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Papers respecting the Religious Instruction of the
Slaves in the West Indies.

DIOCESE OF JAMAICA AND THE BAHAMAS.

No 1.

Extract from a Letter from the Bishop of Jamaica to Earl Bathurst, dated 20th February 1826.

I BEG leave to call your Lordship's attention to an extract of a letter, which I have lately received, detailing a mode of instruction, and which has been attended with the most salutary effects.

I have lately visited the Eastern and Northern parishes of the island, and I am happy to announce to your Lordship a growing disposition for the institution of Sunday and Parochial Schools, which experience proves to be the only efficient means of instructing the Slave and coloured population.

I held my second ordination yesterday; three Deacons and five Priests were added to the Ministry.

I am carrying into effect throughout all the parishes, the provisions of the new Clergy Act, and I begin already to perceive the immediate advantages resulting to the Church from that measure.

It is my intention to visit Honduras and the Bahamas about the middle of next month.

Extract from a Letter from the Reverend Griffith Griffiths to the Bishop of Jamaica, dated February 15, 1826.

AT the close of the morning service I select the most forward and intelligent, whether free or Slaves, who, either by moral instruction or otherwise, have committed to memory any considerable part of the Catechism; and these (after having divided the others into classes, each consisting of about twenty, more or less, males and females, adults and children, separately), I appoint as masters over their respective classes, to impart that portion of knowledge that they may have obtained to the more ignorant, and less instructed; this they do with alacrity and faithfulness.

In the mean time, I myself am employed in preparing candidates for baptism and marriage, in explaining the nature of both, and performing the same, which occupies from an hour to an hour and a half. I then visit the different classes, where I am happy to add, an astonishing regularity and subordination have hitherto prevailed. The teaching in classes being over, I enter the reading desk and catechise the whole congregation together till the commencement of the evening service. The number thus instructed regularly since Christmas have been from two hundred to three hundred adults and about one hundred and forty children.

The instruction has hitherto been only oral, and that from want of books, but having now obtained a sufficiency, I propose on my return to commence teaching by letters upon the same principle as before. And although there will be considerable difficulty in getting teachers at the beginning, I do not, however, despair of being able in a few months effectually to obviate this obstacle. As soon as any of them know the alphabet I shall appoint them to teach the same to others, "jamque docenter alios docendo," as Dr. Bell justly observes, whose mode of teaching I adhere to as far as circumstances will admit, and I anticipate a success similar to that of the Madras Asylum.

No. 2.

MY LORD,

Spanish Town, Jamaica, June 12, 1826.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a report of my late visitation to Honduras and the Bahamas, and I venture to draw your Lordship's attention more particularly to that part which refers to the appointment of a free black man, Joseph Watkins; and to suggest whether *Catechist* would not be a more appropriate title than *Preacher*. At the same time it is my duty to bear my testimony to the excellence of his general character, and to the proficiency of his scholars, whom I examined myself, and found them strictly brought up in the principles of the Established Church.

No. 2, is a report from the Curate of the parish of St. Andrew, which is equally creditable to himself and his parishioners.

No. 3, is a statement of a person sent out by the Church Missionary Society, to instruct the Negroes on Papine Estate, in St. Andrew's parish, the property of James B. Wildman, Esq. much praise is due to him for his skill and industry, and I am inclined to augur most favourably of a system of education which seems particularly calculated to meet those appalling difficulties in the instruction of Negroes, listlessness and inattention.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHRISTOPHER, JAMAICA.

The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, K. G.

&c. &c. &c.

No. 1.

MY LORD,

Spanish Town, Jamaica, June 10, 1826.

I HAVE to communicate, for your Lordship's information, that I visited the Grand Cuymanas on the 20th of March, and had an interview with the Magistrates and other respectable inhabitants of that dependancy of Jamaica. There is no minister of religion of any persuasion whatever on the island: it is a low sand bank, and full of swamps in the centre; about thirty miles in length and seven in breadth. The service of the Church of England is regularly performed by the Magistrates in the towns—George Town and Bodden Town; and all other ministerial duties, as marriages and burials, &c. are discharged by the same Authorities, who receive their commissions from the Governor of this island. They seemed anxious for a Minister of the Established Church, and for the institution of parochial schools. At George Town I observed the timber ready for a new chapel, but I fear their means of contributing to these desirable objects are very limited. I have great satisfaction, however, in bearing my testimony to a very general desire for religious instruction, and I consider this to be a field particularly adapted for the labours of a Catechist. No proprietor possesses more than forty Slaves in the whole island; they are employed chiefly in fishing for turtle and in the manufacture of starch from arrow root and a species of rush; their houses are neat, and the inhabitants are distinguished by a very striking simplicity of manners. There were thirty-one families, regularly married by the Custos, living at George Town. The population is generally estimated at five hundred whites and eight hundred persons of colour—of these latter about two hundred and fifty are free.

I arrived at Belize Honduras, on the 24th of March, but unfortunately in such a state of fever as to be incapable of attending to any public business till the 13th of April, when I consecrated a very handsome new church, built at a great expense by the Settlement, and capable of holding about five hundred persons. A burial ground adjoining was also consecrated. The Rev. Matthew Newport, the Minister, received his appointment from the Superintendent, on the recommendation of the Magistrates; his salary his £300 per annum sterling, and fees to the amount of £200 per annum currency, are secured to him by the colony. He has also some other advantages—as Chaplain to the garrison. A good free school has been endowed by the Settlement, and a very large and commodious school-room and house for the Master has been built. The Master's salary is £300 per annum currency. I found one hundred and seventy children

of different casts receiving instruction here on the Madras system. A branch society for promoting Christian knowledge, of which I am appointed President, has been lately established, and no other books are allowed but such as are sanctioned by the Parent Society in England. I held a confirmation on the 17th of April, when forty-three persons were confirmed, and I left the Settlement on the 18th, after having received every mark of attention and kindness from the Superintendent, Major-General Codd, the Magistrates, and principal inhabitants.

I arrived at Nassau, New Providence, on May 6th, and was received by all the public authorities in a manner very gratifying to my feelings, and strongly indicative of a sincere desire to promote the great objects of my mission. Your Lordship is aware that the Bahamas consist of eleven parishes; 1 Christ Church—2 St. Matthew at Nassau, New Providence—3 St. John, Eleuthera—4 St. Patrick, Harbour Island—5 St. Salvador, Cat Island—6 St. Andrew Exumas, great and little—7 St. Paul, Long Island, Rum-key, &c.—8 St. David's, Crooked Island—9 St. George, Caicos Islands—10 St. Thomas, Turk's Islands—11 St. Peter, Abaco.

I regret to say, that there are only three churches and two clergymen in these eleven parishes, namely, Christ Church, the Rev. W. Hepworth, and St. Thomas, Turk's Islands, the Rev. William Strachan. The church in Harbour Island, St. Patrick, was blown down about a year and a half ago, and no measures have yet been taken to rebuild it. Under these circumstances I consulted with Mr. President Munnings (now at the head of the Government, in the absence of his Excellency Major-General Grant), in what manner the very pressing wants of the church in this part of the diocese could be supplied; and I thought it my duty to submit to him the Clergy Act, passed last Session in this island, together with such suggestions as I thought applicable to the colony, and I have every reason to conclude that these measures will be taken into consideration by the Legislature at their next meeting.

The Rev. W. Strachan, now Rector of St. Thomas, was duly instituted by me, and is ready to take possession of the living of St. Matthew, Nassau, (to which preferment he has been already presented by the Governor), as soon as I shall be enabled to send a clergyman to succeed him at Turk's Island. Catechists under the direction, and subject to the controul of the clergy, with my licence, might be employed with great effect and advantage in this part of the diocese.

There is a free-school at Nassau, supported by the colony, where one hundred and twenty-six children, white and coloured, are educated. The master receives four pounds ten shillings for each pupil.

There is also another school for coloured children, to which Joseph Watkins, a free black man, was appointed master by the Associates of Dr. Bray's Charity, in 1814, at a salary of thirty pounds per annum sterling.

In 1822, this person was appointed by the Legislature *Preacher* at St. Paul's Chapel, a place of worship *unconsecrated*, and *private property*, with a salary of fifty pounds per annum currency. He reads every part of the Church service, including the Absolution, to a large congregation, and expounds the Scriptures. I can, of course, have no jurisdiction over a Layman in his character: but I cannot help observing on the irregularity of a person not in holy orders thus ministering publicly in the congregation, but whose services appear to be sanctioned by the Colonial Government.

