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FURTHER PAPERS

RELATING TO

SLAVES IN THE WEST INDIES :

(*Demolition of the Methodist Chapel in Barbadoes;*)

VIZ.

RETURN to an Address of The Honourable House of Commons,
dated 13th April 1824;—for

COPIES, or EXTRACTS, of all Official Communications received by His Majesty's Government, from the Governor of *Barbadoes*, relative to the Demolition of the Methodist Chapel at *Barbadoes*, and the Expulsion of Mr. *Shrewsbury*, the Methodist Missionary; and the Measures adopted for bringing the Delinquents to Trial.

Colonial Department,
Downing-street,
16th March 1825. }

R. J. WILMOT HORTON.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
16 March 1825.

SCHEDULE OF PAPERS.

- N^o 1.—Copy of a Dispatch from Sir Henry Warde to Earl Bathurst ; dated Barbadoes, 23 October 1823. Three Enclosures. - - - - - p. 3
- N^o 2.—Extract of D^o from D^o to D^o, Barbadoes, 25 October 1823. Two Enclosures p. 5
- N^o 3.—Copy of a Dispatch from Earl Bathurst to Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Warde ; dated Downing-street, 23 December 1823 - - - - - p. 5
- N^o 4.—Extract of a Dispatch from Sir Henry Warde to Earl Bathurst ; dated Barbadoes, 7 February 1824 - - - - - p. 6
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N^o 1.

Copy of a Dispatch from Sir Henry Warde to Earl Bathurst, dated Barbadoes, 23d October 1823. Three Enclosures.

No. 3.
Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, October the 23d, 1823.

IT is with sincere concern that I have the honour to communicate to your Lordship the dreadful occurrences which have recently taken place here, to the disturbance of the public peace, and the destruction of property; as well as the danger to the very existence of the colony, from their effects, which I can in no better manner describe, than by the transmission of the documents annexed.

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

(signed) HENRY WARDE.

To Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

ON Thursday the 16th October 1823, a Mr. Shrewsbury, a Wesleyan missionary, called on me and stated, that on the Sunday before, during the meeting in the evening of his congregation, they were disturbed and assaulted by many persons, and particularly that two men rode on horseback *masked*, and fired pistols at the chapel; and he further stated, that he had been assaulted at his dwellinghouse; and also that Mr. Justice Moore had cited him to appear before him to show cause why he was not amenable to serve in the militia.

I asked him if he had applied to any of the magistrates of the town for protection, when he replied in the negative; and I recommended him to do so, as it would not be proper for me to interfere unless they might deny him protection; and I desired that whatever complaints he might have to make, might be made in writing, that no mistake might arise from misapprehension or want of memory hereafter, of what might have passed in a conversation.

The complainant left me, stating, that he should take my advice and apply to a magistrate for protection: since this I have heard nothing from him, or have I heard any thing officially on this subject from any person whatever; but on Monday morning a rumour reached me, that this missionary's house and chapel had been totally destroyed on Sunday evening the 19th instant, by an immense concourse of people, many of whom were armed.

Under these circumstances, and further, this man's life having been apparently threatened by an anonymous correspondent in a newspaper, I have to ask your advice and opinion as to what steps can be legally taken by the magistrates for his protection, and for the prevention of recurrences of outrages of a similar nature.

Council Chamber, 21st October 1823.

(signed) Henry Warde.

A true copy.

(signed) Pa. Delhoste, Private Sec^r.To the President and Members of His Majesty's Council,
&c. &c. &c.

DURING the sitting of the legislature on the 21st instant, two packets, one addressed "To the Members of His Majesty's Council," the other "To the Members of the House of Assembly," were delivered to these branches of the legislature by a black boy, who retired immediately after delivering them: on opening the packets, they were found to contain hand bills, announcing the total destruction of the Wesleyan chapel, &c. one of which bills is herewith annexed.

Government House, 23d October 1823.

(signed) Henry Warde.

Great and signal Triumph over Methodism, and total Destruction of the Chapel!!!

Bridgetown, Tuesday, 21 October 1823.

