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IV.

FURTHER PAPERS
RELATING TO
SLAVES IN THE WEST INDIES:

(Demolition of the Methodist Chapel in Barbadoes;)

VIZ.

Further 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,
21 March 1825. }

R. J. WILMOT HORTON.

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

SCHEDULE OF PAPERS.

- N^o 6.—Extract of a Despatch from Lieutenant-General Sir H. Warde, addressed to Earl Bathurst, dated Barbadoes, 20th May 1824 - - - - p. 3
- N^o 7.—Copy of a Despatch from D^o addressed to D^o dated Barbadoes, 5th August 1824, with ten Enclosures - - - - - ib.
- N^o 8.—Copy of a Despatch from D^o addressed to D^o dated Barbadoes, 5th August 1824 - - - - - p. 6
- N^o 9.—Copy of a Despatch from D^o addressed to D^o dated Barbadoes, 6th August 1824. One Enclosure - - - - - p. ib.
- N^o 10.—Extract of a Despatch from D^o addressed to D^o dated Barbadoes, 3d January 1825. One Enclosure - - - - - p. 7
- N^o 11.—Extract of a Despatch from D^o to D^o dated Barbadoes, 2d December 1824, p. 9
- N^o 12.—Extract of a Despatch addressed by Earl Bathurst to Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Warde, dated Downing-street, 14th February 1825, with two Enclosures - - - - - p. 10
- N^o 13.—Copy of a Letter addressed to Earl Bathurst by the Rev. Richard Watson, Secretary to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, dated Hatton Garden, 15th January 1825, with three Enclosures - - - - - p. ib.
- N^o 14.—Copy of a Letter addressed by Mr. R. Wilmot Horton to the Secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, dated Downing-street, 10th February 1825, p. 13
- N^o 15.—Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Warde, addressed to Earl Bathurst, dated Barbadoes, 4th November 1823. One Enclosure, p. 15
- N^o 16.—Copy of a Despatch addressed to Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Warde, by Earl Bathurst, dated Downing-street, 22d January 1824 - - - - p. ib.

— N° 6. —

Extract of a Despatch from Lieutenant General Sir Henry Warde, addressed to Earl Bathurst, Dated Government House, Barbadoes, 20th May 1824.

Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

"I HAVE only this moment received your Lordship's letter of the 10th ultimo, and I hasten to state in reply to your Lordship, that I had no knowledge of the destruction of the chapel until the forenoon of the next day. This reply fully explains that I could not have taken any means to prevent it; and I may add, that when the second attack was made on the remains of the chapel walls, I never heard of it until the following day, and from what I have since learnt, I have reason to believe, that for some time previous to, and subsequent to the destruction of the chapel, few evenings passed in Bridgetown without riot or disturbance; but the only report which was made known to me in any way to lead me to apprehend any real mischief, was that of an expected attack on the school, &c. of the Free Coloured and Black Bible Society, and which was brought under my notice by a petition from that society stating that their establishment was threatened to be destroyed by unknown persons; on which, at 7 o'clock in the evening of the 20th October last, I sent an aid-de-camp to the garrison which is equi-distant from the town and from Government House, and directed the commandant to be ready to march the troops, and despatched my private secretary to announce to the magistrates that the military were ready should they require them. I sent another aid-de-camp for Mr. S. Hinds, (the Attorney General being dangerously ill, and the Solicitor General absent,) who is esteemed one of the most sound lawyers in this part of the world, and required his opinion on the legality of the military acting in Barbadoes, the result, which your Lordship knows, was that *they could not act legally*; which opinion was fully confirmed by the Attorney and Solicitor General, and which was forthwith reported to your Lordship in document N° 1, of my despatch of the 23d October 1823, and I have invariably informed all persons, that should the magistrates in any way refuse to grant them assistance or redress, that they should immediately apply to me, when every attention would be paid to their complaints and of which I particularly informed Mr. Shrewsbury, the Wesleyan Missionary.

If your Lordship will refer to *all* my correspondence since the riotous proceedings commenced, you will see that I have done every thing which man could *legally* do, at least according to the only *legal* opinions which I have in my power to obtain."

— N° 7. —

Copy of a Despatch from Lieut. General Sir H. Warde, addressed to Earl Bathurst, dated Government House, Barbadoes, 5th August 1824, with ten Enclosures.

My Lord,

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit your Lordship a correspondence which has taken place between the Attorney General of this island and myself, relative to a private soldier, a deserter from the Fourth (or King's Own) regiment, named "Mallon," who is accused by another soldier of the same corps, also a deserter, of having said that he, "Mallon," had been employed by an inhabitant of Barbadoes to assist in the demolition of the Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Bridgetown.

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

I have, &c.
(signed) HENRY WARDE.

Sir,

Government House, Barbadoes, 20th July 1824.

IN consequence of certain evidence produced on the trial of David Thomas, a soldier of the 4th or King's Own regiment, for desertion, which implicated private "Mallon," a deserter from the same regiment, as having been actively employed in the destruction of the Methodist chapel in Bridgetown, I last night succeeded in his apprehension as a deserter, and it is my opinion, if this man can be admitted as an evidence for the Crown, that it may bring to light sufficient matter to ensure justice being done to the persons injured, and to the community at large, by the discovery of some of the principal people concerned in the demolition of the chapel and house of the Methodist Missionary, that I now call on you as His Majesty's Attorney General to cause such measures to be adopted as you may consider best calculated to forward the prosecution of the offenders, and promote the ends of justice.

I have, &c.

(signed) Henry Warde.

P. S. The state of private "Mallon," at present, does not admit of his being removed from the hospital.

Enclosure
— 1. —

Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

Sir,

Fairfield, July 21st, 1824.

IN answer to your Excellency's letter of yesterday's date respecting private "Mallon," who has been apprehended as a deserter from the 4th regiment, and who your Excellency is of opinion may bring to light some matter of importance as to the demolition of the Methodist chapel in Bridgetown, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I shall be ready to examine this man on the subject whenever he shall be in a situation to be removed from the hospital, and sent to my office in Bridgetown; and as it may be proper for the solicitor for the Crown to be present at the examination, I am to request that I may receive two days previous notice at the least of the day when private "Mallon" can attend for the purpose of being so examined.

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

I have, &c.
(signed)

M. Coulturst.

Enclosure
— 2. —

Enclosure
— 3. —

Sir,

Government House, Barbadoes, 21st July, 1824.

WITH reference to my former letter, which states, that private "Mallon," of the 4th regiment of foot is implicated "as having been actively employed in the destruction of the Methodist chapel in Bridgetown," I have to suggest, that if this man can not be allowed to become an evidence for the Crown, whether it may not be necessary to have David Thomas brought up from Antigua to be examined on oath as an evidence against him.

