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SLAVE COLONIES LEGISLATIVE ACTS.

R E T U R N,

Pursuant to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated the third day of March 1826;—*for*

T I T L E S O F A L L

ACTS Passed by the Legislatures of the SLAVE COLONIES since the 15th of May 1823, and containing any Provisions for promoting the Religious Instruction of the Slaves; or the better observance of the Sabbath; distinguishing,—THE Names of the Colonies, the dates of the Acts, the numbers of the Sections in which such Provisions are contained, and specifying whether the same Acts have been allowed or disallowed by, or are now under the consideration of the King in Council :—THE Titles of all Acts passed by the said Legislatures since the 15th of May 1823, and containing any Provisions respecting the admissibility of the EVIDENCE of Slaves; distinguishing and specifying as before :—THE Titles of all Acts passed by the said Legislatures since the 15th of May 1823, and containing any Provisions respecting the MARRIAGE of Slaves; distinguishing as before :—THE Titles of all Acts passed by the said Legislatures since the 15th of May 1823, and containing any Provisions for facilitating the MANUMISSION of Slaves; distinguishing as before :—THE Titles of all Acts passed by the said Legislatures since the 15th of May 1823, and containing any Provisions for preventing the SALE of Slaves detached from the Estates of their Owners; distinguishing as before :—THE Titles of all Acts passed by the said Legislatures since the 15th of May 1823, and containing any Provisions for preventing the SEPARATION of Slaves from their RELATIONS; distinguishing as before;—and, THE Titles of all Acts passed by the said Legislatures since the 15th of May 1823, and containing any Provisions for restraining or regulating the PUNISHMENTS of Slaves by their Masters, or those having authority from their Masters; distinguishing as before :—viz.

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|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| I. —JAMAICA. | IV.—GRENADA. | VII.—DOMINICA. |
| II.—BARBADOES. | V.—TOBAGO. | VIII.—ST. KITTS. |
| III.—BAHAMAS. | VI.—ST. VINCENT. | |

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

I.—STATEMENT of Slave Meliorating Provisions recommended by His

TITLE of ACTS.	DATE of ACTS.	How dealt with.	Provisions as to		
			Religious Instruction and Observance of Sabbath.	Evidence.	Marriage.
An Act to prevent levies on Slaves on Saturday.	16 December 1824.	Under consideration.	By Act of 16 December 1824, the protection of Slaves from being levied upon for their Owner's Debts on Sunday, extended to Saturday also.	None.	None.
An Act for removing impediments to the Manumission of Slaves by Owners, having only a limited interest.	16 December 1824.	Ditto			
An Act to enable Slaves to receive Bequests of Money, or other Personal Estate.	21 December 1825.	Ditto			

II.—STATEMENT of Slave Meliorating Provisions recommended by His Majesty's

TITLE of ACT.	DATE of ACT.	How dealt with.	Provisions as to		
			Religious Instruction and Observance of Sabbath.	Evidence.	Marriage.
An Act to repeal several Acts, and Clauses of Acts, respecting Slaves, and for consolidating and bringing into one Act, the several Laws relating thereto, and for the better ordering and government of Slaves, and for giving them further protection and security for altering the mode of trial of those charged with capital and other offences, and for other purposes.	25 March 1825.	Received for revision and amendment by the legislature.	None.	None.	None.

Majesty's Government, and enacted in the Colony of JAMAICA.

<i>Provisions as to</i>				
<i>Manumission.</i>	<i>Sale of Slaves detached from Estates.</i>	<i>Separation of Families.</i>	<i>Regulation of Punishments.</i>	<i>Right of Property, and Right of Action.</i>
By Act of 16 December 1824, an Owner having only a limited interest in a Slave, may, notwithstanding, manumit him, by paying his value (which is first to be ascertained by appraisement) into the hands of the Receiver General, for the benefit of the party entitled in remainder, &c.	None.	None.	None.	By Act of 21 December 1825, Pecuniary Bequests, and Legacies of Chattels, are declared to be legal, in so far that Slaves can give a valid acquittance to executors from whom they may receive such bequests, but not bring an action in respect of them.

