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SLAVES.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

Relative to Slaves, including Copy of the Order in Council
for the Registration of Slaves in the *Mauritius*.

Colonial Department, }
Downing-Street, }
1 May 1826. }

R. J. WILMOT HORTON.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
5 May 1826.

SCHEDULE.

- N^o 1.—Copy of a Dispatch addressed by Earl Bathurst to Lieut. General Hon. Sir G. L. Cole, dated Downing-street, 26 February 1826. (One Enclosure) p. 3.
- N^o 2.—Extract of a Dispatch addressed by Lieut. General Hon. Sir G. L. Cole to Earl Bathurst, dated Mauritius, 14 November 1825. (Three Enclosures) - p. 16.
- N^o 3.—Extract of a Dispatch addressed by Lieut. General Hon. Sir G. L. Cole to Earl Bathurst, dated Mauritius, 28 July 1825. (One Enclosure) - - - p. 21.
- N^o 4.—Copy of a Dispatch addressed by Earl Bathurst to Lieut. General Hon. Sir G. L. Cole, dated Downing-street, 18 May 1825. (One Enclosure) p. 22.
- N^o 5.—Copy of a Dispatch addressed by Earl Bathurst to Lieut. General Hon. Sir G. L. Cole, dated Downing-street, 31 May 1825 - - - p. 23.

CORRESPONDENCE

Relative to Slaves in the Island of *Mauritius*.— N^o 1. —

COPY of a Dispatch addressed by Earl Bathurst to Lieut. General Honourable Sir G. L. Cole. (One Enclosure.)

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 February 1826.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an Order of His Majesty in Council, which was made on the 30th January last, for amending the Order of the 24th of September 1814, for establishing a Registry of Slaves in the Island of Mauritius and its dependencies.

Your Excellency is aware that I have had occasion to make frequent communications to your predecessors in the government of Mauritius, respecting the imperfect manner in which the commands of His Majesty on this subject have been carried into execution, and the recent returns from the office of the registrar unfortunately prove that the registry still continues in so defective a state as to be nearly useless for every practical purpose.

Although, therefore, there is no room to doubt that the measure of registration has failed to a very considerable extent in the Mauritius, I have found myself unable to discover, with equal certainty, the causes to which this ill success is to be attributed. My attention was first called to the general disregard and misconception of the provisions of the Order in Council throughout the colony, by the dispatches of Major General Hall and of Lieutenant General Darling, during their successive administration of the government. From the communications of those officers, however, I was led to conclude that the defects in the registry were to be attributed, not to any material error or omission in the law itself, but to the culpable negligence of the persons more immediately intrusted with the administration of it. I had indeed considerable reason to suppose that the law itself was properly adapted to ensure the general and punctual obedience of the inhabitants to its various provisions. Similar Orders in Council had previously been made for establishing a Registry of Slaves in the Islands of Trinidad and St. Lucia. In each of those colonies the success of the measure was complete; and it seemed reasonable to anticipate that a law which had proved effectual in St. Lucia, would, under a proper administration, accomplish its purpose in the Mauritius; the language of the two colonies being the same, and their laws and institutions closely resembling each other.

Under these impressions, General Darling, with my approbation, issued a commission to Sir Robert Barclay, Mr. Hart Davis, and three other English gentlemen, authorizing them to investigate the manner in which the business of the office of Registrar of Slaves had been conducted, and it was satisfactory to find, in the papers transmitted to me on that occasion, sufficient evidence that the commissioners entered upon their office with no prepossessions either in favour of the registrar or otherwise which could give an undue bias to their judgment. From the report ultimately made to General Darling, the commissioners appear to have been engaged in a very full investigation of the subjects referred to them; they attributed the delay which had occurred in completing the triennial returns partly to causes wholly accidental, in part to the inadequate establishment of clerks in the registrar's office, to the pressure of other duties connected with the public revenue which the registrar was then required to discharge, and to the very frequent interruptions occasioned by persons applying to inspect the books of registry. They also reported their opinion, that the verification of the triennial returns by a comparison with the general returns was a process so laborious as to afford a considerable apology for the

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the delay which had taken place. They stated that "the registrar appeared to have conformed generally to the forms prescribed by the Order in Council," except in certain particulars which were not of principal importance, and they did not find that the failure of the measure was to be imputed to the misconduct of the registrar.

The commissioners in general professed themselves incompetent to offer any advice for insuring a more punctual obedience to the Order in Council in future. Sir Robert Barclay, however, one of their number, delivered in a separate paper, in which he made some suggestions for promoting regularity and dispatch in the execution of the law; and the registrar himself, upon his examination stated, that it did not appear to him "that any other alteration would be consistent with the object of the ordinance, than an extension of the period fixed for the completion of the registry."

In consequence of this report, Lieutenant General Darling authorized an increase of the clerks in the registrar's office, and made regulations for preventing, as far as possible, the recurrence of those accidents to which the Commissioners had partly attributed the imperfect state of the registry.

On Sir Robert Farquhar's return to resume the government, he was especially charged with the duty of correcting any abuses which might be detected in this department, and of suggesting any amendments of the law as might appear to him necessary. Accordingly, he transmitted to me very full reports on the subject from the registrar and the chief judge, with a draft prepared by the latter of those gentlemen of a new Order in Council in amendment of the previous Order. Without intending to disparage the memory or professional abilities of the learned gentleman who prepared that draft, I must observe, that the leading provisions of it were such as could not have been adopted without a direct violation of the most important constitutional and legal principles. Such an error was the more to be regretted, as many of Mr. Smith's suggestions were apparently well calculated to accomplish the object with a view to which they had been formed. Shortly after the arrival of this document in England, His Majesty's government decided on sending Mr. Bigge and Major Colebroke as commissioners, to inquire into the administration of the governments of the Cape of Good Hope, the Mauritius and Ceylon. It was (as you are aware) originally intended that they should first proceed to the Mauritius, although, from circumstances to which it would be needless to refer, that determination was subsequently altered. Among the first duties to which their attention would be called, was that of devising measures for the more effectual Registration of the Slaves in that Colony.

Events which could neither be foreseen nor controlled, have detained the commissioners at the Cape of Good Hope, for a period far exceeding my expectations; and among other consequences of this delay, has been the postponement of the measures necessary for improving the registry law in the Mauritius. This delay having already extended to so considerable a length, it has been deemed right rather to forego the advantage which the report of the commissioners would have afforded, than to desist any longer from introducing such amendments in the existing system, as have appeared safe and practicable.

In the Order in Council which I transmit to you, the various suggestions which have been made for the improvement of the law by your predecessors in the government of the Mauritius, and by Mr. Smith, the late chief judge, have been adopted as far as they appeared consistent with the spirit of the original measure. For your guidance it will be convenient to explain in general the nature and the reasons of the new regulations which are now to be established.

The imperfect manner in which the returns have been hitherto made by the proprietors of Slaves, whether attributable to the difficulty of understanding the duty required of them, as the defaulters themselves appear to allege, or to causes of a more discreditable nature, as has been suggested by others, is the first evil against which it has appeared necessary to take securities for the future. For this purpose it has been decided to establish, in each of the quarters of the Island, an officer, who will be called the Assistant Registrar of Slaves of the quarter. This addition to the civil establishment of the colony appears unavoidable; but as the projected amendments in the law respecting the general condition of the Slaves, will require the employ-
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ment of an assistant guardian of Slaves in every quarter; that office will be conveniently united with the office of assistant registrar, and the additional expense of the present measure will, I trust, therefore be inconsiderable. Until I shall receive a report from you on the subject, I shall not be prepared to issue any instructions respecting the remuneration to be received by the assistant registrars for their services. You will, therefore, with the advice of your council, establish such temporary regulations for that purpose, as a due regard to the public interest, and to the reasonable claims of the persons to be employed, may suggest.

The defects in the existing registry of Slaves appear so numerous and considerable, that after the most serious attention to the subject, I have found myself compelled to lay before His Majesty my humble advice to commence again the whole process of registration from the beginning. For very obvious reasons I should have desired to avoid this measure if possible; but I fear it would be vain to anticipate any effectual observance of the law hereafter, if future returns were to be verified by a comparison with such a registry as I am led to conclude exists at present in the Island.