I herewith enclose an attested extract from the defence of David Thomas from the minutes of his court-martial, which I will thank you to return after you have perused it.

The Hon. the Attorney General,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed)

Henry Warde.

Enclosure
— 4. —

The following is a copy of the Extract alluded to in the foregoing Letter.

EXTRACT from the defence of private David Thomas, of the 4th or King's Own regiment, who was tried for desertion by a general court-martial held at the Ridge Barracks, Antigua, on the 28th June 1824.

"He further states that he was informed against by another deserter of the same corps of the name of "Mallon," who is now, or was at the period of his apprehension, frequenting Hole Town in St. James's, who told him that he had been employed by an inhabitant of Bridge Town to assist in the destruction of the Methodist chapel there, in the latter part of the last year."

Certified a true extract.

(signed)

Henry Warde.

(signed)

G. A. Delhoste, Private Secretary.

Government House, Barbadoes, July 19th, 1824.

Enclosure
— 5. —

Sir,

Fairfield, July 24th, 1824.

I HAVE been honoured with your Excellency's letter of the 21st instant (in answer to mine of the same date), in which your Excellency is pleased to suggest, "Whether if private "Mallon" cannot be allowed to become an evidence for the Crown, it may not be necessary to have private Thomas brought up from Antigua to be examined on oath as an evidence against him (Mallon)."

In reply to which, I beg leave, with all due submission, to state, whether Mallon should or should not be admitted as a witness for the Crown, will depend upon the disclosure which he may make on his examination; although, should he even turn out to be an admissible witness, I should have great hesitation in recommending a prosecution; because, prosecuting for the Crown, I could not hope to obtain a conviction on his testimony, single and unsupported by any other; and in such a case, an acquittal would rather operate as a triumph. With respect to bringing up private Thomas from Antigua, to give evidence against Mallon, I do not think that the evidence of Thomas, as to Mallon's declaration, would of itself be sufficient to convict Mallon; some corroborating and additional testimony as to Mallon's being present at the demolition of the chapel, and proving also what he actually did there, would in my opinion be requisite to entitle the Crown to expect a conviction.

I return the extract which was sent to me, and have, &c.

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

(signed) *M. Coulturst.*

Enclosure
— 6. —

Sir,

Government House, Barbadoes, 24th July 1824.

I HAVE been honoured by your letter of this day's date.

In suggesting the opinions I have done, I have been solely guided by the duty I owe to the community; but having now placed the business in your hands to adopt such measures as you may deem best calculated to discover and bring to justice the persons concerned

cerned in the destruction of the Methodist Chapel, I cannot intrude a further opinion without the danger of its being considered an extra-judicial interference.

Private "Mallon" is now in a state to be sent to Bridgetown for examination whenever you may require his attendance.

Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Warde.*

The Honourable the Attorney General,
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Fairfield, July 27th, 1824.

His Excellency having been pleased to inform me that private "Mallon" is now in a state to be sent to Bridgetown for examination, whenever I may require his attendance, I am to request that he may be at my office in Bridgetown, on Saturday next at twelve o'clock, that being the first day on which the solicitor for the Crown and myself can give our attendance for the purpose of examining him.

Enclosure
— 7. —

I have, &c.

(signed) *M. Coulthurst.*

Captain Delhoste, Private Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Government House, Barbadoes, 27th July 1824.

I HAVE had the honour to submit your letter of this day's date to his Excellency the Governor who desires me in reply to inform you that directions will be given for the attendance of private "Mallon" at your office in Bridgetown, on the day appointed, at twelve o'clock.

Enclosure
— 8. —

I have &c.

(signed) *G. A. Delhoste, Private Secretary.*

To the honourable the Attorney General,
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

August 3d, 1824.

HEREWITH I transmit the examination of private "Mallon" taken before the solicitor for the Crown and myself, which you will be pleased to lay before his Excellency the Governor.

Enclosure
— 9. —

I have, &c.

(signed) *M. Coulthurst.*

Captain Delhoste, Private Secretary.

THE examination of private "Mallon" of the 4th (or King's own) regiment, taken before the Attorney General and solicitor for the Crown, on Saturday the 31st July, 1824.

Enclosure
— 10. —

The examinant being brought from St. Ann's Barracks, to the office of the Attorney General appeared before him and the solicitor for the Crown, and was cautioned to speak the truth, being at the same time assured that nothing that he should say should be made use of to his prejudice. On being questioned, he said that he had escaped from the solitary confinement at St. Ann's Barracks, to which he had been sentenced for desertion by a court-martial; and that whilst he was in the Hole Town he met with private Thomas, who had deserted from the 4th regiment, and that they used to meet and drink together. Private Thomas, he understood, had been some time in and about the Hole Town, and seemed to know the people there very well; some of whom asked him who Thomas was, and he told them that he belonged to the 4th regiment. Upon some persons being carried before a magistrate, for pelting a house with stones in the Hole Town, private Thomas appeared as an evidence against them, and one of them out of revenge had Thomas taken up, and gave information of his being a deserter.

Mallon positively declared, that what Thomas had said about him in his defence, at his court-martial at Antigua, was entirely false. He declared that he had never told Thomas that any person whatever had asked him to assist in pulling down the Methodist Chapel. That so far from being there himself, or knowing who was there, he was in the country at the time it was pulled down, and he did not know that such a thing had taken place until some days after; he never heard any person speak of being there, or intending to be there; and all this he most solemnly declared he would say again if he was going to die.

The foregoing are certified to be true copies.

(signed)

G. A. Delhoste, Private Secretary.

— N° 8.—

Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

COPY of a Despatch from Lieutenant-General Sir H. Warde, addressed to Earl Bathurst, dated Barbadoes, 5th August, 1824.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 5th August, 1824.

I HAVE the honour to state that I accidentally learnt, in conversation yesterday, with a gentleman of the island, that he had understood Mr. Shrewsbury, the Methodist Missionary, had very recently published a pamphlet in England, in which he stated that I had *refused* to grant him protection on his application to me, and consequently that it could not be expected that the magistrates should have done so; should Mr. Shrewsbury really have asserted this, I have only to refer your Lordship to Document N° 1, transmitted with my letter of the 23d October last, which I solemnly assure your Lordship was the substance of the *whole* of the conversation which then passed between us; and that I never had any other communication, written or verbal, with Mr. Shrewsbury, on this or any other subject.

I have long made it a rule to inquire of every complainant, whether they have previously applied to a magistrate, and if not, to refer them to one, stating my readiness to redress their grievance, should they have cause to feel themselves aggrieved or unattended to by the proper legal authorities.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Warde.*

The Earl Bathurst, K.B.
&c. &c. &c.

N° 9.