Government, and Title of an Act passed by the Legislature of BARBADOES.

<i>Provisions as to</i>				
<i>Manumission.</i>	<i>Sale of Slaves detached from Estates.</i>	<i>Separation of Families.</i>	<i>Regulation of Punishment.</i>	<i>Right of Property, and Right of Action.</i>
None.	None.	None.	None.	None

III.—STATEMENT of Slave Meliorating Provisions recommended by

TITLE of ACT.	DATE of ACT.	How dealt with.	Provisions as to		
			Religious Instruction and Observance of Sabbath.	Evidence.	Marriage.
An Act to amend, consolidate, and bring into one Act the several laws relating to Slaves, and for giving them further protection and security, and for suspending several Acts and Clauses of Acts therein mentioned, and for other purposes.	28th January 1824.	Under consideration.	<p>Clause 9.</p> <p>Owners are to instruct their Slaves in religion, and fit them for baptism, and to cause to be baptized such as they can make sensible of a Deity, and of the Christian faith.</p>	None.	<p>Clause 10.</p> <p>Clergymen may solemnize Marriages between Slaves and Slaves, and Slaves and Free-People, without publication of Banns or Licence, if they profess the Christian Religion, and produce the written consent of their Owners.</p> <p>Clause 11.</p> <p>Justices of the Peace, where there are no resident Clergy, may also solemnize such Marriages.</p> <p>Clause 12.</p> <p>A free person is to be present at the ceremony. The clergyman or churchwarden is required, upon application, to register such marriages under a penalty of £.5 for default.</p> <p>Clause 13.</p> <p>Such marriages declared as valid as if solemnized after publication of banns, or by virtue of any licence, and the issue of such marriages legitimate.</p>

His Majesty's Government, and enacted in the Colony of BAHAMAS.

Provisions as to

<i>Manumission.</i>	<i>Sale of Slaves detached from Estates.</i>	<i>Separation of Families.</i>	<i>Regulation of Punishment.</i>	<i>Right of Property and Right of Action.</i>
<p>Clause 5. Suspends all Acts imposing a tax upon manumissions, except the fees of the secretary, and register of records.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Clause 6. Slaves being husband and wife, or reputed husband and wife, and their child, or reputed child, under fourteen years, and belonging to one owner, are not to be sold apart, but in one lot, and to the same person. No executor is to consent to any bequest, &c. the effect of which would be to separate such husband and wife, &c.</p> <p>Clause 7. Persons making such sales, or executors assenting to such bequests, &c. contrary to the Act, are to forfeit £.100 for every offence.</p>	<p>Clause 18. Punishments are limited to twenty lashes, unless the owner is present, and he is not to inflict more than thirty-nine lashes at one time nor for one offence, nor a second punishment until delinquent has recovered the effects of the former punishment; and female slaves above twelve years are not to be punished, except in private, under a penalty of £.10 for every offence.</p>	<p>None.</p>

