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HONDURAS INDIANS.

R E P O R T

Of the Commissioners of Legal Inquiry on the Case of
The Indians at Honduras.

THE REPORT - - - - - pp. 1—8.

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- B.—Letter from Mr. Henry Hill, Secretary, to His Honour William Burge, Attorney-General, &c. &c. Jamaica; dated Nassau, New Providence, 1st August 1825.
- C.—Letter from the Right Honourable Earl Dartmouth to Sir Basil Keith, dated Whitehall, 2d August 1775.
- D.—Proclamation of His Excellency Sir Basil Keith, dated Jamaica, s.s. 29th December 1775.
- E.—Proclamation of John Fergusson, Esq. His Majesty's Superintendent, Mosquito Shore; 22 January 1776.
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Schedule A.—Names of Petitioners, of Proprietors, of Persons under whom they were brought from the Mosquito Shore, and of the Native Indians from whom descended.

Schedule B.—The Same.

Schedule C.—The Same.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
10 July 1828.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS OF LEGAL INQUIRY

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL BATHURST,
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c &c. &c.

REPORT of His Majesty's Commissioners of Legal Enquiry for the West Indies,
on the case of certain Persons at Honduras, who claim to be entitled to their
Freedom on the ground of Indian Descent.

MY LORD,

By your Lordship's instructions, contained in your dispatch, under date the 13th March 1826, we were directed to investigate the case of the Indians at Honduras, and to report to your Lordship our "opinion whether or not the persons in question are entitled to their freedom, and what measures should be taken for finally disposing of their claims."

In our letter to your Lordship, dated Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 7th, 1826, we had the honour to inform your Lordship that your dispatch above referred to was received by us in duplicate at the Bermudas, on the 22d of May last, and that the original had by some accident, together with the bag in which it was contained, failed to reach us.

We at the same time, however, informed your Lordship, that although we had left Honduras and Jamaica for the Bermudas before we were honoured with your Lordship's commands on this subject, yet as we saw on our arrival at Honduras the importance of this matter, and had even previously to our leaving Jamaica for the first time looked into the papers on the subject, with which we were furnished by Mr. Bullock the Government Secretary, we deemed it our duty while we staid at Honduras, and were on the spot, to give the matter our fullest consideration, and we accordingly proceeded to obtain such information as we could procure in the settlement; and we had also several conferences thereon with Major-general Codd, his Majesty's superintendent of the settlement, who afforded us every assistance in his power.

In the course of this inquiry it appeared to us that the gist of the question at issue between the Indians and the persons claiming to be their owners, was contained in a letter bearing date the 2d of August 1775, written by the Right honourable the Earl of Dartmouth, his Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies to Sir Basil Keith, the then governor of Jamaica, which had been referred to in the proceedings which had already taken place on this question. We made every inquiry at Honduras for this letter, the question at issue seeming to hinge on this, Whether the subsequent act of the superintendent and council of the Mosquito Shore, bearing date the 22d of August 1776, and which professes to be in pursuance of the power and authority given them by the Governor of Jamaica, was in fact authorized to that extent, either by Lord Dartmouth's letter already referred to, or by Sir Basil Keith's instructions to the Superintendent, in consequence of that letter; for by this act of the Superintendent and Council of the Mosquito Shore all sales of Indians as slaves are declared to be null and void after the 22d of October in the same year (1776); but by the last clause in it, it is declared as follows: "Provided always, and it is the true intent and meaning of this Act, that all and every person or persons who is or are already seised of any Indian slave or slaves, shall have power to sell and otherwise dispose of all and every such Indian or Indians, in as full and ample manner as he or they might have done before the making of this Act."

Appendix, A

See page 9, post.

This clause we found, on comparing it with that of a similar Act passed in Jamaica in the year 1741, for the like purpose of preventing the traffic in Indians, extends the time down to which such traffic should be lawful, to the 22d of October 1776; but upon what authority this change in time of thirty-five years, to the prejudice of the Indians, was made; or whether the Jamaica Act of 1741, prohibiting the trade after that time, extended to the Mosquito Shore, we were unable, until we should see Lord Dartmouth's letter of the 2d of August 1775, to determine.

Appendix, B.

In this difficulty, not being able to procure any further satisfactory information on the subject at Honduras, we, on the 1st of August 1825, addressed a letter to the Attorney-general of Jamaica; and on our return to that colony we were informed by him that neither he nor Mr. Bullock the Government Secretary, had been able, after

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after the most diligent search among the public records, to find the Earl of Dartmouth's letter or any other documents relating to this matter, than those with which we had been already furnished.

Under these circumstances we reserved our final opinion upon this question till our return to England, having first, however, while at Honduras, inquired into the then state of those Indians, when we found that they were under the protection of the provost-marshal, and that they had nothing to complain of.

We also heard several persons claiming to be owners of these Indians, whom we recommended to wait till the ultimate pleasure of his Majesty's Government should be known upon the general question.

Since our return to England we have been furnished by your Lordship's directions, with an official copy of Lord Dartmouth's letter of 2d August 1775; and we shall now therefore proceed to make our Report in this matter.

It will be proper, we conceive, before we enter into the discussion of the questions immediately committed to our consideration, to advert shortly to the first establishment of the English on the Mosquito Shore.

This establishment appears to have taken place at an early period, first by the buccaneers, and afterwards by men employed in the contraband trade carried on between Jamaica and the Spanish Main. Afterwards the Mosquito Indians, asserting that they were never conquered by the Spaniards, made, under the Duke of Albemarle's government over Jamaica, a formal cession of their territory to the King of England.

Wars, it appears, frequently arose between those Indians, and between the various neighbouring tribes of Indians; and the prisoners made in those wars were frequently sold to the English; and it seems a considerable number of Indians, either from this coast, or from some other quarter, must have been sent to Jamaica for sale in that island, for by a Jamaica Act, passed in 1741, (the 14th of Geo. 2, c. 6,) it is enacted, that "all Indians who shall arrive, or be imported for sale into this island, from and after the 1st day of June in the year of our Lord 1741, shall be free to all intents and purposes as any other aliens or foreigners are; and that all sales made in this island to any person or persons residing, or that shall reside or belong to this island, of any Indian or Indians from and after the said 1st day of June in the said year 1741, shall be absolutely null and void."

And the last clause of this Act is in the following words, "Provided always, and it is the true intent and meaning of this Act, that all and every person and persons who is or are already seised of any Indian slave or slaves, shall have power to sell and otherwise dispose of all and every such Indian and Indians, in as full and ample manner as he or they might have done before the making of this Act."

Now, without entering into the question, whether or not the Jamaica Legislature ever had authority to make laws to bind the inhabitants of the Mosquito Shore, it appears to us most clearly that that Act does not purport or affect to bind them, and it therefore can have no direct influence over the question submitted to our consideration, however it may be deemed by its last clause indirectly to sanction the principle of an Act afterwards passed by the authorities on the Mosquito Shore, to the consideration of which we shall now proceed.

It appears, that in the year 1749, Captain Hodgson was appointed the first Superintendent of the Mosquito Shore; and that he and his successors in the said office had instructions from his Majesty's Government to cultivate such an union of friendship with the Indians in those parts as might induce them to prefer his Majesty's alliance and protection to that of any other power.

We find that in 1767 Robert Hodgson, esq., the son of Captain Hodgson, the first Superintendent, was appointed to the Superintendency of this settlement; and that in the year 1775, Mr. Hodgson was recalled by Lord Dartmouth, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, in consequence of complaints preferred against him by the settlers; and that Sir Basil Keith, then Governor of Jamaica, appointed John Fergusson, esq., to act as Superintendent upon the Mosquito Shore, *pro tempore*, furnishing him with instructions for the better government of that colony, and ordering him on his arrival to publish a Proclamation, drawn up in the terms directed by the Earl of Dartmouth's letter to Sir Basil Keith, dated 2d August 1775.

This letter, my Lord, which we have just mentioned, is the document before referred to, and on which we conceive the question mainly depends.

It is dated the 2d August 1775; and after adverting to certain complaints against the conduct of Mr. Hodgson, as Superintendent, and signifying his Majesty's pleasure that

Appendix, C.

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that he should return to England, and that Sir Basil Keith should appoint some person, on whose judgment and discretion he could rely, to superintend the settlements on the Mosquito Shore during Mr. Hodgson's absence, or until his Majesty's further pleasure should be known.

His Lordship notices the then distracted state of the settlement, and proceeds to express himself in the following terms: "It is very difficult at this distance to judge of the steps proper to be taken in such a situation; a great deal will therefore depend upon your discretion, forming your judgment upon the knowledge of the actual state of affairs upon the Shore at the time this letter reaches you. I have not failed, however, to give full consideration to the business, and to endeavour to form the best opinion I am able from the materials that are before me, and I do not hesitate to say, that as far as my information goes, it seems to me that the arrangements adopted by Lieutenant-governor Dalling, with such restrictions as are proposed in the Report of the Council of Jamaica on the 23d of November 1773, are exceedingly well adapted to the present state of the Mosquito Shore; and if upon consultation with your council you shall be of the same opinion, it is his Majesty's pleasure that you do establish the like regulations, accompanied with a proclamation declaratory of his Majesty's just displeasure at the insults offered to his authority and government in the measures adopted by the inhabitants; and forbidding all persons under pain of his Majesty's highest displeasure from making slaves of the native Indians, and sending them off the coast for sale as a practice irreconcilable with any principle of justice, good policy and humanity.

