the grass story. He sent for Mr. Luiken; they had a long conversation together; Pompey was called up, and Mr. Sterk told him that the negroes were wrong; that they stood under the orders of Mr. Luiken, and that whatever he directed they should do; Pompey was put down, and received fifty lashes; Mr. Sterk then said, you ought all to be flogged here, but I will leave that for Mr. Luiken on the estate; we were all lain down, and each received fifty lashes; the overseers were present.

Evidence of *Alfred*, belonging to Mr. Barnside, and employed as one of a task-gang on plantation Dankbaarheid, belonging to Messrs. Krieger and Prass:—Corroborates the statement of the former negroes respecting the bringing of grass and fuel, which they cheerfully did whilst the Bertendigheid men were off the estate; but objected after their return, in consequence of which they were flogged; that conceiving themselves aggrieved they went

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to Mr. Sterk to complain; that after hearing them Mr. Luiken was sent for, and one of them, named Pompey, was punished by Mr. Sterk, who directed Mr. Luiken to take me and the other complainant and flog us on the estate (with the exception of Pompey); on our return to the estate I was lain down and received fifty lashes; bears very visible marks of severe punishment.

Calus and Collin:—Corroborate the former evidence respecting the flogging at Dankbaarheid for refusing to bring grass and fuel, after the return of the negroes of plantation Bertendigheid; furthermore, corroborate the statement of the former negroes of going to complain to Mr. Sterk; that Pompey was flogged by Mr. Sterk, and the rest given to Mr. Luiken to be punished on Bertendigheid; that they were taken there and flogged, each receiving fifty lashes, some with more severity than others; appears to have been recently flogged, but not so severely as the former.

March 5th, 1822.

Deposition of *W. Sterk*, Lieutenant 3d company, 4th battallion Burgher Militia, on the subject of complaint preferred by the five before-mentioned slaves belonging to Mr. Barnside, and employed on plantation Dankbaarheid:—States, that some negroes belonging to Mr. Barnside, and employed as above, called upon him some days ago, stating that they were employed as a task-gang on Messrs. Krieger and Prass's property; that Mr. Luiken having sent some of the men belonging to Bertendigheid in Canje for timber, and others for sand up the river, they (complainants) were directed to assist in bringing grass for the mules and fuel for the kitchen; that they had done so during the absence of the men from Bertendighead, but on their return they (complainants) had remonstrated against this work; that in consequence thereof they had each received twenty-five lashes, on account of which they came to town to him as burgher officer to complain: That he (Lieutenant Sterk) had replied, "If you be employed as a task-gang on Dankbaarheid, you cannot be made to bring grass at night;" but as he was unable to judge of the case till he had heard Mr. Luiken, he directed complainants to wait, and he would send for him: That on Mr. Luiken's arrival he (Lieutenant Sterk) acquainted him with the complaint, and inquired of him how these negroes were employed, and whether they were wrought as a task-gang or not; to which he (Mr. Luiken) had replied, they are no task-gang, they are hired at a certain yearly hire, and are on the estate for twelve months certain from the time of their coming to it; that this was a circumstance with which complainants were well acquainted, as they had, on a late occasion, gone to their master, Barnside, to know if they were to remain there on Mr. Krieger's Place for any time, as they were wishful of planting or making negro-grounds; to which Mr. B. replied, they could commence, as they were there for twelve months certain, and probably next year also; that he, Mr. Luiken, had directed these negroes, together with Mr. Krieger's, to bring grass at night, which they had done for some time until within a few days, when they had refused, in consequence of not getting a supply of negro clothing at the time the same was given out to Mr. Krieger's people; that he (Mr. Luiken) had represented that he could not give them clothing, as they were hired people, unless their master, Mr. B., sent it for them; that this having no effect, he had caused the most headstrong of them to be confined in the stocks; and this also proving ineffectual, he directed the overseer, one night when they had brought no grass, to give each of them twenty-five lashes, which were inflicted: That he, Lieutenant Sterk, called up the complainants, and, addressing Pompey, the spokesman, said, "I have now heard Mr. Luiken, and his account differs from that of yours. You are hired people, and not a task-gang, and you certainly cannot object to the handful of grass you are directed to bring. You are all able, strong negroes, and the grass is brought every night by the weakest of the gang on the estate, and you partake with Mr. Krieger's people of all their comforts in houses, &c.;" that the Lieutenant was of intention to dismiss the complaint, and warn them to pay due respect to the orders of Mr. Luiken for the future, but that Pompey stepped out, and, with an impertinent tone and awkward gesture, stated, that he would not bring grass at night, as it was no part of his duty, and his behaviour tended to influence the rest of complainants. I told him (Pompey) that as he was deficient to me in respect, it became my duty to punish him; I therefore directed him to be lain down, and, having informed him that his punishment arose from his impertinent reply to me, I ordered him to receive fifty lashes; the other negroes I told that they ought also to be flogged; that as their behaviour was not so bad as Pompey's, and did not require such severe punishment, I should leave this to Mr. Luiken, to whom I said, you can do that, but only as a manager. He went with the negroes from my house, and I heard nothing more on this subject till I received your Honor's letter requesting my attendance.

Examination Report of the Death of the negro *Richmond*, belonging to plantation Hirstelling, who died suddenly during the Investigation made by Captain Favre, on a charge of said negro Richmond having, through jealousy, attempted to cut the throat of the negro *England*, also belonging to before-mentioned estate.

Monday, 18th March, 1822.

Examination of the manager *Kennedy*:—States, that last Thursday evening, about ten o'clock, after he had gone to bed, he was alarmed by a considerable noise; came immediately down stairs, and learnt that the negro *Richmond*, having suspected the negro woman

woman Olivia, formerly his wife, had been connected with the negro England, he (R.) had attempted to cut England's throat; that shortly afterwards he (manager) saw Richmond in custody of the drivers, and understood that England, being watchman, Richmond had got to the place of watch, and, suddenly springing upon England, he had endeavoured to take his life by cutting his throat with a knife; that England had called out for help, and wrestled with Richmond till the negro Jarvis came to his assistance, upon which Richmond took flight, leaving his knife on the spot; upon which he (the manager) directed Richmond to be confined in the stocks; that he received much abuse from Richmond, who threatened to bring him into trouble by taking him before the Fiscal.

That he (the manager) next morning reported this case to Captain Favre, for his investigation; that Captain F. was prevented from attending on the estate on Friday, but intimated his intention of doing so on the Saturday; Richmond was accordingly continued in the stocks: That he (manager) recollects, on taking over the management of the estate four months ago, Richmond and Olivia came up to him to declare they could not agree together; that he paid little or no attention to it; but a few weeks afterwards they came to him with the same statement again, to which he replied, "If you cannot live with and are satisfied to leave each other, it is all good; but if I hear either of you disputing with any of the other negroes, in consequence of either of you taking up with some one else, I will punish you severely;" that from that time he had never heard any complaint from either, and that they both performed their work to his satisfaction; that since Richmond's confinement in the stocks, he (manager) had understood, that although Olivia did not live in the house with Richmond, she had, for the last two or three weeks, been cooking his victuals; and that he had further understood that Richmond's jealousy was occasioned from England's giving her a root of sweet cassava some days ago, as she was coming out of the field.

That on the Saturday following, Captain Favre attended on the estate, with some others of the militia, and proceeded to the investigation of the complaint made against Richmond; that having examined some witnesses, the prisoner was required and accordingly sent for from the solitary place of confinement in the hospital. The overseer and drivers shortly came out with him, when he (manager) was told by Captain Favre, "Look at the man, he appears to be drunk;" that immediately Richmond seemed to reel, and fell on the ground apparently in a fit. He was brought into the house; Drs. Gibson and Staal were present; they attempted to give him something, but in a very few moments he expired.

March 20th, 1822.

Investigation of a complaint preferred by the Negroes *Nelson, Knight, Lewis, Jacob, Selvester, Trim, Quaco, Fox, Oliver, Prospect and Absolam.*

Nelson:—States, that the work assigned them to perform daily is such, that they have no time to get their breakfast, not being allowed to leave the work till this task allotted them be completed; that they get but one bunch of plantains, which they receive on Sunday.

Not allowed the day on Sunday, as they are made to work till eleven o'clock, they are on that day variously employed, sometimes heaping up trash, at others hauling up timber, and again in bringing hoops from the waterside. The manager flogs us if we speak to him on the subject; he says it is by massa's order, and if he were to inflict upon us what master desires him, we should all run away in the bush, but he does not like to do so; that he (complainant) ever since the estate was first cultivated was upon it; has done his work well and never complained, and that the gang have never had an allowance of sugar given them; that no water is given them in the field more than a calabash full, which is to serve from morning till night.

The Fiscal having requested the assistance of Mr. Farley, the proprietor of plantation Adelphi, an able and experienced planter, and also Mr. John Cameron, the joint proprietor of plantation Lochaber, went to the fields to examine the work performed by the negroes of this estate for some days past, and having also required the attendance of the manager Mr. Tush, one of the overseers, the drivers and two or three of the complainants, found that on Saturday last, 16th instant, at one o'clock, the gang, consisting of seventy-six negroes, went into the field N^o 5, containing three acres and quarter of land, and eight roods of an adjoining field.

On Monday morning seventy-three negroes commenced two fields, with the exception of the eight roods above stated; commenced fields N^{os} 3 & 4, containing fifteen acres and a quarter; from this it appears that 111 negroes were employed in weeding, stripping, and moulding nineteen acres of canes, allowing upwards of five negroes to an acre of land; the work appeared light, little or no grass being found on the banks, and the canes young, and not having required much stripping; the work on Saturday appears to have been well done, but that of Monday slovenly and badly.

After the work had been pointed out and measured, the manager stated that it was invariably the custom to turn the negroes in at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and out again at one; that such of the negroes who are well able and do not finish their task at eleven o'clock are kept to it, but that this very seldom or ever happens; the task is given out every morning in a certain proportion, from sun-rise till eleven o'clock, and another from one to sun-set; and when performing such work as the present (weeding, stripping and moulding young canes), in proportion to the work done on Saturday and Monday.

With respect to the giving of one bunch of plantains weekly, the manager denies the charge; calls in the evidence of the overseers, who state that the gang received salt fish every week; that from the scarcity of plantains on the estate, the walk does not allow more than

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one bunch to be cut, but to this they regularly receive a half supply from Sandvoort, they therefore receive with their fish a bunch of plantains on Sunday, and another on Thursday. Admits the plantains are small, but which only is to be attributed to the great drought; A sample of the plantains was produced, which appears fair.

With regard to the Sunday work, the manager states, that he has in two instances required a little work from the negroes, in the first place some hoops were received from the Fortune; they lay exposed at the waterside four days; I directed the gang to bring them up one Sunday morning whilst their plantains and fish were lain out; another time he employed twenty to bring up a few shooks which were lying in the trench, and just pack them up in the yard; and last Sunday they hauled up two punts to be repaired; in neither instance did their occupation employ them two hours.

That two water-carriers are constantly employed furnishing the gang with water, which was attested by both overseers and admitted by complainant.

Berbice, 21st March 1822.

Investigation of a complaint preferred by the Negroes *Tom, Sam, Klaas, William, Lectin, Adam, Joe, Nicholas, Kees, Jarvis, La Rose, Lewis, Luckey and Conraad*, all belonging to Mrs. Sanders, residing in Upper Berbice.

That he, with other complainants, have lately been put to split staves, a work to which they are unaccustomed; every negro to split twenty bundles per week, each bundle to contain fifty staves; that they were unable to perform this task, and were flogged twice, once before mistress went from home, and once after her return; that the Sunday is taken away, they have had work regularly for the last eight Sundays, from morning till evening, employed hewing timber (cabacalie). One Sunday we were employed hauling up a punt, it took us the whole day, and Mr. Hartman came with his people to assist us. Witness exhibits his posteriors, very slight marks of a flogging: Conraad marks of recent punishment, slight: Klaas marks of slight punishment: Lewis the same, La Rose same, William same, Sam ditto, Adam, and all the others.

Mr. Sanders, who attends his mother's concerns, states in reply to these complaints, that *Mr. Henery*, who is agent for my mother, wrote her a short time ago, that so many shingles were brought up from Demerara, and sold so much cheaper than we could afford to deliver ours, that there were no purchasers of shingles, and therefore recommended my mother, as there was a scarcity of staves in the colony, to split them in preference; I therefore directed staves to be split, and gave as a task twenty bundles each, containing fifty staves, to be split per week by each man; the first week they each brought seventeen bundles, and although I had expected more, I passed it over: the next week they each brought fifteen bundles; I told them that if they did not bring the full quantity they should be flogged. My mother and self came down the river, on my return I found that they had only split eleven bundles, I therefore had them lain down and flogged. The negroes declared, whilst they were receiving punishment, that I could kill them, but they would not split the staves nor live up the river, and that is the great objection they have and the cause of their frequent complaints; they are well fed, with two bunches of plantains, and, in great scarcity, one and a half bunch; sometimes they have cassavie, but rarely; they have excellent provision fields, which clearly prove the false accusation of being employed by me or my mother on Sundays, as on those days (Sundays) they work their own fields. Three weeks ago our punt had sunk, it became necessary to haul her up, as she had sunk the night before; only half our negroes were at home; I sent to my neighbour, *Mr. Hartman*, and he came with his negroes and assisted me to haul the punt up; we were employed from six o'clock in the morning till eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and I positively deny their being employed on any other Sunday.

My mother uses every endeavour to satisfy the negroes; their great complaint was the want of wives. At the sale of Bellair we purchased women to the amount of £11,000; this has exhausted all our present means. The negroes now wish to force my mother either to sell them or remove from up the river; her circumstances will not permit her to indulge them in either wish; and from the loss of labour, and the enormous expenses incurred by their coming to complain, must prove our ruin, if some measure be not adopted to prevent it. I must further remark, that when I go in the bush with them, which is often, and which I do with a view to encourage them, I remain three or four weeks at a time, and come with all the negroes and staves or shingles they have been cutting during that time, as they could not possibly occupy themselves on Sundays, having no regular houses, provisions, or any thing else to attend to. I certainly make, or rather compel them to work on Sundays; but I can declare on oath, that for each Sunday they are so employed a day is given them when we return from the bush.

This statement being explained to the negroes, they remark, it is not only the work of Sundays in the bush, but that they work on other Sundays when they go home. To this *Mr. Sanders* replies, that a certain task is given each negro per week; they that finish the task go home on Saturday evening; they that do not complete it remain till Sunday to do so; this is not by my order, but their own choice; often, when at home, I drive them out of their houses to work their fields; this perhaps they may accuse me of, but they, and not I, benefit by it; I consider it much better for them to work their grounds than to lie and sleep all the day.

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Berbice, July 10th, 1823.

COMPLAINT of the Negro *Lambert*, belonging to plantation Sandvoort:—That he and Jean Baptiste were hired by their master, Mr. Cameron, to Mr. Ross, the post-holder in Courantyne; that they wrought as wood-cutters till the death of Mr. Ross; that his manager, Mr. Wood, took them over, and after working all day they are placed as watchmen at night; that he and Lambert having the watch, a tiger took away a fowl; Mr. Wood said he would have him flogged next morning; that he went about all night to find the tiger, but could not; next morning he begged Mr. Wood to forgive him, which he did; that he has the venereal, and the manager would give him nothing; that finding Mr. Ross's negroes coming to town, and unwilling to remain in Corentyn, he with Jean Baptiste absented themselves.

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Mr. John Cameron, proprietor of the above slaves:—States, that the complainants are bad subjects; that some time ago they were punished by the Fiscal with the whip and chain for stealing coffee; that they have since been guilty of the same crime, and conducted themselves otherwise so ill, that, as an example to the rest of the gang, he sent them off the estate; they were hired by Ross, the post-holder; after his death, he, the master, directed another timber cutter or carpenter, named Jackson, to take them over; that on his application for them they both ran away, and the first information he got of them was that they had come to town to complain.

B. Jackson, wood-cutter, Corentyn:—States, that he was directed by Mr. John Cameron to take over the negroes Lambert and Jean Baptiste from Mr. Ross's manager, when Mr. Ross's negroes were to be sent from the Corentyn to town; that he applied for them, and they were given up to him; he told them to get ready to accompany him, but they left the place immediately afterwards, and he never saw them till this present moment, about twelve days ago.

The negro Lambert has the venereal, which he states to be very bad. On inquiry of the under sheriff whether he had ever acquainted him therewith, he, the under sheriff, replied, Lambert came to complain on the 26th June, but never mentioned he had the venereal till last Monday 7th instant.

Finding the negroes complaints ungrounded, they were directed to be punished.