The Order in Council has therefore directed you to appoint, by proclamation, a day on which the registrar of Slaves, in their several quarters, are to inspect the whole Slave population, with this distinction, that the personal Slaves must be brought to the registrar or assistant registrar at some convenient place in the quarter, and that the plantation Slaves are to be mustered, each on the estate to which they belong. At the time of this inspection, a return is to be made on oath, by every proprietor, in the form prescribed by the former Order respecting original returns. You will observe, that to secure the punctual performance of this duty, it is required that printed blank forms of the returns should be left at every house and plantation in the island, with printed instructions for the guidance of all persons in filling them up. The registrars are also required to assist all owners of Slaves with every necessary advice, as to the proper modes of proceeding.

The assistant registrars are authorized to accept or reject the returns thus to be delivered to them; and it will be their duty to reject all which are not made out in the prescribed form, or which do not contain all the requisite entries, or which, upon the personal inspection of the Slaves to which they refer, may appear to be fraudulent or false. The assistant registrars will be required to sign at the foot of each return they may receive, a certificate of its apparent accuracy.

The returns thus received are to be transmitted to the General Registry Office at Port Louis, with a list of all defaulters, and of all returns rejected, with the reasons of the rejection in each case.

The rules for registering all certified returns, with the process for verifying and authenticating the registry, will be the same as were laid down in the previous Order in Council.

Among the difficulties in the execution of his office, of which the present registrar complains, none has been stated so frequently or with so much earnestness, as that which arises from the necessity of tracing to his former registered owner each Slave returned at the triennial registration, as acquired by purchase. It is said that the same Slave is frequently the subject of many intermediate sales, of which no record is preserved, and that therefore almost each return, at the triennial registration, gives rise to questions which cannot be resolved without all the delay and inconvenience arising from the production of witnesses at the office of the registrar, whose attendance he has no power to compel. To obviate this inconvenience or evasion for the future, the present Order in Council requires, that no sale or alienation of a Slave shall have any effect unless it be registered in the office of the Registrar of Slaves. It is further required, that the birth, or death, or enfranchisement of any Slave, shall be immediately made known to the registrar, and recorded in his office. I refer you to the Order itself, for an explanation of such subordinate rules as it has been thought necessary to make, for enabling the registrar to keep an accurate record of all such transactions and occurrences.

The interval of three years between each periodical registration, is represented as inconveniently long, and as multiplying needlessly the number of mutations which are to be recorded at each successive period; the present Order has therefore required the repetition of the returns at intervals of two years.

At the recurrence of each biennial registration, the assistant registrars will be employed

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employed in their various quarters, to inspect the Slaves; to accept or reject returns; to certify the accuracy of such as are accepted, and to transmit them, together with lists of the rejected returns, to the General Registry Office at Port Louis, in the same manner as is required with regard to the original returns.

The mode of registering the biennial returns, is adopted from the former Order in Council, without alteration, excepting that no biennial returns can be received which are inconsistent with the records of sales, alienations, births, deaths and enfranchisements in the office of the registrar, unless where some satisfactory explanation of the inconsistency can be given.

With regard to the penalties and other sanctions of the law, they are in general taken from the former Order; nor is it necessary that I should enter into any explanation of them here; I have however to observe, that the responsibility which will attach to the assistant registrars, may be expected to operate strongly as a check to abuses. It has also been deemed right to devise some effectual security against the possible misconduct of these functionaries themselves. For that purpose it is provided, that the fees of the registrar and his assistants, shall be paid into the public treasury; and that they shall be remunerated by salaries, which however, you are strictly enjoined from paying either to the registrar or to any of his assistants, as long as any of the duties which the party applying for payment is appointed to execute, may be unperformed or in arrear; and the salary is at length to be paid without any interest in respect of that period, during which the payment may have been so suspended.

It is in general to be observed, that the present Order does not repeal the former Order in Council; although of course it supersedes some of the provisions of it; and that the present Order contains no clause remitting any penalties which may have been already incurred.

His Majesty's Government are not insensible of the extreme difficulty of framing with propriety an Order, which is to take effect in a colony of which the population, language and laws differ entirely from those of England. It has not escaped observation, that the present Order in Council may therefore have to encounter difficulties which have not been anticipated in this country, the delay incident to all communications with the Mauritius, is such, that any impediment to the success of the measure, which may be detected there, might be productive of the most injurious consequences before any remedy could be applied by the authority of His Majesty in Council. It has therefore been deemed right to commit to you, acting with the advice of your Council, the power of making such rules as may be necessary for giving effect to the intentions of His Majesty's Government relative to the registration of Slaves in the Mauritius, and you are authorized, with the advice of your Council, to suspend the execution of any of the provisions of the Order in Council, which may in practice be found to defeat those intentions. I need scarcely point out to you the necessity of exercising this power with the greatest caution and forbearance, nor is it necessary that I should remind you of the propriety of transmitting to me by the earliest opportunity, the fullest explanation of the reasons of every departure from the rules of the Order in Council, which may be authorized by any local ordinance.

In conclusion, I have to impress upon you the urgent importance of giving effect to the wishes of His Majesty's Government on this subject, by every exertion it may be in your power to make. There is no duty connected with the administration of the government of the Mauritius, to which your attention could be more advantageously directed; and I shall anxiously expect your report of the measures adopted in compliance with the present Order in Council, and of the consequences resulting from it.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
(signed) *Bathurst.*

At the Court at Carlton House, 30th January, 1826.

Present,—The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Enclosure.

WHEREAS his late Majesty was pleased, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to issue an Order in Council, bearing date the 24th September, 1814, for establishing within the Isle of France an Office for the Registration of Slaves.

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And whereas in pursuance of the said Order in Council, an office hath been established in the said Island for the purpose aforesaid, and returns have from time to time been made of the Slaves therein, which returns have been registered in the said office, but nevertheless the said returns or divers of them have been inaccurately and improperly made, and the records of the said office of registration have not been compiled and kept in the manner prescribed and required in and by the said Order in Council, by reason whereof the beneficial objects of the said Order have not been attained; and it is necessary to make further and more effectual provision for insuring due obedience to the provisions of the said Order in Council, and for that purpose it is expedient that the original or general registration therein directed to be made of all the Slaves within the said Island should be repealed, His Majesty, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, is hereby pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that within the term of one calendar month next after the arrival of this present Order at the Isle of France, and the receipt thereof by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or other person having the chief civil command under His Majesty within the Island, the same shall be publicly notified, both in the French and English languages to the inhabitants of the said Island and its dependencies, in such manner as to the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief, shall seem most fit and effectual, and shall be enrolled at length in the records of the several courts of justice in the said Island.

Enclosure,
continued.

And it is hereby further ordered, That within three calendar months next after such public notification of this Order as aforesaid, a full and complete revision, correction and renewal of the first and original registry of Slaves, made under the said Order of the 24th of September 1814, shall in manner hereinafter mentioned be begun and completed within the said Island.

And it is hereby further ordered, That such Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief, shall nominate and appoint one fit and proper person to act as assistant to the registrar of Slaves in each of the quarters of the said Island; and the persons so to be appointed, shall from time to time be suspended or removed from such their offices by the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-chief, and other persons appointed in their place and stead, as occasion may require.

And it is hereby further ordered, That no such assistant registrar as aforesaid shall be appointed in or for the quarter of _____ in the said Island, but that in the said quarter of _____ the registrar of Slaves appointed under the said Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814, shall execute in person the duties to be executed in the other quarters of the said Island by the said assistant registrars.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Civil Commander in chief, shall by a proclamation to be by him issued for that purpose, appoint one or more day or days, upon which all personal Slaves within the several quarters of the said island aforesaid, shall be brought, produced and exhibited to the registrar or assistant registrar of Slaves, within the several quarters aforesaid.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Civil Commander in chief, shall by a proclamation to be by him issued for that purpose, also appoint certain days upon which the said registrar and assistant registrars of Slaves, shall personally visit, examine and inspect all plantation Slaves, within the several quarters as aforesaid, at and upon the several plantations to which such plantation Slaves may respectively belong.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the days so to be appointed for the production and inspection of such personal Slaves and plantation Slaves respectively, shall not be later than one calendar month from and after such public notification as aforesaid, of this present Order.

And it is hereby further ordered, That for the purposes of this present order, personal Slaves shall be distinguished from plantation Slaves, in the same manner as is prescribed, and according to the same rules, provisions and directions, as are made and given in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814.

And it is hereby further ordered, That on the day or days so to be appointed as aforesaid for that purpose, every person who shall then be resident in any such quarters

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Enclosure,
continued.

quarters of the said island, and who shall be in possession of any personal Slave or Slaves, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee or receiver, manager or attorney, whatever their title, trust or interest therein may be, or who then shall own or possess any personal Slave whatsoever, within the said island or its dependencies, shall, at the place within the said quarter, to be for that purpose appointed by the said proclamation, bring, produce or exhibit, all such his, her or their personal Slaves, before the registrar or assistant registrar of Slaves for every such quarter.

