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LIBERATED AFRICANS.

P A P E R S

Relating to Liberated Africans located in the  
Colony of

SIERRA LEONE.

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

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— 1.—

COPY of Additional Instructions to His Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry at *Sierra Leone*, under date of the 18th of January 1826, on the subject of the Liberated Africans located in that Colony - - - - - p. 3

— 2.—

Copy of a Dispatch from Major General *Turner*, Governor of *Sierra Leone*, to Earl *Bathurst*, on the subject of the "Liberated Africans' Department," in that Colony - - - - - p. 4

Colonial Department, }  
May 1826. }

R. J. WILMOT HORTON.

[ 3 ]

## P A P E R S

Relating to Liberated Africans located in the Colony  
of Sierra Leone.

— 1. —

Copy of ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS to His Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry at *Sierra Leone*, on the subject of the Liberated Africans located in that Colony.

Downing-Street,  
London, 18th January 1826.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by Earl Bathurst to call your attention specifically to the following Additional Instructions with respect to the Liberated Africans who are now located at Sierra Leone.

YOU will select for examination 24 families, whose periods of location have varied from 15 to 5 years; viz. six who have been located from 15 to 10 years; six from 10 to 5; and six from 5 years ago to the present time; taking care to select families who are more or less fit subjects of comparison.

You will report in minute detail, on the actual state of industry in these three Classes of families; and whether industrious habits are more to be observed in the older settlers, than in those of a comparatively later date. You will endeavour to ascertain with accuracy, the amount of the produce which has been raised in the course of the last three years by these persons, and how much of it has been disposed of by them in exchange for articles which they might require. You will then proceed to ascertain whether the produce so raised, might have been materially increased, had the parties been in the habit of regular settled industry.

You will report on the facilities which their present locations afford for the cultivation of articles having an exchangeable value in Europe, or in other countries; and you will inquire whether there is any reason to believe that there are other parts of the Colony equally healthy in point of situation, which are better calculated for the production of such articles. You will report what quantity of exportable produce might be expected to be raised by each of these families, if their habits were regular and industrious; although at the same time they were totally exempted from the necessity of performing any severe labour, which might in any degree encroach upon their health or comfort.

You will take into consideration any practical suggestion for the formation of a system which may combine the exertions of any set of Liberated Africans with those of any Capitalist, who may be prepared to give them a share of the produce of their common efforts, as a remuneration for their labour; and which will make such a remuneration dependent on their own exertions. You will consider whether such an arrangement had best be made by voluntary engagements, or by such as come more under the description of apprenticeships; and you will consider whether this latter mode of disposing of the Liberated Africans may not be found more advantageous both to themselves, and to the Colony, than the mere location of them, without restraint or coercion, where the demand for their labour is limited to the necessity of sustaining themselves and their families.

You will report in minute detail, the result of your opinions as to the disposition which exists among them to adopt habits of industry, with reference to any progressive improvement of their condition.

You

## PAPERS RELATING TO LIBERATED

You will report as to the effect which religious instruction has produced upon their minds, not only with reference to the observance of their religious and moral duties, but to their habits of industry and obedience.

You will consider generally, what means may be devised for securing to the Colony that advantage from their regular industry, which will in some measure repay the mother country for that outlay of capital, which she employs in the benevolent purpose of redeeming them from a state of hopeless slavery. And you will report, whether you conceive that such a plan can be carried into practical effect, without the establishment of some principle of regulated coercion, which will prevent those habits of idleness, from an indulgence in which their own good dispositions can alone preserve them under the existing law.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant.

His Majesty's Commissioners  
of Inquiry, Sierra Leone.

(signed) *R. W. Hay.*

— 2. —

Copy of a DISPATCH from Major General *Turner*, Governor of *Sierra Leone*, to Earl *Bathurst*, on the subject of the "Liberated Africans' Department" in that Colony."

Sierra Leone, 25th January 1826.

My Lord,

AMONGST the many objects which in this Colony lay claim to my attention, there are very few which require to be considered more than that which is called the "Liberated African Department." However adequate the arrangements might have been to the early state of this establishment, it is very evident that they have not been so for some time past, and equally evident that, from the numbers of captured slaves brought into the Colony, they become every day less so. There have been more than 20,000 Slaves landed in this Colony, and during the last year upwards of 2,400 have been emancipated. Should the trade in Slaves continue to increase in the manner in which it has done for the last two years, there is no doubt, from the activity of our cruizers, but the number brought in here will increase also, and will very shortly become a very large and unwieldy mass of people; indeed, they are so already: and it becomes a matter of very serious consideration how they are to be disposed of, or how they are to maintain themselves. Under the arrangements hitherto prevailing, they have been distributed amongst the villages, where they have been for years supported in idleness by the Government; but the villages and the poor land of the mountains where they are situated, already begin to refuse to them a scanty subsistence, and they have begun to wander in search of better soil and easier sustenance:—and the evident tendency of this is, that they will retrograde in the woods, into a state of nature and barbarism, or become vagrants about Freetown and the more populous villages. I, in some degree, meet this evil at present, by employing them on the public works, carrying bricks and other materials, giving them food, lodging, and some clothing, at the public expense; and I have given them in small numbers and under registry, to respectable people to cultivate land and for domestic purposes. And it is found that under this system of putting them to easy and regular labour, such as they have been used to on their landing from the slave ships, that they become very orderly good labourers; but in the cases where they have been located in the villages, and have received gratuitous maintenance, they can with difficulty be induced to give a day's labour even for good wages. The expense of this establishment has been very great; I believe that the regulations under which I have reduced it during the last year,

year, to the amount shown in the accompanying Schedule of five years, may be safely persevered in, and a still greater reduction made; but as the whole system is defective, I cannot persuade myself that I can do more than to alleviate the evil. It would but lead to disappointment to imagine, that a large mass of poor ignorant people, without capital, skill or industry, could be brought to maintain themselves, and to raise articles of export, without the assistance of labour wages;—could such a system succeed even in England, the poor rates might soon be abolished.