THE INHABITANTS of this Island are respectfully informed, that in consequence of the unmerited and unprovoked attacks which have repeatedly been made upon the community by the Methodist missionaries, (otherwise known as agents to the villainous African Society,) a party of respectable gentlemen formed the resolution of closing the Methodist concern altogether: with this view they commenced their labours on Sunday evening, and they have the greatest satisfaction in announcing, that by twelve o'clock last night they effected the total destruction of the chapel.

To this information they have to add, that the missionary made his escape yesterday afternoon in a small vessel for St. Vincent, thereby avoiding that expression of the public feeling towards him, personally, which he had so richly deserved.

It is hoped that this information will be circulated throughout the different islands and colonies, and that all persons who consider themselves true lovers of religion, will follow the laudable example of the Barbadians, in putting an end to Methodism and Methodist chapels throughout the West Indies.

III.—FURTHER PAPERS RELATING TO

No. 1.
Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

To Samuel Hinds, Esq. Barrister, &c. &c. &c.

A PETITION having been presented to me at about seven o'clock this evening from certain persons, styling themselves a Deputation from the Bible Society, stating that their house, &c. had been threatened to be destroyed by certain unknown persons, and requesting my advice and protection; I forthwith dispatched my private secretary to Mr. Wickham, a magistrate, requiring him to afford the petitioners all the protection in his power, by calling in the aid of constables, and every other legal assistance which the case might require, adding, that should a military force be required by him, it would be furnished; I request your legal opinion as to the steps I have taken, and with regard to what further I may have in my power, should any unforeseen outrages take place.

(signed) *Henry Warde.*

Government House, 20th October 1823.

Enclosure
—2.—

THE steps which have been taken by his Excellency appear to me to be most proper, and the only legal and constitutional mode of acting which the defective state of our colonial law admits of. In obedience to his Excellency's commands, I think that the magistrate ought to collect the civil power, to swearing in and calling to his aid all persons to suppress the illegal and riotous proceedings of any person who may be disposed to disturb the public peace. The Riot Act is not, I think, in force in this island, and I should therefore be very reluctant in advising his Excellency to call out a military force to act against the persons engaged in a riot. If the civil power appears to be insufficient to prevent the destruction of the property of the individuals aggrieved, and if the numbers and spirit of those employed in destroying the property increase to such a degree as to overawe and silence the civil power, the only mode of restoring the public peace, without exposing the lives of the military at a time when they could not legally use their arms against the rioters, will be, to put the island under martial law: this is always a strong measure, but I am not aware of any other legal mode of proceeding, although I beg leave to submit to his Excellency, that the opinion which I have formed on this subject has been made on the spur of the moment.

October 20th 1823.

(signed) *Samuel Hinds.*

Enclosure
—3.—

FROM this legal opinion of Mr. Hinds, it appears that no very serious and dangerous riot can be suppressed, as no council can be assembled with sufficient promptitude for the purpose: under such circumstances would not a riot act for this colony be highly necessary?

I avail myself with pleasure of this opportunity to acknowledge my thanks to Mr. Hinds for the very prompt and handsome manner in which he furnished me with his opinion.

Council Chamber, 21st October 1823.

(signed) *Henry Warde.*

To the President and Members of His Majesty Council,
&c. &c. &c.

Memorandum:—The attorney-general was too much indisposed at the time to render it possible to obtain his opinion on the foregoing points, but it has since been officially notified to me in council by his son, one of the members of that Board, that he entirely concurs in the opinion delivered by Mr. S. Hinds: a communication has also been subsequently received from the solicitor-general, who was absent in the country at the period alluded to, and whose opinion could not consequently be immediately obtained, stating that he also perfectly coincided in Mr. Hinds' opinion.

(signed) *Henry Warde.*

N^o 2.

Extract of a Dispatch from Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Warde, to Earl Bathurst, K. G.; dated Government House, Barbadoes, 25th October 1823.

“ I BEG to annex a detail of what passed between me and the Council yesterday, in further explanation of the state of affairs in this Island.”