Complaint of the negro woman *Caatje*, belonging to plantation Prospect:—States, she is sickly; went to complain to the manager, who drove her away, saying she was very well; went to the field, but found herself so unwell she was forced to lie down; the driver found her in this situation, doubled his whip and flogged her; next day she went again to the manager; he gave her a dose of calomel; ordered her to work next morning; she declared herself incapable, and the manager was about to punish her; she therefore left the estate, and came to complain.

July 14th.

Complaint of the negro *George*, belonging to plantation Canefield, in Canje:—I am boatswain to the mill; that the manager, Mr. Arthur, told him he was not to feed the mill during the day, but only at night; I did so; after that I was ordered to make fire at night; during the day I was wrought in the field; when I made fire at night there was no one given to split the wood, which was so green it would not burn; this fire was for the engine; I began to make the fire about ten o'clock; the manager ordered me to be flogged; after being flogged, I said to the manager, "As I have been punished for making bad fire at night, I must be allowed to stand to the fire all day, by which means I would have time to split wood sufficient to serve me at night, as it cannot be done after dark;" the manager said, "No; but as I had talked, I should be locked up every night, and at eleven o'clock every day;" considering this an excess of punishment, and undeserving of the same, I come to the Fiscal. I beg to inquire of the manager if I have ever been guilty of impertinence—if I have ever neglected my work—if I have ever run away—or on getting a pass on Sunday, if I have ever kept from returning on Monday at a proper hour—or that he has incurred the expense of sixpence for taking me up?

Reply of *Mr. Arthur*, manager:—I was under the necessity last year to make an entire change in the feeders of the mill, in consequence of coal-chisels and other things being put in the mill to prevent her working; this I did with the consent of my employers; since which time no accident has occurred; the man George, now complainant, was a feeder at that time, and was employed after this change in the field; this change took place, I think, in August 1822. This man has lately been employed to make fire for the engine; he and the other firemen take it in turn; the fireman commences in the morning before day, and continues fireman till the engine stops at night; George made fire so very badly, I was forced to change him; for as all the working of the estate depends on the action of the engine, the man making fire must necessarily exert himself, this change took place on the representation of the boy who attends the engine. The people got by times

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to their work, and at half-past six o'clock I had only half a copper of liquor ; in consequence of this neglect of duty, I directed him a slight flogging, which he received. I was told that he had said he would neither make fire nor work in the field ; this was told me in his (George's) presence ; I said I would not flog him again, but he should be locked up in the stocks at night. I directed him to go to the field ; this was about an hour after he was flogged, and this is the first time I have seen him since ; I do not think he received more than six lashes. The posteriors of the man were examined, and it did appear he received a few lashes, but slightly laid on ; no appearance to doubt the manager's statement as to the number of lashes. I never knew him boatswain to the mill ; about a week before I came to the estate, I understood he was detected stealing with others upwards of 300 lbs. of sugar.

July 18th.

Complaint of the negro women *Dina*, *Amba*, *Lena* and *Zemire*, belonging to plantation Reumzigt, situated on the river Berbice.

Dina, speaking for the rest, states:—They have to complain against the manager ; that, for the most trifling offence, they are punished with the cart-whip ; that they are put to pick out coffee ; that the manager requires them to pick out a box-full by eleven o'clock, and another by evening ; that on bringing in the coffee which they have been picking out, if a single bean is found that is not sound they are flogged ; they bring a sample of the coffee to show ; they do not materially object to the work, knowing that the present season is the time for picking out coffee, but to the manager's exactness in examining the coffee after it is assorted ; and as it will occasionally happen that a few defective beans will get among that which is cleaned, they consider it oppressive that for every such offence they should be punished. The two former were locked up in the stocks ; *Amba* every night during a week, and *Dina* two nights, and threatened she should be locked up every night at eleven o'clock. They have no time to eat or cook ; at evening, as soon as the box of coffee is picked or assorted, they go for grass ; and as soon as they return the negroes who are to be confined are locked up, and consequently no time to prepare food ; and the room being locked up, no person can give them any thing. *Lena* and *Zemire* were flogged with the cart-whip, because the coffee was said by the manager not to be clean ; the latter had picked out a box-full, which the driver approved of, but on its being examined by the manager, he said it was not good, and began to kick her in different parts of her body. Eleven of the men went to complain to Mr. Niwienhoven, the attorney, on a Sunday ; he never came to the estate, but wrote to the manager, who sent to Mr. Sterk ; he came with his own drivers on the following morning, and they were flogged severely, and locked up in the stocks, where they remained a very considerable time unable to work from the severe punishment they suffered. *Santje* went to complain to Mr. Maurinbricher, the other attorney ; the manager called for her ; she was pregnant ; the manager did not flog her, but she was confined a week in the stocks, and was fed very sparingly ; but she will be best able to speak for herself. Finding no redress from either of the attorneys, and Mr. Maurinbricher never attending on the estate to inquire into the complaint of *Santje*, we now come to the Fiscal ; every negro is ready to come to town, so very severe is the treatment of the manager.

July 21st, 1823.

Reply of *F. H. De Quasy*, manager of plantation Reumzigt, to the foregoing complaint:—That a basket of coffee which he now produces is a sample of the coffee which they are to pick out ; that he requires two boxes a day, which can be performed with ease ; that having examined the boxes of coffee after it was picked out, he had great reason to complain ; that in some boxes he found a handful of broken coffee ; he reprimanded the people, and with some it had effect, and with others not ; he had therefore been under the necessity of giving some a few lashes, and others whom he conceived in a state of pregnancy he had confined in the stocks. All the women after this, even such of them as had children at the breast, brought the two boxes of coffee, and in good time, with the exception of these four ; two had been flogged at noon for not producing a box-full, and orders given to confine the other two at night, but on inquiry they had absconded. The sample of coffee produced by the complainants being compared with that in the basket brought by the manager is found of one quality ; it is white husk, and appears a very fair sample.

Mr. Maurinbricher, who is present at this examination, states, that the task required can be performed with ease ; that the negroes of Standvestigheid are at present employed picking out coffee of a much worse sample, yet that the two cases are produced daily without the least objection.

The Manager states further, that the sick are well taken care of ; that the negroes are abundantly supplied with plantains, fish and rum ; that the bell rings at eleven o'clock, and every one goes to their victuals that please ; that the case of coffee is asked for and examined at one, not eleven o'clock. Those who are found deficient, then receive a few lashes, or are directed to be confined in the stocks ; no objection is made to their getting supper from their friends when confined in the stocks ; that his treatment of the slaves is mild ; but that he endeavours to do his duty by seeing the work of the estate duly carried on.

One of the women who complains of being flogged five times, was examined, and no appearance of punishment was to be seen.

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The overseer of the estate, Mr. Vander Marck, is also present, and declares the foregoing statement to be correct.

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August 2d, 1823.

Complaint of the negro *Scipio*, belonging to F. Brittlebank, on the Correntine Coast:—States, that he is overwrought; that when he was able, no negro could pass him; that he has tobacco in his hand, and his master will not allow him time to burn them; no negro must pass him in the field, or he gets flogged. Came some time ago to complain, but was taken up at Jeffery's estate and confined there in the stocks for fourteen days; when he went home he got very severely flogged; he was taken to the waterside and there flogged for fear of the whip being heard; his private parts, which he exhibits, is so severely wounded by the whip he can scarcely sit or stand. The negro appears much emaciated.

Complaint of the negro *Peter*, belonging to Best Coffee Land, property of C. Mather-son, esq.:—He is perfectly well satisfied with his master, but not with Mr. Millar the manager. I went to him to complain I had fever and cold, he said "you must not play the fool with me, go to the field;" I went and put a blanket round me, and went in the logie top. The manager sent and had me confined in the stocks, both feet, all that day and the night; the next morning I was flogged. The fish master sends up for us is not given to us; the work given us is too much; one man is put to throw out a drain. He says, they that do not finish their work during the week shall do so on Sunday. Master came once and found us working on Sunday, and drove us from it; I was not on the estate last Sunday, but the Sunday before; three negroes were made to finish rows they had left undone in the week; they are named *Maria*, *Stephen* and *Bob*; I think those were the three.

August 12th.

Manager, *D. Millar*, states he was under the necessity of flogging *Peter*, who pretended illness, on account of his insolence before the driver. The drain given is 26 roods; it is a task, and is generally finished before three; a regular quantity of fish is given, beyond two pounds weekly; 72 negroes are on the place, mostly hired; inquire of them; denies working on Sunday; refers to the whole gang.

August 4th.

Complaint of the negroes *Tom*, *Joe*, *Hercules* and *Matross*, belonging to W. Ross, proprietor of plantation Culcain, situated on the Courantyn River.

Tom states, for the rest and himself, That they are aware they are purchased to work, but that it is also necessary they should eat and drink; the row or work that is given them is by far too much: the manager, in giving out work, desires that none of the negroes should grumble at it, but wait till he comes into the field to complain to him. We are planting canes; two rows are given us; a woman is placed next to a man; the same work and task are given her. I must make up grass bank, cut out any stumps in my way or the woman's; I must then cut off the side of a drain on each side of my row, throw half of what comes from my drain into the middle of the bed, and the other half in the woman's row, to raise the beds in the middle. The woman with the hoe chops up the earth; the row extends twenty beds for me and twenty for the woman: this work is done in an old plantain walk; the beds are, I believe, three roods wide. We are obliged to remain on this work from the morning till night, and have not time to get any thing to eat, nor water to drink, as no water-carrier is allowed us. On the question being asked if the side trenches are not full of water, they reply, the water is run off. When the sun is down, if our row is not finished we get flogged; I received thirty lashes, so did *Joe*. We are taken to the stocks at night, and flogged next morning. We told the manager the work was too much, that we had no time to get our victuals, and begged him to lessen the task: this was the reason we were flogged. There are plenty of plantains on the estate; the manager, however, only gives us one bunch, and that is on the Sunday morning. We are very well supplied with fish. We are obliged to boil our plantains at night, and put them in a calabash to take to the field next morning; we are obliged to eat them by stealth, we are driven so hard; and before we can eat them they turn sour. When we come from the field, after this heavy day's work, we must work in the yard; the punt brings wood to the canal, and we must carry it up to the engine; other times we must haul up bullet-tree to the saw-pit. When we are grinding we know very well we must sit up late, and of this we do not complain, knowing it must be done. We have complained to our msster, and he says that the manager, he supposes, troubles us because we don't mind our work: we had no redress from him.

July 7th, 1823.

Complaint of the negress *Mietje*, belonging to plantation Sandvoort:—States, that her child has the yaws very bad; that she requested the manager to allow her to mind it till it got better, which he refused; that she goes to her work early in the morning and does not see it till night; that having repeated her request three times to the manager in vain, and having been told by him that if she came again he would know what to do with her, she went to her master, Mr. Cameron, on Sunday, who promised to come and inquire into the business; she expected him on Monday, but he did not come, and at night the manager locked her up in the stocks: this induced her to quit the estate, and come on Wednesday to complain.

July 7th, 1823.

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Complaint of the negro *Murphy*, belonging to plantation Philadelphia:—States, that being sick and disturbed by creoles, who made a noise in an adjoining house, he went to quiet them; the overseer came there also: he had sent for Santje, Adam's wife, who refused to let her go. On coming to the house where the creoles were, he, the overseer, began to thump them, and took Grieta and locked her up in the stocks: this was Saturday week. On Sunday morning he took the rest of the creoles, and two men to whom the house belonged, and put them in the stocks; he said I was in the house also; I said, "Yes, but I only went to quiet them:" he, however, directed me to be locked up also. I said, "Take me to the manager:" he did so. I inquired if it was by his orders I was to be confined; he said, "Yes; the overseer said you also were making a noise." I was locked up, both legs in the stocks, extended as far as they could be; in this position I was kept all Sunday and Monday: on that evening I made my escape, and came to complain.

Question.—Did you ever go to your master, Mr. Katz, to complain?

Answer.—No, I did not; my reason was, that three negroes, *Comedis*, *Birket* and *Hatton*, went to complain to Mr. Katz, and, without sending for the manager, they were flogged at Vryheid, and returned; the next day Birket or Bronget was flogged again by the manager.

Sir,

Berbice: Fiscal's Office.

The negroes *Tom*, *Joe*, *Hercules* and *Matross*, the property of Mr. Ross, of plantation Culcain, have preferred a complaint at my office against the manager of said property. After consulting with Mr. Ross on the subject thereof, I am induced to prefer the same to you, from the great inconvenience that would result by my requiring the attendance of the manager in town, and such of the slaves whose evidences might be required, or by my attending personally on the estate, from its considerable distance from hence, and to request you to investigate the same. For this purpose I inclose to you the statement of their complaint, and beg to call your attention to the following points of grievance necessary to be inquired into:—

"To ascertain accurately the task exacted from the complainants, and the gang in general."

"To learn from a sugar-planter in how far this task is in proportion to similar work on other sugar estates."

"In how far the complainants, previous to their quitting the estate, had done this work, as well as the rest of the gang, previous to and subsequent to said time."

"If any application was made to the manager to lessen the task when deemed too much by the people, and the result of such application."

"The reason why a water-carrier is not allowed."

"The regular periods of the gang turning in and out; the time allowed for cooking and rest in the day."

"What work is required of an evening after field work is over."

"Why only one bunch of plantains is given, when the law directs two."

It must be needless for me to request the most impartial investigation; and although I am perfectly satisfied that Mr. Ross would not permit his slaves to be oppressed by the manager, yet some of the charges of complaints may require redress; and in such case I certainly shall recommend Mr. Ross to afford instant relief. I am also well aware and fully confident that such recommendation would be needless if the complainants had not lost sight of a duty incumbent on them, to have sought redress in the first instance from Mr. Ross, their proprietor, which they had ample opportunities of doing, by his frequent visits to the estate.

If, however, you find that the complaints are groundless, I request you will, by every means, endeavour to convince them of the same, to point out how very unsatisfactory, unpleasant and expensive such complaints must be to a proprietor of respectability and a good owner of slaves; and that although the complaints of slaves shall always command my ready and serious attention, and that whenever they are aggrieved I will exert myself to afford them relief, yet that the duty is no less imperious on me to punish such slaves, whose only motives in quitting their estates to prefer complaints proceed from idle and wanton dispositions, whose statements prove to be groundless and vexatious.

I would then recommend you to direct the said negroes to be exemplarily punished in presence of the gang; and one of them having asserted that *_____* was the one who induced them to come to town to complain, he ought to receive fifty lashes, and the others thirty-nine each, well applied, and cautioned to refrain from further wanton behaviour, on pain of more severe punishment.

I also recommend you to request Mr. Austin, the manager of 49, to accompany you, and afford you his aid and opinion in ascertaining the work done on the estate, and complained of.

You will please to report to me, in writing, the result of this investigation.

I am, respectfully, your very obedient and humble servant,

M. S. Bennett.

Captain R. Grant,
 2d Battalion Burgher Militia,
 Correntine Coast.

Berbice, August 20th, 1819.

Examination of the negro *Primo*, belonging to plantation Blyendall:—States that he is a field negro, and has been taken from this employment to make baskets; that he does not know how to make baskets; that he made five in a week, the manager was not satisfied, and locked him up in the stocks at night; he was also flogged by the manager, and went to complain to the attorney, Mr. Krieger, who said, "Never mind, old man, you must go and learn:" he went home; he was locked up every night after this for a week, which induced him to come and complain.

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To this complaint the following statement was made:—*Major Van Holst* states, that he happened to be at Mr. Krieger's when this negro went to complain; Mr. Krieger, from long and severe illness, not being able to quit the house for many months, requested him to inquire into this complaint; that he (*Van Holst*) immediately went to Blyendall, and found that the basket-maker being dead, the complainant had been selected by the driver, and brought up by the manager, to succeed as basket-maker; that every negro on coffee estates can make baskets; the general task is twelve a week, but this man made but five; the manager was satisfied, but said he must get on better; the negro became extremely insolent, and positively objected doing this work any longer; the manager gave him a slight punishment, and directed him to be locked up at night; this induced him to go to Mr. Krieger. Knowing that every negro on coffee estates are in daily habit of making baskets, and having inquired and ascertained that the complainant had been insolent to the manager on account of this work, I directed him to be locked up every night for a week; his time of confinement expired last Saturday; on Sunday morning complainant came to town.

Ordered to be flogged, thirty-nine lashes.

August 20th, 1823.

Complaint of the negro *Harry*, belonging to J. P. Chapman, of Demerara, hired to Mr. Kewley, proprietor of 49, Courantyn Coast:—States, that he is perfectly able to do his work, but not when he is sick; that he went to the manager to say he was sick; he made the watchman take me to the field, where I was flogged by the driver. I had the fever two days; I went to complain; I was put in the dog-house, where I neither ate nor drank; there is no sick-house on 49; I could not eat nor drink from sickness. If a negro says he is sick, two negroes drive him to the field at five o'clock; at night we are locked up; all the negroes treated so. Some of the negroes, from the bad treatment of the manager, have run away. One of Mr. Chapman's negroes was flogged so often, and had so bad a foot, that he was obliged to run away in the bush; if he is dead or alive we do not know; he was one of the firemen, and walked on his hands and feet; he told the manager he could not stand to do work; he was lain down and flogged. Manager's name Austin.