"You will consider what I have said to you on the subject of the arrangements to be made for *civil government* on the Musquito Shore as not binding you down to adopt any particular plan; *the whole of that business must be understood as left to your discretion*; for it is the King's intention that the affairs of the Shore should continue to be, as they ever have been, under the control and direction of his Governor of Jamaica, with the advice of the council."

In consequence of the directions contained in this letter, the matter was referred by Sir Basil Keith to the Council of Jamaica, who reported thereon, and proposed a plan for settling the government there, which Report and Plan appear to have been transmitted to Lord Dartmouth by Sir Basil Keith in a dispatch dated 18th January 1776. Afterwards by a dispatch dated 3d April 1776. Lord George Germain, the then Secretary of State, acknowledged the receipt of this Report and Plan, and expressed his approbation thereof.

Jamaica Correspondence, book for 1776.

In the mean time Sir Basil Keith, as we have seen, appointed John Fergusson, esq. Superintendent; and, acting upon the Report of the Council, instructed him to proceed immediately to the settlement, and on his arrival there to issue and publish the proclamation then given to him, which was drawn up in the terms directed by Lord Dartmouth's Letter of 2d August 1775, and to lose no time in issuing a writ for the election of twelve members, to compose a Council at Black River, and on the Musquito Shore, whereof he should be president; and that the said Council should have power to make regulations for the *internal police* of the settlement; such regulations to be in force till rejected by the Governor or Commander-in-chief of Jamaica.

Appendix, D.

Mr. Fergusson accordingly proceeded to the settlement, and on his arrival there published the Proclamation given to him by Sir Basil Keith, whereby, after reciting that many of his Majesty's subjects at the Black River and the Musquito Shore had presumed to form and establish a constitution of civil government amongst themselves; and that they had, through an ungoverned and insatiable desire of lawless gain, made slaves of several native Indians of the said Shore, or the parts adjacent, and shipped them off for sale in violation of the common feelings and rights of humanity, and also of the obvious principles of sound policy, it was declared that all such proceedings were acts of usurpation against the Royal Prerogative, and against the personal rights of the said native Indians; and all his Majesty's subjects on the said Musquito Shore were thereby strictly forbidden to offend in the like instances under the pains and penalties that should fall thereon.

This Proclamation was signed Basil Keith, Jamaica, the 29th December 1775.

Appendix, E.

Soon after the issuing of this Proclamation Mr. Fergusson caused a council to be elected in pursuance of the instructions already stated; and on the 22d day of August 1776, the Superintendent and Council passed an Act, intitled, "An Act for recovering and extending the Trade with the Indian Tribes, and preventing for the future some evil practices formerly committed in that Trade."

Appendix, A.

By

By this Act, after reciting amongst other things that great advantages might be derived to his Majesty's subjects in general, and more particularly to the inhabitants of the colony, if a good correspondence and open commerce were established between them and the Indians; and further, that the evil practices of several traders who had frequently taken Indians from their settlements clandestinely, and had sold them for slaves in that country, and many other parts, had occasioned many of the Indian tribes with whom his Majesty's subjects had a friendly intercourse, to withdraw their friendship from his Majesty's subjects; in order therefore to prevent for the future such unfair, barbarous, and pernicious practices, and to remove the ill effects of those already committed, it was enacted, by virtue of the power and authority to them (the Superintendent and Council) given by his Majesty's Governor of the Island of Jamaica, that all Indians who should be offered for sale in any part of the said colony from and after the 22d day of October in the year of our Lord 1776, should be free to all intents and purposes as any other aliens or foreigners are; and that all sales made in the said colony to any person or persons residing or that should reside or belong to the said colony, of any Indian or Indians from and after the 22d day of October in the said year 1776, should be absolutely null and void; and that if any person or persons should from and after the said 22d day of October in the year 1776 sell or buy any Indian or Indians, every such person or persons should forfeit for every such offence the sum of 50*l.* Jamaica currency. And it was thereby further enacted, that all owners of Indian slaves in the colony, their agents or attorneys, should, on or before the 1st day of March in the year 1777, give in the names and sexes of all Indians which belonged to them respectively, to any magistrate, to be by him transmitted to the secretary of the said colony, to be registered in his office; and that all and every Indian or Indians whose name or names, sex or sexes, should not be given in as aforesaid, should be free to all intents and purposes: and by the last clause it was further enacted as follows: "Provided always, and it is the true intent and meaning of this Act, that all and every person or persons who is or are already seised of any Indian slave or slaves shall have power to sell and otherwise dispose of all and every such Indian or Indians, in as full and ample a manner as he or they might have done before the making of this Act."

Here, my Lord, we beg to call your Lordship's attention to a circumstance which we think material; viz. that this last clause will be found, on comparison with the last clause of the Jamaica Act of the year 1741, on the like subject, to agree with it precisely, and in words; the only difference being in dates. In fact, without purporting to be so, it is a literal copy of the clause in the Jamaica Act.

Shortly after the passing of this Act a registry of Indian Slaves was made pursuant thereto.

In a few months afterwards, viz. in December 1776, an Act was passed in Jamaica (17 Geo. 3, c. 28), whereby the penalties for trafficking in Indian slaves were increased; but we do not think the question under our consideration is in any way affected by that Act.

In this stage of our inquiry, my Lord, we deemed it expedient to apply for the Jamaica correspondence in your Lordship's office for that period, with which we have been furnished, and on carefully searching the same, the first apparent notice of a reference to the Mosquito Shore Act of 22d August 1776 is in the following extract from the Minutes of the Council of Jamaica, dated 25th February 1777, being six months after the passing of the Act in question.

"His Excellency laid before the Board sundry Acts passed by the Council at the Mosquito Shore, which were transmitted to him by the Superintendent, for his approbation or disallowance, desiring their opinion."

"The said Acts being read by the clerk, the Board unanimously recommended to his Excellency not to reject any of the said Acts, as being the first exertions of their legislative power under the constitution lately granted them, but to transmit them to his Majesty's Secretary of State; and they also advised his Excellency to send a copy to the Mosquito Shore of the Act passed here last session, making it felony to take any of the Sambla Indians and sell them for slaves, to the end that it might there be made public."

We find that Sir Basil Keith, in compliance with the above recommendation of the Council, transmitted these Acts to Lord George Germain, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a dispatch, dated 20th March 1777, from which the following is an extract:

"Agreeable to the advice and opinion of his Majesty's Council, expressed in the
522. Jam. Corr. book, above 1777.

Ante, p. 3.
Appendix, F.

Jam. Corr. book,
1777.

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“ above minutes, I transmit to your Lordship sundry Acts passed by the Council
“ on the shore, for his Majesty’s approbation or disallowance.”

Jam. Corr. book,
1777.

In a dispatch from Lord George Germain to Sir Basil Keith, dated 4th June 1777, his Lordship acknowledges the receipt of these Acts or Regulations, and expresses himself as follows :

“ Whether these Regulations proposed by the Superintendent and inhabitants
“ under the title of Acts, are fit to be adopted or not, you and the council of
“ Jamaica can best judge, and I send them back to you enclosed herewith for that
“ purpose. I have no other instruction for your guidance in the adoption of these
“ or any other regulations that may be proposed for that settlement, than always to
“ bear in mind, that it is his Majesty’s intention that the affairs of the Mosquito
“ Shore should continue to be, as they ever have been, under the control of his
“ Governor and Council of Jamaica and that the stipulations of the Treaty of
“ Paris are most faithfully to be observed, and no just ground of complaint given
“ to the subjects of Spain.”

Jam. Corr. 1777.

In the mean time these Regulations appear to have been acted upon on the Mosquito Shore, and to have had a salutary effect; for the Superintendent Lawrie, in a letter addressed to Lord George Germain, dated Black River, Mosquito Shore, May 28th, 1777, says, “ The infamous practice of selling the Indians of the
“ neighbouring nations as slaves is now entirely at an end, but there still remains
“ a number of Indian slaves among the Mosquito men, who were in their possession previous to the late Regulations.”

Jam. Corr. 1777.

By a dispatch of Governor Dalling to Lord George Germain, dated Jamaica, 3d September 1777, it appears that the Governor had not at that time received back from Lord George Germain “ the several Regulations agreed upon by the
“ Superintendent and certain of the inhabitants, under the title of Acts,” as mentioned to have been sent in his Lordship’s letter of 4th June 1777; and he adds as follows : “ When they are received I will lay them before the Council, and should
“ any of them be thought fit to be adopted, your Lordship’s directions and
“ instructions shall be followed in the adoption.”

Jam. Corr. 1777.

But in Lord George Germain’s dispatch of 3d December 1777 to the Governor of Jamaica is the following passage : “ The papers intitled Acts, which were
“ omitted to be put up with my original letter, N^o 19, were sent a few days after
“ with the duplicate, and I hope they have come safe to hand.”

Jam. Corr. 1778.

We then find, in the Governor of Jamaica’s letter to Lord George Germain, of 27th February 1778, an acknowledgment of the receipt of those documents in the following passage : “ I received the papers intitled Acts, which were omitted to be put up
“ with your Lordship’s original letter, N^o 19; they have been laid before the Council :
and enclosed your Lordship will receive a copy of their opinion in the matter.”

The following is the Minute of Council referred to, and so transmitted; it bears date 16th December 1777 : “ The Board, to whom your Honor has been pleased
“ to refer the consideration of sundry regulations passed by the Superintendent and
“ Council at the Mosquito Shore, mentioned in Lord George Germain’s letter of
“ 4th June 1777, have considered the same, and are of opinion that those Regulations
“ must be of service to the inhabitants of that settlement; but that as the
“ title given them at present seems to intimate a legislative authority, which is not
“ by any means vested in them, they are of opinion that the Superintendent and
“ Council of the Mosquito Shore should be directed to intitle them, ‘ Regulations
“ ‘ agreed upon by the Superintendent and Council of the Mosquito Shore, with the
“ ‘ approbation of the Governor and Council of the island of Jamaica.’ ”

Jam. Corr. 1778.