And it is hereby further ordered, That on the day or days so to be appointed as aforesaid for that purpose, every person who shall then be resident in any such quarter as aforesaid, and who shall be in possession of any plantation Slaves or Slave within any such quarter, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, trustee or receiver, manager or attorney, whatever their title, trust or interest therein may be, shall produce and exhibit before such registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid, all such his, her or their plantation Slaves, upon the plantation or estate upon which such Slaves may be usually worked, or to which they may be attached or belong, or with which they may be owned, held or possessed; and a general muster or assemblage of all such plantation Slaves, shall thereupon take place upon each and every such plantation, in the presence of such registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid.

And it is hereby further ordered, That upon the production in manner aforesaid of any such personal Slaves or Plantation Slaves as aforesaid, before any such registrar or assistant registrar, the person producing any such Slave or Slaves shall, at the same time, deliver, upon oath, to such registrar or assistant registrar a return of all his, her or their personal and plantation Slaves, which return shall be made out in such and the same form as in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814, is prescribed and required, for or in reference to the first or original returns thereby directed to be made; and the said return of Slaves so to be made as aforesaid under this present Order, shall contain all and every the entries, declarations, descriptions, statements, matters and things, of what kind and nature soever, which, in and by the said Order of the 24th day of September 1814, are directed and required to be contained in the said first or original returns therein mentioned.

And His Majesty is hereby further pleased to order, That for the better enabling all persons to comply with the provisions of this present Order, and to make the first returns hereby required of them, the said registrar and assistant registrar shall, in their several quarters, distribute gratuitously to all persons applying for the same, and shall leave or cause to be left at or upon each plantation, and at every house within their said respective quarters, printed copies in blank of the forms of the returns both of personal and of plantation Slaves so to be made by them, together with such printed instructions as to the proper mode of filling up such blank returns, as may be necessary or convenient for enabling such persons fully to understand the duty to be performed by them: Provided nevertheless, That no such printed instructions as aforesaid shall be so distributed by or under the authority of any such registrar or assistant registrar, until the same hath been first approved by the said Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or civil Commander-in-Chief of the said Island: And provided also, That no difference or distinction shall be made between the printed instructions which may be issued for the purpose aforesaid in the several quarters of the said Island.

And it is hereby further ordered, That immediately upon receiving any such returns as aforesaid, the said registrar and assistant registrars respectively, shall proceed to ascertain, whether each and every such return is made out and completed in the manner and form required in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814; and whether the same comprizes all such matters and things as ought to be comprized and included therein; and shall also, by a personal examination and inspection of the said Slaves, ascertain as far as may be possible, whether each and every Slave in every such return mentioned and comprized, is or is not truly and accurately described therein, in the several particulars of names, surnames, colour, employment, age, stature, country, marks and relations, specified in the said Order in Council; and it shall be the duty of the said registrar and assistant registrars of Slaves, to assist all such persons as aforesaid with all necessary explanations and advice, as to the proper manner of making and filling up the said returns; and the said registrar and assistant registrars are hereby authorized and required to reject any returns which may be so made to them as aforesaid, which shall
appear

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appear to them, or either of them, not to be made out and completed in the manner and form required in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814, or which shall appear to them not to comprize all the matters and things which ought to be comprized and included therein, or which shall appear to them, or either of them, not to contain a true and accurate description of the Slaves therein mentioned and described in the several particulars in the said Order, and hereinbefore referred to.

Enclosure,
continued.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said registrar and assistant registrar, shall respectively set and subscribe their names to a certificate to be endorsed upon every return received by them respectively, and not so rejected as aforesaid; and which certificate shall be in the following words, (that is to say); " I. A. B. Registrar or Assistant Registrar of Slaves for the quarter of _____ in the Island of Mauritius, do hereby certify, That the within written return was delivered to me on this _____ day of _____ by _____ of the said quarter of _____ and that I, the said A. B. have verified the said return by the personal examination and inspection of the Slaves therein mentioned and referred to; and that the said return, to the best of my belief, contains an accurate description of the said Slaves, in the several particulars mentioned and required in and by the said Order in Council; bearing date the twenty-fourth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen. A. B. Registrar or Assistant Registrar for the quarter."

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said registrar and assistant registrars respectively, shall with all convenient and practicable dispatch, transmit to and deposit in the office of the registrar of Slaves in the town of Port Louis aforesaid, all the returns so received and certified by them as aforesaid; and the whole of such returns shall be actually transmitted to and deposited in the said office, within the term of four calendar months next after the notification of this present Order made in the said Isle of France in manner aforesaid.

And it is hereby further ordered, That together with the said returns so certified as aforesaid, the said registrar and assistant registrars shall within the said period of four months, transmit to and deposit in the said office, certificates under their respective hands, of the names and descriptions, and places of abode, of all persons within their respective quarters, who may have omitted to make the returns required of them within the period hereinbefore limited for that purpose, and of all persons whose returns were tendered and rejected by any such registrar or assistant registrar, as having been improperly made, with a statement of the particular grounds and reasons upon which the same were so rejected.

And it is hereby further ordered, That within four calendar months, to be computed from the expiration of the time hereinbefore appointed for completing the delivery to the said registrar's office of the said returns, every such return that shall have been duly made to the said registrar and assistant registrars, and certified by them in manner aforesaid, shall by the said registrar, his clerks or assistants, be entered and copied, in a fair, distinct and legible manner, in books to be provided by the said registrar for that purpose, in such manner as in the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, is particularly mentioned.

And it is hereby further ordered, That all and every the rules, regulations, provisions and directions, in the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, made, contained, given and prescribed, with respect to the mode of compiling the books of original registry therein mentioned, and with respect to the contents and form of the said books and the entries to be made therein, or otherwise in any manner relating to such books, shall be and the same are hereby declared to be applicable and in force, in reference to the books of registry hereby directed to be made, compiled and kept.

And it is hereby further ordered, That when and so soon as the original returns, which shall have been transmitted to or deposited in the office of the said registrar at Port Louis aforesaid, pursuant to this present Order, shall have been fairly entered and registered as aforesaid, which shall be done and completed within the term of eight calendar months from and after the first notification of this present Order in the Isle of France, the said registrar shall give notice thereof forthwith to

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Enclosure,
continued..

the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in chief of the said Island, who shall thereupon proceed to give such public notification, that the said registry of Slaves is ready to be verified before him, as is required in and by the said Order of the 24th day of September 1814, in reference to the original registry of Slaves therein mentioned; and such Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in chief as aforesaid, shall, in the cases particularly mentioned and provided for in and by the said former Order in Council, have power under this present Order, to authorize the admission and registration of the returns of Slaves omitted from accident or unavoidable impediment.

And it is hereby further ordered, That at the end of twelve months next after the public notification of this present Order in the said Island of Mauritius, the said registrar shall proceed finally to close and authenticate the said first registration of Slaves, to be made in pursuance of this present Order, and for that purpose, all such and the like proceedings shall be had and taken as are prescribed and directed in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th of September 1814, in respect to the authentication of the primary registration of all the Slaves in the said Island thereby required to be made.

And it is hereby further ordered, That indexes and duplicates of the said books of registry, so to be compiled as aforesaid, under this present Order, shall be made out, subscribed, dealt with and disposed of, in such and the same manner and form, as in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th September 1814, is directed and prescribed, in respect to the indexes and duplicates thereby required to be made of the books of original registry therein mentioned.

And whereas great irregularity hath prevailed in the said Island, with regard to the annual returns of Slaves required to be made in and by the said Order in Council, His Majesty, for the prevention of such irregularities in future, is hereby further pleased to order, That no conveyance, sale, mortgage, transfer or other alienation of any Slave or Slaves, within the said Island or its dependencies, shall be valid or effectual, or of any force or virtue in the law, unless the same be registered at the office of the said registrar of Slaves at Port Louis aforesaid, at or within the times and in the manner hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, every such conveyance, sale, mortgage, transfer or alienation, shall be so registered at the said office within the period of one month from the date thereof, if all or either of the parties to any such conveyance, sale, mortgage, transfer or alienation, are at the time of effecting the same resident within the said Island or its dependencies, or within the period of twelve months, if all such parties are at that time resident beyond the limits of the said Island and its dependencies; and such registration shall be made in manner following; that is to say, when all such parties as aforesaid are at the time of effecting any such conveyance, sale, mortgage, transfer or alienation, resident within the said Island, some one of such parties shall within the said period of one calendar month, personally deliver to the said registrar or assistant registrar of the quarter to which such Slave belongs, a written note or memorandum, signed and subscribed by them, him or her, stating the registered names or name of the Slave or Slaves so conveyed, sold, mortgaged, transferred or alienated, with the names, descriptions and places of abode of the parties, by, to, in favour of or in trust for whom such conveyance, sale, mortgage, transfer or alienation may have been made, and whether such Slaves or Slave are or is attached to any and what plantation, or not, and when and by whom such Slave or Slaves were or was first registered; and if none of such parties as aforesaid are at the time of effecting any such conveyance, sale, mortgage, transfer or alienation, resident within the said Island or its dependencies, then it shall be sufficient if such note or memorandum as aforesaid be delivered to the registrar of Slaves, at his office at Port Louis aforesaid, by some person lawfully appointed for that purpose to act as the attorney or agent of the person or persons by whom any such Slave or Slaves may have been so conveyed, sold, mortgaged, transferred or alienated, and signed and subscribed by such attorney or agent.