Mr. Kewley, the proprietor, heard on this complaint:—That he had written to the doctor on the subject of this slave, but received for answer that his name did not appear in the hospital books. The negro confessed, that being locked up in the stocks induced him to complain. Mr. Kewley stated he had a medical practitioner purposely for this property; that he has two sick-houses.

The negro states his complaint was for former treatment. Ordered twelve lashes.

August 20th, 1823.

Jack, belonging to Sandvoort, states, that last Friday they were cutting grass; the work was very heavy; two or three carried their rows; many of us, amongst whom was I, only did half; we were locked up in the stocks that night, seven of us; some went at 5 o'clock to finish their row, not we that were in the stocks went to work. Saturday got new rows; we finished this work. On that morning the manager came to the field to flog us; we begged to be forgiven; I and four others were forgiven; two were flogged. I went on the Saturday evening and wrought at the row I left unfinished on Friday; it was not quite finished; I went to it early on Sunday morning, and finished it before 7 o'clock. I went home; the driver, on my return, took me to the manager; I was locked up all day with two men and two women; they were confined the evening before. Monday morning we were released, and the drivers called; one of the men was flogged; I went off, and came to complain.

Berbice, August 25th, 1823.

Reply of *J. Van Vlooten*, manager of plantation Sandvoort, to the complaint of *Jack*:—Friday there were upwards of forty negroes at work; five or six did not finish their row; this row was weeding ninety coffee trees, and water sprouting them; I had these negroes, amongst whom was *Jack*, locked up in the stocks at night. Next morning went to work; on examining the work left, I intended to flog them on my going into the field; he was repeatedly ordered out from his row, but he refused to come. I left him alone; that day he finished his work; brought no grass at night, but sent it by another. On Sunday about 12 o'clock he was confined in the stocks by my order; he was not to be seen before that hour. Next morning I directed him and another negro, who had also neglected his work, to be flogged; *Jack* ran off, and was not to be seen on the estate since; the other negro I had punished. The work on Saturday was the same task and the self-same field as on Friday, and they all finished it. I never heard that he had wrought at his row on Sunday. I have been sick all last week, or would have called before.

Berbice, September 4th, 1823.

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Complaint of *Grace, Eliza, Flora, Eve, Daphna, Silvia* and *Hannah*, belonging to plantation Prospect, property of the late Benjamin Jeffery, deceased.

Grace states, That they are badly treated, which makes them come to complain instead of going in the bush. The manager, Patterson, gives us more work than we are able to perform, so that we have no time to eat. We are planting and supplying canes; the ground is so dry we are obliged to throw water upon the beds before we can chop the earth. We have each five double beds; this is to be done at dinner time; the manager says that is not enough; we then get twelve lashes each; we all got twelve lashes each yesterday; we are too much punished; we have no time to get our victuals; we have every night got work, whether the mill is going or not; Sunday night even is not excepted; sometimes we must bring fire-wood from the canal mouth. Tuesday night we had to carry corn from the great house to the horse-stable top; we were employed at this work till near morning. We carry wood home from the canal on Sunday night as well as any other; the puntsmen are employed bringing wood to the canal as well on Sunday as any other day. A considerable quantity of wood was brought to the canal; it lay there, as we could not go for it in consequence of the bad cough we had. If any of us go out on Sunday, we must be back in time to bring home grass and fire-wood for the kitchen; after that we must still go to the canal for fire-wood for the engine. Mr. Ross sends two bunches of plantains for each negro every week; one week the men get two bunches and the women one; next week we get two and the men one; the rest are kept for sheep and hogs. Mr. Ross sends tobacco; we get none of that; we get no molasses, although it is given to the horses, sheep and hogs. If you are sick, or have a sore, and put in the sick-house, only one bunch of plantains is allowed, and the allowance of fish is stopped. Mr. Ross sends every thing to the estate very well, but we do not get it. The overseer's treatment is worse than the manager's; since *Caaje* is come home, she is confined both legs in the stocks every night. Only four of us are allowed to take the magass from the engine; in *M'Cermot's* time there were five of us to do this work. Our rum has been stopped for the week. Last night we received orders from the driver that we were not to come home to day unless we finished our work; we must boil plantains then for to-day; the ground is so hard we knew we could not do it, and therefore came to complain. The above is the subject of our complaint. In answer to the question, if they did not know it was their duty to seek redress from Mr. Ross, as their complaints were entirely against the manager and overseer, they replied, the men had complained on a former occasion; *Eve* also against a former manager for not giving them molasses, &c. and she was flogged; they therefore did not complain to him now, and more particularly as the order they got from the driver last night, and the punishment they received yesterday, induced them at once to complain.

Berbice, 5th September 1823.

James Patterson, manager of plantation Prospect, being heard on the foregoing complaint states,—In the morning I tell them to go over one row, forty-nine roods long, relieving and supplying. *Caius* the driver reported to me at noon, that they had done only fifteen roods; on their going out after breakfast, I directed the head man, who has great influence over the gang, to go out and flog each of the strong women, as I was unable to go myself from late indisposition; I had no place of confinement, or I would have imprisoned them. Six of these women received twelve lashes each; the woman *Hannah* being in a state of pregnancy, she was of course not flogged. With respect to the charge of taking their plantains, I lay over a certificate from the overseer, that a bunch of plantains and seven pounds of rice, or twenty-five ears of corn, is given weekly to the gang, and two bunches to the others alternately. I give them rum whenever I think they deserve it; that is, when they do a good day's work. Previous to my coming to the estate, there were set days for them to receive rum; but I did away with this, and gave it to them according to their work, and I think it will appear that the consumption is greater now than formerly. With respect to the tobacco: I give it out occasionally, always stating in my journal the time of so doing. I had the corn removed from the room next to the one I occupy, on account of being very much disturbed by rats; they were employed rather late, but as I was sick and had not slept for two nights running, from the noise of the rats, I wished this work done; when it was over the overseer reported it to me; I inquired how late it was, and he said half past nine o'clock. I gave those employed at this work a basket of corn, and I thought they were quite satisfied. I can solemnly declare the negroes never showed the least cause of dissatisfaction on account of their allowance; and the only plantains I ever gave to sheep or hogs, were some fallen ones out of an old walk.

The negroes have occasionally been employed Sunday evenings to carry wood; it was landed from twenty to fifty roods from the buildings, as the punts came in. The gang never bring home more than twenty cords of wood a week; it is said to be twenty cords, but if measured would not be more than seventeen: this wood the whole of the gang has to bring home after field work. The punt comes four times a week, and it can be very easily carried home during the six nights; I found they had done so previous to my coming to the estate, and therefore continued it; they never complained of it to me, and I did not know it was wrong, or I should never have done it; I of course never will allow it to be done again.

6th September 1823.

Examination of the man *Cesar*, belonging to plantation Prospect:—States, that by order of the manager he went where the women were at work, with directions to flog the strong women,

women, giving each twelve lashes; that the women expostulated with him, showing him that the work went on slowly in consequence of the ground being very hard; that they had to wet the ground previous to supplying it, for if the cane plant was not well put in the earth, the manager would still order them to be punished; that the overseer then came up and repeated the manager's order; he therefore told the driver to lay them down and give them twelve lashes, which was accordingly done; Hannah excepted, being pregnant. The weakly women were not punished.

With respect to the charge of plantains being withheld from them, he corroborates the manager's statement, by saying the negroes who get one bunch have an allowance of rice and corn. That a certain number of bunches are taken into the store for the manager's use and the creoles; but of the plantains sent to the estate, none to his knowledge, or the best of his belief, have ever been given to hogs or sheep; that some fallen down plantains, out of an old walk, had been given them; that he, Cæsar, had some conversation with the negroes last night on this subject, that they still assert it as a fact, but it never has fallen under his knowledge, nor does he believe it, if it had he would state it without hesitation. The negro women were called up into Mr. Ross's presence, they pointed out the manner in which they were employed on Sunday night; they confessed that they were supplied with every necessary, and as far as his case went they were satisfied; they acknowledged then, when served with one bunch of plantains, they got a guilder's worth of rice, but that the quality was not good, or they got corn; that they never had complained to him, or given him reason to know they were wrought on Sunday evening, or that their plantains were withheld. Mr. Ross expressed to the manager his entire dissatisfaction of the women having been flogged prematurely, and at the negroes being employed on Sunday night; and promised the negroes they should have redress in as far as their complaints were grounded, but expressed his disapprobation of their not having sought redress from him as the attorney of the estate, instead of seeking it from the Fiscal; and this conduct having been also pointed out by the Fiscal as a want of proper respect to their master, who from their own account plentifully supplied their wants, they seemed to regret the measure they had adopted.

Berbice, September 8th, 1823.

Complaint of the negro *David*, belonging to Mrs. Sanders:—That he is too much punished with the whip and tamarind rods; that he is employed to work in the kitchen, garden, and also as cook; that he is swollen; the soles of his feet flogged with tamarind rods; that his mistress says he is lazy, which is the cause of his being flogged; he was flogged with the whip lately; he has a beating at his heart, the cause of his illness; his posteriors show that he has been lately punished, not to any excess, but the punishment much neglected; soles of his feet examined, show no marks of punishment; the negro appears to be in a dropsy, and as such is treated by the doctor who has charge of the barracks.

Mr. Sanders:—Says, that the negro is a very bad character; that he was purchased from Mr. Keersch for *f.* 200; that little or no work is done by him, for on the least harsh word he runs away; he is a constant runaway. My mother will not allow him to be flogged, because he bears the marks of former punishment so very evidently; he did receive a slight punishment for running away; this punishment was inflicted by two small boys with tamarind rods, and it was to endeavour to shame him. My brother brought him to town five days ago to cook, and why he has run away I do not know; he was flogged by said boys under his feet with tamarind rods on account of his back being cut up.

September 9th, 1823.

Complaint of *Dinderdog*, belonging to plantation Schepmoed:—I am captain of the punt; I steer the coriall when my master goes out. We came to town on Sunday; on our return the coriall yawed about a little; my master got vexed. As soon as we got home, master, Mr. Westrick, ordered me in the stocks; I was kept there till Monday morning. He directed the head driver to flog me; I begged him to pardon me, as I was not aware I had committed any crime; he pushed me from off the gallery, and I fell on some wood; I got up and ran away; they, the driver and some others, followed me, but I escaped.

September 10th, 1823.

Complaint of the negroes *Edward* and *Frederick*, from Dankbaarheid:—We are planting canes; we have ten beds; I did finish my task; the manager put us in the stocks, and the next morning we were punished. Edward had finished his task all to one row; Frederick the whole of his, and was nevertheless punished. I asked why I was flogged; the manager said we could run away in the bush, or go to complain, it was all one to him. We have plenty of provisions, plantains, fish, rum, clothing; but we have no time to cook our victuals, and we have no mind to eat. Their posteriors examined: Edward appears to have had three or four stripes; none perceptible on Frederick.

September 18th, 1823.

Reply of *Mr. Westrick* to the complaint of *Dinderdog*:—I employed *Dinderdog* to steer the coriall; he crossed the river several times without having occasion to do so; he appeared to me intoxicated. I spoke to him of his improper conduct and being drunk, he began to laugh, and called out to my house-boy, saying, "You had better come and steer;" Dr. Eenhuys was present. We left Bestindigheid at half-past five o'clock, with

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the tide in our favour, and we got home at half-past nine o'clock, from his bad steering. I called at Herstelling, but did not stop longer than five minutes. When I got home I ordered my head driver, who came to the water-side to light me up, to put Dinderdog in the stocks. He came in the house, and inquired why I was going to lock him up; I gave him a push, and he was so much intoxicated that he fell in the passage where he was standing, but not out of the gallery, as he stated; he got up and escaped; he was not confined in the stocks at all, nor was he seen next morning by me, although I understand he slept in the house that night.

September 19th, 1823.

Complaint of *Jack*, belonging to plantation Lochaber:—States, that last Thursday, as soon as day was clear, the driver called him to carry dry magass to the fireman; I went to do so, and continued till night. I was then told to carry canes to the mill; driver came up and began to flog me with his whip; I caught hold of the whip, and said, "Don't whip me so; if I am to be flogged lay me down." We had a scuffle; the driver tied me, and said he would take me to the manager; we went to the door, manager was not at home. The driver took me to the stocks, where I was confined till morning; next morning the manager came. I thought he would have inquired into the business; instead of that he had me lain down, and gave me fifteen lashes. He told me to go to the field; I said, if I had been flogged for any fault I would be satisfied, but as I had not stolen or ran away, I would go to complain. I ran away and came to town.—Why did you not complain to your master? If we go to master to complain, he hears the manager, and we never get good satisfaction.

Berbice, 26th September 1823.

Complaint of *John*, belonging to Mr. Forbes's task-gang:—States, I am liner; Mr. Forbes gave me a woman to assist me to line; I told him a woman would not do, she could not go through the bush: he said she must do; I was lain down and flogged. Next day he refused to give me a man; I was flogged next day again. The third day it was the same story. Driver was directed to lock me up in the stocks; I heard of it, and made my escape to complain. We are working at Mr. Katz's.

September 26th.

Complaint of *Jonathan*, belonging to plantation Lochaber:—States, I am fireman to the engine; I am the only one; I had coals, which are consumed. Manager, Mr. Tush, told the negroes to cut green wood. I told him I wanted dry, as the green wood would not burn: it was so green that instead of making good fire it would not catch. I was flogged and sent to make fire again; the same thing occurred; I was flogged again. I am obliged to attend the fire day and night, and have no time to rest.

September 30th, 1823.

Reply of *Mr. Tush*, manager of plantation Lochaber, on the complaints of *Jack* and *Jonathan*, of said estate:—I was from home on the 17th or 18th; on my return the overseer reported to me that *Jack* had been confined by his order in the stocks, for fighting with the driver about the works; a very short time previous to this he had attempted the same thing with the head driver in the field: I found the account I received of this affair was correct, I therefore ordered him the next morning to be flogged, and he received eighteen lashes. The negro *Jack* had that day been employed with the mill-gang, bringing canes and carrying magass; this work is generally done at six o'clock; they wash down the engine and go home.

Jonathan is one of the firemen of the engine; there are *William* and *Paul* also firemen for the engine; one of these men assists complainant, throughout the day, bringing wood and splitting it; they also take their turn of a morning at the gang aback of the engine. We were out of coals; since supplied; some of the wood is green, but I could not possibly have directed green wood to be cut: he was flogged for not keeping up steam to the engine, when he might have done so; he was flogged a second time for the same fault; both floggings did not exceed twenty-five lashes.

October 9th.

Examination of *Will*, belonging to *M'Lear*, of Demarara, in Mr. Forbes's task-gang:—I complain of being always at work; we have too much work; I work with the shovel, digging drains; each man has five chains. The first day we clear stumps, next to dig the drain; if it is not done we are flogged; no half row to be left, if so the driver gets flogged also.

October 15th.

Mr. Forbes, manager of a task-gang, being heard on the complaint of *John*, states, That they came from the West Coast about the 4th October; that they went to work at *Overwinning*; that *John* is a liner; that all he has done from that day to the day he came to complain (with the exception of two days when he was at *Vryheid*) was to line twenty-eight drains; that he had a boy and a woman, and frequently two women; he had run some of the drains wrong: I had threatened to flog him if he did not get the field finished, and he ran away. The land he had to line was bush land, aback of the *Caracha*; the bush was cut down all to a small corner; it was very light bush.

With respect to the complaint of *Will*, states, That they were digging drains; the facade 103 roods, deducting 7 roods for side-line and canal; six men are put to clear this facade, and six men to dig the drain: this was the task, but it was not finished by several, amongst others by complainant; the facade is divided into two, consequently three men clear forty-eight roods, and next day they are to dig it. I have not flogged this man.

October 20th, 1823.