No. 2.
Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

Extract of an Address from Governor Sir Henry Warde, to the Council at Barbadoes; dated 25th October 1823.

Enclosure.
—1.—

“ I THEN adverted to a circumstance which had only then reached my ears by rumour, that a counter-proclamation to the one issued by me for the detection of the rioters, had been published, and requesting their opinion and advice thereon; and the Council were of opinion that I should take no notice of it whatever.

“ This counter-proclamation alluded to was this day transmitted to me from the post-office, in an envelope, addressed *private*, one of which is annexed.”

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOES.

Enclosure
—2.—

Thursday, October 23, 1823.

WHEREAS a proclamation having appeared in the Barbadian newspaper of yesterday, issued by order of his Excellency the Governor, offering a reward of one hundred pounds for the conviction of any person or persons concerned in the said-to-be riotous proceedings of the 19th and 20th instant; public notice is hereby given to such person or persons who may feel inclined, either from pecuniary temptation or vindictive feeling, that should they attempt to come forward to injure, in any shape, any individual, they shall receive that punishment which their crimes will justly deserve.

They are to understand that to impeach is not to convict; and that the reward offered will only be given upon conviction, which cannot be effected whilst the people are firm to themselves.

And whereas it may appear to those persons who are unacquainted with the circumstances which occasioned the said proclamation, that the demolition of the chapel was effected by the rabble of this community, in order to create anarchy, riot and insubordination, to trample upon the laws of the country, and to subvert good order;—it is considered an imperative duty to repel the charge, and to state, Firstly, That the majority of persons assembled were of the first respectability, and were supported by the concurrence of nine-tenths of the community: Secondly, That their motives were patriotic and loyal, namely, to eradicate from this soil the germ of Methodism, which was spreading its baneful influence over a certain class, and which ultimately would have injured both church and state. With this view the chapel was demolished, and the villainous preacher who headed it and belied us, was compelled, by a speedy flight, to remove himself from the Island.

With a fixed determination, therefore, to put an end to Methodism in this Island, all Methodist preachers are warned not to approach these shores, as, if they do, it will be at their own peril.

God save the King and the People.

N^o 3.

Copy of a Letter from Earl Bathurst to Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Warde; dated Downing-street, 23d December 1823.

No. 3.
Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

Sir,

Downing-street, 23d December 1823.

I HAVE received, with great concern, accounts of disgraceful outrages committed at Bridgetown in October last, against the Wesleyan missionary, which terminated in the destruction of his residence, and of the chapel in which he had long officiated.

I am commanded to convey to you the expression of His Majesty's marked displeasure at so daring and scandalous a violation of the law, and His Majesty's commands that no means should be omitted which can, by exemplary punishment of the guilty, give to His Majesty's subjects in the island security in the possession of their property, and in the free and undisturbed exercise of their religious duties.

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

Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Warde,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed)

Bathurst.

N^o 4.

No. 4.
Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

Extract of a Dispatch from Sir Henry Warde to Earl Bathurst; dated Barbadoes,
7th February 1824.

ON the 22d December last I received a communication from
stating that he was moved by a sense of duty

to forward me a document containing information relative to the perpetrators and abettors of that disgraceful outrage, the destruction of the chapel at Bridgetown. Immediately on receiving this information, I forwarded copies of the communications to the attorney-general of this island, directing him to lay the papers before the president and members of His Majesty's council, and to take every legal and proper measure for bringing the offenders to justice. I consider that I cannot adopt a better mode of affording your Lordship every information on the subject in question, than by enclosing copies of the correspondence that took place between myself and that law-officer, which I have the honour to transmit herewith.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's dispatch of the 23d December last, and to express my extreme regret at the occurrence of so shameful a transaction as the destruction of the Wesleyan chapel, and my anxious desire that the perpetrators of it should be brought to justice, which I feel persuaded is fully evinced in my communications to your Lordship of the 23d and 25th of October 1823.

I beg further to add, that I have requested a committee of His Majesty's council to investigate the conduct of the magistrates on that occasion, and to report to me in council thereon.