COPY of a Despatch from Lieutenant-General Sir H. Warde, addressed to Earl Bathurst, dated Barbadoes, 6th August, 1824.

My Lord,

Government House, Barbadoes, 6th August, 1824.

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday's date, on the subject of Mr. Shrewsbury, I have now the honour to state, that I have only this moment, for the first time, seen Mr. Shrewsbury's statement of his conversation with me, the greater part of which is true, though some extraneous matter, quite unconnected with the main subject on which he treats, is mixed up in it; but the strongest parts are clothed in his own words. I never stated that my protection would be an act of tyranny; but that previous to his application to a magistrate it would be arbitrary; and the whole of his deduction is entirely false, viz. that I refused him protection. I requested him to apply to a magistrate, that in case his complaints were not attended to, I might forthwith interpose my authority; and it was solely for this reason that I explained to him the absolute necessity of his previous application to a magistrate, that my interference might not be arbitrary or extra-judicial; and the conviction on my mind, when Mr. Shrewsbury left me, was, that he was on his road to a magistrate, as he informed Captain Delhoste, my private secretary, that he intended to take my advice; and I considered that if he did not obtain a satisfactory decision, that I should have heard from him again instantly, the truth of which is fully proved by my having desired that he would make his statement in writing; that, in fact, Mr. Shrewsbury suffered much from his own obstinacy, in positively resolving not to apply in the first instance to the proper legal authorities, as I can assure your Lordship I fully believed that he had done, and that he had no further complaint to make. I made no comments in my memorandum of his complaint against the magistrates for having cited him to appear before him, and show cause why he should not serve in the militia, considering this, as I told him, a point of law, and that his redress must be obtained by law; but feeling in my own mind the high impropriety of his *servng* in the militia, even should it prove legal, I fully resolved to have laid his case before the council, and to have done every thing in my power to have prevented it, but the circumstances which so soon after my interview with him took place, and his immediate departure from the island, rendered any further steps on this point unnecessary.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Warde.*

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

N. B. I annex an Extract of Mr. Shrewsbury's printed Statement, as far as it in any way relates to me.

Enclosure
— 1.—

EXTRACT from Mr. Shrewsbury's statement relative to the destruction of the Methodist Chapel.

"The next day, Thursday 16th, I thought it my indispensable duty to apply to the governor for protection. I should have done so earlier, but there had already arisen several disputes between the governor and the colonists; and as mine was an unpopular cause, I was unwilling that he should be further embroiled with them through succouring me, and therefore I delayed my application to him till I could delay no longer. After the usual formalities, I stated to his Excellency that I was the Wesleyan Missionary residing under his government;

government; that in such and such instances I had been molested in the performance of my public duty: that as my congregation could not worship God in peace, I was necessitated to solicit his Excellency's interference and protection. His Excellency replied, that I ought to apply to the magistrates first; that if they refused to protect me he would, but that he ought to be the dernier resort. I replied, that I was fully sensible of the extreme propriety of his Excellency's remark, but that there was no effective magistracy; and that the magistrates bore me personal resentment, which was manifest from this simple fact: I had been three years and a half in the colony, and had never been interfered with concerning the militia, but now that the populace were bearing me down, the magistrate, instead of coming forward to protect me, had sent me a summons to answer for not having enrolled myself in the colony militia. His Excellency said that he was very sorry for me; that he wished me well; that no man in the country could be more abused than he had been, and that he was afraid the arm of protection would be represented as the arm of tyranny. I then requested his interference as to my exemption from the militia, and showed him my licence under the Toleration Act, but he advised me to get a lawyer's opinion, saying, 'it is a matter of law, and unfortunately I do not understand the law. I ventured to suggest to his Excellency, that independent of the Toleration Act, by virtue of his prerogative he could exempt any individual from the militia service, but he declined, and said if I wanted any thing, I must petition him in council. I said, sir, I am a friendless unprotected individual; in applying to your Excellency I have done my duty, and can do no more. I then withdrew, convinced that my only succour must come from the Lord my God.'

A true extract.

(signed)

G. A. Delhoste, Private Secretary.

Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

— N° 10. —

EXTRACT of a Despatch from Lieut. General Sir Henry Warde, addressed to Earl Bathurst, dated Government House, Barbadoes, 3d January, 1825.

" I HAVE now to transmit your Lordship minutes of Council of the 10th March, 1824, which contains the proceedings of a committee of privy council appointed by me for the investigation of the conduct of those magistrates, the result of which was, that the committee considered the conduct of the whole of them (the magistrates) reprehensible, with the exception of Messrs. Moore and Waith; and the Council advised that my displeasure should be expressed to Messrs. Gill, Wickham, Grant, and Walton, which I accordingly directed to be communicated to them through the clerk of the council, in compliance with their unanimous opinion, as the most proper measure to be adopted on the occasion."

Barbadoes.—At a Meeting of the Honourable Board of Privy Council in Council Chamber, at the Town Hall, in the 10th day of March, 1824.

Enclosure
— 1. —

Present, His Excellency Sir Henry Warde, K.C.B.; The Honourables John B. Skeete, John A. Beckles, John Brathwaite, Renn Hamden, Nathan Lucas, John R. Best, and Richard Skinner.

The governor stated that he was now ready to receive any communication on the conduct of the magistrates during the late riots in October last, which he had requested a committee of the council to inquire into, and report to him upon; he requested the opinion and advice of the Privy Council on the subject, as by that advice he should be guided; but if that the Board required more time, he would not press it now; or if the members had any objection to give an opinion, he begged they would say so.

Mr. Brathwaite then rose, and moved that the examinations of the magistrates taken before the Committee, together with his Excellency's communication to the Council, be read, when they were accordingly read as follows:

Barbadoes.—At a Meeting of the Honourable the Members of His Majesty's Council in Committee at the Town Hall, on the 11th day of February, 1824.

Present, The Honourables John Brathwaite, Sir Reynold A. Alleyne, bart., Renn Hamden, Nathan Lucas, John R. Best, Richard Skinner, and John A. Holder.

The magistrates of Bridge Town were then admitted into the Council Chamber, when Mr. Brathwaite, as chairman of the Committee, thus addressed them:

Gentlemen,—By the desire of His Excellency Sir Henry Warde, you are summoned before this Committee for an examination of your conduct during the late riotous proceedings, and the destruction of the Wesleyan chapel in Bridge Town.

The following questions were then put to them severally:

- Q. 1. Were you in Bridge Town on the night of the 19th and 20th of October last?
- 2d. Did it come to your knowledge, by any means, on either of those nights, that a riotous assembly had collected at the Wesleyan chapel, for the purpose of pulling down that building, and that they were actually engaged in destroying it?
- 3d. Did you, or did you not, make any effort to disperse this meeting, and to prevent the destruction of the chapel? if yea, state what measures you adopted.

Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

4th. Did you receive any orders or instructions from the Governor on the first or second nights of the riot, or did you make any communication to him on the subject?

To these questions the following answers were returned :

Examination of *John Gill*, esq.

In answer to query the 1st, examinant saith,—I was.

2d. There had been a rumour previous to that building being pulled down, that it was to be so, to which I gave no credit ; that on the night of its being so pulled down being very unwell, I went early to bed, and never knew or heard any thing of it until about six o'clock the next morning, when I was informed by one of my servants that the chapel was pulled down. I immediately dressed myself and went there, and to my astonishment found the greater part of that building down. On the night of the 20th, I heard that they were going on in pulling down the remainder, and set out with the intention to go there, but on my way I was informed that there was a collection of free coloured persons at their charity school. I then turned my way to that place, where I found many assembled, to whom I offered my assistance, but it appearing to be unnecessary, I returned home.

3d. I used no effort, knowing my incompetency as a single individual to effect it.

4th. I received no orders from the Governor, nor did I make any communication to him on the subject.

Jⁿ Gill.

Examination of *Richard S. Wickham*, esq.

In answer to query the 1st, examinant saith,—I was not on the night of the 19th, but on the night of the 20th I was.

2d. That having spent the evening out on the 19th, after returning home with my family and preparing to go to bed about nine o'clock, I heard that a slave passing the road had said that there were a great number of persons pulling down the chapel, to which I gave no credit, as I had heard many like reports several times previous, I therefore being very unwell went to bed.

3d. Examinant saith,—I used no effort.

4th. On the night of the 20th, about half past seven o'clock, I received a communication from his Excellency the Governor, through Captain Delhoste, requesting that I would go down to the coloured charity school, in consequence of his having received a petition stating that an assemblage of people intended to pull down that school. I immediately went there, and having satisfied the minds of those present was returning home, taking my way through Chapel Street, into which I had not got more than ten yards before I was surrounded by a large party, who requested that I would return, for that if I proceeded I might get materially injured, but I did not know that that mob was collected to complete the destruction of the chapel that night ; I received no orders from his Excellency respecting the chapel.

R. S. Wickham.

Examination of *William Henry Grant*, esq.

In answer to query the 1st, examinant saith,—On the night of the 19th I passed between nine and ten o'clock through the town with my family, in my way home from the naval hospital, where I had spent that evening.

2d. In passing through the town, a person, whom I think was a coloured man, came up to the gig and said that they had pulled down, or were pulling down, the chapel ; I soon after stopped another coloured man, and inquired of him if the report of the chapel being pulled down was true, he replied that it was, and that it was almost totally destroyed ; I told him, if I considered I could be of any service in preventing it I would go there, this he advised me not to do by any means, as I should run the risk of getting myself and family greatly injured, if not killed. I then inquired of him if he knew whether or not the Governor had been made acquainted with it, I think he told me he had been so, and in consequence of this advice I proceeded home. The day after I dined in town, and returned home about sunset in the evening.

3d. I used no effort on either of those nights ; but a few nights previous having heard that there was an assemblage of persons at the Wesleyan chapel, I, in company with Mr. Richard F. Walton and Mr. Campbell, J. Dalrymple, rode there and found a number of persons collected, for what purpose I cannot say ; to these I addressed myself, and requested that they would disperse ; I afterwards came away, and no injury was done that night.

4th. I received no order from, nor did I make any communication to the Governor on the subject. I understood that his Excellency had been informed of it, as I have already stated.

W^m Hy Grant.

Examination of *Edward H. Moore*, esq.

In answer to query the 1st, examinant saith,—I was not.

2d. No. I heard it on the morning of the 20th, and upon visiting the place found it completely demolished.

3d. I could certainly make no effort to disperse a meeting I knew nothing of.
 4th. I received no communication from nor did I make any to his Excellency on the subject.

Demolition of
 Methodist Chapel
 at Barbadoes.

E. H. Moore.

Examination of *Richard F. Walton, esq.*

In answer to query the 1st, examinant saith,—I was not, on the night of the 19th, and only the early part of the evening of the 20th, say between six and seven o'clock.

2d. On the night of the 19th I transiently heard, in returning home through the garrison, some negroes in conversation mention that the people were pulling down the chapel; I paid no further attention to what they were saying, but proceeded home.

3d. I used no effort on either of those nights, but was with Mr. Grant and Mr. Dalrymple a few nights previous, as stated in Mr. Grant's examination, and assisted in dispersing a mob which had collected at the chapel, but for what purpose I cannot say.

4th. I neither received from nor made any communication to the Governor.

R. F. Walton.

Examination of *Thomas L. Waith, esq.*

In answer to query the 1st, examinant saith,—I was not, on the night of the 19th; on the night of the 20th I was. After going into the country, I returned into town, a report having been circulated that it was the intention of a number of persons to destroy the Coloured Charity School, which I would have endeavoured if possible to prevent, but on reaching town I found the report was groundless, and I returned home.

2d. I never received any information respecting that building being either pulled down, or about to be so, until the morning of the 20th, when I was told by one of my servants that the chapel was pulled down. On the night of the 20th I heard that there was an assemblage of persons completing the total demolition of it.

3d. I made no effort, aware that it was useless.

4th. I received no communication from, nor did I make any to his Excellency on the subject.

Thos. L. Waith.

The Committee of His Majesty's Council have the honour to enclose your Excellency the examination of the magistrates, which they have taken in compliance with your Excellency's desire.

Council Chamber, 11th February, 1824.

THE Governor having returned, unopened, the proceedings of the Committee of Council on the investigation of the conduct of the magistrates of Bridgetown, through the same channel, the clerk of the council, and in the same manner in which he received them, stating his desire that they might be re-delivered to him in council to obtain the opinion of the members on their contents, has now the honour to request the honourable the President and Members of that Board to inform him whether they may find it convenient to comply with his wishes at the next meeting of council. The Governor would have sent a regular written message with the papers in question had he not previously received a verbal one on a business connected with the same subject from the council, through the clerk.

Government House, 25th February, 1824.

THE honourable the President, or senior member of His Majesty's Council in Committee to investigate the conduct of the magistrates of Bridgetown.

The Privy Council then declared their opinion, that the conduct of the magistrates was reprehensible, with the exception of Mr. Moore and Mr. Waith, who lived in the country.

The Governor then inquired what the Privy Council thought should be done on the occasion, when the Board advised that his Excellency's displeasure should be expressed to those who had neglected their duty, which his Excellency desired the clerk to do.

