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SLAVE TRADE.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable House of Commons,
dated 12th February 1827;—*for*,

COPIES OR EXTRACTS

Of any Correspondence respecting the Slave Trade,
received from the Governor of the *Mauritius*, and not
already laid before the House.

(MAURITIUS CORRESPONDENCE.)

Colonial Department, }
Downing-street, }
15th February 1827. }

R. J. WILMOT HORTON.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
15 February 1827.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Relating to the Slave Trade at the Mauritius.

— N° 1. —

Copy of a DESPATCH from Earl Bathurst, to Sir G. L. Cole, dated
Downing-street, 10 November 1825.—(Two Enclosures.)

N° 1.

SIR,

Downing-street, 10th November 1825.

I TRANSMIT to Your Excellency herewith, an Extract of certain Orders which have been given by Captain Owen, of His Majesty's ship *Leven*, to the officers commanding His Majesty's ships *Ariadne* and *Barracouta*, in which he adverts to an illicit Trade, which consists of bringing to the Mauritius from the Seychelles, Slaves who do not correspond with their recensement.

Your Excellency will have the goodness to acquaint me at your earliest convenience with the circumstances to which Captain Owen alludes, as justifying the suspicion that such an illicit traffic has been carried on, and you will state what arrangements you have made for putting an end to such disgraceful proceedings.

I have, &c.

Lieutenant-General
Sir Lowry Cole, G. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

(signed)

BATHURST.

(Enclosure 1.)

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 7th November 1825.

Enclosure,
(1.)

I AM commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to transmit to you for the consideration of Earl Bathurst, an Extract of a Letter from Captain Owen of His Majesty's ship *Leven*, with copies of the correspondence therein referred to, which has passed between that officer and the Governor of the Mauritius, respecting the regulations under which the trade of that Island is carried on, and of two orders issued by Captain Owen on this subject; and I am to request you will move Lord Bathurst to communicate to My Lords, as soon as convenient, his Lordship's directions on the point to which these papers relate, in order that proper instructions may be sent to His Majesty's Naval Officers.

I am, &c.

R. W. Hay, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(signed)

Jn^o Barrow.

(Enclosure 2.)

EXTRACT of Captain Owen's Orders to Captain Chapman and Commander Vidal, dated the 1st July 1825.

Enclosure,
(2.)

—“ IT is necessary to direct your attention to the vessels trading between this Island and the Seychelles, which have been used to carry on an illicit trade by bringing slaves that do not correspond with the recensement; if any slaves of this description be found on board any of the said vessels, they should be seized for adjudication.”

-- N° 2. --

N° 2.

Extract of a DESPATCH, addressed by Lieutenant-General Honourable Sir G. L. Cole, G. C. B., to the Earl Bathurst, dated Mauritius, 4 June 1826.

Enclosure,
(N° 1 to 6.)

—“ I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, in reply to your Dispatch, N° 49, dated the 10th of November last, copies of various papers, which, at my desire, have been furnished by the Collector of Customs, and by which your Lordship will perceive that the number of slaves brought to this Island from the Seychelles, between the 12th June 1823, and the 10th of April last, amounts to 840 persons, whereof 69, who did not agree with their descriptions stated in the certificates of registry, were refused admittance.

“ Of these 69 slaves, 37 returned to the Seychelles on board the same vessels on which they had arrived, 29 were landed under the authority of the Procureur General, were prosecuted before the Colonial Courts, according to the Slave Registration Ordinance (there being no Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court here at the time), and sentenced, notwithstanding the arguments of the Procureur General to the contrary, to be sent back to the Seychelles.

“ After this decision of the Courts, and not feeling that I should be justified in detaining the individuals here, 12 of the slaves in question were permitted to go back to the Seychelles, the parties being bound in the sum of 300 dollars, for each black to produce certificates of their being actually re-landed at Seychelles, and were at the same time informed, that the local government by no means intended to protect these blacks from any further proceedings on the part of the officers of His Majesty's navy, which, in their discretion, they might conceive themselves called upon to adopt.

“ With regard to the remainder of the 29 slaves, 14 died in the Civil Hospital, two are still in the custody of the superintendent of the Matricule, and one was subsequently admitted by my order, as explained in the papers forming enclosure N° 2. The other three of the 69 slaves have, since the re-opening of the Vice Admiralty Court, been prosecuted before that Court, and condemned to His Majesty.

“ This explanation will, I hope, satisfy your Lordship, that the local government has not been inattentive to the matter which gave rise to the precautionary order issued by Captain Owen, of His Majesty's ship *Leven*, when on this station in the month of July of last year; and to satisfy your Lordship that Captain Owen did not imagine that the Slave Trade was carrying on here even through the medium of the Seychelles, I need only refer your Lordship to the letter which that officer addressed to me about the same period, and a copy of which accompanied my despatch to your Lordship, N° 40*,—1825.”

*Already presented
to the House.

“ The new registration of the slaves of this colony, which your Lordship has informed me will shortly take place, will, I hope, effectually remove all future embarrassments and difficulties of the foregoing nature.

Appendix G.
pp. 235 to 245.

“ Adverting to that part of the Nineteenth Report of the African Institution, which has been sent home by the directors, and which relates to the alleged continuance of the Slave Trade here, I transmit, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a memorandum which has been drawn up by Lieutenant Cole (the officer whom I sent to the Seychelles in 1824), in contradiction to the statements and arguments made use of in the Report of the African Institution concerning the Slave Trade, stated still to exist here through the medium of the Seychelles.

“ On sending Lieutenant Cole to that dependency, I particularly directed his attention to the Slave Trade; and I am satisfied that he gave himself every trouble to arrive at the truth.

p. 242.

“ With regard to one observation contained in the Report of the African Institution before alluded to, viz. ‘ That it would be easy to show in how open and barefaced a manner new negroes have been introduced from the Seychelles by means of certain formalities, &c.’ what I have stated in the first part of this despatch, will, I hope, satisfy your Lordship, that this assertion is wholly unfounded, at least, as far as my administration of the government of the Mauritius is concerned;

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cerned; and as to the remarks which are made in the same Report, on the subject of the state and disorder of the Slave Registration here, my sentiments on this matter have long since been laid before your Lordship.

N^o 2,
continued.

“ Referring to the information received by the African Institution from Captain Moorsom, for whom I entertain the highest personal respect and esteem, I must observe, that Captain Moorsom came to this station with a conviction on his mind that the Slave Trade was still carried on here, and which nothing has been able to remove; his opinion, therefore, can scarcely be considered as an important one; and, during the whole time that officer remained on this station, (a period of two years,) he never made one seizure of slaves. Captain Moorsom received from me every information he required on this subject generally; and, with respect to the slaves brought here from the Seychelles, he was at perfect liberty (had he thought fit to do so) to have seized all those amongst them who did not agree with their certificates; and further, when, in pursuance of the sentences of the Colonial Courts, some few were permitted to return to the Seychelles, because they did not agree with their certificates and had therefore been refused admittance by the collector of Customs, it was, as I have already had the honour of stating to your Lordship, distinctly explained to the parties claiming the blacks in question, that the local government by no means intended to protect them from the navy!

8.

“ By the enclosed statement, your Lordship will perceive what were the chief exports from the Seychelles during the years 1823, 1824 and 1825; and Captain Moorsom is in error in stating that the exports of cotton in 1824 exceeded by 220 bales those of 1823. On referring to the statement, it will be seen that, in 1823, one thousand and eighty-seven bales of cotton (1087) were exported from Seychelles to the Mauritius, whereas the quantity exported in the following years, viz. 1824 and 1825 was, in the former, 786 bales, and, in the latter, 781 bales; making a diminution, instead of an increase, of about three hundred bales in each year.”

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

(Enclosure 1.)

Custom House, Port Louis, 25 April 1826.

Enclosure,
(1.)

Sir,

IN compliance with his Excellency the Governor's directions, conveyed to me in your letter of the 10th instant, I have the honour herewith to transmit to you a statement, showing the number of slaves admitted to entry at this port from Seychelles, between the 12th June 1823 and 10th of the present month of April; a statement of the number to whom admittance has been refused within the same period; and a nominal list of those landed and proceeded against by the Procureur General, with notes in the column of Remarks, to show what has become of them.

I have, &c.

(signed) Arch^d W^m Blane,
Collector of Customs.

Colonel Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government,
&c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure 2.)

Chief Secretary's Office, Port Louis, 9 December 1824.

Enclosure,
(2.)

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, in reply to mine of the 23d, communicating to you the opinion of Mr. Cooper in reference to the slave of Madame Panon; and I have his Excellency's directions at the same time to inform you, that his Excellency requests that the opinion of Mr. Cooper, as above alluded to, be acted upon; his Excellency conceiving that this legal officer ought to be the best judge of what the law is on the subject. His Excellency also coinciding with him in the view which he has taken of the matter.

I have, &c.

Arch^d W^m Blane, Esq.
Acting Collector of Customs.

(signed)

G. A. Barry,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Port Louis, 16th November 1824.

N^o 2.
*continued.*Enclosure,
(2.)

Dear Sir,

I HAVE perused the petition presented to his Excellency the Governor on the part of Madame Panon, respecting her slave now detained in the bagne, on whom it has been alleged, that he does not agree with his registration certificate. The petitioner offers to procure a proof of this slave's being the same as was registered, from a medical man; and as that would be the readiest and least expensive way of satisfying his Excellency's mind on the matter, I think it should be adopted, when his Excellency might give an order to the Custom House to pass the slave, and do all those things which are required and are usual in cases where the collector is satisfied of the identity of slaves coming from Seychelles.

There seems, from the papers before me, and from all I have heard of this case, no ground for supposing any fraudulent intention in the parties bringing the slave in question; and the alteration in his appearance being easily and naturally accounted for, would have been, I humbly conceive, sufficient to satisfy Mr. Blane, without further reference.

As, however, doubts and objections have been raised, I recommend the certificate of the medical man to be called for, on the back of which the Governor can deliver his order.

I am, my dear Sir, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *John J. Cooper.*

E. F. Verit, Esq.
Assistant Private Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Port Louis, le 13 Octobre 1824.

Excellence,

MADAME V^e Panon, très agée et infirme, a au bagne, depuis un an, son noir nommé L'Endormi, qui est venu avec elle des Seychelles pour la servir à Bourbon, où elle est allée s'établir. Ce noir qui seul peut lui porter des soins entendus dans son état d'infirmité, à été arrêté ici, lors de son débarquement, parcequ'il était marqué au visage de quelques grains de la vèrette volante qu'il a eu quelques mois avant de quitter les Seychelles, et qui conséquemment ne pouvaient être décrits dans les recensemens. Il est intervenu un arrêt qui ordonne que tous les noirs retenus pour quelque cause que ce soit, seront renvoyés aux Seychelles, pour y être présentés de nouveau à l'enregistrement pour leur retour être fait ici sous une caution de 300 piastres.

Sic Qu. vérole.

Madame Panon me charge de représenter respectueusement à votre Excellence que cet arrêt est un peu sévère pour son noir, à qui on n'oppose que ces marques légères qu'il n'a pas été en son pouvoir de faire constater dans aucun recensement, et vû qu'il lui est impossible de fournir le cautionnement réquis par l'arrêt, et de subvenir aux frais de transport et retour des Seychelles, elle a l'honneur de vous supplier, Excellence, de vouloir bien permettre que son noir lui soit remis à charge par elle de fournir un certificat du docteur qui a soigné le dit noir pendant qu'il étoit atteint de la vèrette volante. Ce docteur qui a soigné ce noir est arrivé la semaine dernière des Seychelles, et pourroit ici même donner ce certificat, que ce noir ne pourroit même pas se procurer aux Seychelles.

Sic Qu. vérole.

Je suis avec un profond respect, &c. &c. &c.

A Son Excellence
Sir Lowry Cole, G. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

(signé) *M. Querel.*

Je soussigné certifie que pendant le tems que Madame Panon a resté chez moi aux Seychelles, à attendre son embarquement pour Maurice, un de ces esclaves nommé L'Endormi a été atteint de la vèrette volante qui lui a laissé quelques marques à la face.

Sic Qu. vérole.

En foi de quoi j'ai signé la présente attestation pour servir où besoin sera.
Port Louis, Isle Maurice.

Le 18 Octobre 1824.

(signé) *Maurel.*

Jc certifie avoir connoissance que le noir que ma mère a vendu à Madame Panon, a eu la vèrette volante aux Seychelles étant chez Monsieur Maurel.

Sic Qu. vérole.

(signé) *L'Anglois.*

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(Translation.)

Port Louis, 13 October 1824.

N^o 2.
*continued.*Enclosure,
(2.)