And it is hereby further ordered, That every person in possession of any Slaves or Slave in the said Island or its dependencies, whether as proprietor, mortgagee, sequestrator, trustee, receiver, manager or attorney, shall within one calendar month next after the birth, death or enfranchisement of any such Slave, transmit or deliver to the registrar or assistant registrar of Slaves of the quarter in which they, he or she

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she may be resident, a note or memorandum of every such birth, death or enfranchisement, stating the registered names and ages of the Slaves or Slave so dying or enfranchised, and when and by whom such Slave or Slaves were first registered in the said Island; and further stating the names of the persons or person by whom any such Slaves or Slave may be so enfranchised, and stating the occasion or cause of the death of any such Slaves or Slave, and the registered names of the parents or supposed parents of any Slave so born, and the times or time when, and the person or persons by whom such parents, or either of them, were or was first registered as Slaves or as a Slave.

Enclosure,
continued.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said registrar and assistant registrars shall deliver gratuitously to all persons applying for the same, printed forms in blank of the notes or memoranda of conveyance, sales, mortgages, transfers or alienations, or of births, deaths or enfranchisements of Slaves so required to be transmitted or delivered to such registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid; and it shall be the duty of such officers to assist all persons with all necessary advice, as to the mode of filling up any such notes or memoranda, and the same shall be received by the said registrar and assistant registrars in the manner and form prescribed in such printed notes, and in none other.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said registrar and assistant registrars do, by the first convenient opportunity, transmit to and deposit in the office of the said registrar at Port Louis aforesaid, every note or memorandum of the alienation, death, birth, or enfranchisement of any Slave or Slaves so delivered to them as aforesaid, and the said registrar of Slaves, his clerks and assistants shall, in four distinct and separate books, to be provided for that purpose by the said registrar, transcribe the said notes or memoranda, one of such books being intituled, "*The Registry of Sales of Slaves;*" another of such books being intituled, "*The Registry of Enfranchisement of Slaves;*" one other of such books being intituled, "*The Registry of the Deaths of Slaves;*" and one other of such books being intituled, "*The Registry of the Births of Slaves;*" and in each of the said three first-mentioned books shall be made references to the volume and page of the volume in which the original and every subsequent registry is to be found, of every Slave so alienated, dying, or enfranchised; and in the fourth of the said books are to be made, in like manner, references to the volume and page of the volume in which the original and every subsequent registry is to be found, of the parents or parent of every Slave so born as aforesaid.

And it is hereby further ordered, That at the expiration of two years, to be computed from the time when the first registry of Slaves to be made under the present Order shall be completed and authenticated as aforesaid, every person resident in the said Island or its dependencies, who shall own or possess any Slave or Slaves within the same, whether as proprietor or mortgagee, sequestrator, trustee or receiver, manager or attorney, or whatever their, his or her tenure of or title to the same may be, shall make and deliver upon oath to the registrar or assistant registrar of Slaves of the quarter in which they he or she may be resident, an account or schedule in writing, to be by them him or her subscribed, to be called "*The biennial Return of Slaves;*" which biennial return shall contain all such statements and particulars, and shall set forth and discover all such matters and things as in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, are required to be contained, set forth and discovered in the annual return of Slaves therein mentioned, and such biennial returns as aforesaid shall, in every respect and particular, be made out in the manner and form required by the said Order in respect to the said annual returns.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further ordered, That in every such biennial return as aforesaid, in which any Slave or Slaves shall be stated to have been sold, born or enfranchised, or to have died since the last preceding return, the person or persons making such biennial return shall, in a separate and distinct column to be provided for that purpose, also state when and by whom any note or memorandum of such sale, birth, enfranchisement or death, was transmitted or delivered to any such registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid.

And it is hereby further ordered, That all persons making such biennial returns as aforesaid shall, on such day or days as may be appointed for that purpose, within the said several quarters, by any proclamation to be issued by the Governor, Lieutenant

Governor,

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Enclosure,
continued.

Governor, or civil Commander-in-chief of the said Island, bring, produce or exhibit before the registrar or assistant registrar of such quarter, all their, his or her personal Slaves and plantation Slaves, in such manner and form in every respect as is hereinbefore directed and required with regard to the production of such Slaves; upon making the first or original returns of Slaves under this present Order; and such and the like muster or assemblage of all plantation Slaves shall thereupon take place and be held in the presence of every such registrar or assistant registrar of Slaves, upon each and every plantation within the said Island, as is hereinbefore directed in reference to the before-mentioned original returns; and such registrar and assistant registrars shall thereupon proceed to administer to all persons making such returns, such and the same oath as is prescribed in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, and shall proceed in manner hereinbefore mentioned in reference to the said original returns, to ascertain the accuracy and truth of such biennial returns, affording to the parties making the same all necessary advice and assistance, as hereinbefore directed, in reference to the said original returns; and such registrars and assistant registrars shall also proceed to reject or receive the biennial returns which may be so made to them, to certify the correctness thereof, and to transmit and deposit the same to and in the office of the registrar of Slaves in the Town of Port Louis aforesaid, in such and the same manner in all respects as is hereinbefore directed and prescribed in reference to the original returns to be made in pursuance of this present Order.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further ordered, That the time of making the said biennial returns shall be fixed by proclamation of the said Governor or Lieutenant Governor or civil Commander-in-Chief, upon some day or days within one calendar month next after the first day of January in the year in which the same shall be so made; and that the time for transmitting all such biennial returns to or depositing the same in the office of the said registrar of Slaves at Port Louis, shall be fixed by such proclamation, at some period not more than two calendar months distant from such first day of January.

And it is hereby further ordered, That the said registrar, on the receipt of such biennial returns at his office, shall forthwith proceed to correct, enlarge and continue, pursuant thereto, the former registry of the plantation Slaves and personal Slaves to which such returns respectively relate, in the manner and the form particularly mentioned, prescribed and directed in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, in reference to the annual returns thereby directed to be made.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further ordered, That if any such biennial returns as aforesaid shall exhibit any increase of the Slaves of the person or persons making such return, by birth or purchase, or any diminution in the number of such Slaves, by enfranchisement or death, the said registrar shall further proceed to compare every such biennial return with the notes or memoranda so to be recorded as aforesaid in the before-mentioned four Books of Sale, Births, Deaths and Enfranchisement; and in case such biennial returns shall appear to be inconsistent with such notes or memoranda, it shall be the duty of the said registrar, and he is hereby required to postpone the registration of any such biennial return, unless and until the person or persons making the same shall give to such registrar or to the assistant registrar of their, his or her quarter, an explanation on oath of the causes of such variance and inconsistency, showing the same, to the satisfaction of the said registrar, to have arisen from accidental or unavoidable causes, and not from wilful disobedience to this present Order; and upon receiving any such explanation as aforesaid, but not before, such registrar of Slaves shall, and he is hereby authorized to register any such biennial return as aforesaid, notwithstanding such apparent inconsistency; provided that no such explanation as aforesaid be received, and no such biennial return as aforesaid be registered by the said registrar, after the expiration of three calendar months next after the time so to be appointed as aforesaid for the completion of any such biennial registration.

And it is hereby further ordered, That all and every the rules and regulations made and contained in the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, in reference to the registration of the annual returns therein mentioned, and in reference to the correction of accidental or unintentional errors occurring in any such annual returns, and in reference to the general account or abstract therein
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required to be made of all such annual returns, and in reference to the verification of such general abstract, and in reference to the transmission of such abstract to England, shall be and the same are hereby declared to be applicable to the biennial returns required in and by this present Order, save only so far as any such rules or regulations may be repealed or altered by or under the authority of this Order.