Lord George Germain, in his dispatch of 15th May 1778, merely acknowledges the receipt of this, with other letters.

Here, my Lord, we shall close our Inquiry and Statement of what took place previously to the passing of the Act in question, and of what occurred afterwards, in so far as concerns its validity; and we shall now, before we proceed to submit our opinion on the questions proposed to us by your Lordship, briefly state the subsequent events upon which those questions arose.

In the year 1787 the Mosquito Shore was evacuated by the English settlers, agreeably to a Convention Treaty, entered into between his Britannic Majesty and the King of Spain in the year 1786; and upon this evacuation the persons whose freedom is the subject of this investigation, or their ancestors, were removed to the settlement of Honduras, where they were held in a state of slavery, as they had been before on the Mosquito Shore, until the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur to the superintendency of the settlement.

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After this appointment, that is to say, in the year 1821, those persons preferred petitions to the Superintendent, representing themselves as native Indians, or the descendants of Indians, and praying the Superintendent's protection, on the grounds of their having been brought into, and for many years illegally held in slavery; whereupon the Superintendent submitted their case for the opinion of the Attorney-general of Jamaica; but it is to be observed that it does not appear that this case stated that very important document, the act of the Superintendent and Council of the Mosquito Shore (22d August 1776); and the Attorney-general, of course, not advertg to that Act, of which he was probably ignorant, gave it as his unqualified opinion, that these people could not be held in slavery.

Pending this reference to the Attorney-general, the Superintendent caused the question of freedom to be tried on two writs of replevin issued out of the Grand Court of Honduras, at the suit of two slaves named "Rhode Island" and "Phillis," one of which was successful, and the other failed.

After the superintendent had received the opinion of the attorney-general, (dated Jamaica, 11th December 1821), he caused a meeting to be held at the Government House, at Belize, Honduras, on the 31st December, in which he laid before them a copy of that opinion, and after some observations on the part of the Superintendent, "the meeting unanimously expressed it as their opinion, that if his Majesty's Superintendent would appoint a commission, with adequate powers for the purpose of investigating the claims of the Indians, or their descendants, on the one hand, and of the proprietors on the other, it would be the means of affording justice to all parties; as individuals would then have an opportunity of either emancipating persons proving themselves to be Indians, or of standing a prosecution for holding them in slavery."

Afterwards, and in consequence of the resolution passed at this meeting, the Superintendent, on the 5th day of January 1822, issued a Proclamation, whereby, after reciting that sundry petitions had been presented to him, stating that a great number of native Indians, or their descendants, were held in slavery in the colony, and after reciting that the same was illegal, it was declared that all such Indians, or their descendants were entitled to their freedom; and further declaring, that a Board of Commissioners would be forthwith constituted and appointed, with ample powers to investigate the same.

A Board of Commissioners was accordingly constituted by virtue of a warrant and commission of his Majesty's Superintendent, dated the 8th day of January 1822, directed to certain commissioners therein named. Afterwards the Superintendent issued another warrant, enlarging their powers, by enabling them to take all the reputed Indians under their especial charge, and to afford them the same protection as they would enjoy in case writs of *homine replegiando* had been issued at their suits from any of his Majesty's courts.

The Commissioners having met from time to time, made their Report on the 8th February 1822, and thereby, amongst other things, reported, that having examined with the greatest care the evidence adduced by the petitioners, who had appeared before them in support of their claims to freedom, by proving their descent from native Indians; and, as the result of their inquiries, they annexed to their Report three different Schedules.

This Report, and the Schedules just mentioned, will be found in the Appendix hereto annexed.

Appendix, G.

It appears from the Report of those Commissioners that it was not clearly in proof before them that such an Act as that of the 22d of August 1776, of the Superintendent and Council of the Mosquito Shore, had actually passed; and being of opinion that the Jamaica Act hereinbefore stated did not apply to the Mosquito Shore, they appear to have come to the conclusion (grounded principally, we presume, upon the opinion of the Attorney-general of Jamaica already referred to), that all persons who succeeded in proving themselves to be of Indian descent, without any regard to the question whether they or their ancestors were at any time held in a state of slavery, were entitled to their freedom. Upon this Report, in which however the persons claiming to be proprietors of Indians did not acquiesce, the several documents were transmitted to your Lordship by the Superintendent, in a letter dated February 28th 1822, but pending the inquiry of those commissioners the Indians in question were removed from their proprietors, and placed under the warrant of the commissioners in the custody of the provost-marshal, where they now remain.

This detail of facts will, we trust, have suggested to your Lordship's mind, as it has to ours, that the sole question for determination in this case is the operation

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tion and effect of the Act or Regulation of the Mosquito Shore, passed on the 22d of August 1776 ; and when we consider the extensive powers granted by the concluding paragraph of Lord Dartmouth's letter to Sir Basil Keith of 2d August 1775, the Report of the Council of Jamaica on the matter, and the Proclamation and Instructions of Sir Basil Keith grounded thereon; and when to these considerations we add that, in the first instance, upon this and other Acts or Regulations of the Superintendent and Council of the Mosquito Shore being transmitted to Jamaica, the Council there "unanimously recommended to the Governor not to reject any " of them as being the first exertions of their legislative power under the constitution already granted to them : " That these Acts or Regulations were then sent home by Sir Basil Keith for the approval or disallowance of his Majesty, and returned to the Governor of Jamaica by the Secretary of State for the colonies, submitting to him and the council as the best judges " whether these Regulations proposed by the Superintendent and inhabitants of the Mosquito Shores were fit to be adopted or not. "

When we also see that this and the other Acts or Regulations were again submitted by the Governor of Jamaica to the Council of that colony, and that that Council, as appears by the minute of their proceedings (16 December 1777) already stated, *approved* thereof, with no other alteration than that of changing the titles from *Acts* to *Regulations*, we are constrained, however reluctantly, to regard this Regulation of 22d August 1776 as a good and valid Act, and consequently we have the honour to submit it to your Lordship as our opinion that such of the petitioners as were, or whose ancestors were, in a state of slavery previously to the passing of that Act or Regulation, and up to the 22d day of October 1776, are, under the operation thereof, still to be deemed and considered to be slaves. But when we advert to the fact that this Act or Regulation by its retrospective operation legalizes a practice which in its very preamble is characterized as "unfair, barbarous, and pernicious ;" when we consider that it is a law which, as regards the past, however its *ex post facto* enactment may in some degree be redeemed by the salutary provisions which it makes for the future, is a law against natural justice and sound policy ; and finally, when we contemplate the circumstance that the petitioners have been already removed from the control of their masters by his Majesty's representative, the Superintendent of the settlement, we feel it our duty to call your Lordship's attention to the severe and unexpected hardships which it would inflict upon those unfortunate persons if they were now to be brought back to a state of slavery, and the discontents and animosities which would in such a case be likely to arise between master and slave.

Under this view of the subject, with regard to the second question proposed to us by your Lordship, we have the honour to state, that it is our opinion that " the best measure to be taken for finally disposing of the claims of the persons in question " will be to allow them their freedom, and to make a reasonable compensation to such proprietors as shall prove that the persons of Indian descent claimed by them as slaves were, or their ancestors were, in a state of slavery at the time of the passing of the Regulation in question.

We also recommend that the Superintendent should be instructed to appoint a commission of three persons for this purpose, as well as for affixing the amount of the compensation due to the owners respectively ; and that the Report of that commission should be sent home for his Majesty's approval.

In conclusion, we would observe, that the persons claiming to be proprietors of these Indians appear to us to be the more entitled to the favourable consideration of his Majesty's Government for compensation, when it is recollected that from the lapse of time which has occurred it is improbable that any of the persons now seeking such compensation could have been personally instrumental to the enslaving of the petitioners or their ancestors, and that their title to them must consequently be derived by descent, devise, or purchase.

We have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servants,

Henry Hill,
Secretary.

(signed) J. Henry,
Tho' Coney,
Commissioners of Legal Inquiry

A P P E N D I X.

Appendix, A.

AN ACT for Recovering and Extending the Trade with the Indian Tribes, and preventing for the future some evil practices formerly committed in that Trade;—passed the 22d day of August 1776.

WHEREAS great advantages might be derived to his Majesty's subjects in general, and more particularly to the inhabitants of this Colony, if a good correspondence and open commerce were established between them and the Indians: And whereas the evil practices of several of the traders who have frequently taken Indians from their settlements clandestinely, and have also encouraged the Mosquito Indians to commit the like practices, and sold them for slaves in this country, and many other parts, have occasioned many of the Indian tribes with whom his Majesty's subjects held a friendly intercourse, and carried on a beneficial trade, particularly the Woolwas and Cookaras, to withdraw their friendship from his Majesty's subjects, and to enter into an alliance with the Spaniards; and have not only discouraged those tribes from continuing, but many others of the Indians, (it may be presumed) from engaging in any commerce with us; in order therefore to prevent for the future such unfair, barbarous, and pernicious practices, and to remove the ill effects of those already committed, by virtue of the power and authority to us, given by his Majesty's Governor of the island of Jamaica, we, the Superintendent and Council of the Mosquito Shore, do hereby enact, and be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all Indians who shall be offered for sale in any part of this colony from and after the 22d day of October, in the year of our Lord 1776, shall be free to all intents and purposes as any other aliens or foreigners are; and that all sales made in this colony to any person or persons residing or that shall reside or belong to this colony, of any Indian or Indians from and after the 22d day of October in the said year 1776, shall be absolutely null and void. And that if any person or persons shall from and after the said 22d day of October in the year of our Lord 1776 sell or buy any Indian or Indians, every such person or persons shall forfeit for every such offence the sum of 50*l.*, Jamaica currency, to be recovered on conviction before any two magistrates in this colony, one moiety whereof shall be to the informer, or him or them who shall sue for the same, and the other moiety to the use of the colony.