There are twelve Villages established for the purpose of civilizing, instructing and keeping together these people, and with establishments apparently very suitable, although practically very inefficient:—a clergyman, a schoolmaster, and a superintendent to each village, has the appearance of meeting every possible purpose, but unfortunately the untowardness of the climate, the privations, fatigues, and uncongeniality of the situations with the former habits of the people who hold them, and the absence of personal interest or hope of progressive advancement, soon cause a decrease of numbers. At present there are in the Colony but *one* Church Missionary (Mr. Raban), and three Lutheran clergymen, five schoolmasters, and four superintendents. Amongst these there is not one person who has the slightest knowledge of Agriculture, nor can I learn that there ever has been any person employed in the colony, who had any acquaintance either with European or Tropical Agriculture. Under such disadvantages, it is not to be wondered that cultivation has not made much progress. Should it meet your Lordship's approbation that twelve superintendents from the West India Islands, where cotton and coffee cultivation is best understood, men of colour, with an assistant or overseer to each, should be brought to this colony for the purpose of instructing these Liberated Africans, and for superintending such plantations, as would not fail, under such facilities, to be formed here by capitalists. I am satisfied, that under such an arrangement, more would be done for the permanent improvement of the colony and the condition of these people, in a few years, than is to be expected under the present system in half a century. Europeans cannot accomplish such objects here, and there are no native people capable of conducting such matters.

The measure would not be attended with much expense; merely the conveying of those people here, together with a quantity of the best sea island cotton seed, to begin with. Coffee we have in abundance, indigenous, and of the finest quality; and every merchant in the place, besides capitalists in London with whom I am acquainted, are ready to establish plantations, if superintendents or overseers could be found. Should your Lordship be pleased to see in this plan any thing deserving your attention, the best way would be perhaps to direct the Governors of some of the West India Islands to select and engage, at suitable salaries, coloured men of the above description, and a conveyance to be ordered for them here; and I feel quite satisfied that a large saving of public money would speedily follow, and much confusion be avoided as well as embarrassment. The population would then get into a state similar to those of other countries;—capital would diffuse its wholesome benefits;—labour, industry and skill would be sure to be rewarded.

I must also respectfully submit, for your Lordship's consideration, the very inadequate provision which is made for controlling the Expenses of this Establishment; I am obliged to approve, sign, and become responsible for all expenditures on account of these people, and it is quite impossible that I can examine into these matters, which are very voluminous. I happen to have very good health, and some acquaintance with business, but I cannot expect, in such a climate as this, to be able long to continue such labours;—those about me have all suffered, and I have lost their services. The superintendent of this department should be one of the first men in the colony, in point of salary, intelligence and integrity. Your Lordship will perceive by the annexed Account, that even with the little time which I have been able to devote to it, I have accomplished a Saving of one-half upon the average of five years, or upwards of *seventeen thousand a year* upon the money alone issued here, *without reference to the stores from England*, although the numbers in the colony must be greater than in any former year, as 2,400 new negroes were landed from the Slave ships during the year, a number far exceeding any of the years quoted. Your Lordship will also perceive that I have reduced the number receiving rations one-half; and I am happy to say, that the proper Authorities report to me, that the colony was never known to be so orderly, tranquil and industrious as at present.

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*The Saving of this one year would much more than meet the expense of the Plan which I have had the honour, to submit to your Lordship, and which I will pledge myself to make eminently successful. I feel greatly anxious about the responsibility of my being considered public accountant to this department, from which I derive no advantage.*

I hope that your Lordship will be pleased to overlook any thing in this Statement which may appear careless, as I have much to do, with little assistance.

I have, Sir, &c.

(signed) *Charles Turner, Govr.*

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

RETURN showing the Total Amount of Cash drawn each year, and Expended, on account of Liberated Africans in the Colony of Sierra Leone, from 1st January 1821 to 31st December 1825.

1st January to 31st December 1821	-	-	-	-	£. 34,214	5	1 ½
1st - D° - 31st - D° - 1822	-	-	-	-	£. 35,250	1	9 ½
1st - D° - 31st - D° - 1823	-	-	-	-	£. 40,907	4	9 ½
1st - D° - 31st - D° - 1824	-	-	-	-	£. 31,065	1	-
1st D° - 31st - D° - 1825	-	-	-	-	£. 17,671	-	3 ¼

(signed) *Tho' Cole,*

Chief Superintendent of Liberated Africans.

Sierra Leone,  
26th January 1826.

RETURN showing the Number of Liberated Africans receiving Support from Government, on the 1st January in each Year from 1822.

1st January 1822	-	-	Total Number of Persons receiving Rations	-	-	3,775
1st - D° - 1823	-	D°	-	-	D°	5,401
1st - D° - 1824	-	D°	-	-	D°	5,539
1st - D° - 1825	-	D°	-	-	D°	4,273
1st - D° - 1826	-	D°	-	-	D°	2,737

(signed) *Tho' Cole,*

Chief Superintendent of Liberated Africans.

Sierra Leone,  
26th January 1826.





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