*Enclosure,
continued.*

And it is hereby further ordered, That all and every the penalties and forfeitures declared and imposed in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th September 1814, upon the said registrar, his deputies, assistants or clerks, shall extend and apply, under this present Order, to the said registrar and assistant registrars, his and their deputies, assistants or clerks, as fully as if the provisions of the said Order in Council imposing such penalties were herein repeated in reference to the returns hereby required to be made, and the books, accounts and abstracts hereby required to be kept, and the several matters and things hereby directed to be done and performed by such registrar and assistant registrars, and his and their deputies, assistants or clerks.

And it is hereby further ordered, That if any registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid, shall fraudulently, corruptly or maliciously, or with intent to defeat and frustrate the objects of the present order, or any of them, reject any return which he ought, according to the provisions of this Order, to receive, or receive any return which, according to the provisions aforesaid, he ought to reject, or shall set and subscribe any such certificate as aforesaid to any return to which, according to the provisions of this present Order, such a certificate ought not to be annexed; or shall accept or certify any such return, unless or until he has actually examined and inspected the several Slaves therein contained, according to the provisions of this present Order, or shall in any manner act collusively and fraudulently, so as to defeat, or with the intent and purpose of defeating the execution of this Order, or of the said former Order in Council, so far as the same can hereafter be acted upon, then and in each and every of such cases, such registrar or assistant registrars being thereof convicted, shall forfeit and pay any sum of money not less than one hundred dollars, nor more than five thousand dollars, or shall suffer imprisonment for any term not less than one month, nor exceeding twelve months, or shall suffer both fine and imprisonment within the limits aforesaid, at the discretion of the court before which such conviction may take place, and shall also forfeit such his office, and become incapable of serving His Majesty again in the same or the like capacity within the said Island.

And it is hereby further ordered, That if any person or persons who, according to the provisions of this present Order, ought to bring, produce or exhibit, all their, his or her personal Slaves or plantation Slaves, before the said registrar or assistant registrar, shall omit or neglect, at the time so to be appointed at the time aforesaid for that purpose, so to bring, produce or exhibit, any such Slaves or Slave, or shall not in fact so bring, produce or exhibit the same to any of them at the time aforesaid; or if any such persons or person shall refuse to allow, or shall not in fact allow any such registrar or assistant registrar as aforesaid, at any time or times so to be appointed for that purpose as aforesaid, to enter upon their, his or her plantation or estate, for the purpose of examining and inspecting any such Slaves or Slave, or verifying in manner aforesaid any return of any such Slaves or Slave, made in pursuance of this present Order; or if any such person or persons shall not permit any such registrar or assistant registrar to complete any such inspection, examination or verification as aforesaid, or shall prevent him by force or threats, or otherwise, from remaining upon any such plantation or estate as aforesaid, quietly and peaceably, during such period as may be necessary for completing the objects aforesaid; or if any such person or persons shall advisedly and fraudulently seek or endeavour to deceive any such registrar or assistant registrar, respecting the number, age, country, marks, employment, names or relations of any such Slaves or Slave, with intent to defeat or obstruct the execution of this present Order, then and in each and every of the several cases aforesaid, the persons or person so offending shall be subject and liable to the payment of a fine, not less than five dollars, and not exceeding fifty dollars, upon each and every Slave owned or possessed by them, him or her, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, nor less than one month, or to both, at the discretion of the court before which any such persons or person may be convicted of any such offence.

And

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Enclosure,
continued.

And it is hereby further ordered, That if any person or persons shall omit to transmit or deliver, or shall not in fact transmit or deliver, to the registrar or assistant registrar of Slaves, such note or memorandum of the birth, death or enfranchisement of any Slave or Slaves, which according to the provisions of this present Order, they he or she ought to transmit or deliver, the person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding fifty dollars, nor less than five dollars, for all and every the Slaves or Slave so born, dying or enfranchised at the discretion of the court before which the conviction of any such offender may take place.

And it is hereby further ordered, That any person making any oath under this present Order, who shall be convicted of swearing falsely therein with a wicked or corrupt intent, shall be subject and liable to all such and the same punishments, pains, penalties and forfeitures, as by any law now in force within the said Island, can or may be inflicted upon any person guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury.

And it is hereby further ordered, That all and every the penalties, fines and forfeitures, declared and imposed in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, upon persons falsely and wilfully inserting in the returns therein mentioned, any name or names, description or descriptions, of any Slave or Slaves, or pretended Slave or Slaves, belonging to any plantation or plantations, owner or owners, and that all and every the provisions of the said Order in Council, relative to the confiscation to His Majesty of all Slaves not duly registered; and all and every the clauses in the said order contained, requiring the owner or claimant of Slaves to show in any action, suits or judicial proceeding within the said Island, that such Slave or Slaves hath or have been duly registered, as therein mentioned; and all and every the provisoes contained in the said Order, for the protection and security of divers persons therein particularly mentioned, against the forfeitures therein and thereby imposed, and that all and every the penalties and forfeitures imposed and declared in and by the said Order, upon persons keeping or holding in slavery any African or other negro or mulatto, or other coloured person, in the cases therein particularly mentioned, and also the provisions in the said Order contained, with regard to the admission in certain cases, of the testimony of persons being or alleged to be Slaves, and with regard to the admission in evidence of certificates from the said registrar, shall be and the same are hereby declared to be, and continue in full force virtue and effect under this present Order, as fully and effectually as if all and every such penalties, fines and forfeitures, provisions, clauses and enactments, were herein repeated and re-enacted.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further ordered, That it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or person having the chief civil command in the said Island, upon the petition of any person or persons, who under the provisions of the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, or of this present Order, shall or may have incurred the forfeiture or confiscation of any Slaves or Slave, to suspend the execution of any judgment, sentence, order or decree, for any such forfeiture or confiscation, upon sufficient and reasonable cause to him for that purpose shown, until His Majesty's pleasure can be known in the premises; and that it shall and may be lawful for such Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and civil Commander in chief, in obedience to any orders to him for that purpose issued by His Majesty, through one of his Principal Secretaries of State, either to remit such forfeiture and confiscation, or to substitute for the same any such pecuniary penalty as His Majesty may direct, or as in default of such direction, may to such Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in chief, appear just and reasonable.

Provided also, and it is hereby further ordered, That all the fines, forfeitures and penalties declared or imposed by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, or by this present Order, shall be recovered applied and disposed of by such person or persons, and in such manner and form, as are and is provided and declared in and by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, save only, that it shall and may be competent to the person or persons commencing any action, suit or prosecution, for any such fines penalties or forfeitures, at his or their discretion, to sue for and recover the same, either in the courts of ordinary jurisdiction of the said Island, that is to say, the Court of First Instance and Court of Appeal, or in the Court of Vice Admiralty, established at the Isle of France aforesaid.

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And it is hereby further ordered, That in lieu of the fees granted by the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and civil Commander in Chief of the said Island, shall publish a Schedule of fees to be paid and payable to the said registrar and assistant registrars, and that such registrar and assistant registrars shall, and they are hereby required, on or before the last day in each month, to transmit to the public treasurer of the said Island, an account on oath of all the fees by them respectively received since the first day of that month inclusive, and which accounts shall be verified by the oath of the said registrar and assistant registrars, to be administered to them by such a treasurer or his lawful deputy; and the said treasurer shall, and is hereby required to open and keep a distinct account of the sums so paid into his office by the said registrar and assistant registrars as aforesaid; and the said registrar and assistant registrars shall respectively be entitled to receive from the said treasurer in lieu, and as a full compensation for all emoluments and fees of office whatsoever, such reasonable salaries as the said Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in Chief, in obedience to any orders to him for that purpose, issued by His Majesty, through one of his Principal Secretaries of State, shall direct and appoint: Provided always, That such salaries shall be payable only in pursuance of warrants directed to the said treasurer by such Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in Chief; and that such Governor shall not issue, and he is hereby expressly prohibited from issuing any such warrants or warrant in favour of any such assistant registrar, unless and until such assistant registrars have transmitted to and deposited in the office of the said registrar, the several returns and certificates which they are hereinbefore required to transmit and deliver to or in favour of any such registrar, unless and until he hath actually delivered to such Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in Chief, for conveyance to England, all such duplicate books of registry, accounts and abstracts, as at the time of issuing any such warrant in his favour ought, according to the provisions of the said Order in Council of the 24th day of September 1814, or of this present Order, to have been so delivered by him; and such salaries shall be payable upon the completion of such several duties as aforesaid, and not before, without any allowance or charge for interest for the time during which such payment may have been suspended, by reason of the non-completion of such several duties.