2d. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all owners of Indian slaves in this colony, their agents or attornies, shall on or before the 1st day of March, in the year of our Lord 1777, give in the names and sexes of all Indians which belong to them respectively, to any magistrate, to be by him transmitted to the Secretary of this colony, to be registered in this office, and that all and every Indian or Indians whose name or names, sex or sexes, shall not be given in as aforesaid, shall be free to all intents and purposes.

3d. Provided always, and it is the true intent and meaning of this Act, that all and every person or persons who is or are already seised of any Indian slave or slaves shall have power to sell and otherwise dispose of all and every such Indian or Indians in as full and ample manner as he or they might have done before the making of this Act.

Passed the Council,
this 22d day of August 1776.

(signed) *John Barry,*
Clerk of the Council.

Office of Records, Belize.

I do certify that the foregoing is truly copied from the Records of the Mosquito Shore in this office.

(signed) *And^w Bayntun,*
Ass^t Keeper of the Records,
H. B. M. Settlement, Belize, Honduras.

Appendix, B.

Letter from Mr. Henry Hill, Secretary, to his Honor William Burge, Attorney-General, &c. &c. &c. Jamaica; dated Nassau, New Providence, 1st August 1825.

Sir,

Nassau, New Providence, 1st August 1825.

BY desire of his Majesty's Commissioners of Legal Inquiry I beg to call your honor's attention to certain points relating to the case of the Mosquito Indians, which was formerly submitted to you by Col. Arthur, the late Superintendent of Honduras.

Published in 1824,
by A. Aikman,
King's Printer,
Jamaica.

In page forty-two of the printed work, intitled, "Defence of the Settlers of Honduras," reference is made to a letter bearing date 2d August 1775, written by the Right honourable the Earl of Dartmouth, his Majesty's Secretary of State to Sir Basil Keith, the Governor of Jamaica, conveying instructions as to the appointment of a superintendent to the settlement on the Mosquito Shore, and as to a proclamation to be issued by such officer on his arrival there.

The object of this Proclamation was to put an immediate stop to the practice which had hitherto prevailed of purchasing and selling the native Indians of the Mosquito Shore; and it appears to have been duly promulgated by Mr. Fergusson, the Superintendent appointed by Sir Basil Keith, immediately after his arrival in the settlement.

This proclamation was followed up by another, calling on the inhabitants to assemble together and elect a Council, by which Council and Superintendent an Act appears to have been passed, dated 22d August 1776, prohibiting for the future any Indians or their descendants from being purchased or sold as slaves, but expressly confirming, up to the date of the Act, the titles of all those who were already possessed of any Indians as slaves.

This Act is, it is stated, almost a literal copy of one which in the year 1741 was passed at Jamaica for the purpose of prohibiting the inhabitants of that island from continuing in the pursuit of this very traffic.

You are aware, no doubt, that it is in this first-mentioned Act that the settlers at Honduras found their claim to those Indians, and their descendants, who after the breaking up of the settlement on the Mosquito Shore were carried to Honduras, and there taken under the protection of Government by Colonel Arthur, as persons entitled to their freedom.

It is, in the opinion of the Commissioners, a matter of much importance towards the forming a correct judgment on this question to ascertain whether the Superintendent and Council on the Mosquito Shore had authority to pass an Act to the full extent of the one in question, whether the same was at any time submitted to the approval of the then Governor of Jamaica; and what was the view taken of it by him.

Considerable light may be thrown on these points by an inspection of Lord Dartmouth's letter to Sir Basil Keith of the date above referred to, and of Sir B. Keith's correspondence with Mr. Fergusson, while Superintendent. These, it is presumed, must be on record among the government-papers at Jamaica.

I am directed, therefore, to request that your Honor will have the goodness to cause a search to be made for them, and should you succeed in finding them, that you will forward copies of them to this island with as little delay as possible, so as to enable the Commissioners to make their Report on the matter to his Majesty's Government, before their return to Jamaica.

The only documents relating to the question which the Commissioners were enabled to consult during their stay at Honduras were those of which copies are given in the Appendix to "the Defence" above referred to. Should there be any others among the records at Jamaica, which in your Honor's opinion would tend further to elucidate this subject, the Commissioners will feel obliged by your forwarding copies of them also.

The principal point your Honor will perceive to be considered in this question is, the circumstance of the Jamaica Act having made all titles bad which were acquired after the year 1741, and the Mosquito Shore Act having done the same with respect to those subsequent to the year 1776.

The Commissioners trust that your Honor will excuse the trouble which this communication will occasion to you, and,

I beg to remain, &c.,
(signed) *Henry Hill*, Secretary.

Appendix, C.

Letter from the Right Honourable Earl Dartmouth to Sir Basil Keith, dated Whitehall, 2d August 1775.

Sir,

Whitehall, 2d August 1775.

I HAVE received your letter of the 17th May (N^o 18), and have laid it before the King.

All questions upon the propriety or impropriety of the Act laying additional duties upon the importation of slaves having been brought to an issue in the royal disallowance of that Act, I shall avoid entering into any further discussion of that business, and shall only observe, that what you represent of the flourishing state of the trade, certainly shows that a part at least of the objections made to the Act by the merchants was not well founded.

The principal object of this letter is to point out to you what has occurred upon a consideration of the circumstances and situation of the settlements upon the Mosquito Shore, where every thing has been for a long time in anarchy and confusion.

It is impossible, in taking a full view of Mr. Hodgson's conduct, not to see that a great deal is to be attributed to his misbehaviour in many instances; at the same time I do not think that his errors are imputable to a want of integrity, but to a consummate vanity, and mistaken idea of importance that does not belong to his situation.

What seems most blameable in Mr. Hodgson's conduct is the contemptuous manner in which I find he treats the Mosquito men, and his encouraging by his own example the inhuman,

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inhuman, and, in every light, unjustifiable practice of making slaves of the neighbouring Indians, and sending them off the coast for sale, a practice, which in his situation it was his duty to have discountenanced by every means in his power.

As to the charges exhibited against Mr. Hodgson in the state of facts presented by Mr. White, it does not appear to me, on a full examination of them, and an attentive consideration of Mr. Hodgson's answers to each article, that they do establish any great degree of criminality; at the same time I do not think Mr. Hodgson is fully justified in all that is alleged against him; and as there is at least sufficient ground for further examination into his conduct upon many points stated in the complaints of the inhabitants, I have it in command from the King to signify to him his Majesty's pleasure that he do return to England, as well to lay before his Majesty a state of his superintendency, as to answer to such charges as have been alleged against him; and I am at the same time to acquaint you, that it is his Majesty's pleasure that you do appoint some person, on whose judgment and discretion you can rely, to superintend the settlements upon the Mosquito Shore during Mr. Hodgson's absence, or until his Majesty's further pleasure be known.

You will observe, Sir, from what I have said of Mr. Hodgson, that however blameable he may have been in some parts of his conduct, the whole of the disorder and distraction which now prevails on the Mosquito Shore is not imputable to him; on the contrary, I think, it is chiefly owing to the restless and ungovernable spirit and temper of its inhabitants, which have manifested themselves in acts of usurpation, very little short of open rebellion against the King's Government, and which are the less excusable after the attention which Lieutenant Governor Dalling has shown to their wishes in the very proper arrangements he made for the civil affairs of that settlement, in consequence of their letter to him of the 29th of January 1773.

The manner in which they received those arrangements was a very ill return to the attention Colonel Dalling had shown to their requests; and the steps they afterwards took of creating a constitution of civil government by their own authority, was an act of the highest presumption.

It is very difficult at this distance to judge of the steps proper to be taken in such a situation, a great deal will therefore depend upon your discretion, forming your judgment upon the knowledge of the actual state of affairs upon the Shore at the time this letter reaches you. I have not failed, however, to give full consideration to the business, and to endeavour to form the best opinion I am able, from the materials that are before me, and I do not hesitate to say, that as far as my information goes, it seems to me that the arrangements adopted by Lieutenant Governor Dalling, with such restrictions as are proposed in the Report of the Council of Jamaica on the 23d of November 1773, are exceedingly well adapted to the present state of the Mosquito Shore; and if upon consultation with your Council you shall be of the same opinion, it is his Majesty's pleasure that you do establish the like regulations, accompanied with a proclamation declaratory of his Majesty's just displeasure at the insults offered to his authority and government in the measures adopted by the inhabitants, and forbidding all persons, under pain of his Majesty's highest displeasure, from making slaves of the native Indians, and sending them off the coast for sale, as a practice *irreconcilable* with any principle of justice, good policy, and humanity.

You will consider what I have said to you on the subject of the arrangements to be made for civil government on the Mosquito Shore as not binding you down to adopt any particular plan; the whole of that business must be understood as left to your discretion, for it is the King's intention that the affairs of that Shore should continue to be, as they ever have been, under the control and discretion of His Governor of Jamaica, with the advice of the Council.

I am, &c.
(signed) Dartmouth.

Appendix, D.

Proclamation of His Excellency Sir Basil Keith, dated Jamaica, ss.,
29th December 1775.

Jamaica, ss.

By the King.