Complaint of the negress *Zebith*, the property of J. F. Schwartz:—Mr. Schwartz bought me at Vendue from Betsy Smithson. One day master went to Itheca; Mr. Wolff's children were at master's; a girl came to mind these children; this girl struck my child; I heard it cry, and inquired who had done it; this girl said it was she; I told her if she did it again I would strike her; she went up to Schwartz's wife, Amimba, who came down, took my child by one hand and made this girl flog the child before me with her hand; I said I would beat the girl; I did strike her; mistress beat me with a stick; I held the stick and begged her not to do so, as I had not offended her. When Mr. Schwartz came home, Amimba told him her story; he never inquired into mine, but put me both feet in the stocks; I was kept there for four days; he then sent me up to Noord Holland, (Mr. Williams's); I got sick after being there five months; he brought me home, saying I was sick; Schwartz sent for Dr. Thuyrer, who said, I was not sick; master locked me up again, not in the stocks, but in the room where the stocks are, for five weeks, during which time I had no other food than dry barley and salt and water; this was because Mr. Williams brought me down sick, and the doctor saying I was not; I was then sent to Dr. Kootje's plantation; I went there; I told the manager I could not work in the field; he said I must. The doctor came there, and on returning told Mr. Schwartz I could not do the task; the next time the doctor came, he said master said every day I did not finish my task I was to be flogged and locked up in the stocks at night. One day I came out of the field and told the manager I was sick; he put me in the stocks till the morning and then gave me four lashes; three or four days after I told him I had pain in the stomach and inward fever; he would not believe me. I was again put one foot in the stocks at night; next morning I was laid down, and received a severe flogging with the cart-whip; this was on a Thursday morning; the stripes were so many I could not reckon them. I was locked up after the flogging, and got nothing to eat that day; next morning, Friday, I was sent to my master. As soon as I got to him on the Saturday morning, he put both my feet in the stocks all Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday at dusk he sent me six plantains and some water; on Monday I was taken out, and went to mistress's, who sent to call me. I was put to clean the parson's house; his wife took the horsewhip and gave me two cuts for no fault I had committed; my master was sitting down in the hall, but took no notice; this flogging with the whip has occurred within the last ten or fourteen days. After cleaning the church, about evening he called a man, whose name I do not know, and ordered me to be locked up in the stocks, and to give me four plantains and a little water. I made my escape from the man, and came to complain. I have a young child; when I was sent to Mr. Williams's my child was taken from me, and sent to Itheca. I heard it had the yaws, but since my return I understand it is well. I have not been allowed to see my child (which is the only one) for nine months; this is by way of punishment, and I consider it a very hard one. The child could not speak when it was separated from me.

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October 20th.

Complaint of *Conraad*, belonging to Mr. Delinurt:—I am sickly, and complained to my master of it, but he will not allow it to be the case. I must mind cows, hogs, and work in the garden; my feet are very bad, and for the least offence I am flogged with carrarras. I am also put to pick coffee, and for this also I am flogged. The doctor (Wulff) puts my master up to flog me more than he otherwise would do; he directs me to dress my sore with lint from an old caple.

October 20th.

Complaint of the negro _____, belonging to Dr. Duggin:—States, that he is ostler, and has to take care of sheep and goats; that some days ago his master came from town and drove a little pony; he (complainant) observed it was rubbed; that same afternoon he had a call; I observed the pony was galled, as the harness was too big; he directed me to saddle it, and I did so; I girted it as well as I could, and begged him to observe the same, in the mean time telling him that the saddle would slip and make the gall worse; he attended the call. When he came home, it proved as I had said; he saw it, and got into a terrible passion; began to thump, knock down, and beat me severely with my crutch. If any one of the sheep or goats die, I am flogged and beaten severely; do what I will the doctor is not satisfied. He threatens to shoot me with a pistol. I have been locked up every night for four months. When you came to the doctor's the other day I was in the stocks, having my backside cut. White people purchase negroes to work; but no white man is to kick and thump a poor negro with one leg. If I lose any of the sheep or goats, or neglect any of the horses, and get flogged, I am aware I deserve it.

Mr. J. F. Schwartz, being heard on the complaint of *Zebith*, states, That she is very able, being young and strong, to do her work; but that from a disposition of idleness and unwillingness, she every now and then complains of being ill; that she has been examined, when complaining of this pretended illness, by Drs. Theyur and Broer, who have both declared it a mere pretence; he therefore has directed the manager of Dr. Broer, where she was hired, to flog her when she pretended sickness; this has been done lately at his request, from the firm impression that he has it in his power to direct such punishment on his refractory slaves as the laws of the colony sanction.

With respect to the charge of confining her for five weeks, he states, That she was locked up in a room; she said she was sick; the doctor said not; I therefore directed she should

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be locked up in the room; she had barley as good wholesome food; sometimes salt fish was boiled in it; I think she ought to have complained of this treatment at the time, and not now, as it is some time ago. With regard to the child, I have to state, that unless I had taken the care of the child I have done, it would have been dead long since, as she is so dirty and ill inclined that she will not bestow common attention on her person, far less on her child; she has never asked me to see the child; and considers her mode of treating the child so improper, that since her return to me the 11th of this month, I never thought of sending for it. I am not aware of any thing to prevent her having gone to see the child when she was at Dr. Broer's, if she had requested it.

October 21st, 1823.

Complaint of the negroes *Romeo, Sandy, Sam, Brazil, Hannah* and *Rose*, belonging to plantation Profit on the West Coast.

Romeo, speaking for the others, states, That Hutchinson, the manager, is too cross; that he will not give task-work, but works them by the day to that degree that they have no time to get their breakfast; he comes after 11 o'clock in the field, and says we do not work enough; the driver must give us twenty-five lashes every day. If we are flogged we go to the burgher officer to complain; he gives us a letter to the manager; but he says I want no letter, and the complainant is laid down and flogged; two of the negroes have letters they received from the burgher officer, which were given them by the manager after being flogged. We have no attorney, or at least we hear of none, and we have not seen one for five months; there is no fish, no salt on the estate; we have not had clothes, this makes the third year, nor have we pipes or tobacco; we make plenty of rum, but never get a glass of it; if we feel our skin hurt us, and complain of sickness, we are flogged; he then mixes salts, jalap and calomel together, which is given to drink. *Rose* went to say she was sick; she was flogged with the whip, and is yet cut. The manager says we are making bargain; we do not know what he means; he makes us think upon what we don't want. *Sandy* shows some stripes upon his posteriors; he received them in the field from the driver by order of the overseer; he says it is for work; we make a bargain not to work. Having made our complaint to the burgher officer, who never came to the estate, but gave us letters which were not attended to, and not knowing that we have any attorney or proprietor, we come to the Fiscal to complain. We do not wish to run away in the bush, but we look for help. The manager came in the field the other day after dinner; as soon as he came into the field, he laid the driver down and flogged him; next *Sandy*, and then me; I asked what I had done; but four negroes were made to hold me, and I was flogged. I went to Mr. Munro to complain; he told me the manager could not have flogged me for nothing; I suppose you gave him sauce. He went next morning to the manager, who said I had been saucy. I was locked up in the stocks day and night; I think I was confined two weeks; manager said I should stop there till Christmas, because I went to complain to Munro; I asked leave to go out to ease myself, and made my escape; the stocks are now full of people. *Hannah* has a severe cold, and complains of pain in the stomach; she says she is locked up in the stocks; the manager says if she dies he does not lose his money; the negroes went to complain to the Fiscal, and he came on the estate, and what did he do? *Rose* said she had a pain in her side, and begged for a blister; manager said he would give her a blister on her back-side; she was laid down and flogged; the marks still visible.

October 22d.

The two negroes, *Fairbairn* and *Toney*, belonging to plantation Profit state, we come to know if we belong to any one and to whom. Mr. George Munro came and looked over the place, we were very well satisfied, but he nor no one in his behalf has ever come to look at it since, and therefore we are entirely left to the mercy of the manager; we wish to beg for jackets and clothing, which we have not had but once since Mr. Gordon was the attorney. We do not come on account of laziness; we can do our work very well, but we must be fed like other negroes, which we are not, as we get neither fish nor tobacco; there is fish on the estate, but if we get it this Sunday, two or three pass before we receive it again. I was once sick. I have a girl named Charlotte, she went to the hospital; I went to complain to the manager, he said you are sick because your daughter is sick; when the doctor came the manager said I was not sick, the doctor is obliged to confirm. I was put in the stocks for fourteen days; there were three other negroes in the stocks; we begged to come out of the stocks; he said, wait till the doctor comes, he did come; after he had visited us we were sent to the field, and our work given; I said massa how can I do this; I begged last night to go to my work and you kept me till the doctor came, it is now near eleven o'clock, how can I do what the others have been doing; manager said I was saucy, called the driver, put me down, and flogged me. *Selvia* is with child, she went till time for her to be delivered; she had no place for her to be confined; three Sundays ago she came to my house and begged to remain there, I consented; she is not my wife. *Granny* went next morning and told him, he inquired where she was confined; she told him; manager said I pretended sickness because *Selvia* came to my house. I said no, I complained before. *Toney* went to say he was sick, he laid me down and flogged me; sent me to the field at eleven o'clock; I went again and said I was unable to work; I was put in the stocks; manager says the stocks is our physic. Confirms statement of the other negroes complaining to burgher officer.

Complaint of *Daphnis*, belonging to J. A. Delinert:—Messrs. Fecire and Hemes came to master's; he came with a camando; he told me I was to go with him; he never asked my master, nor did I; I was to carry baggage; when I returned master was vexed and wanted to flog me, but did not. We came to Maria Agness to weed coffee; Comaad came there, we had finished our beds; driver said go look for firewood. Comaad went and told his father I was under an orange tree; we went again to weed, Comaad came and said I had not done it good; I said wait till night, if it is not done good then you can speak; he said I will tell my father. At night we got rum; master inquired into it, he got vexed, and ordered the driver to flog me with a carracarra; I had more than seventy; I was flogged twice with the carracarra. I was locked in the stocks two nights; for twelve weeks I have had no rantzion.

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October 25th, 1823.

Complaint of *Apollo*, belonging to Sandvoort:—I was confined in the hospital, having a sore on my leg; I was there three months; I felt myself better; the manager being from home, I asked the overseer to let me go to my work; he neither replied yes or no. Next afternoon I went to work; next morning I was picking coffee; the overseer (a Frenchman), and an old man, sent the driver to tie me; the driver had no rope; overseer said, Call four men to hold him to be flogged; I did not know what I had done; I attended to my work; I asked why I was to be flogged for nothing; that I wished to go to my master, Mr. Cameron; if the manager was at home I would speak with him. I went to my master; he gave me a letter to take to the overseer; said, Give it, then go to work. When I got home and gave the letter, he opened it, but said he could not read it, being English; he would keep it till the manager came, and told the driver to lock me up in the stocks. I then made my escape, and came to the Fiscal to complain; I could not cross the creek without being taken, or I would have gone to my master. We are too much punished in the stocks; when our foe is brought, the manager or overseer comes and cuts off the greater part and throws it away, and only allows us a small portion of it; the rest is given either to fowls or hogs, which may happen to be at hand.

November 10th 1823.

Complaint of the negroes *Wallace*, *Swift*, and *Pompey*.

Wallace:—The manager came to the estate and found me a carpenter; there are several other carpenters; I am accused of being lazy, and I am one of the worst: he cannot bear to see me in his eyes. He sent me to work at Welgelegen; after finishing, Dr. Jifkins gave a ball, and all the carpenters were employed to do little jobs for this purpose: the manager accused me of standing up smoking, instead of working; he came with the driver, and said Jifkins had seen me standing up in work-house smoking, and he had also seen me. I declared I had not. He had me lain down and gave me fifty lashes; the lashes were counted by one of my masters; he then had me locked up in the stocks, both legs. Next morning Jifkins saw me in the stocks, and asked me how I came there. I said manager put me there. He asked me why? I said, you ought to know, you told manager I was doing nothing but smoking: he denied it, and opened the stocks to let me out to go to work: this has been some time ago. I was employed railing-in a piece of land for fowls: he directed me to make a door opposite the fowl-house; he came and found fault with the door; he beat me severely with a piece of mangrove, and had me flogged with another man who is ruptured: we were both locked up in the stocks. The door is there now and to be seen; it was not crooked. The manager is very severe; he never flogs, but the punishment is very cruel. We have been making three corialls; one is lost, the other is not corked. We were sent to cut crab-wood, to make a coriall with eight oars: I was put to saw boards; manager told me to sharpen the saws: after doing this I lined and put up the block; the saw had been lent out; when we began to saw I found it was spoiled; I was employed till ten o'clock before I could set the saw. He was out, and Sunday morning found fault. On Monday, at eleven o'clock, we finished the log; it made eight planks. As I was going to my house, manager told me to go and call Fox: I thought he was in the field, but meeting the driver he told me he was not. Manager directed a block was to be squared and lined for me to saw: after we turned out he said we were to finish it by night, or we should be flogged. We knew it could not be finished: he directed us to be locked up at night; we were not; the manager had gone out, and on coming home he inquired if the log was finished: the driver said, "No." He asked, "Were they put in the stocks?" Driver replied, "No." Manager said, "Never mind it is too late (it was after eight o'clock), to-morrow you and another driver come to flog them." We were under the house, viz. *Swift* and myself; and as we could not take the punishment for nothing, we came away that night to complain.

Swift corroborates the above; and adds, that whatever work he is put to he can do it, but the manager is too severe. For the least fault the negroes are locked up at eleven o'clock, and all night; and whenever flogged, which is always severe, he adds, "You may go and hang yourself," or "drown yourself," &c. or "live in the bush;" all this hurts me too much. Manager says, "If you go to complain to Melville or Kewley, they will only send you back, and you will get flogged." Some of the people came to complain to the attornies; in one instance Mr. Melville directed the complainants not to be flogged; he was, however, flogged; others also have complained, and have been flogged. The manager

says,

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says, "You are fools for going," and this makes us afraid; for if the attornies go, we are afraid to talk, because after going away we get severely punished.

Pempey, an invalid, says:—He is in the distil-house; and when the mill is at work I am put fireman to the clarifier. I have bad hands and feet; the manager never releases me; I often beg; he promises me, but never performs; if I importune him, I get flogged, and he then says, "To-morrow I will give you more." My arm is swollen; if I was to go to him to complain, he would say I am lazy. I am a diseased negro, and am continually flogged. I begin to make fire from twelve o'clock at night till eight, and I am continually able to be kept to it. I have now the marks of a late flogging.

November 11th.

Dr. Duggin being examined on the complaint of his negro the 20th of October last past, states:—That complainant has charge of the horses; that one of them having a sore, he poulticed it, and gave him directions to renew the same twice a day; that he went several times into the stable, and finding the interior of the poultice appear as if attended to, he did not examine the sore, but merely satisfied himself by inquiry; about a week afterwards he did direct the bandage to be taken off, and to his very great surprise he found the poultice as dry as a brick, and the sore full of worms, a plain and convincing proof he had never attended to it; he had him locked up in the stocks, which was about the time the Fiscal stopped at his house; that another of his horses being much neglected, and the other offence having been only punished by confinement, he threatened to flog him next morning, after putting him in the stocks; complainant, however, broke out, and made his escape; that some time ago he, complainant, attended a flock of sheep; on occasion of his, the doctor's, children going to England, himself and family came to town for a week; on their return twenty-five of the sheep and some of the best wethers of the flock were missing; denies positively ever ill-treating or abusing the negro, as stated by him, particularly kicking or beating him with his crutch, a mode of punishment never attempted by him; declares complainant to be so bad a character, and a dealer in obeah, that all his negroes have jointly requested he may not be allowed to return home.

November 17th.

Complaint of *Felice, Elizabeth, Constance, Becky, Susanna, Diana, Lucy, Maria, Ziemine* and *Aurora*, belonging to plantation De Resolutie.

Felice, speaking for the rest, states:—That the governor, our master, when he purchased us, gave us a tax, one hundred trees to be weeded and cleansed; with this we were satisfied; the manager, however, says this is no work, we shall not have task-work; he gives each negro a row of three trees; if we do not finish the work given us, we are made to do it on Sunday; *Ziemine, Maria* and others wrought in the field on Sunday; the manager had the driver locked up in the stocks.

Ziemine says:—That she is content and happy when her master comes, who talks and laughs with me; but as soon as he goes off the estate, we are unhappy. We have no time to eat, none to cook; we have no eleven o'clock; we are not wrought by task. Our master gave us spoons; the manager is dissatisfied with this; he says the governor is too good, he minds us as if we were children; he says he cannot flog us, because that can be seen, but he will punish us with work. If any of the women be pregnant, no attention is paid to them; they are wrought as hard as the others; for that reason there are no children; manager says he does not come to mind children. The rows given us have each sixty trees; the bell is rung, but we cannot leave the field, because if the work given us be not finished, we are punished; the punishment is, we are to finish our work on Sunday. We all have wrought on Sunday; not one Sunday, but every one that any field work is left undone.

Complaint of *Jim*, belonging to F. Klaasu:—I do not want to go to the estate of my master. Last Christmas he sent me with a horse to Lust tot Rust; when I came back I found my mattees dancing; I did the same; master gave me one hundred lashes. If I do not do my work in the field, I am locked up in the stocks, and flogged; if he sends me out and I do not return immediately, I am flogged and locked up. I do not want to belong to him; he must sell me. If I go back, he will punish me; and if he does, I will hang myself. I don't want to go in the bush; I am not lazy; but he must sell me. In the field he gives me a bed to weed, and clean coffee; it is a large bed, two rows of coffee-trees; if not finished, all hands get flogged. I get no jacket nor tools.