I have the honour to be, my Lord, with great respect,

Your Lordship's most obedient very humble servant,

Earl Bathurst, K. G.
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Henry Warde.*

Sir,

Government House, 23d December 1823.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a letter, together with an annexed document from containing certain information relative to the destruction of the chapel in Bridgetown, and to request that you will, with all proper promptitude, direct such legal proceedings to be adopted for the investigation of this affair as you may consider proper on the occasion; at the same time leaving it to your judgment whether it may or may not be prudent to defer your proceedings until after the Christmas holidays, and until you may have an opportunity of consulting privately (with my concurrence) with the president and members of His Majesty's council at their next meeting, which, I believe, will be on Monday next; as the convening them suddenly for such a purpose might possibly cause suspicion, and defeat the ends of justice,—having cause, from certain circumstances, to think it probable that one of the persons accused may have already absconded. Thus situated as I am, it is absolutely necessary that I should not allow one day to elapse without taking some steps, after having received such positive information; and you will of course perceive the necessity of keeping the whole business secret, until it may be proper to adopt the necessary overt legal measures.

The Hon. M. Coulthurst,
His Majesty's Attorney-General.

I have, &c.
(signed)

Henry Warde.

Sir,

Fairfield, December 24th, 1823.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of yesterday's date, enclosing the copy of a letter addressed to your Excellency by with a document accompanying it relative to the destruction of the chapel in Bridgetown.

The solicitor-general and myself met the members of His Majesty's council on Monday last, by appointment, upon the subject of the slave laws, when they adjourned, to meet again on Monday next the 29th instant at ten o'clock, at the Town-hall.

In making this communication to your Excellency, I feel it my duty at the same time to offer, in the most respectful manner, my opinion, that it would not be advisable to adopt any measures in consequence of information, until his letter, with the document, shall be laid before the council; and I trust that your Excellency will be pleased to pardon me when I candidly say, that I feel an insuperable difficulty in my proposing a private consultation upon this subject to the president and members of that Honourable Board. Such a step, I conceive, would be deemed extra-official on my part; and the members of council might expect to receive a communication of this importance through another channel.

These sentiments are suggested with great submission and respect; and

His Excellency
Sir Henry Warde, K. C. B.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(signed)

M. Coulthurst.

Sir,
Government House, 24th December 1823.
HAVING forwarded the information to you with which I have been furnished, relative to the destruction of the chapel in Bridgetown, in order that you might cause the necessary legal measures to be adopted, according to the existing laws of Barbadoes, I have done every thing necessary on my part, and I shall not interfere in any manner whatever further in it.

But feeling the great importance of the business, as concerning the colony at large, I thought it proper that the president and the members of His Majesty's council should be aware of all the circumstances, though I can have neither opinion or remark to offer on the subject, leaving the law to take its course; and with respect to your "consulting privately" with the president and members of His Majesty's council, I meant such to have been *official*, and solely made use of the term privately, as thinking you might wish it to be so, until you might deem it proper to commence your proceedings overtly. It having been merely intended as a hint, it will remain for you to decide, according to your own judgment, on the mode of communication. My reasons for not convening the council suddenly, have been already most fully explained; yet as you consider that my addressing a message direct to the president, on the subject, may be more respectful to him and the members, I shall most cheerfully adopt that line, and feel much obliged to you for the suggestion, that I shall, on the morning of the 29th instant, transmit a message to the president, or senior member present; and I will thank you at that time to lay every document before them necessary for the explanation of the business alluded to.

I have, &c.
(signed) Henry Warde.

The Hon. M. Coulthurst,
His Majesty's Attorney-General.

Sir,
Government House, 15th January 1824.
I SHALL feel obliged by your informing me what steps have been taken subsequent to your having submitted the documents relative to the information alluded to therein, respecting the destruction of the Methodist chapel in Bridgetown, before the president and members of His Majesty's council.

I have, &c.
(signed) Henry Warde.

The Hon. M. Coulthurst,
His Majesty's Attorney-General.