A PROCLAMATION,

Recorded by order of John Fergusson, esq., Superintendent of the Mosquito Shore.

WHEREAS many of our subjects at Black River, on the Mosquito Shore, misled by ill-designing people, and forgetting the allegiance which they owe to Us, have lately presumed to form and establish a constitution of civil government among themselves, and to elect officers and magistrates for the administration of the same, without any power or authority derived from Us for that purpose, which proceedings are against Our peace, Crown and Dignity.

And whereas many of Our said subjects, through an ungoverned and insatiable desire of lawless gain, have made slaves of several native Indians of the said Shore, or the parts adjacent, and shipped them off for sale, in violation of the common feelings and rights of humanity, and also of the obvious principles of sound policy: To the end therefore that

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none of Our subjects may for the future violate their duty in the particulars above recited, We have thought fit to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby declaring Our just displeasure at such insults offered to Our authority, and that all such proceedings are acts of usurpation against Our Royal Prerogative, and against the personal rights of the said native Indians; and hereby strictly forbidding all Our loyal subjects on the said Mosquito Shore to offend in the like instances, under the pains and penalties that will fall thereon.

Witness his Excellency Sir Basil Keith, knight, Captain-general and Governor-in-chief over said island of Jamaica, and others the territories thereon depending in America, Chancellor and Vice-admiral of the same at Saint Jago de la Vega, the twenty-ninth day of December, in the sixteenth year of Our Reign, Annoq. Domini one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five.

By his Excellency's command.

(signed) *Basil Keith.*

(signed) *Richard Lewing, Secy.*
(seal.)

God save the King.

Office of Records, Belize, Honduras.

I, Andrew Bayntun, Assistant-keeper of Records in his Majesty's settlement of Honduras aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is truly copied from the Records of the settlement on the Mosquito Shore, in my office.

(signed) *Andrew Bayntun,*
Asst-keeper of the Records.

July 2d, 1825.

Appendix, E.

Proclamation of John Fergusson, esq., his Majesty's Superintendent of the Mosquito Shore; 22d January 1776.

Recorded by order of John Fergusson, esq., Superintendent of the Mosquito Shore.

Mosquito Shore, s.s.

By John Ferguson, esq., Superintendent of the Mosquito Shore.

WHEREAS the inhabitants of this settlement are empowered to elect from among themselves twelve members whereof to compose a council for the regulation of the said settlement, These are therefore to require that all the white inhabitants thereunto belonging will assemble at the public building on Black River Bank, on the 1st day of March next ensuing the date hereof, then and there to proceed to a fair and unbiassed election.

Given under my hand and seal, at Arms, at Black River on the said Shore, this 22d day of January in the 16th year of his Majesty's Reign, Annoq. Domini, 1776.

(signed) *John Fergusson.*

By the Superintendent's command.

(signed) *James Usher, Secy.*

Office of Records, Belize, Honduras.

I, Andrew Bayntun, Assistant-keeper of Records in his Majesty's settlement of Honduras aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is truly copied from the Records of the settlement on the Mosquito Shore, in my office.

(signed) *And. Bayntun,*
Asst-keeper of the Records.

July 2d, 1825.

Appendix, F.

Six Extracts from the Registers of Indians, to show that the Act passed by His Majesty's Superintendent and Council the 22d August 1776, on the Mosquito Shore, was acted upon, and that Indians were registered agreeable to the same on the Records of the Mosquito Shore.

ANDERSON'S Register of Indians.

Sir,

ON the other side is a list of my Indians, which be pleased to get recorded according to the late Act passed for that purpose,

And you will oblige, &c.

Pearl K. Lagoon, 22d February 1777.
To Mr. Gallon.

(signed) *William Anderson*

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Men and Boys :

Roger Tagg - - -	Boustora.	Chelsea - - -	Boustora.
Tom - - - - -	Terriby.	Glasco - - -	Blanea.
Toby - - - - -	Woolwa.	Perth - - - - -	Valience.
Casta - - - - -	Ditto.	Dundee - - - - -	Ditto.
Woolwich - - -	Ditto.	Elgin - - - - -	Ditto.
Terrible - - -	Terriby.	Sweepstakes - - -	a Sambo.
Oliver Cromwell - - -	Terriby.	Cupid - - - - -	

Indian Women :

Lettice - - - - -	Shargana.	Nancy - - - - -	Valience.
Pheba - - - - -	Thalliba.	Philis - - - - -	Cookra.
Nancy - - - - -	Woolwa.		

Indian Children born in my Family :

Lorena, Lucinda, Phillis, Dorindos.

T. PATTINETT'S Register of Indians.

A List of Indians belonging to and in the possession of Thomas Pattinett, of the little Savannah, taken this 23d day of February 1777; viz.

Edinburgh - - -	an Indian man	-	about 30 Years old.
Toby - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	20 -
Dick - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	28 -
Sophia - - - - -	ditto woman	-	23 -
Sinlad - - - - -	ditto boy	-	3 -
Joe (belonging to Charles Russel)	ditto man	-	26 -
Diana - - - - -	ditto woman	-	24 -
Edinburgh } belonging to {	ditto boy	-	6 -
Billy } David Saby {	ditto ditto	-	4 -

Personally appeared before me Thomas Pattinett, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that the above is a true list of Indians now in his possession here, to the best of his knowledge.

(signed)

his
Thomas × Pattinett,
mark.

23d February 1777,
(signed) John Lawrie.

E. YOUNG'S Register of Slaves.

List of the Slaves belonging to Mrs. Elizabeth Young of Bragmans; viz.

Thomas - - - - -	Indian man	-	Valience.
Will - - - - -	ditto boy	-	Chaliba.
Maria - - - - -	ditto wench	-	Spanish.
Sillia - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Talusky.
Lucy - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Blanea.
Jenny - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Terriby.
Becky - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Shangina.
Mauna - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Shangina.
Lucinda - - - - -	ditto girl	-	Cuol.
Jemima - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Valience.
Mary - - - - -	ditto old wench	-	Ditto.
Clara - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Spanish.
Bess - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Boustora.
Patrona - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Terriby.

List of Slaves belonging to Miss Elizabeth Young, of Bragmans :

Louis - - - - -	a little Indian boy	-	Valience.
Starboard - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Blanea.
Sabil - - - - -	India wench	-	Bousora.
Samon - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Ditto.
Lettice - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Terriby.
Peggy - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Ditto.
Shaliba - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Shaliba.
Philis - - - - -	ditto ditto	-	Bousora.

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List of the Slaves belonging to William Young's Estate.

Rosana	-	-	-	Indian wench	-	-	-	Spanish.
Maria	-	-	-	ditto ditto	-	-	-	Ditto.
Kitty	-	-	-	ditto girl	-	-	-	Creole.
Han	-	-	-	ditto man	-	-	-	Blanea.

LAWRIE'S Register of Indians.

A List of the Indians belonging to and in the possession of James and John Lawrie ; taken this 27th day of February 1777 ; viz.

Bristol	-	-	-	an Indian man	-	-	about 30 years old.
Lancaster	-	-	-	ditto ditto	-	-	18 -
Montezuma	-	-	-	ditto ditto	-	-	20 -
Mahia	-	-	-	ditto ditto	-	-	20 -
Frank	-	-	-	ditto ditto	-	-	20 -
Humphry Clinker	-	-	-	ditto boy	-	-	10 -
Nancy	-	-	-	ditto woman	-	-	25 -
Mary	-	-	-	ditto ditto	-	-	30 -
Rose	-	-	-	ditto ditto	-	-	25 -
Cuba	-	-	-	ditto ditto	-	-	9 -
Fanny	-	-	-	ditto girl	-	-	12 -

Personally appeared before me, James Lawrie, esq., who being duly sworn, depose and saith that the above is a true list of Indians now in his possession here, to the best of his knowledge.

(signed) *J. Lawrie.*

Sworn before me this 28th day of February 1777,

(signed) *John Bourke.*

J. BOURKE'S Register of Indians.

Personally appeared before me John Bourke, esq. and made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that the following are all and every of the Indian Slaves which he is possessed of, either in his own right, or in the right of any other person whatsoever.

Andrew	-	-	-	an Indian man	-	-	aged 30 years.
Prince	-	-	-	ditto boy	-	-	15 -
March	-	-	-	ditto ditto	-	-	14 -
Rose	-	-	-	ditto woman	-	-	35 -

as nearly as he knows, and further saith not.

(signed) *John Bourke.*

Sworn before me this 28th February 1777,

(signed) *J. Lawrie.*

ALLUM'S Register of Indians.

Black River, Mosquito Shore :

Personally appeared before me John Allum, jun. who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, depose and saith that his father John Allum hath not in his possession any more than eight Indian Slaves, neither hath he any more belonging to him ; their names and ages are as follow ; viz.

1. A man, named Chance, aged about 24 years.
2. Ditto - Toby, - 20 -
3. Ditto - Harry, - 18 -
4. Ditto - Tom, - 25 -
5. Ditto - Jack, - 16 -
6. Ditto - Dick, - 23 -
7. Woman - Jane, - 30 -
8. Ditto - Juliet, - 15 -

Office of Records, Belize, Honduras, July 2d, 1825.

I, Andrew Bayntun, Assistant-keeper of the Records in his Britannic Majesty's Settlement Belize, Honduras, do certify that the foregoing Registers are truly copied from the Records of the Mosquito Shore in this Office.

(signed) *Andrew Bayntun,*
Asst' Keeper of the Records.

Appendix, G.

Copy of the Report of the Commissioners appointed to investigate the Claims of reputed Indians and their Descendants at Honduras.