I took my seat as a Member of Council in this colony on the 9th of May.

I cannot conclude my observations on this part of my diocese without remarking that the Slave population throughout the Bahamas is in a very improved state. They are much encouraged by their masters to work out their own freedom at a moderate price, by faithful service, for a stated period; and I am inclined to attribute their advancement in civilization, amongst other causes, to their coming frequently in contact with their masters as domestic servants, and to the small proportion they bear to the whites, compared with any other colony.

(Signed)

CHRISTOPHER, JAMAICA.

The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, K. G.

&c.

&c.

&c.

Extract from the Report of the Rev. W. H. Lindsay, Curate of St. Andrew, Jamaica, to the Lord Bishop of Jamaica, March, 1826.

YOUR Lordship is probably aware that my duty on Sundays commences with a visit to Stony-Hill Barracks, the head-quarters of the 50th Regiment, being a distance of six miles from my place of residence; from whence (having read the morning prayers, attended the school, and performed whatever extra services may have been required) I return in sufficient time for the celebration of Divine Worship in my church, which is generally most respectably attended by the several families resident in the parish. At the conclusion of the service, I retire into the vestry room, followed by such persons of colour as have attended for the express purpose either of being admitted by baptism into the bosom of the church, or of being united in the holy state of matrimony. Following the example of other diligent and successful promoters of the Gospel in your Lordship's diocese, I admit none to the blessed privileges of Christianity, neither infants nor adults, unless the former are accompanied by their respective sponsors, who have so far advanced in religious knowledge as to be able to comprehend the meaning of the Sacrament, together with the nature of the obligation which they have assumed, and unless the latter can answer a few easy simple questions relative to the leading articles of their faith, and are in like manner attended.

Thus, my Lord, by pursuing such an undeviating line of conduct, are gained two material objects, highly conducive to the spiritual welfare of the Slave. For, in the first place, by the latter mode of proceeding, no Negro will presume to present himself before me as a candidate for baptism without having used some exertions to procure instruction, knowing that rejection will be the inevitable consequence of his inability to reply to the questions proposed to him; neither do I conceive that the progress of the Gospel will, by such a method, be in any way retarded, or that the admission of converts to Christianity will be less frequent, as man is generally most eager in pursuit of that which is difficult of attainment. To those whom ignorance compels me to reject, I give a note addressed to their employers, stating my reasons for so doing.

Secondly, by requiring the regular attendance of sponsors, I am enabled to form a tolerable class, in instructing and catechising, whom I am usually employed for the space of forty minutes, or an hour, preparatory to my advance to the Altar, for the purposes already related. Having thus discharged my duties in the church, my attention is immediately directed to the parish workhouse, where I read the evening service, and conclude with a short, plain, and familiar lecture, adapted to the capacities of my hearers, and which, from their general murmur of approbation, and the gratitude they express, I am convinced they thoroughly comprehend.

I am happy, my Lord, to be able to bear testimony to a very laudable spirit and desire of improvement which has lately manifested itself among the free persons of colour resident in this parish. In the month of March I received a letter (of which I annex a copy), and it was mentioned by the bearers of this letter, in the name of their acquaintance, that they would willingly defray the expence of lighting the church, provided I would grant my attendance and afford them further information, with which request, of course, I readily complied, and I can assure your Lordship that the result has exceeded my sanguine expectations. My congregations on Wednesday evenings consist, almost exclusively, of coloured persons, bond as well as free, amounting to about an average of one hundred and fifty individuals. Seven o'clock is the hour at which service commences, when all servants can conveniently attend; and it is a pleasure to observe with what order and decorum they return to their respective homes. I must not omit, also, to mention, that the Magistrates and Vestry have lately contributed all in their power to the furtherance of religion and improvement of the lower classes, by assuming to themselves all the above-mentioned expences, and also by giving every encouragement to their Negroes to attend. I am about to give public notice of my intention of opening a Sunday school, which will be conducted by competent persons, under my own superintendance, for the benefit of such children as may resort thither for instruction. A tax has lately been imposed

upon the parishioners, under the provisions of the new Clergy Bill, for defraying the charge of erecting a chapel upon a convenient piece of land, gratuitously granted by our worthy Custos for that purpose, and that it is the intention of the parish next year to erect another chapel upon as convenient a spot as can be selected.

(Signed) W. H. LINDSAY.

Copy of a Letter from the Free Persons of Colour to the Reverend W. H. Lindsay.

WE, the Undersigned, derive great benefit from your religious instruction, and, hoping you will grant our request of Evening Prayers on Wednesdays, for the benefit of the poorer classes that are unable to attend Divine Service on Sundays.

Signed by twenty-six persons.

No. 3.

June, 1826.

Extract from the Report of Mr. Thomas Jones, of the Church Missionary Society, transmitted to the Bishop of Jamaica, relative to his mode of instructing the Slave Population at Papine Estate, in the Parish of St. Andrew.

I COMMENCED instructing the Negroes on the above estate in the month of last February, from which period I have generally taught them every morning from seven o'clock to nine, from ten to twelve, and in the afternoon from one to two, and from two to five. I have also taught the adults from seven in the evening from the 1st of April. The number thus under my instruction are fifty-four children and fifty adults; out of this number there are forty-three in monosyllables, and one young woman who has begun to read the New Testament. The Negroes of this property have given upwards of ten pounds towards an intended organ, and they express themselves as very thankful in having amongst them a teacher of religion.

My manner of communicating knowledge and religious instruction is thus: I first endeavour to gain their attention, *then* their affection, and lastly, their confidence. After this I shew them what is a real object, and what is not, what relation one thing has to another, and make simple observations thereon, or any other circumstances that may have transpired. I then hear their lessons, and when I perceive that they begin to grow weary (which in this tropical climate no person will be surprized at) I begin to call their attention to any pleasing object, and ask their opinion upon it.—They then read again, after this I exercise them with their hands, saying, “Up, down, over, under, above, below, high, low, &c.” On a different day I question them on religious topics, teach them figures and different sorts of lines, as round, oval, square, &c., then the days of the week, month, &c.

9th June 1826.

(Signed) THOMAS JONES.

No. 3.

MY LORD,

Spanish Town, Jamaica, September 1, 1826.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, at the request of the Corporate Body of Kingston, certain Resolutions on the subject of an additional place of worship in that city, and also an estimate of the probable expence for erecting such building.

Having failed in repeated endeavours to raise a larger sum than that which is specified in the resolutions by private subscription, I was in hopes that the deficiency might have been supplied by a tax to be levied on the inhabitants generally, according to the provisions of the Consolidated Clergy Bill. I am induced, however, to conclude, from all that I can collect on the subject, and particularly from the Report of a Select Committee appointed by the Corporation to investigate the distressed state of the finances from late commercial embarrassments, and the great arrear in collecting the public taxes, that the facts, as detailed in the accompanying document, are sub-

stantially correct; of the expediency and, indeed, absolute necessity of this additional place of worship, there can be no doubt, and I cannot give your Lordship a more satisfactory proof of the good disposition for religious instruction, if there were the power, than the recent establishment of a large Sunday-school, by private contributions.

I am induced to hope that, under these circumstances, your Lordship will deem this case entitled to the favourable consideration of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury. It is my sincere conviction, that any seeming backwardness in carrying into effect recommendations of this nature, and having for their object the instruction and improvement of the lower classes of the people, arises, in the present state of this colony, from a want of means rather than of inclination.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHRISTOPHER, JAMAICA.

The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, K. G.

&c. &c. &c.

Resolutions entered into by the Court of Common Council, held in the City and Parish of Kingston, on Tuesday the 1st day of August 1826.

1st.—That the inhabitants of Kingston, deeply impressed with the necessity of increasing the number of places for public worship, according to the forms of the Church of England, have raised by subscription the sum of £4,200 for building a chapel, of which sum £1,200 have been expended in the purchase of a piece of ground and otherwise.

2d.—That by the estimate now submitted to this board, it appears that a chapel capable of holding one thousand persons can be built for £5,500, and that the ground can be enclosed, and the chapel fitted for Divine worship, for about £1,500 more, making an aggregate expence of £7,000.

3d.—That to complete such chapel, the sum of £4,000 currency, or £2,500 sterling, is required in addition to the subscription already made.

4th.—That the state of this community renders it utterly impossible to raise in it any further funds, either by direct taxation or by a loan; the existing taxes, heavy and intollerable as they are, being barely sufficient to meet the exigencies of the city.