Enclosure,
continued.

And it is hereby further ordered, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any person or persons, feeling themselves, himself or herself aggrieved, by the rejection by any such assistant registrar as aforesaid, of any return which shall be so made to him, to apply by petition, in the nature of an appeal, against any such decision, to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in Chief of the said Island, praying for the admission of any such rejected return, and such Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in Chief, shall thereupon proceed by and with the advice of his Council, to make such Order therein as may be just, and either to direct such disputed return to be received and registered by the said registrar, or to permit the same to be amended, or to reject or disallow any such return, and every such petition, together with the answer of such assistant registrar thereto, and the evidence, if any, adduced in support of, or in opposition to the same, together with the final adjudication thereupon, shall be transmitted to the office of the registrar at Port Louis aforesaid, and there preserved for safe custody.

And whereas, in the execution of this Order, unforeseen exigencies may arise, for which no provision is hereby made by His Majesty in Council, without great delay and inconvenience, it is therefore hereby ordered and declared, That it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in Chief, by and with the advice of his legislative council, to make, ordain and promulgate, all such laws and ordinances as may to him with such advice as aforesaid, appear necessary for giving full and perfect effect to the provisions of this present Order, or as may from time to time be necessary for insuring the complete and punctual registration of all the Slaves within the said Island, and for that purpose, if necessary, by any such laws or ordinances to suspend the execution of any of the provisions of this Order, which may by experience be shown to be inconsistent with the full and perfect accomplishment of the object aforesaid: Provided always, That all such laws and ordinances be transmitted by the first convenient opportunity, to one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, for His Majesty's approbation or disallowance, and that no such law or ordinance shall be made permanent, or pass for more than

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Enclosure
continued.

than two years, until His Majesty's approbation thereof shall have been signified by one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State to such Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or civil Commander in Chief, and all such laws and ordinances, until such approbation as aforesaid has been received, shall by a clause to be therein inserted for that purpose, be expressly declared to be in force only until such time as His Majesty's pleasure in the premises can be known.

And the right honourable Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

(signed) *C. Greville.*

— N° 2. —

EXTRACT of a Dispatch from Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir G. Lowry Cole, addressed to Earl Bathurst, dated Mauritius, 14th November 1825.

—“ In consequence of your Lordship's dispatches, N° 21 and 22, dated the 18th and 31st of May last, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that I again called on Mr. Bradshaw, to explain the causes of the delays and irregularities which had occurred in the Slave Registration Department, and enclosed I transmit to your Lordship a copy of Mr. Bradshaw's explanatory statement.

—“ In consequence of your Lordship's permission, and at the request of Mr. Bradshaw, as explained in the accompanying copy of a letter from him, I have granted that officer a fourth clerk. This additional assistance may perhaps hasten the preparation of the Slave Returns for the present year; but it can in no respect tend to make them more complete or less incorrect than the duplicate returns for 1822, which are transmitted to your Lordship by the present opportunity.”

Slave Registry Office,
29th October 1825.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, with its enclosure. I very sincerely regret to find, that the explanations which I have already given upon the points adverted to by the Secretary of State, should not have proved sufficient, or that the various suggestions which I have felt it my duty to make, relative to the measures calculated to afford an effectual and only remedy to the present imperfect state of the general registry in this colony, should not have been entertained.

In the year 1820, I had the honour to address a letter to Governor Sir Robert Farquhar, pointing out the imperfect and erroneous statements, of which, by the comparison of the returns supplied at the first triennial Census in 1819, I had ascertained the original registry to consist. I then detailed the circumstances which rendered it impossible to have discovered the erroneous nature of the original records, until they were brought to light by being compared with subsequent periodical returns, those were principally the absence of any check or right of verification on the part of the registrar; and having found that the basis upon which all future proceedings must be necessarily founded, was defective, I suggested, as the only remedy which occurred to me as likely to be effectual, that a renewed general Census should be taken, on an entirely different principle from that laid down in the Order in Council, by empowering the registrar to demand the production, to himself, and the persons to be deputed to assist in effecting the Census, of the Slaves of every proprietor, in order that the description of each Slave might be taken by the registrar and his assistants, upon a personal examination, leaving nothing to the inhabitant but to produce the Slaves, and to certify by his signature of the return his approval of accuracy. Previously to the period above-mentioned (1820) I proposed, as a measure of obvious utility in preventing fraud and evasion, and in very materially simplifying the duties of the office, by obviating those laborious researches which

Enclosure,
N° 1.

N° 1.

N° 2.

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which form the principal cause of the delays so much complained of, that a register should be established in this office, wherein all sales, and other transfers of Slave property, should be recorded at the time they occurred.

Enclosure,
N° 1.
continued.

The whole of the suggestions submitted by me to Governor Farquhar received his approval, as well as that of the late Chief Judge Smith, who fully admitted the necessity of the measure proposed; and I deeply regret to find, from their not having been adopted, that they have not met the favourable consideration of the Secretary of State.

In regard to the further explanation required from me, of the delays and difficulties which have occurred in carrying into effect the ordinance, so far as the circumstances attending its first execution have admitted; with every disposition, and I may add, anxious desire to afford every information in my power, I feel myself quite unable to add any thing further explanatory to the letter which I had the honour to address to His Excellency in June 1824, of which I now annex a copy, and in the arduous situation wherein I am placed, and in the probability of my having no opportunity of affording those explanations to His Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry, which I have long and anxiously hoped for, I feel that it is due to myself to express a hope, that His Excellency will consider it as no less a measure of public advantage, than of individual justice to myself, that a Committee should be appointed to examine into the duties of the Registration Department.

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

(signed) *Thomas Bradshaw,*
Registrar of Slaves.

G. A. Barry, Esq.
Chief Secretary, &c.

Slave Registration Office,
Port Louis, 23d June 1824.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter, under date the 18th instant; and in conformity to the requisition therein contained, I shall proceed to detail the causes which led to the delay in preparing for transmission to England, the duplicate registers of the Census of 1819, forwarded in July last.

Enclosure,
N° 2.

This delay, although augmented by other unforeseen circumstances, arose principally from the very complicated and minute nature of the examination of the several returns which is required prior to their being enregistered, which examination is rendered thus elaborate by the erroneous nature of the details of which the original records are now known to consist, and by the general want of accuracy with which the subsequent triennial returns have been prepared.

It will be readily conceived, that in a colony where the Slaves are not by law attached to the soil, but are considered as mere personal property, transferable at the pleasure of the possessor, a very great number of dealings and transactions in Slave property, in a population consisting of 80,000 Slaves, must take place during an interval of three years; the whole of which, so far at least as is necessary to account for every Slave originally registered, are enjoined by the Ordinance of Registration, to be recorded with the utmost accuracy and the most perfect agreement, is obviously required between the return of the person selling and that of the purchaser of the Negro.

Some idea may be formed of the difficulties which occur, and the repeated researches which are required to explain the incongruities in the several returns, when it is stated, that the majority of the triennial returns contain the names and descriptions of Slaves stated to have been purchased from persons who have never returned them; this must always arise, where a Slave has been sold and resold repeatedly during the interval between the periods of the Census, as the name of the original proprietor alone appears on the registers as the owner of the Slave in question, and no note whatever exists of the intermediate transfers; all returns containing the names and descriptions of Slaves thus unaccounted for, are, at the first reading over, and comparing the returns, laid aside, until in the progress of the examination some clue is discovered; and it generally happens on the one hand, that the actual claimants of such Slaves describe them as purchased from persons who

Enclosure,
N^o 2.
continued.

who (by the books of this office) never appear to have possessed them, whilst Slaves similarly described, are on the other hand, declared on the triennial returns of the individuals who originally claimed them, not as sold to the persons actually claiming them, but to persons who do not, either by their own returns, or by any other record existing in this office, appear to have been in any way parties to the transaction; for instance, *A.* returns a Slave at the original Census in 1815, and at the first succeeding triennial Census, declares him to be sold to *B.*, but on referring to the return of the latter, no such purchase is admitted, *B.* having sold the Slave immediately after he purchased him to *C.*; *C.* sold him to *D.* who in like manner sold him to *E.*; *E.* transferred him to *F.*, *F.* to *G.*, and *G.* to *H.*, on whose triennial return *at the same Census* he is borne as purchased from *G.*; now neither *G.* nor any other of the antecedent proprietors up to *A.* (the original possessor) record on their return the purchase or the sale, and the Slave by the books and returns, appears only to have been sold by *A.* to *B.*, and to the latter he is supposed to belong; it may be readily imagined, that in a number of instances, all research and examination proves fruitless, and the information required is often obtained accidentally; the Slaves, however, must be traced where any clue can be obtained from one intermediate master to another, (who are often from ten to twelve in number), until their identity is completely established.