THE Board of Commissioners appointed by virtue of a warrant and commission of his Majesty's Superintendent at Honduras, dated the 8th day of January 1822, to investigate and inquire into the petitions of such persons as claim their freedom from their being native Indians of this Continent, or their descendants, having met from time to time, and received all the information and evidence which they could collect by testimony upon oath, by such of the records of the Mosquito Shore as have been preserved, and by all other means in their power, have agreed upon the following Report :

Appendix, N° 1.

Before they enter immediately upon their task the Board deem it proper to premise two things :—The first is, that the Records of the Mosquito Shore which have been preserved in the Record-office of this settlement are in a very mutilated condition ; that it appears probable a part of them may have been sent to Jamaica, and, consequently, that considerable additional information might be obtained, if deemed necessary, by inquiry at the proper offices of that island.

The second is, that in consequence of the great length of time elapsed since the nefarious practice of enslaving the Indians in the neighbourhood of the Mosquito Shore has been abrogated, the living witnesses who personally knew the native Indians, from whom have lineally descended the present claimants, are few in number, very old and infirm, and being mostly negroes, are illiterate, and unable to form a correct idea of dates, or to answer any questions but as to matter of fact ; their evidence, however, has appeared to the Board to have been given fairly and honestly, and as far as their knowledge goes, entirely to be depended upon.

About the Year
1775 or 1777.
Appendix, N° 9.

The establishment of the English upon the Mosquito Shore appears to have taken place at an early period ; first by the buccaneers, and afterwards by men employed in the contraband trade carried on between Jamaica and the Spanish Main.

As early as the year 1671 Sir Thomas Lynch, then Governor of Jamaica, transmitted to King Charles the Second, in consequence of his Majesty's instructions, a full account of the right by which his Majesty's subjects were settled on the Mosquito Shore, as well as of his Majesty's subjects settled on the coast of Yacatan, as appears by a Report made in the year 1717, by the Board of Trade and Plantations.

On the 31st July 1741, Colonel Edward Trelawney, then governor of Jamaica, appointed Robert Hodgson and William Pitt, esquires, the former captain and the latter captain-lieutenant of all the forces raised or to be raised within the islands of Rattan, Bonacco, and the Bay of Honduras ; and by his warrant and commission of the same date did appoint those two gentlemen justices for the keeping of the peace within the said territories, and authorizing them to hold sessions for the trial and punishment of murder, burglary, felonies, and all other offences committed in the said territories.

Mosquito Records.

George II. in addition to his usual titles is called in that Commission, " of Rattan, Bonacco, and the Honduras, " Lord.

The English settled on the Mosquito Shore very early contracted an intimate acquaintance and connection with the Mosquito Indians, a nation at that time very populous and of a warlike disposition ; they boast of never having been conquered by the Spaniards, and their attachment to the English nation has been carried so far by means of the British settlers, that under the government of the Duke of Albemarle over Jamaica, they made a formal cession of their territory to the King of England, and from that time it has been usual for their kings, upon their accession, to repair to Jamaica, to render homage at the hands of the governor of that island.

The Mosquito Indians are a barbarous and cruel people ; they are in the lowest state of civilization, and are under the most abject subjection to their king and chiefs, a state directly opposed to all other Indian nations, whose inhabitants are a mild, timid and peaceful race, and who appear to live under patriarchal governments.

The Mosquito Indians pay considerable attention to the raising of cattle, while the other Indian nations seem to subsist by hunting. Differences so striking, between nations of the same continent, and divided by no inaccessible barriers, have given rise to a conjecture, by no means improbable, that their origin has been different, and this conjecture is confirmed by a current tradition, prevalent both among themselves and their neighbours, viz. that a ship loaded with negro men from Africa was, at some very remote period, wrecked upon the Mosquito Shore ; that those negroes revolted, seized upon the male inhabitants of the sea-coast and massacred them, and that by mixing with the Indian females, they have altered the race and habits of that nation. This conjecture also receives a further confirmation from the Mosquito Indians themselves, whose personal appearance strongly indicates this mixture of race between the negro and the Indian.

It may therefore be inferred, from what has been said, as well as from matter of fact, that the Mosquito Indians kept the other Indian nations around them in a state of subjection, several of whom paid and still continue to pay tribute to the Mosquito king.

The English settlers on the Mosquito shore employed the Mosquito Indians in fishing, collecting tortoise-shell, sarsaparilla, &c., and paid them in Osnaburghs, knives, gun-powder, shot, iron pots, &c. It appears also, that when these Mosquito Indians had made any inroads into the territories of their neighbours, and taken any of them prisoners, they found ready purchasers for them in the English, who paid for them in the same trifling articles ;

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articles ; and, indeed, it is highly probable that these poor ignorant Indians were instigated by their employers to make frequent incursions of this description, in order to kidnap and enslave the unhappy inhabitants of the interior, although the Board is not fully authorized by the evidence before them to conclude positively that such was the case.

It is, however, certain that the numbers of Indians so obtained must have been considerable, if, as Mrs. Robinson says in her evidence, that almost the whole of the labour of the southern part of the Mosquito Shore, was performed by the Indian slaves.

It is also highly probable that considerable numbers of these kidnapped Indians must have been sent to Jamaica by the English settlers, for sale in that island, and which caused the Act of the legislature of Jamaica, 14 Geo. 2, c. 6, to be passed, an Act, which by its preamble and different clauses, is a disgrace to the statute-book of that colony ; and so great is the alteration in the feeling of men in the colonies that the Board feel convinced such an Act at this period would not find a single member of the Assembly hardy enough to move ; but which, even as it exists, is so far from being a ground of right to the English settlers on the Mosquito Shore to retain in slavery the Indians whom they obtained in the manner already described, that it conveys the greatest censure upon their cruel and iniquitous transactions. Besides, the legislature of Jamaica never possessed any share in the government of the Mosquito Shore, which from the earliest time was placed under the direction of the governor and council of that island only, and consequently the influence of the Act alluded to could not extend beyond the island itself ; it could have no force upon the Mosquito Shore, and all sanction and confirmation thereof of the servitude of those Indians enslaved before 1741 derived from that Act must be entirely void and groundless.

In the year 1749 Captain Robert Hodgson was appointed the first Superintendent of the Mosquito Shore.

The letter of his Grace the Duke of Bedford, then his Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, to Governor Trelawney, is too much to the purpose of this Report not to be inserted at length. It is as follows :

“ Sir,

“ I HAVE the satisfaction of being able to acquaint you that his Majesty has resolved “ to send Captain Hodgson to the Mosquito Shore, in order to regulate and superintend “ the settlement there, and likewise to cultivate such an union and friendship with “ the Indians in those parts, as may induce them to prefer his Majesty's alliance and “ protection to that of any other power whatever, which must at all events be of advantage “ to this nation, but especially in case of any future rupture with the Crown of Spain.”

Case of the agent to the settlers on the Coast of Yacatan and Mosquito Shore, 1793.

On the death of Captain Hodgson in the year 1758, engineer Richard Jones was commissioned by Henry Moore, esquire, then Lieutenant-governor of Jamaica, to succeed him as Superintendent, who (remarks Mr. White, the agent for the Mosquito Shore settlers) kept the same line of duty as his predecessors, in cultivating the affection, friendship and fidelity of the Indians.

In the year 1760 Governor Lyttleton, on his arrival in Jamaica, appointed Captain Joseph Otway Superintendent on the Mosquito Shore, superseding engineer Jones. This gentleman (observes Mr. White again), invariably pursued the same tract of duty in attending to his ministerial and political functions of keeping the Indians affectionately attached to the interests of England.

In the year 1767, Robert Hodgson, esquire, the son of Captain Hodgson the first Superintendent, was appointed to succeed Captain Otway, who died early in that year, and in the ministerial letter of Lord Hillsburgh, his Majesty's principal Secretary of State, dated the 20th February 1768, acquainting him with that nomination, he is directed to apply himself with all zeal and diligence, amongst other duties, to cultivate a strict union and friendship with the Indians in those parts.

In the year 1775 Mr. Hodgson was recalled by Lord Dartmouth, in consequence of complaints preferred against him by the settlers, and Sir Basil Keith, then Governor of Jamaica, appointed John Fergusson, esquire, to act as his Majesty's Superintendent upon the Mosquito Shore for the time being, furnishing him with instructions for the better government of that country, and ordered him on his arrival to publish a proclamation, drawn up in the terms directed by the Earl of Dartmouth's Letter to Sir Basil Keith, dated 2d August 1775.

On the 17th May 1776 Captain Lawrie was appointed His Majesty's Superintendent by Lord George Germain, his Majesty's Secretary of State ; and, as appears by his Lordship's letter of instructions of that date to Captain Lawrie, one of his principal duties as Superintendent was to cultivate a strict union and friendship with the Indians in these parts.

On the 29th day of August 1776 Captain Lawrie arrived at Black River, upon the Mosquito Shore, and took upon himself the Superintendency of the settlement, according to his instructions from home, and the commission given him by Sir Basil Keith, dated the 19th August 1776.

On the 28th February 1777 Sir Basil Keith wrote to Captain Lawrie as follows :

“ As you will be answerable to the Ministry for your conduct on the Shore, it behoves “ you to prevent the perpetration of such horrid murders as have been committed by the “ Mosquito men on the Wolva Indians, and you ought to exert yourself to the utmost to “ bring the offenders to justice, and thereby show the several Indian nations on the “ Shore in what abhorrence the English hold such villains, and how ready they are to punish “ them, and protect those who are peaceable and friendly to us.”

“ My

Appendix, N^o 2.