5th.—That the Lord Bishop be, therefore, requested to apply to Earl Bathurst under the letter now laid before this board, for the sum of £2,500 sterling, that being a sum nearly equal to what has been paid, subscribed by the inhabitants of Kingston.

Vera Copiæ.

(Signed) B. O. WILLIAMS, C. C. C.

A Specification of Carpenters, Masons, and Painters' Work required in building a Chapel, 65 Feet by 45 Feet, out and out.

EXCAVATING and building the foundation three feet below the surface of the ground, and two feet above, three feet thick; the first story to be built of bricks thirteen feet high, two and a half feet thick; the second fifteen feet high, two feet thick, with brick cornices all round and parapet wall in front three feet high; the whole of the door and window frames to be built in with level jams, and built up with stock bricks with rub and gauge arches, plastering and white-washing, three coats. Building foundation for columns; filling up and paving the building with hard bricks; building foundation for three porticos to entrance, sixteen by twelve feet, with steps to the same, and paving with tiles.

Carpenter's Work.

Framing roof over all with beams, king-posts, principals, purloins and braces, plate and beams of hard wood; the remaining part of roof of pitch pine, close boarded with white pine, and shingled with best twenty-two inch cypress shingles, laying leaden gutter to front parapet.

Making three doors with fanlight doors of cedar, twelve feet by six feet out to out; making twenty-three sash-frames complete, nine feet high by four feet six inches, with circular tops; frames of pitch-pine and sashes of cedar; putting up thirteen turned columns of mahogany to support gallery; sills of gallery to be of hard wood; joisting and flooring of pitch-pine.

The whole of the pews to be of cedar, with turned ballustrades under hand-rails of gallery; the upper ceiling to be flat, and ceiled with cedar; joisting of pitch-pine; ceiling under gallery and porticos of cedar; erecting two stair-cases of pitch-pine; hand-rails and ballustrades of mahogany.

Erecting three porticos to entrances, with four turned hard-wood columns to each, to be flat and covered with lead, with fascia boards and cornice; joisting and ceiling the same; and furnishing a sufficient number of pitch-pine benches for the ground-floor.

The above building could be completed in nine months for the sum of £5,400, including painting the same with three coats of oil colour.

No. 4.

MY LORD,

Spanish Town, Jamaica, October 14, 1826.

I HAVE much satisfaction in announcing to your Lordship that three of the new chapels, built by voluntary contributions of money, labour, and materials, have been already consecrated. One called Harewood Chapel, in the parish of St. Thomas in the Vale, on the property of the Earl of Harewood, who has most liberally promoted the work, and two, St. David's and St. George's Chapels, in the districts of Carpenter's Mountains and Mile Galley, in the parish of Manchester; another called Providence Chapel, in the Carpenter's Mountains District, is nearly finished and ready for consecration. All these buildings are neat and substantial, well situated for the accommodation of the Slave population, and capable of containing from four hundred to five hundred persons. The proportions of Harewood Chapel are sixty feet by thirty: of the others, about fifty feet by twenty-six, thirteen feet high.

I enclose the Report of the Committee appointed by the Corporate Body of Kingston, with reference to the additional place of worship in that city, and to which I alluded in my last communication, and,

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHRISTOPHER, JAMAICA.

The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, K. G.

&c. &c. &c.

YOUR Committee appointed to take into consideration the contingencies and ways and means of the city and parish, for the current year, have considered their Report, and taking into consideration the death of Mr. Wood, and the consequent effect upon the recovery from his estate, the large claim due to the public of this city, (although every disposition is evinced by his executors to facilitate an early adjustment), are now reluctantly compelled to propose an increase of the taxation recommended in their former Report, and beg to amend the same by adding fifty per cent. on the church and poor, and expunging the stock or trade. The attention of your Committee has been seriously drawn to the distresses of the burthened inhabitants, so apparent both in the decrease of all taxable property in this city, as in the state of the arrearage rolls, upon which considerable sums are uncollected, and, notwithstanding the order of your board to enforce payment, are not likely to be available for the present purposes. The very unfavourable aspect of affairs in this parish interposes insurmountable objections to an increased tax of such magnitude as would be occasioned by any kind of provision for erecting a chapel. Your Committee have therefore abstained from further burthens, but, on the contrary, feel themselves imperatively called upon to recommend to your board a reduction in the pay of the town guard immediately, and a

reduction (commensurate with the duties to be performed) in the salaries of your officers; such reduction to take place at the commencement of the ensuing year; and that, for obvious reasons, the scale should be fixed and made public at the earliest convenient day; your Committee finally recommend the sale of the premises purchased for a beef market.

(Signed)

T. L. YATES.

JNO. FOWLES.

B. J. WILLIAMS.

No. 5.

MY LORD,

Spanish Town, November 9, 1826.

I HAVE the pleasure to announce to your Lordship that much progress has lately been made in the establishment of Sunday and Parochial Schools. A liberal private subscription has been entered into for engrafting a school of industry on Buckford's Free School at Spanish Town, (the children to be instructed in trades after school hours), and a master has been engaged from the National School Society in England, to superintend it. I have also appointed a Catechist under the direction of the Rector to catechise the Slave population three days in a week.

With the consent of the Coporate Body at Kingston, a large public building has been appropriated for a day school for all descriptions of persons; a fund for the support of Sunday schools in Kingston, has also been established by voluntary subscription, by which upwards of three hundred children, of all classes, are receiving the benefit of religious instruction.

The vestries of the parishes of St. Elizabeth and Clarendon, have likewise voted a sum of money for schools for persons of free condition, which I consider a measure of much importance, as so many persons of that class have hitherto not had the means of obtaining instruction.

I have the honour to enclose a memorial from the Justices and Vestry of St. Thomas in the East, relative to the erection of a chapel in Blue Mountain Valley, a place every way calculated for that purpose.

Also the first report of the Branch Association of the Incorporated Society for Conversion, &c. of Negroes, by which it appears that upwards of two thousand children are receiving religious instruction in that parish, and three Catechists have been appointed there out of the funds of the above society; I can add my testimony to the principal facts stated in the memorial, and I beg leave to draw your Lordship's attention to it, from the great exertion which that parish has made in promoting these important objects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHRISTOPHER, JAMAICA.

The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, K. G.

&c.

&c.

&c.

To the Right Honourable the Earl Bathurst, K. G. &c. &c. &c. His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department.

The most respectful Memorial of the Justices and Vestry of the Parish of St. Thomas in the East, in the Island of Jamaica,

Sheweth,

THAT the Parish of St. Thomas in the East, in the island of Jamaica, contains a Slave population of about twenty-five thousand souls.

That, for the religious instruction of so large a population, there are at present six places of religious worship, including those of every denomination of Christians, and capable of affording accommodation altogether to about three thousand persons.

That, in the erection of chapels, and other works connected with the dissemination of Christianity, through the medium of the Established Church,

your Memorialists have, within a short period, expended a sum amounting to £6,000, and that their desire to contribute to the utmost of their ability towards the improvement of their Slave population, remains unabated.

That, owing to the vast depreciation in every article of colonial property and produce, and the consequent and unparalleled distress which now pervades this portion of the Empire, your Memorialists, notwithstanding the increasing demands, from a rapidly improving population, are no longer able to support the heavy expence incidental to the erection of additional places of religious worship, and unless timely aid be afforded them by His Majesty's Government, they must despair of seeing accomplished, to any considerable extent, that great National object—Negro instruction and civilization.

That, animated with an anxious desire to promote the happiness of their Slaves, your Memorialists, amidst the abounding distress, are still willing, as far as their means will allow, to contribute a fair proportion of the expence attending the erection of such additional places for religious worship as may be deemed sufficient to supply the existing necessities of their parish, provided His Majesty's Government, in consideration of the heavy expences already incurred for this specific purpose by your Memorialists, coupled with their present commercial distress, and the urgent claims of their Negroes, will be graciously pleased to afford them that reasonable aid which your Memorialists have been informed has already been extended, in some instances, to the neighbouring diocese of Barbadoes.