Excellency,

MADAME, the widow Panon, very old and infirm, has had, for a twelvemonth past, a slave, her property, named L'Endormi, in the bagnio, who came with her from Seychelles to serve her in Bourbon, where she came to settle. That negro, who alone can render her suitable services in her sickly state of health, has been arrested here, and confined since his arrival, because he was marked on the face with some pits of the flying small pox, which attacked him some months previous to his quitting Seychelles, and which in consequence could not be described in the census. A decree has been passed, ordering all the slaves detained for any cause whatsoever, to be sent back to Seychelles in order to be registered anew, under a security of 300 dollars for a return to this place.

Madame Panon has commissioned me most respectfully to represent to your Excellency that, as to her negro, that decree is somewhat severe, inasmuch as he is detained merely on account of these slight marks, which it was not in her power to state in any census; and seeing that it is impossible for her to furnish the security required by the decree, and to meet the charges of transport and return to and from Seychelles, she has the honour to request that your Excellency will be pleased to allow her negro to be returned to her, she being called upon to furnish the certificate of a doctor who attended the said negro during his attack of the flying small pox. That doctor who attended the negro arrived from Seychelles last week, and could give that certificate in this place, which the negro could not possibly procure himself in Seychelles.

I am, with profound respect, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *M. Querel.*

His Excellency
Sir G. Lowry Cole, G. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

I, the undersigned certify, that during the time that Madame Panon resided with me in Seychelles, awaiting her embarkation for the Mauritius, one of her slaves, named L'Endormi, was attacked by flying small pox, which left some pits on his face.

In faith of which I have signed the present attestation to serve where need may be.

(signed) *Maurel.*

Port Louis, Mauritius,
18 October 1824.

I certify, that I have actual knowledge that the negro, whom my mother sold to Madame Panon, had the flying small pox at Seychelles, while in the house of Mr. Morel.

(signed) *L'Anglois.*

(Enclosure 3.)

EXTRAIT des Minutes du Greffe du Tribunal de Première Instance de l'Isle Maurice, du Lundi deux Février, mil-huit-cent-vingt-quatre au matin.

Enclosure,
(3.)

Audience des causes civiles du Tribunal de Première Instance de la Colonie de l'Isle Maurice.

Monsieur Jacques François Lefèvre, President, tenant le siège.

Monsieur Hyacinthe Portalis, Substitut du Procureur Général du Roi, présent.

M. François Marguerite Arrighi, Commis Greffier Juré, tenant la plume.

Entre,—Le Substitut du Procureur Général du Roi.

Contre,—Les Sieurs Hugon, Devillaine, Lefèvre, représentés par les Sieurs Fouguereaux frères, les Sieurs Guet, Morel, représentés par le Sieur Brunet, agent de change, et Dugand représenté par les Sieurs Pavy et D'Aussy, tous habitans des Isles Seychelles, defendeurs.

Monsieur Lefèvre, s'étant retiré, Monsieur Lefébure de Marcy a tenu le siège.

Vû les pièces et dossiers produits en execution de notre précédente sentence préparatoire, ouï le Substitut de Procureur Général du Roi en ses conclusions, après en avoir délibéré—

Considérant qu'aucune loi ne prononce la confiscation au profit de sa Majesté des esclaves provenant d'une colonie Anglaise, non admis par défaut d'identité avec leur enrégistrement, mais seulement dans le cas où les esclaves auront été exportés d'une colonie sous la domination de Sa Majesté sous une copie certifiée du greffier de l'enrégistrement de la colonie d'où ils proviennent, d'après l'article 12 de l'acte de la cinquante-neuvième année ;

Que cette vérité a été reconnue par le ministre public qui a rectifié ses conclusions tendantes à la confiscation pour requérir l'amende de cent livres sterling par chaque tête d'esclaves, en se fondant, par assimilation, sur les dispositions de l'Ordre en Conseil du vingt-quatre Septembre mil-huit-cent-quinze :

Considérant que cet ordre enrégistré dans nos cours, prononce cette amende contre celui qui a inséré, de science certaine, dans son recensement, un nom faux et supposé de l'esclave et du propriétaire, ou commis une suppression d'état ;

Qu'il est facile de reconnoître qu'il y aurait fausse application de la loi dans l'espèce où il y a quelques différences provenant de marques et défauts plus ou moins apparentes, mais d'ailleurs identité sous les autres rapports de noms, castes, âges et tailles, entre les recensemens et les noirs représentés :

Considérant que prétendre (pour nous servir des expressions du ministère public) qu'un esclave incorrectement enrégistré doit être considéré comme non enrégistré, ou faussement recensé, c'est porter atteinte au principe sacré et salutaire que les peines même pécuniaires se restreignent et s'appliquent au cas prévu sans pouvoir les entendre d'un cas à un autre :

Considérant que la loi en ordonnant des recensemens triennaux, a prévu qu'il pouvoit survenir depuis le recensement des différences ou défauts, et par cette mesure a placé les maîtres dans la position de les signaler et d'en justifier :

Considérant enfin que ces six esclaves, non admis par le collecteur de la douane, auraient, comme par le passé, retourné sur le même navire dans la colonie Anglaise d'où ils provenaient, ainsi qu'il résulte, au moins implicitement, de l'article 11 de l'acte de la cinquante-neuvième année, s'ils n'avaient été compris avec ceux admis sur le même certificat de recensement, dont expédition a été refusée par le greffier de l'enrégistrement :

Par ces motifs, vû l'article 11 de l'acte de la cinquante-neuvième année, nous ordonnons que les nommés Francisque Bender à Morel, Louis Bourlot à Guet, Constant Emanuel à Hugon, Martin Bâton à Dugand, Julien Laflûte à Lefèvre, et Baptiste André à Devillaine, détenus aux bagnes, seront renvoyés aux Isles Seychelles à la diligence et aux frais de leurs maîtres ou représentans, à l'effet par eux, chacun en ce qui le concerne, de rendre compte et justifier au préposé de l'enrégistrement des irrégularités constatées par le collecteur de la douane ; tenu en conséquence le greffier de l'enrégistrement de délivrer, sur leur réquisition, expédition du certificat de recensement des dits esclaves non admis ; tout depositaire autorisé, même contraint, de leur en faire remise ; quoi faisant déchargé sans dépens. A la minute, signé Lefébure de Marcy et Arrighi.

Collationné, *Vieux*, Greffier en Chef.

(Translation.)

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Register of the Tribunal of First Instance of the Island of Mauritius, of Monday, second February, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, in the morning.

Hearing of civil causes of the Tribunal of First Instance of the colony of the Island of Mauritius.

Mr. Jaques François Lefèvre, President, in the chair.

Mr. Hyacinthe Portalis, Substitute for the King's Attorney General, present.

Mr. François Marguerite Arrighi, Clerk, Sworn Register, holding the pen.

Between,—

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Between,—The Substitute of the King's Attorney General.

Against,—The Sieurs Hugon, Devillaine, Lefèvre, represented by the Sieurs Fougereaux brothers, the Sieurs Guet and Morel, represented by the Sieur Brunet, change agent, and Dugand, represented by the Sieur Pavy and D'Aussy, all inhabitants of the Islands Seychelles, defendants.

N^o 2,
continued.
Enclosure,
(3.)

Mr. Lefèvre having retired, Mr. Lefébure de Marcy took the chair.

On a view of the papers and documents produced in execution of our former sentence preparatory, and being heard, the Substitute of the King's Attorney-General in his conclusions, after having deliberated thereon—

Considering that no law pronounces the confiscation, for the profit of His Majesty, of slaves coming from an English colony, not admitted by reason of a default in identity with their register, but only in the case where the slaves have been exported from a colony under the dominion of His Majesty, under a copy certified by the registering officer of the registry of the colony whence they come, agreeably to the 12th article of the Act of the fifty-ninth year ;

That this truth has been recognized by the public minister, who rectified his conclusions, tending to the confiscation, by requiring a fine of 100*l.* sterling for each slave ; founding his decision, by assimilation, on the enactments of the Orders in Council of the twenty-fourth September, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen :

Considering that that order, registered in our courts, pronounces that fine against whomsoever has inserted, with knowledge prepense, in his census, a false and supposititious name of a slave or proprietor, or who has committed a suppression of his state or situation ;

That it is easy to perceive that the law might be falsely applied, in the event of their being some difference arising from marks and defects more or less apparent, and still an identity, in the other respects, of names, complexions, ages and statures, between the census and the negroes described :

Considering that, to pretend (to make use of the words of the public minister) that a slave incorrectly registered should be considered as not registered, or falsely inscribed in his census, is to infringe the sacred and wholesome principle that even pecuniary penalties are restrained, and apply to the case in point, without a possibility of transferring them from one case to another :

Considering that the law, in ordering the triennial census, anticipated that from the time of the census differences or defects of blemish might arise, and, by that measure, has placed masters in a situation to describe and verify them :

Considering, in fine, that these six slaves, not admitted by the collector of the customs, would, as heretofore, have returned on board the same ship to the English colony whence they came, as results implicitly at least from the 11th article of the Act of the fifty-ninth year, if they had not been comprehended with those admitted under the same certificate of census, of which grant had been refused by the registering officer of the registry :

For these motives, seeing the 11th article of the Act of the fifty-ninth year, we command that the persons named Francis que Bender belonging to Morel, Louis Boulrot to Guet, Constant Emanuel to Hugon, Martin Bâton to Dugand, Julien Lafute to Lefèvre, and Baptiste André to Devillaine, detained in th. bagnio, shall be sent back to the Islands of Seychelles, transported at the cost of their masters, or their representatives in effect by them, each in what concerns him, to give account and verification, before the overseer of the registry, of the irregularities proved by the collector of the customs. The registering officer of the registry being in consequence bound to deliver, on their requisition, a copy of the certificate of the census of the said slaves not admitted ; every such officer being authorized, nay more, obliged, to give to them such a copy, which doing the discharge is to be without expense. Minute, signed Lefébure de Marcy and Arrighi.

Collated, *Vieux*, Greffier in Chief.

(Enclosure 4.)

N° 2,
*continued.*Enclosure,
(4.)

EXTRAIT des Minutes du Greffe du Tribunal de Première Instance de l'Isle Maurice du Lundi, huit Mars, mil-huit-cent-vingt-quatre, au matin.

Audience des causes civiles du tribunal de Première Instance de la colonie de l'Isle Maurice.

Monsieur Claude Amable Ange Lefébure Marcy, Juge suppléant, tenant le siège.

Monsieur Hyacinthe Portalis, substitut du Procureur Général du Roi, présent.

Monsieur François Marguerite Arrighi, commis Greffier Juré, tenant la plume.

Entre,—Le Sieur Dugand, habitant aux Isles Seychelles, suite et diligence des Sieurs Pavy et D'Aussy, Sieurs St. Forre, Felix Savy et Devillaine, habitans aux dites Isles Seychelles, suite et diligence du Sieur Fouquereaux fils aîné, et la dame Panon, ci-devant habitante aux Isles Seychelles, actuellement demeurant en cette Isle Maurice, demandeurs :

Contre,—Le Sieur Archibald Blane, collecteur des douanes, defendeur.

Vû des pièces et mémoires respectifs des parties, produits en exécution de notre sentence préparatoire, en date du quatorze Novembre dernier, où le substitut du Procureur Général du Roi, en ses conclusions, après en avoir délibéré ;

Attendu qu'il y a parité absolue entre l'espèce présente et celle jugée par notre sentence du deux Février dernier, rendue entre le substitut du Procureur Général et les propriétaires des esclaves y dénommés :

Par les motifs énoncés en notre dite sentence, nous ordonnons que les nommés Pompée, Dimanche, Hortense, Lundi, Avril, Joachim, Joli-cœur, Jupiter, Laopa, Vaugassay, Baptiste, Patient, et Brutus à Dugand; Jupiter à Devillaine; Augustin à Savy, et L'Endormi à dame Panon, détenus aux bagnes, seront renvoyés aux Isles Seychelles, à la diligence et aux frais de leurs maîtres ou représentans, à la charge par eux, chacun en ce qui le concerne, de justifier des différences constatées par le collecteur de la douane; en consequence tenu le greffier de l'enregistrement de leur délivrer expedition du certificat de recensement, tous dépositaires autorisés même contraints, de faire remise des dits esclaves quoi faisant déchargés.

A la Minute, signé Lefébure de Marcy et Arrighi.