Master says, he gives one hundred trees a day, which he does; he finished his task, and I am satisfied. Last Christmas I sent him with a horse: he was absent the holidays; the Monday following I give the negroes; but as he was absent during the holidays, I said he should weed Mr. Abbensett's grave; he did not work longer than nine or eleven o'clock; it was not a holiday. Last Saturday eight days I sent him and another negro to Brumont, to go to town with the ebb and return with the flood; I had no other boat to send for plantains. On Monday morning *Berbice*, the negro who went with complainant to town, returned, but not *Jim*; and I have not seen him from that day till this.

Berbice says:—That he went with *Jim* to town; that they returned, and on Monday morning went for plantains; that they brought the plantains, when *Jim* said he wanted to ease himself; he left me for that purpose, but I saw him no more.

— (6.) —

FISCAL'S OFFICE.

EXAMINATION of a Complaint preferred by the negroes *Quashy, Sharp, Dick, Thomas* and *Spencer*, against *Dr. Munro*, their owner.

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Quashy states, That he works in the boiling-house; they begin to work at 11 or 12 o'clock at night, and continue until 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening; that he has suffered this for many years, but at present he cannot suffer it any longer. This caused him and the rest of his companions to come and declare before his Honor the Fiscal the way they are treated and clothed by their owner. The whole of the above negroes declare, that before *Dr. Munro* went home, four years ago, he gave them a round jacket for their clothing; and since that time until to-day they never received any thing else. They state, that with the hard work in which they are employed on the plantation they only get for their allowance a small bunch of plantains for a week, (a bunch produced by the negroes containing thirty-seven or thirty-eight small plantains); they also state, since they belonged to *Dr. Munro* they never have received any salt fish, or salt to eat with their plantains. When *Dr. Munro* went home he left *Mr. M'Lean* as attorney for the estate, and *Mr. M'Lean* bought some salt fish, and gave them about 2 lbs. each man for fourteen days. As soon as *Dr. Munro* returned from England he found fault with *Mr. M'Lean* for giving the negroes salt fish, which he never had done, and dismissed him from his employment; and since the return of *Dr. Munro* they have never received any salt fish. They all waited upon *Mr. Murray*, overseer of the estate, who advised them to come to town and make their complaint to his Honor the Fiscal for redress. They say, one day the whole gang went to *Dr. Munro*, and begged him to give them something to eat; he answered them, "I cannot help you, it is your own fault if you have no plantains." The whole of the negroes of the estate are ready to prove this.

Berbice, 30th May 1822.

After hearing the above complaint, the Acting Fiscal, accompanied by the burgher officer, *T. M. H. Duggin*, proceeded to plantation *Foulis*, the estate alluded to, about twenty-five miles from *New Amsterdam*, belonging to *Mr. William Munro*, the owner of the complainants; and having questioned the owner and many of the principal negroes on the property as to the facts complained of, and having ascertained that they were in a great measure groundless, but that some irregularities were certainly chargeable against the overseers for not personally attending to see the allowance dealt out to the gang at a proper time and in a proper manner, they were accordingly admonished, and *Mr. Munro* recommended to dismiss them from his employ if they were not more attentive to their duty in future. Two of the complainants, who, it was proved, were guilty of insolence and disobedience of orders, were punished in presence of the whole gang, who were informed that any real grievance they had to complain of would always be attended to, but that they would be severely punished whenever their conduct was proved to be refractory and disorderly. A copy of the ordinance respecting the clothing and feeding of negroes was then handed to *Mr. Munro*, who was informed that penalties would be rigidly enforced if the enactments were not strictly complied with.

Berbice, 3d June 1822.

Examination of the negro *Bristol*, the property of plantation *New Forest*, belonging to *Mr. Smithson* of *Canjé River*.

Bristol states, That he is a sickly negro, and not able to do hard work; upon which account the manager of the estate put him as a watchman over the fresh water, in which situation he remained for a year, and the manager never found fault with him. One day the manager was passing where *Bristol* was watching the water; he told *Bristol* he must go home, and that he should get a good flogging. *Bristol* answered him, "For what do you want to flog me? I have done nothing wrong;" and he did not go home at all: this happened upon a Friday. I went home on Sunday morning to get my allowance; the manager told me, "So, boy, you did not come in on Friday to get flogged, but you come to-day for your rations;" he told the driver I should not get any allowance. I went again to watch the water, and on Monday morning I went to the manager for my allowance; he called the driver, and flogged me; he said, "I don't know what kind of work you do that you come here to claim your allowance;" and kept me without allowance for three weeks. After I found the manager did not wish to give me allowance, I went to *Mr. John Cameron* to complain. *Mr. Cameron* gave me a pass, and told me to go home, and as soon as he came there he would send for me, and inquire into my complaint. I went home, and gave the paper *Mr. Cameron* gave me to the manager; he read it and laughed, and said, "Boy, the pass is very good indeed; go and tell the driver to look for a good whip, and come here and flog you." So I did, but the driver did not come at the moment, and the manager asked me if I had been for the driver; I told him, yes; then the manager told me to stop at his door. As soon as I saw the manager go away, I made my escape to town, for the purpose of making this complaint to his Honor the Fiscal for redress.

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The manager and head driver of the estate, New Forest, to which Bristol belonged, being summoned to attend at the Fiscal's office, to answer the above complaint, and the attorney's (Mr. J. Cameron's) statement of all the circumstances having been also obtained; it appeared that Bristol; an elderly and sickly man, had no other employment on the estate but that of watchman, and that the manager, in going round the estate on the morning alluded to by the complainant, found he had neglected the light duty assigned him the day before; and therefore threatened to flog him; in consequence of which threat he absconded for two days; but on Sunday morning, when the gang were receiving their allowance, he made his appearance, and demanded his, on which the manager directed the driver to send him away; he, however, returned on Monday morning, when the manager ordered the driver to give him six stripes, and put him in the stocks; for which he came to the Fiscal to complain.—He was ordered back to the estate, and warned to be more attentive in future to his duty; and the manager was directed to give him his allowance, and not to punish him again for this conduct.

Berbice, 9th June 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro woman *Henderina*, belonging to L. C. Abensetts.

Henderina states, That she is a sickly woman; she went to the overseer of plantation Providence (where she is working) to report herself sick and unable to go to the field; the overseer gave her a dose of salts and a vomit, which operated, and she continued to vomit for some hours in the morning, and felt herself very weak in consequence of so much purging. At one o'clock in the afternoon the overseer came to her and told her she must go into the field to work, the physic still purging her, and she unable to do any work. In consequence she came to town, and went to complain to her master (L. C. Abensetts); when she came to him, he told her to go away; "I have nothing to do with you; I have hired you to Mr. Henery, and you must work for him." That she went away, and went to Mama Lucy's house, and remained there three days until she got a little better, when she made up her mind to go back to the plantation on Monday morning; but this morning (Sunday) Mr. Abensetts came into Mama Lucy's yard and saw her there; he told her to go back; she said she was sick, but would go to-morrow morning; but her master told her she must go to-day, or else he would send for a dienaar to carry her to the estate; she said, before I go sick as I am I will go to the Fiscal; she said she wished to be sold, and have a master at once, and not to be sent to-day one side and to-morrow another side. She had been once before to lodge the same complaint to his Honor M. S. Bennett, then Fiscal.

On examining into the complaint it was found to be groundless. The woman *Henderina* had been always accustomed to reside in town, and she did not like the idea of being removed from thence to plantation Providence, although that estate is not more than two miles distant from town; she was therefore reprimanded for her conduct, and sent back to the plantation.

Berbice, 11th June 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negroes *Cesar, Duncan, Hero, Bacchus, Watt, Hector, Jeffery, Welcome* and *Smith*, belonging to plantation New Forest, against the Manager of said estate.

Cesar states, That he is a good strong negro, and is able to do any kind of work which is given to him; but as the manager of the estate gives him a task which he is unable to finish any day, although he works at his breakfast time, he is therefore obliged to stay in the field from morning till late in the evening. Those negroes who are able to finish their task are ordered to go home, and those who are not able to finish are flogged before they go home. He states, that he endeavours his best to finish his task before time; but when his work is finished, the manager orders him to go and help those who have not done their task; and if he should refuse to do so, he would be flogged: he says, that the manager told him this is the attorney's order, that strong men must help the weak ones. He states, that yesterday the big punt, belonging to the estate, came to town, and when she returned she brought three puncheons of coals, two kegs of nails, and two kegs of paint. The manager told the driver to call the negroes for the purpose of hauling up the punt: when the driver called the first time, *Cesar* says he did not hear, and of course did not answer: the driver came among the negro-houses and saw him, and told him the manager called him to help to haul up the punt; he went directly, but the water being low, we could not get the punt up. We took away the two kegs of nails and two kegs of paint, and brought them to the manager's house. After that was done, the manger told me and four more we must go in the stocks; three of us went in the stocks; but I and *Duncan* did not go in, because we had worked all day long in the field, and I was so hungry that I nearly fell down; and I said to myself, before I will go in the stocks I shall go to the Fiscal.—The negroes *Duncan, Bacchus, Hero, Watt, Hector, Jeffery, Smith* and *Welcome*, state the same as *Cesar*; and they call upon the whole gang of the plantation to prove the way they are treated by their manager; and they state the whole gang were ready to come to town to his Honor the Fiscal to make their complaint and seek redress.

The day after hearing this complaint, the Acting Fiscal, accompanied by the burgher officer, *William Fraser*, proceeded to plantation New Forest; and after a minute examination

of the manager, overseer and a number of the gang, as to the facts complained of, found the complaint entirely groundless; and that the complainants, having in the first instance been guilty of disobedience of orders, made the complaint merely to secure themselves from punishment. The ringleaders were therefore flogged in presence of the whole gang; who were all reprimanded for their disorderly behaviour.

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Berbice, 11th June 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negress *Princess* against *Robert Semple*, her owner.

Princess states:—That this morning soon, she saw a woman of the name of Cuba sitting down asleep; she said to her, "What was you doing last night that you did not sleep?" At the same time Mr. Semple came out of his bed-room, and asked me what I said; I told him, "I don't speak with you, I speak with Cuba." Then my master said, "You always have something to say; better you shut your mouth." I answered him again, "Master, I don't speak with you, I speak with Cuba;" and then I came down stairs, and went into the kitchen. Master followed me into the kitchen, and told me I had better go to my work than meddle my tongue; I answered him, "I am doing my work, and you come to trouble me; I was not speaking to you." Then he went to the store and took a horse-whip, and began to flog me. I asked him for what he flogged me? he said, "For badness." I told him, "So long as you flog me for nothing, I shall go to the Fiscal," and I came away.

Sir,

New Amsterdam, Berbice, 12th June 1822.

With regard to the complaint preferred against me by the negro woman *Princess*, I have merely to say, that I charged her of insolence; of which she was guilty, as is apparent by her own statement. To which I have only to add, that it was not when she asked Cuba if she was sick that I spoke to her, but subsequently, on her making some observations respecting my coming out of my bed-room; that when I finished dressing and went down stairs, I found her in the kitchen haranguing her mother, who pushed her out of the kitchen, and desired her to hold her tongue; for doing which she participated in her abuse. I then repeatedly warned her, that unless she was silent and went to her work, I would bring a horse-whip to her; this had no other effect than to make her louder, and to induce her to tell me to bring the horse-whip, which she did, I assure you, several times before I complied with her request; this being the first time, during more than four years that I have owned her, that I have had recourse to such measures.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,
(signed) *Robt. Semple.*

To his Honor the Fiscal.

The woman *Princess* was reprimanded for making this unnecessary complaint; and informed, that if her master complained of her conduct again, she would be punished.

Berbice, 18th June 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Trim*, the property of plantation *Friends*, whereof Mr. Forsyth is manager.

Trim states:—That some time ago the manager ordered him to go and make fire under the engine, about twelve o'clock at night; as there was no fire-wood close to the fire-place; he went to fetch some wood; but as rain was falling, the wood was all wet, and the fire could not catch. At the same time the engine was working; but the fire became too slack, and not being sufficient for the engine, it stopped. As soon as the manager saw the engine stop, he came to me and asked what was the reason the engine stopped? I answered him, the wood was wet, and could not burn good. At that answer the manager called the driver, and put me down and flogged me; and the manager yesterday would have flogged me again, if I had not made my escape to come to complain and ask redress.

In this case it was proved that the steam-engine on plantation *Friends* was actually stopped for a considerable time in consequence of the inattention of the negro *Trim*, who was ordered to attend to the fire under the boiler, and supply it with fuel; and that his story of the wood being wet was no excuse. The manager ordered the driver to give him therefore a dozen of lashes, and to tell him he would be punished more severely if he did not attend to his work better in future.

Trim was reprimanded for making this unfounded complaint, and told that he deserved the punishment he had received; and that if he was ever guilty of similar neglect of duty, he would be severely punished by the Fiscal.

Berbice, 22d June 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Johannes*, the property of plantation *Dankbarheid*, whereof Mr. Ross is manager.

Johannes states:—That he is a short-breathing man, and that he cannot stay close to the fire. He states, that some time ago the manager put him to make fire for the engine; that he cannot suffer fire, and cannot make good fire. The manager said to him, "I believe you do not wish to make fire," or, "You do it on purpose;" for which he flogged me three times in one day, and ordered me into the stocks the whole of the holidays. As soon as the holidays were over he released me, and sent me to work in the field. Five days after, the manager put me again to make fire for the engine; I told him I was not able to make
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any fire; but the manager said again, "You must do it, or else I shall have you flogged." I told him I could not stand over the fire; then the manager called the driver, and flogged me again; that passed almost every day. Yesterday (Friday) I was flogged twice; and when the driver was called to flog me the third time, I made my escape, and came to town to complain for redress. He states, he will do any other work upon the estate, except making the fire for the engine.

On examination into this complaint, it appeared from the evidence of the attorney and the manager that the complainant was a very lazy, idle negro, and that he had been tried at various kinds of work, and at last put to make fire, as most suitable for him; that on account of neglect of duty, he had been slightly punished in two or three instances, but never to the extent complained of; and that he had the choice of working in the field, if he preferred it.

On inspection, Johannes had no marks upon him to prove that he had been recently punished, as stated by him; he was therefore ordered back to the estate, and the manager was directed to put him to work in the field with the women-gang, as it appeared he had a slight complaint in his chest, which at times affected his breathing.

Berbice, 23d June 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negress *Jenny*, the property of plantation Litchfield, whereof Mr. Vass is manager.

Jenny states:—That she is a sickly woman, and unable to do any work at present along with the rest of the gang; she has had a pain in her breast for near two or three months, which makes her weaker daily; she told the manager several times about it, and begged for medical assistance, but in vain; for the manager told her she made sham to avoid work. After some time the doctor was sent for to see her, and ordered some medicine for her, which she never received; the only thing which she got was a warm bath and a dose of calomel and jalap. The next morning the manager ordered her to go to her work; so feeling herself too weak to do any work, she came away to complain.

The medical practitioner for plantation Litchfield, and the manager, both declared the woman *Jenny* had every appearance of being in good health; and the manager and overseer both stated, that she never would do work of any kind on the estate. The morning she came to the Fiscal's office to lodge her complaint, she had walked eighteen miles; Litchfield being that distance from town: and although, by her own statement, she was at that time too weak to do any work, she did not appear to be at all fatigued by the journey. She was severely reprimanded by the Acting Fiscal, and sent back to the estate, and the medical practitioner was requested to make inquiry about her whenever he visited the plantation.

Berbice, 28th June 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Welcome*, belonging to plantation Vryburg, whereof Mr. Saul is manager.

Welcome states:—That some time last week the manager called him to his door, and asked him what was the matter with him, that he spoke so much for the last two or three days; and that some of the negroes told him (the manager) I was always speaking about him. I answered the manager that I never said anything bad about him. The manager said the negroes had told him I was a bad man. "Well master, if the driver don't like me, I cannot help it." The manager said, "Well, hold your tongue, Sir." I told him I never saw an estate so bad as this. Then the manager called two drivers. I told the manager these two drivers always gave me double the work I am able to do; then the manager ordered me to be put in the stocks (both legs), and said, "Go, go; to-morrow I shall fiscal your bottom; you shall not spoil your master's estate." Then I was put in the stocks on Monday, and the next day I was taken out and flogged by two drivers; I received 104 lashes, and then put in the stocks again with one foot in. I told the house-boy to beg the manager to let me out for five minutes to go and wash my bottom, but I was refused. There I was kept four days and four nights, with an allowance of three wasted plantains and a bottle of water per day. My wife came to me to bring me some food, but she was refused permission to give it to me. During the four days I was in the stocks, I was not allowed to go to the privy-house. When the manager came to take me out of the stocks, he told me he was very sorry to have flogged me in that kind of way. "I have observed since I came here as manager, that you do your work very well, and I am sorry to have punished you." And then I was released out of the stocks, and sent to the hospital to cure myself.