IV.—STATEMENT of Slave Meliorating Provisions recommended by

TITLE of ACTS.	DATE of ACTS.	How dealt with.	Provisions as to		
			Religious Instruction, and Observance of Sabbath.	Evidence.	Marriage.
An Act to consolidate all the Laws now in force relating to the Slave Population, for making more effectual Provision for their Maintenance and Protection, and for the admissibility of their testimony in certain cases.	26 April 1825.	Under consideration, and further amendment expected from the Legislature.	<p>Clause 4.</p> <p>Masters are to instruct their Slaves in religion, and cause all such as are sensible of their duty to God to be baptized, and all Slaves hereafter to be born, within six months after birth. Clergymen are required to perform the ceremony gratis.</p> <p>Clause 8.</p> <p>Slaves, except domestics, watchmen, stock-keepers, and persons employed in potting sugar (which work must cease at eight o'clock in the morning), are not to be employed at any kind of work on Sunday, under a penalty of £.10.</p> <p>Clause 45.</p> <p>Market hours on Thursday are extended from six in the morning until six in the evening.</p> <p>Clause 46.</p> <p>No stores to be kept open on Sundays, under a penalty of £.10.</p>	47.	None.
				Slave evidence admitted in capital cases, if the Slave produce a certificate of baptism and of character; but no free person is to be convicted of any capital crime, unless two clearly and consistently depose to the same fact, and are corroborated by circumstances; and the prosecution has been instituted within 12 months after the commission of the offence.	

His Majesty's Government, and enacted in the Colony of GRENADA.

Provisions as to

<i>Manumission.</i>	<i>Sale of Slaves detached from Estates.</i>	<i>Separation of Families.</i>	<i>Regulation of Punishments.</i>	<i>Right of Property and Right of Action.</i>
<p>Clause 51.</p> <p>A mortgagor may manumit a Slave without the consent of the mortgagee, by substituting another Slave of equal value, (which is to be ascertained by appraisement,) in lieu of the Slave he proposes to manumit.</p> <p><i>Note.</i>—The Laws of this Colony before required no bond or deposit from the proprietor.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Clause 50.</p> <p>No married Slave, or unmarried female Slave, having a child under 12 years of age, is to be levied upon and sold, unless such Slave and child be sold to the same person.</p>	<p>Clause 10.</p> <p>No owner to inflict beyond fifteen lashes without the presence of a free person, nor above twenty-five for any offence, on the same day, nor a second whipping until the Slave has recovered the effects of the former, under a penalty of £.10. Any greater punishment to be directed by a magistrate, and no other inflicted than he orders. The magistrate to keep a record of the complaint and the punishment. Owners to keep a record of all crimes committed, and punishments of more than ten lashes inflicted.</p> <p>Clause 11.</p> <p>Proprietor or attorney inflicting greater punishment, to be indicted.</p> <p>Clause 12.</p> <p>No Slave to carry whip or other emblem of authority; a misdemeanor in himself, and those authorizing and abetting him.</p>	<p>Clause 52.</p> <p>If any owner or other person deprive any Slave of any personal property by him possessed, he shall forfeit £. 10. over and above the value of the property taken away.</p>

V.—STATEMENT of Slave Meliorating Provisions recommended by

TITLE of ACTS.	DATE of ACTS.	How dealt with.	Provisions as to	
			Religious In- struction, and Observance of Sabbath.	Evidence.
An Act to repeal an Act, intituled, "An Act for the good order and government of Slaves," and for repealing an Act of this island, intituled, "An Act for the good order and government of Slaves, and for keeping them under proper restraint; for establishing the method of Trial in capital cases; and other Regulations for the greater security of that part of the Inhabitants' Property," and to substitute a new Act in lieu thereof.	August 2d, 1823.	Left to its operation.	Clause 40. Sunday mar- kets abolished. Markets to be holden for the future on Thurs- day.	Clause 22. Where any free person is charged with murder, or mayhem of or cruelty to a Slave, and no free person can be produced to prove the facts, two Slaves may be admitted, and if their credi- bility be unimpeached, their testimony to have the effect of the testimony of one white; and the slave suffering such mayhem, &c. may be one of the two.

His Majesty's Government, and enacted in the Colony of TOBAGO.