En marge de la dite Minute est écrit,—

En exécution de l'ordre de Monsieur De Marcy, Juge suppléant, du quatorze Décembre mil-huit-cent-vingt-quatre, étant en suite d'une requête en rectification, présentée par le Sieur Fouquereaux, au nom et comme procureur fondé du Sieur Savy, habitant aux Isles Seychelles, la dite requête demeurée jointe à la minute du jugement ci-contre, laquelle ordonnance dit que c'est par erreur d'après les pièces du proces que le nom d'Augustin au Sieur Savy, a été inséré en la sentence ci-contre, et qu'il y sera substitué le nom d'Apollon Pluviose au Sieur Savy. J'ai, Greffier en Chef, fait mention de la dite rectification aux termes de la dite ordonnance.

Signé *Prieur.*

Collationné, *Vieux*, Greff. en Chef.

(Translation.)

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Register of the Tribunal of First Instance of the Island of Mauritius, of Monday, eighth March one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, in the morning.

Hearing of civil causes of the tribunal of First Instance of the colony of the Island of Mauritius.

Monsieur Claude Amable Ange Lefébure Marcy, Judge suppletory, in the chair.

Monsieur Hyacinthe Portalis, substitute of the King's Attorney General, present.

Monsieur François Marguerite Arrighi, Clerk, Sworn Register, holding the pen.

Between,—The Sieur Dugand, inhabitant of the Islands of Seychelles, at the suit and instance of the Sieurs Pavy and D'Aussy, Sieurs St. Forre, Felix Savy, and Devillaine,

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Devillaine, inhabitants of the said Islands of Seychelles, at the suit and instance of the Sieur Fougereaux eldest son, and the lady Panon, formerly an inhabitant of the Islands of Seychelles, at present residing in this Island of Mauritius, plaintiffs :

N° 2,
continued.

Enclosure,
(4.)

Against,—The Sieur Archibald Blane, collector of the customs, defendant.

On sight of the respective documents and memorials of the parties, produced in execution of our sentence preparatory, dated the fourteenth of last November ; and on hearing the substitute of the King's Attorney General, in his conclusions, after having deliberated thereon ;

Considering that there is absolute similarity between the case now in hand and that judged by our sentence of the second of February last, given between the substitute of the Attorney General and the proprietors of the slaves therein named :

By reason of the motives set forth in our aforesaid sentence, we command that the persons, named Pompée, Dimanche, Hortense, Lundi, Avril, Joachim, Joli-cœur, Jupiter, Laopa, Vaugassay, Baptiste, Patient, and Brutus, belonging to Dugand ; Jupiter, to Devillaine ; Augustin, to Lavy ; L'Endormi, to the lady Panon, detained in the bagnio, shall be sent back to the Islands of Seychelles, transported at the expense of their masters, or their representatives in effect by them, each in what concerns him, to justify the differences proved by the collector of the customs ; the registering officer of the registry being in consequence bound to deliver to them a copy of the certificate of the census ; every such officer being authorized, nay more, obliged, to give to them such a copy, which doing, the discharge is to be without expense.

Minute, signed Lefébure de Marcy and Arrighi.

Collated, *Vieux*, Greffier in Chief.

On the margin of the said Minute is written,—

In execution of the order of Mr. De Marcy, Judge suppletory, of the fourteenth of December one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, being on a suit of request in rectification, presented by the Sieur Fougereaux, in the name, and as attorney qualified of the Sieur Savy, inhabitant of the Islands of Seychelles, the said request remaining annexed to the Minute of judgment herein opposite, which ordinance states that it is by error, after the tenure of the documents of the trial, that the name of Augustin has been given to the Sieur Savy, and inserted in the sentence herein opposite, and that in place thereof the name of Apollon Pluviose shall be substituted to the Sieur Savy. I, Greffier in Chief, have made mention of the said amendment in the terms of the said ordinance. Signed *Prieur*.

Collated, *Vieux*, Greffier in Chief.

(Enclosure 5.)

EXTRAIT des Minutes du Greffe de la Cour d'Appel de l'Isle Maurice, du Samedi vingt-sept Mars, mil-huit-cent-vingt-quatre, neuf heures du matin.

Enclosure,
(5.)

Audience extraordinaire publique des causes civiles et de commerce de la Cour d'Appel de l'Isle Maurice.

Séans,—Messieurs Barbé Marbois, President, Morin, Pigeot St. Vallerey, Delsue, De Lachenardiere, May Juges.

M. Jacques Mallac, Juge, Procureur Général par interim, présent.

M. Arrighi, Gréffier en Chef, tenant la plume.

Entre,—Le Procureur Général appellant de sentence en date du deux Février dernier.

Contre,—Les Sieurs Hugon, Devillaine, Lefèvre, habitans aux Isles Seychelles, représentés en cette colonie par les Sieurs Fougereaux, frères, Guet et Morel, aussi habitans aux dites Isles, représentés en cette colonie par le Sieur Brunet, agent de change, et le Sieur Dugand, aussi habitant aux dites Isles Seychelles, représentés en cette colonie par les Sieurs Pavie et D'Aussy, tous intimés, et aussi appellans de la dite sentence du deux Février dernier. M. A. D'Epinaï avoué constitué.

N^o 2,
continued.

Enclosure,
(5.)

La cour, après avoir recueilli les voix, en exécution de son arrêt préparatoire, en date du jour d'hier,—

Considérant que le gouvernement général des Isles Maurice et archipel des Seychelles étant centralisé dans Maurice, les localités géographiques ont nécessité la délégation de certains pouvoirs dans les parties du service qui ne pouvaient être administrée dans la colonie métropolitaine.

Le Sieur Harrison, confondant en sa personne les fonctions de greffier de l'enregistrement et de collecteur des douanes à Mahé, doit compte à ses superieurs commettans de la forme dans laquelle sont tenus ses registres, dans l'exercice des pouvoirs à lui départis. Sous ce rapport de responsabilité il est dans leur dépendance immédiate; mais quant aux actes speciaux d'un service journalier actif et incommunicable, qui ne peuvent être supplées ni critiqués à raison des distances maintenues qui s'y opposent, il est par la nature des choses dans la plénitude des attributions auquel il est subrogé.

Le public, avec lequel il traite habituellement, seroit abusé si après avoir subi avec cet officier une vérification d'identité, dont il a jugé l'épreuve complete et satisfaisante, il falloit subir, à la volonté de l'officier deleguant devant les tribunaux de Maurice, une procedure dont les élémens sont à six cents lieues de la colonie où s'agite la question préjudicielle d'identité d'aucuns des individus dont le signalement ne paroitra pas conforme aux recensemens triennaux.

Les contestations à ce relatives ne peuvent recevoir leur dénouement définitif que sur les éclaircissemens préparatoires deduits d'explications contradictoires entre les parties que concerne le debat.

C'est après ce préalable que les tribunaux arriveront à une solution définitive, qui ne doit être prononcée qu'en grande connoissance de cause, en conformité des lois positives sur les contraventions à cet égard aux reglemens. Cette fraude à la loi étant un délit commun du ressort de la justice ordinaire.

Par ces motifs, et ceux exprimés en la sentence du deux Février de cette année,

La cour, sans s'arrêter aux appels du ministère public et des intimés, a mis les appellations au néant, ordonne que la dite sentence sortira son plein et entier effet sans dépens. A la minute signé Barbé Marbois, et Arrighi.

Collationné, Arrighi, Greff. en Chef.

(Translation.)

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Register of the Court of Appeal of the Island of Mauritius, of Saturday, twenty-seventh March one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, nine o'clock in the morning.

Extraordinary public hearing of civil causes, and of commerce, of the Court of Appeal of the Island of Mauritius.

Sitting,—Messieurs Barbé Marbois, President, Morin, Pigeot St. Vallerey, Delsue, De Lachenardiere, May Judges.

Mr. Jacques Mallac, Judge, Attorney General *ad interim*, present.

Mr. Arrighi, Greffier in Chief, holding the pen.

Between,—The Attorney General, appealing from the sentence under date of the second of last February :

Against,—The Sieurs Hugon, Devillaine, Lefèvre, inhabitants of the Islands of Seychelles, represented in this colony by the Sieurs Fouguraux, brothers; Guet and Morel, also inhabitants of the said Islands, represented in this colony by the Sieur Brunet, change agent, and the Sieur Dugand, also an inhabitant of the said Islands of Seychelles, represented in this colony by the Sieurs Pavy and D'Aussy, all defendants, and also appealing from the said sentence of the second of last February; Mr. A. D'Epinay constituted advocate.

The court, after having collected the votes, in execution of its preparatory decree, dated yesterday,—

Considering

Considering that the general government of the Islands of Mauritius and the archipelago of the Seychelles being centralised in the Mauritius, it is necessary, on account of geographical localities, to delegate certain powers in those parts of the service which can not be administered in the metropolitan colony.

The Sieur Harrison, blending in his person the functions of registering officer of the registry and of collector of the customs at Mahé, owes account to his superior constituents of the form in which his registers are kept, in exercise of the powers to him imparted. Under this view of responsibility, he is under their immediate dependence: but as to the special acts of a daily active and incommunicable service, which can neither be substituted nor criticised, by reason of the distance existing which is opposed thereto, he is, by the nature of these things, in the plenitude of the powers to which he is appointed.

The public, with which he habitually has dealings, would be imposed on, if, after having undergone with that officer the forms of verification of identity, the proofs of which he has deemed complete and satisfactory, it were compelled to undergo, at the will of the officer delegating, before the tribunals of Mauritius, a proceeding at law, the elements of which are six hundred leagues from the colony where the prejudicial question of identity is entered upon, as to any of the individuals whose description may not appear conformable with the triennial census.

These disputes relative thereto can only be brought to a final issue by the preparatory proceedings deduced from contradictory explanations between the parties interested in the discussion.

It is after such preliminary matter that the tribunals will come to a definitive decision, which should only be pronounced from a perfect knowledge of the matter, in conformity with positive laws concerning the contravention of regulations in this respect: this fraud against the law being a common crime, in the scope of ordinary justice.

By reason of these motives, and of those expressed in the sentence of the second of February of this year,—

The court, without canvassing the appeals of the public ministry and of the defendants, has nullified the appeals, and commands that the said sentence shall have its full and entire effect, without expenses. Minute, signed Barbé Marbois, and Arrighi.

Collated, *Arrighi*, Greffier in Chief.

(Enclosure 6.)

EXTRAIT des Minutes du Greffe de la Cour d'Appel de l'Isle Maurice, du Jeudi, vingt-deux Juillet, mil-huit-cent-vingt-quatre, neuf heures et demi du matin.

Enclosure,
(6.)

Audience extraordinaire publique des causes civiles et de commerce de la Cour d'Appel de l'Isle Maurice.

Séans,—Messieurs Barbé Marbois, Président, Morin, Pigeot St. Vallérey, Delsue, May Juges.

M. Barbet, substitut du Procureur Général du Roi, présent.

M. François Marguerite Arrighi, Greffier en Chef.

Entre,—Le Sieur Archibald William Blane, collecteur de la douane en cette Isle, appelant de la sentence du huit Mars dernier. M. Vincent avoué constitué.

Contre,—Les Sieurs Savy, Devillaine, habitans des Isles Seychelles, représentés par les Sieurs Fougereaux frères; Dugand, aussi habitant des dites Isles, représenté par les Sieurs Pavie et D'Aussy, et la Dame Panon, suite du Sieur Querel intimés. M. D'Epinau avoué constitué.

La cour, après avoir recueilli les voix en exécution de son arrêt préparatoire rendu à l'audience du vingt-un du courant, à laquelle le ministère public a été entendu en ses conclusions.

Considérant que le droit de transporter des esclaves d'une colonie à une autre, toutes deux sous la domination de Sa Majesté, est une faculté légale autorisée par des réglemens qui ont pourvu à ce qu'aucun abus ou contravention ne pût dans ce cas résulter de leur déplacement.

N° 2.
continued.
 ———
 Enclosure,
 (6.)

Les précautions sont si soigneusement concertées qu'il ne peut rester aucun espoir à la cupidité déloyale de s'emparer des circonstances de la dislocation de ces individus pour frauder la loi abolitive à futur de la traite, et tromper la vigilance des préposés, au maintien des formes prescrites.

La fraude ne se présume point, et n'est pas même alléguée, dans la cause; ainsi point de prévention de délit, et la difficulté réduite à savoir si les divers expéditeurs des négres dont s'agit justifient légalement qu'ils en sont légitimes propriétaires, et que leur transfer en cette colonie est régulier, ne présente qu'une question de propriété, à laquelle est incidente celle de l'état civil des personnes, dont la solution est de la compétence des tribunaux ordinaires.