— N° 11. —

EXTRACT of a Despatch from Lieut. General Sir Henry Warde, addressed to Earl Bathurst, dated Barbadoes, 2d December, 1824.

"It was intended and proclaimed most publicly to meet in honour of the anniversary of the destruction of the Methodist Chapel, and to pull down a house belonging to a coloured methodist woman, who held meetings in her house; in consequence of which, I ordered the whole of the military, town militia, and life-guards, to be prepared and under arms on the evening of the day so proclaimed, and the magistrates to assemble near the spot before dark; the rioters were however prudent, and every thing passed quietly; these and other energetic measures which I have adopted, I hope may meet with your Lordship's approbation."

Demolition of
Methodist Chapel
at Barbadoes.

— N° 12. —

EXTRACT of a Despatch addressed by Earl Bathurst to Lieut. General Sir Henry Warde, dated Downing Street, 14th February, 1825.

“ I have received your despatch of the 2d of December last, and I approve of the measures taken by you for the suppression of the riot which was apprehended on the anniversary of the day on which the chapel of the Wesleyan Mission was destroyed. I enclose for your information, a copy of a communication on this subject, which has been addressed to this department on the part of the Wesleyan Missionary Society; and also a copy of the reply which has been returned by my directions. From this correspondence you will learn my desire that an inquiry should be instituted into the proceedings of the magistrates who are alleged to have suppressed the meetings holden by the Wesleyans in a private dwelling-house since the destruction of their chapel. You will therefore take the most effectual means for ascertaining what were the circumstances of that transaction, in what manner, and to what extent, the magistrates actually interfered, and what were the reasons which appeared to them to require and justify their interference; and you will transmit, with the least possible delay, the result of these inquiries. As, however, it would not be in my power to form an opinion on the propriety of the measures which may have been adopted by the magistrates on this occasion, without more exact information respecting the laws of Barbadoes than it is possible to obtain in this country, you will also direct the law officers of the Crown within your government to report to you whether persons of all classes are entitled to celebrate divine worship in private dwelling-houses without restriction, or whether, on the contrary, the law in force in the colony has not imposed some restraints upon persons meeting together in unlicensed places for that purpose, and what are the nature of such restraints, and what distinction (if any) is to be made between those cases where the meeting may be composed exclusively of white persons, and those cases where free persons of colour or slaves may be present. You will further require the law officers to report to you what are the methods by which the law on this subject is to be enforced, and especially how far it is competent to the magistrate, or to any particular magistrate, to interfere for the prevention or dispersion of such meetings, without the previous sanction of the Governor.

You will forthwith transmit to me copies of the opinions of the law officers to the Crown in Barbadoes, in answer to these inquiries; and until you receive further instructions from me, you will adopt such measures as those opinions may warrant; especially you will, to the utmost of your power, cause the justices of the peace, and all other public officers in the colony, to concur with you in protecting His Majesty's subjects of all classes in the peaceable exercise of every religious right and privilege which the laws of the colony may appear to have secured to them; if your inquiries should lead to the conclusion that in the case of the Wesleyan Methodists the magistrates have asserted and enforced any powers not legally vested in them, it will be your duty to take the most effectual measures to prevent their assumption of any similar authority in future.

Whatever doubts may exist as to the privileges of the free coloured people to assemble in a private dwelling-house, for the purpose above mentioned, there can be none as to the right of the Missionaries to re-establish themselves in Barbadoes, and to rebuild their chapel, and this right must be amply and efficiently maintained.

You will therefore not fail to use sure and efficient means to render nugatory any attempts which may be made to oppose the landing of the Missionaries, or to obstruct the accomplishment of the lawful purposes which they may be delegated by the society to execute. I conclude, that under any apprehension of tumult, you would have no difficulty in placing a military guard in Bridgetown, which would secure timely intelligence of any appearance of disturbance, and prompt assistance, should violence ensue.”

— N° 13. —

COPY of a Letter addressed to Earl Bathurst by the Rev. Richard Watson, Secretary to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, dated Hatton Garden, 15th January 1825, with three Enclosures.

Wesleyan Mission House, 77, Hatton Garden, January 15th, 1825.

My Lord,

I AM directed by the Committee of the Wesleyan Missionary Society to express to your Lordship their regret and disappointment at the unfavourable decision of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, on the memorial of the Committee to your Lordship, dated December 18th, 1823, praying compensation from His Majesty's Government for the loss sustained by the Society by the destruction of their Mission premises at Bridgetown, Barbadoes, of which decision they have been informed by letter from Mr. J. C. Herries, dated December 4th, 1824.

The Committee still feel as strongly as ever that their application in this case was to the justice of His Majesty's Government, because the Society's property, by Mr. Shrewsbury waiting upon Sir Henry Warde previously to the outrage, and stating the disposition to riot which manifested itself among the whites of Bridgetown, and the disturbances which had already

already taken place at the chapel, was in fact, *formally* placed under the protection of that Governor; which protection was not afforded, either directly or indirectly, either by measures of precaution, or by interposition, when the riot had actually broken out, though it continued for two successive evenings within a short distance of his own residence; no orders were issued by him to the magistracy, nor do any active measures at all, since his Excellency's proclamation of October 1823, appear to have been taken to bring any of the offenders to justice.