Appendix, N^o 3.

ON THE INDIANS AT HONDURAS.

17

“ My predecessors and myself have repeatedly sent down orders, and issued proclamations against the making slaves of any Indians ; last session the legislature of this island have, I trust, effectually struck the axe to the root of that mischief, by passing a law, copy of which I enclose for your particular information and guidance.”

17 Geo. 3.
Appendix, N° 4.

Captain Lawrie remained as Superintendent until the evacuation of the Mosquito Shore in the year 1787, agreeably to the Convention Treaty with Spain of 1786.

The Board have been thus particular in referring to and quoting the above extracts from the Records of the Mosquito Shore, in order to enable his Majesty's Superintendent to judge how far his Majesty's Government at home, or the Governors of Jamaica, from the first moment of their assuming any authority or control over the Mosquito Shore, have been anxious to protect the native Indians, and to secure their friendship and union; and also to judge whether that country has ever been considered an appendage of the Jamaica Legislature, or solely subject to the directions of the Governor and Council of that island; and consequently, whether the Act of 1741, (the 14 Geo. 2, c. 6,) already referred to, or any other Act explanatory thereof, can have any bearing whatever upon the subject of Indian slavery on the Mosquito Shore.

The Board beg to observe that they have found on the Mosquito Shore Records a partial and imperfect registry of Indians held in slavery in that country, made in the year 1777; but though they have perused with the greatest attention the instructions of Sir Basil Keith to John Fergusson, esq., in sending him to the Shore as Superintendent, Sir Basil Keith's letter to the Council at Black River, dated 29th December 1775, and the letter from that Board in answer thereto, together with their minutes from their first formation to the evacuation of the Shore, so far at least as their minutes have been preserved on the Records, yet they have not been able to discover the least intimation by which they might judge in whom and by whose authority that measure originated: they think it proper however to remark, that Superintendent Fergusson, and Lawrie's letter to Sir Basil Keith, reporting to him their arrival, and what measures they had adopted to carry into execution his instructions and proclamation, do not appear upon the Records; and the Board consider it very likely that this correspondence might throw considerable light upon the transaction, but it is not at all probable that it would strengthen and support in the smallest degree the arguments of those gentlemen who have appeared before them; and who, with a view to retain the petitioners in slavery, have assumed that an Act, similar to that passed in Jamaica in the year 1741 must have been passed at the Mosquito Shore in the year 1777, and which, as they further presume, received the sanction and approval of his Majesty's Government, or the Governor of Jamaica. This correspondence, however, may easily be procured if required. In reference to another objection advanced, the Board feel no difficulty whatever in deciding that the demand urged by some of the defendants, that the *burden of proof* of such an Act not having been passed, and that the ancestors of the petitioners were not registered in Jamaica in the year 1741, pursuant to the Act of that year, already alluded to, *lays on the petitioners*, is totally inadmissible, and entirely opposed to all justice and equity.

Appendix, N° 5.

Appendix, N° 6.

Robert Douglas, esq., who was clerk to the Council, and secretary to Superintendent Lawrie, is still alive, and if referred to, might afford considerable information on this and other subjects; he resides in Hutchieston Town, Glasgow.

The Board have examined with the greatest care the evidence adduced by the petitioners, who have appeared before them in support of their claims to freedom, by proving their descent from native Indians; and as the result of their inquiries they have annexed to this Report three different Schedules.

Proceedings of the Commissioners.
Appendix, N° 7.

The Schedule marked (A.) includes the names of all those who have proved their lineal descent from native Indians to the satisfaction of the Board.

The Schedule marked (B.) includes the names of a family, who, though they have not satisfactorily proved their descent, have left a strong impression upon the mind of the Board, that they may succeed in finding sufficient evidence in Jamaica, from whence their ancestor, a Sambo woman, was brought to the Mosquito Shore.

The Board have been very particular in their inquiries into this case, in order to enable the law-officer of the Crown in Jamaica to discover a sister of the petitioners, and by her means to obtain better proof of their ancestor, who was brought from Jamaica, being descended from an Indian woman.

The Schedule, marked (C.) includes the names (already inserted in the Schedule marked (A.) of those against whom, though they have clearly proved their descent from native Indians, it is urged by the defendants that their ancestors were in a state of slavery prior to the year 1741.

The Board beg to observe, that in consequence of one of the petitioners, named Hector, having inserted in his petition the circumstance of his having been a soldier in the sixth West India regiment, from which he had been returned by his commanding officer to his former owner, they have allowed Mr. John W. Wright, who claims him as his property, to adduce and to enter into their minutes, evidence tending to prove that the said Hector was a runaway slave at the time of his inlisting, although that enrolment took place in England, but the Board deem it incumbent on them to declare that they have not taken this part of the petitioner's case under their consideration, conceiving it their duty to be entirely confined to the one object of ascertaining the lineal descent of the petitioners, and which, in this case, has been most satisfactorily proved to be from Indians of North America.

In reference to that part of his Majesty's Superintendent's warrant, which directs the Commissioners to assess damages in behalf of such of the petitioners as shall satisfactorily prove their descent from the native Indians of the Mosquito Shore, the Board having most maturely deliberated therein, do feel no difficulty in declaring that such persons would be entitled to damages, as could be proved to have been kept unjustly and knowingly in slavery,

Proceedings of the
Commissioners,
January 1822.
Appendix, N^o 7.

and therefore they have prepared and annexed to this Report a scale of remuneration, which in their judgment they deem would be a fair and equitable recompense.

The Commissioners, however, notwithstanding this explicit declaration in favour of the claims of the Indians, do feel themselves bound to declare, that such are the extenuating circumstances under which it appears they have long been held in bondage, as greatly, if not entirely, to exculpate their present possessors; and therefore, that it would be unjust, except in some few cases wherein it might be both just and proper, to charge upon them what might be considered as adequate and equitable indemnifications.

The following are some of the circumstances which the Board deem it but just to state on behalf of the present possessors of the petitioners.

That by the Records of the Mosquito Shore it appears Indians are held, and publicly registered, in that country as slaves, not only by the judges, the magistrates, and the settlers in general, but also by the officers representing his Majesty on the Shore, and whose very Commissions directed them to afford them all possible protection, and they were moreover openly levied upon and sold under the writs of the courts duly authorized.

That since the removal of the present petitioners or their parents from the Mosquito Shore, upon the evacuation thereof in the year 1787, they, or some of them, have, as the Commissioners understand, petitioned every Superintendent in succession to assist and protect them in establishing their claims and recovering their freedom; and that, with the exception of two cases only, which have come within the knowledge of the Board, they have invariably been referred to the magistrates for the time being.

The two cases alluded to were, first, that which occurred during the Superintendency of Colonel Edward Marcus Despard, who actually released one family of Spanish tributary Indians; and the other took place during the time of the last Superintendent, Colonel John Nugent Smyth, who upon a petition from a family of Indian extraction instituted a process in the court of the settlement for the establishment and recovery of their freedom; but the issue of the trial was, although the Indian descent of the family was both clearly proved and admitted, that the jury, notwithstanding, returned a verdict which confirmed the slavery of the parties.

Appendix, N^o 8.

That it has been the constant practice of this country, as it was on the Mosquito Shore, to levy upon all slaves, whether Indians or of Indian descent, under writs of execution for debt, and to sell them publicly, in the presence of and under the authority of the courts, in all respects as negro slaves.

That many of the petitioners who have appeared before the Board, from their repeated admixtures with the African race, have so lost the appearance of their Indian origin as not to be distinguished from negro slaves, and in many cases have been bought and sold as such, without the least suspicion to the contrary.

And the present possessors will now, many of them, necessarily become heavy sufferers, in the loss of property which they considered they legally held.

Under, therefore, all the circumstances of the case, the Commissioners consider that it would be unjust, in addition to the actual loss of property which many of them must sustain, to burden the present possessors with damages and penalties for crimes which did not originate with them, and for holding property which, until now, they have considered themselves entitled to, both under the Legal Authorities of the Mosquito Shore, for nearly a century past, and of this country since the removal of the settlers and their properties hither in the year 1787.

In conclusion, the Board would moreover remark, that in consequence of the great length of time which the petitioners have been considered as slaves, they have passed through the hands of many persons whose estates, as well as many of those of the importers of the Indians from the Mosquito Shore, are either insolvent, or without representatives; and therefore, that attempts to recover damages would not only create much painful and tedious litigation and re-action, but that if the petitioners should substantiate any claims to indemnification, the damages thereof must necessarily, in most cases, fall upon the last purchasers, it being highly improbable that they could recover them from the holders prior to themselves, which the Board, upon the best of their judgment, have already deemed unjust; and, more especially, when the loss of the principal or purchase-money which such persons will sustain be taken into consideration.

Finally, therefore, the Board conceive, that although, if the complainants or petitioners be free, their freedom is an inherent or unalienable right, of which no consideration can deprive them, yet with respect to any damages which may be their due, their claims should only attach in equity unto those who have unjustly brought or held them in bondage; and that in the event of the estates of such persons being insolvent, unrepresented, or extinct, the petitioners claim should be considered in the light of private debts, and consequently subject, like other debts, to the contingency of insolvency.

Court House, Belize, Honduras,
8 February 1822.

(signed) *A. Pye*, M. G. President.
Ja^s Hyde.
J. Coatquevin.

ON THE INDIANS AT HONDURAS.

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Schedule (A.)

NAMES of PETITIONERS, of PROPRIETORS, of PERSONS under whom they were brought from the Mosquito Shore, and of the NATIVE INDIANS from whom descended.