That, with a view to affording the means of religious instruction to the Negroes in a district of their parish, known by the name of Blue Mountain Valley, a district yet wholly destitute of a place of worship of any kind, and containing a Slave population of upwards of five thousand souls, exclusive of a very great number of the same description of persons resident on the borders of the adjacent parishes, and by whom the erection of such a building would have been hailed with the liveliest satisfaction, your Memorialists recently advertised for estimates for the completion of a plain substantial chapel capable of containing only about five hundred persons, but, from the very heavy demands, say £2,090 Jamaica currency, your Memorialists, from causes already explained, were, and still are, unable to carry the same into effect, although a sufficient quantity of land, through the benevolence of a private individual, has been legally conveyed to your Memorialists for this express design.

That your Memorialists, from the foregoing considerations, most humbly and respectfully solicit the aid of His Majesty's Government to enable them to meet the Spiritual wants of this numerous portion of their fellow parishioners, and further, they would earnestly entreat an explicit answer, first, as to the *conditions* on which they may hope for aid from His Majesty's Government; and secondly, as to what extent means will be afforded to those who may be anxious and ready to comply with such conditions.

That your Memorialists, confidently relying on the benevolence of His Majesty's Government, pledge themselves, if permitted, most faithfully to expend their bounty for the public good.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray. By order of Vestry,

FRED. HILL, Clerk of Vestry,

St. Thomas in the East, Jamaica,
October 30, 1826.

St. Thomas in the East.

No. 6.

Extract from a Letter from Earl Bathurst, addressed to the Bishop of Jamaica, dated the 22d February 1827.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of the 6th of December last, and I approve of your having required the Clergymen who were holding island curacies in conjunction with their stipendiary appointments, to resign one or the other of those clerical offices, whereby the intention of Parliament will be fulfilled, of adding the number provided for by this country, to the number provided for by the colony.

DIOCESE OF BARBADOES AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

No. 1.

MY LORD,

Ottery St. Mary, 8th November 1825.

IN further reply to your Lordship's letter of the 28th February last, in which you are pleased to call my attention to that part of the report upon the state of Anguilla, which relates to its deficiency of religious instruction, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I visited that island, and had full opportunity of examining for myself, and conversing with the leading inhabitants on the subject.

There were formerly two places of public worship in the island, a church and a chapel, at some distance, overlooking the salt ponds, where the inhabitants periodically assemble for the purpose of gathering salt. The sites, both of the church and chapel, can easily be traced, and the tombs are still to be seen in their vicinity. At present there is neither church nor clergyman on the island, but both are greatly desired. Marriages and baptisms are generally performed by some clergyman from St. Kitts, who may happen to visit the island.

Of the feeling of the inhabitants, your Lordship will be enabled to judge from their addresses to me, of which I had the honour to send a copy to your Lordship; and I beg to extract the following passage from a letter which I received from Mr. J. Hay, one of the two representatives of the island.

"Your Lordship," he writes, "having come upon the Natives unawares, will have had full opportunity of viewing the nakedness of the land, and the primitive state of civilization among the inhabitants of this hitherto forlorn portion of the British Empire. Your Lordship I am aware will have seen enough to satisfy yourself that much, very much, remains to be done for these people, as well relating to their spiritual, as to their temporal welfare; and I augur, as one of the happiest events for their future prosperity, the benevolent objects of your Lordship's mission to this remote part of your diocese."

The measures which I proposed, included the re-erection of the church and chapel on the original sites, which were well selected; the erection of a parsonage-house, near to the church, for the residence of the clergyman; the provision of a clergyman, with two catechists under him, to be located, one in the vicinity of the church, and the other near the salt ponds, with schools similarly located under their care. Service would be performed by the clergyman at the chapel regularly once on the Sunday during the salt season, and at other times at the clergyman's discretion.

I requested to have a written statement what portion of the expence the island could bear; what prospect of contribution there was of labour and materials, and what sum of money would be required for the erection of the several buildings. A copy of their answer I have the honour of enclosing for your Lordship's information, and I have only, in conclusion, to recommend most earnestly the spiritual wants of the island of Anguilla to your Lordship's most favourable consideration, and to solicit from His Majesty's Government some pecuniary aid towards carrying the proposed measures into effect.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. H., BARBADOES.

The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, K. G.

&c.

&c.

&c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,

Anguilla, June 9, 1825.

HAVING been this day convened for the purpose of ascertaining how far the present means and resources of the inhabitants of this island would enable them to contribute towards the erection of the two churches and the parsonage, as recommended by your Lordship on the occasion of your Lordship's late visit to this part of your diocese, we beg leave to say to your Lordship, that we cannot make an exact estimate at present of the amount that could be raised here for that purpose; but we are of opinion that £1,000 sterling might be contributed without much difficulty or inconvenience, particularly as a great part of that contribution would consist of lime, stone, and such other materials as might be procured in this island merely by the personal labour and industry of the inhabitants thereof. Such, in fact, is the zeal of our population generally, even of many of those who from necessity have attached themselves to the Methodist Society, established here to co-operate with your Lordship in promoting a respectable and adequate church establishment in this island; that, but for our restricted means, we candidly believe there would be no limit to the liberality of the public to the accomplishment of an object so indispensably necessary. There being very little specie in this island, any large sum in cash could not be raised here in the way of contribution; but our personal exertions in every other way in which it might be found necessary to contribute to the object in view we can confidently assure your Lordship will never fail or be wanting. To conclude, we think that, with the aid of about £1,500 sterling from the Mother Country, we should be able to complete the whole of the said buildings. We shall, however, set on foot a subscription immediately, and, from the result of it, we shall soon be able to ascertain more accurately the extent of our means, which we will take the earliest opportunity of communicating to your Lordship.

We remain, &c.

(Signed) WM. RICHARDSON,
Lieutenant Governor.

No. 2.

Extract from a Letter from the Bishop of Barbadoes to Earl Bathurst, dated 11th May 1826.

AN Act of the Legislature has passed to raise the stipends of the parochial clergy from £300 Cr. to £500 Cr. payable, not as before, from the local Treasury and *the respective Vestries*, but from the Treasury alone.

Another Act has passed regulating the parochial fees; and three other Acts relative to the Slave population have passed, or are in progress, of which I hear favourably.

The building for the girls' school is nearly finished, and reflects highly to the credit of the island and the architect.

The foundations of the new church are laid very solidly, and a great mass of building materials collected, and the Committee wait only the encouragement and assistance of His Majesty's Government to resume, with their former vigour, the very important and necessary undertaking in which they are engaged.

No. 3.

MY LORD,

Barbadoes, July 3, 1826.

I HAVE signed, and have now the honour of transmitting to your Lordship, the memorial of the Church Building Committee in the Island of Barbadoes, praying for pecuniary assistance from His Majesty's Government towards the erection of a new church in Bridge Town, and I have most earnestly to entreat your Lordship to be pleased to make such a representation of their case to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury as may obtain for the petitioners sufficient aid to complete so important a building.

The sums that have been voted within the last fifteen months for ecclesiastical purposes by this island have been very large. Towards the repair and enlargement of the parish churches and parsonage-houses and schools £12,000 currency; towards the increase of the stipends of the parochial clergy £2,200 Cy. a year, thus raising their livings from £300 Cy. to £500 Cy. a year, independent of the parsonage houses, which are kept in repair at the expence of the respective parishes. By private subscriptions, added to the local funds of the institution "of the Central Schools in Bridge Town," a building has been erected, and will be opened on the 1st of August next, for the reception, and board, clothing and education of poor white girls, at an expence of £2,000 Cy. and towards this institution the Legislature had for some years voted the sum of £800 Cy. and propose, I am informed, to raise this to £1,200 annually; thus providing for the rising generation of lower whites an education the benefits of which will not be confined to themselves. And now, in the present instance, when the necessity of an additional place of worship in the populous town of Bridge Town was placed before the inhabitants, and a certain degree of pecuniary aid held out from His Majesty's Government, the island, as your Lordship will perceive, from the accompanying memorial, have not been backward, but, in their public and private capacities, have contributed largely to so desirable an undertaking.

The estimated expence may appear great to your Lordship, but building of every kind is dear in this country; and, from the situation of the proposed church, in a town, and amid houses thickly built of wood and with shingled roofs, it was necessary that it should be large and substantial, though as plain as possible. I am led to hope that we shall find the expence, when the building is finished, to be within the estimate. Your Lordship may be assured that the utmost attention will be paid to economy, and every possible superintendence, as the work proceeds, given by the Members of the Committee.

I have had the honour of receiving your Lordship's letter of the 28th of April 1826, notifying the opinion of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, that one half should be the maximum of contribution towards the erection of churches, schools, &c. in the West Indies; and requiring, before they determine upon the amount to be contributed in each case, that they should be furnished with all the particulars of such case, and especially with a statement of the means intended to be appropriated from other sources.