Considérant que le collecteur des douanes, prétendant qu'il existe des dissemblances entre le personnel de quelques noirs, résultantes matériellement de leur rapprochement des signalements portés aux certificats délivrés par son délégué aux Isles Seychelles, s'est borné à refuser d'office l'entrée dans cette colonie d'individus qui ne lui paraissoient dûment caractérisés, en conformité des énonciations d'âge, de taille, marques, mutilations, et autres différences, sur lesquelles le recensement originaire présentait quelques disparates de désignation avec leur examen actuel; et c'est à quoi s'est terminée son opération, nuement exclusive d'introduction sans co-opérer en rien à la reclusion ultérieure de ces hommes, laquelle n'a été ordonnée ni effectuée par lui ou par son impulsion. Là se terminoit sa mission. Il n'est ni dépositaire des noirs, ni mandataire des mesures postérieurement employées pour leur conservation, ainsi sous ce rapport il est à l'abri de toute responsabilité, et les jugemens qui ordonnent; "Que tous dépositaires sont autorisés même contraints de faire remise des dits esclaves," ne pouvant l'atteindre ne lui font pas grief.

Considérant que l'équité et cet instinct d'humanité qui nous portent à compatir aux maux de nos semblables, commandoient au cas particulier, quelque soit l'événement en définitive, des dispositions urgentes pour faire cesser le conflit sur la propriété et l'état civil des personnes intéressées à ce débat, lever les incertitudes, et en même tems abroger la durée des peines insupportables d'une réclusion nécessairement préjudiciable à des malheureux innocents, et leur résidence forcée dans un bagne, égout des misères humaines, séjour du crime ou du malheur.

La découverte de la vérité devoit être la conséquence des explications respectives qui ne pourroient se donner que sur les lieux aux Isles Seychelles, contradictoirement entre le préposé en cette colonie du collecteur des douanes et les expéditeurs qui se prétendent maîtres et propriétaires des esclaves transférés, à droit apparent, sur la foi d'un recensement dont le certificat atteste, selon eux, l'identité des noirs qui y sont dénommés avec les individus signalés.

Cette considération en un cas nouveau, et sur lequel la loi ne s'expliquoit pas, nécessitoit une détermination abandonnée à la prudence consciencieuse des juges; car lorsque dans le silence de la législation positive les tribunaux ne trouvent pas aux codes le guide certain qui doit les diriger, leur équité et une raison purement humaine doivent suppléer à l'insuffisance de la loi. Ils sont responsables du déni de justice, et recherchables à ce titre, lorsqu'ils refusent une décision que la loi n'a ni commandée ni préparée.

L'article 4 du Code Civil contient la disposition précise en ces termes:—"Le juge qui refusera de juger sous prétexte du silence de l'insuffisance ou de l'obscurité de la loi, pourra être recherché comme coupable de déni de justice."

Ainsi c'est pour éviter un délit répréhensible que les tribunaux font l'usage légitime et forcé d'un pouvoir laissé à leur discrétion.

Sans doute, une décision judiciaire, émanée sous forme réglementaire, et disposant pour l'avenir, rendroit les juges coupables d'usurpation de l'autorité législative, mais un jugement qui ne se produit pas sous cette forme vicieuse n'est qu'un acte isolé de magistrature, qui ne lie que les parties intéressées, sans constituer une doctrine immuable dans laquelle les juges se circonscrivent.

L'article 5, qui n'est que la conséquence du précédent, "défend aux juges de prononcer par voie de disposition générale et réglementaire sur les causes qui leur sont soumises."

L'arrêt de la cour du vingt-sept Mars dernier est tellement éloigné de la forme réglementaire,

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réglementaire, obligatoire pour le tribunal même dont il est émané, qu'il ne lui interdise pas pour les cas subséquens la faculté de modifier une disposition spéciale; et toutes fois qu'il sera offert à ses méditations quelques mesures praticables plus salutaires, plus expéditives que celles qu'elle a concertées, la raison, la conscience, et l'humanité, lui font un devoir de les adopter.

Par ces motifs, la cour, déclarant sa compétence, a mis, et met, au néant l'appellation de la sentence du huit Mars dernier dont est appel, ordonne que la dite sentence sortira effet sans dépens. A la minute, signé, Barbet Marbois et Arrighi.

Collationné, *Arrighi*, Greffier en Chef.

(Translation.)

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Register of the Court of Appeal of the Island of Mauritius, of Thursday, twenty-second of July one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, half-past nine in the morning.

Extraordinary and public hearing of civil and commercial causes of the Court of Appeal of the Island of Mauritius.

Sitting,—Messieurs Barbé Marbois, President, Morin, Pigeot St. Vallerey, Delsue, May Judges.

Mr. Barbet, substitute for the King's Attorney General, present.

Mr. François Marguerite Arrighi, Greffier en Chef.

Between,—The Sieur Archibald William Blane, collector of the customs in this Island, appealing from the sentence of the eighth of March last. M. Vincent, constituted advocate.

Against,—The Sieurs Savy, Devillaine, inhabitants of the Islands of Seychelles, represented by the Sieurs Fougereaux, brothers; Dugaud, also an inhabitant of the said islands, represented by the Sieur Pavie and D'Aussy, and the lady Panon, at the suit of the Sieur Querel, defendants. M. D'Epinay constituted advocate.

The Court, after having collected the votes in execution of its preparatory decree, given at the hearing of the twenty-first instant, at which the public ministry was heard in its conclusions,—

Considering that the right of transporting slaves from one colony to another, both being under the dominion of His Majesty, is a legal privilege, authorized by regulations which have provided that no abuse or contravention may, in this case, occur from their removal.

The precautions are so carefully concerted, that no hope can exist for perfidious avarice to avail itself of the circumstances of the removal of these individuals to commit a fraud against the law, abolishing in future the Slave Trade, or to deceive the vigilance of the persons employed for the conservation of the prescribed forms.

Fraud is not presumed, and is not even alleged, in the cause: hence there are no prejudices of crime; and the difficulty being reduced to know if the different persons who sent the negroes in question, legally prove that they are their legitimate proprietors, and that their transfer to this colony is regular, nothing is presented but a question of property, to which is incidental that of the civil state of the persons, the solution of which is in the competence of the ordinary tribunals.

Considering that the collector of the customs, pretending that differences exist in the personal appearance of some blacks, resulting principally from their inspection according to the descriptions given in the certificates delivered by his deputy in the Islands of Seychelles, confined himself officially to refuse the entry of individuals into this colony, who to him appeared not properly characterized, in conformity with the declarations of age, stature, marks, mutilations, and other differences, as to which the original census presented some incongruities of designation, when compared with their actual examination; and at this point terminated his operation, which went barely to the exclusion of introduction, without in any way co-operating to the ulterior confinement of these men, which was not effected or ordered by him, or at his instigation. There his mission terminated. He is neither the depository of the blacks, nor the person who commands the ulterior measures put into force for their preservation; therefore, in that point of view, he is sheltered from all responsibility, and the judgments which ordain, "that all depositories are authorized,

N° 2.
continued.

Enclosure,
(6.)

may more, obliged, to give up the said slaves," not being able to reach to him, are not to be laid to his charge.

Considering that equity, and that instinct of humanity which incline us to compassionate the evils of our fellow-creatures, led, in the present case, whatever might be the event of the issue, to urgent dispositions to cause the dispute to cease as to the property and the civil state of the persons interested in the debate, to remove the doubts, and at the same time to shorten the duration of the pains inseparable from a confinement, necessarily prejudicial to unfortunate innocent persons, in their forced residence in a bagnio, the sink of human miseries, and the abode of crime and misfortune.

The discovery of the truth ought to be the consequence of the respective explanations, which could only be given on the spot in the Islands of Seychelles, contradictorily, between the overseer in that colony of the collector of the customs, and the persons who sent the negroes, who call themselves masters and proprietors of the slaves transferred, apparently with right, on the faith of a census, the certificate of which attests, as they say, the identity of the negroes, who are there named, with a description of the individuals.

That consideration in a new case, and one in which the law did not explain itself, required a determination left to the conscientious prudence of the judges; because when, in the silence of legislation in a positive sense, the tribunals do not find in the codes that certain guide which ought to direct them, their own equity and a reason purely human, ought to supply the law's deficiency. They are responsible for the denial of justice, and amenable under that title, when they refuse a decision which the law has neither commanded nor prepared.

The 4th Article of the Civil Code contains the precise enactment, in these words:—"The judge who shall refuse to judge, under pretence of the silence, insufficiency or obscurity of the law, shall be amenable, as being guilty of the denial of justice."

It is therefore to avoid a reprehensible crime, that the tribunals make a legitimate and forced use of a power left to their discretion.

Undoubtedly, a judicial decision, emanating from regulating form, and enacting for the future, would render the judges guilty of usurpation of the legislative authority, but a judgment, not produced under that vitiated form, is but an isolated act of magistracy, which only binds the parties interested, without constituting an unchangeable doctrine, whereby judges are to be circumscribed.

The 5th Article, which is only the consequence of the former one, "prohibits judges from pronouncing, in the way of general and regulating enactments, on causes which are submitted to them."

The decision of the court of the twenty-seventh of March last, is so much separated from the regulating form, obligatory on the tribunal, even that whence it emanated, that it does not in the subsequent cases deprive it of the power of modifying a special arrangement; and at any time that practicable measures may be offered to its consideration, more salutary and more expeditious than those which it has adopted, reason, conscience and humanity call upon it, as a matter of duty, to adopt them.

For these motives the court, declaring its competency, has nullified, and does nullify, the appeal from the sentence of the eighth March last, of which the appeal is, and orders that the said sentence shall take effect without expense. Minute, signed Barbet Marbois and Arrighi.

Collated, *Arighi*, Greffier in Chief.

(Enclosure 7.)

EXTRACTS.

Enclosure,
(7.)

—"THIS brings me to the subject of the Slave Trade, which has long engaged the attention of not only the British government, but the public at large, and more especially as connected with these islands and neighbouring coasts of Madagascar and Africa. Report has not been idle in proclaiming to the world, that the Seychelles have been, and continue yet to be, a receptacle for newly acquired slaves, from whence Mauritius and Bourbon are annually supplied, to a very considerable amount. In most instances, our minds have a tendency to acquiesce in the truth of that which we are desirous should be the case; and the more so, in proportion to the

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the efforts made to bring it about. Not so, however, are the present subject, where the abolition of slavery is desired and aimed at, whilst any statement of its supposed continuance from *any* person meets with implicit credit, and furnishes grounds for abstract reasoning, as fallacious in its principles, as it is unhandsome towards those on whom some reliance should be placed. If the information on the one side is so wholly unimpeachable as to merit a total disregard of any other: if the facts are so well authenticated as to admit of no contradiction, I can only express my astonishment, that notwithstanding the extreme vigilance of our navy in these seas, and of this station in particular, who no doubt have had the usual advantages of private intelligence, that they have not of late years succeeded in making one capture, in proof of all that has been advanced. It being understood that I confine myself wholly to the Seychelles, where my attention to the subject was originally directed.

“ For the first years, subsequent to the Abolition Act, there were some individuals who continued to engage in the Slave Trade, most of whom, if loss of property be considered as a punishment, have paid the forfeit of their villainous temerity. The localities of the islands presented numberless facilities for landing; and provided that their vessels escaped the pursuit of our cruizers, they were in no danger of being discovered on shore, since the nature of the country afforded every concealment and security.

“ The commandant, with a dozen of gendarmes or police-men, who were a motley group, but chiefly men of colour, were wholly incapable of preventing this outrage on humanity and the laws; and even had they been a more efficient body, they would have been equally useless from the causes I have just noticed.

“ As the navy became more alert, this sanguinary dealing was less frequent; and after every possible inquiry which I have made, and every attention to the subject, I am induced to believe, and do so from the most firm conviction of its truth, that no slaves have been landed at the Seychelles during the last two and a half years; about which period there were, as I have already stated, three slaves left at Isle Daros, one of the Amiraute islands, as payment for provisions, embarked by a regisseur on board the vessel which conveyed them thither.”

“ It must not, however, be supposed from what I have advanced, that if such opportunities as the foregoing one were to accrue, some of the inhabitants would not gladly avail themselves of so fair an occasion to replenish their stock. It would be absurd, indeed, to imagine for a moment, that people, most of whom have been born and brought up in a slave colony, with notions totally opposite to ours respecting slavery, who view it as no breach of the natural laws of God or man, should be induced to forego the attainment of advantage, thus unattended by any danger.

“ But that they have not, themselves, embarked in so nefarious a speculation for some years past, or have the slightest disposition to do so, I am most thoroughly convinced; and should be loath to hazard this opinion, if my information on the subject did not fully warrant it.”