Sir,
Fairfield, January 17th, 1824.
IN consequence of the desire which your Excellency has been pleased to express in your letter to me of the 15th instant, "that I would inform you what steps had been taken subsequent to my having submitted the documents respecting the destruction of the Methodist chapel in Barbadoes, to the president and members of His Majesty's council," I beg leave to state as follows:

After having laid those documents before the council, I lost no time in requesting Mr. Mayers, the acting solicitor for the crown, to find out and bring him to me; was accordingly brought to me by Mr. Mayers; but was kept ignorant of the nature of the business on which he was coming; I explained it to him, and then read the letter from in which he was the person named as a witness. When I had finished reading the letter, he observed to me, that had taken him by surprise, and had used him very ill, for that he had never given any authority to to make use of his name in that way; I observed upon this, that he must have had some conversation with upon subjects, and asked him how he had become known to he said that he had accidentally gone down to in the same vessel with and that whilst he was walking the deck, began a conversation with him about pulling down the chapel, and that what he said was only in the common course of talk, and that he never supposed he should be called upon afterwards about it. I told him, that I understood was a man of very respectable character, and would not have written such a letter to your Excellency without good grounds; that it was his duty if he could give evidence to come forward and do so; that I was directed, as the attorney-general, to take all legal measures, in consequence of the information received from and that I was ready to prosecute any of the offenders who could be brought to justice.

I asked him if he did not see the persons named in letter, at or about the chapel whilst it was pulling down? He hesitated for some little time, and then in answer to a question which I put to him, told me, that he could never undertake to swear that he saw any of those persons, either assisting in destroying the chapel, or behaving in any improper way whatever. After detaining him for some time, I found that nothing like evidence to ground a charge upon could be got from him, and I was, and am still convinced, that it would be in vain to proceed any further with him, for that no prosecution could be sustained, nor any satisfactory information acquired from any thing that he would say.

I must here observe, that none of the persons who appeared by letter to be implicated, can legally be obliged to answer any question upon the subject, as such an answer would criminate themselves; and upon that ground he would at once object.

I have, &c.
(signed) M. Coulthurst.

His Excellency Sir Henry Warde, K. G. B.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 4.
Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

Sir,
I HAVE been honoured by your letter of this day's date, and I shall feel extremely obliged by your informing me whether you consider that no further steps ought to be taken by you in consequence of the documents which have been submitted to you relative to the destruction of the Methodist chapel in Bridgetown.

M. Coulthurst, Esq.
His Majesty's Attorney-General.

Government House, January 17th, 1824.
I have, &c.
(signed) Henry Warde.

Sir,
IN answer to the letter of the 17th instant, with which your Excellency has honoured me, I beg leave to say, that according to the best of my judgment, no further steps than those which I have already stated could be taken by me, in consequence of the documents that were submitted to me relative to the destruction of the chapel in Bridgetown. I have given to this subject the fullest consideration in my power, and I most respectfully assure your Excellency, that had I thought that I could, or that I ought to have taken any further steps, I should most certainly have felt it my duty not to have neglected doing so.

His Excellency Sir Henry Warde, K. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

Fairfield, January 19th, 1824.
I have, &c.
(signed) M. Coulthurst.

The foregoing are certified to be true copies.

C. Delhoste, Private Secretary.

N° 5.

No. 5.
Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
Barbadoes.

Copy of a Dispatch from Earl Bathurst to Sir Henry Warde; dated Downing-street, 10th April 1824.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the date of 7th February ultimo, transmitting to me copies of the correspondence which has taken place between yourself and the attorney-general of Barbadoes, on the subject of the disgraceful outrage which has been committed upon the Methodist chapel in that island. Before I transmit to you any further instructions on this subject, I am desirous of learning from you, and have accordingly to instruct you to report to me, whether you were aware of the riot at the time when the demolition of the chapel was taking place, and what measures you took to prevent that outrage.

Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Warde,
&c. &c. &c.

Downing-street, 10th April 1824.
I am, &c.
(signed) BATHURST.

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATING TO

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