Provisions as to

<i>Marriage.</i>	<i>Manumission.</i>	<i>Sale of Slaves detached from Estates.</i>	<i>Separation of Families.</i>	<i>Regulation of Punishment.</i>	<i>Right of Property, and Right of Action.</i>
None.	None.	The non-separation of Slaves (attached to estates) from the land, in the event of a levy under execution, was before provided for by the laws of Tobago.	None.	<p>Clause 19. Punishment by the Owner limited to twenty stripes; cruelty to be punished by fine and imprisonment.</p> <p>Clause 20. Whenever the punishment exceeds twelve stripes, a free witness is to be present.</p> <p>Clause 21. Drivers are not to punish without the express order of the Owners.</p> <p>Clause 25. Guardians are appointed to inquire into complaints of cruelty towards Slaves; and if such complaints appear to them to be well founded, the attorney general is required to institute a public prosecution against the party complained against.</p>	<p>Clause 35. Slaves are declared entitled to hold personal property of any description, if fairly acquired, and may sell the same, and bring an action in respect of it; and slavery is not to be a valid plea in abatement or bar to such action.</p>

VI.—STATEMENT of Slave Meliorating Provisions recommended by

TITLE of ACT.	DATE of ACT.	How dealt with.	Provisions as to	
			Religious Instruction, and Observance of Sabbath.	Evidence.
An Act to repeal an Act, intituled, "An Act for making Slaves real Estate;" and the first Clause of an Act, intituled, "An Act to appoint Commissioners for the purpose of obtaining an exact Account of the Number of the Coloured Free People, and Number of Negroes within this Government and its Dependencies, and to ameliorate the Condition of Slaves, and for other Purposes."	15 December 1825.	Under Consideration.	<p>Clause 7. No shop or store is to be kept open on Sunday, under a penalty of £.10.</p> <p>Clause 8. Owners are to endeavour to instruct their Slaves in religion, and to cause all their Slaves hereafter to be born to be baptized within six months after birth. Clergymen are to perform the ceremony gratis, and to keep a registry of their baptism, under a penalty of £.10 for each default.</p> <p>Clause 9. After 1st June 1826, Sunday markets to be limited to ten o'clock in the forenoon; and any article exposed for sale after may be seized and sold.</p> <p>Clause 11. Slaves to be exempted from the labour of the plantation on Sunday. No Mill to be put about between seven on Saturday night and four on Monday morning. No sugar to be boiled after ten on Saturday night, under a penalty of £.50.</p>	<p>Clause 66. No person shall be rejected as a witness in any capital case because he is a Slave, if he produce a certificate of baptism and of character. No person to be convicted of any capital crime, unless two Slaves clearly and consistently depose to the same fact, and are examined apart, and the prosecution within a year. No Slave to give evidence where owner or person having charge of such Slave is charged with a capital crime, or where any white person is charged with a crime punishable by death.</p>

His Majesty's Government, and enacted in the Colony of ST. VINCENT.

Provisions as to

<i>Marriage.</i>	<i>Manumission.</i>	<i>Sale of Slaves detached from Estates.</i>	<i>Separation of Families.</i>	<i>Regulation of Punishment.</i>	<i>Right of Property, and Right of Action.</i>
<p>Clause 10. Clergymen are required to solemnize the marriages of Slaves, if they produce the consent of their owners, and appear to understand the nature of the marriage vow; but such marriages are not to confer any rights inconsistent with the duties of Slaves, or subject them to penalties, the effect of which may injure their owners.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Clause 21. Punishment is restricted to ten lashes, unless owner or person having charge is present; and no owner is to inflict above thirty-nine, nor that, or any other number, in the same week, until the delinquent has recovered.</p> <p>Clause 22. A register of all crimes and punishments above ten lashes, is to be kept on every estate.</p> <p>Clause 23. No Slave after the 1st January 1827 is to carry a cart whip as an emblem of authority; misdemeanor in himself and those authorizing him.</p>	<p>Clause 5. Owner taking away any species of personal property lawfully possessed or acquired by the Slave, shall forfeit £.10 over and above the value.</p> <p>Clause 6. If any third person take away articles from a Slave, or omit to pay for goods purchased, on complaint, magistrate may summon and examine offender on oath, and convict him in any penalty not exceeding £.10.</p>