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The Committee ask the liberty to represent further to your Lordship, that notwithstanding the directions which your Lordship, at an interview with a deputation of the Committee, condescendingly promised to send out to the Governors of the West India Colonies, to afford protection to the Missionaries of the Society, and which must long since have been received in Barbadoes, not only has no such protection been afforded in that colony, but that the meetings of the Wesleyan Society in Bridgetown, held since the destruction of the Mission Chapel, in a private dwelling-house, have been wholly suppressed, without any blame at all being even alleged against the conduct of any of the persons so assembling for prayers, and the reading of the Scriptures. The Committee, in bringing this fact, which they have just learned, under your Lordship's notice, beg leave to state, that about a month after the destruction of the Wesleyan Mission premises at Bridgetown, Mr. Rayner, one of the Society's Missionaries, sailed from St. Vincents to Barbadoes, to obtain certificates of Mr. Shrewsbury's conduct. He was however prevented from landing by the threats of a number of the white inhabitants, and was obliged to remain fifteen days on board the vessel, carrying on his correspondence by writing, not without threats, that boats would be manned from the shore to drag him from the vessel and destroy him, threats which were only prevented by the vessel being anchored under the guns of a ship of war. During this time Mr. Rayner wrote to Sir Henry Warde on the subject of the recent outrages, and the rebuilding of the Chapel, and received the reply marked (A.) This reply, as your Lordship will perceive, cut off all hope of attempting the rebuilding of the Mission Chapel at that time, because not only had the magistrates of Bridgetown suffered the mob to pull down the former Chapel, but several of them had shown a marked hostility to the Mission, and one of their number had been detected in breaking the windows of a gentleman who attended the Wesleyan Chapel, and for that cause only. That the magistrates would afford protection was not therefore to be expected; and the Governor had declared himself restrained, by legal difficulties, from interposing to prevent a repetition of the riotous proceedings from which the Mission had suffered. As Mr. Rayner was not specially charged to rebuild the Chapel, he did not therefore attempt it; and the Committee, upon your Lordship's assurance that orders would be sent out for the protection of the Mission, directed two of their Missionaries, Mr. Woolley and Mr. Goy, to proceed from Trinidad to Barbadoes for that purpose. They were however detained for several months during the summer, by finding no vessel willing to take them to Barbadoes at any price, the people at Bridgetown having declared their determination to burn any vessel which should land them. During this delay, Mr. Woolley fell sick, and was obliged to return home; and the Wesleyan Society at Bridgetown, chiefly free people of colour, and a few slaves, held meetings for prayer in the dwelling-house of a Mrs. Gill, herself a respectable free woman of colour. For a time these meetings were not annoyed, except by occasional passers by; but in the month of October last a determination began to manifest itself to employ the same violence against Mrs. Gill's house as against the former chapel. The rioters of the preceding year resolved to celebrate the anniversary of the former outrage, and issued handbills, inviting the same persons to meet on the 19th October last, to level to the ground the dwelling-house of Mrs. Gill, appointing from six o'clock to nine o'clock in the evening for that purpose. They called upon the rioters to meet "armed, so that if any of the pest presumed to resist, they might be sent to sleep with their forefathers." Mrs. Gill was privately advised to give up the meetings for prayers at her house, but refused, and acquainted Sir Henry Warde with her danger. His Excellency directed the magistrates to protect Mrs. Gill's premises, and they were guarded by the magistrates and constables for several successive nights. In this instance the Committee gratefully acknowledge the attention of the Governor; and had nothing more occurred they should have hoped that it would not be necessary again to trouble your Lordship on this unpleasant subject, but Mrs. Gill, in a letter to the Committee, dated October 30th 1824, makes the statement marked (B).

The spirit of the magistrates of Bridge Town will be perceived by your Lordship from the fact, that after Mrs. Gill had invited them to search her house for arms, and they had declined doing so, they sent her the notice marked (C,) which could have no other object than that of fixing an unjust odium upon her.

The Committee would have been happy to admit, that the obedience of the magistrates to the Governor's orders to afford protection to Mrs. Gill's premises was an indication of a growing regard to their duties; but their suppression of the meetings of a few peaceable people for religious purposes only, prevents them from coming to so favourable a conclusion; because they extended protection to this dwelling-house they have no reason to believe that they would take any step to prevent the demolition of a chapel, if rebuilt. There was a reason too for their exerting themselves in Mrs. Gill's case, which would not apply to a chapel. Mrs. Gill is a free woman of colour, and the persons who assembled at her house for religious purposes are chiefly free people of colour; and though they themselves have suffered various insults in that spirit of meekness and resignation which the Committee have always enjoined upon them in their letters, yet in the present state of feeling between the whites and free people of colour in that island, many of the latter, who are in no sense, and

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have not been at any time connected with our society, considered the threats and demonstrations of the riotous whites against Mrs. Gill's house as marks of hostility towards them, the people of colour, as a body. This produced menaces in return, and led to the apprehension of unpleasant consequences. The Committee attribute the readiness of the magistrates of Bridgetown to protect Mrs. Gill, after the handbills had been issued calling the rioters together in October last, wholly to this apprehension; but as the threats of the whites were continued up to the date of their last advices, that "a sudden and unexpected attack would be made upon Mrs. Gill's house when undefended," the Committee wish distinctly to state to your Lordship, that though they can answer for the peaceable and unresisting spirit of the members of the Methodist society in Barbadoes, there is a probability that much uneasiness will be created among the free people of colour in general, should such an outrage take place. In that event they well know, that their society there, and the body to which they belong, would have all the censure cast upon them by many of the indiscriminating whites of the colony, and they state these facts beforehand to your Lordship, that any bad consequences which may arise from the violence of men who have been suffered to go so far without restraint, may be charged upon the guilty, and not upon the innocent.

These circumstances the Committee beg leave earnestly to recommend to your Lordship's attention. The religious privileges of the Society with whose care they are charged, have, by an unauthorized act of the local magistracy been taken away; and what an unrestrained mob begun is now under the name of authority completed. This Society the Committee cannot in duty leave. They will be visited by a Missionary, and the chapel will, if possible, be rebuilt; the Committee have not the least intention of giving up their Society in Barbadoes to the violence of a few unprincipled whites; for by deserting a Mission, which has many respectable friends even in Barbadoes, and which has already produced much good, they would tacitly plead guilty to the unfounded and absurd charges which have been made against them. After a service of near forty years in the work of instructing the negroes of the West Indies, during which time no insurrections or conspiracies have ever taken place among the slaves who have been under the care of the Wesleyan Missionaries, after having spent large sums of money annually, and sacrificed in this work many valuable lives, the Committee think that they have the strongest claim to protection throughout the West Indies, and they themselves will not give place to violence, by any voluntary act; their Societies are willing to suffer with patience, and their Missionaries will not desert their flocks; so that the persecution or protection of the Wesleyan Missions is the only alternative before the local governments of the West Indies; the former the Missionaries have never deserved; the latter they have never abused.

To His Majesty's Government the Committee most gratefully acknowledge they have never looked in vain in such circumstances, and they trust that such measures will in the case of the Barbadoes Mission be adopted by them in their usual regard to the religious liberties of His Majesty's subjects; that the restraint upon the meetings of the Wesleyan society in Barbadoes may be removed; and that measures for the protection of the Missionaries who are proceeding there to rebuild the chapel, and to re-establish the worship of God, may be adopted, for which purpose, nothing, they are convinced, is necessary, but energy in the Governor himself.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,
(signed) *Richard Watson*, Secretary.

(A.)

Sir,

Government House, Barbadoes, 8th Nov. 1823.

I HAVE been favoured with your communication of this day's date, together with its enclosures; no man can more strongly disapprove of the lawless and riotous acts which have recently taken place on this island, and most particularly the destruction of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, than myself; and whenever I could obtain information relative to such proceedings, I have done every thing in my power to suppress them, by orders to the magistrates, accompanied by an offer of an armed force, should it be necessary and legal; but these riotous proceedings have, particularly the destruction of the chapel, seldom reached my ears, until their purposes have been fully effected; and as the Crown lawyers here have given me their firm opinion that the military can not legally interfere, and as martial law can not be proclaimed without the advice of His Majesty's Council, which may even require so much time to assemble, should they afterwards advise the measure, as to allow of any mischief being previously effected, I shall leave it to you to judge of what it may be advisable to do under such circumstances. With regard to your visit here, I can only say, that all and every protection which I can legally afford you shall be granted.