This communication of your Lordship's has been received in this island with very great satisfaction, and will, I have reason to think, lead to exertions fully answerable to your Lordship's expectations. In conformity with your Lordship's directions, contained in the conclusion of your communication, I have requested a memorial to be drawn up with the information required by the Lords of the Treasury, and have now to repeat my earnest entreaty that your Lordship will be pleased to transmit the memorial to their Lordships with such a representation from yourself, as such exertions on the part of the inhabitants of this island, in their public and private capacities, and so important a building may seem to your Lordship to deserve.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. H., BARBADOES.

The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, K. G.

&c.

&c.

&c.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

The humble Memorial of the Church Building Committee in the Island of Barbadoes,

Sheweth,

THAT the population of Bridge-Town, in the said Island of Barbadoes, having considerably increased for some years past, the same being now estimated at not fewer than twenty thousand inhabitants, it was thought advisable to erect another place of public worship, according to the Established Church.

That the Lord Bishop of the diocese, therefore, very shortly after his arrival in this island, perceiving the necessity of there being a second place

of public worship, called a meeting of the inhabitants to take the subject into consideration, and a meeting accordingly took place on the fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, when certain resolutions were entered into, a copy of which your memorialists beg leave to annex to this their memorial.

That, from the situation of the present church of Saint Michael (the same being at one extremity of Bridge-Town), and other causes, the new church was required to be built in a very substantial manner, capable of holding about fifteen hundred persons, with seats expressly appropriated for the coloured people (the whole of the galleries being set apart for that class of persons), and the building, in which great progress is made, is ninety feet long and sixty feet broad.

That the estimated cost and expence of the said new church amounts to about the sum of £15,648 1s. and 5d., towards which voluntary contributions have been raised amounting to the sum of £2,975 7s. 7d., and the Legislature of the island have granted £5,000 currency, and have also appointed your memorialists a committee to direct the erection of the said new church.

That, unless your memorialists are greatly assisted in promoting the object they have in view, they will be unable to finish the same.

Therefore your memorialists most respectfully beg leave to address your Lordships on the occasion, and to solicit that your Lordships will be pleased to grant them such assistance out of His Majesty's Treasury as to your Lordships shall seem meet and proper.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

(Signed)

W. H., BARBADOES.
JOHN A. BECKLES.
WILLIAM GILL.
EDW. ELLIOT.
H. S. CUMMINS.
G. JEMMETT.
M. COULTHURST.
W. GARNETT.
W. EVERSLEY.

BARBADOES.

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of this Island, at the Temple, in Bridge Town, on Wednesday the 4th day of May 1825, pursuant to a public advertisement.

PRESENT :

The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop in the Chair, supported by his Excellency Sir Henry Warde, K. C. B. Governor, &c. &c. &c.

THE Lord Bishop having opened the object of the meeting, and explained the necessity and expediency of erecting one or more places of public worship in the parish of St. Michael, and his Excellency the Governor having addressed the meeting fully on the subject, the following resolutions were severally proposed, carried and adopted, viz. :—

1.—Resolved, it is the opinion of this meeting that it is expedient that a second place of public worship be erected in Bridge Town, in the parish of St. Michael.

2.—Resolved, that his Excellency the Governor, and the Governor or Commander-in-Chief of this island for the time being, the Lord Bishop of the diocese for the time being, the President of His Majesty's Council, or the Senior Member of Council in the island for the time being, the Speaker of the House of Assembly for the time being, the two Representatives of the parish of St. Michael for the time being, and the Rector of the said parish of St. Michael for the time being, be Trustees; in whom, with the sanction of the Legislature, the site of the proposed building, and the building be vested.

3.—Resolved, that a fund be formed, to be called "The Church Building Fund," out of all monies obtained either by grant or subscriptions; and that contributions be also thankfully received in materials, workmanship, or labour.

4.—Resolved, that the following gentlemen, viz: the Lord Bishop, the Honourable John Alleyne Beckles, the Honourable Reme Hamden, the Honourable John Brathwaite, the Honourable Nathan Lucas, the Honourable and Reverend John Hamlet Gittens, the Honourable William Gill, the Honourable Robert Haynes, the Reverend William Garnett, Samuel Maxwell Hinds, Henry Stephen Cummins, Gabriel Jemmett, John Barrow, Matthew Coulthurst, James Dottin Maycock, William Oxley, William Eversley, Forster Clarke, and Alexander King, Esquires, or any five of them, be a Committee from time to time to conduct, manage and carry into effect the objects of this meeting, with power to the said Committee to appoint a Chairman.

5.—Resolved, that Messrs. Higginson, Deane and Stott be the Treasurers, and William Eversley, Esquire, the Secretary.

6.—Resolved, that the annual stipend of the minister, salaries of officers, repairs and other expences of the church, be raised and paid out of the rents of the pews and seats, and no part raised or paid by or out of any parochial tax or assessment.

7.—Resolved, that as soon as the sum of £5,000 sterling be obtained, the Committee be empowered forthwith to take measures for the erection of a plain, but large and substantial building in the old church yard.

8.—Resolved, that the Committee be empowered to call a general meeting of the subscribers from time to time, to report progress and take any further measures.

John Barrow, Esquire, then moved, and his motion being seconded by the Honourable Judge Beckles, it was,

9.—Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this meeting be given to the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of the diocese for his able conduct in the chair, and also to his Excellency the Governor for his condescension in attending on the occasion.

This day's proceedings were then directed to be published in all the Newspapers of the island, and the meeting then adjourned, *sine die*.

No. 4.

MY LORD,

Barbadoes, October 4, 1826.

I BEG most earnestly to recommend to your Lordship's most favourable consideration the enclosed petitions, for pecuniary aid towards the erection of places for public worship, from the islands of Antigua, St. Christopher, and Anguilla.

With respect to the last, I enclose two former letters, which I have had the honour of laying before your Lordship, and I most anxiously hope to be honoured with your Lordship's commands to return a favourable answer to the petitioners; without the aid of His Majesty's Government, the petitioners state their entire inability to carry into effect the objects which they contemplate; and I am assured that your Lordship will pardon my earnestness in saying, that it is of the utmost importance that this aid, to whatever extent it may please His Majesty's Government, should be granted as speedily as possible.

I am receiving continually the Catachetical returns, and I hope soon to have the honour of laying a full report before your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H., BARBADOES.

The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, K. G.

&c.

&c.

&c.

ANTIGUA.

The humble Petition of the Vestry of St. Phillip's Parish of the said Island, soliciting aid from His Majesty's Government towards the erection of a new Parish Church, addressed to the Honourable and Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands,

May it please your Lordship,

WHEREAS the present parish church of St. Philip's, Antigua, is altogether Want of a new Church.

BARBADOES AND THE

unfit, both in itself and its situation, for the purposes of Divine worship, being a small mean structure of wood, going fast to decay, and unworthy of being put in repair, situated also in so warm a site, at the foot of a very steep and dangerous hill, at one extremity of the parish, that the very situation is considered by the parishioners as an obstacle to their due attendance to Divine service.

Your petitioners have long been anxious to provide a more suitable church in a more convenient and eligible situation, but hitherto have been prevented through the want of means to erect a building at all answerable to their wishes, or to the sacred purposes for which it would be designed. Even now their hopes of accomplishing this most desirable and necessary object depend in a great measure upon the prospect of assistance held out to them by your Lordship from the liberality of His Majesty's Government;—for your petitioners beg leave to observe, that the general pressure upon their finances still continues undiminished, whilst recent calls upon the resources of the parish, for repairing and enlarging the parsonage house at a considerable expence, have rendered them still less able to contribute as they could wish to the erection of a new church. Under these circumstances, and being anxious to erect a church which would be of more than double the capacity of the present one, with the view of making better provision for the accommodation of the lower classes, whether free or Slaves, your petitioners hope they may venture to solicit aid to such an extent as shall enable them at length to accomplish an object so necessary and so much desired.

The expence of the proposed church, independently of the ground for its site, is calculated at £2,850 sterling, at the very least. Towards this expence they regret deeply that all they have already been able to furnish from local resources is £850, and that all they can undertake to add to this sum is £1,000.