Names of PETITIONERS.	Sex.	Supposed Age.	Names of PROPRIETORS.	Names of the PERSONS under whom they were brought from the Mosquito Shore.	Names of the NATIVE INDIANS from whom descended.	REMARKS.
Sam. Potts - -	male	40 years	Estate of John Potts and C. Ferratt -	J. Potts, sen. dec ^d	Margery.	
Sally Wilson - -	female	36 -	Estate of John Potts	- Gill, deceased	Mapalah -	Registered 27 Feb. 1777, by Jos. Wood.
Peggy and her Children	-	40 -	Estate of J. Potts, deceased, and Catherine Ferrall	Captain Campbell	Betty.	
Charles - - -	male	24 -				
Billy - - -	-	under 21 years of age -				
Violet - - -	female					
Betty - - -	-					
Darby - - -	male					
Eleanor - - -	female					
Rose - - -	-					
Peggy's brother, named George - - -	male	38 years				
Fidelia Laurie - -	female	{ 40 - & upwards	John Potts's Estate	Colonel Lawrie -	Rose - - -	Registered 27 Feb. 1777, by James & John Lawrie.
Smart - - -	male	25 -				
Phoebe - - -	female	15 -				
Juan - - -	male	29 -	Arch ^d Colquhoun	Ditto - - -	Nanny - - -	
Eady and two small Children - - -	female	25 -				
Nanny and Child Diego, or James - -	-	27 -	J. C. Altereith - Henrietta Godfrey	Ditto - - -	Mary & Cuba	
Ann - - -	female	14 -				
Cecily - - -	-	25 -	Eliz ^h Thurston -	Ditto - - -		
Betty Tyler - - -	-	40 -	Thomas Fraim -	Colonel Lawrie's family -	Fidelia.	
Eleanor - - -	-	15 -				
Fidelia - - -	-	21 -	Eliz ^h Thurston, alias Tyler -			
Maria - - -	-	19 -				
Cutto - - -	male	50 -	Susan Usher -	Stephen Winter -	Isabella.	
Abigail - - -	female	41 -				
Grace - - -	-	39 -				
Nancy - - -	-	17 -				
Ben - - -	male	7 -				
Jack - - -	-	37 -	Marshal Bennett	Ditto - - -	Ditto.	
Michael - - -	-	42 -	John W. Wright	Ditto - - -	Ditto.	
Prince - - -	-	34 -				
Cynthia - - -	female	38 -	Sarah Keefe -	Ditto - - -	Ditto.	
Sarah - - -	-	5 -				
Cumberland - - -	male	20 -				
Margaret - - -	female	4 -				
Grace - - -	-	1 -				
Bellouisa - - -	-	45 -				
Margery - - -	-	26 -				
Green - - -	male	22 -				
Frank - - -	-	17 -				
George - - -	-	8 -				
Nancy - - -	female	7 -				
Catherino - - -	-	2 -				
Royal - - -	male	5 -				

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS OF LEGAL INQUIRY

Schedule (A.)—continued.

Names of PETITIONERS.	SEX.	Supposed AGE.	Names of PROPRIETORS.	Names of the PERSONS under whom they were brought from the Mosquito Shore.	Names of the NATIVE INDIANS from whom descended.	REMARKS.
Rebecca - - -	female	26 years	Sarah Winter -	Stephen Winter -	Isabella.	
Jeruse - - -	-	27 -	George Gillett -	Richard Gillett -	Rosetta.	
Marina - - -	-	10 -				
Jack - - -	male	6 -				
George - - -	-	4 -				
Mary - - -	female	25 -				
Hector, <i>alias</i> James Wright - - -	male	50 -	John W. Wright	J. D. Garnborough	Diana Fitz	This petitioner is descended from the North American Indians.
Horatio Lawrie - - -	-	46 -	Thomas Paslow -	Co' Lawrie's family	Roboy.	
Susannah Bourke - - -	female	50 -	Edward Meighan	Mary Bourke's family	Bess - - -	
Sabina - - -	-	26 -				
James - - -	male	6 -				
Louisa - - -	female	3 -				
Emma - - -	-	9 -				
Bess - - -	-	24 -	Owner not ascertained. See proceedings of Commissioners on this subject, Jan. 24, 1822 - - -			Registered on the 28th Feb. 1777, by Mrs. Elizab. Young, of Braymans, on the Mosquito Shore.
Betsey - - -	female	52 -	{ Anne and Lucy Patinett }	John Gill - - -	Rosanna - - -	Registered by the Representative of Ab ^m Gill's estate on the Mosquito Shore, 28 Feb. 1777.
Harriet - - -	-	37 -				
Will Patinett - - -	male	28 -				
James Patinett - - -	-	26 -				
Theresa - - -	female	22 -				
Abraham - - -	male	15 -				
Ben - - -	-	3 -	George Hume -	Rebecca Hume -	Cretia.	
George - - -	-	22 -				
Charlotte M'Aulay - - -	female	65 -	Leah M'Cauly -	Mess. Fox & Scholey -	- - -	Native Indian
Deptford - - -	male	22 -	Estate John Potts	James Rigby -	Lucretia.	
Scipio - - -	-	19 -				
Lucretia - - -	female	15 -				
Martha - - -	-	25 -				
Margery - - -	-	8 -				
Clarissa - - -	-	6 -	Samuel F. August	Lydia Cuddte -	Celia.	
Celia Caddle - - -	-	27 -				
Nancy - - -	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -	John Alexander -	Jno. Bourke's family	Henrietta.	
Andrew - - -	male	20 -				
Glasgow - - -	-	50 -	Estate John Potts	Jno. Potts, deceased	Perkin.	
Lettice - - -	female	44 -				
Adeline - - -	-	8 -				
Clarissa Burrel - - -	-	46 -	Susannah Burrell	Dick Burrell -	Maria.	
Francis - - -	male	not ascertained.				
Isaac - - -	-					

(signed) A. Pye, M. G. President.
James Hyde.
John Coatquevin.

ON THE INDIANS AT HONDURAS.

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Schedule (B.)

NAMES of PETITIONERS, of PROPRIETORS, of PERSONS under whom they were brought from the Mosquito Shore, and of the NATIVE INDIANS from whom descended.

Names of PETITIONERS.	Sex.	Supposed Age.	Names of PROPRIETORS.	Names of the PERSONS under whom they were brought from the Mosquito Shore.	Names of the NATIVE INDIANS from whom descended.	REMARKS.
Memba - - -	female	16 years	James Hyde -	Capt ⁿ Stoddart	said by the petitioner Maurice, to be Wannekah.	
John - - -	male	12 -				
Toby - - -	-	7 -	Charlotte Douglas			
Peter - - -	-	50 -				
Maurice - - -	-	28 -	M. W. Bowen -			
Monimia - - -	female	19 -				
Eliza - - -	-	3 months	Estate Alex. Anderson			
Guy - - -	male	42 years				
Scipio - - -	-	36 -				

(signed) *A. Pye, M. G. President.*
Jas. Hyde.
J. Coatquelvin.

Schedule (C.)

NAMES of PETITIONERS, of PROPRIETORS, of PERSONS under whom they were brought from the Mosquito Shore, and of the NATIVE INDIANS from whom descended.

Names of PETITIONERS.	Sex.	Supposed Age.	Names of PROPRIETORS.	Names of the PERSONS under whom they were brought from the Mosquito Shore.	Names of the NATIVE INDIANS from whom descended.	REMARKS.
Quaco - - -	male	29 years	Arch. Colquhoun	Colonel Lawrie	Nanny	Registered 27th Feb. 1777 by Jas. and John Lawrie.
Eady, and 2 small children - - -	female	25 -				
Nancy and children - - -	-	27 -	J. C. Altereith - Henrietta Godfrey	Stephen Winter	Isabella.	
Diego, or James - - -	male	17 -				
Cutto - - -	-	50 -	Susan Usher -			
Abigail - - -	female	41 -				
Grace - - -	-	39 -	Marshal Bennett			
Nancy - - -	-	17 -				
Ben - - -	male	7 -	John W. Wright			
Jack - - -	-	37 -				
Michael - - -	-	42 -	Sarah Keefe -			
Prince - - -	-	34 -				
Cynthia - - -	female	38 -	Stephen Winter	ditto.		
Sarah - - -	-	5 -				
Cumberland - - -	male	20 -	Sarah Keefe -	Stephen Winter	ditto.	
Margaret - - -	female	4 -				
Grace - - -	-	1 -	Sarah Winter -	Ditto - -	ditto.	
Bellouisa - - -	-	45 -				
Margery - - -	-	26 -	John W. Wright	Jas. D. Yarborough	Diana Fitz	descended from the North American Indians.
Green - - -	male	22 -				
Frank - - -	-	17 -	Thomas Paslow	Col. Lawrie's family	Roboy.	
George - - -	-	8 -				
Nancy - - -	female	7 -	John W. Wright	Jas. D. Yarborough	Diana Fitz	descended from the North American Indians.
Catherino - - -	-	2 -				
Royal - - -	male	5 -	Sarah Winter -	Ditto - -	ditto.	
Rebecca - - -	female	26 -				
Hector, alias James Wright - - -	male	50 -	John W. Wright	Jas. D. Yarborough	Diana Fitz	descended from the North American Indians.
Horatio Lawrie - - -	-	46 -	Thomas Paslow	Col. Lawrie's family	Roboy.	

(signed) *A. Pye, M. G. President.*
Jas. Hyde.
J. Coatquelvin.

HONDURAS INDIANS.

R E P O R T

OF THE

Commissioners of Legal Enquiry
on the state of the
INDIANS AT HONDURAS.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
10 July 1838.*