—“ I do not, however, consider the present question to be one that can be decided by mere authority alone; nor can I allow that the facilities which nature here presents for the landing of slaves—their transfer to Mauritius—the removal of property from the one island to another of the same dependency, or a slight variation in the agricultural produce between one year and another, to be sufficient or just causes for the present suspicion, and much less for pronouncing that the traffic still exists. To produce actual proof to the contrary, and to refute the charge, must be readily admitted as impossible; in consequence, any such assertion may be made without fear or trembling, as fancy dictates or malevolence prescribes. But let us examine the probabilities of the case: the local position of some of the Seychelles islands does, I admit, offer every facility for landing slaves, though I am not aware that this facility can in any degree lessen the risk of detection at sea, to which a vessel is equally exposed wherever may be her destination; neither should it be regarded as a certain cause for their doing so, since, however, the case might be, that some cause for pronouncing sentence would still exist; and the character of the people for ever stigmatized for the commission of crime. How, then, are these suspicious otherwise supported? Can any common understanding suppose that our cruizers do not act as a check? Is it probable that the inhabitants would incur the risk of so much loss, amounting in fact, to their total ruin, if discovery ensued; and for what,

at

N° 2.
continued,
Enclosure,
(7.)

N^o 2.
continued.

Enclosure,
(7.)

at this time, holds out little or no profit? Still less does the question appear doubtful, when the views and wishes, as well as circumstances of the principal proprietors are known."

—"The Registration Act was, when first established, and is still considered as the most effectual method of preventing any new importations; from the means which it affords for detection, supposing, of course, that it were strictly acted up to. What then could induce the people of the Seychelles, in consequence of the first registrations being incorrect, to petition Sir Robert Farquhar and the government, and to renew their prayer to your Excellency, as I understand was their intention, for permission to have another and correct registration of their property; in taking which they must have been fully aware, that the former returns, though untrue in their description of individuals, might of course be referred to for numbers; and any improper surplus be thus discovered, or rendered totally useless to them in every possible respect.

"The reply will be, that they were desirous of quitting the dependency for the mother colony,—granted; it was their desire, and is so now; besides its insuring to them, at any future period, the sale of their slaves. But were they not thus applying to the government to sign a compact that would shut out all further hope of gain, if Slave dealing were still their object? and is it likely that they would so far what they must have consequently viewed as their best interests? I should for one think not—that game is up, and the inhabitants, I do believe, are little disposed to run any hazard, but are desirous of establishing their claims to what they possessed previous to the order for registering their slaves.

"The number of slaves sent to Mauritius for sale, has been often quoted as a further and convincing proof in support of the general charge; and from whence is drawn the premature conclusion, that the blacks thus introduced at the latter island had been either new landed on the former, or were succeeded by an equal number who were; without reflecting that its confined population could not long support the deception, and which could in no case occur but by the most glaring and barefaced connivance of many of our most respectable and highest English authorities.

"The causes of this transfer are principally in their owners having entered into engagements which they were to fulfil in a certain time, and that period having arrived, without any improvement in their circumstances, they find themselves obliged to dispose of their property, in order to obtain the means of payment, as well as in many instances for procuring the common requisites of life. In some cases it has been a change of residence, and that their masters and whole establishments have gone, which surely admitted of no imposition."

—"As to the removal of slaves from the one island to another, without the usual papers, &c. I cannot see what great advantages or facilities are presented in that indulgence; they belong, at least, to the general character of the Seychelles, and are certainly beyond the power of prevention, and, for any variation which may take place in the agricultural produce, if importance is attached to that circumstance, it is unfortunately in opposition to the calculations framed by the supporters of the more popular opinion. In 1823 the cotton amounted to 1,087 bales; in 1824, to 786 bales, and in 1825 to 781 bales; which article will serve as the best criterion to judge from, though all their other cultivation very nearly corresponds in proportion.

"So far I cannot have any good foundation for the report in circulation; but what has certainly caused me most astonishment with respect to the question is, the credence given to it by many of the navy who have been upon the station, and which would induce me to suspect, that the report would not have been so easily received but for better reasons than I have been able to discover; had I not been informed by an officer of rank, who nourished and expressed the same opinion, namely, that the Slave Trade did exist at the Seychelles, what were his reasons for thinking so, and he conceived those of his compatriots, which were, the localities and great facilities that the islands consequently presented, and that as a matter of course the inhabitants availed themselves of such.

"I have here laid before your Excellency my opinion on the subject as it now rests, which has been formed on a mature consideration of the case, after making every possible inquiry and search into the truth. But, as I have earlier remarked, to obtain or show positive proof that the act of introducing slaves into the Seychelles has

SLAVE TRADE AT MAURITIUS.

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has not of late years been committed, is beyond the power of possibility, as it would be to speak with certainty of the private actions of any individual. In my own mind I am thoroughly satisfied that no improper dealing of that nature has taken place within the time I have specified; but my judgment may have erred, and myself be deceived; if so, however, it remains for some more substantial evidence than what I have yet met with, to render it apparent and bring the facts to light."

(signed)

Henry Cole,

Mauritius, 28 May 1826.

Lieutenant, Royal Staff Corps.

(Enclosure 8.)

STATEMENT of Articles imported from Seychelles during the Years 1823, 1824, and 1825.

	1823.	1824.	1825.	TOTAL For Three Years.
Beans - - - - -	- - - - -	14 bags	- - - - -	14 bags
Bags (empty) - - - - -	22 packages	29 bales	10 bales	61 packages
Castor Oil - - - - -	8 cases	30 packages	1 case	39 packages
Cloves - - - - -	6 bags	4 bags	8 bags	18 bags
Cotton - - - - -	1087 bales	786 bales 6 bags	781 bales 3 bags	2,654 bales 9 bags
Cocoa Nut Oil - - - - -	7 casks	14 packages	41 packages	62 packages
Cocoa Nuts - - - - -	24 bags	- - - - -	- - - - -	24 bags
Coffee - - - - -	4 bales	- - - - -	9 bales	13 bales
Hogs Lard - - - - -	14 packages	24 packages	66 packages	104 packages
Hides - - - - -	36 in N°	- - - - -	- - - - -	36 in N°
Indian Corn - - - - -	767 bags	2,307 bags	2,000 bags	5,074 bags
Land Turtles - - - - -	6,459 in N°	4 in N°	1,254 in N°	7,717 in N°
Mats - - - - -	1 bundle	- - - - -	- - - - -	1 bundle
Pickles - - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	2 packages	2 packages
Rice - - - - -	- - - - -	665 bags	4 bags	669 bags
Sea Cocoa Nuts - - - - -	443 in N°	548 in N° 6 bags	618 in N° 5 bags	1,609 in N° 11 bags
Straw Hats - - - - -	3 cases	16 cases	20 cases	39 cases
Salt Provisions - - - - -	51 casks	14 casks	21 casks	86 casks
Salt Fish - - - - -	7 bags	20 packages	96 packages	123 packages
Shells - - - - -	1 case	3 cases	- - - - -	4 cases
Sundries - - - - -	27 packages	35 packages	39 packages	101 packages
Tobacco - - - - -	37 packages 411 carots	111 packages 1,188 carots	59 packages - - - - -	207 packages 1,599 carots
Tortoise Shell - - - - -	42 packages	35 packages	66 packages	143 packages
Tortoiseshell Cuttings - - - - -	2 packages	6 packages	9 packages	17 packages
Vegetables - - - - -	- - - - -	10 bags	- - - - -	10 bags
Wax - - - - -	2 packages	4 packages	8 packages	14 packages
Wood - { Planks - - - - -	463 in N°	149 in N°	294 in N°	906 in N°
{ Boards - - - - -	448 in N°	113 in N°	401 in N°	962 in N°
{ Pieces - - - - -	133 in N°	131 in N°	53 in N°	317 in N°
{ Shingles - - - - -	21,000 in N°	- - - - -	- - - - -	21,000 in N
{ The Frame of a House - - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	{ the frame of } a house	1 lot

The above Statement is made from the Inward Manifests of Vessels arriving from Seychelles lodged in this office; but the Seychelle Islands being dependent on Mauritius, and having no trade except with Mauritius, no article imported from thence is liable to duty here, and in consequence the weights and quantities of goods, and in many instances the contents of packages, have not been ascertained on their introduction.

Custom House, Port Louis, }
13 April 1826. }

(signed)

Arch^d W^m Blanc,

Collector of Customs.

N° 2.
continued.
Enclosure
(7.)

Enclosure
(8.)

N° 2.

continued.

Enclosure,

(8.)

STATEMENT showing the Number of Slaves admitted to Entry into this Colony from the Seychelles, between the 12th June 1823 and 10th April 1826.

By what Vessel Imported.	When admitted.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Schooner Iris - - - -	1st July - 1823 -	4	-	
Lugger Le Brave - - - -	25th d° - " -	12	4	
Brig Theodore - - - -	7th August " -	17	3	
Brig Courier - - - -	9th d° - " -	28	9	
Schooner Dorade - - - -	13th d° - " -	3	1	
Schooner Jeune Antoinette - - - -	18th September " -	-	1	
Schooner Marthe - - - -	22d d° - " -	4	6	
Schooner Iris - - - -	30th d° - " -	10	3	
Lugger Le Brave - - - -	10th October " -	3	1	
Brig Theodore - - - -	31st d° - " -	18	9	
Brig Courier - - - -	31st d° - " -	7	4	
Lugger Le Brave - - - -	20th November " -	1	-	
Schooner Jeune Antoinette - - - -	4th December " -	10	4	
Schooner Iris - - - -	8th - d° " -	15	5	
Schooner Dorade - - - -	31st - d° " -	7	-	
Schooner Jeune Antoinette - - - -	17th May - 1824 -	3	-	
Brig Courier - - - -	25th d° - " -	1	-	
Schooner Iris - - - -	26th d° - " -	19	6	
Lugger Le Brave - - - -	26th d° - " -	9	1	
Schooner Marthe - - - -	29th d° - " -	10	-	
Ketch Victorine - - - -	5th June - " -	1	-	
Brig Schooner Antoinette - - - -	18th d° - " -	11	1	
Schooner Jeune Josephine - - - -	26th d° - " -	7	-	
Schooner Jeune Antoinette - - - -	29th d° - " -	3	6	
Brig Theodore - - - -	30th July - " -	3	-	
Schooner Iris - - - -	30th August " -	16	11	
Ship Jeune Laure - - - -	22d September " -	69	20	
Schooner Jeune Antoinette - - - -	8th October " -	28	5	
Brig Theodore - - - -	11th d° - " -	28	12	
Brig Courier - - - -	23d November " -	1	-	
Brig Theodore - - - -	4th December " -	2	-	
Brig Antoinette - - - -	10th d° - " -	23	3	
Schooner Jeune Antoinette - - - -	10th d° - " -	20	2	
Schooner Jeune Laure - - - -	14th d° - " -	112	32	
Brig Antoinette - - - -	21st d° - " -	3	-	
Brig Courier - - - -	19th May 1825 -	7	7	
Schooner Jeune Antoinette - - - -	20th d° - " -	9	5	
Brig Espérance - - - -	1st June - " -	34	30	
Schooner Deux Cousins - - - -	23d d° - " -	6	1	
Brig Etoile - - - -	28th d° - " -	14	3	
Brig Zoe - - - -	30th d° - " -	12	9	
Schooner Deux Cousins - - - -	14th July - " -	2	-	
Schooner Jeune Antoinette - - - -	2d August " -	13	2	
Brig Espérance - - - -	1st September " -	1	-	
Brig Etoile - - - -	12th d° " -	2	3	
Brig Zoe - - - -	14th d° " -	-	1	
Brig Theodore - - - -	20th d° " -	1	-	
Brig Zoe - - - -	25th November " -	3	-	
Ship Jeune Evenor - - - -	23d December " -	9	7	
Brig Theodore - - - -	11th January 1826 -	1	-	
Ship Jeune Laure - - - -	15th February " -	1	-	
GRAND TOTAL - - - -		623	217	840

SLAVE TRADE AT MAURITIUS.

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STATEMENT showing the Number of Slaves brought from Seychelles to this Island, between the 12th of June 1823 and 10th of April 1826, who, not agreeing with the Description given of them in the Certificate of Registry, have been refused admission under the Provisions of the 11th Clause of the Act of the 59th Geo. III. c. 120.

N° 2.
continued.

Enclosure,
(8.)