The remaining £1,000 your petitioners hope they may be allowed through your Lordship's favourable recommendation of so urgent a case to solicit from the liberality of His Majesty's Government. In their anxiety to have a new church, and relying upon the prospect of assistance held out to them, the vestry of St. Philip's had already caused the work to be begun; the foundations have been in fact laid in a more central and very eligible situation contiguous to the parsonage house, and materials for the building provided; but further operations suspended for want of funds to complete them. Your petitioners will, therefore, look anxiously for a communication from your Lordship concerning the success of their petition, fully confiding in your concern for the spiritual welfare of their parish, and your readiness to promote an object calculated, under the Divine blessing, to be productive of the most beneficial results.

We have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS PARRY, Rector.

RICH^d. GARLAND, }
JOHN FARR, } Church Wardens.

To the Honourable and Right Reverend Father in God, William, Lord Bishop of Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands.

The Memorial and Representation of the Vestry of the Parish of St. Paul, Capisterre, in the Island of St. Christopher,

Respectfully sheweth,

THAT your memorialists, desirous to attend to the suggestions of your Lordship, for the improvement of their parish church, have recently imported a set of marble tablets, a font, and books of registry, the cost thereof amounting to the sum of £230 sterling.

That since your Lordship's visit to this part of your diocese, the sum of £200 sterling has been expended by shingling, painting and white-washing the church.

That to liquidate the sums of money above enumerated, together with the ordinary annual expences of the parish, a very onerous cash tax has been imposed on the parishioners (far exceeding the average of many preceding years) in addition to the sugar tax, for paying the Rector's annual stipend.

That for the defrayment of parochial expences, it is the practice sanctioned by law, to levy a poll-tax on the Slaves of the parishioners.

That the number of Slaves in this parish bears but a small proportion to those in the other parishes in this island respectively, and as the burthen of parochial expences falls exclusively on the Owners of Slaves, it is most oppressive in the parish of St. Paul, from the paucity of Slave Owners.

Your memorialists are induced to make this representation to your Lordship in consequence of their Rector (the Rev. J. H. Walmyn) having communicated to them your Lordship's desire that the parsonage-house in this parish should forthwith be repaired.

Your memorialists, therefore, further represent to your Lordship, that the parsonage-house is in such a ruinous state, that to render it a suitable residence for the Rector, by repairing it, is altogether impracticable, and that it is absolutely necessary to erect a new building on the old site.

That your memorialists have had an estimate prepared by a competent architect, shewing the quantity of lumber and other materials requisite for such an undertaking, together with the cost of workmanship, amounting in the whole to the sum of £1,000 sterling.

Your memorialists respectfully assure your Lordship, that the parishioners have severely felt the pressure of the tax recently imposed on them, and that their embarrassed circumstances render them totally incapable to sustain an additional parish rate to meet any portion of the sum of money required for carrying your Lordship's directions into effect.

Your memorialists, therefore, venture to appeal to the benevolent aid of your Lordship, and respectfully pray your Lordship to grant them the sum of £1,000 sterling, out of the fund placed at your Lordship's disposal by His Majesty's Government, to enable them to erect a parsonage-house in the parish of St. Paul, and your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray,

(Signed) P. F. GRANT,
CHAS. C. CAINES,
WM. D. SHARRY,
R^d. A. MERCER,
STEWART S. DAVIS,
WM. AN^r. MAILLARD, } Vestry Men.

WM. PENNYFEATHER, Church-Warden.

St. Paul's, Capisterre, August 28, 1826.

*To the Right Honourable Earl Bathurst, K. G., one of His Majesty's
Principal Secretaries of State, &c. &c. &c.*

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants of the Island of
Anguilla,

Sheweth,

THAT your petitioners are grateful to your Lordship for the measures originating in the department of your Lordship, which tend so largely to advance the interests of this colony.

That your petitioners contemplate, with the most lively emotions of hope and joy, the advantages which, after a long and sad interruption, are held out to them of pastoral care under episcopal superintendence by the residence of a Minister of the Established Church among them.

That your petitioners deplore that the island does not possess a suitable place for the purposes of public worship, the two churches having been most

wantonly destroyed by an expedition from the island of Guadaloupe, organized by the atrocious Victor Hugues in the year 1796.

That your petitioners are anxious, by every contribution within their means, to rebuild one or both of these churches for the benefit of their own immortal souls, and, as they humbly trust, to the glory of God; but that these means, under the privations to which your petitioners have been exposed, and under the actual exhaustion of the colony, are utterly inadequate to such pious purpose.

That your petitioners have not silver or gold, but that they will gladly contribute all that they can command for this object, and that they will undertake to provide lime, stones, and labour to the amount of £1,000 sterling. That it is expedient, in the first instance, to rebuild one of the churches on the site selected by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of the diocese, and that the estimated expence thereof, of a school-room at the Road-Bay, and of a suitable parsonage-house, amounts to the sum of £2,000 sterling.

That your petitioners appeal to the known benevolence of your Lordship to make such representation of their poverty, and of their hearty desire once more to be placed within the reach of religious influence, as may induce His Majesty's Government to extend its paternal spirit to them by giving the sum of £1,000 sterling in aid of the purpose hereinbefore mentioned.

And your petitioners beg leave, also, most respectfully to represent that the proposed buildings can only be erected at the estimate which is stated, by a permission for vessels of The United States of America to enter the port of Anguilla with the lumber that will be required; for, if it is to be obtained through the medium of a foreign island, the expence of it will be increased thirty or forty per cent. Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that the port of Road Bay, in this island, may be one of the free ports under the Act Geo. 4, c. — a measure which is not only called for by the present emergency, but which the destitute condition of the island, and its desire to meet the wishes of His Majesty's Government, in regard to its Slave population, most imperiously demand—a desire which, in regard to the article of food more especially, must be frustrated, unless the supplication of your petitioners be favourably received.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

On the behalf of the assembled white and free coloured inhabitants of the island of Anguilla, this 16th day of August 1826,

(Signed) BENJAMIN GUMBS.

SIR,

Anguilla, 16th August 1826.

I HAD the honour of receiving your letter of the 31st ultimo, from which I am happy to learn that the inhabitants of this island are about to receive religious instruction under the superintendence of the Established Church, and that the appointment of a clergyman for that important purpose has already been made by his Lordship the Bishop of this diocese.

In conformity with your suggestion I have the pleasure of enclosing a petition from the inhabitants, praying the assistance of His Majesty's Government in enabling them to erect a church, together with a parsonage-house and a school-room.

I have only to add, that, with regard to a catechist and clerk, there is no doubt that a person qualified to act in that capacity could be procured in this island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) BENJ. GUMBS, President.

The Honourable the Rev. Daniel G. Davis.

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No. 5.

Extract from a Letter from the Bishop of Barbadoes to Earl Bathurst, dated Barbadoes, 31st October 1826.

I LEFT this island on Friday evening the 3d of August last, and reached St. Vincent's early on the following morning; and, after a satisfactory adjustment with the Governor of the several matters that had led to my visit, and making other necessary arrangements on the Saturday, and taking part in the duties of the Sunday, I proceeded early on Monday morning to visit the whole of the western coast of the island, landing successively at Queen's Bay or Buccament, Layon, Barronaliè, and Chateau Belair, and taking steps for the establishing of schools and temporary places for Divine worship at the three latter, and directing service to be performed on alternate Sundays at the former, in a chapel already erected by Mr. Wilson, one of the Members for Yorkshire, and placed by his Attorney, Mr. Dalzel, at my service. I have great pleasure in informing your Lordship, from the last accounts received from St. Vincent's, that, through the indefatigable and judicious exertions of the Rev. Robert Holberton, aided by two catechists from this island, and a school-master at Layon and Chateau Belair, the whole of the western side of the island, including the parishes of St. Patrick and St. David, has been brought under regular religious instruction; and I am happy in being able to add further, that Mr. Holberton has been enabled to extend his care to the Charibs at the foot of the Souffriere; nine of their children had been baptized; the attendance of their children at school promised, and two of the Charib Chiefs had attended Divine service on the Sunday at Chateau Belair.

On Monday evening I returned to Kingston; and after being present on the Tuesday at the formation of a District Committee, of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and a Branch Association of the Society for the Religious Instruction of the Slave Population, in which I have to express my acknowledgements to the Governor for the effectual assistance which he was pleased to render by his personal influence, and liberal pecuniary subscription, I left St. Vincent's that evening for Barbadoes, but having to beat up against the wind, I did not reach this island till the Sunday evening following, though the distance between the two islands is scarcely more than eighty miles.