VII.—STATEMENT of Slave Meliorating Provisions recommended by His Majesty's Govern-

TITLE of ACT and BILL.	DATE of ACT and BILL.	How dealt with.	Provisions as to	
			Religious Instruction, and Observance of Sabbath.	Evidence.
<p>An Act for the encouragement, protection and better government of Slaves, and for the general amelioration of their condition.</p> <p>(Note.—A draft only of the above has been received; it was transmitted from the colony whilst the Bill was yet under the consideration of the Legislature. Upon that draft this Tablet is founded.)</p>	Without date, but received November 26, 1825.	Under consideration.	<p>Bill, Clause 5.—Owners of distant Plantations are to convene their Slaves every Sunday for Divine Worship, and to exhort them to baptism and matrimony.</p> <p>Bill, Clause 6.—No article to be exposed for sale in the market during the time of Divine Worship.</p> <p>Bill, Clause 7.—Masters are not to require their Slaves, except Domestic, Stock-keepers and Watchmen, to labour on Sundays.</p>	<p>Bill, Clause 16. In cases not capital, nor of charges against their Owners, the evidence of Slaves to be admitted, if baptized, and they understand the nature of an oath; and if two depose to the same facts; and if the prosecution be within 12 months.</p>
An Act to repeal the Tax on the Manumission of Slaves.	10th November 1825.	- - -	<p>Bill, Clause 9.—During crop, no Mill to be put about between seven on Saturday night and five on Monday morning.</p>	

LEGISLATURES (SINCE MAY 1823) RESPECTING SLAVES.

ment, and carried through a Committee of the House of Assembly in the Colony of DOMINICA.

Provisions as to

<i>Marriage.</i>	<i>Manumission.</i>	<i>Sale of Slaves detached from Estates.</i>	<i>Separation of Families.</i>	<i>Regulation of Punishment.</i>	<i>Right of Property and Right of Action.</i>
None	Act of 10 Nov. 1825, Clause 1. Repeals Taxes imposed upon Manumissions by Act of 15 June 1810.	None.	None.	<p>Bill, Clause 30.—Females are not to be whipped publicly, or so as to occasion indecent exposure.</p> <p>Bill, Clause 32.—A Register of all punishments exceeding stripes, is to be kept on every Plantation.</p>	<p>Bill, Clause 14. Any person (not the owner) taking away personal property, or refusing to pay for when he has purchased the same, or destroying any such property, to forfeit</p> <p>to be given as compensation to the Slave.</p>

VIII.—RESOLUTIONS adopted by the Council of St. KITTS, in consequence

	<i>Religious Instruction, and Observance of Sabbath.</i>	<i>Evidence.</i>	<i>Marriage.</i>	<i>Manumission.</i>
—	Resolved by the Council, That Sunday Markets should be abolished, and other times allowed for Markets, as well as for cultivating the Provision Ground.	Resolved by the Council, That the Evidence of Slaves be admitted as in Dominica.	Nothing.	Resolved by the Council, That Negroes should be suffered to purchase freedom under certain conditions.

of Recommendations by His Majesty's Government, upon the following Subjects.

<i>Sale of Slaves detached from Estates.</i>	<i>Separation of Families.</i>	<i>Regulation of Punishment.</i>	<i>Right of Property, and Right of Action.</i>	—
Nothing.	Nothing.	<p>Resolved by the Council, That the use of the Whip as a symbol of authority, should be discontinued; that punishment should be registered, and only inflicted at the Order of the Manager.</p> <p>Resolved by the Council, That Flogging of Women should be discontinued.</p>	<p>Resolved by the Council, That the right of Slaves to property, should be confirmed to them by Law.</p>	

SLAVE COLONIES LEGISLATIVE
ACTS.

TITLES OF ALL

ACTS Passed by Colonial Legislatures, (since
May 1823), respecting Slaves.

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