I feel it extremely difficult to give in writing an adequate idea of the very laborious and perplexing nature of these examinations, nearly every return presenting some new point requiring elucidation, partly arising from the numerous intermediate transfers and transactions, of which no note is taken at the time they occur, and partly, as I have already observed, from the erroneous descriptions given of the Slaves on the original returns, and the very great inaccuracy and confusion which has prevailed in the subsequent triennial declarations.

I will here beg leave to observe, that nothing would in my opinion be so likely to prove an effectual remedy for this very material difficulty, as the establishment of a Register, in which all sales and transfers of Slave property should be recorded at the time they occur; this, and some other suggestions were offered by me in letters which I had the honour to address to Government in July and August 1820.

I am ready to admit, that it was very natural, that the Secretary of State should require from me an explanation of a delay which must appear extraordinary to his Lordship, or to any other person not aware of the difficulties with which I have had to contend; I had however ventured to hope, that the report of the gentlemen convened by order of General Darling, in April 1820, to inquire into the manner in which the public business of this department was conducted, in addition to the explanations which I have myself offered on former occasions, would have satisfied his Lordship on the subject.

Those gentlemen appeared to be most fully impressed with, and by personal experience entirely convinced of, the unlooked for difficulties which occurred in comparing and examining the returns, and of the length of time which under the circumstances must unavoidably be consumed therein.

Nothing undoubtedly could be more simple than the process of the Census, and subsequent registration, as prescribed by the ordinance, had every thing gone smoothly on; had the returns been all gradually brought in during the period allotted for that purpose, instead of being reserved as they invariably have been, until the very last moment, when every one fearing to be too late, rushes to the office, forming a concourse of persons, from whose presence nothing but confusion could result; had the returns on proceeding to register them, been found for the most part correct, both in point of form and of substance, containing regular declarations of the sale of Negroes, corresponding in every particular with the statements of the parties purchasing, as enjoined by the Order in Council, instead of exhibiting, as is the case in a majority of instances, lists of Slaves stated to be bought from persons who do not admit to have possessed them, and of others sold to individuals who do not claim them, of Negroes perhaps bearing the same names, but an entirely different description from those borne on the original returns of the persons selling them, and again of others, each of whom are claimed under the same name and description by a host of different individuals, and lastly, had these returns, which on examination, might, as provided for by the ordinance, require some elucidation, been readily adjusted by a personal explanation from the parties interested, whom it would be supposed,
would

Enclosure,
N^o 2.
continued.

would be most anxious to have an opportunity of affording it, instead of such explanation being given with reluctance, and generally in such a manner as to render what was before questionable still more obscure, assuredly nothing could have been offered in defence of a delay, which under the circumstances which have occurred has been unavoidable.

I beg to assure your Excellency, that what I have now detailed is no exaggerated statement of what occurs at every triennial Census; each succeeding enrolment presents a very material increase of the confusion and perplexity which I have described, and causes results less and less satisfactory, the original cause of which may be ascribed to the defective principle on which the first Census was conducted, as prescribed by the ordinance, which authorizing no personal inspection of the Slaves, left it to the inhabitant to make out his return at his own discretion, whereby a door was opened to fraud, which has been in many instances but too readily taken advantage of, and admitted of a degree of negligence and inaccuracy in the details which has been almost universal, and not being discoverable in the outset without a personal inspection of the Slaves, has produced the evils now complained of, evils which no readiness or good-will on the part of the inhabitants can obviate, except in the event of a complete renewal of the Census on the plan formerly suggested, for it is well known, that the triennial returns of those who have latterly shown an anxious desire to describe their Slaves with accuracy, have proved the most decidedly at variance with the original records, and are consequently inadmissible. It is due to myself to express a hope, that his Lordship is aware of my having brought to the consideration of Governor Farquhar, in a letter which I had the honour to address to him in September 1820, the difficulties and embarrassments which resulted from the defective state of the original records; in that letter and in subsequent communications they were fully detailed as they became known. I also ventured, on the same occasion, to submit an outline of a plan which appeared to me calculated to afford a remedy for them, and at the same time tending to promote the fullest accomplishment of the object of the Slave Registration Law.

Having adverted to contingencies which tend to prolong the delay in completing the triennial registration of 1819, and the duplicates for transmission to England, I will first point out the circumstance of my office establishment having been reduced by order of the local government, to three clerks, from July 1819 to June 1820, one clerk being fully occupied by what may be termed the current business of the office; viz. making out and preparing for audit the accounts, satisfying the inquiries of persons requiring information connected with Slave property, making out certificates and keeping a register of them, two clerks only were left to proceed with the more laborious duties, by which their progress was necessarily much retarded; statements also for the use of the collector of internal revenues were required, and an inspection of the books was ordered by Government, to enable persons to provide annual returns, which they were called upon to give in to the collector of internal revenues. This caused an interruption almost amounting to an entire suspension of the regular office business for nearly two months. Further I will beg leave to observe, that as it was found impossible to complete the registration of the returns of 1819, in duplicate, before the period arrived for taking the Census of 1822, it was necessarily laid aside until the period for receiving the returns for that year had finally closed, which was not until the 10th May. Other causes of delay also occurred, of which I conceive I need not trouble your Excellency with the detail, as I venture confidently to hope, that what I have already had the honour to state in explanation, will exonerate me in your Excellency's opinion, and ultimately in that of the Secretary of State, from being in any degree the cause of unnecessary delay in the execution of the duties confided to me, having I trust clearly shown, that the tardy completion of the registration of 1819 has resulted principally from a train of untoward circumstances, which could neither be foreseen or guarded against, under the existing ordinance; and altogether from causes over which I could exercise no control.

With reference to the state and progress of the returns of Slaves for the year 1822, with which your Excellency has desired to be made acquainted, I beg to observe, that the process of examining the last returns (which could not be commenced until the registration in duplicate of those of 1819 was completed, viz. in July 1823) has been rendered doubly laborious, in consequence of each return requiring to be compared

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Enclosure,
N° 2.
continued.

compared and examined, both with the original registry and with the preceding triennial returns.

The whole of the returns, however, of the plantation Slaves have been completely examined, two clerks having been unceasingly employed on them until concluded, and the enrolment on the registers of the mutations which have been correctly detailed is now in progress; the examination of the returns of the personal Slaves is not in an equally advanced state, in consequence of one person only having been employed thereon, whilst the nature of the work and the innumerable references required, render it indispensable that two persons should be engaged therein; this mode of examination I have been unable to pursue in regard to the returns of personal Slaves, in consequence of the reduction which my office establishment has experienced since the removal of Mr. Lay, in August, to a situation in the police, and the loss of his very zealous and efficient services, not having been made up to me by the appointment of any other person to the vacancy; this has necessarily retarded the examination of the returns, and on this subject, I should have had the honour earlier to address myself to your Excellency, had I not imagined, that in the expectation of the immediate arrival of the Commissioners, your Excellency deemed it expedient not to complete the establishment of my office, by nominating any person to the vacancy.

It is my intention in the course of the ensuing week, to require the attendance of those persons whose returns are incorrect, in order that they may have an opportunity of rectifying them where practicable; the Ordinance not specifying any particular term for this purpose, I have always devoted a considerable time to the receipt of these explanations, with a view of giving as much effect as possible to the Census, and this may justly be enumerated amongst the causes of delay, in completing the registration of 1819. On the present occasion, however, I shall feel it necessary to fix a limited time for the receipt of explanations, and in no instance to exceed it. The registration of the correct returns, will, in the mean time proceed, and should your Excellency be pleased to fill up the vacancy in my establishment, by the appointment of any other clerk to replace Mr. Lay, I have every reason to hope the registration of the returns for 1822, may be concluded by the end of the year; at all events, I beg to assure Your Excellency, that no effort of mine shall be wanting to effect its completion within the shortest possible time.

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

(signed) *Thomas Bradshaw*, Registrar, &c.

To his Excellency Sir G. L. Cole,
Governor, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Slave Registration Office, 7 November 1825.