I have to apologize to your Lordship for this long detail, but I trust it will not prove uninteresting; and from the Legislative grant of £5,000 sterling, which has recently been voted in St. Vincent's, for the erection of churches and parsonage houses in that and the neighbouring island of Beguia, and the arrangements which I have since made for the supply of an additional clergyman and catechists, I have every reason to hope that I shall have the honour of making a very full and satisfactory report to your Lordship.

No. 6.

SIR,

Barbadoes, December 21, 1826.

IT is with very great pleasure that I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th of October last, together with a copy of a letter of the same date from the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, communicating the resolution of their Lordships to propose to Parliament a grant of £3,466 13s. 4d. sterling towards the erection of the new church in Bridge Town, and to place this sum, when granted, at the disposal of the Committee appointed by the Colonial Legislature to superintend the building of the church.

I shall have the honour of laying this communication officially before the Committee to-morrow, at their first meeting since my return from Demerara, and the receipt of your letter; and shall I doubt not be requested to express in strong terms, the very great satisfaction which they feel at this prompt and liberal reply of His Majesty's Government to their memorial of the 3d of July last.

I have, &c.

R. W. Horton, Esq.
 &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. H., BARBADOES.

No. 7.

Extract of a Letter from the Bishop of Barbadoes to Earl Bathurst, dated St. Vincent, 27th January 1827.

I HAVE great pleasure in informing your Lordship that I left Barbadoes a fortnight since, and have visited Tobago, Trinidad, Grenada, with its Leeward Coast, the Isle Blonde, Cariatou and Beguia, and am just arrived at St. Vincent's, and whilst I have been every where received with much personal kindness and respect, I have been much satisfied with the progress made in *the erection of churches and parsonage houses*,* and more especially in the formation of schools in the chief towns of the several islands.

The Ecclesiastical state of the several islands I shall have the honour of presenting to your Lordship in detail on my return to Barbadoes. I purpose to stay in this island till Monday, and visit the Leeward Coast, under the Reverend Mr. Holberton to-morrow (Sunday), and proceed to St. Lucia, and from thence to Barbadoes.

Your Lordship will have the goodness to excuse these few lines, but it is the only *regular* opportunity by which I can write, till the arrival of the next island packet.

Your Lordship will be particularly glad to hear, that the feelings in Tobago towards myself and the measures which I proposed, were every thing which I could have wished, and that the system of Catechetical instruction is gaining ground in every island.

I have left a clergyman in Tobago, to take charge of that island.

No. 8.

MY LORD,

Downing-Street, March 7, 1827.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship, with reference to your despatch of the 4th October last, copies of a correspondence which has taken place between this Department and the Treasury on the subject of the petitions which your Lordship transmitted in behalf of the islands of Antigua, St. Christopher, and Anguilla, for aid in the erection of church buildings.

Your Lordship will perceive that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have consented to apply to Parliament for grants of £1,000 each, for the church buildings in Antigua and Anguilla, provided that plans of the buildings be transmitted to them; and that in the case of Antigua, your Lordship shall be enabled to certify, that the whole of the additional money necessary to complete the proposed building (which was stated at £1,850 sterling), has been raised in the colony. With respect to the case of Anguilla, I have to request that your Lordship will require a strict compliance with the engagement on the part of the inhabitants, upon the faith of which the grant was recommended, viz.: that the manual labour and such materials as the island affords be supplied by the inhabitants.

Your Lordship will observe, that it has been impossible at present to recommend a grant in favour of St. Christopher, as there is not yet any money raised by the inhabitants towards the erection of the proposed church buildings.

I have, &c.

The Lord Bishop of Barbadoes.

(Signed) BATHURST.

* I allude to the new church in Grenada, the parsonage house in the Guare in the same island; the house for the clergyman purchased in Beguia, and the arrangements in contemplation for a church and school-house; and the expences incurred on the Leeward Coast of this island by the Local Legislature. I enter into this detail, lest the expression should mislead your Lordship.

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SIR,

Downing-Street, December 4, 1826.

WITH reference to your letter of the date mentioned in the margin, in which you notified the conditions and the scale on which the Lords of the Treasury considered that aid should be granted from the funds of this country, towards the erection of church buildings, I am directed by Lord Bathurst to enclose, for their Lordship's favourable consideration, a despatch which has been received from the Bishop of Barbadoes, containing three petitions; one from Antigua, another from St. Christopher's, and a third from Anguilla. In the first of these the petitioners state the estimated expence of the church proposed to be built, to be £2,850 sterling. "They regret deeply that all they have already been able to furnish from local resources is £850, and all that they can undertake to add to this sum is £1,000." They, therefore, solicit the remaining £1,000 sterling, as a contribution from this country. In this case Lord Bathurst is desirous to recommend that the aid applied for should be granted whenever the petitioners shall have actually raised the additional sum of £1,000, and that the intention so to make the grant should be notified to them immediately, as it may facilitate the collection of what remains to be subscribed. With respect to the petition from St. Christopher's, although the petitioners specify sundry Ecclesiastical expences which have recently been provided for from local funds, yet as no money has been specially appropriated to the erection of the particular building for which they solicit £1,000 from His Majesty's Government, Lord Bathurst cannot undertake to recommend that any grant should be made at present.

28th April 1826.

With respect to the case of Anguilla, Lord Bathurst has already had occasion, in my letter of 11th November 1825, to bring to the notice of the Lords of the Treasury the destitute condition to which that island was reduced by a descent of the enemy during the war. Both the churches were destroyed, as well as the other public buildings, and a great part of the town. As the more respectable inhabitants were ruined, the public records burnt, the statutes themselves destroyed, and there were no means left of administering justice, the community continued without any political existence until lately, when the Assembly of St. Christopher's agreed to admit a representative from Anguilla, and to make laws for that island, on the express condition of exemption from any expences on its account. This measure was resorted to because it was known that heinous offences had been recently committed in the island with impunity, and the necessity was felt of establishing a Court of Judicature; towards the expences of this Court their Lordships were pleased to contribute £200 a year, on Lord Bathurst's representation, that the island was without money—credit, the circulating medium being stated at less than £500 amongst more than three thousand inhabitants. His Lordship, therefore, trusts that, on the same grounds, their Lordships will allow the case of Anguilla to form an exception from the rule of granting money for church buildings only in proportion as local funds are provided. The island is now without any place of worship, for the inhabitants, since the destruction of their property by the French forces, have never had the means to rebuild the two churches which were then destroyed. Their Lordships will perceive, however, that such a community is peculiarly in need both of religious instruction and of the controul and observation of some respectable resident; and Lord Bathurst, under all these circumstances, strongly recommends to their Lordships the grant of £1,000 sterling as solicited, and that it be placed at the disposal of the Bishop for the erection of a church, a parsonage house, and a school, with special directions strictly to exact the performance of the engagement on the part of the inhabitants to supply gratis their manual labour and such materials as the island affords.

I have, &c.

W. Hill, Esq.
 &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) R. W. HORTON.

SIR,

Treasury-Chambers, March 3, 1827.

HAVING laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury your letter of the 4th December 1826, transmitting the copy of a despatch

BARBADOES AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

from the Bishop of Barbadoes, containing three petitions, one from Antigua, another from St. Christopher's, and a third from Anguilla, respectively soliciting aid towards the expence of erecting church buildings in those islands; I am commanded to acquaint you, for the information of Earl Bathurst, that my Lords will be disposed to propose to Parliament that the sum of £1,000 should be granted towards the building a church at Antigua, when the Bishop of the diocese shall have certified that the whole of the remainder of the money necessary for the completion of the building has been raised, and also upon his transmitting a plan of the building.

With respect to the application from St. Christopher's, my Lords can give no directions, nor can they hold out any promises of aid hereafter, the inhabitants not having, by making a distinct promise for defraying a part of the proposed expence, put themselves in a condition to apply for any grant from this country, in conformity to their Lordship's letter of the 28th of April last.

With respect to the application for a grant towards building a church in the island of Anguilla, my Lords, taking into consideration the very destitute situation and poverty of this island, will submit to Parliament that a grant of £1,000 should be made for the erection of this building in that island; but they desire that the Bishop of the diocese may be instructed to transmit a plan of the proposed buildings previously to the commencement of the work, and that he may be informed that their Lordships will not advance more than £500 before the 5th of January 1828, and £500 between that time and the 5th of January 1829.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. C. HERRIES,

R. Wilmot Horton, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 9.

MY LORD,

Barbadoes, 14th April 1827.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letters of the annexed dates,* and have forwarded by this mail-boat the necessary extracts from them to the several islands concerned.