I remain your most obedient servant,
(signed) *Henry Warde*.

To Mr. Moses Rayner,
Wesleyan Missionary.

(B.)

"It was on the 15th instant, I first wrote to the Governor, and on the 17th two of the magistrates made their first visit; it was during the time of our prayer meeting, which we held

held every Monday evening that they came in. As soon as the meeting was over I invited them into the drawing-room. When they were seated they objected to our meetings, as being contrary to law that any private house should have such an assembly of people as they had seen, especially as many were slaves. They said I should be in danger of being summoned to appear at the sessions for my conduct. I asked one of these two gentlemen whether he had not given me permission to hold the meetings, he said yes, but I did not think the slaves attended. On the 20th instant the whole body of magistrates and constables came to search my house for arms and ammunition, which they said they had been credibly informed, I had secreted to defend my house in case I should be assailed. I invited them in, and begged them to search, but after professing to come for that purpose, they refused to make any search; instead thereof, they gave me the afflicting stab by forbidding me to hold meetings any more. Some have conjectured that they would allow us, who are free people of colour, to meet, but not the slaves; but rather than exclude the poor slaves, I will have no meetings at all, until the Lord, who forsakes us not, shall open a way for our protection."

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(C)

Madam,

Bridge Town, 21st October, 1824.

WE the undersigned, acting magistrates of Bridge Town, having been credibly informed that you have admitted into your house a deposit of arms and ammunition, feel it our duty to give you this public notice and warning, that we shall hold you individually responsible for any tumult or riot that may happen in consequence of such an unwise and illegal measure; and that should any blood be spilled from such a proceeding, we can not answer for results which may perhaps be injuriously fatal to you.

The civil powers are fully adequate to the protection of your property, and every exertion will be made by the public authorities to afford you prompt and sufficient aid in case of necessity.

(signed)

John Gill.
R. S. Wickham.
E. H. Moore.
W. H. Grant.

— N° 14. —

Copy of a Letter addressed by Mr. R. Wilmot Horton to the Secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, dated Downing Street, 10th February 1825.

Sir,

Downing Street, 10th February, 1825.

I AM directed by Lord Bathurst to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 15th January, and I am to request that you will inform the Wesleyan Missionary Society, that his Lordship has learnt with regret that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have not felt themselves justified in indemnifying from the public money the losses sustained by the Society in consequence of the destruction of the Missionary Premises in Barbadoes.

I am however to acquaint you that his Lordship is by no means prepared to admit the accuracy of the assertion made in the statement of the Society, that their property was formally placed under the protection of the Governor of Barbadoes by their Missionary, Mr. Shrewsbury; and as the society appear, from this and other communications, to have been misinformed in regard to the part taken by the Governor of Barbadoes on the occasion in question, it becomes necessary to explain to them, that when Mr. Shrewsbury applied to the Governor for protection, the Governor pointed out to him the course which it was proper that he should adopt, in order to obtain it; and the circumstance of his failing to obtain it, though owing in part, no doubt, to the culpable negligence of the magistracy and the town police, and the spirit with which too large a portion of the community was infected, is yet, in a great degree, to be ascribed to the Missionary persisting to neglect those which were pointed out to him as the proper means of procuring assistance, and is in nowise to be imputed to any want of readiness to afford it on the part of the Governor. It was not the property of the Society which it was in any way attempted to place under the Governor's protection. Mr. Shrewsbury's application to the Governor (and it was the only application or intelligence upon the subject which reached the Governor previously to the event,) was made on Thursday the 16th of October; and there appears to have been at that time no intimation or apprehension of a design against the property of the Mission. The Missionary applied for personal protection, and protection for his congregation in the exercise of their religious duties; the Governor's answer was, that Mr. Shrewsbury must first apply to the magistrates, and if they refused protection, that the Governor would immediately afford it. In this there was no want of propriety or promptitude. The Governor considered that the functions of the magistracy should not be superseded, unless they showed an indisposition to the due exercise of those functions; and he therefore made his own protection contingent upon the refusal of the magistrates to grant theirs. Three days elapsed before the occurrence of the riot; and had Mr. Shrewsbury taken the part pointed out to him, he might have had the protection of the magistrates, or in failure of theirs, that of the Governor.

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It is to be observed, that Mr. Shrewsbury gave it to be understood that he was about to follow the advice given him, and the Governor receiving no second application, was led to believe that the Missionary had found effectual assistance elsewhere.

Although the design of the rioters was made public on the 18th of October, the day preceding its execution, the Governor received no intelligence of it either from Mr. Shrewsbury or any other person, till the morning of the 20th.

The silence of Mr. Shrewsbury seems to have proceeded from his unfortunate pertinacity in declining all measures for his relief, other than that application to the Governor, which he pronounced to be the perfect accomplishment of his duty. It appears therefore that the non-interposition of the civil power to repress the outrages of the 19th October is not to be imputed to the remissness of the Governor; and on the 19th, according to the *Memorial of the Society*, which tallies with all other accounts, the effectual destruction of the property took place. The attack on the 20th October, which is stated to have been made on the "remains of the walls," is not supposed to have been premeditated, like that of the former night, though it naturally took a similar direction, but appears to have been a casual disturbance, such as those which the Governor states to have been at the time of almost nightly occurrence in Bridgetown.

On the same night, that of the 20th October, an apprehension was entertained that the premises of the Free Coloured Bible Society would be destroyed; and this being duly notified to the Governor, justified as he now was in presuming a probable dereliction of duty on the part of the magistrates, and the imminence of the occasion requiring instant interference, he despatched his secretary to assemble the magistracy, and sent orders to the military to be in readiness to attend them. These measures were effectual for the prevention of any violence or injury to the property of the Bible Society; and if Mr. Shrewsbury had taken the course which was timely pointed out to him, similar measures might have been adopted, and found effectual for the preservation of the property of the Wesleyan Mission.

With regard to the conduct of the magistrates of Bridgetown upon this occasion, I am to inform you that it has undergone an investigation before a Committee of His Majesty's council in Barbadoes, the result of which has been but recently reported to Lord Bathurst, and his Lordship will direct such steps to be taken in this respect as the occasion calls for; but with reference to the allegation contained in your letter against one of these magistrates for a specific act of violence; his Lordship has to suggest the propriety of communicating the name of the individual alluded to, together with any circumstances that may assist the inquiry which his Lordship will then direct to be instituted; and if the magistrate shall appear to be inculpated, as the Society allege, his Lordship will not hesitate to direct his instant dismissal.