By what Vessel Imported.	When Rejected.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Brig Theodore - - - -	7th August 1823 -	4	-	
Brig Courier - - - -	9th D° " -	1	-	
Schooner Dorade - - - -	13th D° " -	3	-	
Schooner Iris - - - -	30th Sept. " -	3	-	
Lugger Le Brave - - - -	10th Oct. " -	1	-	
Brig Theodore - - - -	31st D° " -	14	1	
Brig Courier - - - -	31st D° " -	3	-	
Schooner Jeune Antoinette	4th Dec. " -	2	-	
Schooner Iris - - - -	8th D° " -	2	1	
Ditto - - ditto - - - -	26th May 1824 -	-	1	
Ketch Victorine - - - -	5th June " -	1	-	
Schooner Antoinette - - - -	18th D° " -	1	-	
Brig Theodore - - - -	30th July " -	2	-	
Schooner Iris - - - -	30th August " -	2	-	
Ship Jeune Laure - - - -	22d Sept. " -	2	-	
Schooner Jeune Antoinette	8th Oct. " -	3	6	
Brig Theodore - - - -	11th D° " -	2	-	
Ditto - - - -	4th Dec. " -	-	1	
Brig Antoinette - - - -	10th D° " -	2	-	
Schooner Jeune Antoinette	10th D° " -	2	-	
Ship Jeune Laure - - - -	14th D° " -	1	-	
Schooner Jeune Antoinette	20th May 1825 -	2	-	
Brig Etoile - - - -	28th June " -	3	-	
Brig Zoe - - - -	30th D° " -	3	-	
Grand Total - - - -		59	10	69

Of the Sixty-nine Slaves not admitted to Entry, 37 returned to the Seychelles in the same vessels in which they arrived. Three were seized by the Assistant Collector of Customs, and prosecuted and condemned at his Suit in the Court of Vice-Admiralty; and the remaining 29 named in the following Statement, were landed under the Authority of the Procureur General, by whom Proceedings were instituted before the Colonial Tribunals, under the Slave Registration Ordinance; the result of which was an Order of the Court that they should be sent back to the Seychelles. Twelve have returned thither in virtue of this Decree, and the remainder have been disposed of as stated against their respective Names.

BLACK'S NAME.	MASTER'S NAME.	REMARKS.
Francis que Bènder - - - -	Mr. Morel - - - -	} Sent back.
Julien Lafute - - - -	Mr. Lefèvre - - - -	
Baptiste André - - - -	Mr. Devillaine - - - -	} Sent back to the Seychelles by virtue of an Order of the Colonial Tribunals.
Jupiter Eclair - - - -	D° - - - -	
Apollon Pluviose - - - -	Mr. Lacy - - - -	
Jasinin Larose - - - -	Mr. St. Jovie - - - -	
Martin Baton - - - -	Mr. Dugand - - - -	
Demanche Pierre - - - -	D° - - - -	
Hortense Naune - - - -	D° - - - -	
Jupiter Pacifique - - - -	D° - - - -	
Lahopa Deipido - - - -	D° - - - -	
Brutus Auguste - - - -	D° - - - -	
Lendormi Soubange - - - -	Madame Panon - - - -	} Subsequently admitted to Entry by order of His Excellency the Governor, as per Chief Secretary's Letters of 23 Nov. and 9 Dec. 1824.
Roquelaure Louis - - - -	Mademoiselle Vally - - - -	
Augustin Riband - - - -	Mr. Marcy - - - -	} Remains still under charge of the Superintendent of Government Slaves.
Louis Courtot - - - -	Mr. Guet - - - -	
Constant Emanuel - - - -	Mr. Hugon - - - -	
Endausseur Williams - - - -	D° - - - -	
Marcelin Dejean - - - -	D° - - - -	
Zacharie Didon - - - -	Mr. Pottier - - - -	
Lafleur Boucœur - - - -	Mr. Plaiméard - - - -	
Pompei Prouve - - - -	Mr. Dugand - - - -	
Lundi Ganga - - - -	D° - - - -	
Avril Egesipe - - - -	D° - - - -	
Joachim Murat - - - -	D° - - - -	} Died in Civil Hospital.
Jolicoun Hausseuof - - - -	D° - - - -	
Vangasaille Tulipano - - - -	D° - - - -	
Baptiste Lafleur - - - -	D° - - - -	
Patiente George - - - -	D° - - - -	

Custom House, Port Louis, 22d April 1826. (signed) Arch. Wm. Blane, Collector of Customs.

— N° 3. —

N° 3.

Copy of a LETTER from T. F. Buxton, Esq. M. P. to Earl Bathurst, dated
London, 28 February 1826.—(One Enclosure.)

My Lord, 54, Devonshire-street, 28 February 1826.

I BEG to send you Higginson's statement, and request that your Lordship will direct that he should be detained in England.

I have also to beg that your Lordship will permit me to see copies of all communications which have been made to you relative to Slave Trading at the Mauritius. Secondly, That you will have the goodness to furnish me with all the statements you possess relative to the population of the Seychelles at their capture, and at any subsequent period. Thirdly, that you will permit me to have a return of the quantity of sugar exported from the Mauritius at each year, since we took possession of the colony.

Begging that you will excuse the trouble I have given you,
I have the honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

(signed) T. F. Buxton.

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

(Enclosure.)

Enclosure.

DEPOSITION of Richard Higginson, resident in the Mauritius, from the capture of that Island, at which he assisted in the year 1810 to 1824.

Richard Higginson, formerly private of His Majesty's 22d regiment of foot, and now an out-pensioner of Chelsea Hospital, also at one time overseer of Indian convicts employed in making roads in the Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposes and saith,—That in or about the month of June 1821, being on a certain day, which he is now unable with greater precision to determine than in or about the said month and year, he recollects that whilst on a visit to his friend corporal Richard Storey of His Majesty's 82d regiment of foot, in the command of a military post, consisting of himself and three men stationed at the "Baie du Cap," in the said Island of Mauritius, he saw somewhere about three o'clock in the afternoon, a schooner which he well knew, and had himself been several times on board, and commanded by a white man, whom also he well knew, of the name of "John Louis," (Jean Louis) coming, and come into the aforesaid "Baie du Cap," which it entered about one half the depth of the bay: that deponent's friend corporal Storey, according to his duty, and in presence of deponent, hailed the schooner so commanded, which deponent knew by no other name than the name of the resident owner of the property of Belle Ombre, to which she belonged, and hence called "Mr. Telfair's schooner," and ordered the captain, the aforesaid John Louis, to lower his boat, and come and fetch him, corporal Storey, on board, to see and inspect what was on board. To which John Louis the captain, in the hearing of the deponent, and from the deck of his schooner, replied "stop a bit" (*arrêtez un peu*) and whilst deponent and his friend were waiting for the boat to come to the side of the bay on which they were, deponent, who from the high ground on which he was, could very plainly see every thing around or beneath him, observed a great stir in the vessel, and black people, who from the matting and plaiting of their hair, and other marks, he knew to be natives of Madagascar, come up from out of the hold of the vessel, and go over her side into a boat placed at the side of the schooner to receive them; and one Pierre, a black man, whom deponent well knew, and who frequently had told deponent that he, Pierre, belonged to Governor Farquhar, having placed himself in the place of helmsman, and three other blacks, all evidently sufficiently used to the place to be called old hands, having seated themselves as rowers in the boat, made for the opposite side of the bay to that on which was the military park. In this place, rather more towards the mouth of the bay than where the schooner herself was at this time lying, deponent saw the black people, whom he had watched from the hold of the schooner, land, and at the landing place perceived that certain persons were stationed to receive them; two of whom conducted the first two or three that put foot ashore, into an adjoining wood, which here stretches itself nearly down to the sea side, and the other two waited near the boat,

SLAVE TRADE AT MAURITIUS.

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boat, and directed those that next came out, to follow the steps of their companions into the wood, whilst the two who conducted them thither returned to superintend the rest of the disembarkation.

Thus was the first boat's load, consisting, as deponent believes, of from 16 to 20 persons, landed and disposed of; and the boat returned to the schooner for more. Corporal Storey, deponent's friend, still continuing to hail her and to order her commander, the aforesaid John Louis, to lower his boat for him, corporal Storey, to come on board; to which John Louis only replied by an execrable oath, telling deponent's friend at the close thereof, that he had no occasion for him (corporal Storey) and saying in French, as well as deponent can now describe it, "au fairé, fouter ne pas besoin de vous." Whereupon deponent's friend, in presence of deponent, ordered his men to *fire*; *not*, however *into* the boat, but *over* her, to bring her to; notwithstanding which, however, deponent saw the boat, by this time loaded again with the same description of persons, push off for the shore, which she duly reached, and landed about 20 more naked Madagascars, or Malgache, in the face of deponent and his friend in charge of the post; the aforesaid corporal Richard Storey, who seeing his power thus contemned, and in fact obviously insufficient either for prevention or punishment, set off for the civil commissioner or magistrate of the district, one Mr. Blancard; but deponent remained behind with the three men of his friend's regiment, the 82d, and saw the boat for the third time loaded with slaves, and as before, push away for the shore, which in like manner with itself on former occasions, it duly reached. Thus, what deponent considers as the whole cargo, were landed and lodged in a wood adjoining the property to which the vessel they were loaded from belonged, and to which he concludes, as a matter of course, they were shortly conducted. Towards the mouth of the bay is a depth of water 12 or 14 feet, but higher up it is fordable, and still further on, is a crossing formed of stones placed at certain distances, and constituting a sort of imperfect causeway.

They were all in a state of nudity. Deponent says corporal Storey returned to his post time enough to see the third boat, or boat for the third time, return to the vessel, after which, between five and six o'clock, as near as deponent can judge, she set sail; but, unable from contrary winds, to weather the point, and get round to Belle Ombre, to which she was bound, she was, as deponent observed, whilst on his own road to Belle Ombre, on which his party of convicts were employed in making roads, obliged to put back, and return to Baie du Cap. On the return of corporal Storey to Baie du Cap, which was previous to the departure of deponent from thence, he reported to deponent, that Mr. Blancard, the magistrate, not liking the errand on which he, Storey, had come, told him to look to his men, mind his business, and if any thing were wanting, he, Blancard, would supply it. Blancard was, at this time, or had been, as deponent believes, a part owner in Belle Ombre.

Sworn before me, at the Mansion House,
this 14th day of March 1826, being first
read to the deponent.

(signed) W^m Venables, Mayor.

London, 14th March, 1826.

his
Rich^d + Higginson,
mark.

— N° 4. —

Copy of a LETTER from R. W. Hay, Esq. to Sir H. Taylor, dated
Downing-street, 1st March 1826.

N° 4.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1st March 1826.

THE presence of Richard Higginson, lately appointed to one of the New South Wales veteran companies, and at present on board the "John Barry" transport, for conveyance to that colony, being required in England, I am directed by Earl Bathurst to request that you will move His Royal Highness, the Commander in Chief, to give directions that Richard Higginson may be immediately disembarked, and another individual be appointed in his room.

I am, &c.
(signed) R. W. Hay.

Lieut. General Sir Herbert Taylor, K. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

N° 5.

N° 5.

Copy of a LETTER from R. W. Hay, Esq. to T. F. Buxton, Esq. M. P. dated
Downing-street, 2d March 1826.

Downing-street, 2 March 1826.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Bathurst to acquaint you, in reply to the letter which you addressed to his Lordship, dated 28th ultimo, that he has caused a communication to be made to the Horse Guards for the purpose of preventing Richard Higginson from proceeding to the destination for which he has been embarked; and that there will be no objection to the production of all communications relating to the Slave Trade at the Mauritius, which may have been addressed to his Lordship, within a certain period, if you shall think proper to move, in the House of Commons, for copies or extracts of them.

I am directed to add, that the information for which you have applied on the other two points referred to in your letter, may also be obtained by a similar mode.

T. F. Buxton, Esq. M. P.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(signed.) *R. W. Hay.*

— N° 6. —

N° 6.

Copy of a LETTER from T. F. Buxton, Esq. M. P. to Earl Bathurst, dated
Devonshire-street, 4 March 1826.—(One Enclosure.)

My Lord,

54, Devonshire-street, March 4, 1826.

I BEG to send you the deposition of William Kendrick, relative to Slave Trading at the Mauritius. I think him an important witness, and I hope that your Lordship will direct that he may be detained.

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

(signed) *T. F. Buxton.*

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

(Enclosure.)

Enclosure.

DEPOSITION of William Kendrick, resident in the Mauritius, from the
capture of the Island, at which he assisted in 1810 to 1824.

William Kendrick, formerly private of His Majesty's 22d regiment of foot, and now or lately of the 2d Royal Veteran company for service in New South Wales, and at one time overseer of Indian convicts employed in making roads in the Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,—That on or about the 12 August 1823, whilst going from the barracks at the Black River, in the aforesaid Island of Mauritius, to Belle Ombre, in the same island, he perceived, shortly after break of day, lying close to the shore between Mount Morne (Cape Brabant) and the Black River, a schooner; that from her size, appearance, and nearness to the shore, where vessels having lawful cargoes on board never come, might well be a slave schooner employed in introducing new slaves into the island.