After a thorough investigation of this complaint, which, if the facts stated by the complainant had been true, would have been a very serious one for the manager, it appeared that *Welcome* was a riotous insubordinate character, and was always the head man when any thing wrong was going on on the estate; that in the present instance the manager was informed *Welcome* was endeavouring to persuade the other negroes that they had too much work given to them; and that on receiving this information he called *Welcome*, and endeavoured to reason with him on the impropriety of his conduct, but that *Welcome*, instead of attending to him, became very insolent: on which he ordered him to be confined

fined in the stocks till the next morning, when, in presence of the overseer, he received 39 lashes.—This was approved of by the Acting Fiscal, the complaint dismissed, and Welcome severely reprimanded for his misconduct.

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Berbice, 2d July 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negress *Marietje*, the property of Juno Frauendorff.

Marietje states:—That on Saturday the 29th June all the women belonging to the estate were ordered to go and weed grass about the negro-houses in the afternoon; they all went to work in the negro-grounds according to custom in the evening. As they came home she found her house broke by a hog; she went to her master for some nails, which she got. As she was mending her house her husband came home to see her (a negro belonging to Mr. Jansen), and remained there until the morning. Now some of the negroes went and told her mistress that a white man slept in her house on Saturday night; for which her mistress, without asking if it was so or not, ordered her to be put in the stocks on Sunday evening; and on Monday morning she was taken out, and flogged. She came to complain to know what was the reason she was put in the stocks and flogged, for her mistress never told her; she only learnt she was flogged because she did sleep with a white man; and she can call her own husband as a witness that he did sleep with her on Saturday night, and no one else. She states, that Juno Frauendorff is her mistress, and Thomas Jansen is her mistress's husband. That after she was flogged, she went to her mistress and told her, "Thank you, mistress." Thomas Jansen came to her and said, "You must say, thank you, master, also;" which she refused to say. Thomas Jansen told me, "I shall put a chain on you, and make you work with it;" upon which threat I made my escape, and came to town to the Fiscal for redress.

On examination, it was proved that the woman *Marietje* had been punished by order of her mistress without any sufficient cause; her mistress was therefore fined f. 300; and Thomas Jansen was informed, that if he attempted to put a chain on *Marietje*, or to punish her in any other way, he would be prosecuted, as it appeared in evidence that he was the cause of her mistress punishing her in the first instance.

Berbice, 5th July 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negroes *Mourant, Joseph, Secondo, Frank, Mackay, Fanny, Susan, Louisa, Daly, Cuba, Coffy, Quajo, Elias, Quamy, and Fanny*, a girl, the property of John Quarles, plantation Plegt Ankar.

Mourant states:—That he has belonged to John Quarles about 30 months, and since he has belonged to him he only remembers to have been free of work on Sundays eight or nine times. He has always been working on Sundays from morning until late at night. He states that the girl *Cuba* has been sick with yaws for near four months, and never got any thing to cure them, except one day the doctor came to her, and ordered her to drink sulphur, which she drank for two or three weeks; but while she was drinking sulphur, she was obliged to go in the field with such heavy rains, that she never could get better. Besides the hard work with such a sickness, she is almost every day punished; particularly about two weeks ago, she was tied up to a tree and there well flogged. *Mourant* states, that while the gang are at work in the field, Mr. Quarles goes to the negro-houses, and if he sees any fowls or ducks belonging to the negroes, he will take and kill them for his dinner; and if the negroes speak about it, Mr. Quarles says the ground belongs to him, and not to the negroes.—*Joseph* states, that since they came from the Corentyne to the river, he does not know what is called Sunday, for he is never free of work; and when dancing days come, and other negroes dance, he is obliged to work sometimes until nine or ten o'clock at night. He cannot keep any stock, because his master takes it away from him.—*Secondo* states, that since he came to work up the river, he never had one Sunday free to himself, and particularly the great holidays; if any negro speaks about going to please himself, he is sure to get flogged. There is no breakfast time allowed, and sometimes they don't come home until nine or ten o'clock at night from their work. They scarce have time to rest, when they are turned out again. He cannot keep stock, for his master, when he wants a fowl for his dinner, sends the boy *Coffy* to the negro-houses, who takes any one he can find.—Boy *Coffy* states, that he is the house-boy; and sometimes his master tells him to go and look for a fowl in the negro-houses, which he does; and his master desires him if any negro comes to claim it, I must tell him that the fowl had no business in his yard. No Sunday or other holidays are kept on the estate amongst the negroes.—The rest of the negroes state the same thing.

On hearing this complaint the Acting Fiscal proceeded to plantation Plegt Ankar, where, after a minute examination of Mr. Quarles and the complainants in presence of each other, it was proved that the negroes were very hard-worked, and that Mr. Quarles was in the habit of employing them till late in the day almost every Sunday, and that he frequently kills their ducks and fowls without paying for them at the time he takes them. He was therefore assured, that if any more complaints were made against him by his negroes for such treatment, he would be criminally prosecuted; and was directed, in presence of his gang, to furnish any one of them that asked for it with a proper pass to proceed to the Fiscal's office. He was also directed forthwith to pay them the full value for any of their ducks or fowls that he had ordered to be killed.

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Berbice, 12th July 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negroes *Prince, Jasmin, Abercrombie, La Fleur, Baron, Numa, Ben, Leander, Tom, Cupido, Fox, Figaro, England, Tom,* and *M^r Farlane*, the property of plantation *Herstelling*, against the Manager of said estate.

Prince states:—That the manager of *Herstelling* turns the gang out in the morning a long time before the gun fires at the fort, and at day-light all the gang at their work. At breakfast time, when the bell rings, before the negroes are able to put their victuals on the fire, the bell rings again to turn out; so that most of the negroes go in the field again without breakfast. He states, that the manager gives them more work than they are able to do; and if the work is not done in time the whole gang are flogged. That their allowance only consists of one bunch of plantains and a little fish every week, and no more. He states, that when all the gang are at work, and two or three of them have not finished their task, for the sake of these two or three people the whole gang are flogged: this happens almost every day in the week.—*Jasmin* states, that the manager turns out the gang a long time before gun-fire in the morning, and that before day-light the gang are at their work. When the bell rings for breakfast, before they are able to begin to cook their victuals, the bell rings again to turn out; and so they have no time to eat any thing before they go into the field again. That only one bunch of plantains and a little fish is allowed them for a week; and on account of two negroes who had not finished their work, the whole gang was flogged yesterday: this happens almost every day. When they are not flogged by the manager they are flogged by the overseer. This happened since the present manager came to the estate; it was not so before.—*Ben* states, that the manager turns them out very soon in the morning; before gun-fire the whole gang are in the field at their work; and that they only get a bunch of plantains and a little salt fish for their allowance every week. That at eleven o'clock when the bell rings for breakfast they have only time to get home; for as soon as they are at the house the bell rings again to turn out. The negroes have no time to eat their bunch of plantains. He endeavours his best to please the manager with his work, but the manager is never satisfied, and must flog them whether they are right or wrong.—The remaining twelve negroes state the same.

Hussar, head driver on *Herstelling*, states; That on Thursday last he had a gang of sixteen men with him, weeding young canes in a field about 500 rods from the buildings. That the whole gang were at their work, and had got three beds weeded before the sun rose. An overseer, *Michael Harrold*, came to the field at seven o'clock, reckoned the gang, and directed the driver to see the work was properly done. About an hour after the manager came to the field, and ordered the driver to flog the whole gang, with the exception of one man, *Alexander*, as the work was not going on properly.

On inquiring into the truth of this statement, in presence of the attorneys of the estate, it appeared that although the manager's conduct was, in some measure, reprehensible, yet the complainants had greatly exaggerated their grievances. They were therefore ordered to return home, on the attorneys promising to go to the estate the next day to see that every real cause of complaint was remedied; and to warn the manager, that if the negroes had cause to complain again, he would be immediately discharged.

Berbice, 14th July 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negress *Rose*, belonging to *Mr. James Fraser*, West Coast.

Rose states:—That she is a sickly negress, and that she is not able to do any strong work. She says, that when she goes to the manager and tells him she is sick and not able to work, the manager laughs at her, and tells her to go to her work, or else she shall be flogged. She finding herself unable to work, and too sick to receive punishment, ran away from the estate, and came to the Fiscal to complain and ask redress.

Rose was sent back to the estate, and the manager was directed to let her remain in the hospital till examined by the doctor who attends the estate.

Berbice, 17th July 1822.

Examination of a complaint preferred by the negro *Green*, belonging to plantation *Goldstone Hall*, the property of the honourable *William Fraser*.

Green states:—That when his master bought him, about seven years ago, he was very bad with sore legs, and unfit for any sort of work on the estate. One day his master came to the estate to inspect the negroes. When he came to him, he said, "Go away with you, what time will you be able to buy a piece of plaister to dry up your sores?" At the same time made me pull off my trowsers, and gave them to a woman and desired her to burn them. After some time my foot got better, and my master ordered me into the field, where I continued a long time. Since the manager came to the estate he ordered me to take a shovel and go to work with it; but my foot being sore, and I not able to work with the shovel, because if I did so my foot would break out again, told him I would do any other work on the estate. The manager answered, "Then damn you and your foot; I don't care if you break out from head to heel;" and ordered me to be put into the stocks with both feet in. It was in a dark room, and I was kept there eleven days. When I was released, he ordered me again to take a shovel, but I refused; when I was put into the stocks with both feet in for two weeks. Last Saturday I was taken out of the stocks and

and sent to work in the field. Sunday morning all the gang were ordered to haul timber, at the same time I went to ease myself. The manager came to see the work, and as I was not there he put me in the stocks again until Monday at eleven o'clock, when I was released and sent to the field. In the evening, when we brought home grass, the manager came to see if I brought grass according to his wishes; he found no fault with me. Amongst the whole gang of negroes, about 300, I am the only one the manager has a spite against, for which reason I come to seek redress.

The complainant having no mark whatever of sores on his feet, was severely reprimanded for his disorderly and improper behaviour; and told, that if the manager ever again had occasion to complain of his neglecting his work, he would be severely punished by the Fiscal.

Berbice, 21st July 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negress *Sankey*, belonging to plantation Vryburg, the property of Messrs. Wulff, Brown & Co.

Sankey states, That in consequence of her husband having been sold without her and her children, she makes this representation for the purpose of being sold with her husband, having a little child by him, and not able to support it.

On investigation of this complaint, it was found to be entirely unfounded. *Sankey's* husband was sent, with four or five other negroes, in a punt from plantation Vryburg, belonging to Wulff, Brown & Co. who had a large mercantile establishment in town for stores; and those gentlemen requiring the assistance of an additional number of hands to land goods, and finding that one man could be spared from the punt, detained the man in question in town for a few days. *Sankey* was reprimanded for making such a frivolous complaint, and sent back to the estate with her husband.

Berbice, 29th July 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Azore*, belonging to plantation Recumzigt.

Azore states, That the manager put him to pick coffee in the logie, which work he had never done before. At 11 o'clock the manager went to the logie, and found that he had not filled his basket; for which he was flogged: and from that time he was ordered into the stocks every night, and in the day-time was sent to his work. Every Saturday evening he is put into the stocks until Monday morning; and that it is about four months since he has been punished in this manner. Last Saturday evening, when the overseer called him again to go into the stocks, he ran away, and came to town to complain; and calls upon the negro William to prove that he (William) put him every night into the stocks.

This complaint being of a very serious nature, the manager, overseer and William were ordered to attend at the Fiscal's office to answer it; when, after a thorough examination, it appeared that the negro *Azore* was an idle, ill-disposed man, and that having never finished his task in the field like the other men, he was put in the logie with the women to clean coffee on Monday morning. That, instead of cleaning the same quantity as the women, he did not clean half as much; in consequence of which he was flogged and ordered to be put in the stocks every night till he cleaned the quantity of coffee required of him. That he had certainly, in consequence of this order, been put in the stocks every night from Monday till Saturday, but no longer; and that on Saturday night he would have been confined again had he not made his escape and come to complain.

Azore was sent back to the estate, after being severely reprimanded for his idleness and neglect of duty; and the manager was warned never again to inflict on him so severe a punishment in the stocks, every night for a week, for so trivial an offence as not finishing the task assigned to him.

Berbice, 5th August 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Thomas*, the property of plantation Goldstone-Hall, against the Manager of said estate.

Thomas states, That in the beginning, when the manager came to the estate, he flogged him twice for nothing. He went to complain to Mr. Fraser, but no satisfaction was given to him; but Mr. F. told him to go home and do his work. He did so; but last Saturday he came from the bush, where he had been cutting fire-wood; and being very tired, and it being a dark night, he went to the negro-houses and fell asleep. The next morning he went to take his allowance, but was refused any: at the same time the manager called the driver, and ordered him (*Thomas*) into the stocks, and he supposed the manager would flog him on Monday morning; for which reason he ran away from the driver, and came to complain, to know for what reason the manager stopped his allowance and then ordered him into the stocks, for he does not know he committed any crime to be punished. He would have gone to his master, but fearing his master would not have listened to his complaint, he came to his Honor the Fiscal for redress.

This complainant was told, if the manager had flogged him for nothing so long ago as when he took over the management of the estate, he ought then to have complained of him:

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him; that in the present instance he acknowledged he was ordered to be put into the stocks for neglecting his work, and that, therefore, he ought not to have complained of the punishment.

Berbice, 6th August 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negroes *Frederick, Jem* and *Davy*, belonging to the plantation Profit, against the Manager of said estate.

Frederick states, That after having worked the whole week for his master, he thinks that the Sunday belongs to the negroes; for which reason he is in the habit of going over to the next estate every Sunday morning to see his friends, and returning in the evening: for doing of which the manager sends the driver to take him up, and puts him in the stocks till Monday morning, and told him he must not go anywhere off the estate. Last Sunday he went to the next estate to see his friends; the manager sent the driver after him, and put him in the stocks until Monday morning, and then gave him a good flogging; and since, he has been confined in the stocks at night: he therefore comes to complain, to know if the manager is allowed to use him so.

Jem and *Davy* complain of the same treatment as *Frederick*; on which account they all agreed to come to town, to make the complaint to his Honor the Fiscal for redress, for they do not wish to go into the bush like bad negroes.

In this instance the complainants were ordered back to the estate, after being informed that the manager had only done his duty in punishing them for their disobedience in going off the estate without passes; he having proved to the satisfaction of the Fiscal that he had informed the whole gang that they would never be denied passes when they applied for them.

Berbice, 9th August 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Joe*, belonging to plantation Buses Lust, whereof Mr. Johnstone is manager.

Joe states, That the manager ordered him to go over to plantation Resolutie to dig trenches; he told the manager he was not able to dig trenches because his stomach hurt him. The manager said he must go, or else he would flog him. *Joe* told him he could not dig trenches; then the manager put him down and flogged him; afterwards ordered him to go and cut grass. *Joe* did so; but yesterday morning (Friday) the manager flogged him again, and ordered him to take his shovel and cutlass and go to Resolutie; which he refused to do, and got away, and came to town to complain.

The Manager stated, in answer to this complaint, that *Joe* was a strong able negro, and capable of doing as much work as any man on the estate; but that he was very idle and disorderly. That in the present instance he was ordered to go, with the rest of the gang, to work on plantation Resolutie, an estate belonging to the same proprietor as Buses Lust, on the opposite bank of the river, but that *Joe* refused to obey him. Supposing he was really unwell, the manager allowed him to remain at home for a day or two, and gave him some light work about the buildings. On Friday, seeing *Joe* apparently quite well, he again ordered him to go to Resolutie; which *Joe* refusing to do, he flogged him.

Joe was told he deserved the punishment he had received, and was ordered to proceed forthwith to plantation Resolutie, where, if he neglected his duty, he would be severely punished by the Fiscal.

Berbice, 12th August 1822.

Examination of the negro *John*, belonging to William Ross, Corentine Coast.

John states, That his master gave him twelve beds to plant with canes, and to be finished before 11 o'clock in the morning, which he could not perform, and was obliged to work during his breakfast-time. When the driver is ordered to flog any of the gang, he is in the habit of taking powdered glass and marabunters (wasps), and mixing them together, and then rubbing his whip with the mixture. He states, that sometimes the overseer goes to the field with the gang, and eats their plantains, and also takes some from them and feeds his dog. *John* says, that he and four other negroes left the estate for the purpose of coming to complain; but the four men not being able to swim over the creek, they were obliged to go back, and he alone came to complain and ask for redress. The driver who put the powdered glass and marabunters (wasps) on the whip is named Bob. Those who were present on Sunday when *John* remonstrated with said Bob (the driver) on this matter, are Bob, Thomas, Duncan, Welcome, Ned, Forres, Phillip and *John*.