With reference to that part of your letter in which you state that no active measures appear to have been taken since the Governor's proclamation of October 1823, to bring any of the offenders to justice, I am to acquaint you that the information of the Society which has led them to form this opinion is wholly erroneous. At the same time the Society cannot fail to perceive the inconvenience and uselessness of instituting a prosecution under existing circumstances, unless it were founded upon evidence indisputably adequate to convict. His Lordship extremely regrets that he is compelled to entertain the best founded apprehensions that there is no probability of such evidence being obtained.

I am now to advert to the more recent occurrences which are communicated in your letter. It appears that Mr. Rayner, a Missionary of the society, proceeded from St. Vincent's to Barbadoes within a month after the destruction of the chapel, in order, amongst other purposes, to communicate with the Governor concerning the rebuilding of the chapel, that he was prevented from landing by the menaces of the inhabitants; that the Governor informed him that all and every protection that he could legally afford him should be granted, but at the same time represented the difficulty of a timely suppression of riots, under the doubts he then entertained of his power to avail himself of military interference; and hinted, certainly not without reason, that it would be extremely injudicious in the Missionary at that moment to persist in his intentions. Since Mr. Rayner's abandonment of the attempt to rebuild the chapel, the Society directed two of their Missionaries to proceed to Bridgetown from Trinidad, but they state, that owing to the menaces of the inhabitants of Barbadoes no master of a vessel could be found to convey them. The Society have now intimated their intention to dispatch a Missionary to Barbadoes from London, and to persist in attempting to rebuild the chapel, and with reference to that intention prefer their claim to receive protection from His Majesty's Government. I am therefore to acquaint you, that Lord Bathurst has directed the Governor of Barbadoes to adopt the most effectual means in his power to render nugatory any attempt which may be made to oppose the landing of the Missionaries, or to obstruct the accomplishment of the lawful purposes which they may be delegated by the society to execute.

His Lordship will direct inquiry to be made into the proceedings which are stated to have been adopted by the magistrates of Bridgetown in regard to the meetings of the society in Barbadoes, which had been held since the destruction of the chapel, in the dwelling-house of Mrs. Gill, a free woman of colour.

In the mean time his Lordship would caution the Society against an implicit reliance upon the unsupported statement of this individual, which is not in itself calculated to convey an impression of its accuracy.

I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant,
(signed) R. W. Horton

To the Secretary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

— N^o 15. —Demolition of
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Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant General Sir Henry Warde, addressed to Earl Bathurst, dated Barbadoes, 4th November 1823—one Enclosure.

My Lord,
AT the request of His Majesty's Privy Council of this Island, I have the honour to forward your Lordship a memorial from that Board, and

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) *Henry Warde.*

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

A Memorial from the Council of Barbadoes.

THE disgraceful outrage lately committed by a mob upon the Wesleyan Chapel has exposed a defect in our laws, which we believe none but lawyers were previously aware of. That the magistrate should be authorized to employ, any degree or description of force, which may be necessary for preserving the peace, and upholding the laws, is so clearly the dictate of reason and common sense, that it never occurred to us to question this position.

It being, however, the decided opinion of lawyers, in whose professional abilities we place the most undoubting confidence, that the laws of this country would not justify the military, acting under the civil power, in taking life on any emergency whatsoever. The Council could not take upon themselves to recommend such a measure to the Governor, however expedient they may deem it.

The Council have failed in their endeavours to strengthen the hands of the executive by means of a Riot Act, similar to the Riot Act of England, but milder in its penalties; a bill of this description having been rejected by the House of Assembly, after it had unanimously passed the Council. In this embarrassing predicament, this Board feel it their duty respectfully to request that the highest legal opinions in England may be obtained upon the following case:

It has always been holden, that no Acts of the Imperial Parliament, passed since the settlement of the colony, extend to this Island, and only such of the laws of England, enacted antecedently to that period, as are applicable to our situation and circumstances. The Riot Act of England having passed in the reign of George the First, does not therefore extend to this island. Is there any statute passed before the settlement of this island in the year 1625, which authorizes the military, acting under the magistrate for the suppression of a riot, to take the life of rioters, if such a measure should be necessary, and if not is such a proceeding sanctioned by the common law of England?

Enclosure
— 1. —

— 16. —

A Copy of a Despatch addressed to Lieut. General Sir Henry Warde, by Earl Bathurst, dated Downing Street, 22d January, 1824.

Sir,

Downing Street, 22d January, 1824.

I HAVE received and laid before the King your letter, dated 4th November, enclosing a memorial from the Council at Barbadoes, in which they request that the opinion of the law officers of the Crown may be taken upon the question therein stated, viz. "Whether there is any statute passed before the Settlement of that Island in the year 1625, which authorizes the military, acting under the magistrate for the suppression of a riot, to take the life of rioters, if such a measure should be necessary; and if not, is such a proceeding sanctioned by the common law of England."

The papers above mentioned have been referred to the consideration of the Attorney and Solicitor General, and I have received His Majesty's commands to acquaint you, that they are of opinion that there is no statute passed before the Settlement of the Island of Barbadoes in the year 1625, and now in force, of the nature alluded to; but by the common law the military may effectively act under the directions of the civil power in the suppression of riots.

Soldiers, when called upon, and required to aid the civil magistrate in apprehending or opposing persons engaged in a riot, will be justified in using the force necessary for that purpose. Any excess will be illegal; and for such excess the soldier as well as the citizen will be responsible. In this respect the laws, as applicable to both parties, is the same. If, in executing the commands of the magistrate, opposition is made by the rioters, force may be opposed to force; but the same rule still applies, viz. that the extent of the force used must be regulated by the necessity of the occasion; the excess only is illegal.

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illegal. If the military, in obeying the lawful commands of the magistrates, be so assailed that resistance cannot be effectually made without sacrificing the lives of the rioters, they would in law be justified in so doing. It is obvious, therefore, that each case must depend upon its own circumstances, and the only rule that can be given is, that the force, to be legal and justifiable, must, in every instance, as far as the infirmity of human passion will admit, be governed by what the necessity of the particular occasion may require.

I am commanded further to state for your information and guidance, that it will be proper that especial care should be taken that a magistrate be present on any occasion when the military may be called out for the purpose of suppressing a riot, and that they act in his aid, and by his command.

Temper and coolness upon such occasions, and forbearance, as far as it can be exercised consistently with the public safety, cannot be too strongly recommended.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,
(signed) *Bathurst.*

Lieut. General Sir Henry Warde, K. C. B,
&c. &c. &c.

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATING TO

SLAVES IN THE WEST INDIES:

(Demolition of the Methodist Chapel in Barbadoes.)

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