Deponent's suspicions, however, were not raised into certainty till after proceeding somewhat further on his course, just as he issued out of an avenue of trees, he fell in with a party of new slaves, about 50 in number (fifty), accompanied by two Frenchmen and five or six old slaves. The Frenchmen were armed with large sticks, and the old slaves with fowling pieces; the Frenchmen led the van, and the old slaves were at the sides, or brought up the rear, and the new blacks themselves were naked, and evidently natives of Madagascar. They appeared to have been greatly cramped during the voyage, being lame and hardly able to walk, besides looking sickly and half starved; some of them seemed ready to drop.

The place at which deponent first saw them was in a way which lies between two old buildings, on the right hand side of the main road, and leads down to the
sea,

SLAVE TRADE AT MAURITIUS.

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sea, from which it was distant, as near as deponent can judge, about half a mile. Though somewhat suddenly come upon, one of the Frenchmen in charge of the new blacks, bid him, in English, "Good morning," a salutation to which deponent, after replying in the usual way, next asked what they were going to do with those new blacks they were conducting; to which the Frenchman made for rejoinder, "That's nothing to you," or words to that effect; adding, you had better take what I will give you, go your way, and say nothing; and, putting some money into deponent's hand, told him there was a public house (canteen) a-head, not far distant, where he might go and spend it; and deponent knowing the ways of the Mauritius, and that it was of no avail for him to refuse the money, and go and inform, for that the chiefs of the convict department and the governor's aide-de-camp, Captain Rossi, when the deponent was in that department, had frequently told all the overseers of convicts, and, amongst others, himself, not to notice the landing of new slaves—"that they were not supposed to see such things," took the money that had been offered, and which, being added to by the other Frenchman, after the example of the first, deponent went away to the house which had been pointed out to him, and where, upon his arrival, he was somewhat disappointed to find, on counting out the money, in notes and coin, that it amounted to only between nine and ten dollars—to nine dollars and a half, as near as may be.

At this house deponent spoke to the person in charge concerning the new slaves he had just seen, and this person told deponent they belonged to Mr. Genive conjointly with another person whose name deponent does not now recollect, and that he had seen them land from the schooner which deponent still saw lying off, and which his informer at this time pointed to, and was the same vessel deponent had seen at the break of day lying close to the shore. Deponent could have had no doubt before of the matter, but was notwithstanding no way sorry to find his own certitude confirmed by a man who lived close to the place where the landing must have been effected, and who now told him he had seen the slaves come on shore from the schooner.

(signed) *Wm. Kendrick.*

Sworn before me, this 27th day of March
1826, having been first read to the
deponent,

(signed) *John Garratt, Alderman.*

Guildhall, London, 27 March 1826.

— N° 7.—

Copy of a LETTER from R. W. Hay, Esq. to Sir H. Taylor, dated
Downing-street, 6th March 1826.

N° 7.

Downing-street, 6th March 1826.

Sir,

THE presence of William Kendrick, lately appointed to one of the New South Wales veteran companies, and at present on board the "John Barry" transport, for conveyance to that colony, being required in England, I am directed by Earl Bathurst to request, that you will move His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief to give directions, that William Kendrick may be immediately disembarked, and another individual appointed in his room.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. W. Hay.*

Lieut. General Sir Herbert Taylor, K. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

— N° 8.—

Copy of a LETTER from R. W. Hay, Esq. to Sir G. L. Cole, dated
Downing-street, 29th April 1826.

N° 8.

Downing-street, 29th April 1826.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Bathurst to transmit to you the enclosed depositions of two soldiers, named Higginson and Kendrick, relative to certain transactions which
68. D

For Depositions
herein alluded to,
vide preceding
are Papers.

N° 8.
continued.

are alleged to have taken place at the Mauritius, connected with the introduction of slaves into that colony; and I am directed by Earl Bathurst to request, that you will cause the fullest inquiry to be made into the circumstances to which these soldiers have sworn, furnishing me with the result, for his Lordship's information.

I have, &c.

Lieut. General Sir G. L. Cole, G. C. B. (signed) R. W. Hay.
&c. &c. &c.

— N° 9. —

N° 9.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Sir G. L. Cole, to R. W. Hay, Esq. dated Mauritius, 4th September 1826.—(Three Enclosures.)

Mauritius, 4th Sept. 1826.

Sir,

ON the receipt of your letter of the 29th of April last, enclosing the depositions of Higginson and Kendrick relative to certain transactions which are alleged to have taken place at the Mauritius some years ago, connected with the introduction of slaves, I lost no time in making inquiry into the circumstances alluded to; and with respect to the statement of Higginson, who I find was discharged from the convict department in October 1823, for drunkenness and flogging the convicts, it will be perceived by the enclosed copies of the examinations of Richard Storey and six other soldiers, of the 82d regiment (two of whom were guards attached to the convict party under Higginson at the time specified), taken on oath before the chief commissary of police, that the same is denied throughout, and would therefore appear to be totally unfounded.

With regard to Kendrick, his deposition speaks of the 12th of August 1823, at which period he was no longer employed as an overseer, having been discharged from the convict department in 1822 for drunkenness and misconduct, as will be seen by the accompanying copies of two official letters.

At the period spoken of by Kendrick, viz. August 1823, a detachment of the 82d regiment, commanded by Captain Mackay, was stationed at Black River; and by the enclosed copies of the affidavits of that officer, and of 11 soldiers who were with him at Black River at the time alluded to, you will perceive that it is therein declared, that Kendrick (who was well known to the parties) did not make his appearance at the post during the month of August 1823, though he himself, in his deposition, speaks of leaving the barracks at Black River; and if any further proof were wanting to show the falsity of this man's deposition, it will be found in the following circumstance, viz. Kendrick, after having been discharged from the convict department in April 1822, was enlisted into the gendarmerie on the 1st of August 1823, from which period until the 1st of April 1824, when he was dismissed, he constantly did duty in the town of Port Louis, a distance of about 20 miles from Black River.

I am the more gratified that so decided a contradiction should have been produced to Kendrick's statement, as it refers to a period of my government, and I should not have said a syllable more on the subject, for I consider it impossible not to be convinced, that both Kendrick and Higginson have deposed to gross falsehoods, had not the newspapers of the 10th May last, containing the debates on Mr. Buxton's motion, reached me just at this moment.

I am fully aware that members of Parliament have the privilege of animadverting on the conduct of governors and other public officers, and it is quite right that they should have that privilege; but it is unfair that a hard-earned reputation should be traduced, and be dragged before the public, on the assertions of such individuals as Kendrick and Higginson.

For my own part, I am prepared to meet any attack which can be made upon me, and I again assert, that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, not an instance of slave dealing has occurred here since I have been charged with the government of this colony; that there may have been instances of this traffic some years ago,
I do

Encl. N° 1,
with 7 Depositions.

Encl. N° 2.

Encl. N° 3.

SLAVE TRADE AT MAURITIUS.

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I do not attempt to deny, although it is my firm conviction that they have been very much exaggerated; and I assert, that it can tend to no good purpose to rake up every old story, and to endeavour to prove to the world that the Slave Trade is carrying on at the Mauritius.

N^o 9.
continued.

Every day serves to convince me more and more, not only that the Slave Trade is at an end here, but that the inhabitants are daily becoming more disposed to enter into the views of government, both as regards the trade itself, and the treatment of the slave population; and I have no doubt but that the new Order in Council, respecting the Slave Registration here, will set the matter quite at rest. At the same time the vicinity of this colony to Bourbon, where slaves appear still to be introduced, will always make the Mauritius liable to suspicion, when persons are determined to suspect.

R. W. Hay, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c. &c.
(signed) *G. Lowry Cole.*

Sir,

Police Office, August 26, 1826.

I HAVE the honour to report to you for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that in obedience to his excellency's commands I have most carefully interrogated upon oath Richard Storey, formerly a corporal in the 82d regiment, respecting the circumstances detailed in an affidavit sworn to on the 14th March last by Richard Higginson, formerly overseer of Indian convicts in this colony, and from which interrogation, it results that the corporal was only about a fortnight in command of the post of Baie du Cap in 1821; and he denies all recollection whatever of any visit from Higginson whilst at that post, or of the occurrence stated by the latter; and the statement of the corporal is, in that respect, fully corroborated by privates David Evans and Thomas Viners, who were also then stationed at that post.

Richard Storey.

As it appeared upon the examination of Storey, that he was stationed at Pass St. Martin about three months previous to his going to "Baie du Cap," and there frequently saw Higginson, and that post being between "Baie du Cap" and the Belle Ombre habitation, I felt it my duty also to examine such of the men of the 82d regiment as are now here, and who formed part of corporal Storey's detachment at "Pass St. Martin's;" and they also persist in denying all knowledge of any landing or attempted landing of slaves near those posts during the time they were stationed there. I have also examined two privates of the 82d regiment, who at that period served about nine months as guards over the Indian convicts under the charge of overseer Higginson, and who being in daily intercourse with him, might be supposed to have some knowledge of the circumstances stated by him, but they deny it also.

Wm. Fleming,
B. M^cAuly.

It may be necessary to observe, that the 82d regiment was relieved from the out posts in May 1821 by the 56th regiment, now in England; and that captain Bruce, corporal Bannister, and private P. Sullivan, of the 82d regiment, whose names are mentioned in the depositions herewith transmitted, are also in England.

I have, &c.

F. E. Viret, Esq. Private Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *John Finniss,*
Act^g Chief Com^r of Police.

David Evans, private in the 82d regiment of foot, now stationed at Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,— That he was on the detachment at the "Baie du Cap" in the said island for about six weeks, and as he believes, in the months of April and May 1821. That corporal Storey of the said regiment, commanded the party during about a fortnight or three weeks, as well as deponent recollects, when corporal Storey was re-placed by corporal Bannister, now in Europe. That during the period deponent was at the "Baie du Cap," he cannot call to his memory any suspicious schooner or vessel appearing off there, nor did he, deponent, ever see Richard Higginson at the post, (whom he knew, and who was at the time in the charge of Indian convicts stationed near Belle Ombre); nor did deponent ever hear Richard Higginson say that any new slaves had been landed or attempted to be landed on that part of the coast by any schooner or vessel whatsoever; neither has deponent himself any knowledge or suspicion

N^o 9.
continued.

suspicion that any new slaves were landed, or attempted to be landed, at or near the post of "Baie du Cap" whilst deponent was stationed there, as before stated.

Sworn before me, at Port Louis, Mauritius,
the 25 August 1826, being first read to
the deponent,

Mark of
David × Evans.

(signed) *John Finniss,*
Act^s Chief Com^r of Police.

Thomas Viners, private in the 82d regiment of foot, now stationed at the Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,—That he was on detachment at the "Baie du Cap" on the said island, for a period of about six weeks, and, as he believes, in the months of April and May 1821. That corporal Storey of the said regiment, commanded the party during about a fortnight or thereabouts; and that during the period deponent was stationed at the "Baie du Cap," he has no recollection of any suspicious schooner or vessel having appeared off there. That deponent knows Richard Higginson, who had charge of Indian convicts then stationed near Belle Ombre, but does not recollect to have ever seen Richard Higginson at the post of "Baie du Cap," nor did deponent ever hear Richard Higginson say that any new slaves had been landed or attempted to be landed; neither has deponent himself any knowledge or suspicion that any new slaves were landed or attempted to be landed on that part of the coast by any schooner or vessel whatever, during the period deponent was stationed there.

Sworn before me, Port Louis, Mauritius,
this 25th August 1826, being first read
to the deponent,

(signed) Mark of
Thomas × Viners.

(signed) *John Finniss,*
A. C. Commis^r of Police.

Benjamin M^cAuly, private in the 82d regiment of foot, now stationed at the Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,—That during about the last three months of 1820, and until about the month of May 1821, (the deponent cannot state with further precision) the deponent was one of the guards over the Indian convicts stationed at and near Belle Ombre, the habitation of Mr. Telfair, situated near the post of Jacoté in the said island.

That the said convicts were, during the whole of the period before stated, under the charge of a man named Richard Higginson, whom he well knew, and was in the habit of seeing almost every day.

That deponent never heard Richard Higginson say that any new slaves had been landed, or attempted to be landed, on that part of the coast, either by the schooner known by the name of the Belle Ombre schooner, or by any other; neither hath the deponent any knowledge or suspicion whatever of any new slaves having been so landed, or attempted to be landed, by the Belle Ombre schooner, or by any other schooner, during the period deponent was so employed as aforesaid.