The plantation Culcairn being at a considerable distance from town, some time elapsed before this matter could be properly investigated. On the 18th September Bob and Thomas being confronted with *John*, and being asked whether they heard any thing of a conversation between the driver Bob and *John*, respecting his rubbing the lash of his whip with powdered glass and marabunters (wasps), or whether they saw Bob do any thing of the kind, they both peremptorily denied the same, although they lived in Bob's house with him all the time they were on plantation Culcairn.

Bob, the driver, a sensible, well-behaved negro, also declared that he not only never did or spoke of rubbing the lash of his whip with glass, as alleged by *John*, but that he never thought of such a thing.

The manager and overseer of the estate both stated, that if Bob had really been guilty of such a cruel act, John ought to have complained of it to them; and that in that case, if it had been proved, Bob would have been sent to his Honor the Fiscal for punishment.—John was therefore severely reprimanded, and sent back to the estate.

Berbice, 20th August 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *James*, belonging to Dr. Smith.

James states, That he has belonged to Dr. Smith for four years, during which time his master never gave him allowance of any kind for food or clothing; consequently he is obliged to find himself in every thing. At the same time he does the work of three good men; he has to mind five horses, and cuts grass five times a day for them; he minds two cows, milks them morning and evening, and has to take care of them in the pasture: he has to clean the house every day, and wash it once a week; and when the grass is high in the yard, he must weed it and keep the yard clean. That during his master's sickness, his house-keeper was in the habit of every day killing a fowl belonging to him; and whenever she wanted any eggs, she would go to the fowl's nest and take what she wanted; and that he has had taken from him eight fowls and twenty-four eggs. For these reasons he comes to his Honor the Fiscal for redress.

Dr. Smith, being summoned to attend at the Fiscal's office to answer this complaint, declared that *James's* whole statement was false. That with respect to his fowls and eggs being taken, once or twice while he was ill, it was true *James* had been applied to for some eggs and chickens, but that he had been paid the full price he had demanded for them; and as to his having so much work allotted him, the fact of his having leisure to attend to and raise such a quantity of poultry was a sufficient proof to the contrary. That, however, as it appeared *James* did not wish to belong to or remain with him, he would allow him to remain in town till the next public vendue, when he would sell him.

Berbice, 22d August 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negroes *Jacob* and *Dirk*, both belonging to plantation Sandvort.

Jacob states, That the manager sent him to plantation *Smithson's* place to fetch some tar, which he brought back about 9 o'clock in the morning. The manager then ordered him to go and weed grass on the road, where he went and did so: from 9 to 10 o'clock he weeded three rods and a half. The manager told him, "If you don't weed the road before night, you shall be flogged to-morrow morning." I told the manager I was sent too late to my work, and if I did not finish the road it was not my fault. The road was not finished at night; the next morning I was flogged by the manager's order, and received eighteen lashes. I was sent to my work, but in the evening was ordered into the stocks, in order to be flogged the next morning; but I made my escape, and came to complain.—The negro *Dirk* stated the same as above; they both came for the same cause.

These negroes were reprimanded, and sent back to the estate; it appearing from the evidence of both the manager and overseers, that having neglected their work they had been slightly punished for it, and ordered into the stocks at night; but that the manager had no intention whatever of punishing them again the next morning.

Berbice, 23d August 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Felix*, belonging to plantation Scotland, against the Manager of said estate.

Felix states, That he has had a black woman upon the estate for his wife now two years; and the reason of his coming to complain is, that the manager of the estate takes her from him, although he has a wife of his own. He is always taking the negroes wives, particularly his wife (*Felix's*); for she has had a child for him; and since the child has been born, the manager is always punishing him and his wife without a cause. Some time ago ten of the gang came to complain to their master, (*Dr. Broer*), to report to him that the manager had connexion with their wives: their master promised to them that he would remove the manager from the estate, and place another one there. Upon this promise the negroes returned to the estate; but since that they have never heard of another manager. *Felix* and his wife are daily punished, which has compelled him to come to your Honor for redress. He calls upon the whole gang of the estate to prove his assertions to be correct.

On hearing this complaint, the Acting Fiscal proceeded to the estate, accompanied by *Dr. Broer*, the owner; and on questioning the manager and negroes, in presence of each other, on the subject-matter of the complaint, it appeared that *Felix* had neglected his work, and was told he would be punished if he did not finish his task the next day, which he did not do; and therefore supposing the manager would punish him, he went to the Fiscal to complain. This being proved, *Felix* was punished for his misconduct, and the manager severely reprimanded for taking improper liberties with the women on the estate, which it was evident he had done; and *Dr. Broer* was therefore strongly recommended to discharge him from his employ.

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Berbice, 29th August 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negresses *Aspasia* and *Catherine*, belonging to plantation Sandvort, against the Manager of said estate.

Aspasia states, That the manager, on Friday 23d instant, gave her a flogging, because, when Mr. John Cameron went to the estate, she told him the coffee was bad, and she could not clean as much as the manager wished her to do: and again, three days after Mr. Cameron came again, and the whole of the women went to him to lodge a complaint, but he gave them no redress; and as soon as Mr. Cameron was gone, the manager flogged her again. For these reasons she came to complain to your Honor, and ask redress. —*Catherine* states also as above.

It appeared; on investigation of this complaint that *Aspasia* had been twice punished with a few stripes for not having finished the quantity of coffee given to her, which was not by any means more than she could easily have cleaned. Mr. Cameron, the owner of the estate, on being applied to by *Aspasia*, made the necessary inquiry into the matter; and it was by his direction that she was flogged. The complainants were therefore reprimanded, and sent back to the estate.

Berbice, 3d September 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Abraham*, belonging to plantation Buses Lust.

Abraham states, That Saturday last he was sick, and on that account went to the doctor. The doctor found him sick, and ordered him a dose of rhubarb. After he had taken it, the manager came to him and said, "You are not sick, go to your work." This I refused to do. I was then ordered into the stocks, and on Monday morning I was flogged; and on this morning I was flogged again. For these reasons I come to your Honor for redress.

The doctor's evidence being considered necessary, application was made for it, and the following certificate was received from him; viz.

Sir,

Berbice, Plantation De Kinderon, 9th October 1822.

In compliance with the desire you express, that I should make known to you all the circumstances which came to my knowledge respecting the punishment and previous state of health of the negro *Abraham*, belonging to his Excellency Major-General Murray, at present confined in the colony gaol, I have to state that the manager, William Johnston, sent the negro above mentioned to be examined by me previous to his punishment on the 3d of September: I examined and inspected him, but finding no symptoms of disease which required his remaining in hospital, I told him he might take a day's rest then, and return to his work the next day; at the same time directing the hospital nurse to give him four grains of rhubarb, which was merely ordered as an unpalatable medicine, to discourage the admission of idlers into the sick-house.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

To his Honor the Fiscal.

(signed) *A. Johnston.*

On *Abraham's* still refusing to go to his work on Monday morning, the manager ordered the driver to give him half a dozen lashes: this made him exceedingly insolent and abusive; he was therefore put back into the stocks till next morning, when he received twenty-five lashes; which was the cause of his coming to the Fiscal to complain. He was told, the manager had given him only what he deserved for his insolent and refractory conduct: he was sent back to the estate, and ordered to go to his work.

Berbice, 4th September 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Tobias*, belonging to plantation Friends.

Tobias states, That about two months ago he was going from plantation Friends to plantation Dentichem. On his way thereto he saw in a trench a white bird, which he supposed was a flamingo; for which reason he went close to it with a stick and knocked it down. As soon as it was dead, he found it was a goose, and he was very sorry he had killed it; but he could not help being mistaken. Some negroes came up to him, tied him and carried him to the manager. The manager put him into the stocks; and he was kept there near two months, with an allowance of four plantains and a bottle of water per day; which was given to him every evening at six o'clock: he was one day in the stocks with fever, and asked for some water, which was refused him; he was therefore under the necessity of drinking his own urine; and if he had not made his escape he would have been in the stocks until now, and God knows how long he would have been kept in.

Berbice, 18th September 1822.

On an investigation of the witnesses *John* and *Adonis*, *John* states, That about five or six weeks ago he was watchman in the yard of Dentichem. About one o'clock in the morning *Tobias* came to him and inquired if *Adonis* was at home: he answered yes; and told him if he would go to him he must not go through the yard, but round by the negro-path; that *Tobias* bid him good night, and passed towards the negro-houses; that he saw nothing more of him till about three o'clock the next morning, when hearing a noise in the stock-house, he called out; and *Adonis* coming out to see what was the matter, met *Tobias* and caught him, and delivered him over to *John*; who carried him to Mr. Boas, the overseer

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Adonis says, that about three o'clock, having occasion to come out of his house for a necessary purpose, he heard the watchman calling out; and on going to see what was the matter, he met a man covered with mud near the fowl-house, whom he immediately recognized to be Tobias. On his begging him, Adonis, not to lay hold of him, he however did so, and delivered him over to the watchman: he was quite naked. Next morning his hat and clothes were found on a bench at the fowl-house, along with a dead goose, which it is supposed he must have killed. The only punishment Tobias received for this offence was a week's confinement in the stocks; but some time after he was released, it was discovered that he was practising obeah on the estate; and he was therefore again confined, when he broke out of the stocks and came to complain.

The attorney, manager, and overseer all positively deny that Tobias ever had fever during his confinement, or that he was ever refused water when he asked for it. Being a very bad character, and disliked by all the other negroes on the estate, he was sold at public vendue, and not allowed to return to the plantation.

Berbice, 14th October 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro woman *Sally*, belonging to plantation Sandvoort.

Sally states, That on Sunday morning the 13th instant she was ordered by the manager of the above estate to go and wash coffee with some children, which she refused to do. On her refusal the manager immediately called four negro men, and had her flogged in the presence of the overseers of plantation Lochaber and plantation Goodbaranerland: their names she does not know, nor the names of the four negroes; but the driver's name was Nieolas.

This is to certify, that the woman *Sally*, attached to plantation Sandvoort, did refuse to wash coffee on Sunday, when there was 3,000 lbs. of coffee in the house liable to be injured by lying without washing; and that she also gave insolence to the manager and driver.

(signed) *Robert Davies.*

Charles Hewitt, Manager.

On its being proved that the coffee would have been injured if it was not washed that morning, *Sally* was informed she ought to have complied with the order, and reprimanded for not doing so; and the manager was told, that if it ever could be proved in future that he punished one of the negroes under his charge on a Sunday, he would be prosecuted before the honourable court of Criminal Justice.

Berbice, 22d October 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negroes *Ferdinand, Christophe, Affamy* and *Carroll*, belonging to plantation Bloomboeff.

Ferdinand states, he is employed in cutting mannicoles, and that his master gave him the task to cut 250 in a day, to be cleaned and brought to the water-side; that he has to go far in the bush to cut these mannicoles, and that from morning till night he cannot do more than cut them, and it is dark when he has done, therefore could not bring them out to the water-side; for which reason his master put him in the stocks last Friday evening, and kept him there in order to flog him on Monday morning; but he and the other three negroes made their escape on Sunday evening out of the stocks, and came to your Honor to seek redress.—The negroes *Christopelle, Affamy* and *Carroll* state as above.

The Acting Fiscal having ascertained that to cut and carry to the bank of the river 250 mannicoles was an ordinary day's work for a man, and the usual task given on all the estates in the river, and the manager having declared himself ready to make oath that he had no intention whatever to flog the complainants on Monday morning, as stated by them, they were slightly punished, and sent back to the estate, after being reprimanded for neglecting their duty and breaking out of the stocks to come and complain of the light punishment inflicted on them by the manager for their misconduct.

Berbice, 22d October 1822.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro woman *Harriet*, the property of plantation Port Mourant.

Harriet states, That on Friday last the manager of the estate found one of his glasses broken: he called a boy named Cuffy, and ordered him to bring all the plates, glasses, knives, forks and spoons to be examined, to see if every thing was correct, and sent the boy Peter to call me from the kitchen. Upon my coming to the manager, he told me one of the knives was missing: I answered, "Master, I have nothing to do with the knives; I do not clean them; ask Jessie and Peter." He answered, "You must find the knife." I answered, "Master, I have nothing to do with the knives." Then he ordered me into the stocks, and on Saturday morning I was severely flogged with tamarind sticks: for which reason I come to complain, and to seek redress.

Harriet, it appeared from the manager's statement, was directed to see that the house boy took proper care of the things in the house; and having in several instances neglected this duty, she was slightly punished for it, to convince her she was responsible for them. She was therefore sent back to the estate, and warned to be more attentive in future.

Berbice, 3d January 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Klaas*, the property of J. V. Mittleholzer, against him.

Klaas states, That some time in November last his master ordered the driver, with our other negroes, to go in the bush to square wood, and at the same time gave them

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two bunches of plantains and a little salt fish for each man; with which allowance the negroes remained in the bush about a month, without receiving any other allowance. Some time after, their master sent into the bush the remainder of the gang to the same place, along with an overseer, to work there. Now, as the holidays were approaching, their master came to the place where they were working, and took away the overseer, with all the negroes belonging to him; and left all the negroes belonging to plantation Lana. When Christmas came, the negroes asked the driver if their master ordered them to go home or not: the driver answered, "Master did not tell me any thing;" so the negroes remained in the bush until the holidays were over, without any thing to eat; when they all agreed to go home, and went to their master, and asked him what was the reason he kept them in the bush without any thing to eat, and without giving them their holidays, as he had given his own negroes. He did not say any thing, but ordered the driver to take the punt loaded with wood, and come to town. The driver asked him to give him something to eat for the negroes, for they had nothing. Their master answered, "I have nothing to give them;" and went in his eorjaal away. For these reasons I come to complain, and to seek redress. I call upon the driver and twenty other negroes to prove what I say.

On hearing this complaint *Mr. Mittleholzer* was summoned to attend at the Fiscal's office, and to bring with him the driver and some of the people who had been squaring wood with *Klaas*. From their evidence it appeared, that some time previous to the Christmas holidays, *Mr. Mittleholzer* went to the place where the negroes were working, and finding they had not done as much work as they ought to have done, he gave them all tasks, and told the driver not to allow any of them to go home at Christmas, except those who had finished the tasks assigned to them; and that he did not send their allowance for them at the regular time at Christmas, because he expected they would have finished their work, and come home. *Mr. Mittleholzer* was told he had acted incorrectly in keeping the negroes in the woods during the holidays; that if they had neglected their work he should have punished them in some other way; and if any of them again complained of not receiving their regular rations he would be fined.

Berbice, 3d February 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negress *Susan*, belonging to plantation *Standvastigheid*, against the Owner of said estate.

Susan states, That her mother is an old woman, sickly, and unable to do any thing upon the estate. Some time ago *Mr. Maurenbrecher* bought at vendue the whole family, including the old woman; and that *Mr. Maurenbrecher* gave away, as a present, the old woman to a manager named *Mittelholzer*, and sent her back to town. That she does not wish to part with her mother, as she is an old woman, and unable to help herself; for which reason she comes to your Honor to see if you can make *Mr. Maurenbrecher* take the old woman back, or make *Mr. Mittelholzer* buy her.

Susan's mother was not given away, as stated by her; but being an elderly woman, and not fit for plantation work, was hired to *Mr. Mittelholzer* as a house-servant, her services not being required in that capacity on the estate. They could see each other frequently, as the residences of *Mr. Maurenbrecher* and *Mr. Mittelholzer* were not far distant. This was communicated to *Susan*, and she was sent back to the estate.

Berbice, 9th February 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negress *Rose*, belonging to *B. A. Sanders*, against her Mistress.

Rose states, That on Friday last a girl named *Nelly* did break a butter-cup, and put it by: afterwards her mistress called her to wash the cups; and as she took the cup to carry it away, the cup fell into pieces; then her mistress blamed her for breaking it, and gave her a good beating, sent her away with the broken cup, and told her not to return in her yard without a new cup; and as I am a sickly woman, and have no means to buy a new cup, and am afraid to go home again, I come to your Honor for protection.

Rose reprimanded for complaining without a cause, and sent back to her mistress.

Berbice, 3d March 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negroes *Maria, Jane, Fanny, Marianne, Polly, Bella, Caroline, Betsy* and *Nancy*, belonging to plantation *Port Mourant*, against the Manager of said estate.

Jane states, That she belongs to *Port Mourant*, and is a field negro, and is constantly in the field from morning before gun-fire, until late in the evening; that the work which the manager gives her is too much; that she is unable to complete it, although she works during her breakfast-time. Sometimes she is obliged to work on Sunday to finish the task given her during the week; and often has no time to eat, from morning till night; if the row is not finished she is put in the stocks, and kept in until morning, when she is released and sent to her work; sometimes the whole of the women are flogged for the sake of two or three not finishing their task. Last Friday the driver was flogged on account of his having allowed the women to come to the house to get breakfast, and they were sent all back to their work; the manager saying to them, that they had time to eat at night, and not in the day. On Saturday last the manager went to the field, and found that they had not

not finished their row, and immediately ordered four women to be flogged; for which she thought it very hard against those women, which were merely punished for nothing.—The other women state the same as Jane, and come to your Honor for redress.