I beg to express my best thanks to your Lordship and to His Majesty's Government, for the proposed grants to Antigua and Anguilla, and would still be permitted to express a hope that St. Christopher's will yet place itself in a condition to receive the benefit of similar assistance.

I shall not fail to take every care in my power that the requisitions contained in your Lordship's letters be most strictly complied with.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H., BARBADOES.

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

APPENDIX.

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

MY LORD,

St. Christopher, May 5, 1827.

I HAVE deferred reporting to your Lordship, in conformity with your Lordship's desire in your letter dated the 21st of last May, in the hope that I should have had the satisfaction of announcing to your Lordship, that some progress had been made in carrying into effect the intentions of His Majesty's Government, with regard to the Slave population of the islands under my administration, and it is with considerable regret I have to acquaint your Lordship, that I have been lamentably disappointed in this reasonable expectation.

In my Letter, dated the 7th of October last, I have already had the honour of apprizing your Lordship, that Mr. Attorney-General Woodley had prepared four Amelioration Bills from the heads transmitted by your Lordship, and of their having been introduced into the House of Assembly at St. Christopher by Mr. Smith, one of The King's Counsel; the first for a Guardian or Protector of Slaves, on the 15th of September, and the three others on the following 6th of October, when they were read the first time, and ordered to be read the second time at the next meeting, which, by the Minutes of the House, did not take place.

I have been informed, that the House of Assembly would not adopt the Bill for the protection of Slaves, but proposed to appoint "a Committee of Protection," with a Secretary instead of a Protector or Guardian of Slaves; and directions were given to Mr. Attorney-General Woodley to prepare a Bill, which was done, read twice, and referred to a Committee; but on the 4th instant, when a proposal for its third reading was made, a motion was put and carried, that it be read the third time that day six months. With respect to the other Bills, I am not aware that any progress has been made in them.

The delay this important question has met with, and the result of the decision of the House of Assembly upon the first Bill your Lordship directed to be submitted to the House, will enable your Lordship to judge of the adverse disposition of the House of Assembly of this island to carry into effect the various provisions which His Majesty has directed to be brought before that branch of the Legislature.

NEVIS.

In my letter, the 7th of October last, your Lordship was informed that eight amelioration Bills, prepared by Mr. Solicitor-General Forbes from drafts transmitted by your Lordship, were introduced into the House of Assembly at Nevis, by Mr. Peterson, on the 23d of last September, and I have since learnt that the first seven were sent up to the Board of Council on the 15th of last February, with the alterations and amendments made in them by the House of Assembly, after having been read twice, according to the usage observed between the two Branches of the Legislature.

The first Bill has been altered to "An Act for establishing and vesting in the Magistracy of the island of Nevis the Protection and Guardianship of Slaves, by which the Justices of the Peace are constituted jointly and severally public Protectors and Guardians of Slaves." A special Protector and Guardian of Slaves, as suggested by His Majesty's Government, was almost unanimously rejected.

On the 22d of the same month, the Board of Council came to a determination that the seven Amelioration Bills, which had been sent up at the previous meeting from the House of Assembly, should lie on the table for six months, a proceeding that speaks for itself, and will be conclusive to your Lordship of the sentiments of that Board on this subject.

With respect to the Virgin Islands, I have not yet received any intimation of the progress made in forwarding the views of His Majesty's Government, regarding the above Bills, other than that the subject is before the House of Assembly, but I trust it will be in my power to report upon it to your Lordship by the next mail.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CH. W. MAXWELL.

The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, K.G.

&c.

&c.

&c.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 1.

*Government-House, St. Vincent's,
21st February 1827.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 7th December last, requiring me to transmit full particulars of the manner in which the eight bills, received from the Colonial Department, relating to the amelioration of the condition of the Slaves in this colony, were brought forward in this House of Assembly, for the consideration of the Legislature.

In answer thereto I beg to observe, that, on the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, dated 21st May, accompanying those bills, I did consult with the Crown Officers, and after much anxious deliberation, it was deemed advisable to frame one bill, embracing severally and distinctly the suggestions of your Lordship; and I request a reference to the inclosed letter from those officers in explanation of the reasons which induced them to recommend a deviation from the instructions of your Lordship. I acquiesced in their opinion from local circumstances, but more particularly as I conceived the last communication from your Lordship on this subject, gave those Officers a greater latitude for the exercise of their discretion than is conveyed in the despatch of the 19th March preceding, but as your Lordship appears to have considered it absolutely necessary that the Assembly should have the bills separately before them, I lost no time in complying therewith, and have to report they are now separately and distinctly under consideration. I am sorry I cannot add any favourable opinion as to the ultimate decision thereon, fearing as I do (and my experience justifies the apprehension) that the three leading principles: protectorship of Slaves—punishment of females—and compulsory manumission—will not meet the approbation and concurrence of the Legislative Bodies.

The original bill prepared by the Crown Officers, which was laid before the House of Assembly, accompanies this despatch for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, K. G. (Signed) C. BRISBANE.
&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

St. Vincent's, February 19, 1827.

WE acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's communication, with the enclosure, and beg to inform you that it was our advice and opinion that the eight bills should be consolidated into one, because they relate to one object—the amelioration of Slaves, and likewise, because they are dependent upon one leading principle—the appointment of a Protector of Slaves. The greatest errors in legislation have arisen from a multiplication of Acts, and there is now in progress a system of condensation which is absolutely necessary for understanding our laws.

With respect to the power which we assumed of consolidating *these* bills from eight into one, we beg to state that we did not act under Lord Bathurst's despatch of 19th March 1826, nor were the eight bills then in existence here, but under his Lordship's letter of the 21st May 1826, which accompanied the eight bills, we conceived we had full power "to prepare drafts of as many distinct bills as we might think best adapted to the giving full and complete effect to the wishes of His Majesty's Government, because we were supposed to possess, "the intimate and practical acquaintance with the laws of the island"

We have, &c.

(Signed) J. R. DASENT.
CHAS. SHEPHARD.

His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir C. Brisbane, K. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 2.

MY LORD, *Government House, St. Vincent, 25th April 1827.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that, in conformity to your instructions, I directed Mr. Shephard, the Acting Solicitor General (being a Member of the Legislature) to introduce the eight Bills transmitted by your Lordship for the consideration of that body; and to report to me the proceedings thereon in the House of Assembly. I enclose that gentleman's communication for your Lordship's information.

The Legislature appears to be so fully convinced, that they have gone as far as prudence will allow, at present, respecting the improvement of the Slave population, that I cannot offer any hopes that the measures suggested by His Majesty's Government will be adopted, until the expiration of the present Slave Act, when the progressive improvement of the Slaves will probably admit of further benefits being conferred on them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. BRISBANE.

The Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, K. G.

&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

St. Vincent, March 8, 1827.

IN obedience to your Excellency's letter of the 15th of January, I introduced the eight Bills you forwarded me, separately, for the consideration of the House of Assembly, which came to a second reading on the 8th of March, and were separately committed and fully considered, but were thrown out on the third reading without a division.

The observations I have to offer, according to your Excellency's directions, are, that it appeared to me to be the unanimous opinion of the House that most of the ameliorations proposed had been already anticipated by our Slave Act, as far as it was prudent at present, but the office of a Protector of Slaves, the total abolition of female whipping, and the compulsory manumission, would not be adopted by the House. I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES SHEPHARD,

Rear-Admiral Sir C. Brisbane,

&c. &c. &c.

No. 3.

SIR,

Downing-Street, June 18, 1827.

IN reply to your dispatch of the 21st February last, I am to observe that the construction put by the Law Officers of the colony under your Government, upon Lord Bathurst's dispatch of the 21st May 1826, though a natural construction if that dispatch alone were considered, could not be adopted in consistency with the dispatch of 19th March preceding. The discretion given to the Law Officers in the dispatch of May was merely to enable them to omit any bills of which the objects might have been already provided for by Acts of the Colonial Legislature, but was not intended to supersede the direction that so many of the bills as should be necessary to fulfil the wishes of Government, should be brought separately before the Assembly. The purpose of the direction was to bring the Assembly to divide upon each of the measures proposed. I have the honour to be, &c.

Rear Admiral Sir C. Brisbane, K. C. B.

&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) GODERICH,