(signed) The mark of
Benjamin × M^cAuly.

Sworn before me at Port Louis, Mauritius,
this 18th August 1826, being first read
to the deponent,

(signed) *John Finniss,*
Acting Chief Commissary of Police.

Christopher Alcock, private in the 82d regiment of foot, now stationed at the Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,—That he was on detachment at Pass St. Martin in the said island, with corporal Richard Storey, of the 82d regiment, some time in the beginning of the year 1821, but deponent does not recollect the day or month.

That he was upon that post about one month; but deponent states that he never saw any schooner enter there, but one known by the name of the Belle Ombre schooner; and that whenever the said schooner came in from sea, she was invariably visited by the corporal commanding the post, and some one or more of the party; and that deponent never saw or heard that any new slaves had been landed there,

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there, either by that or any other schooner, while deponent was stationed there. That he knew well a man named Richard Higginson, who was then overseer of the convicts employed working near the said post of Pass St. Martin; but that he never heard the said Richard Higginson say that any new slaves had been landed on that part of the coast, either by the Belle Ombre schooner or by any other.

N^o 9.
continued.

Mark of
(signed) *Christopher × Alcock.*

Sworn before me at Port Louis, Mauritius,
this 18th August 1826, being first read
to the deponent,

(signed) *John Finniss,*
Acting Chief Commissary of Police.

William Flemming, private in the 82d regiment of foot, now stationed at Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,—That he (deponent) was one of the guards placed over the Indian convicts who were stationed at Rivière du Post, and upon the habitation of Belle Ombre, in the said island, during about three months of the latter end of the year 1820, and until about the month of May 1821; and the deponent recollects well Richard Higginson, who had charge of the said convicts, but never heard Richard Higginson say that any new slaves had been landed, or attempted to be landed, on that part of the coast, by any schooner or vessel whatever, although deponent was in the almost daily habit of being with the said Richard Higginson; and deponent further states, that he has himself no knowledge or suspicion that any new slaves were landed, or attempted to be landed, upon that part of the coast, whilst he was so stationed there.

Mark of
(signed) *William × Flemming.*

Sworn before me at Port Louis, Mauritius,
this 25th August 1826, being first read
to the deponent,

(signed) *John Finniss,*
Acting Chief Commissary of Police.

James Scott, private in the 82d regiment of foot, now stationed at the Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,—That he recollects having been on detachment at Pass St. Martin, in the said island, with corporal Storey, also of the 82d regiment, in the year 1821, but deponent does not recollect the day or the month; the period, however, might have been in all about six weeks of his being so detached with corporal Storey at Pass St. Martin. That during the period in question he never saw any schooner enter there, but the schooner known by the name of the Belle Ombre schooner. That said schooner, on her coming in from sea, was invariably visited by the corporal, and some one or more of the party; and that deponent never saw or heard that any new slaves had been landed there, either by that or any other schooner, while the deponent was stationed there. Deponent further saith, that after being relieved from the detachment under the command of said corporal Richard Storey, he (deponent) remained about a month at the post of Jacoté, under the command of Captain Bruce, of said 82d regiment, and was there placed as one of the guard over the Indian convicts stationed near Belle Ombre, under the charge of Richard Higginson, whom deponent well knew; and that he never heard the said Higginson say that any slaves had been landed there, either by the schooner called the Belle Ombre, or by any other.

The Mark of
(signed) *James × Scott.*

Sworn before me at Port Louis, Mauritius,
this 18th August 1826, being first read
to the deponent,

(signed) *John Finniss,*
Acting Chief Commissary of Police.

N° 9.
continued.

Sir,

Convict Department, Grand River, 10 April 1822.

I HAVE the honour to request you will be pleased to state to his Excellency the Governor, that overseer Kendrick having for some months back been repeatedly guilty of drunkenness and of disrespect to me, though often warned against, and pardoned for this misconduct, and this man having, moreover, when in a state of inebriety, punished convicts in a very harsh manner, against whom no fault could be laid, I have to request, as this man is incorrigible, that he may be discharged altogether from the department, from the 15th instant.

Colonel Barry,
Chief Secretary to Gov'.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) T. Rossi, General Supd'

To Francis Rossi, Esquire, General Supd' of the Convict Department.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Port Louis, 14 April 1822.

HAVING had the honour of submitting to his Excellency the Governor, your letter of the 10th inst. representing the very improper conduct of overseer Kendrick, and requesting authority to dismiss him from the department on the 15th inst. I have to convey to you his Excellency's approval thereof.

I have, &c.
(signed) G. A. Barry,
Chief Sec^y to Gov'.

John Finiston Mackay, a captain in the 82d regiment, now stationed at Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,—That he commanded the military post of Black River, in the said island, during the months of July and August, and greatest part of the month of September 1823, and that he never saw or heard of a person named Kendrick being at the post whilst deponent was there; that one party of deponent's regiment was stationed at Preneure battery, and another at Harmony battery; which batteries command considerable extent of view along the coast towards Morne Brabant; and that deponent was frequently in the habit of visiting those said posts, and of receiving reports from the parties stationed there; but has no recollection whatever of any suspicious looking schooner having been reported to him as lying there, or being seen off that part of the coast, a circumstance which deponent considers must have come to his knowledge, had it taken place.

That deponent never saw any suspicious looking schooner or vessel, nor ever heard, either from the men under his command, or from any other person, that any new slaves were landed on that part of the coast during the period he commanded there as before stated.

(signed) *John F. Mackay*,
Captⁿ 82d Regiment.

Sworn before me at Cure Pipe, Mauritius,
this 3d day of September 1826,

(signed) *John Finmiss*,
Act^s Chief Commiss^y of Police.

William Batt, corporal, *Thomas Wallace*, corporal, *David Ring*, *William Williams*, *Duncan Cameron*, *Thomas Smith*, *John Milner*, and *David Desmond*, privates in the 82d regiment, now stationed at Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, jointly and severally depose and say,—That in the months of July, August, and part of the month of September 1823, they composed part of a detachment of the said regiment, then stationed at Black River, under the command of Captain Mackay; that they were each and every one of them

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them at different times during their being so stationed, detached at the small posts dependent on the said post of Black River.

N^o 9.
continued.

That the deponents all know a man, named William Kendrick, who was formerly overseer of convicts, but that they never saw the said Kendrick at the Post of Black River, or heard of his having been there whilst deponents were stationed at that post. That neither whilst deponents were stationed at Black River, or detached to the small posts as aforesaid, did they or any of them ever see or hear of any suspicious looking schooner having appeared off that part of the coast; nor did they, or any one of them, ever hear of any new slaves having been landed near these posts during the period they were stationed at any of them, and that had they done so they should immediately have reported the same to their said officer.

(signed)

Sworn before me, at Cure Pipe, Mauritius,
this 3d Sept. 1826,

(signed) *John Finniss*,
Act^g Chief Commiss^r of Police.

W. Batt.

Thos. Wallace,

David Ring.

Mark of

Wm. × Williams.

Mark of

John × Milner.

David Desmond.

Mark of

Duncan × Cameron.

Mark of

Thomas × Smith.

James Clarkson, a private in the 82d regiment, now stationed at Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,—That in the months of July, August, and part of the month of September 1823, he was one of a detachment of his said regiment, then stationed at the Port of Black River, but detached during about a month of that period, deponent cannot state dates, at the Harmony battery.

That deponent knows a man named William Kendrick, who was formerly overseer of convicts, but never saw him, Kendrick, at the Post of Black River, nor heard of his being there whilst deponent was stationed at that post. That neither whilst deponent was at Black River, or detached at Harmony battery, did he ever see or hear of any suspicious looking schooner or vessel having appeared off that part of the coast, nor did he ever hear of any slaves having been landed near those posts whilst he was stationed there, and that had he done so he should have reported the same to his officer, agreeably to orders.

Sworn before me, at Cure Pipe, Mauritius,
this 3d Sept. 1826,

(signed) *John Finniss*,
Acting Chief Commissary of Police.

Mark of

James × Clarkson.

John Nelson, a serjeant in the 82d regiment, now stationed at Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,—That in the months of July, August, and part of the month of September 1823, he was corporal of a party of his said regiment, then stationed at Black River, under the command of Captain Mackay.

That deponent knows a man named William Kendrick, who was formerly an overseer of convicts, and had been stationed at the same post with him, but never saw the said Kendrick at the Post of Black River; and that from the last-mentioned circumstance, and their being from the same county, he thinks Kendrick would not have passed the barracks without calling to see him. That deponent never saw or heard of any suspicious looking schooner or vessel having appeared off that part of the coast, nor did he ever hear of any slaves having been landed there or in the neighbourhood, whilst he was stationed at Black River, and that had he done so he should have considered it his duty to report the same to the said officer.

Sworn before me, at Cure Pipe, Mauritius,
this 3d Sept. 1826,

(signed) *John Finniss*,
Acting Chief Commissary of Police.

(signed) *John Nelson.*

N° 9.
continued.

James Gardner, a private in the 82d regiment of foot, now stationed at Mauritius, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,— That in the months of July, August, and part of the month of September 1823, he was one of a party of his said regiment, then stationed at the Post of Black River, but detached during a part of the time to the Post of Preneure battery; that deponent knows well a man named William Kendrick, but never saw him at the Post of Black River, nor heard of said Kendrick having been at that post whilst deponent was there.

That neither whilst deponent was stationed at the Post of Black River, or detached at Preneure battery, did he ever see or hear of any suspicious looking schooner or vessel having appeared off that part of the coast; nor did he ever hear of any new slaves having been landed near these parts whilst he was stationed there, and that had he done so, he should have reported the same to his officer, agreeably to orders.

Sworn before me, at Cure Pipe, Mauritius,
this 3d of September 1826,

Mark of
James × Gardner.

(signed)

John Finniss,
Acting Chief Commissary of Police.

—N° 10.—

N° 10.

Copy of DESPATCH from Sir G. L. Cole to R. W. Hay, Esq. dated
Mauritius, 8 September 1826.—(One Enclosure.)
Mauritius, 8th September 1826.

Sir,

IN reference to my letter to you, dated the 4th instant, and in further confirmation of what I then stated respecting Kendrick, I do myself the honour to forward to you the copy of a letter from the Chief Commissary of Police, by which you will perceive that Kendrick was placed in confinement for neglect of duty as a gend'arme, on the 6th of August 1823, and was not released until the 13th of the same month; he could not, therefore, have been at Black River on the 12th August 1823, as stated in his deposition.

6 September 1826.

Perceiving by the public papers that Mr. Byam takes part against this island on the Slave Trade question, I beg leave to refer you to his letter, dated the 5th of March 1821, addressed to Sir Robert Farquhar, and which was laid before Parliament on the 25th of April 1825, in return to an Address of the House, dated the 28th of March of the same year; in all probability this letter will not have escaped Sir Robert Farquhar's recollection, and it will be found with the papers transmitted to Earl Bathurst by Sir Robert Farquhar in the early part of 1821.

R. W. Hay, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *G. Lowry Cole.*

(Enclosure.)

Sir,

Police Department, Port Louis, 6 Sept. 1826.

Enclosure.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that William Kendrick entered into the gendarmerie of Port Louis on the 1st of August 1823, was dismissed therefrom for misconduct on the 1st of April 1824, and embarked for England in June following.

On referring to the gendarmerie reports, I find that he was in confinement for neglect of duty from the 6th to the 13th of August 1823, and it does not appear that he was out of Port Louis during the period he belonged to the gendarmerie.

F. E. S. Viret, Esq.
Private Secretary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *John Finniss,*
Acting Chief Commissary of Police,

— N° 11. —

Extract of a DESPATCH addressed by Lieut. Gen. the Hon. Sir G. L. Cole, G.C.B.
to the Earl Bathurst, dated Mauritius, 3 October 1826.

N° 11.
—————

—“ I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that conformably to the instructions contained in your Lordship’s dispatch, dated the 26th of February 1826, (N° 17) the Order in Council of the 30th January last, requiring an entire new Registration of the Slaves of this colony, has been published in French and English in the official Gazette, and been recorded in the Colonial Courts.

“ No exertion will be wanting on the part of the local government to render this measure as effectual as possible, and I have every hope that it will meet with a corresponding feeling on the part of the whole of the inhabitants.”

SLAVE TRADE.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable House
of Commons, dated 12th February 1827;—*for*,

COPIES OR EXTRACTS

Of any Correspondence respecting the Slave
Trade, received from the Governor of the
Mauritius, and not already laid before the
House.

(MAURITIUS CORRESPONDENCE.)

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