On investigation of this complaint, it appeared, that although the tasks given to the negroes of the estate were not actually more than they could do in a day, yet that the manager was very severe upon them, and too frequently inflicted punishment without sufficient cause; he was therefore informed that his conduct would be vigilantly looked after in future; and if he continued the same system, the attorney of the estate would be recommended to discharge him from the management.

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Berbice, 5th March 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Jan Broek* belonging to plantation Highbury, against the Manager of said estate.

Jan Broek, states, That on Tuesday morning 4th instant he went to the manager to report himself sick with tooth-ache; the manager began to slap him, and sent him to the field, where he was able to do very little work; the pain caused him to do very little, and he went to the manager again, but it was in vain; the manager slapped him again, sent him away, and told him if he came back he should get a good flogging, and then be put in the stocks. When I heard this, I left the estate and came to your Honor to complain. He calls *Frederick*, *Promiere* and *Estella* to prove what he states.

The complainant, *Jan Broek*, apparently a strong healthy young man, was told he would be punished if he came again to the Fiscal with such a frivolous complaint; and the manager was informed he ought to have sent for the medical practitioner of the estate to extract the tooth, instead of treating the man roughly when he went to complain of the pain.

Berbice, 26th March 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Kees*, the property of plantation Highbury.

Kees states, That he is a field negro, and always did his work the same as the rest when in good health; but having been about a year sick he is not able to do any hard work, and the manager of the estate compels him to do work which he is utterly unable to do; he therefore comes to your Honor for redress.

Kees was sent back to the estate, and the manager was recommended to give him lighter work in future, till he got stronger.

Berbice, 27th March 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Ness*, the property of plantation Port Mourant.

Ness states, That he is the driver over the women, and the manager asked him last Sunday why he did not go to work, and he answered that he had not been ordered to do so, or he would have gone to work, as he did not wish to do any thing without the manager's order. The manager then offered to flog him; but he made his escape, and came to your Honor for redress.

The complainant in this instance was punished by the Acting Fiscal for having left the estate and come to town to complain without any cause, and when he knew he had been guilty of disobedience of orders and neglect of duty; and the manager was warned of the impropriety and illegality of working the negroes on Sunday.

Berbice, 22d April 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negress *Catherine* the property of *William Reynolds*, and attached to a task-gang whereof *Mr. M'Dermot* is manager, working at plantation Sandvoort.

Catherine states, That on Monday morning the driver gave them one row each to weed, to be weeded before eleven o'clock, and then to take another row, which all the gang finished before (*Catherine*) her; she was grumbling about not having any thing to eat, and her master came to her, and asked what she was grumbling about; she answered, "Master, I say nothing bad; I only say I get nothing to eat, and I cannot get strength to work." Then her master immediately called the driver, put her down, and gave her a flogging. The driver flogged her with a whip, and her master with a horse-whip upon her shoulders. After she was punished, she was ordered into the stocks in order to be flogged the day after; but while she was going along with a negro to the place of confinement, she made her escape and came to your Honor for redress.

On investigation, this complaint was proved to be utterly groundless; the woman was therefore severely reprimanded, and sent back to plantation Sandvoort.

Berbice, 24th April 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Michael*, belonging to plantation Providence, the property of *William Henery*.

Michael states, That about four months ago, a black woman, by name *Jenny*, belonging to the same estate, did complain to the manager of having lost from her trunk some money, cloth

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cloth and coral; for which reason the manager, in order to discover the thief, called all the carpenters (as the trunk appeared to have been opened with a carpenter's chisel) and searched the different tools, to see if he could find out who did break open the trunk. The manager found in the possession of the carpenters a chisel which the trunk appeared to have been broken open with, and the manager asked Michael if he knew any thing of the robbery; to which he answered, No. Then the manager ordered him down, and two drivers were ordered to flog him, and give him one hundred lashes. He was then put in the stocks until he was better, and able to do his work; and after that he was constantly kept in the stocks from five o'clock in the evening until five o'clock in the morning, and from Saturday evening until Monday morning, so on till Easter Sunday, when the woman Jenny found a string of corals on the neck of a girl named Peggy: then Jenny brought this girl to Miss Sally, who took it away from her immediately. This girl is the manager's housekeeper, and nothing was said to her. Then the complainant went to the manager to be indemnified for a punishment he had received for nothing. The manager told him, "If you do not hold your tongue, I will put you in the stocks." The complainant now went to his owner for redress, and was answered by Mr. Henry, "I cannot help it: it is not my fault; the punishment you had was the manager's fault." So that as he found he could get no redress from either master or manager, he came to your Honor for redress; and he is ready to prove all he has stated.

The proprietor and manager of plantation Providence having been summoned to attend at the Fiscal's office to answer this complaint, they both declared Michael's statement to be grossly exaggerated. It appeared from the manager's evidence, that when the woman Jenny informed him of the robbery that had been committed at her house, he inspected the chest that had been broken open, and discovered that it was forced with a carpenter's chisel; on which he ordered all the carpenters on the estate to bring out their chisels for examination; when it was found that Michael's was evidently the one which had forced the chest. This, the manager conceived, was sufficient proof of Michael's guilt; particularly as he had committed similar offences before, and almost all the negroes of the estate believed he was the person who had robbed Jenny. He therefore ordered the driver to give him thirty-nine lashes, the number allowed by law; and confined him every night for a week in the stocks.—The manager was reprimanded for punishing the negro on such trifling evidence; and informed, that if he really considered him guilty of the robbery he ought to have sent him to the Fiscal for trial. There was no proof whatever that the corals found on Peggy's neck were part of those which had been stolen from Jenny.

Berbice, 28th April 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negroes *Douglas* and *Banaba*, both belonging to plantation Lochaber.

Douglas states, That he is a man of family: he has a wife and four children: that he made the greatest part of the negro-houses upon the estate; and when the houses were all ready, the manager made a distribution of the houses among the estate's gang, and every one got a place except him and his family. He went to the manager to ask for his house: the manager told him there was no house for him. I repeatedly asked for a house, but in vain. Some time ago I went to Mr. Cameron to complain, but without effect. *Douglas* lives with his family at the water-side, and it is some distance from the buildings: he came too late on Saturday morning to his work, for which the manager punished him with fifty lashes. He, *Douglas*, told the manager if he had a house like the other negroes, he would always go to work with them; but the manager said to him, "Go and be damned; you shall have no house, and you shall be here to go to your work when the rest are going:" to this I did not know what to say, but came to your Honor for redress.—*Banaba* states the same as *Douglas*.

On examination, it appeared from the evidence both of Mr. Cameron, the owner, and Mr. Jush the manager of the estate, that the buildings on Lochaber were not yet finished; but that the carpenters were getting on as fast as possible with them; and that although a number of the negro-houses required on the estate have been finished, yet there are others not yet ready; but that every exertion is making to get them done as soon as possible. That *Douglas* is one of the negroes who have not yet been provided with a good house; but the temporary building in which he lives is not a quarter of a mile from the other buildings, and therefore the distance ought not to be made an excuse for his not attending at his work as early in the morning as the other people. And with respect to his having received fifty lashes by order of the manager, it was proved to be incorrect, as he had only once been punished with a few stripes for coming to his work too late.—*Douglas* was ordered back to the estate, and admonished to be more attentive to his duty in future, and the manager was requested to let him have the next negro-house that was finished.

Berbice, 5th May 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Lachlan*, belonging to plantation Hampshire.

Lachlan states, That on Sunday last a dispute took place in the negro-houses of the said estate, between a boat-captain called Peter, and a negro named Richard, both belonging to the above estate. He saw them fighting, and went to prevent them, when the captain began

began to strike him: he did not strike the captain back, because he was a head man. The captain carried him to Mr. Baird, and lodged a complaint against him, when Mr. Baird told the captain to give him a good beating, and let him see if I would strike the captain back. The captain began to cuff me about my face, and took hold of my neck and cuffed me until he was tired, the whole time in presence of Mr. Baird. I was ordered into the stocks, and was kept there until Monday morning, when I was released to go to my work, but I made my escape, and came to your Honor for redress.

This complaint was dismissed after the complainant (a boy) had been severely reprimanded for his misconduct in striking the boat-captain in the first instance, and then coming to complain of his being put in the stocks for having done so.

Berbice, 27th May 1823.

Examination of a Complaint made by the negroes *Grant* and *Gert*, attached to plantation *Wordsburg*, the property of A. H. Bonn.

Grant states, That the manager gave him a trench to dig, two shovels deep. In the place where he was digging there was an old root which prevented the shovel from going so deep: he, however, tried his best to go through but in vain. At last his shovel broke, and he told the driver; and the driver went to the manager to get a new shovel, which he gave to *Grant* on Friday evening. He had no time to grind it, but went to *Bellevue* to borrow one from one of his friends. On Saturday morning I went to work: when the manager saw the shovel, he said, "Grant, where did you get that shovel?" I told him: the manager said, "Why did not you grind your shovel, and come to work with it without going to borrow one from other negroes?" I told the manager the grind-stone handle was broken, and for that reason I borrowed a shovel, or otherwise I could not do his work; and that I would grind my shovel on Sunday if the grind-stone was mended. The manager gave me a letter to Mr. Frantzen at *Bellevue*, but I thought it was to desire Mr. Frantzen to give me flogging, and instead of going to *Bellevue* I came to your Honor for redress. *Grant* states the whole men-gang of *Wordsburg* left the estate on Sunday to come and complain, but he does not know where they are gone: he only met the negro *Gert*, who says the rest went back again.—*Gert* states the same as *Grant*.

On the manager's observing that the complainant (*Grant*) was not working with the shovel he had given him the evening before, he inquired the reason. The complainant in the first instance stated, that he had not time to grind his shovel on Friday evening; and in the next, that the cause of his not grinding it was that the handle of the grind-stone was broken. The manager therefore, supposing that he had got the shovel he was using dishonestly, gave him a letter to the manager of the neighbouring estate, *Bellevue*, to inquire if he had really borrowed the shovel on that estate; but instead of carrying the letter as directed, he came to town to complain; and it was proved that he had, after much persuasion, induced *Gert* to accompany him, although he confessed he had not just cause of complaint. Both of them were therefore punished, and sent back to the estate.

Berbice, 27th May 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negroes *Jaba*, *Sanco*, *Catto*, *Medoc*, *Ned* and *Isaac*, the property of William Reynolds, but employed by Mr. M'Dermott.

Medoc states, That they are now working on plantation *Lochaber* in cutting down a piece of bush; and after the bush was cut down, the manager gave them a trench to be opened, to make a road to come to the estate. The manager found they did not finish the task given to them: he had them all put in the stocks, and this morning flogged us all. He says, they do not know what they call breakfast-time; and what is given them to eat they have no time to eat, except at night; for which reasons they all come to your Honor for redress.

On hearing this complaint the Acting Fiscal wrote to the senior burgher officer of the district in which the complainants had been working, requesting him to go to plantation *Lochaber* and examine the work done, and the task assigned to each negro; which he accordingly did, and reported that the tasks given to the negroes could have been easily finished by them by three or four o'clock in the afternoon, if they had worked at them as they ought to have done; and that their statement, that the manager had flogged them all, was false: he had only punished two or three of those who had done the least work. They were therefore reprimanded by the Fiscal, after reading the burgher officer's report to them; and sent back to the estate.

Berbice, 14th June 1823.

Examination of a Complaint preferred by the negro *Toubi*, belonging to plantation *Lancaster*, the property of John Bond, whereof R. Thompson is manager.

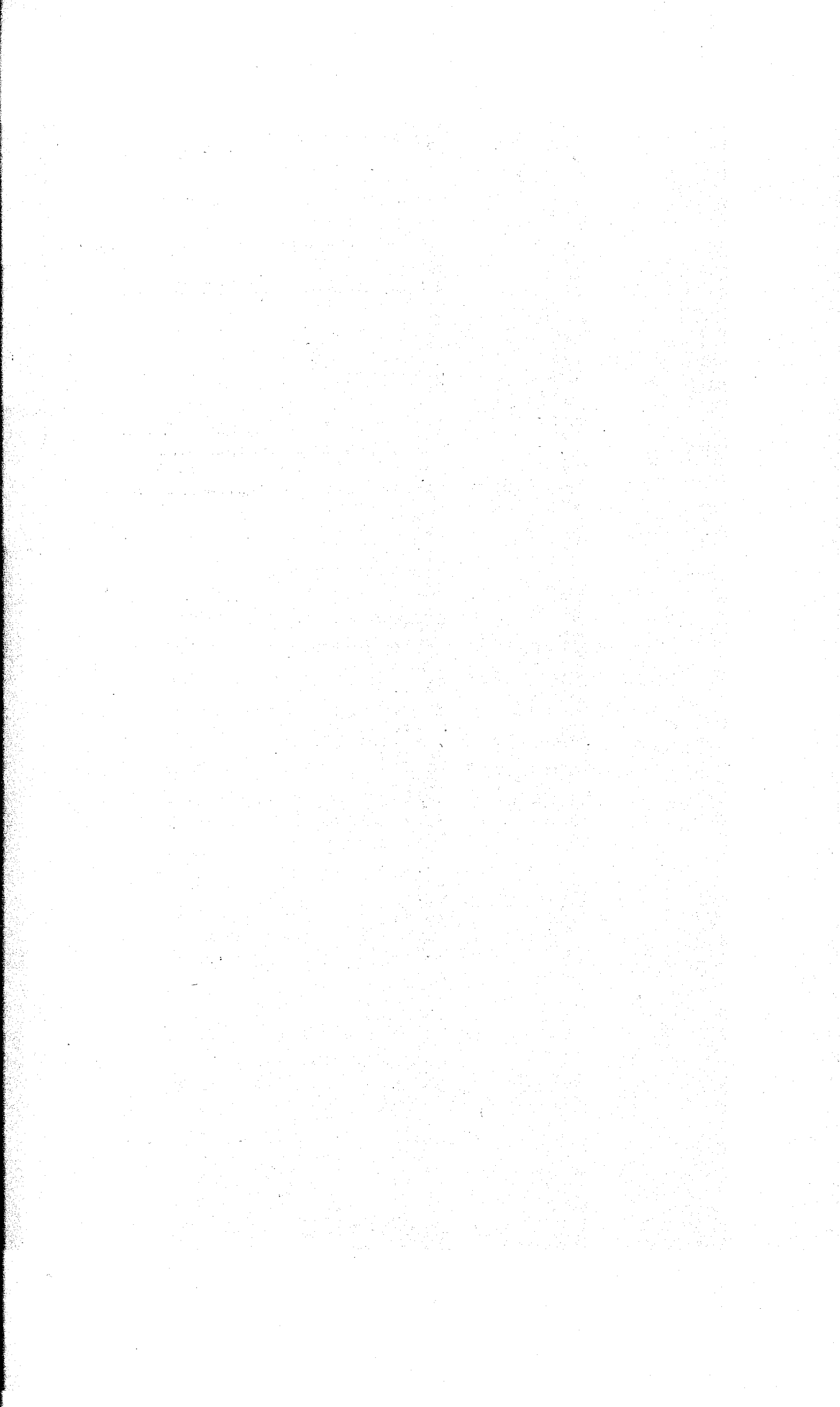
Toubi states, That on Wednesday last he was seized with a pain in his right side. He went to the manager, who gave him a dose of tartar emetic and salts. After he had taken his medicine Dr. Brown made his appearance on the estate, and the manager desired him to visit me, which he did. The doctor found me sick, and directed some medicine to be given me in the morning. I went to the manager for the physic the doctor directed; but the manager, instead of giving me the medicine, ordered me to go and gin cotton. I replied, I am not well enough to gin cotton; upon which the manager got angry with me, sent for a driver, and gave me a good flogging: for which I came to your Honor for redress.

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On examination of this complaint, it appeared from the evidence of both the doctor and manager, that although a dose of medicine had been given to Toubi the day he complained of pain in his side, yet they had no reason to believe he was really sick, and therefore the manager ordered him to go to his usual work the next morning; which, on Toubi's refusing to do, he directed the driver to flog him to it. The Acting Fiscal reprimanded the manager for giving the order to the driver, as it was possible Toubi was really sick: and further directed, that he should be permitted to work in the field for a few days, till he was able to return to his gin.

The above is a true Copy of the ordinary Proceedings of the Fiscal's Office, Berbice,
 from May 1822 to June 1823.

(signed) *W. M. Scott,*
 Late Act^s Fiscal.



V.

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATING TO

SLAVES IN THE WEST INDIES.

(BERBICE.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
23 June 1825.

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