Enclosure,
N° 3.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 4th instant; and in reply I beg to say, that if you will take the trouble to refer to my letter under date 23d June 1824, of which a copy accompanied my letter to the Chief Secretary of the 29th ultimo, you will observe, that I therein mentioned, as one of the causes of the delay which had occurred, the circumstance of my having been deprived of the services of a very efficient clerk by the removal of Mr. Lay, in August 1823, to another department; the vacancy which thus occurred not having been filled up by the nomination of any other clerk; and I then (in my letter of June 1824) submitted for his Excellency's consideration, the expediency of appointing some person to the vacant situation.

There can be no doubt, that the process of examining the returns will be proceeded in with much greater dispatch, if the means be afforded me of employing two persons on the examination of each description of returns; that is, two on the Returns of Plantation Slaves, and two on those of the Personal Slaves; and my inability to pursue this mode of examination since the period above mentioned, so necessary where numberless references and researches are required in tracing the Slaves through the hands of the intermediate proprietors, may undoubtedly be mentioned amongst the material causes of delay. In the letter alluded to, I stated as the cause of my not having made earlier application to Government on this subject, the expectation which then prevailed of the immediate arrival of the Commissioners

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Commissioners of Inquiry; but as the period of their proceeding to this Colony appears to be uncertain, I certainly consider it of essential consequence, with a view of proceeding expeditiously with the duties preparatory to inscribing the returns in the registers, that some efficient clerk should be nominated to the vacant situation in this department.

Enclosure,
N° 3.
continued.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. Bradshaw*, Registrar.

Francis Viret, Esq. &c. &c. &c.
Private Secretary.

—N° 3.—

Extract of a Dispatch from Lieutenant General the Honourable Sir G. Lowry Cole, addressed to Earl Bathurst, dated Mauritius, 28th July 1825.

—“ I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a letter which I have received from the registrar of Slaves, in further explanation of the delays which have occurred in the transmission to England of the duplicate Slave returns for 1822.

“ I can only repeat to your Lordship, that every day serves to convince me more and more of the absolute nullity of the present Slave registration; nor do I conceive it possible to remedy the evils complained of by any measure of the local government, until the whole system shall have been revised and amended by the competent authorities at home.”

Slave Registration Office, Port Louis, 28th June 1825.

Sir,

In acknowledging your letter of the 20th instant, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the registration of the triennial returns of plantation Slaves for the year 1822, and the duplicates for transmission to England, are completed, with the exception of a number of the returns for the Seychelles Islands, which were forwarded to Mr. Knowles for correction in December last, and have not yet been returned; the registration of the returns of personal Slaves for 1822 is also completed as far as is practicable, without the recensements of the Seychelles; and the duplicates are preparing. I have written to Mr. Knowles by the two last opportunities for Seychelles, urging him to forward to me the returns in question without further delay; and as soon as they are received, not a moment will be lost in transcribing them in the registers, and completing the duplicates for transmission to England.

Enclosure.

In regard to the length of time occupied in preparing these documents, I had the honour, in June last, to address to his Excellency an explanatory statement on this subject, in which were fully detailed all the circumstances connected therewith; the same causes still exist, and the principal of them, even in a much greater degree than at that time, inasmuch as the elaborate researches and examination necessary in tracing out and identifying the Slaves who have passed through the hands of different individuals during the intervals between the periods of the Census, are rendered, at each succeeding Census, still more laborious and intricate, from the increased number of documents to compare and examine; and this process has been much retarded since the Census of 1822, by the reduction of the office establishment. I have thought it best herewith to transmit a copy of the letter adverted to, as it contained all that I have to offer on the present subject in way of explanation.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Th. Bradshaw*, Registrar, &c.

To G. A. Barry, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO REGISTRATION

— N° 4. —

Copy of a Dispatch addressed by Earl Bathurst to Lieut. General
Hon. Sir G. L. Cole. (One Inclosure.)

Downing-street, 18 May 1825.

Sir,

I HAVE more than on one occasion, on the representation of Mr. Amyot, the Registrar of Colonial Slaves, been under the necessity of drawing your Excellency's attention to the imperfect and irregular manner in which the Slave Registry of the Mauritius has been prepared. Mr. Amyot having been called upon, in consequence of an address of the House of Commons, to furnish the several returns from the Mauritius, under the Registry Act, has acquainted me, in a letter, of which I transmit to you a copy, with the impossibility of his complying with the requisition, from the defective state of the returns which have been sent home. As the question in reference to which these returns of the Slave population has been required, and which is now under the consideration of Parliament, is one of the utmost importance, in respect to the commercial interests of the inhabitants of the Mauritius, Mr. Bradshaw, Registrar of Slaves in the colony, will have incurred a most heavy responsibility, should he not be enabled most satisfactorily to account to His Majesty's Government for the irregularities which have taken place in the Slave department under his charge.

I have the honour, &c. &c.

Bathurst.

Lieutenant General Sir G. L. Cole,
&c. &c. &c.

Copy of a Letter from Thomas Amyot, Esquire, addressed to R. W. Horton,
Esquire, dated Colonial Registry Office, 2d of May 1825.

Sir,

Enclosure.

HAVING been called on, pursuant to an Address of the House of Commons, to furnish the several returns from the Mauritius, under the Registry Act, I think it proper to explain to you the present very defective state of those returns, in order that you may judge, whether it would be more desirable to comply with the requisition immediately, or wait for the arrival of further information from the Colony. Since the passing of the Order in Council, which established a Slave Registry in the Mauritius, there has been three periodical registrations, viz. in the year 1815, 1818, and 1822. The returns for 1815, have been in my possession from the time of the establishment of my office. Those for 1819, after a long and unaccountable delay, of which I had occasion very frequently to complain in my letters to you and Mr. Goulbourn, did not arrive till December 1823. As to the returns for 1822, they have not yet been received, though it appears from the enclosures of Governor Farquhar's dispatch of the 7th November 1822, (printed by Order of the House of Commons, among the Slave population in the following year), that a considerable progress had then been made in them.

This latter omission I felt it my duty to point out to your particular attention, in my letters of 9th December 1823, and the 8th and 9th November last.

I ought to add, that when the Commissioners, prior to their departure from the Mauritius, called at this office to look at the returns, I availed myself of that opportunity to urge the importance of their taking immediate steps on their arrival, for expediting the proceedings, and correcting the irregularities of the Slave Department.

From the foregoing statement you will observe, that I can only comply with the requisition of the House of Commons, as far as regards the returns for 1815 and 1819.

Even this, however, cannot be done so as to furnish any comparison whatever of the Slave population, at the respective periods. The Registration of 1815, includes 5761 separate returns, comprising a total of 85,423 Slaves, while that for 1819, (which is attested by the Registrar, as containing all which had been registered), only gives 2,088 returns, and 20,948 Slaves, although it appears from the printed
dispatch

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dispatch of the Governor, before referred to, that the Slave population in that year *exceeded* 80,000.

Enclosure,
continued.

The Duplicate Registry for 1819, is therefore so imperfect as to be totally useless for the purposes required; and as further information may be soon expected, both from the Governor and the Commissioners, as well as from Mr. Bradshaw, the Registrar, (who I understand is shortly expected to arrive in England), I would take the liberty of suggesting the expediency of postponing the return.

I am, Sir, &c. &c. &c.
(signed) *Thomas Amyot.*

—N° 5.—

Copy of a Dispatch addressed by Earl Bathurst to Lieut. General
Hon. Sir G. L. Cole.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 May 1825.

BY a bill which is now passing through Parliament, the inhabitants of the Mauritius will be relieved from the payment of the extra duties on sugar the produce of that Island, on its importation into this country, and be placed on the same footing as the planters in the West India Islands.

Enclosure.

Under these circumstances, I have to direct your Excellency will lose no time, and without waiting for the arrival of the Commissioners, to proceed to the investigation of the causes of the delay in the completion of the Slave Registry Return; a delay which has already produced the most serious inconvenience, as will appear from my dispatch of the 18th instant, as well as from the letters addressed to you on the 22d March and 20th June 1823, and 1st February and 6th December 1824; in each of which your attention was directed to the general inefficiency of the Slave Registration Office. And you will not fail to adopt such measures as may appear necessary for the immediate completion of the Slave registration; and if the registrar be unable to execute this duty in the most conclusive and satisfactory manner, he must receive immediate and adequate assistance until His Majesty's pleasure be known, as it is necessary that no sort of excuse should remain to be pleaded for the non-fulfilment of His Majesty's express commands on this subject.

I have the honour, &c.

Bathurst.

Lieut. General Sir G. L. Cole,
&c. &c. &c.

SLAVES.

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO

SLAVES,

INCLUDING

Copy of the Order in Council for the Registration
of Slaves in the *Mauritius*.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
5 May 1826.